

Indio, California

February 8, 1960

Mr. D. S. Saund, Representative  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Saund:

I have something I would like to take up with you, not knowing when you will be in this locality I will try and write it briefly. I have a nice little home in the best part of town on Miles Ave. right down to the business section it is a high class piece of property. I am 80 years old and have no one to consider but myself.

C  
O  
P  
Y

I would like to turn this place into a shrine and thought possibly you could or would help me. I don't know too much about it but can always learn. In case it was made a shrine I would want it to remain indefinitely and if possible I could be the custodian and sort of a monument after I am gone. I think it would be nice. I don't know of a shrine near here. This lot is 50 x 150 ft. and has a 5-room concrete house on it. Trees all along the alley side. I worked and paid for it. Purchased it in 1945. It would be best if you could drop by Indio and see just what I am talking about. The Womans Club House is on one side of me and Sprouse-Reitz on the other. I hope you are favorably impressed with my idea and drop me a line or drop by to see me. I have a clear deed and title for the property.

Sincerely,

signed/ Ella B. Jones

WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 17, 195<sup>5</sup> 1960

Indio, California

Respectfully referred to

February 8, 1960

Director, National Park Service  
 Department of the Interior  
 Washington 25, D.C.

I would sincerely appreciate your giving consideration to the enclosed letter from Ella B. Jones, who indicates her desire to ~~max~~ make her home a shrine.

If the Federal Government can take no action in this regard, any suggestions as to what action Mrs. Jones can take will be appreciated.

Please furnish me a report, returning the letter therewith.

Very respectfully,

*D. S. [Signature]*

M.C., ..... District.

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Sincerely,

signed/ Ella B. Jones

L58-IBH

Signed by:

Appleman 2/25  
 Kahler 2/25  
 Beard 2/25  
 Price 2/29

*Appleman*  
*Salomon 3/1/60*

MAR 4 1960

Rewritten  
3/1/60:

Hon. D. S. Saund  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Saund:

We have considered your letter of February 17 and the one of February 8 from Mrs. Ella B. Jones concerning her proposal that her home at Indio, California, be established as a national shrine. There is no indication in Mrs. Jones' letter that her home has any association with important historical events or otherwise possesses exceptional value that would justify its consideration for Federal ownership as a national historic site. It is our understanding from Mrs. Jones' letter that she has a modest home not dissimilar in any respect to thousands of others throughout our Nation.

The Federal Government obviously cannot undertake to place an historic site in Federal ownership and administer it for the benefit of the Nation unless it has very important associations with great historical events that have affected the entire Nation, or at least a considerable part of it. In the circumstances, we are obliged to advise that Mrs. Jones' home does not meet the requirements for consideration as a national historic site.

We are returning Mrs. Jones' letter herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) E. T. Scoyen  
 Acting Director

Enclosure

Copy to: DCCO  
 Asst. Secy., Pub. Land Mgmt.  
 Div. of Legislation  
 Reg. Dir., Reg. Four w/c inc. ltrs.  
 Branch of History " " "

PBS 7342

REAppleman:gr:3-1-60