

Dear Fort Hancock Federal 21st Century Advisory Committee and the National Park Service.

My wife and I, Linda and Wayne Masters, felt like we were walking back in time when we went to the historic house on Hartshorne Drive two years ago. We are both in our mid 60's and can remember a lot of the items in the house that were in ours growing up. We thought back then wouldn't it be great to live in a house like this on Sandy Hook. So now that it is possible to lease one, we are excited. We went to the walk through on November 14th and the 22nd and it solidified our interest in pursuing this further.

What we would like to see is an historic type village . The village would have houses that were restored to their original historical splendor with the outside structures being exactly restored and the interiors the same way, except for some modern features that were not visible . We also see a restaurant or two, a playhouse, an old fashion hardware store, a soda fountain /luncheonette and a general store for groceries and things; and if possible a few of the gun displacements restored. We also vision a village with no motor vehicles or very limited use and none in certain areas. We also would think that an antique car from that period parked in front of the garrage would add a touch of nostalgia. We would like to see people walking or riding bicycles for transportation, an old fashion trolley type vehicle for visiter or sight seeing. Maybe even a horse and carriage ride.

If we are chosen to be a leasee, we would definitely partake in any committee that was formed to better the historical preservation of Fort Hancock. I can vision Fort Hancock as a place for a visual education of how life here was from the early 1900s to the 50s. We also think it would be a big attraction to have one day in the summer, a Fort Hancock day! The funds that would be raised could go towards the town of Middletown , or restoring a piece of the past at Fort Hancock . (We're just excited over the whole undertaking)

In regard of our personal use, we would like the opportunity to restore and live in one of the houses on Hartshorne Drive. We would prefer a captains quarters. We think it would be a shame if any of the houses were used as a rental, unless strict rules were in place for their actions and behavior. We are not looking to rent out the house to anyone. We are looking at the house as restoring it to its original splendor, a home and a educational visual, for visitors. We are willing to restore the house and abide by whatever laws of occupancy the advisory committee would want.

As far as funds to achieve restoration, my wife and I have the ability to pay for the renovations, upkeep, utilities, common area fee, and rent if required. We are ready to submit any financials to the NPS. We will attach a separate page that will cover our ability to fund this undertaking. (Please do not make this attached copy available to the public.)If chosen , we will disclose our financials to the committee.

Thank you, Wayne and Linda Masters

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