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**August 20, 1974**

**MEMORANDUM FOR PHIL BUCHEN**

**FROM:** Jack Marsh Signed - John O. Marsh, Jr.  
**SUBJECT:** Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation

Please find attached a letter from Senator Byrd requesting that Mr. Jay Johns of Charlottesville, Virginia be contacted regarding the preservation of President Ford's home in Alexandria.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and advise me if I can be of assistance.

cc: Senator Byrd



Determined to be an  
Administrative Marking

By SD NARA, Date 4/14/14

August 23, 1974

~~CONFIDENTIAL (PLEASE DO NOT DUPLICATE)~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mrs. Nancy Howe  
Special Assistant to Mrs. Ford

In reference to your call from Jay Johns concerning the Alexandria residence of the President, I tried unsuccessfully to reach Mr. Johns but Howard Kerr was able to talk to him later.

Mr. Johns told Howard that he had been in touch with Senator Harry Byrd and Senator Byrd suggested he contact me. I have known him for a number of years and he is interested in historical preservation and has been associated with a number of historical properties throughout the state including the Stonewall Jackson home in Lexington.

He says his group recently acquired the John L. Lewis home in Alexandria. They would like to rent the Ford dwelling in Alexandria and make it available for public inspection. Naturally, he would like to have left in the property as much of the furniture of the Ford family as possible. I understand they plan on charging admission which would be used to offset the cost of maintenance and rent.

I think a major factor in any decision President Ford and his family might make will be the impact this would have on the neighborhood.

You might want to discuss this with the family; however, if the decision is negative, I would urge a prompt response to Mr. Johns before the proposal gets momentum.

Jack Marsh  
Counsellor to the President

cc: The President

JOM:sc



8/23

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

① Jay Johns / Virginia  
Historic  
Trusts

② Ford Hse

804-295-2220



③ Use of Hse - Nancy  
West wing 2nd  
floor / main mansion

④ Tried to call 10:30 B/H

Want to rent Home  
avail to public  
furniture admission charge  
Harry Byrd → Sam

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
Office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, D. C. 20420  
SEPTEMBER 16 1974

File

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable  
Theodore C. Marrs  
Special Assistant  
To the President  
The White House

Subject: Disposition of Gerald R. Ford, Jr.  
Boyhood Home, 649 Union Street,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

In November 1972, the VA acquired the subject property by deed in lieu of foreclosure on a defaulted Veterans Administration guaranteed home loan. The VA was not aware this property was the President's former home until it was featured in a Michigan newspaper story. On the same day the VA withdrew the property from the market to assure the proper handling of a property which has become historically significant.

The Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593 require that Federal agencies assure the proper preservation of historic properties under their jurisdiction. The Veterans Administration has the following options:

- a. To maintain the property at professional levels as established by the Secretary of Interior.
- b. To dispose of the property through sale, transfer, or donation in such a manner as to assure the proper historic preservation of the property.

It has been the policy of the VA, in the case of historic properties not needed in support of the agency mission, to dispose of the properties in accordance with historic preservation guidelines.



The Honorable  
Theodore C. Marrs

We would like to give first consideration to any society or group the White House might propose to designate. If there is such a group, please advise us so that we may invite them to submit a proposal for acquisition and preservation of the Ford Boyhood Home.

Alternatively we propose to invite the Michigan State Historical Society and the Grand Rapids Historical Society to submit their preservation proposals.

RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH  
Acting Administrator

