

role and contributions of our black citizens. The activities of the Maryland Commission on Negro History and Culture in areas of research, collection and preservation of artifacts, sites and buildings associated with Negro history has begun to create a sound academic basis for the study of this history and culture by scholars, students and the general citizenry throughout the State. Moreover, the Commission's activities have not only vital academic implications, but play a significant role in the area of human relations.

Beginning in 1971 the Commission has made a concerted effort to initiate and encourage cooperative efforts among other agencies and educational and cultural groups in Maryland to fulfill its charge of working to insure the integration of this history and culture into the mainstream of Maryland life. While significant progress toward achieving that objective has been made during the past three years, such recent efforts in Maryland are still in an early stage of development. However, the Final Report of the Commission, dated February, 1974, reflects the wide range of the Commission's research, preservation and cultural activities.

The keystone of the Commission's efforts in research will be the publication of a research guide on the Negro in Maryland from the earliest time to the present.

As the nation approaches its 200th Anniversary as a republic, the Maryland Commission on Negro History and Culture is working cooperatively with other state and local groups to insure the active participation of minority citizens in the bicentennial observance. During the bicentennial years (1976 - 1983) the task of achieving minority inclusion into the mainstream of the State's life and history will be monumental. As the chief agency charged with initiating, coordinating and generally encouraging such statewide participation, the Commission has already initiated appropriate planning and research for the attraction of resources to accomplish this goal. The permanent benefit of these activities should result in gaining for the citizens of Maryland a greater appreciation and understanding of the diverse heritage of the Free State.

In addition to its existing functions, the Commission is being requested by the American Indian Studies Center of Baltimore City and other Indian tribal groups in Maryland to include Indian culture and history within the scope of the Commission's work and activities. The inclusion of historical and cultural materials of such diverse tribal groups as the Choptanks, Delawares, Lumbees, Piscataways, Potomacs, Susquehannas,