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April 8, 1979

Mr. Dwight Randall
312 North Edison Street
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Randall:

The purpose of this letter is to expand upon our telephone conversation today regarding your house in Prince William County, the Monroe House of Poplar Spring, an 18th century log house.

By way of background, in January 1979, the Richmond-based transportation consultants Wilbur Smith & Associates informed the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) that one of its several proposed alternative routes for the 234 Manassas Bypass could adversely affect the Monroe House or its property. As a result, in part, of a report that another VHLC surveyor and I prepared on the Monroe House, noting especially its architectural and historical significance, in March the Nominations Committee of the VHLC determined that the Monroe House is eligible for nomination to the National Register. A "determination of eligibility," as I understand it, should prevent the 234 Bypass from adversely affecting your property, including the house. If, in deciding to restore the house, as you have already indicated you would like to do, you wish to have the house qualify for financial assistance in the form of grants or tax benefits, you should start the procedure of nominating the house to the National Register, by contacting either me or the VHLC, which will assign someone to prepare the nomination form. Other advantages to having the property listed in the National Register are described in the enclosed National Register brochure.

Last Saturday, April 7th, as you know, about 7 members of the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission's History Officials Advisory Committee visited the Monroe House, among other sites in the county, to familiarize themselves with the County's historical resources and to visit some of the more significant sites that have been surveyed in recent months. This committee advises me on problems encountered during the

Page 2
Mr. Dwight Randall
April 8, 1979

Prince William County architectural and historic sites survey, and is also preparing a handbook or inventory of regionally significant sites in the Northern Virginia area.

Several of the Committee members reinforced my feeling that the Monroe House should be preserved. Among the factors the Committee considered in coming to this conclusion are the house's architecture, age, historical associations, and setting. The present deteriorated condition of the house, which, as you are aware, is an important consideration in dealing with historic properties, to some extent affected the group's overall impression, but as one member commented, "the pieces are all there, it just needs to be put back together." It is indeed remarkable that the house has survived intact for so long, and that it has been so little altered over the years.

As I mentioned to you over the telephone, there are several private organizations and public agencies whose purpose is to assist in and encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant properties. The Prince William County Historical Commission is actively involved in preservation-related matters. On the state level, the agency is the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, which I have already mentioned. The director is Tucker Hill, State Historic Preservation Officer. (Address: 221 Governor St., Richmond, Va. 23219, tel: 804-786-3143.) The Federal Government's historic preservation agency is the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, a part of the Department of the Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The National Register, mentioned above, is located in the OAHP, as is the Technical Preservation Service; both offices should be consulted by anyone interested in preserving an old building. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, which I mentioned on the phone, especially the Mid-Atlantic Field Office, (located at 640 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. 20006, tel: 202-638-5200) is the "only national, non-profit, private organization chartered by Congress to encourage public participation" in historic preservation. They publish a competent journal and monthly newspaper available to members of the National Trust.

I hope you will contact me if you have any questions on this letter or anything we discussed.

Sincerely,

Frances Jones

Frances Jones
Architectural Historian/Surveyor

FJ:cae
Encl.