

It is a pleasure for me to be with you this morning and visit with
so many good friends ^{in eastern North Carolina} who have devoted time and financial resources
to the restoration of the Hope House here in Windsor. As you probably
are aware, ~~those of us in my~~ those of us in my
office ^{have} followed closely ^{the progress of Hope} ~~the work being done here~~ because of the special
interest of my Administrative Assistant, Carroll Leggett, who is a native
of Bertie County and has participated in many of the events
surrounding the restoration.

Carroll is enthusiastic about what is going on here and I am too, for
several reasons, ^{and I write you to call on us whenever you}
^{think we might be of assistance to you.}

I come from ~~a~~ small town and ~~believe~~ believe deeply in the ~~value~~ value
of rural ~~living~~ living. I ^{and appreciate} enjoy the ~~distinctive~~ distinctive
style and flavor of our state which I think comes in large part from
bring composed of many ~~small~~ small communities with their own particular
interests and ^{your own special community} , in your case ~~in Windsor~~ in Windsor, project.

I note that
To show you my enthusiasm for small town living/I am in the process of moving
from the thriving and sprawling city of Lillington, population about 1,300,
to a new home on the river over in Buies Creek ~~area~~ , population about
500.

2

Historic Mope stands apart from many restoration projects in our State in that you are a private group, ~~not a government agency~~ and the House is privately operated. The State of North Carolina does not own the site and does not operate the ~~site~~ ^{facilities} and this is quite an accomplishment. I am sure it would have been easier to have gone the other way, "to have let the government do it," and relieved yourselves of the continuing responsibility of raising money and supporting the restoration effort at Mope.

But you did not and I commend you for it. ~~Therefore~~ The philosophy of ~~let~~ "let the government do" is too pervasive in our country and ~~is~~

~~it is~~ ^{group} it is ~~refreshing~~ refreshing to see a ~~group~~ such as Friends of Mope shoulder the burden and say, ~~let's do it ourselves~~ "If it's worth doing, it is worth doing ourselves."

And you undoubtedly ~~have~~ have already seen the wisdom of your decision. This town and this area has never been more alive than it is now, largely as a result of the continuing activities centered around ~~the~~ ^{this area} Mope. Thousands of tourists find their way to ~~Windsor~~ each year to view the house, many of whom had never visited Windsor before ~~and~~ or even possibly/heard of it. I appreciate the fact that you were gracious enough to allow me to hold a reception for the people of the First and Second Congressional Districts at Mope this summer, again bringing ^{a cross-section of} citizens to Windsor ~~distinguished people~~ of the region, many of whom had never visited here before. *

2

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I can tell you that Nope got rave reviews from the folks I talked to.

~~So you are putting Windsor on the map.~~

So to speak, you are putting Windsor "on the the map." What else?

You have created a live and on-going community ^{project} ~~project~~ which involves hundreds of people ~~every year~~ every year and serves as a source of community pride and spirit. I am here to telly ou that this fact makes a great differnce.

Travel to many of our small towns which lack ~~any~~ " a Nope " or some similar ~~project~~ focal point for ~~community~~ community activity and often you find a ~~town~~ town lacking in vitality ^{and} imagination; ofetn you find a small town dying ~~and~~ and that is a shame.

So I hope you will share what you are doing here in Windsor whenever you can becasue you do stand as a glowing example of what can be done with sufficient dedicat ion and interest and with some sacrifices . You ^{part of the} ~~do~~ do have ^{as} recipe for helping keep rural Worth Carolina alive and well and growing and that ^{is} is important to me as I know it is to you.

4

In addition , with the preservation and restoration of Nope you have effectively captured a peice of the history of this region ~~and~~ so it can be shared with and appreciated by this generation and generations to follow. ^{in a real way is a} Nope ~~is~~ gift to your children , to your ~~and~~ grandchildren and to citizens of our State and Nations for years to come. Consider what a great legacy you ^{are} ~~are~~ creating to leave for those who come after you and I think you will be even prouder of the accomplishments here at Nope.

But this legacy is not without conditions.

I am remind of the story which is told about Ben F^{anklin} , who ^{was} ~~emerging~~ ~~emerged~~ from the Constitutional Convetntion ~~and~~ asked by a young fellow what had gone on inside. Dr. Franklin replied, "Young man, we have created a Republic. ^{Keep it if you can!} ~~It is now your duty to preserve it.~~ You have created something ~~great~~ significant and unique here at Nope but ^{and sometimes not an easy one.} it will be a ~~continuing effort~~ ~~over one years~~ to promote it and preserve it and the people of this region must realize this fact ^{and be equal to the task.}

There is a ^{to} ~~continuing~~ ~~debate~~ at this particular time about the value of restoration ~~and~~ projects, some saying that the day for such projects has passed, that we can't afford such undertakings any longer, that we have enough already , and that instead we should concentrate our efforts on adaptive ~~and~~ ^{needs.}

Well, I disagree with those ~~and~~ folks for the most part.

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4

This is a hustle, bustle age we live in and more and more we are losing our feeling of ~~belonging~~ belonging, of continuity, our roots, if you will ~~allow~~ ^{allow} me to use this now over-~~used~~ used expression. We need

~~to go back and see where we came from~~
desperately, in my opinion, to go back and see where we came from, to see ourselves in the continuing order of things, ^{and} to understand and appreciate history ~~in order~~ in order to avoid the mistakes of the past and be guided in the future.

Preservation of ~~our~~ elements of our culture--- fine architecture, furniture, design and decoartion--- ~~is~~ is extremely important, I think, and I do not believe that we have come to a time when everything about us must be "used" in order to have value and justify its being. In fact, ~~the~~ ^{valuable} Hope House and its furnishings have a very ~~use~~ "use"--- they are teaching history and design and southern ~~culture~~ culture ~~and~~ --- and thousands of persons each year are the ~~beneficiaries~~ beneficiaries of this restoration.

I do understand the ~~importance~~ importance of adaptive uses ~~of~~ of buildings with historical or architectural significance. You have only to go to Raleigh and view the area around the capital, ~~especially~~ especially ~~in~~ the Blount Street area, to see where a part of the past of our capital city has been captured and held for us through adaptive use of buildings when restoration and ~~preservation~~ preservation would have been out of the question.

Though house after house contains State workers busy at their desks,
~~however~~ the neighborhood remains in many ways as it was a hundred
years or so ago, with splendid examples of Victorian, ^{State} ~~its~~ Renaissance, and
Greek Revival ^{architecture} remaining. Visitors to State offices located in the
~~brick~~ buildings can conduct their business while ~~noting~~
noting the enormous attention to detail ^{which we rarely} ~~when~~ see or can afford today,
including elaborate hand-crafted staircases, made of the finest woods,
stainedglass windows,
fireplaces in marble and granite, intricate cornice mouldings, hardwood floors,
attractive foyers,
and even in some cases, crystal chandeliers and ~~valley~~ wall sconces.

What a nice break from commercial carpet, ~~its~~ sterile off-white
wall board, ~~and~~ institutional halls and ^{modern} single pane windows.

Though ~~however~~ economy should not ~~always~~ be the bottom line in
considering adaptive reuses, I venture that space provided in the
Blouat Street area came ~~at~~ a lower ~~price~~ price than that in
new buildings on the State Mall.

1

Let me point out one project which I ~~was~~ visited recently where I think preservation was a mistake. ~~Was~~ Harpers Ferry, the scene of the historic raid of abolitionist John Brown, is nestled in the Appalachian mountains just a short drive from Washington. It is a charming little village and the National Park Service some years ago ~~was~~ went in, acquired much of the business section of the town, ~~and~~ restored and preserved *They are cordoned off and you may stand quietly and look* many of the shops. However, they failed to capture the feeling of this ~~original~~ bustling ~~nineteenth century~~ nineteenth century town and aside from an assortment of ~~souvenir~~ souvenir ~~shops~~ shops and hot dog stands, there is little life in the place. Repeatedly I heard people on the sidewalk say, "Boy, is this place dead."

In my opinion, if the Park Service lacks the resources or ability to make history come alive in the empty shops they have restored, they should turn to adaptive reuses. People who ~~travelling~~ travelled some distances to Harpers Ferry *I know I did* felt cheated at what they found. *But* I don't believe anyone would ever feel cheated at having come to Hope, though, and for this reason I encourage you again to share what you have

here with others. *Help them see how to make history come alive and how to use the past. ~~To instruct the pe~~*

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Not in a

The time for preservation has not passed. We are ~~in the~~ period where adaptive reuse is the only way open, *in spite of what some say, though I do doubt we'll ever see another Williamsburg.*

Selected, significant sites such as Mope still ~~must~~ ^{should} be sought out, ~~restored~~ restored and preserved, Today, as never before in my opinion, there ~~is~~ ^{are} both the ~~resources~~ ^{resources} and the energy available to do so ~~and the people of our State and region are hungry for new insights~~ ^{these} into the past which ~~these~~ projects provide. State and Federal governments are willing ~~to offer technical advice~~ and at last, able, to offer technical advice and assistance as well as grants without seizing or destroying local initiative. And as you ~~know~~ Friends of Mope know, ~~many~~ many private foundations have been generous in their support ~~also~~ also.

The people of our State and ~~ation~~ ^{ation} are hungry for insights into the past. I ~~have~~ ^{have} come to understand this fact even more since being selected to serve on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian some months ago. More than ten million people a year come ~~to~~ to the Space museum in ~~Washington~~ in Washington each year and other facilities of the Smithsonian are experiencing unprecedented visitation. There is a popular interest in history and culture and research as we have never seen before and the promise for the future is unparalleled.

Note the amazing success of the Smithsonian magazine, for example.

W^h see that the ~~spark~~ ^{spark} has been struck . People are eager to experience something of the past and we should reach out to them.

As a Regent of the Smithsonian I intend to encourage its outreach ~~program~~ ^{it} program, and ~~there~~ already ~~have~~ many. I encourage you to do the same here.

Perhaps there are volunteers in the community who can take the story of Hope and the ~~activities~~ ^{activities} which made this plantation ~~so~~ so alive in another century into the public schools and make it come alive ~~again~~ for the children of this century. ~~It is a typical of~~

~~plantation life in this region of the State.~~

There is much that can be done with civic groups, senior citizens, and public libraries to "use" the past to teach and whet the ~~public~~ appetite for further research and understanding. Small portable exhibits might be a possibility for outreach, ~~and~~ enticing persons to come to Hope itself to tour the ~~buildings~~ ~~box~~ house and grounds.

But who am I to be making suggestions? You have done a great job thus far and you have been untiring. I commend you for the work you have done and invite you again to call on me or my staff whenever you think we might be of assistance to you. I extend a further invitation to you to come up and tour the facilities of the Smithsonian , which I am sure must be of interest to most of you, and we will assure you of very special treatment and an interesting day there. And I would be delighted to have you come by to see us.