

No. 528

## AN ACT

Authorizing the Pennsylvania Department of Property and Supplies, acting for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to acquire by gift from the Borough of Northumberland that certain tract of land in Northumberland Borough, County of Northumberland, upon which is located the home of Joseph Priestley and which is now the property of the Borough of Northumberland; providing for the control, management, supervision, improvement and maintenance thereof by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; authorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to make and enforce rules and regulations for the preservation, maintenance and visitation thereof; authorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to accept in trust from the American Chemical Society and other interested societies or individuals such moneys as they may see fit to present to the Commonwealth to assist in the maintenance and development of this property as a permanent memorial; authorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to accept as gifts or loans such books, manuscripts, pamphlets, relics and furniture as interested societies or individuals may provide for enhancing the interests of this property as a museum of science; creating an advisory board to assist in such functions and making an appropriation.

Whereas, Joseph Priestley a great scientist and humanitarian was one of the most distinguished citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and

Preamble.

Whereas, his writings and experiments in the field of chemistry and electricity and, particularly, his discovery of oxygen contributed greatly to the scientific and industrial progress of Pennsylvania and the whole world, and

Whereas, his former home in the Borough of Northumberland is accordingly a shrine of international interest, and

Whereas, the Borough of Northumberland has indicated a desire to transfer this shrine to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for preservation and maintenance as a permanent memorial; therefore,

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

Joseph Priestley Home.

Section 1. The Department of Property and Supplies is hereby authorized and empowered to accept on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by gift from the Borough of Northumberland, that certain tract of land in Northumberland Borough, County of Northumberland, upon which is located the home of Joseph Priestley and now the property of the Borough of Northumberland.

Department of Property and Supplies authorized to accept as a gift for the Commonwealth certain improved property in Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County.

Title to be approved by Department of Justice.

Section 2. The title to said real estate shall be taken in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and shall, before its acquisition, be approved by the Department of Justice.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission empowered to control, management, supervision, improvement and maintenance of said property.

Section 3. Upon the acquisition of the property aforesaid, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission shall be given full control, management and supervision thereof, and shall have power to adopt and carry into effect plans for the improvement and maintenance thereof, and to make and enforce rules and regulations for the preservation of the property and the visitation thereof by the public.

Advisory board: creation, members, terms and advisory powers.

Section 4. An advisory board is hereby created, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor for terms of three years, and including representatives of the American Chemical Society and the American Chemical Industry, which advisory board shall advise and make recommendations to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission concerning the management, maintenance and development of the Joseph Priestley Home as a memorial to scientific advance.

Commission authorized to accept gifts of money.

Section 5. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is hereby authorized to accept, in trust, as provided by law, from the American Chemical Society and other interested societies or individuals such moneys as they may see fit to present to the Commonwealth to assist in the maintenance and development of this property as a permanent Priestley memorial.

Commission authorized to accept gifts or loans of pertinent scientific interest.

Section 6. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is hereby authorized to accept, as gifts or loans, as provided by law, such books, manuscripts, pamphlets, relics, scientific apparatus or furniture as interested societies or individuals may provide for the permanent utilization and development of the property as a museum and library of the history of science as well as a memorial to Joseph Priestley.

Appropriation.

Section 7. The sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby specifically appropriated to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the restoration, maintenance and development of said property during the biennium beginning June 1, 1959.

Effective date.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 1960.

APPROVED—The 16th day of November, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE