

experience in this endeavor in the past. Your prospective donors—you will find—are quite as interested in what has already been done here to preserve your architectural heritage by private and public sources, as they later will be in what you propose to do. Furthermore—and this is so important—your prospective donors seek public approval and public appreciation for their contributions; so have you first enlightened your home folks to the extent that they are genuinely interested in the same degree that you are?

In this constructive and cultural and educational public pursuit, you are supported by a most sympathetic and enthusiastic local press. The daily coverage of these civic developments—and this includes all of the activities of Historic Annapolis—is as complete as it can possibly be. The wire services and the state correspondents for the Baltimore and Washington daily papers seem to sense the ever-present danger to your heritage here, for they are informed on your programs and they are alert to forward your decisions and your appeals to their editors. In this connection I retain clearly in my memory the commemorative tercentenary edition of the *Maryland Gazette* published in May 1949 upon the 300th anniversary of Annapolis. This notable special edition of the *Gazette* of homeric size and content might well serve as a textbook for the teaching of local history.

Out of this great revival of interest in the illustrious past of Annapolis came the plan to form a permanent civil organization with the object to save, preserve and protect every local historic site and structure found worthy of such preservation. In 1952 this group with a common public interest became firmly established as Historic Annapolic, Inc. During the 11 ensuing years since the Annapolis tercentenary event there has been remarkable progress in the rehabilitation of the old city area here. Private individuals, business firms, churches, St. John's College, and the city, state and county governments all have projected and completed preservations, restorations and reconstructions of their older properties with architectural or historical merit. These improvements, many of which conform with the magnificent mid-18th century Georgian pattern which so distinguishes Annapolis and which is unequalled elsewhere, have added immense appeal and value not only to the owners, but to the immediate neighborhood and to the city of Annapolis as well.

Again, I urge you to project for the future upon what has been done so well in the decade just closed. Your city, county and state governments are prepared and willing to conform to a program of beautification of Annapolis which we all strive for and which we hope will eventually bring back to us the architectural perfection which was achieved here during the local golden era of the 1760's.