

The original documents are located in Box 50, folder “President - Personal Home - Birthplace” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Friday 2/7/75

2:00 What we have is background on his "boyhood" home
in Grand Rapids.

This is the first of anything I have on his birthplace.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Paxson:

The President has asked me to respond in his behalf to your letter of January 27. I have delayed doing so only until I had the opportunity to meet on the same subject with Senator Hruska.

The Senator, as you know, has been gracious enough to sponsor a design competition among architectural students at the University of Nebraska for the project which you have so generously made possible.

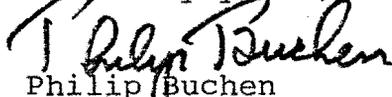
I have also talked to the President, and I find he would be most pleased if thought were given to making the site of his birthplace an area which could be useful to people of the community. The limits of space and the circumstance of having a large park nearby will control what use is feasible and most desirable.

It may be that the site could serve as a park and playground for smaller children. I have recently seen one full scale example and models of other units done by the sculptress Mary Preminger which combine artistic forms with fascinating playground devices.

Undoubtedly, the ingenuity of participants in the design competition will suggest other possibilities.

I shall be happy to do anything I can to assist in furtherance of your plans for the project and to present proposals to the President.

Sincerely yours,



Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. James M. Paxson
President
Standard Chemical Mfg. Co.
701 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68105



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/6/75

TO: Phil Buchen

Phil,

I have no record of any prior
correspondence on this matter.
Did you handle it on behalf of the
President?


Bill Casselman



DATE: 2/3/75

TO: Jerry French -

The file on this is evidently
confidential & falls within
purview of Legal Counsel.
May I leave with you for
follow-up handling.

R. L. Elliott
Roland L. Elliott



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

January 27, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

RE
My dear Mr. President:

Thank you very kindly for your letter of January 23rd, 1975 relative to the Paxson Foundation buying your birthsite and giving it to the City to be made into a historical site. The enclosed newspaper article on the purchase indicates my desire that final plans for the site receive your approval.

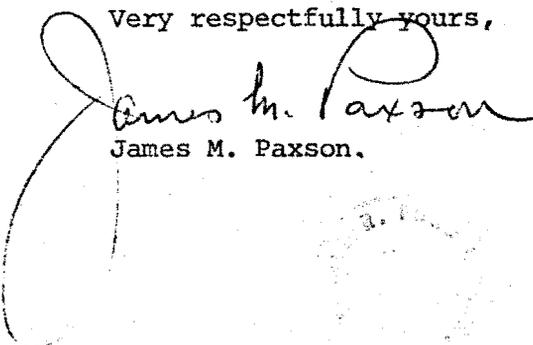
The City has turned the project over to its Bi-Centennial Committee - hoping that it can be part of our Bi-Centennial celebration. The Bi-Centennial committee has now appointed a subcommittee and I am to meet with them tomorrow to exchange ideas. The City and Bi-Centennial Committee have advised me they have no available money for the project.

The Paxson Foundation has several hundred thousand dollars that can be used toward the project - providing you, or Mrs. Ford, approve the plans for the project. It's your birth-site and the Foundation will support it - if the plans meet with your complete approval.

I will advise the subcommittee tomorrow that I have heard from you and will also tell them the nature of this answer to your letter.

We'd be most appreciative if you or Mrs. Ford would be kind enough to let us have the benefit of your thinking on this matter.

Very respectfully yours,


James M. Paxson.

md



—World-Herald Photo.

Paxson . . . "in tune with Ford."

Birthplace Of President Gift to City

By Michael Kelly

An Omaha businessman has purchased the property on which President Ford was born and will give it to the city.

James Paxson, president of the Standard Chemical Co., said he'd like to see the city come up with plans to mark the vacant lot.

He has modest wishes for marking the site: "Just that it be simple and dignified."

The property is at the north end of Hanscom Park, at the corner of Thirty-second Street and Woolworth Avenue.

Fine Neighborhood

Paxson, who lives at 3722 Pacific Street, said he had many reasons for making the donation.

Presidential birthplaces in this country have become historical sites. And this is the first time Nebraska and Omaha have had a native-born president.

"Omaha doesn't really have many national historical sites.

"Another reason is that I live in this neighborhood, a fine old neighborhood. The property is right across from Hanscom Park and would fit in naturally.

'In Tune'

"Also, philosophically and politically, I'm in tune with President Ford," Paxson said.

Paxson said he made the decision driving past the lot one day, noticing it was for sale. He called his real estate broker, who handled the details.

The purchase price was \$17,250, he said.

Paxson said a foundation in his name is making the donation, and that the foundation also is willing to pay for a marker at the site.

He said he hopes city officials will ask the President for suggestions for the site.

The home in which Ford was born was destroyed by fire in 1971.

Deed Upcoming

The deed is to go before the City Council shortly.

Mayor Zorinsky said Wednesday the Omaha-Douglas County Bicentennial Commission will be asked for suggestions for the property. The mayor said he hopes the lot is developed as a historical site by next year, the nation's bicentennial.

Zorinsky said an attempt will be made to obtain federal money for the project. He also said he hopes other citizens will donate to the project.

As vice president, Ford visited the site last year. His family moved from Omaha when he was an infant.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Copy
we have no copies
McKinnon
Central files

Mr. James M. Paxson
Standard Chemical Manufacturing Company
701 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska

705
7501232146

Sealed/Presidential



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1975

Dear Woody:

Last week I met with Senator Hruska to learn of the generous contribution made by him to the University College of Architecture for financing prize awards to students in a design competition relating to the birthplace in Omaha of President Ford.

I have talked with the President about this project and about the purchase of the site and support of the project by the Paxson Foundation. He expressed to me his desire that means for identification of the site should be modest in concept and that thought should be given to the possibility of making the site useful to people of the community by way of creating a small park or playground.

I shall be glad to seek from the President responses needed to any questions or comments which may occur to persons responsible for conducting the competition or undertaking the project. Also, I welcome this opportunity to be in touch with you again and with Jim Zumberge, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Durward B. Varner
President
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

February 5, 1975

M & H -1 (FORD'S HOME)
in HH's ofc

Mr. W. Cecil Steward, Dean
College of Architecture
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

In Re: Student Design Competition. h
Memorial: President Ford's hh
Birthplace

Dear Dean Steward:

Your January 28th letter transmitting the January 22nd letter to Mayor Zorinsky's Administrative Assistant, Mr. Eugene Brailey, on this subject, expresses well the items discussed and understood in the initial meeting of January 18.

Its text and spirit are hereby approved.

Mrs. Hruska and I are pleased to send herewith a check in the amount of \$2,000 payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation as our part in the undertaking.

We greatly appreciate and are gratified at the reception which this undertaking has been accorded. We hope it will fully develop and flower.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Ross L. Hruska
United States Senator
Nebraska

R.L.H:hh
Enclosure

cc: Pres. Darward B. Varner, UML
Chancellor James H. Zumberge, UML
Mr. Homer Puderbaugh, Chairman, School of Architecture
Mr. James Paxson, Omaha
Mr. Eugene Brailey, Offices of Mayor Zorinsky, Omaha

cc: Ray McGrath, Wray, Inc. Str.
5



Ford Home

copy

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The Honorable Roman L. Hruska
The United States Senate
Senate Office Building, Room 209
Washington, D.C. 20510

1361

Dear Senator Hruska:

Mr. Eugene Brailey and I have discussed the attached letter of understanding concerning our meeting on Saturday, January 18, 1975, with you and with Mr. James Paxson. He concurs with the report of the meeting and offered no substantive changes to it.

Pending your approval, we are prepared to begin work immediately to develop the competition materials in preparation for student work beginning two to three weeks hence. I will also make early contact with representatives of the several recommended agencies for formation of the competition jury.

We are most appreciative for the opportunity to present this project to our students and for the manner in which it is being conducted. Much enthusiasm is being generated for commencing the study. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



W. Cecil Steward, Architect
Dean

28 January 1975

WCS/dc

cc: Brailey, Puderbaugh, Varner, Zumberge



Mr. Eugene L. Brailey
Administrative Assistant
to the Mayor
City of Omaha
Executive Office
108 South 18th Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Gene:

The following represents my understanding of the items discussed at our meeting last Saturday between Mr. James Paxson, Senator Roman Hruska, yourself, Professor Homer Puderbaugh and the under signed.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the College of Architecture's interest in conducting a student design competition for the design of site development as a memorial to the birthplace of President Gerald Ford.

The 100' x 100' property located at the corner of Woolworth and 32nd Streets near Hanscom Park, Omaha, is the birthplace of President Ford. The land has been acquired by Mr. James Paxson and the Paxson Foundation and deeded to the City of Omaha. Mr. Paxson intends to provide construction funds for the appropriate development of the memorial.

Senator Hruska has suggested that an appropriate way to begin the project would be the administration of a student design competition among advanced architectural students at UNL. We suggested that there would be 15 to 30 students involved in the competition and that they would be encouraged to team with students of other disciplines; such as, art, horticulture, arts and sciences, etc.; to accomplish their projects and that student work on the project would begin around the middle of February and continue to approximately the middle of March.



Senator Hruska has suggested that the jury be comprised of representatives from the State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the Nebraska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Joslyn Art Museum, and the City of Omaha. The College of Architecture would assign Professor Homer Puderbaugh, Chairman of the Department of Architecture,

Eugene L. Brailey

January 22, 1975

Page 2

as the technical advisor to the jury and overall manager of the competition.

It is my understanding that the following prize awards will be made available to the students:

\$1,000 - First Prize

\$500 - Second Prize

\$100 - Honorable Mention (Maximum two awards)

Also, the College of Architecture will receive an additional \$300 to apply to miscellaneous expenses associated with the project.

The College of Architecture enthusiastically accepts the project with the following understanding:

- a. The completed design studies are to be viewed only as student studies of design alternatives and will not be construed or utilized in any form or manner as substitutes for professional services to the project.
- b. The City of Omaha will provide all pertinent site base maps, topographic survey data and utilities information to the College of Architecture.
- c. All final drawings and models rendered by students are to remain the property of the College of Architecture.
- d. Immediately following completion of the student competition, the College of Architecture will develop a proposed "Scope of Work" statement for the final project for the review and approval of the Paxson Foundation, the Bi-Centennial Commission, and the City of Omaha.
- e. The City of Omaha has offered the services of its Professional Services Selection Committee as private citizens, plus a representative from the Bi-Centennial Commission to select an architect to perform professional services on the final project.
- f. All aspects of the student competition and the formulation of the "Scope of Work" proposal including news releases and announcements will be coordinated between the Dean's office, College of Architecture; the Mayor's office, City of Omaha; and the Nebraska Bi-Centennial Commission headquarters. Each office will endeavor to provide complete and timely information copies of correspondence to Mr. James Paxson and Senator Roman Hruska.



Eugene L. Brailey
January 22, 1975
Page 3

It is the wish of Mr. Paxson and Senator Hruska that the memorial be completed in time to be included in the Bi-Centennial events of 1976.

I will telephone you early during the week of January 27 to discuss any changes or additions to the above. Also, we should discuss the matter of contact with the Bi-Centennial Commission and other related agencies. No informational copies have been provided other parties, pending your review.

It was a pleasure meeting you and we look forward to working closely with you.

Sincerely,

W. Cecil Steward pb
Letter dictated by W. Cecil Steward
Engineer & Architect

(Typed in his absence by Ms. Peggy Barthule, Administrative Assistant to the Dean)

January 1975

CS/dc



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1975

Dear Roman:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 6 concerning plans made possible by the generosity of you and Mrs. Hruska for a design competition at the University of Nebraska to provide a marker for the site of my birthplace in Omaha.

I had already learned about the purchase of the site made by the Paxson Foundation and its willingness to support a project for marking and use of the site that would be initiated as part of the Omaha Bicentennial program.

Needless to say, I do not look for a lavish or pretentious monument at the place where I was born, and I welcome your thought that a modest marking at the site done in good taste would be most desirable. I do nonetheless recognize that it does serve to heighten the interest of people in American history when they identify with places, particularly in their own community, which relate to a President or to some event of historical significance.

Thus, I do very much appreciate your thoughtful and generous effort to encourage architectural students of the University to apply their skills and creativity in designing an appropriate and interesting historical marker. I can well imagine how exciting it will be for the students who compete with their designs and how rewarding it will be to the ones who are chosen to receive the money prizes you have made possible.

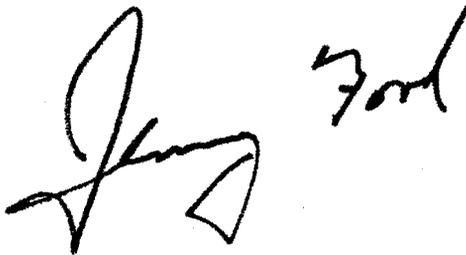
I have noted with much interest the newspaper article on the home where I lived and the rare



photograph of the house taken in 1958. I remember fondly the occasion of my visit in Omaha last year when we all visited the lot where the house had stood.

Very warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roman L. Hruska". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Honorable Roman L. Hruska
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510





ROMAN L. HRUSKA
UNITED STATES SENATE

February 6, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of plans under way to preserve the site of your birthplace in Omaha.

Mr. James Paxson of Omaha, president of the Standard Chemical Company, has purchased the lot where the house stood and has graciously deeded it to the City of Omaha. The enclosed newspaper articles explain this in some detail.

In order that the site may have a fitting marker, I have asked that a design competition be established for architectural students at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. A jury composed of representatives of the State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Nebraska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and the City of Omaha would select the winning design, a runner-up and one or two honorable mention awards.

Mrs. Hruska and I have contributed \$2,000 to the University of Nebraska Foundation for use as prize money and expenses. A professional architect will be engaged to develop the final project. We want it to be in good taste but modest and we hope it will meet your approval.

Your advice will be most warmly appreciated as this project continues. It is hoped that the birthplace eventually may be included as part of the National Historic Landmarks Program. We hope to have the marker in place and the site developed by 1976 so that it can be included in our nation's Bicentennial activities.

I will keep you informed of the progress of this project and I invite your comment and observations.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

Roman L. Hruska
U. S. Senator
Nebraska

RLH:rms

Birthplace
Of President ⁵⁻⁶¹
Gift to City

By Michael Kelly

An Omaha businessman has purchased the property on which President Ford was

Omaha World-Herald

January 9, 1975

President Ford's
Birthplace:

A Photo Is Found

By James Denney



When future historians write about the life and times of Gerald Rudolph Ford, they will have a photograph, though slightly out-of-focus, to illustrate the President's birthplace in Omaha.

After a two-week search, during which time numerous telephone calls were made in Omaha and to other parts of the United States, this writer located a small snapshot of the "Ford House," as it now is being called, in, of all places, Eureka Springs, Ark.

D. E. Kingdon, who owned the big Victorian home at 3202 Woolworth Avenue from 1945 through 1957, lives in Eureka Springs. He did indeed have a snapshot of his old home and the Magazine of the Midlands was welcome to publish it.

The search began when this writer received a letter from Mrs. Opal Jacobsen of Lincoln, librarian in charge of photographs for the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln.

Mrs. Jacobsen said she had received numerous requests from historians, newspapers and others seeking a photograph of the thirty-seventh President's birthplace.

The World-Herald library also had received many requests for a picture, including one from the Library of Congress.

As most Americans, and especially Omahans know, the Ford House site today is a vacant lot that frequently attracts rubbish and overgrown weeds. The house was destroyed by fire about three years ago.

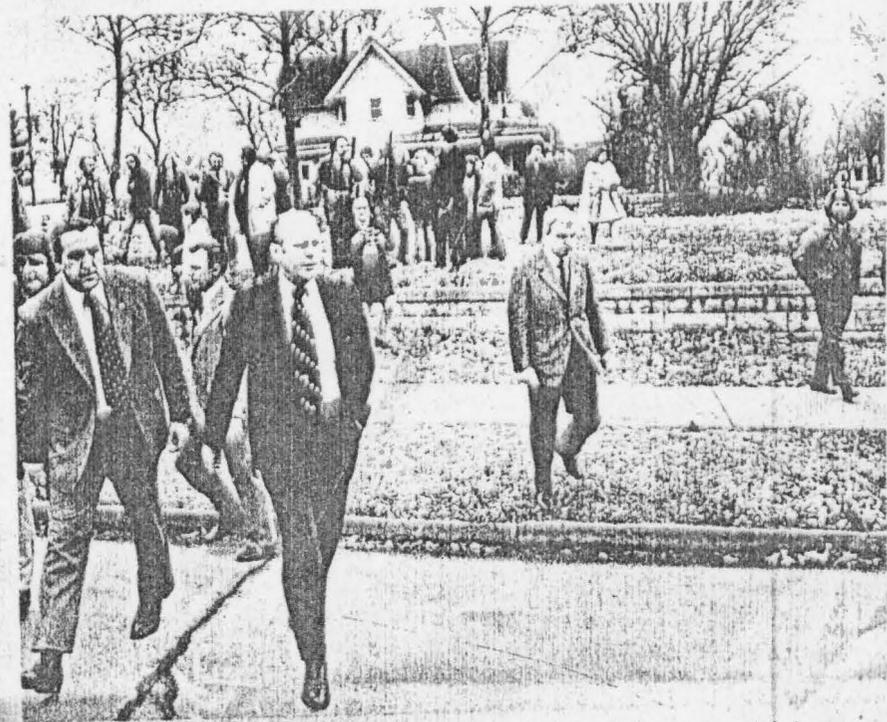
Ford was born as Leslie King, Jr., to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie King, Sr., at the residence on July 14, 1913. The Kings occupied a basement apartment at the time. The marriage was a stormy affair, ending in divorce and the remarriage of Mrs. Dorothy King to Gerald Ford in Grand Rapids, Mich. The future President was given his adopted father's name and reared in Michigan.

This writer began his search for the missing photograph with Lewis Rowe of Omaha, who owned the home at the time it was destroyed by fire. He sold the vacant lot to Donald K. Williams of 11030 Olin Avenue.

Having failed at the real estate firm and City Hall, the writer next called upon a few residents in the neighborhood. No luck. So we went back to Rowe. Would he look through his belongings once more for the slide? He did but still no luck.

It was during our conversation over the missing slide that Rowe recalled that a "Delbert Kingdom" had owned the house when Rowe purchased it in 1957.

"I think he moved to Eureka Springs, Ark.," said Rowe. The conversation was concluded late in the afternoon. That night, I called Eureka Springs, wondering, is there a "Del-



Last year, as vice-president, Ford visited the vacant lot.



Persistence paid off with this snapshot of President Ford's birthplace in Omaha. It was taken in 1958.

Williams currently has the site for sale, and various organizations, including the Douglas County Bicentennial Committee, are giving consideration to purchasing it as a national historic site.

Rowe said he has been asked by many people for a picture. "I used to have a colored slide but I can't find it," he said.

This writer then asked if Rowe could remember the real estate agency from whom the house was purchased. "I believe it was the N. P. Dodge Company," he said.

Most real estate companies keep photographs of their sales and purchases. Howard Drew, an N. P. Dodge executive, accepted the challenge and said that his firm would begin a search for a photograph of the President's birthplace. After four days, the search was fruitless.

Other calls were made to the Omaha City Public Works Department and the Planning Department. Neither could find the elusive photograph, but City Planner Jim Kelly, who enjoys history as much as this writer, did uncover some interesting background.

By looking into the city's old building permits Kelly discovered that the house was built in 1893. The building permit was issued to Mrs. E. L. Patterson. Cost of construction was estimated at \$10,000. The builder was R. Strehlow and the architects were Fisher and Lawrie.

bert Kingdom?" The Eureka Springs operator searched the directory.

"Sir, I can't find a Delbert Kingdom but we have a D. E. Kingdon," she said.

Mrs. Kingdon answered the phone and called her husband. "Why, yes," he said to my first question, "I did live in Omaha on Woolworth Avenue."

"Do you know who was born in the house?" I asked.

"Sure," he replied, "President Ford."

Now came the vital question — and I was hoping we had hit pay dirt — did Kingdon have a picture of the house before it was destroyed by fire?

"I certainly do," he said. "In fact, when Ford became President in August, I let our local newspaper, the Eureka Springs Times-Echo, run the picture."

Kingdon, formerly an employe of an Omaha packing company, had converted the house into 10 apartments during his residence. He also had added a four-stall garage.

The President's grandfather, the late C. H. King, former president of the Omaha Wool and Storage Company,

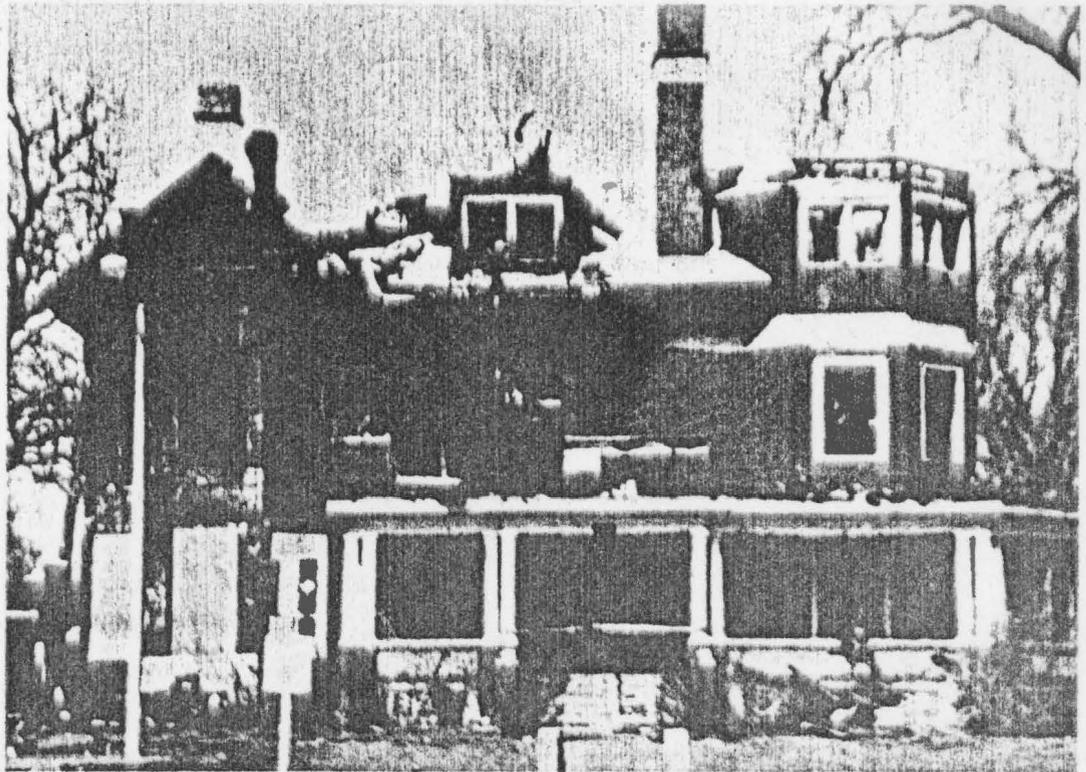
owned the house from 1905 to about 1914.

Mrs. William H. Sutton, Sr., a cousin of President Ford and daughter of Mrs. E. F. Pettis, 86, who is Ford's aunt and a former resident of the house, described the Victorian home as "elegant."

Mrs. Sutton said the residence, typical for large houses (it had 15 rooms) of the time, had a third floor ballroom. The C. H. Kings frequently entertained and Woolworth Avenue was home for many of Omaha's most influential citizens at the turn of the century.

It is not known whether President Ford ever saw the house. He did visit the vacant lot in February, 1974, during a speech-making tour of Omaha as vice-president. He went to nearby Park School, Twenty-ninth Street and Woolworth Avenue, to thank fourth and fifth graders for cleaning up his birthplace site.

The Magazine of the Midlands will provide the President with a copy of D. E. Kingdon's snapshot so that any future Ford Presidential Library will have a photograph of the house in which he was born.



It burned three years ago, and since has been torn down.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1975

*Pres.
Birth
place*

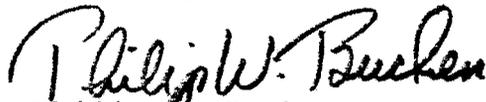
Dear Mr. Paxson:

Many thanks for your letter of May 1 reporting on the successful completion of the architectural competitions among students of the University of Nebraska for ideas to develop the site of the President's birthplace in Omaha.

Senator Hruska sent me an illustration of the idea proposed by the winner of the first place award by Mr. Gary L. Dubas, and I am pleased to hear that the features of this design will probably be incorporated in the final plans subject to inclusion of an appropriate monument. Your thought that the monument would take the form of a reduced scale replica of a portion of the White House is being referred to the National Park Service office, and I shall try to get from them specifications which would be useful to the architect to be hired by the city. As soon as I hear from that office, I shall write you again.

In behalf of the President, I want to express again his appreciation for your generous and enthusiastic efforts in connection with this project.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. James M. Paxson
President
Standard Chemical Manufacturing
Company
701 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68105

STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. Co.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

May 1, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

Thank you for your letter of February 18th, 1975, relative to the birthplace site of President Ford.

Since then the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Architectural Department has held their contest for ideas for the site. There were ninety-six entries and the Paxson Foundation added \$800.00 to the Hruska Fund so that there could be eight additional awards of \$100.00 each. This made a total of eleven awards. Those participating in the contest were told that the winning award wouldn't necessarily be used.

However, the winning award blends beautifully with the park across the street and many of the features of the winning design, I am sure, will be incorporated in the final plans.

There seems to be some feeling in the community that a monument of some kind should be included. A monument can very nicely be included in the winning concept.

One thought under consideration is the reproduction of either the north or south portico of the White House. It might be reproduced either exactly to scale or at a reduced scale or part of them used - free standing. Most people in the Midwest will never get to Washington and bringing part of the White House may have continued appeal. In place of the openings (windows and doors) into the White House - past Presidents of the United States could be listed and also historical quotations from President Ford's speeches could be reproduced by engraving them into the building facade which probably would be marble or some other substantial material.

The city is about to hire an architect to formulate suggested plans for the site and if this concept is considered, he will need the architectural specifications of both the north and the south porticos.

Would you please see that these are sent to me?

Page #2

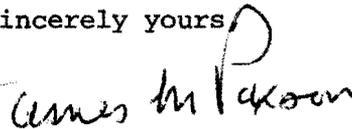
Mr. Philip Buchen

I'm sure the President must realize how proud we are to have him a native of Omaha and Nebraska. It may never happen again or if it does, it may not happen for hundreds of years.

We want this site to have an appeal to future generations in the Midwest.

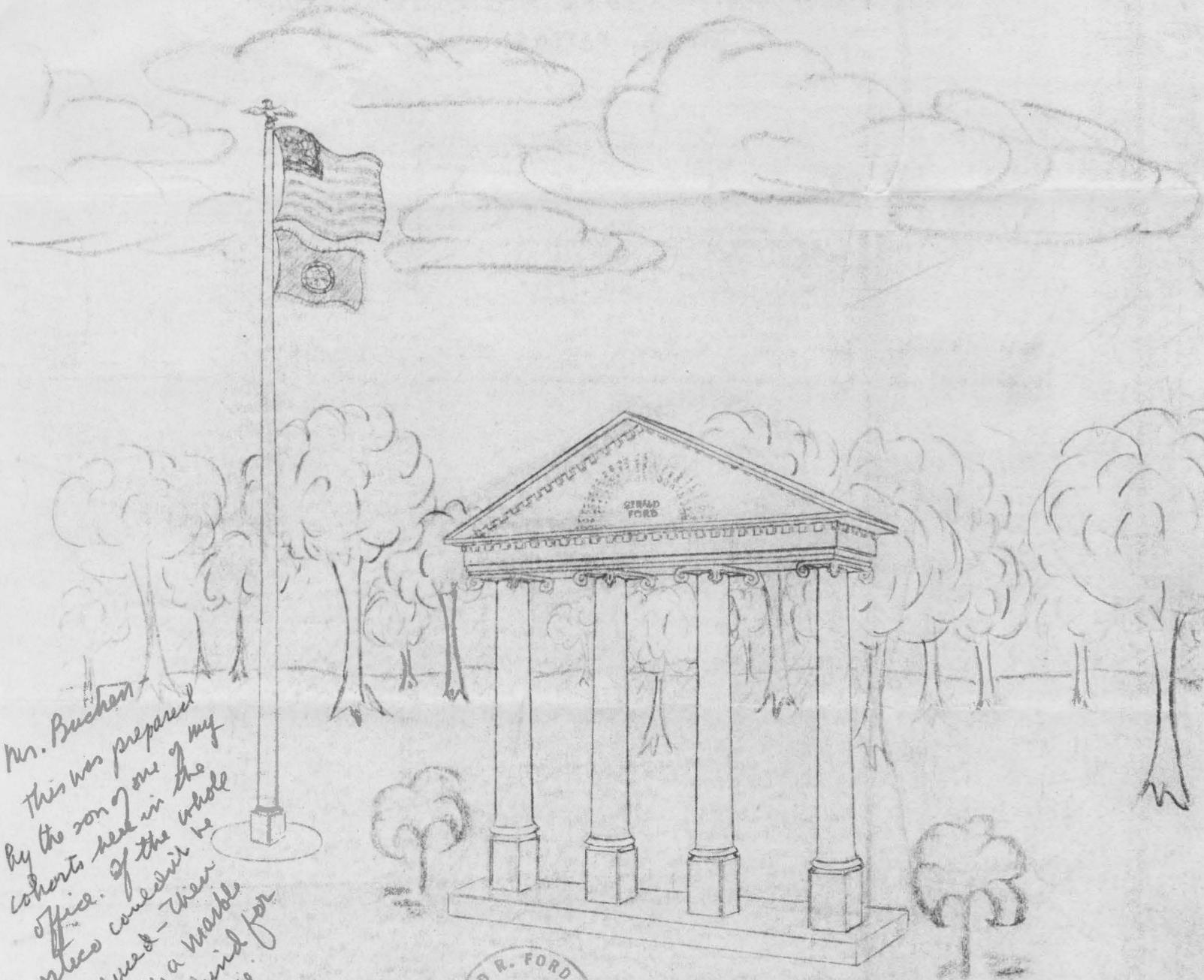
Naturally, final approval of any plans will be sent to you to secure Presidential approval.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Paxson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below it.

James M. Paxson.

md



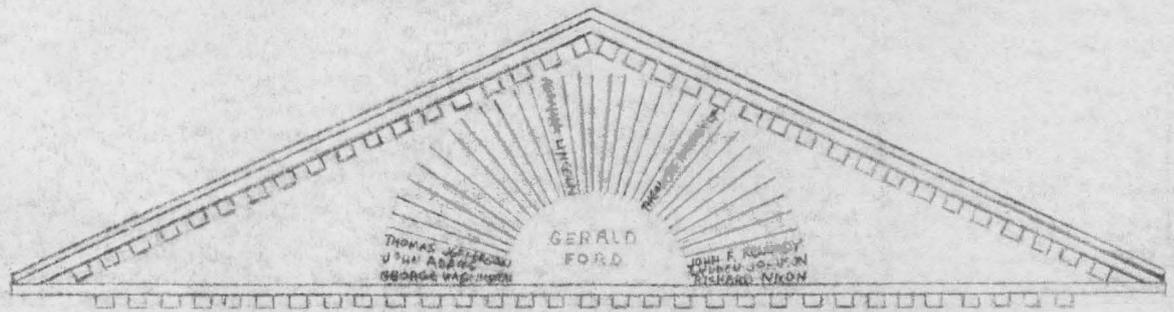
Mr. Buchanan -
 This was prepared
 by the son of one of my
 cohorts here in the
 office. Of the whole
 process conceived & then
 reproduced - then
 part with a marble
 facade behind for
 quotes of the
 President.

James Patson

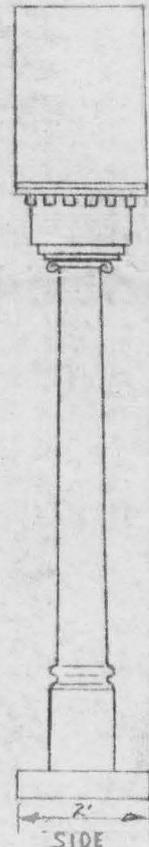
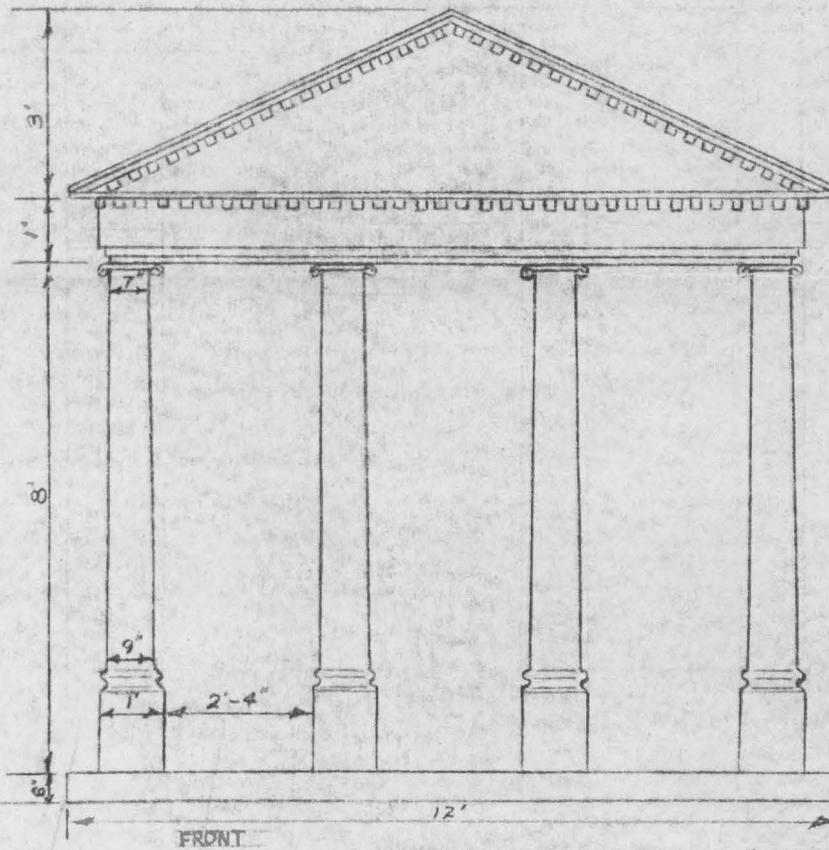
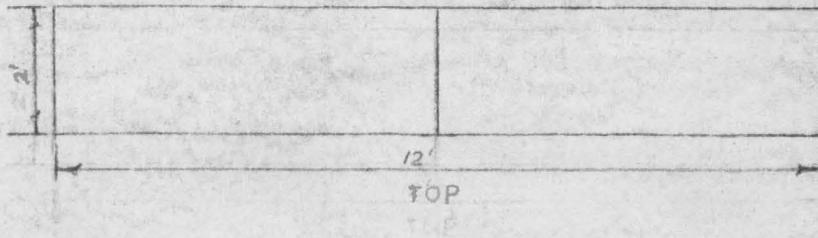


P.S. We could even put a bicentennial corner stone in one of the
 bases of the pillars.

PRELIMINARY DRAWING	DRAWN BY ANDY DUNDIS	4-28-75 SCALE: 1" = 3'
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NAME PATTERN



MONUMENT DESIGN & DIMENSIONS
SCALE: 1" = 3'

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 7, 1975

*Pres.
Buckley*

Dear Roman:

Congratulations on the successful completion of the competition which you helped to sponsor for designing appropriate development of the President's birthplace in Omaha. The design picked for the first award appears most attractive, and it will appeal to the President, because it proposes a use of the site which can be enjoyed over and over again by the people of the community.

On the matter of having the President sign the awards certificates, I hesitate to recommend that he do so because as a matter of policy we have declined requests for including his signature on documents which are not Presidential in nature.

Also, inasmuch as the project of designing and constructing a memorial to our President involves bestowing an honor on him, I think it inappropriate for him to become personally identified with the process by which the project is accomplished. After the memorial is completed and dedicated, he, of course, will want to express his deep appreciation and at that time would write to the parties involved, including Mr. Dubas.

I trust that my views on this point are acceptable to you.

Sincerely yours,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Roman Hruska
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 7, 1975

*Pres.
(Buchanan)*

Dear Roman:

Congratulations on the successful completion of the competition which you helped to sponsor for designing appropriate development of the President's birthplace in Omaha. The design picked for the first award appears most attractive, and it will appeal to the President, because it proposes a use of the site which can be enjoyed over and over again by the people of the community.

On the matter of having the President sign the awards certificates, I hesitate to recommend that he do so because as a matter of policy we have declined requests for including his signature on documents which are not Presidential in nature.

Also, inasmuch as the project of designing and constructing a memorial to our President involves bestowing an honor on him, I think it inappropriate for him to become personally identified with the process by which the project is accomplished. After the memorial is completed and dedicated, he, of course, will want to express his deep appreciation and at that time would write to the parties involved, including Mr. Dubas.

I trust that my views on this point are acceptable to you.

Sincerely yours,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Roman Hruska
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510





Ford Birthplace Design Winner

When Gary L. Dubas designed a marker for the birthplace of President Ford, he wanted to create a memorial that would blend with nearby Hanscom Park and yet would stand out from the neighborhood. His finished "multilevel garden memorial" design, as Dubas describes it, won the \$1,000 first-place award in a con-

test sponsored by Sen. Roman Hruska and Omaha businessman James Paxson, who donated the site to the city. "The trees are Ponderosa Pines, the same ones in Hanscom Park, so that provides a relationship between the park and the memorial, and the trees also work as a buffer — a transitional space between it and the neighbor-

hood," the 21-year-old University of Nebraska College of Architecture student said. Dubas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Dubas of 3804 Madison Street, said the memorial is raised above ground level to "set it off from the neighborhood and signify it as an entry so that, kind of like a porch, it will invite people in."



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Handwritten signature

June 6, 1975

Memorandum for: Philip W. Buchen

From: Rex Scouter *RS*

Subject: Presidential Birthplace Monument

Enclosed are the architectural specifications you requested for Mr. James Paxson, Omaha, Nebraska. I feel certain the plans are complete and will satisfy Mr. Paxson's needs.

I regret the delay in preparing the plans -- the swimming pool project did take a considerable amount of time.

6/10/75 Being mailed to Paxson.



Friday 5/16/75

3:25 Betty Monkman said you had requested architectural drawings of the President's birthplace. They are in the process of getting the drawings, and Rex Scouten will send them to you when they arrive from the Park Service.



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

June 3, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I'm enclosing copy of my letter to Marvin Fowler, Secretary-Treasurer, George Washington National Memorial Association - should he contact you on this.

I have not heard from the National Park Service office on the specifications of the north and south porticos of the White House. Anything you could do to expedite same would be appreciated.

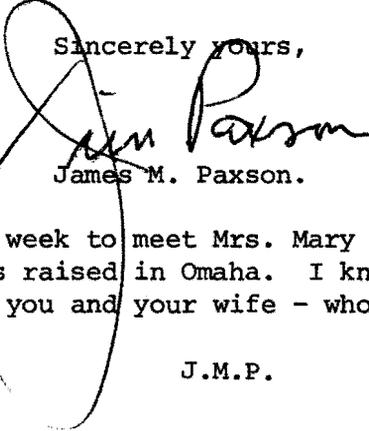
The only other development since my letter to you has been relative to the adjoining house north of the birth site. The birth site is 165 feet by 100 feet. By acquiring this house, the birth site would come close to being square.

The house in question is in run-down condition and a disgrace to the neighborhood. Seven heirs are owners now and I have a real estate man trying to buy it and will give it to the city, if successful. The additional space will enhance any monument built.

The city would like to have this finished in 1976 as part of their Bicentennial Year celebration. If that can be done, fine - but personally I'd rather not rush it if rushing it is going to affect the quality of the monument. This birth place lot is only six blocks off the Interstate Highway.

I hope it is attractive enough that in the future tourists will want to take five minutes off in their passage through Omaha to visit it.

Sincerely yours,


James M. Paxson.

md

P. S. I had the pleasure this week to meet Mrs. Mary Louise Knapp, now of Grand Rapids but who was raised in Omaha. I knew her father. She is certainly an admirer of you and your wife - whom she calls Bunny.

J.M.P.

STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

June 3, 1975

Mr. Marvin E. Fowler, Secretary-Treasurer,
George Washington National Memorial Association,
Alexandria, Va. 22301

Dear Brother Fowler:

I'm enclosing herewith page from this month's
Nebraska Masonic News that shows you and President Ford
unveiling the Ford Medallion.

President Ford was born in Omaha and a monument
of some kind is going to be built on the birth site.

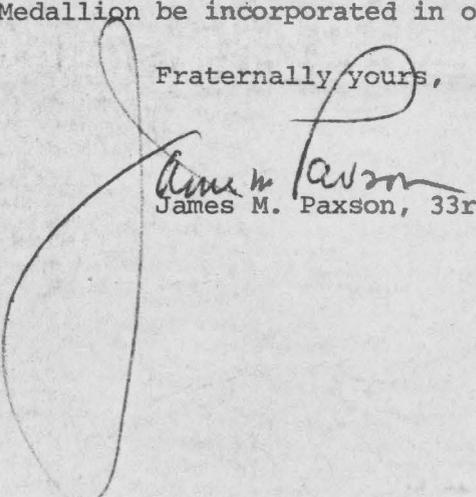
It's possible the architect will include some
kind of a large Medallion in the monument.

Who was your sculptor?

Could permission for a reproduction - possibly
much larger - be granted?

I don't think we have facilities here for such
work and any addresses of those with expertise along those
lines would be greatly appreciated. It might expedite matters
should some sort of a Medallion be incorporated in our project.

Fraternally yours,


James M. Paxson, 33rd.

md



Remarks of the President of the United States, February 17, 1975 at the Unveiling of the Medallion of Brother Gerald R. Ford

Most Worshipful Brother Ellis, Most Worshipful Brother Fowler, Grand Masters and other officers of the fraternity, Brothers and friends:

Let me, at the outset, express my deepest personal gratitude to Brother Ellis for his more than generous observations and comments, and I truly hope that my performance in the future will bear out the comments that he has made concerning the past. I am deeply grateful for those very kind words.

The dedication of this medallion gives me a great personal pleasure and, of course, is an honor that I will always cherish.

When I took my obligation as a Master Mason — incidentally with my three younger brothers — I recalled the value my own father attached to that order. But I had no idea that I would ever be added to the company of the Father of our Country and 12 other members of the order, who also served as Presidents of the United States.

Masonic principles — internal, not external — and our order's vision of duty to country and acceptance of God as Supreme Being and guiding light have sustained me during my years of government service. Today, especially, the

guidelines by which I strive to become an upright man in Masonry give me great personal strength.

Masonic precepts can help America retain our inspiring aspirations while adapting to a new age. It is apparent to me that the Supreme Architect has set out the duties each of us has to perform, and I have trusted in His will with the knowledge that my trust is well-founded.

As our Nation approaches its 200th anniversary, we do live in very challenging times. It was almost 200 years ago in the darkest days of our war for independence that George Washington answered a question that is sometimes asked today. The question is whether things are as bad as some say.

George Washington answered, and I quote: "We should never despair. Our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times."

Let us today rededicate ourselves to new efforts as Masons and as Americans. Let us demonstrate our confidence in our beloved Nation, and a future that will flow from the glory of the past.

When I think of the things right about America, I think of this order with its sense of duty to country, its esteem for brotherhood and traditional values, its spiritual high principles and its humble acceptance of God as the Supreme Being.

Today, we honor our first President, who was also our first Masonic President. In a letter in 1798, to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Washington used some words which are now especially appropriate.

Washington told the order that he "conceived it to be the indispensable duty of every American to come forward in support of the government of his choice and to give all the aid in his power towards maintaining that independence, which we have so dearly purchased."

Such involvement by every American is as essential today as it was in George Washington's Day.

I express to all of you my deepest thanks for this tribute and I ask that we resolve together to honor George Washington and America by perpetuating the national heritage he engendered through the principles which guide our order — friendship, morality and brotherly love.



President Ford with Raymond Ellis, President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and Marvin Fowler, Secretary-Treasurer during Unveiling of the Ford Medallion.



Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

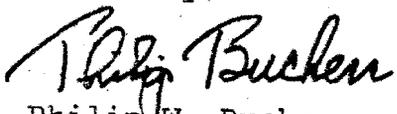
June 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Paxson:

It was good to hear that the sketches of the White House porticos have reached you and that you are proceeding well with plans for your interesting project.

Also, I am delighted to learn how helpful you are being in the Republican cause. We are all elated, as you are, with the increasing support for the President throughout the country.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. James M. Paxson
President
Standard Chemical Manufacturing
Company
701 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68105

*Paxson's
with pleasure*

RECEIVED R. YORK

STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

June 13, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

Thank you very much for designs of the porticos to the White House - which you airmailed to me. They were received yesterday and were sent down to the Mayor's office immediately.

They are having a monument contest among architects in the city and these designs you sent me will be available for all to use. The Paxson Foundation will provide a \$500.00 prize to the winner.

My realtor yesterday finally secured the listing for the house directly north of the birth site. Today I put up a deposit of \$1,000 to buy it. It will cost \$26,750.00. That's about \$3,000 more than it's actually worth - but I am happy not to be gouged more.

We'll keep you advised and I sure do appreciate your wonderful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Paxson
James M. Paxson.

md



The President is the right man in the right place at the right time. I'm trying to do my best as the enclosed letter indicates.



3722 Pacific Omaha, Ne. 68105

June 4, 1975

Mr. August N. Christenson
712 Regency Parkway, Apt. #701
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

Dear Augie:

The way this country is drifting, politically, it's more important than ever that we have a permanent state office in Lincoln, properly staffed, for the Republican Party - not just one that's hurriedly organized during election years. To accomplish this end, the Republican State Finance Committee has started a Nebraska Republican Booster Club. Membership is for prominent Republicans, such as yourself, who see the need of continuing staff and office and will give \$100.00 a year to support it (tax deductible).

Booster members receive a beautiful walnut wall plaque and a VIR pin (Very Important Republicans). When fund raising dinners are held - Booster Club members buying tickets will have a reserved table. Not a so-called "big shot" table in front but one in the inconspicuous middle. This means you and your guest will have a good reserved seat, regardless of your time of arrival at the affair.

We also hope to have three or four luncheons a year, exclusively for Booster Club members, when important men of business and politics are in the Omaha area. If we can develop enough interest in the Club, we could even have an annual dinner for club members only and their spouses.

With this year's Congress almost "veto proof" and with a vacant senatorial seat coming up in Nebraska next year, it's necessary that busy people, like yourself, support financially, a permanent office and staff - so that principles we believe in are continuously represented state-wide.

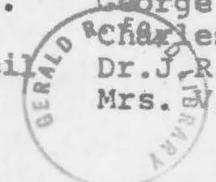
Won't you please join me in the Booster Club - simply fill out the enclosed membership card and mail it back to me in the enclosed envelope with your check. If you know of anyone else who should belong to this group, I'd appreciate your sending me their names.

Present members of the Booster Club from Douglas County are:

J. D. Anderson	H. G. Carlson	Sen. R. Hruska	Jim Paxson
Anne Batchelder	E. A. Conley	Victoria Hruska	J.L. Paxton, Jr.
C. B. Bathelder	H. L. Fuller	D. Kountze, Jr.	George Payne
R. A. Braun, Jr.	G. C. Holling	S. B. Marvin	Charles Peebler
D. W. Campbell	W. D. Hosford, Jr.	Robert E. McNeil	Dr. J. R. Schenken
			Mrs. W. J. Skutt

Sincerely,


James M. Paxson, Member
Nebraska GOP Finance Committee



P.S. This has been coordinated with the Douglas County Finance Committee which will benefit from your membership.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

President

B. Buchen

July 21, 1975

Dear Mr. Paxson:

Thank you very much for keeping me up-to-date on developments concerning the site of the President's birth. I am also glad to see that the people of Omaha are proud to display stickers which reflect the fact that the President was born in that city.

Regarding your other enclosure, I must advise that it cannot be accepted here at the White House because of legal restrictions in that regard. All contributions in support of the President's election, he has directed, be handled by the President Ford Finance Committee, Suite 916, 1200 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Accordingly, I am returning your check with this letter.

I look forward to hearing from you on further developments when the group of competing architects has submitted various ideas.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. James M. Paxson
President
Standard Chemical Mfg. Co.
701 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68105

Enclosure



JAMES M. PAXSON
3722 PACIFIC
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

6113

PAY
TO THE
ORDER OF

The President Ford Committee

July 16 19 75 ²⁷⁻¹/₁₀₄₀ CC
\$1000

One thousand and ^{no}/₁₀₀ DOLLARS

 **first national bank**
of omaha
one first national center omaha, nebraska 68103

James M. Paxson

⑆ 1040 000 ⑆ ⑆ 2 18048 9 ⑆

UNITED STATES CHECK BOOK CO. FORM 1



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

July 16, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

This letter is to bring you up to date on the President's birth site.

Seven architects are competing for the \$500.00 prize and entries are to be in August 4th.

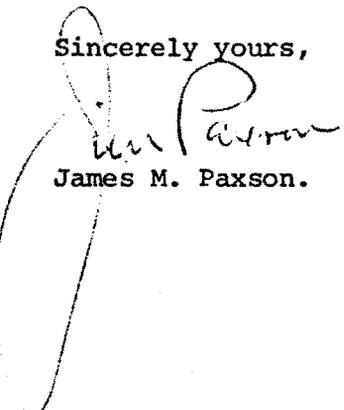
The adjoining lot (with house) has been purchased but it may take until the middle of August before they are moved out and we can demolish the house.

I'm enclosing a sticker that exemplifies "free enterprise ingenuity". These stickers were manufactured in 1973 before Gerald Ford was even Vice President. They didn't sell. They added the notation relative to Omaha being his birth place and the stickers sold out very quickly. They are now re-ordering.

I'm also enclosing check for \$1,000 for "The President Ford Committee" which I'd appreciate your forwarding to them.

I'll keep you advised of future developments.

Sincerely yours,


James M. Paxson.

md





BIRTHPLACE OF
GERALD R. FORD
38TH PRESIDENT USA

© BRENDAN DOYLE 1975



Schlott, Farrington and Associates

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, 68131 3715 DODGE STREET PHONE 342-7050

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 535 DeLONG AVENUE

August 4, 1975

Marvin B. Staven
 Chairman of the Committee
 President Gerald R. Ford Birthsite
 Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
 1819 Farnam Street
 Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Construction Cost Estimate for the Gerald R. Ford Birthplace Memorial.

House removal and site preparation	\$ 3,000.00
Masonry walls	25,400.00
Brick and aggregate surfaces	23,600.00
Construction grading - rough and finish	5,500.00
Masonry fountain - plumbing and fountain equipment	21,000.00
Wrought Iron security fence	6,600.00
Interpretive Center building	8,500.00
Arbor Colonnade	24,000.00
Electrical	12,500.00
Flag pole	5,500.00
Irrigation system	6,500.00
Plantings	29,500.00
Landscape architectural and engineering fee	<u>17,160.00</u>
Estimated Total Cost	\$188,760.00

Note:

The above costs are based on conceptual drawings and therefore are estimates. These estimates are based on measured quantities and our experience in similar construction and materials. We believe they will provide a reasonable and realistic guide to final costs.

The construction and materials figured are of a high quality that is in keeping with a landmark of this significance.

If, for budgetary reasons, it is necessary to modify the cost, there are ways this can be done and still keep the essence of the plan.

J. Frederic Schlott
 J. Frederic Schlott, Partner
 Schlott, Farrington & Associates



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

ITEM TRANSFER FORM

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit
 Oversized Container
 Book Collection
 Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item:

2x 3x3 color photographs of the design for President Ford's birth site.

The item was transferred from:

Philip Buchen Files

Box: 50

File: President – Personal: Home - Birthplace

Initials/Date TMH / 2/17/16

STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

August 25, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I'm enclosing photographs I took of the design for the President's birth site that we have approved here in Omaha. All we need now is to get the Presidential approval to go ahead.

The over all site is now roughly 150 feet square. The Colonnade part is entirely on the additional lot that we bought adjoining the original site on the north.

The only additional suggestions to the design that I have - is that the Colonnade not be wood. That there be a back drop to the curved portion to the Colonnade for a large plaque of the President and that all President's names be listed.

I'm requesting a bi-centennial "time capsule" be placed under the flag pole and that the interpretive center be enclosed for security reasons during late night hours.

I quote the words on the second photo by the architect;

"The design theme of the Memorial development leads from the President's birth place indicated by a garden pattern in the outline of the President's first home and on to the White House, symbolically shown in the Presidential Colonnades.

"The interpretive center symbolizes the tower of the early home and will house the information about the birth site and personal comments of President Ford. It adds vertical interest and balance to the flag pole on the east.

Page #2
Mr. Philip Buchen

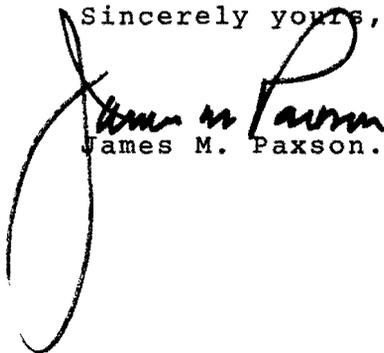
"A walkway access up through the center design culminates at the arbor colonnade which symbolizes the south portico of the White House.

"The fountain court flanked by the two large existing sycamore trees, the plaza, the flower beds, the textured walks, and the carefully selected plantings that screen, frame and provide background and relief were all conceived to create a land mark of regional significance that will be a beauty and interest to its visitors in a dignity fitting the birth place of a President."

I had hoped that all this could be cleared with you before it was announced to the public but someone at City Hall told the World-Herald that I had approved the design Friday and the newspaper called today and asked to reproduce it in color. They were going to run the story with or without the design. It should be several days before the article appears and I will send it to you.

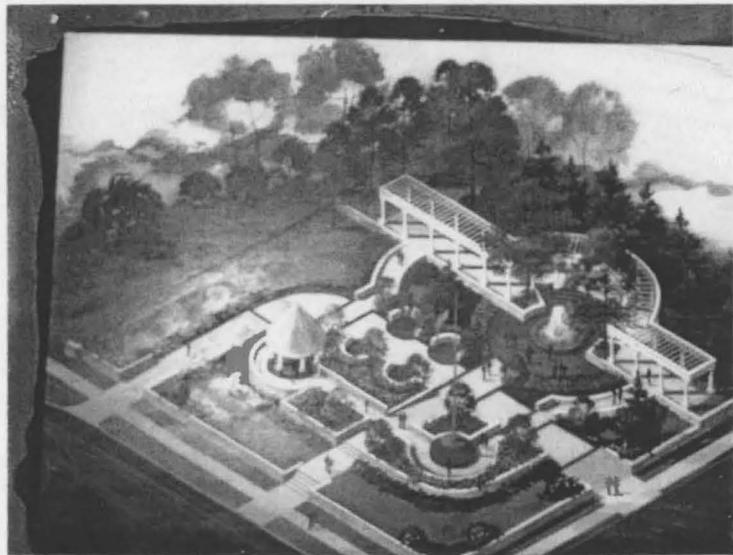
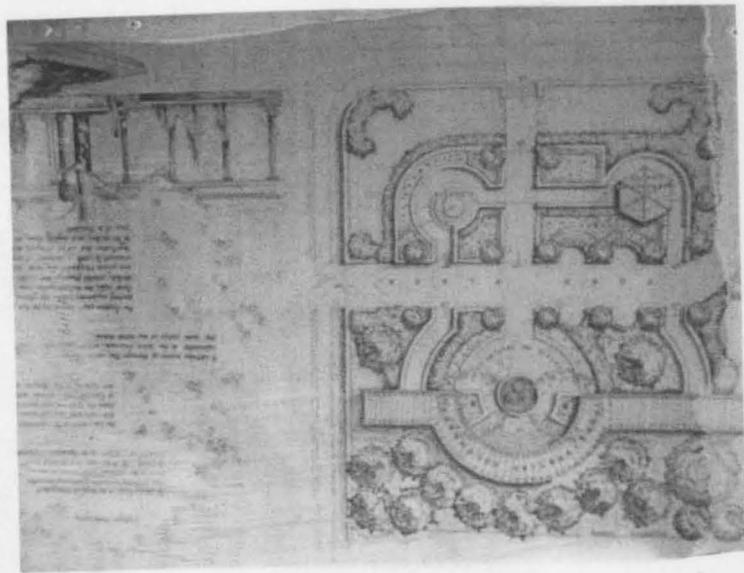
However, nothing further will be done until we have your approval to proceed.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Paxson". The signature is written over the typed name below it.

James M. Paxson.

md



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Called Paxson 9/4
to indicate approval
of President
File with previous
corresp.
P.

FROM THE DESK OF

James M. Parson

Dear Mr. Bushen: August 27, 1971

I'm making copies of newspaper articles to you because they show design better than my photographs.

All we need now is your approval to proceed.

Do you want me to continue to keep you advised

Sincerely
Jim Parson



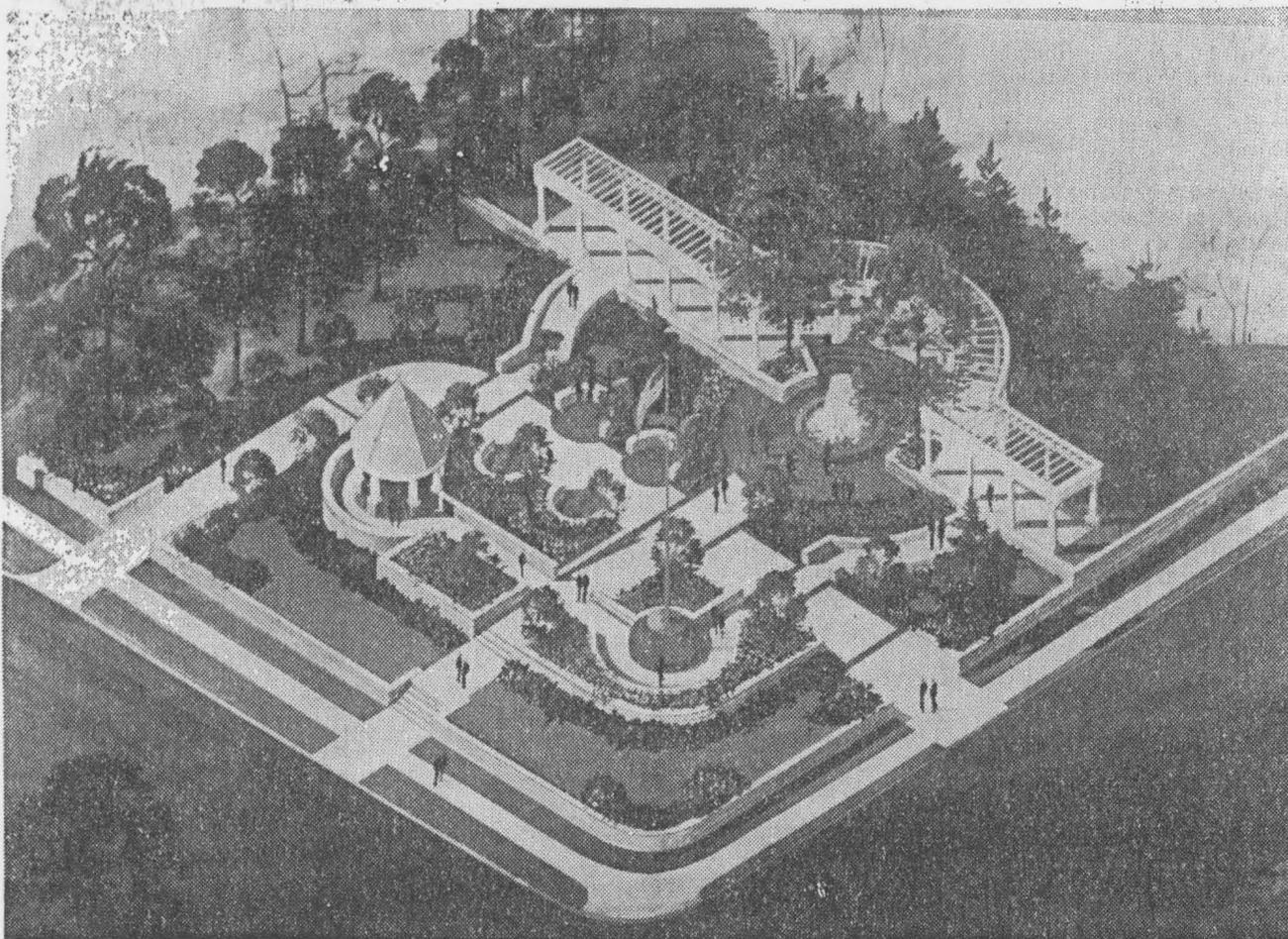
Good Afternoon

Omaha-Council Bluffs —
Chance of thunder showers,
lows in 60s. Highs Thursday in
90s.

Omaha World

OUR 110th YEAR NO. 293

OMAHA, NEB., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1975



—Architect's drawing by Schlott-Farrington and Associates.

Ford birthplace memorial drawing . . . Cupola is at left center, colonnade and fountain at upper right.

Memorial Links Ford's Two Homes

The plans for the presidential birthplace memorial in Omaha symbolically link Gerald Ford's original and present homes.

The architectural design selected for the memorial at Thirty-second and Woolworth Avenues was made public Wednesday.

The design includes a replica of the cupola of President Ford's early home and a colonnade similar to the south portico of the White House.

"I didn't do this for Gerald Ford personally," said Omaha businessman James Paxson, who is paying for the project.

"I did it for the office of the

presidency."

The cost of the memorial is more than \$200,000.

The memorial is to be completed in early June, a month before the nation's 200th anniversary. And city officials say the President will be invited to a dedication.

Paxson, president of the

Standard Chemical Manufacturing Co., said he prefers to stay in the background. If the President comes, he said, "I'll just be a spectator with my neighbors."

He suggested city officials might ask the President if he

Please turn to Page 8, Col. 4.



STANDARD CHEM

701 SOUTH 421
OMAHA, NEBRA

MAJOR ERNEST A. MILLER
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

November

OFFICE
202-347.0021
HOME
301-649.1737

DIRECTOR
NATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
1001 14TH ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I had the honor of meeting the President when he was here October 3rd and I received a Presidential tie clasp.

As chairman of the Booth Hospital Advisory Council here, I presided at a dinner last night and our speaker was Major Miller from Washington. He noticed my tie clasp and tie that had the Presidential Seal on it. He mentioned that the President should have a tie with the Presidential Seal on it.

This morning I bought a blue tie and a gold tie - both with the Presidential Seal on them - and gave them to Major Miller to take back to Washington.

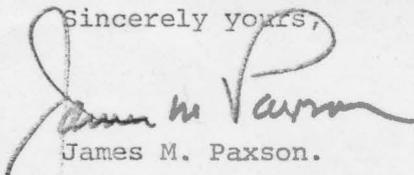
I've asked him to deliver the ties to you, as I was sure you would see that the President gets them. Major Miller knows Bill Baroody, Ted Marrs and Milton Friedman. He's never met you and I know he'd like to meet you. He's a very fine man, a gifted speaker and singer. If you would receive the ties from him, it would be most appreciated.

The technical drawing on the President's birthplace memorial is now about completed and work should start soon. There are three houses directly west of the birth site facing Woolworth Street that the city wants to acquire as a parking area for the memorial. Saturday I purchased one of them that was for sale by the owner for \$25,500. When the city advised me two weeks ago, they wanted those lots for parking, I told them I'd leave enough money in my will to the city to secure them. Then a day or two later I saw a sign on one house that it was for sale by the owners.

I'll keep you advised of developments.

I'd appreciate your receiving the ties from Major Miller and giving them to the President. Major Miller should be contacting your office soon.

Sincerely yours,


James M. Paxson.

md



James M. Paxson



Dear Mr. Buchen: -

July 5th 1976

This is a personal note to you and I hope it doesn't get into your files.

The governor of this state is an ambitious democrat and the mayor just switched from the G.O.P. to the democrats to run for the U.S. Senate. I don't think they should be the top figures at a July 4th dedication with the President absent. For these reasons and those mentioned in my letter I hope the President picks July 14th and I hope he brings that "doll" he's married to and I'm sorry his mother is not here to join in the dedication. I know how proud she'd be of all first son. Sincerely Jim Paxson

Mr. Philip Bachen

Personal

3722 PACIFIC
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105



Wednesday 2/11/76

1:20 Bill Nicholson has talked with James Paxson and everything is agreeable with him that the next thing they need to undertake is to determine a contact point for this whole effort and Mr. Nicholson will be submitting a memo to the President on it. So you do not have to call Mr. Paxson back.



Wednesday 2/11/76

1:00 Mr. Buchen called Bill Nicholson; Nicholson will call Mr. Paxson direct and will let us know the outcome.



Wednesday 2/11/76

11:40 James Paxson called to talk to you about his January 8 letter. (402) 558-4606
(attached is a copy of the memo you sent to Bill Nicholson.



Hold file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM NICHOLSON

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

For some time, the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska, with financial support from James M. Paxson, have been preparing an elaborate monument to mark the President's birthplace. The attached photos show how the vacant land where the President's original home stood is being developed. Also attached is a letter from Mr. Paxson who seems to assume that the President will participate one way or another at the time of dedicating the completed project.

At no time, did anyone from here, so far as I know, lead Mr. Paxson to believe there would be such participation. However, the President did meet with Mr. Paxson on October 3 when the President was in Omaha and he may have made at least a tentative commitment about which I do not know.

Please advise as to how I should respond to the Paxson letter of January 8.

Attachments



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

January 8, 1976

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

NBC, through its local affiliate KMTV and its program manager Joe Baker, has been contacting me relative to the President's visit to Omaha regarding the dedication of his birth site. I had told them that his birthday was July 14th and we thought that would be an appropriate date - realizing that many people in the historical east would probably want to see their President in person on July 4th. I feel he should go where the people are.

NBC says that the President will be in Washington, D. C., Philadelphia and Boston on July 4th, 1976. They are planning a twenty-four hour telecast that day and want to televise Bicentennial functions in each state. KMTV feels the greatest Bicentennial attraction in this area this year will be the dedication of the birth site. They feel that if the site here was dedicated on July 4th, that NBC would telecast it in prime time - using a "split screen" if necessary, should the President actually be on TV, at dedication time, in the east.

I feel this is a Presidential decision. I also feel that the people of Omaha would be very disappointed if the dedication was held at a time that the President wasn't here.

However, I told KMTV I'd pass the matter on to you for a Presidential decision.

Up until the cold weather hit this week, the project was ahead of schedule. The World Herald had an article and picture on it and television stations have been carrying progress reports to the people. I'm enclosing a couple of color photos of the project.

We are going to have under the center of the crosswalks a "time capsule". It actually is a room 6 feet high by 10 feet by 12 feet. It will be covered with a slab that will authorize it to be opened on July 4th, 2076. The area will have enough room that people can put historical material in it in 2076 and then close it up again for another hundred years.

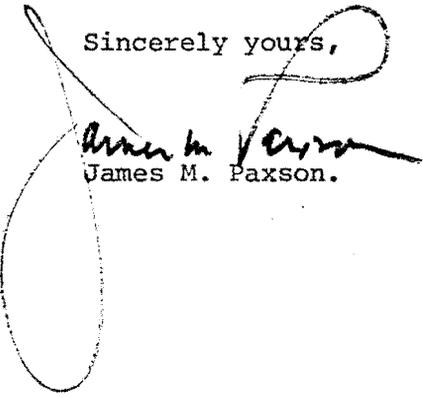


Page #2
Philip Buchen

We'd like the city - state - and nation to make deposits in the time capsule. Also, we'd like the President to do the same. With that much room in the capsule - space isn't critical. Would you turn the idea and matter over to the proper federal department for their entry? Would you also please give some thought to the President's personal entry into the time capsule for the people of the U.S.A. in 2076?

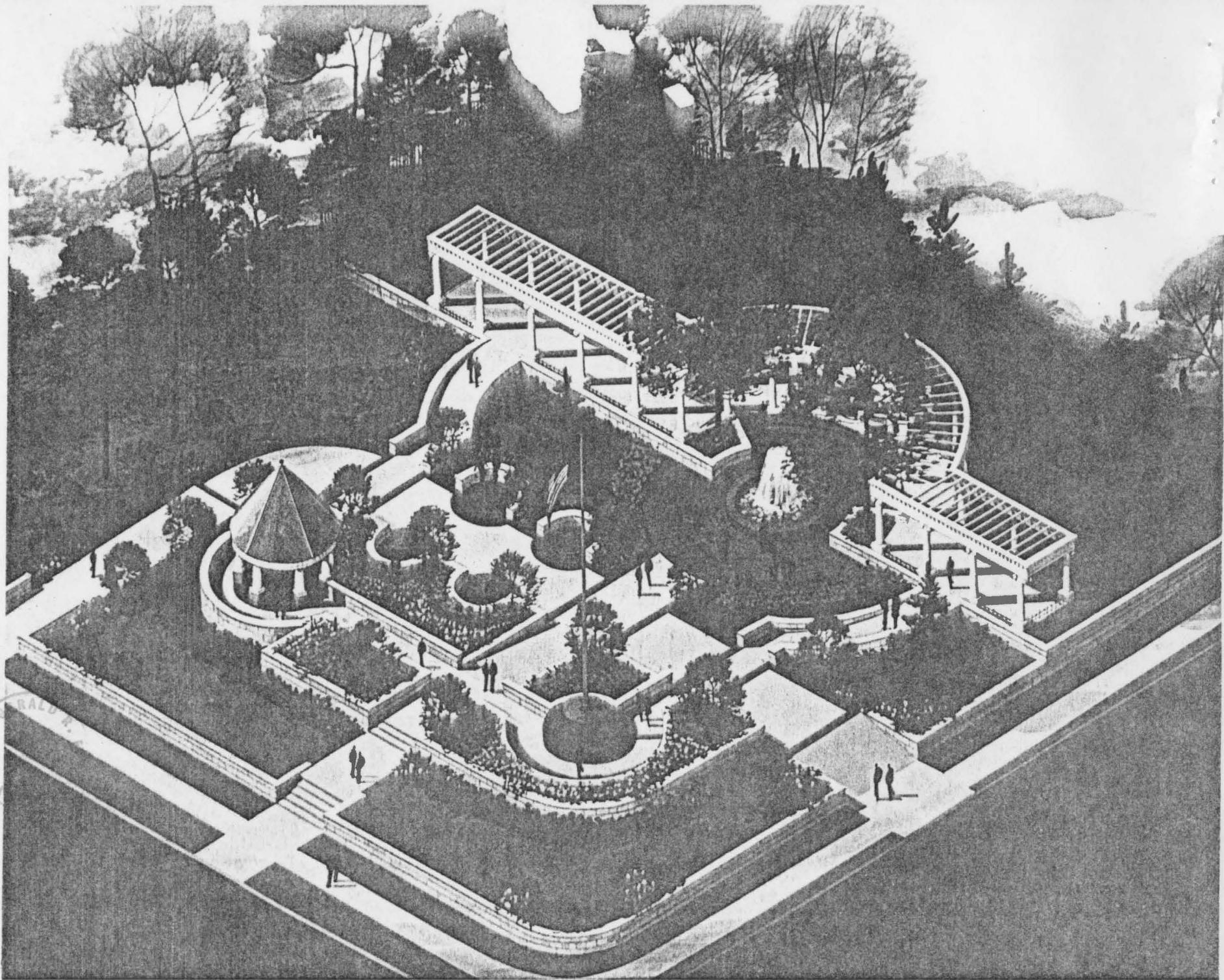
I'd appreciate your advice relative to the dedication.

Sincerely yours,

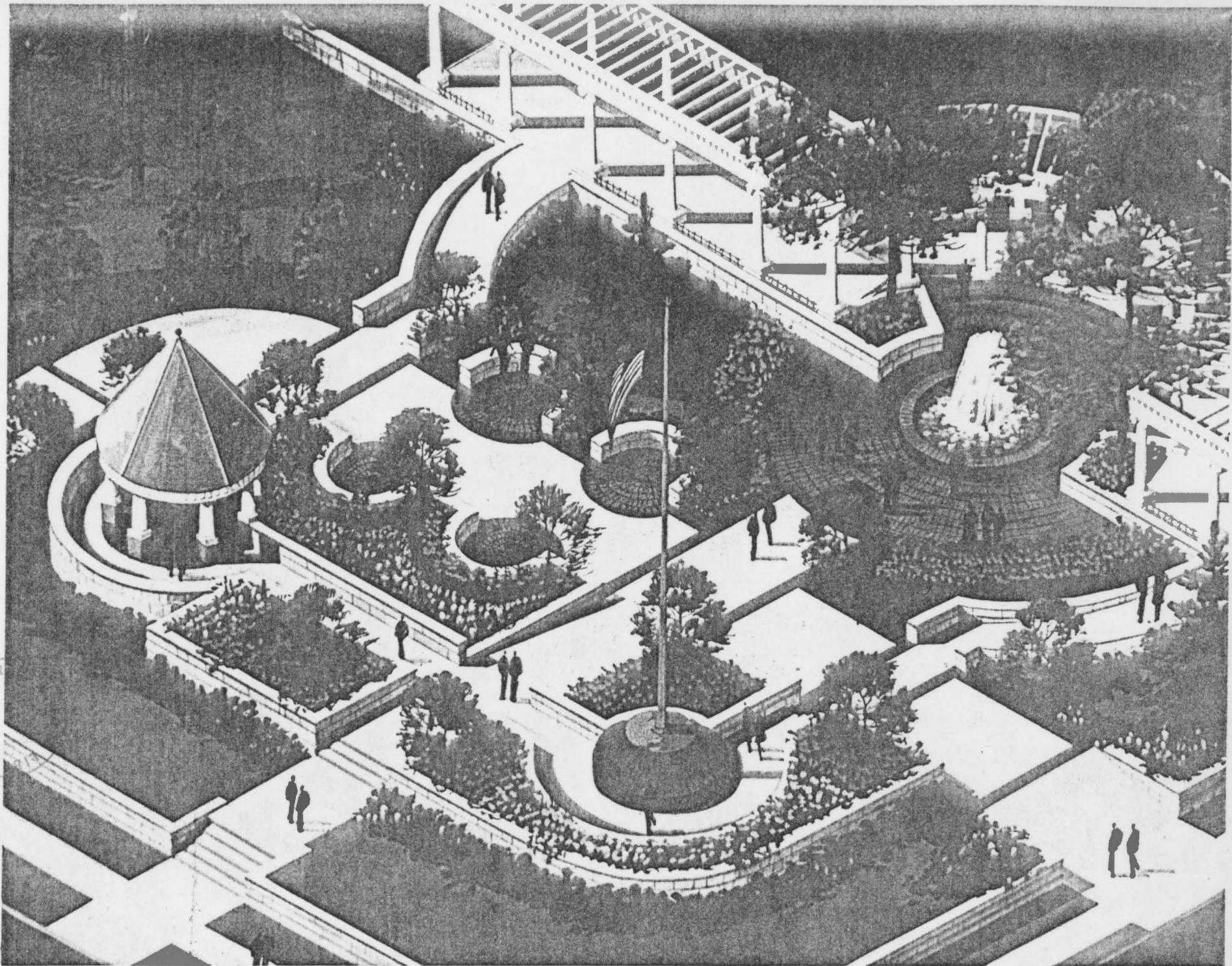

James M. Paxson.

md





RALPH W.



GER
ANY

July 13, 1976

*Pres.
Ford
Birthsite*

Dear Roman:

Many thanks for your thoughtful note concerning the Legal Services Corporation appropriation.

I was also delighted to see the photograph and news story about the official opening of the "President Ford Birthsite and Gardens".

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchan
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Roman L. Hruska
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515

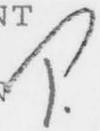


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN 

Dorothy Downton has advised me that you would like to extend an opportunity to James M. (Jim) Paxson to come to the White House and select memorabilia for the memorial at your birthplace in Omaha.

Paxson, President of Standard Chemical Manufacturing Company in Omaha, has purchased the site of your birthplace and several neighboring lots. You last met Paxson on May 7, 1976, when you inspected the birthplace site. Paxson is spending substantially in excess of \$200,000 for the memorial.

I see no problem in making available to Paxson duplicates of memorabilia and photographs that he may wish to have for display. With respect to items of a more unique nature, it would be preferable to provide these on loan to the memorial through the University of Michigan. This is acceptable to the University and I believe will minimize the concern in Grand Rapids about the availability of memorabilia for display in Grand Rapids.

Paxson will attend tonight's State Dinner if you wish to raise this matter with him personally.



Pres. Birth Site
(Omaha)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1976

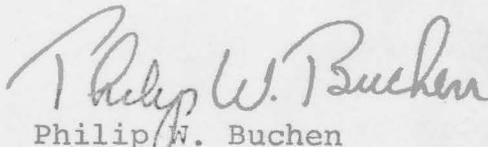
Dear Mr. Andersen:

This is in response to your letter of July 15 regarding the proposed Omaha Federal Office building.

As you know, the Office of Management and Budget is charged with the responsibility of reviewing such proposals. Accordingly, I have referred your letter to that office for a substantive response. I understand OMB conducts a careful and detailed review of such proposals, which takes some time. However, they have assured me that they will proceed diligently on this matter.

Thank you for your expression of interest in this proposal, and please give my personal regards to Jim Paxson.

Sincerely,


Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Harold W. Andersen
President
Omaha World-Herald
World-Herald Square
Omaha, Nebraska 68102





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

AUG 5 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN
FROM: *PS for* DANIEL P. KEARNEY
SUBJECT: Public Inquiry - Harold W. Andersen

We received a letter similar to the attached from Mr. Andersen directly. We have prepared a reply, a copy of which is also attached. Since Mr. Andersen has gone to the trouble of sending at least three letters on this subject, we thought that a more satisfactory response from his point of view would be to send the one substantive response from OMB, and acknowledgement responses from the other persons to whom he has written directly. For your convenience, we have attached an acknowledgement response for your signature.

Attachments



#251 10/35

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~PAUL O'NEILL~~ *Hearney*
FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN *P.*

Could you please advise me on
the attached?

Attachment

RECEIVED
100-100000

Omaha World-Herald

The Newspaper of the Midlands

HAROLD W. ANDERSEN
President

July 15, 1976

World-Herald Square
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
(402) 444-1099

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I have written James Lynn and Richard Cheney to ask their help in expediting an Omaha federal office building. At the suggestion of Jim Paxson, known to you through his efforts to preserve President Ford's birthsite here in Omaha, I write to ask if you, too, could help to move the office building project along quickly.

In April, the General Services Administration sent to OMB a prospectus for a \$27,000,000, 321,000-square-foot federal office building and a \$3,600,000 refurbishing of an existing federal office building. GSA had established a strong need for the project and assigned it a high priority.

For many years The World-Herald has spearheaded efforts to revitalize downtown Omaha. We believe that the proposed office building is a crucial part of a major downtown rebuilding effort, stimulated mostly by the private sector, that could arrest the spread of urban sprawl.

The proposed federal office building would fulfill a demonstrated need for space for federal agencies. It would also complement the community's efforts to redevelop the city's core.

Anything you could do to help would be appreciated very much.

Sincerely,



Harold W. Andersen

HWA:DK





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Mr. Harold W. Andersen
President
Omaha World-Herald
World-Herald Square
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Andersen:

Thank you for your letter of July 15 to the Director concerning the proposed Federal office building in downtown Omaha.

We are presently evaluating the General Services Administration's prospectus for this project. We recently requested and received additional data from GSA to assist us in this assessment. The information you supplied in your letter on construction activity in the private sector provides an additional set of facts which will be helpful.

We appreciate your interest in this proposal as President of Downtown Omaha, Inc. Thank you for taking the time to inform us of your views.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Director



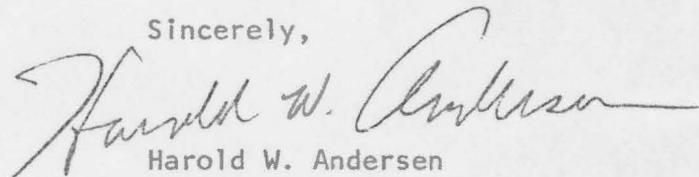
Mr. James T. Lynn
July 15, 1976
Page Two

With GSA having publicly announced plans for a new federal office building in February, 1975, owners of older downtown buildings realize that leases with federal agencies would be short-term. Therefore, these owners cannot justify the expense of modifying their buildings for GSA's unique specifications.

If your office could expedite the federal office building, it would not only be fulfilling a demonstrated need for space, but it would also be playing a key role in supporting the private redevelopment of our city's core.

We would appreciate anything you can do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold W. Andersen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Harold W. Andersen

HWA:DK



*President -
Birthsite*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1976

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your recent letter enclosing several newspaper articles and your personal snapshots and other photos of the Omaha birthsite memorial. Mrs. Ford and I indeed enjoy having these documents for the library and are grateful for your thoughtfulness in providing them.

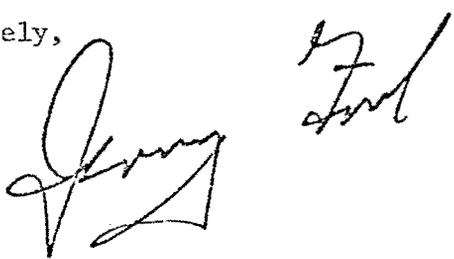
You are very kind to inquire as to a memorable quotation that may be carved into the marble slab which you've erected. I would be pleased with the remarks as suggested in your letter from the August 9th inaugural address.

I am also pleased to comply with your request to autograph the photos you supplied of your grand nieces and nephew as well as of yourself taken during my visit on May 7th.

Attached is a list of materials which are being assembled that you may find of interest in incorporating with the birthsite development. Those articles currently on hand will be sent to your post office box address with some of the items to follow a bit later. Mrs. Ford also appreciated your personal note with enclosures and has asked if I would include here the items you mentioned in your letter to her. We hope you like them.

Again, with deep appreciation and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Mr. James M. Paxson
care Standard Chemical Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 3844, Main Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68103

Personal

List of items for Omaha Birthsite Memorial

Books (2): "The Living White House"

Book: "The Nomination of Gerald R. Ford to be Vice President of the United States" - autographed

Booklet: "Remarks of PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD in the East Room of the White House on August 9, 1974"

Booklet: "The Case For INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES"
An address by GERALD R. FORD President of the United States; Delivered at Pepperdine University Malibu, California; September 20, 1975

Gavel: souvenir used at 1972 Republican National Convention

Pipe: used

Paperweight w/Presidential Seal

Paperweight w/ " " , GRF signature

Bracelet " "

Key Chain " "

Pin " "

Pin, pendant " "

Pin, " , 'enameled', "

Cuff Links, w/Presidential Seal

Cuff Links, 'enameled', "

Tie Bar, w/GRF signature, "

Tie Bar, " " , 'enameled'

Pen, felt-tip w/GRF signature; boxed

Pen, 'gold', "

Items forthcoming a bit later:

AFI 'Ashtray'

Swearing-in photographs -- Vice President

Swearing-in photographs -- President

Inaugural Address -- Vice President

Inaugural Address -- President



STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68103

JAMES M. PAXSON
PRESIDENT

July 26, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I'm enclosing herewith newspaper article on your birth site and gardens that you and the First Lady may enjoy reading and having for your official library. I'm also enclosing pictures for you - the small colored pictures (day and night) I took last week.

You'll notice the marble slab reserved entirely for you has some space below the bronze medallion and the words "38th President of the United States." We would like to carve in that space a memorable quotation from some address or writing. We asked your office months ago for such a quote and finally couldn't wait any longer and erected the slab without the quote. You'll remember when you were here on May 7th all the slabs were up except yours and we were awaiting your quotation then.

We can still carve it on the slab and I'd like to suggest one of your famous remarks that will live in the memories of man forever. It is:

*"My fellow Americans.
Our long national nightmare
is over. Our Constitution
works. Our great republic
is a government of laws
and not of men.
Here, the people rule..."*

*President Ford's Inaugural Address.
August 9th, 1974.*

Handwritten note:
reaction

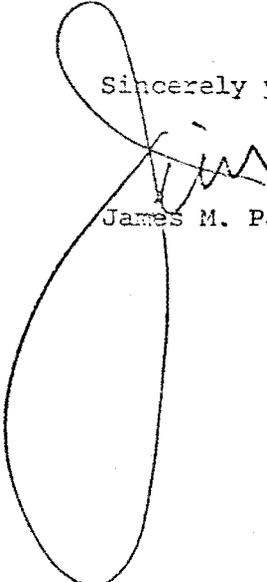
Page #2
The President
The White House

The only pictures I would like to have back are the three of you and my grand nieces and nephew. These pictures I'll have appropriately framed and given to each child. You know they'll keep them as long as they live and pass them on to their children and grandchildren. If you'd personally date each picture May 7th, 1976 and then use one child's name on each picture with some remark, it would be appreciated. You are shaking hands with Kelly, age four. The other niece is named Nikki. The nephew is named Chris. This pictures was sent to me by Andy Stern of your staff and is much appreciated.

The only other picture I want back for framing is of you and me at the birth site. I'll frame and keep that for myself. This picture was taken by the Lincoln Star newspaper.

Thank you very much and thank you for the invitation to the State Dinner for the Prime Minister of Australia. It's a real treat.

Sincerely yours,


James M. Paxson.

md

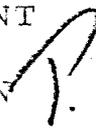


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN 

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Paxson, President of Standard Chemical Manufacturing Company in Omaha, has purchased the site of your birthplace and several neighboring lots. You last met Paxson on May 7, 1976, when you inspected the birthplace site. Paxson is spending substantially in excess of \$200,000 for the memorial.

I see no problem in making available to Paxson duplicates of memorabilia and photographs that he may wish to have for display. With respect to items of a more unique nature, it would be preferable to provide these on loan to the memorial through the University of Michigan. This is acceptable to the University and I believe will minimize the concern in Grand Rapids about the availability of memorabilia for display in Grand Rapids.

Paxson will attend tonight's State Dinner if you wish to raise this matter with him personally.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: MR. BUCHEN

FROM: MILDRED LEONARD

FOR: Information XXXXX

Appropriate Handling

DATE: 8/18/76

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1976

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your recent letter enclosing several newspaper articles and your personal snapshots and other photos of the Omaha birthsite memorial. Mrs. Ford and I indeed enjoy having these documents for the library and are grateful for your thoughtfulness in providing them.

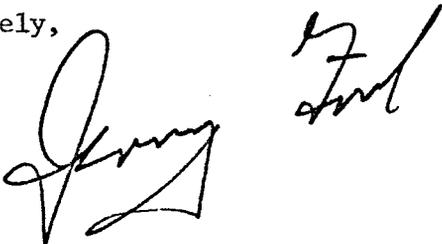
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Again, with deep appreciation and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. On the left is a signature that appears to be 'Jimmy', and on the right is a signature that appears to be 'Mrs. Ford'. Both are written in black ink.

Mr. James M. Paxson
care Standard Chemical Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 3844, Main Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68103

Personal



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Inaugural Address -- President

STANDARD CHEMICAL MFG. CO.

701 SOUTH 42ND STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

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PRESIDENT

July 26, 1976

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The White House
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Here, the people rule..."*

*President Ford's Inaugural Address
August 9th, 1974.*

*Hartman
reaction*

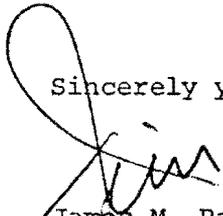
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The White House

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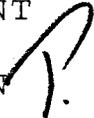
md

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1976

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Paxson will attend tonight's State Dinner if you wish to raise this matter with him personally.

RECEIVED

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 1976

Dear Roman:

Thank you very much for keeping us up to date on developments regarding the memorial to the President at the site of his birth.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Roman L. Hruska
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

*For the
Hruska's*



ROMAN L. HRUSKA
UNITED STATES SENATE

Dear Phil -

Latest progress report
on Ford Birthsite. Earlier to-
day Vicki and I made a
personal inspection to get
ideas on floral and shrub
varieties and arrangements.

It surely befits its goal
in a tasteful, satisfying
fashion

Sincerely

Roman H. —

October 6 '76

Ford Birthsite, 15 Other Locations Earn Salutes

By Jack Brawner

President Gerald Ford's birthsite and 15 business locations have won salutes from the Women's Division of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

The division's beautification committee will present awards to owners, architects and contractors for their contributions toward a more attractive community at a 5:30 p.m. dinner Wednesday at the Omaha Club.

The number of winners is double a year ago, reflecting an increased pace of con-

ciates designed the building. Butler Construction, Inc., was the contractor.

Always Changing

The exterior of the Farmers Union Co-operative Insurance Co. is of iron spotbrick and solar bronze reflective glass. The combination presents a continually changing appearance with movement of the sun.

For beauty at night, trees are illuminated by ground-level floodlights.

The entrance features a paved, landscaped gallery.

Richard D. Nelson was the architect and A. Borchman Sons Co. constructed the building.

Charm and character are the keynotes of the Regency Fashion Court, with its Old World village influence.

Quaint brick walkways, elaborate landscaping and ornate street lamps enhance malls and interior courts. Landscaping includes some 125 trees and 2,400 shrubs

outside, plus 40 trees and 740 shrubs indoors.

Sloped translucent skylights 180 foot long form the roof above the malls. Focal point of the Central Court is a three-tiered fountain.

Dana-Larson-Roubal and Associates designed the building. The contractor was Hawkins Construction Co.

Sturdy Design

The brick and exposed aggregate exterior of the Steamfitters building reflects the image of the organization, with sturdiness and honest approach to design, said the architects, Boyer, Bishop, Bonze, Noll, Scott and Associates.

Parking areas were planned to provide minimum intrusion on lawns and landscaping.

A sculpture, a composition of steam pipes, reflecting the Steamfitters' craft, will be erected soon on the grounds.

Charles Vrana & Sons contracted the project.

The contemporary brick Sunnyslope Professional building designed by Virgil Wamsat & Associates features a circular tower around a spiral stairway at the front.

The building features covered walkways and a sunken court. Ramps provide easy access to all levels. The building was erected by Kay Palmer Construction Co.

Charles Vrana & Sons built the United Parcel Service building, which was designed by Donald D. Littler & Co. The 150,000-square-foot building features light brick with dark metal accent panels.

The Wolf Brothers Western Store, which was destroyed in the May 6, 1975, tornado, was rebuilt to represent store fronts of a frontier town.

The architectural theme is in keeping with western style clothing featured by the store.

Joe Kirshenbaum, store owner, handled

Please turn to Page 2-F, Col. 1.

Winners

Winners in the new construction category are:

—The Ford birthsite, Thirty-second and Woolworth Avenues.

—Bank of Millard, 13259 Millard Avenue.

—Community Bank of Nebraska, 5180 Ames Avenue.

—Farmers Union Co-operative Insurance Co., 407 North 117th Street.

—Regency Fashion Court, 120 Regency Parkway.

—Steamfitters Local 464, 13505 B Street.

—Sunnyslope Professional Plaza, 5654 North 103rd Street.

—United Parcel Service, Twenty-fifth and R Streets.

—Wolf Brothers Western Store, 7001 Dodge Street.

Reconstruction category winners:

—American Savings Co., 1802 Dodge Street.

—Boat Ranch, 3939 Leavenworth Street.

—Empire State Building, Nineteenth and Farnam Streets.

—Old Market Association.

—Salvatore's Ristorante, 4688 Leavenworth Street.

—Trovald's Square, 5013 Underwood Avenue.

—The Warehouse, 218 Carter Lake Club.

struction and refurbishing, said Anita Purdy, manager of the Women's Division.

There's a touch of the White House and a touch of the house in which President Ford was born at the memorial site.

The colonnade near the rear of the area is similar to the south portico of the executive mansion. A gazebo-like structure, with unbreakable glass protecting a model of President Ford's early home and various mementos, is a replica of the original home's cupola.

The house was razed after a 1971 fire.

Two large sycamore trees, which were on the old homesite, flank the fountain in front of the colonnade. Some 20 species of trees and shrubbery in addition to colorful flower beds line walkways winding through the multilevel walled gardens.

Suggestions from citizens helped decide what articles were placed in a time capsule beneath a walkway near the fountain.

Gift to City

