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LANDMARK REPORT of Bowling Green & Warren County

Vol. II, No. 8 - Mar. 1982

"\$ ZERO" FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

On February 8, 1982, President Reagan announced the administration's 1983 budget. This budget includes no provisions for funding the National Historic Preservation Fund.

Since 1966, the national preservation program has proven that a partnership between the Federal government, the states and the National Trust, supported by the private sector (ie: Landmark), has made historic preservation one of the most exciting, visible and cost effective programs in our nation today. In towns and cities of all sizes, the preservation program is putting people to work, saving energy through the reuse of resources, reducing crime in older neighborhoods and stimulating private investment in a sluggish housing and construction industry.

The states match Federal dollars 1:1 and, in return, carry out federally mandated activities. Last year the states began processing over 4,000 nominations to the National Register, completed certifications for over 1,500 tax act projects for a total private reinvestment of \$700 million and reviewed over 186,000 federally funded projects for their effect on cultural resources. This year the workload is expected to increase: 8,000 nominations completed for the Register and certifications for over 2,000 tax act pro-

jects totaling \$900 million in private investment.

Ironically, as interest in preservation grows, and the accompanying workload increases, the federal administration proposes to dissolve the most cost effective method of operating the program. The Department of the Interior has verified that funding through the states for services provided on behalf of the federal government is more economical than a fee system or the sole operation of the program within the National Park Service.

In response, the states have declared that they would discontinue those parts of the program that are the responsibility of the federal government. This would include certifications for the tax act, nominations to the Register, and environmental impact reviews.

A third partner in the preservation movement, the National Trust, would not be funded. Through the Trust and a number of its innovative programs, preservationists can offer their communities plans and programs that will bring economic development while preserving our nonrenewable historic resources.

This extremely successful approach to economic development and historic preservation is jeopardized. With no assurances of a short, if any, certification process, economic development halt in our already economically

depressed communities.

Now is the time to take our case to Congress. The House Interior Committee has recommended a funding level of \$30 million to the Budget Committee. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has recommended the 1982 level of \$25.4 million to the Senate Budget Committee.

If preservationists will unite in the lobbying effort to bring the facts about our program to the Congress, there will be funding in 1983.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

The Landmark Association March General Meeting will be held at the Bowling Green Public Library on Monday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. David Broderick from the law firm of Cole, Harned and Broderick will give a presentation concerning wills and taxes.

This month's house tour will follow the program at the home of Mr. Wahn Raymer, 1253 State Street.

OHJ RENEWALS

Many of our Landmark members are beginning to receive subscription renewals for OHJ. Please remember that you can renew or begin a new subscription through the Landmark Association for \$12.00 (a 25% savings off regular subscription rates). We need your renewal soon as they need to be sent in groups of 10 or more. Thank you.

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