

Miscellaneous and Transitional Provisions

• PRESERVATION OF STATE ARTIFACTS¹

Seven states, of which Maryland is one, provide in their constitutions for preserving items of an historical nature. Of these, the Maryland provision is the most limited in scope.

Article VII, Section 5, declares that the commissioner of the land office, whose other duties as set out in Section 4 include keeping the chancery records and those of the former commissioner of the land office, "shall also, without additional compensation, collect, arrange, classify, have charge of, and safely keep all Papers, Records, Relics, and other Memorials connected with the Early History of Maryland, not belonging to any other office."

By comparison, all of the other six constitutions provide that in addition to record keeping, the legislature, either directly or through an administrative agency, may provide for the *acquisition* of sites and areas of historical value through the use, if necessary, of the state's power of eminent domain.

Texas and Louisiana have more com-

plete provisions than the others. Texas, in addition to the above, provides for a commission to arrange for a centennial celebration. Louisiana, being even more explicit, provides for a commission to have architectural and historical control over the Vieux Carre section of New Orleans, giving this commission the power to acquire, by eminent domain, buildings of historical and/or architectural value so as to preserve the general mood and flavor of the Vieux Carre region.

Article VII, Section 4, of the Constitution of Maryland reads as follows:

"There shall be a Commissioner of the Land Office, who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall hold his office during the term of the Governor, by whom he shall have been appointed, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified. He shall perform such duties as are now required of the Commissioner of the Land Office, or such as may hereafter be prescribed by Law, and shall also be the Keeper of the Chancery Records. He shall receive a salary of one thousand five hundred dollars per annum, to be paid out of the Treasury, and shall

¹ This note was prepared for the Commission by David L. Silberg, research assistant to the Constitutional Convention Commission and student at the University of Maryland School of Law; B.B.A., 1963, and M.B.A., 1964, University of Michigan.