

## PREFACE

The historic significance of the McKonkey Ferry and the role it played in the War for Independence was recognized undoubtedly long before the original 100 acres of land was set aside in 1913. The responsibility for protecting and preserving this area, one of New Jersey's prime historic sites, is a responsibility of the State. However there are other parties which affect the well being of the park namely, Penn Central Railroad, N. J. Bureau of Water Facility Operation, N. J. Department of Transportation, and the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.

With the approaching Bicentennial Celebration comes a heightened awareness of this responsibility to show the populace those structures which still exist and possibly to reconstruct facilities of those which do not. Time, as well as our industrial society have obviated some, and obliterated other portions of the site. It is only through a concerted effort that some aspects of the site can be amended, whereby a semblance of the original can be appreciated by those who will come for the celebration and afterwards. To this end this study solicits the indulgence and cooperation of the Interstate Agency, the two States and their various agencies, and the historic organizations. Not all parties involved share similar obligations, but each party has the same *raison d'etre*: the crossing and its historic significance. Therefore, it is paramount to recognize the validity of the maxim that the whole is greater than its parts and also, that for lack of a part, the whole would not be as great nor complete.