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# Historic Mansion In Pocantico Hills Dedicated by Ford

By LENA WILLIAMS  
Special to The New York Times

POCANTICO HILLS, N. Y., Nov. 21— President Ford played golf, attended church and dedicated a Victorian stone mansion on the sprawling Rockefeller family estate here today as a national historical landmark.

Relaxing on the 3,500-acre estate as weekend guests of Vice President Rockefeller, the President and Mrs. Ford made only one public appearance, attending a quiet service at the nondenominational Union Church in Tarrytown.

The President played morning and afternoon rounds of golf with the Vice President and his two brothers, David and Lawrence, on the private course on the estate grounds.

And in a brief private ceremony, Mr. Ford presented a bronze plaque to the three Rockefellers to dedicate Kykuit, the 14-room mansion built 73 years ago by their grandfather, John D. Rockefeller Sr., as the centerpiece of the family estate.

"I am happy to be here today to designate this mansion as a landmark and to acknowledge a great humanitarian and philanthropist," Mr. Ford said during the ceremony, which was attended by Mrs. Ford and other members of the Rockefeller family.

The estate was officially designated a landmark last May 11 by Interior Sec-

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President and Mrs. Ford with Vice President Rockefeller after services at Union Church in Pocantico Hills, N.Y. (AP Photo/Paul Hosefros)

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1976

# Ford Dedicates Landmark Mansion On Rockefeller's Pocantico Estate

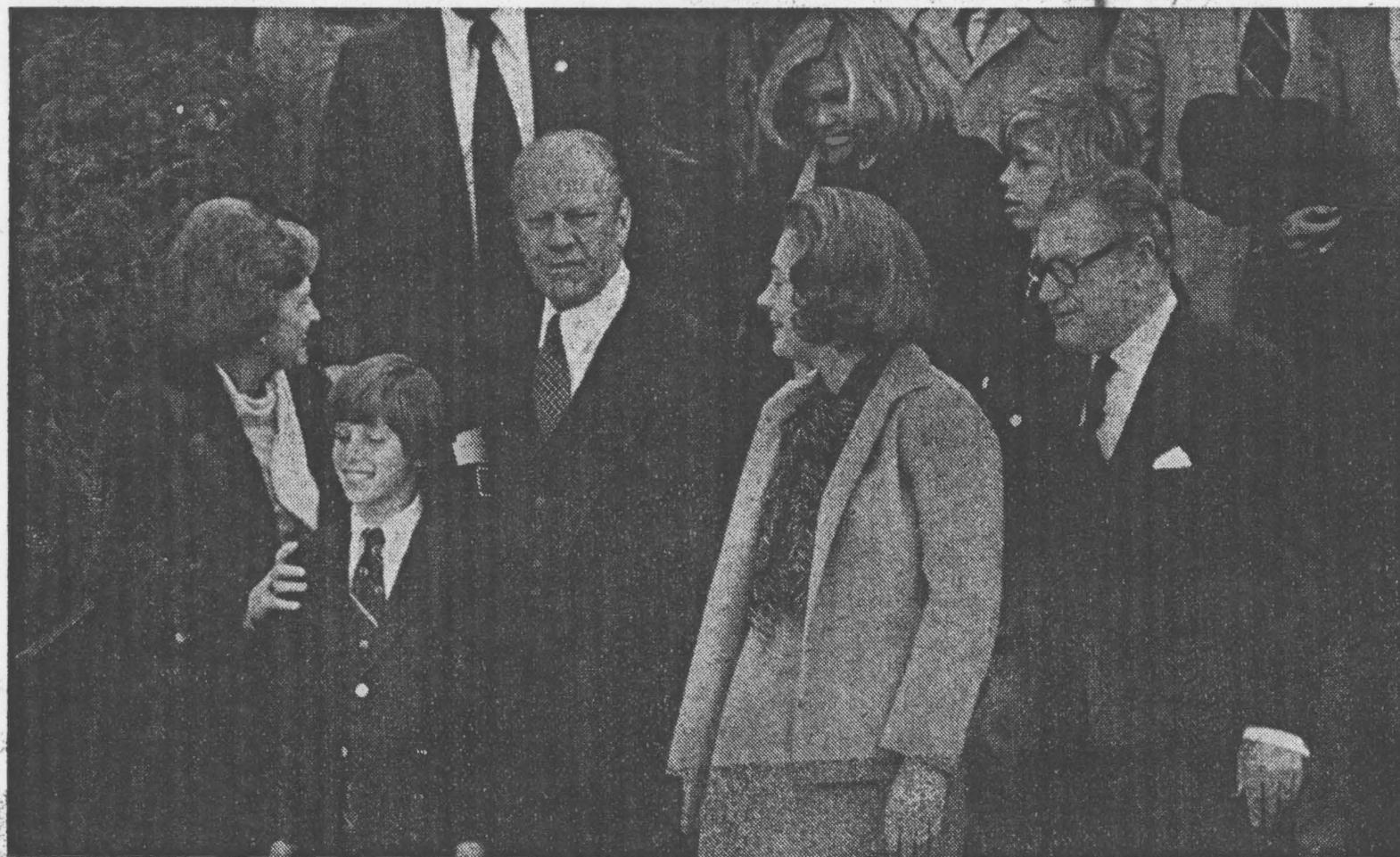
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retary Thomas S. Kleppe.

John Mulliken, Vice President Rockefeller's press secretary, said the estate

And while at one point Mr. Ford appeared tempted to cross the street to shake hands with people in the crowd, he then seemed to shrug off the idea and instead smiled, waved and got into his lim-

Daily News  
11/22/72



**Fords at Pocantico Hills**

**Children's Hour With  
Mark, Nelson Jr.  
And Melinda**

The sun: bright. Temperature: seasonal. In short, a perfect day to enjoy the autumn. That's just what Betty and Jerry Ford did yesterday as guests of Happy and Nelson Rockefeller at their posh hi'l hideaway at Pocantico Hills. But the live wires in the party were seldom photographed. Mark Rockefeller, 9, Nelson Rockefeller Jr., 12, and Melinda Murphy, 16. Mark and Nelson Jr. are Happy and Rocky's kids; Melinda is Happy's daughter from her first marriage. The kids attended services with their parents and the Fords in the estate's tiny church. Officially, the Ford's weekend visit was to "acknowledge" designation of Pocantico as a national historic site. Unofficially, it was a great way to spend the weekend.

Betty puts hand on Mark's shoulder while Melinda and Nelson Jr. take second spot to President and parents.

News photos by Keith Torrie

Then, Marl



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UP-114

(ROCKEFELLER)

(BY CHERYL ARVIDSON)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A PRIVATE DEDICATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD THIS WEEKEND DESIGNATING VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER'S POCANTICO HILLS, N.Y., ESTATE AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD WILL SPEND THE WEEKEND AT THE ESTATE AS GUESTS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND JOIN MEMBERS OF THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY FOR THE SPECIAL CEREMONY SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

NO NEWS COVERAGE WILL BE ALLOWED, ACCORDING TO ROCKEFELLER SPOKESMAN JOHN MULLIGAN, BECAUSE THE VICE PRESIDENT "CONSIDERS THIS A FAMILY AND PRIVATE AFFAIR."

AS SOME CONSOLATION TO REPORTERS WHO WILL FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT TO NEARBY TARRYTOWN, N.Y., BUT WERE DENIED ACCESS TO THE CEREMONY, ROCKEFELLER EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO BRUNCH IN THE "PLAYHOUSE" ON THE ESTATE GROUNDS.

THE ESTATE COVERS 3,500 ACRES, BUT ONLY THE 249-ACRE SECTION KNOWN AS "THE PARK" WAS DESIGNATED A NATIONAL LANDMARK. IT JOINS ABOUT 1,300 OTHER PLACES -- MOST OF THEM PRIVATELY OWNED -- IN THIS RELATIVELY NEW CATEGORY OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

THE ESTATE LANDS WERE PURCHASED AND THE FIRST HOUSE BUILT IN THE LATE 1800S BY JOHN ROCKEFELLER, A SYMBOL OF WEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL POWER IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA.

THE FIRST HOUSE BURNED DOWN IN 1902 AND REPLACED WITH THE CURRENT STRUCTURE IN 1909. IT BEARS THE SAME NAME, KYKUIT -- DUTCH FOR LOOKOUT -- AS THE ORIGINAL HOUSE.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MANSION IS GEORGIAN AND REFLECTS BOTH SIMPLICITY AND QUALITY. IT IS SURROUNDED BY FORMAL GARDENS, AND ENJOYS A VIEW OF THE HUDSON RIVER, ROLLING HILLS AND WOODLANDS.

THE DESIGNATION WILL INVOLVE NO FEDERAL FUNDS EXCEPT FOR THE COST OF A PLAQUE AND CERTIFICATE AND CONSULTATION SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ENSURE PROPER PRESERVATION.

IT WAS THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF JOHN ROCKEFELLER IN AMERICAN HISTORY, NOT THE FACT THAT NELSON ROCKEFELLER IS VICE PRESIDENT, THAT LED TO DESIGNATION OF THE ESTATE AS A NATIONAL LANDMARK, SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION MAY 11, INTERIOR SECRETARY THOMAS KLEPPE SAID THE NAME OF THE SENIOR ROCKEFELLER IS "SYNONYMOUS WITH AMERICA ... HE IS THE EPITOME OF BOTH SUCCESS AND OF PHILANTHROPY."

ORIGINALLY, THE WHITE HOUSE INDICATED THE SUNDAY CEREMONIES WOULD INVOLVE TRANSFER OF THE ESTATE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS QUICKLY REVISED AS SPOKESMEN STRESSED NO TRANSFER OF LAND OR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP IS INVOLVED.

MULLIGAN SAID NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY, HOWEVER, THAT ULTIMATELY COULD MAKE THE ESTATE PUBLIC PROPERTY.

UPI 11-17 05:23 PES

# President Dedicates Rockefeller Estate As U.S. Landmark

By Austin Scott

Washington Post Staff Writer

TARRYTOWN, N.Y., Nov. 21—President Ford continued his post-election search for privacy today with a 24-hour visit to Vice President Rocke-

200 who had waited in blustery cold for a glimpse of the President, they returned to the estate.

The President, the Vice President and his brothers, Laurance and David, played seven holes of golf on the fam-

## Names/Faces

### Unhappy Sequel

Annabel Battistella, better known in livelier days around here as Fanne Foxxe, took a lot of sleeping pills yesterday in her Westport, Conn., home and had to have her stomach pumped out. After she did not show up for an appearance in an off-Broadway play, "Women Behind Bars," her business manager telephoned her press agent, who held her on the phone while someone else called the Westport police. An ambulance whisked her away. The agent remembered her saying, "I took pills, a lot of pills. Maybe 40 of them. I wanted to sleep a long time." After treating her for a drug overdose, the hospital released her in satisfactory condition, and her son Alex said she was resting at home last night. He had nothing else to say.

### Get Lost, Fellas

President Ford and his wife Betty will journey this weekend to Tarrytown, N.Y., and the Pocantico Hills estate of Nelson A. Rockefeller, who, in case anyone's forgotten, is still vice president. The occasion: dedicating the homestead as a national historical monument. The White House has told the press that there will be no news coverage of the ceremony. That is part of the joy of a lame duck presidency.

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## Fords Weekending At Rockefeller Estate

United Press International

President Ford met yesterday with White House aides to discuss the new federal budget before flying to New York for a weekend at Vice President Rockefeller's historic estate overlooking the Hudson River.

Ford aides said the President and his wife Betty joined the Rockefeller family at their home in Pocantico Hills for dinner last night and planned a quiet day today that would include church services and a private ceremony marking the designation of the 63-year-old Rockefeller house, known as "Kykuit," as a national historic landmark.

The President must, by law, submit his new budget to Congress before Jimmy Carter takes office Jan. 20. That budget, which undoubtedly will be revised by Carter, may be one subject on tomorrow's agenda when the president-elect and Ford meet at the White House for the first time.

White House Press Secretary Ronald Nessen said the Carters had accepted Ford's invitation to use Blair House, the official guest residence across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, during their visit in Washington.

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