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National Historic Preservation Week

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The state of today's world demonstrates the value of understanding and appreciating our origins and roots as a foundation for our present identity and our future hopes.

America's history lives throughout the Nation by the surviving examples of our man-made heritage—not only along the streets of our cities and towns but also in our rural areas. An indispensable element of the strength, the freedom and the constructive world leadership of this Nation is the knowledge and appreciation of our history, of who we are, where we are, and how we arrived here.

Loss of the essential evidence of our heritage in the name of progress continues to occur. However, the counteracting effect of the historic preservation effort is increasingly evident and effective in both the public and private sector. National Historic Preservation Week offers a timely opportunity to illustrate what has been done and what can be accomplished in the future to carry out our national resolve to preserve this heritage. This includes not only structures of national historic significance but, of equal importance, old homes, buildings, both commercial and industrial, hotels, taverns, theaters and railroad passenger stations. These can be recycled for contemporary private, public, cultural, commemorative and other uses.

Such uses of our historic man-made resources reflect our commitment to the enrichment of present and future generations of Americans, to preserve our historic past and to assure its enhancement and appreciation and to thus significantly contribute to the revitalization of rural, community and urban development.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, as requested by a joint resolution of Congress, do hereby proclaim the calendar week beginning May 12, 1975, as National Historic Preservation Week. I call upon Government agencies at all levels, interested private individuals, and concerned citizens to mark this observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



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National Historic Preservation Week, 1976

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A Proclamation

In this Bicentennial year, we have many opportunities to recall that the greatness of America is founded upon appreciation of our heritage and upon knowledge of the historic events that have shaped our national identity.

One of the most important sources of our sense of national direction is our architectural heritage—the historic sites, structures and landmarks that link us physically with our past. This great fund of cultural resources includes not only sites such as well-known battlefields and structures of national significance such as the homes of famous patriots, but also includes typical houses, office buildings, factories, and stores, and other public buildings such as post offices, courthouses, and railroad stations. Along the streets of our cities and towns and in our rural areas, these sometimes humble but historic properties remind us of the accomplishments of our predecessors and, thereby, help to provide a continuity and historical perspective that are so important to the cultural heritage of any great nation.

We are a vigorous and mobile people, often oriented more toward the future than the past. It is important for us to preserve our physical heritage in the face of progress.

So it is a pleasure to note the efforts of those in the historic preservation movement, in both the public and private sector, who have led the movement to preserve these unique and irreplaceable inheritances of the past. An invaluable contribution by them has been to demonstrate how these historic structures of all types can meet the needs of contemporary society and at the same time add to the richness of our cultural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the calendar week beginning May 9, 1976, as National Historic Preservation Week. I call upon Government agencies at all levels, interested private individuals and organizations, and all concerned citizens, to mark this observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford



National Historic Preservation Week, 1976

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A Proclamation

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