



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume One Number 3

May 1972

### HAER SUMMER 1972 PROJECTS

The Historic Amer Engineering Record, Natl Park Svc, plans seven field projects for the summer: 1) **The 2nd State of Utah Survey**, with cooperation of the UT Heritage Fndn and the UT Engineering Council, HQ at the Dept of Arch, U UT, focusing on early 20thC power generation, RR and mining facilities. Prof Burtch Beall, U UT, will lead a team consisting of historian, two archts, two student archts and a student engr. 2) **State of West Va Survey**, with the assistance of Prof Emory Kemp, Chrmn, Dept of CE, U WV and the cooperation of the WV Dept of Archives & History and WV U, Morgantown, field HQ location. William J Wilhelm, Assoc Prof of CE, WV U, Proj Supervisor, will lead a team of archts and historians. 3) **State of Indiana Survey**, in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Fndn of IN and the IN Historical Soc, HQ in the Dept of Arch, Ball State U, Muncie. Work probably will be concentrated in central & northern IN. 4) **General survey of six SW states**, over a one-year period, by students & faculty of Texas Tech U, including an inventory and in-depth recording of selected sites, under the direction of Joseph E Minor, Dept of CE. 5) **George Washington Locks of the Potowmack Canal, Great Falls, VA Survey**, fielded by the HAER Wash office in cooperation with the Natl Capital Region, Natl Park Svc and co-sponsored by the Natl Capital Section, ASCE. 6) **Preliminary to in-depth recording**, HAER also conducts state-wide inventories. Slated for the summer is the first chapter of a multi-year project in New England, cradle of Amer industrialization. Support for the **NE Inventory** so far is from the History & Heritage Comm, ASME; Curran Assocs; and the McCulloch Mansion Assn. William Rowe, a practicing engr and archt, will lead the

project. 7) **State of Florida Inventory**, sponsored by FL Technological U, led by John Paul Hartman, Prof of CE.

Information on IA sites/structures in any of the HAER project areas, especially IN & FL, would be appreciated by the staff. Please notify Douglas L Griffin, Chief, HAER, Natl Park Svc, 1100 L St NW, Washington, DC 20005.

### STATION PRESERVATION LEGISLATION

Bill HR 9719 was introduced last July by Congressman Frank Thompson (D NJ), as an amendment to the Natl Foundation on the Arts & Humanities Act, requiring the Chairman of the Natl Endowment for the Arts to "plan, develop and carry on a program under which the US will acquire unused or underused passenger depots now owned by RR companies in the US and make them available to communities for cultural activities, such as libraries, musical and dramatic presentations . . ." The Chairman would be charged with surveying stations and determining which should be acquired by the Govt, taking into account a number of financial, logistical, community and architectural-historical factors. The stations under the act would be leased to states or their subdivisions for the intended usage, with or without rental. The Bill also provides a \$1 million appropriation for FY 1972 to carry out its purposes. It presently is in John Brademus' (D IN) Select Subcommittee on Education awaiting hearings, to occur sometime this year. We will list dates when announced, in hope that as many as possible will testify in support of the Bill. In the meantime, individual letters to Thompson of support, encouragement and *making specific suggestions* cannot but help: House of Representatives, Wash, DC 20510.

### UNIQUE STRUCTURE LOST TO FIRE

It's hard to know which strikes more deeply: the loss of a worthy structure to ball and blade after a bitter fight in its defense, waged with the sure knowledge that it is to be succeeded by a greaseburger franchise; or the sudden, wholly unexpected, senseless destruction of one that was within a hair's breadth of permanent salvation. In the Jan *Newsletter* we described the remarkable Gothic-revival, two-aisle, two-story, timber lattice truss bridge of c1870 at the ex-Fairbanks scale works, St Johnsbury, VT. The bridge and the adjacent early section of the abandoned plant was leveled in the early

morning of 21 Mar, one day after submission of the form to Washington nominating it to the Natl Register. This is another of those distressing cases, not infrequent, where blazes of "mysterious origin" mysteriously attack disused industrial structures for which the respective city fathers declare themselves unable to discover any reasonable adaptive use. The only bright note in this latest historical tragedy is that its notoriety seems to have inspired considerable new interest in industrial preservation throughout the state.



August 1969

Jack E Boucher, for HAER



21 March 1972-AM

R P Johnson



21 March 1972-Noon

C H Liebs