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President Lyndon B Johnson
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson

I am enclosing a paper that tells about the efforts to save the Drum Barracks and I wonder if the Government could do anything about it as it seems to be a historic site of the Civil War. The group that is trying to do something to save the Drum Barracks has only a short time before something else will be done to that site. Promises of aid and help have been made but so far not much money has been received to purchase the site.

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John Murray.

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The Society for the preservation of Drum Barracks, a fully incorporated group of civic minded volunteers, has an option to buy this irreplaceable building and restore it to its rightful place as a national monument and museum. The price is \$32,500.00 to purchase, but the option runs out on Dec. 31, 1965. To help meet this deadline, a door-to-door campaign called "Bucks for the Barracks" with sealed cans to receive the contributions is planned for Sept. 17th through the 20th. On the evening of Sept. 20 the workers, armed with can openers and in full view of everyone attending "bank night at Crocker Citizens Wilmington branch, will unseal these cans. There will be a Band to provide entertainment. Musicians donating their talent to this cause.

A Grand Military Ball, Sept. 11th, is being planned, one of the most glittering and colorful events of any social season, since the days of General Phineas Banning. "GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND HELP". Please contact Miss Drum Barracks, 834-1078, at 1631 Ronan Avenue, Wilmington, California.

WHAT IS THE DRUM BARRACKS?

Have you heard of Drum Barracks and the small band of dedicated volunteers trying to save it from destruction?

This is to inform you of the progress that has been made in the project to preserve the last remaining building of Fort Drum, the headquarters for the Union Army of the Southwest during the Civil War. In less than six months we have organized the Society for the Preservation of the Drum Barracks, have become incorporated as a non-profit California Corporation, and have procured the required permit from the Los Angeles Department of Social Welfare to solicit funds. All contributions are tax deductible, checks should be made to Long Beach Historical Society for Drum Barracks and mailed to: P.O. Box 427 - Wilmington, California.

Walter Holstein is President, Richard Iverson, 1st Vice-Pres. Dr. Ward DeWitt, 2nd Vice-Pres. and Peter Steinmann, Finance Chairman.. The Exec. Board officially appointed Marga Jean Lorenzen as the 1st Miss Drum Barracks, who with her authentic civil war military uniform, cap, jacket, skirt and boots will publicize and Captain Fund raising campaigns to purchase the property.

It was the United States government headquarters for California, Arizona, and New Mexico during the Civil War. The only link to proudly announce California's part in preserving the Union. Jefferson Davis, while still Secretary of War, caused to be stationed there; seventy-seven camels and dromedaries used as the famous camel freight-train.

The Drum Barracks stands on 1053-55 Cary St., in Wilmington, a stately two story structure whose boards and furnishings were shipped around the Horn. Sixteen large rooms, each about twenty feet square. Four large old fashioned fireplaces where the officers warmed their toes, for this was the officers quarters. The soldiers' barracks, hospital and commissary were long ago destroyed by fire. And now this living piece of history with its split cypress shingles and hand made nails, its stone fountain and deep well with oaken bucket, stands and awaits it's fate.

The land which became Drum Barracks was donated to the United States Government for \$1.00. It was named for Adjutant General Richard Coulter Drum, head of the Dept. of the West. An imposing group of buildings was built and water was flumed to the post, seven miles, from the San Gabriel River. From 1861 to 1868 the United States government garrisoned soldiers in Drum Barracks in vary numbers from 2,000 to 7,000.

In the entire United States there are only two MILITARY Civil War Buildings still standing. One is at West Point and the other stands forgotten in Wilmington. A neglected treasure trove of Civil War and California history for our children and grandchildren, and indeed; the children of our entire nation.

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CALIFORNIA HISTORY COMMISSION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

1006 FORUM BUILDING • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

May 24, 1967

THOMAS J. HAMMER, JR.
Chairman
Telephone 446-4957

Sen. Thomas Kuchel
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Kuchel:

Your recent correspondence in regard to Drum Barracks illustrates the point that I was originally attempting to make. That is, that unless some action is taken either by the federal or state governments outside of existing programs Drum Barracks itself will be lost.

It is the strong feeling of preservationists on the west coast that the people in the preservation movement in the east believe there is nothing west of the Mississippi worth preserving of a historic nature. I am of the opinion that special legislation should be sought in Congress to have Drum Barracks become a historic national monument. The story of the California column of 2000 men alone, as indicated by the enclosed pamphlet, would warrant this. If such action as indicated above is not taken it is a very strong likelihood that Drum Barracks will be just a short memory historically speaking in another year or two.

We are doing everything in our power to expedite the making and completion of a historic survey in California under Public Law 65-889 but this would not aid us as to Drum Barracks. Even registering it as a National Historic Landmark, which should be done, would not suffice at the present time. Anything that you can do in this regard would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. E. Parker
Preservation Chairman
817-B North Broadway
Santa Ana, Calif.

P.S. My father, George Parker, says to extend his regards.

SON, N. MEX.	WASH., CH.
IDAHO	THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF.
ALASKA	GORDON ALLOTT, COLO.
SS, UTAH	LEN B. JORDAN, IDAHO
BURDICK, N. DAK.	PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.
EN, ARIZ.	CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, WYO.
MC GOVERN, S. DAK.	MARK O. HATFIELD, OREG.
NELSON, WIS.	
ETCALF, MONT.	

JERRY T. VERKLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

June 6, 1967

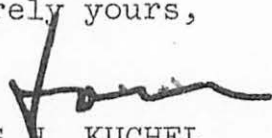
Honorable George B. Hartzog, Jr.
 Director
 National Park Service
 Department of the Interior
 Washington, D.C.

Dear George:

It has been requested that Drum Barracks located in Wilmington, California, be considered for designation as a National Historic Monument. Prior to considering legislation of that nature, I request your views on the advisability of such a designation.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



THOMAS H. KUCHEL
 United States Senator

Enclosures

K:Dc

F.B. SARLES 6/14
R. UTLEY ~~6/15/67~~
R. APPLERMAN 6-23
E. CONNALLY
Melvin (w/c)
6/27
June 27
Boice 6/29

L58

W39-W3C-NH

JUN 29 1967

Hon. Thomas H. Kuchel
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Kuchel:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mr. C. E. Parker concerning the possibility of establishing Drum Barracks in Wilmington, California, as a unit of the National Park System.

Historic sites and buildings established as units of the National Park System must be judged to possess national historical significance and to meet standards of suitability and feasibility for park purposes as well. Legislation in the Congress is ordinarily required to authorize the establishment of areas administered by the National Park Service.

The determination of national historical significance is made by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). Such determinations are usually based on the recommendations of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments created by the Historic Sites Act to advise the Secretary of the Interior on questions of national historical significance and related park matters. The criteria applied in making the determination are listed on pages 13-15 of the enclosed copy of "NPS Criteria for Parklands."

We do not believe Drum Barracks would meet the criteria of national historical significance. This belief is based upon a study of the materials in our files concerning the site. However, if Mr. Parker has additional information pertaining to the historical significance of the area, we would be pleased to receive it and to give further consideration to the matter.

Sincerely yours,

[SGD] HARTON L. BILL

Acting Director

Enclosures
(Constituents letter returned and pamphlet)

cc: Regional Director, Western, w/c of inc.

cc: W3C-NH (2), w/c of inc.
DAL, Mr. Melvin, w/c of inc.
FBSarles:ems 6/15/67
Revritten: FBSarles:bb1:6-27-67