



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CLAUDE S. BRINEGAR IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK, MAY 6-12, 1973

As a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, I urge my fellow citizens to join in observing National Historic Preservation Week, May 6 through 12.

This is a time when we stop to review the treasures of our rich heritage and resolve to renew our efforts to preserve those treasures for posterity.

The Department of Transportation was created with a specific mandate from Congress to give full consideration to the environmental impact of our programs. Specifically: "It is hereby declared to be the national policy that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites."

This policy has been strictly adhered to, even when it meant abandoning a project or relocating a planned highway or airport. Additionally, some fascinating archeological digs have resulted from finds made in connection with highway projects. One gives evidence of an archaic people living in the Ohio River Valley between 8000 and 6000 B.C.

Last year the Department awarded a contract to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop procedures to protect historic sites and buildings which might be affected by transportation programs. A handbook on this subject should be available this summer.

In transportation, we stand committed to blend the past and the present into a sound base for a better tomorrow.

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