The original documents are located in Box 35, “7/2/76 - Remarks Upon Acceptance of Mormon Pioneer Statuette from Spencer W. Kimball, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

ACCEPTANCE OF MORMON PIONEER STATUETTE

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1976
I am delighted to see President Kimball again. Our visits have always been occasions for warm talks between friends. We look forward to having you with us again during the Honor America Day ceremonies tomorrow.

Today, let me express my deep appreciation for this most appropriate momento on the occasion of our country's 200th birthday. I understand that this statuette is a scale model of the Mormon Pioneer Monument in Salt Lake City -- a monument symbolizing the spirit of Christian sacrifice and American adventure that is part of the Mormon heritage.
LIKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR EARLIEST COLONIES,

THE MORMONS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY WERE LEAVING PERSECUTION

BEHIND IN ORDER TO CREATE A NEW COMMUNITY WHERE THEY COULD

WORSHIP IN FREEDOM. YEAR AFTER YEAR, LONG WAGON TRAINS

MOVED OUT OVER THE GREAT PLAINS, OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

AND INTO THE UTAH TERRITORY.

THE MORMON PIONEER MONUMENT IS A TRIBUTE NOT ONLY

TO SACRIFICE, BUT TO THE GARDEN THESE PIONEERS PRODUCED FROM

THE DESERT. TODAY, AROUND THE WORLD, THE CHURCH OF

JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ADDS TO ITS PROUD AND

NOBLE HISTORY.
I commend you and the Mormon people everywhere for the tremendous effort you are making to strengthen the family unit in America and the world. In the faces of the Mormon children assembled here, I can see the spirit that gave strength to your early leaders. These children represent the goodness of the American dream. Like the family on this statuette, they tell us by their presence that the American home is a haven of the basic principles of righteousness and morality that have made this country the greatest on earth.

I accept this statuette with gratitude and best wishes for your future undertakings.

Thank you very much. End of text.