

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES WASHINGTON D.C. 20648

B-196901

SEPTEMBER 13, 1983

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives



Subject:

Examination of the United States Capitol Historical Society's Financial Statements for the Years Ended January 31, 1982 and 1981 (GAO/AFMD-83-91)

This report summarizes the results of our review of the audit of the United States Capitol Historical Society's financial statements for the years ended January 31, 1982 and 1981. The Society was established in 1962 to enhance the public's understanding of the symbolism, growth, and significance of the United States Capitol.

The Society retained G.P. Graham & Company, certified public accountants (CPAs), to audit its 1982 and 1981 financial statements. In the opinion of the CPAs, the Society's financial statements present fairly its financial position at January 31, 1982 and 1981, and the results of its operations for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis after restatement of a change, with which they concur, in the method of accounting for vacation pay benefits, as described in note F to the financial statements.

We are required by 40 U.S.C. 193m-1 to audit the accounts of the Society for each year it conducts its activities. To provide a reasonable and cost effective means of assuring the Congress that the Society's financial position and results of operations are audited and reported on, we reviewed the workpapers and audit report prepared by the Society's CPAs. Our review was directed toward determining the extent to which we could rely on the work and report of the Society's CPAs. We performed such tests of the CPAs' workpapers and audit report, and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances to ensure that:

- -- The Society's financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- -- The audit was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

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- -- The CPAs established the necessary policies and procedures to comply with other applicable professional standards.
- -- The Society complied with the provisions of laws and regulations governing its operations.

During our review of the CPAs' workpapers and audit report, no significant problems came to our attention indicating that the CPAs' opinion on the Society's 1982 and 1981 financial statements or the auditing standards used were inappropriate.

Pursuant to a contract with the Architect of the Capitol, the Society operates a visitor center in the Capitol Building and is furnished, without charge, certain benefits and services—such as sales and storage space, utilities, and ordinary building repairs and maintenance. Accordingly, these costs are not included in the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Fund Balance. Furthermore, as a result of a recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals which rejected a District of Columbia claim against the Society, note C to the financial statements is no longer applicable. We therefore concur with, and transmit to the Congress, the CPAs' opinion on the Society's 1982 and 1981 financial statements (encl. I).

Comptroller General of the United States

Enclosure

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1932 AND 1981

	CONTENTS	
Exhibit	Name of the state	Pages
	Auditors' Opinion	2
	Financial Statements	
" A "	Statement of Financial Position January 31, 1982 and 1981	3
	Schedule A-1 Schedule of Investments - General Operating	4 5 - 6
"B"	Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Fund Balances for the Years Ended January 31, 1982 and 1981	7
	Schedule B-1 Schedule of Changes in Special Programs	8
"C"	Statement of Changes in Financial Position for the Years Ended January 31, 1982 and 1981	9
	Notes to Financial Statements	10 - 12
	Supplementary Information	13
	Schedule B-2 Analysis of Sales for the Years' Ended January 31, 1982 and 1981	14
	Expenses for the Years Ended January 31, 1982 and 1981	15

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MEMBERS OF AMERICAN INSTITUTÉ OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

TELEPHONE 525-5206

To the Board of Trustees of United States Capitol Historical Society

We have examined the statement of financial position of the United States Capitol Historical Society as of January 31, 1982 and 1981, and the related statements of revenue and expenses, fund balances, and changes in financial position of the general fund for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of United States Capitol Historical Society at January 31, 1982 and 1981, and the results of its operations for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis after restatement for the change, with which we concur, in the method of accounting for vacation pay benefits as described in Note F to the financial statements.

G. P. GRAHAM & COMPANY

Certified Public Accountants

S. F. Graham & Company

November 15, 1982

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

	January 31, 1982			January 31, 1981			
	History				History	History	
	General	Endownent	Total	General	Endownent	Total	
	Fund	Fund	<u>Funds</u>	Fund	Fund	Funds	
ASSETS							
Current assets							
Cash in bank	\$ 89,365	\$ -	\$ 89,365	\$ 51,260	\$ -	\$ 51,260	
Investments - At cost-Schedule A-1 and A-2							
Savings and NOW accounts	89,923	13,094	103,017	476,042	89,916	565,958	
U.S. Treasury and Quasi-Government bonds	588,245	651,286	1,239,531	499,969	676,117	1,176,086	
Commercial bonds, notes	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	
Accounts receivable	60,394	28,510	88,904	58,323	20,160	78,483	
Inventory - At cost	804,364	_	804,364	378,505	-	378,505	
Prepaid expenses	21,800	-	21,800	24,281	~	24,281	
Due to/from funds	(161,967)	161,967	-		-	-	
Total current assets	\$1,492,124	\$879,857	\$2,371,981	\$1,488,380	\$811,193	\$2,292,571	
Office furniture and equipment							
Less: Accumulated depreciation							
\$20,937 and \$18,109	16,867	-	16,867	16,450	~	16,450	
Other assets	•					-	
Library	2,698	-	2,698	2,521	-	2,521	
Inventory reserve	3,197		3,197	2,887		2,887	
Total assets	\$1,514,886	\$879,857	\$2,394,743	\$1,510,238	\$811,193	\$2,321,431	
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE							
Current liabilities							
Accounts payable	\$ 34.043	s -	\$ 34,043	\$ 68,335	\$ -	\$ 68,335	
Accrued expenses	660	• _	660	380	_	380	
Accrued expenses Accrued annual leave - Note F	23,787	_	23,787	29,892	_	29.892	
Deferred receipts - Magna Carta	20,018	_	20,018	16,493	_	16,493	
Total current liabilities	\$ 78,508		\$ 78,508	\$ 115,100	\$ -	\$ 115,100	
Contributions received for special programs	7 70,500	→	V 70,500	¥ 115,100	Ψ -	7 113,100	
Capitol sound and light	45,812	_	. 45,812	43,922	_	43,922	
Mel Price Pottrait	1,350	_	1,350	1,350	_	1,350	
Art work (Capitol)	5,729	_	5,729	5,729		5,729	
George White Portrait	1,250	_	1,250	1,000		1,000	
Robert Byrd Portrait	10,168	_	10,168	8,668	_	8,668	
	5,510		5,510	0,000	_	-	
John Dingell Portrait		470 957	-	1,334,469	811,193	2,145,662	
Fund balance	1,366,559	879,857	2,246,416	1,334,409	011,193	2,143,002	
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$1,514,886	\$879,857	\$2,394,743	\$1,510,238	\$811,193	\$2,321,431	

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit "A"

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL OPERATING SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

AT JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

		January	31, 1982	January	31, 1981
			Market		Market
		Cost	<u>Value</u>	Cost	<u> Value</u>
U.S. Trea	asury and Quasi-Government Bonds				
\$ 50,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.				
	8.2% due 4/10/84	\$ 50,000	\$ 43,688	\$ 50,000	\$ 44,500
5),000	Pederal National Mortgage Assn.	•	, - ,	, ,	,,
	8.4% due 9/10/82	50,000	48,375	50,000	46,280
50,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
	10.0% due 4/10/81	_	-	50,000	49,280
50,000	Twelve Federal Land Banks			•	•
•	8.0% due 10/20/82	50,000	47,845	50,000	45,688
50,000	Federal Home Loan Bank	·	. •	·	•
	8.25% due 11/26/82	50,000	47,670	50,000	45,625
300,000	Federal Home Loan Bank	-		-	
	9.0% due 2/25/83	288,194	283,410	- ·	-
50,000	Federal Farm Credit Bank				
	11.85% due 4/1/81	-	-	50,000	49,563
100,000	Federal Farm Credit Bank				
	13.75% due 5/4/81	-	-	99,969	49,580
100,000	Federal Farm Credit Bank				
	15.35% due 6/1/81 -	-	-	100,000	99,750
U.S. Corp	orate Bond				
\$100,000	Ford Motor Company, Inc.				
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	13.375% due 3/23/82	100,051	100,000	-	-
1				•	
Savings a	nd Negotiable Order of				
	wal Accounts	89,923	89,923	476,042	476,042
•					
Total gen	eral operating investments	\$678,168	\$660,911	\$976,011	\$906,308
•	- -				

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Schedule A-1

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY ENDOWMENT SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

		January Cost	31, 1982 Market Value	January Cost	31, 1981 Market Value
U.S. Trea	sury and Quasi-Government Bonds				
\$ 75,000	U.S. Treasury 7.875% due 5/15/86	¢ 76 216	\$ 60,330	\$ 76,316	\$ 61,545
25,000	U.S. Treasury	\$ 70,510	Ÿ 00,550		
	8.375% due 8/15/81	-	-	24,945	24,125
25,000	U.S. Treasury				
	8.25% due 8/15/85	24,856	20,978	24,856	21,313
250,000	U.S. Treasury				
	16.0% due 11/15/84	250,114	258,275	-	-
25,000	Federal Home Loan Bank			25 222	22 812
	8.25% due 11/26/82	25,000	23,835	25,000	22,813
50,000	Federal Home Loan Bank			50,000	49,655
50.000	10.0% due 2/25/81	-	-	30,000	49,000
50,000	Federal Home Loan Bank	50,000	49,220	50,000	47,063
50.000	9.15% due 5/25/82 Federal Home Loan Bank	30,000	47,220	50,000	47,003
50,000	10.8% due 3/25/85	50,000	45,063	50,000	45,875
50,000	Federal Home Loan Bank	30,000	45,005	30,000	,
10,000	11.9% due 3/25/82	50,000	49,905	50,000	48,750
25,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	30,000	,		•
23,000	8.4% due 9/10/82	25,000	24,188	25,000	23,140
25,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.				
•	8.75% due 4/11/83	25,000	23,485	25,000	22,719
50,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.				
	8.85% due 7/10/81	-	_	50,000	48,500
25,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.			05.000	21 250
	8.8% due 10/10/85	25,000	21,000	25,000	21,250
25,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	05 000	20.702	25 000	22 000
	8.5% due 9/12/83	25,000	22,703	25,000	22,000
50,000	Federal National Mortgage Assn.		_	50,000	49,280
i	10.0% due 4/10/81			20,000	77,200

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

\$626,286 \$598,982

Carried forward

\$551,117 \$508,028

Schedule A-2

HISTORY ENDOWMENT SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (Cont'd.)

	January	31, 1982 Market	January	31, 1981 Market
	Cost	Value	Cost	Value
Brought forward	\$626,286	\$598,982	\$551,117	\$508,028
\$ 25,000 Federal Farm Credit Bank 8.45% due 4/1/82	25,000	24,750	25,000	23,406
50,000 Federal Farm Credit Bank 12.0% due 7/1/81	•.	-	50,000	49,095
50,000 Federal Farm Credit Bank 15.35% due 6/1/81	-	_	50,000	49,875
U.S. Corporate Bond				
\$ 25,000 Phillip Morris, Inc., 8.65% due 3/1/84	25,000	22,250	25,000	21,848
Savings and Negotiable Order of Withdrawal Accounts	13,094	13,094	89,916	89,916
Total History Endowment Investments	\$689,380	\$659,076	\$791,033	\$742,168

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Schedule A-2

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

		General Fund		History Endowment Fund
	General	Special Total		
	Operating	Programs Jan. 31,1982	Jan. 31,1981	Jan. 31, 1982 Jan. 31, 1981
Revenue				
Sales (less discount \$ 3,617)	\$1,536,464	- \$1,536,464		
Cost of merchandise sold	1,023,076	<u> </u>	925,089	
Gross profit from sales	\$ 513,388	- \$ 513,388	\$ 517,893	
Other revenue				
Membership dues	\$ 8,953	- \$ 8,953	•	
Contributions-Current year	3,282	\$ 9,150 12,432	10,404	\$ 1,000 -
Income from investments	60,796	- 60,796	77,431	67,664 73,037
Royalty	10,997	- 10,997	9,699	
Sundry	10,215	10,215	3,739	
Total revenue	\$ 607,631	\$ 9,150 \$ 616,781	\$ 627,652	\$ 68,664 \$ 73,037
Expenses				
Selling and administrative	\$ 562,461	- \$ 562,461		
Oral history program	10,080	- 10,080	10,167	
Contributions				
United States Capitol	-		16,300	
Artwork master plan and art work	-		1,190	
Historical Research Fund	3,000			
Total expenses	\$ 575,541	\$ 575,541	\$ 560,301	
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 32,090	\$ 9,150 \$ 41,240	\$ 67,351	\$ 68,664 \$ 73,037
Fund balances and special programs - February l	1,334,469	60,669 1;395,138	1,354,487	811,193 738,156
Prior period adjustment - Accrued annual leave - Note F	<u> </u>		(26,700)	
Fund balances and special programs - January 31	\$1,366,559	\$69,819 \$1,436,378	\$1,395,138	\$879,857 \$811,193

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit "B"

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF CHANCES IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

FOR YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

isbursements Artwork master plan and art work
art work Balance January 31.,

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Schedule B-1

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION - GENERAL FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

	1982	1981
Funds provided		
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year ended (anuary 31, Add: Expenses included not affecting	\$ 41,240	\$ 67,351
working capital	1 010	2,191
Depreciation	2,828 \$ 44,068	\$ 69,542
Working capital provided by operations	\$ 44,066	\$ 69,042
Funds applied		A 14 000
Acquisition of equipment	\$ 3,245	\$ 14,803
Acquisition for additions to library	177	463
Transfer to inventory reserve	310	- 200
Prior period adjustment-accrued annual leave-Note F		26,700
Working capital applied	\$ 3,732	\$ 41,966
Increase (decrease) in working capital	\$ 40,336	\$ 27,576
Analysis of changes in working capital		
Increase (decrease) in current assets		
Cash	\$ 38,105	\$ 2,739
Investments	(297,843)	61,550
Accounts receivable	2,071	27,369
Inventory	425,859	629
Prepaid expenses	(2,481)	12,539
Due to/from funds	(161,967)	
Decrease (increase) in current liabilities		
Accounts payable	34,292	(58,529)
Accrued expenses	(280)	13,150
Accrued annual leave - Note F	6,105	(29,892)
Deferred receipts - Magna Carta	(3,525)	(1,979)
Increase (decrease) in working capital	\$ 40,336	\$ 27,576

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit "C"

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JANUARY 31, 1982

- Note A Summary of significant accounting policies followed by United States Capitol Historical Society (USCHS)
 - 1. Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting.
 - 2. Marketable securities are stated at cost.
 - Inventories are stated at cost principally on the first-in, first-out basis.
 - 4. Office furniture and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation computed on a straight line basis.
 - 5. Contributions to specific funds are reflected as additions to fund balances. Expenditures of these funds are accumulated until the project is completed, at which time, the fund is charged with the cost of the project.
- Note B The United States Capitol Historical Society is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. The purposes of the Society include: to promote and encourage the understanding of the founding, growth and significance of the Capitol of the United States of America, to undertake research into the history of the Congress and the Capitol and to promote the discussion, publication and dissemination of the results of research.

Under the direction of the Architect of the Capitol, the Society operates the Capitol Visitors Center as authorized by Title III of Public Law 90-264. This agreement was entered into by contract dated January 1, 1981 and has been renewed through June 30, 1982, subject to termination without cause upon giving the other party sixty days written notice. At the end of this period, the Architect reserves the right to enter into a renewal agreement on terms mutually satisfactory to both parties.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd.)

Note C - As of the date of this report, the Finance and Revenue Department of the District of Columbia has assessed the Society in excess of \$750,000 for sales taxes, interest and penalties for the period August 1, 1966 through September 30, 1979. The Society was being sued for this amount in the case styled District of Columbia v. United States Capitol Historical Society, et al., Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 016006-81, which has been dismissed without prejudice pending the outcome of the belowdescribed Federal litigation. The Federal Government, on behalf of the Society, has sued the District for a declaratory judgement against it in a case styled United States of America v. District of Columbia, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, civil action No. 82-0923, wherein a judgement was entered in favor the United States (and the Society). The District of Columbia is now appealing the adverse judgement to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit.

No provision has been made for potential liability, if any, on the accompanying financial statement.

Note D - Sound and Light - Bicentennial program

Officers of the USCHS report the following:

The project study authorized in H.J. Res. 736, authorized by Gerald Ford, Thomas O'Neil, and others passed unanimously by both Houses, signed by the President, for the creation and installation of a sound and light program at the United States Capitol, was completed during the year ended January 31, 1975. Studies revealed that the project was feasible and advisable. The Bill provides for the acceptance of a gift from the United States Capitol Historical Society to pay for installation, operation, and maintenance of the show. The Bill provides further that the study recommendation must be approved by the USCHS, The Architect of the Capitol, the leaders of the House of Representatives, and the Commission on Arts and Antiquities of the U.S. Senate. The project has been endorsed by the USCHS, the Architect of the Capitol, and the leaders of the House of Representatives.

The USCHS Executive Committee approved in principal a four-phase plan for fund raising and promotional activities for the sound and light program. Phase one of the plan was implemented September 1, 1974, covering a nine month period: phase two of the plan was not implemented. Contributions received from solicitations for the sound and light program and/or the Bicentennial program are not segregated on the USCHS accounts. Plans for the raising of funds have been halted temporarily.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd.)

Note E - Under agreements with the sponsor of the Magna Carta publication, receipts from sales are to be held to defray the cost of a second printing. Sales thru January 31, 1982 amounted to \$20,018.

Note F - Accrued annual leave

Prior to fiscal year 1982, the Society followed the common practice of accounting for the cost of the employees' variation pay benefits in the period they were paid. Effective as of February 1, 1981, the Society began accruing such benefits as they are earned. Financial statements for years prior to 1981 have been restated, resulting in a decrease in fund balance at January 31, 1980 of \$26,700. The accounting change decrease of previously reported income for the year ended January 31, 1981 of \$3,192 was considered immaterial, however, the statements were restated to conform to the provisions of SFAS No.43.

Note G - Bicentennial commemorative medal project

The United States Congress passed a bill in January 1978 which was signed by the President on February 15, 1978 providing for the striking of a national medal annually in commemoration of outstanding historic events and personalities from 1777 to 1789.

Note H - Leases

The United States Capitol Historical Society leases approximately 2,809 square feet of office space located at V.F.W. Memorial Building, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The lease is for the period effective April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1983 and provides for a rental of \$27,810.00 for the 1982/83 year.

Note I - Pension

The Society's pension plan provides for biweekly contributions of \$25 for each employee after one year of full time employment.

The plan further provides for increments in biweekly contributions of \$5 for each additional three year period of employment through twenty-one years with a maximum biweekly contribution of \$55.

We have reviewed the supplementary information submitted on the following pages 15 & 16 taken from the accounting records of the Society but which was not in our opinion necessary for a fair presentation of the financial position or results of operations. Our examination was intended primarily for the purpose of formulating an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole and was not to enable us to express an opinion as to the fairness of the detailed supplementary information.

ANALYSIS OF SALES

FOR THE YEARS ENDING JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

	1982	1981
Books		
We, the People - English edition	\$ 191,696	\$ 166,788
We, the People - Foreign edition	6,368	12,258
Our Nations Capitol Coloring Book	15,259	15,838
Other	65,915	87,059
Calendars	689,029	650,832
Photographs, prints, slides and viewers	26,185	23,599
Postcards, folders and albums	117,867	88,140
Jewelry	37,800	31,334
Film, filmstrips, viewmasters and cameras	129,537	121,296
Medals and accessories	100,047	62,478
	95,197	134,586
National medal program	1,901	2,445
Place mats	63,280	53,845
Others	(3,617)	(7,516)
Discounts	(5,017)	(,,,,,,,,,
Net sales	\$1,536,464	\$1,442,982

ANALYSIS OF SELLING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

FOR THE YEARS ENDING JANUARY 31, 1982 AND 1981

	1982	1981
Salaries (45 employees) Payroll taxes Group and general insurance Retirement Postage and other mailings Promotion Membership Office expense Office rent Storage Professional services Dues Depreciation	\$ 332,558 24,116 11,967 10,345 9,547 7,500 9,022 22,497 23,294 2,493 53,348 435 2,828	\$ 348,604 22,378 10,289 10,980 7,597 5,348 6,403 8,199 19,152 5,287 34,956 415 2,191
Computer expense Capitol studies Sundry Symposium	1,500 (1,555) 3,500 49,066 \$ 562,461	1,320 6,932 14,255 28,338 \$ 532,644