

preservation, maintenance and improvement of Hope Lodge.

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Act effective immediately.

APPROVED—The 28th day of June, A. D. 1957.

GEORGE M. LEADER

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No. 233

AN ACT

Authorizing the Department of Property and Supplies, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to acquire on behalf of the Commonwealth, certain land, buildings and personal property, located in the Township of Whitemarsh, Montgomery County.

Whereas, the historic mansion known as "The Highlands" in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, is a faithful reflection of three periods of Pennsylvania's social life and a handsome example of the domestic architecture of the Federal period; and Preamble.

Whereas, The Highlands was built in 1796 by Anthony Morris, Philadelphia merchant and former President of the State Senate, as a country seat where the official world of the youthful United States, when Philadelphia was the national capital, was extensively entertained; and

Whereas, this notable mansion was acquired in 1813 by another Philadelphia merchant, George Sheaff, who laid the foundation of an exceptionally fine garden and brought the house into line with the cultural ideals of the second generation of the American nation; and

Whereas, the mansion and gardens were conscientiously restored and maintained in modern days by more recent owners, giving it outstanding character among the old estates of Pennsylvania, and adding to its interest and attractiveness with appropriate antique furniture and furnishings; and

Whereas, the present owners, concerned about its future preservation for the benefit of the people, have offered this magnificent historic property with most of its furniture and furnishings as a gift to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, subject only to the condition that, when transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is made by the last survivor, no Pennsylvania transfer inheritance tax shall be imposed on such transfer.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Authority to accept "The Highlands."

Section 1. The Department of Property and Supplies, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire, by gift, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a tract of land, known as "The Highlands," in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, being bounded and described as follows:

Location of real property in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County.

All that certain lot or tract of ground situate in the Township of Whitemarsh, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, bounded and described according to a survey made thereof by C. Raymond Weir, Registered Professional Engineer, dated March 1957, as follows, to wit:—

Description.

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the center line of Sheaff Lane (thirty-three feet wide) with the center line of Skippack Pike as originally laid out fifty feet wide, said point being at the distance of four and thirty-three one-hundredths (4.33) feet, more or less, northeast of a point at the intersection of the center line of Sheaff Lane extended with the center line of the concrete pavement, the center line of Skippack Pike as now established; thence extending along the center line of Skippack Pike as originally laid out fifty feet wide north forty-eight degrees, five minutes west fourteen hundred fifty-seven and sixty-nine one-hundredths (1457.69) feet to a point; thence extending along land, now or late, of Charles S. Cheston et ux., north fifty-three degrees, six minutes east ten hundred three and sixty-two one-hundredths (1003.62) feet to a stone; thence extending still along said land north fifty-nine degrees, forty-three minutes east five hundred forty-one and seventy-three one-hundredths (541.73) feet to a stone; thence still along said land north sixty degrees, twelve minutes, thirty seconds east one hundred ninety-nine and three one-hundredths (199.03) feet to a point in the line of other land of the grantors herein; thence extending along said land south forty-two degrees, fifty-two minutes, thirty seconds east five hundred eighty and fifty-five one-hundredths (580.55) feet to a stone; thence extending along land, now or late, of Robert E. Daffron et ux., south fifty-two degrees, fifty-seven seconds west two hundred sixty-nine and eighty-four one-hundredths (269.84) feet to a stone; thence extending still along said land south twenty-five degrees, fifty-four minutes east two hundred eighty-six and ninety-eight one-hundredths (286.98) feet to a stone; thence extending along other land of the grantors herein south forty-four degrees two minutes thirty seconds west fifteen and thirty

one-hundredths feet (15.30) to a point a corner; thence extending still along said land south twenty-nine degrees, fifty minutes, thirty seconds east two hundred fifty-seven and fifty one-hundredths (257.50) feet to a point in the center line of Sheaff Lane (thirty-three feet wide); thence extending along the center line of Sheaff Lane south forty-one degrees, forty-two minutes, thirty seconds west eleven hundred sixty and twenty-five one-hundredths (1160.25) feet to the point and place of beginning, containing forty-three and eight hundred ninety-nine ten-thousandths acres, more or less.

Being part of the same premises which Caroline S. Sinkler, single woman, by her indenture bearing date July 3, 1941, and recorded on November 12, 1941, in the Office for the Recording of Deeds in and for the County of Montgomery in Deed Book 1430, Page 380, etc., granted and conveyed unto Emily W. Roosevelt in fee.

Section 2. The title to said real estate and personal property shall be taken in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the deed of conveyance shall be approved by the Department of Justice. The deed shall be delivered and title shall vest in the Commonwealth upon the death of the survivor of Nicholas G. Roosevelt and his wife, Emily W. Roosevelt, or sooner, if they or the survivor of them so elects, subject to the approval of the acceptance of said title by the Department of Justice and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, within six (6) months after the death of the survivor, or the date of the earlier offer to convey the same.

Title to be in name of Commonwealth and approved by Department of Justice.

Times when title to vest.

Section 3. Upon acceptance of said title, the said lands, buildings and personal property, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission shall have full control, supervision and management thereof, in accordance with The Administrative Code of 1929.

Responsibility of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Section 4. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission shall have the power to make, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations relative to police power, visitation by the public and admission fees.

Power of commission.

Section 5. The admission fees shall be paid by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission into the General Fund of the State Treasury and are hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the maintenance of existing buildings, landscaping and repair of antiquities.

Disposition of proceeds and appropriations.

Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Act effective immediately.

APPROVED—The 28th day of June, A. D. 1957.

GEORGE M. LEADER