

Your fundamental civic organization—along with affiliated activities—is dedicated first to local historic preservation, which is a cultural and educational attainment of the highest order. In this particular field of public service I must relate to you and to kindred historical societies everywhere in Maryland that your work and your objectives are inseparable with the operations and objectives of the recently established State Department of Economic Development. I sponsored this agency before the people and before the Legislature in the public interest of reducing unemployment—especially in the less fortunate communities in our State—then raising the per-capita income; and balancing and strengthening the economy and general welfare of our entire Commonwealth. The success of this program rests upon the ability of this Department—amid fierce competition from without from long established and heavily financed public and private agencies to attract new industrial resources and activity from elsewhere to Maryland. Perhaps you have learned and we have learned that uppermost question advanced by every industrialist prospect. It begins: What recreational and cultural advantages can your community offer to our employees and executives who will locate here? . . .

No State Legislature—and this includes Maryland—did not empower their economic development agencies to engage in your local and highly specialized field of preservation of historic sites and buildings, but the Maryland Department will utilize its available resources to attract tourists to our State and in turn this will help you to attract tourists to your community. Facts assembled over many years by the National Association of Travel Organizations inform us that: “Tourism development and industrial development are interrelated, are not competitive, and actually assist each other.”

I well realize that Historic Annapolis must first serve this capital city of extraordinary heritage from the past, and there is much work and many problems and much financing ahead. I realize also that Annapolis is a city with a diverse and well-balanced and an exceptionally stable economy, but on the other hand there are limitations on natural and resource means of creative wealth here which cannot be overcome in the near future. Beyond the inventory, research and study stage, your objectives, in the public interest will eventually require essential funds for preservation, restoration and reconstruction above and beyond the capacity of local private capital to supply them. Your organization—and others with the same attainments to gain for your city—will then be called upon to cross city and county and perhaps state boundary lines in order to attract additional financial assistance. That also has been your