

January 20th 1933
To the Honorable
The Board of Supervisors of
Prince William County,
Manassas, Va.

Gentlemen,

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has learned with deep concern that one or more plans are under way for the establishment of large hog-feeding industries along the Potomac River and the Richmond Highway between Woodbridge and Dumfries, for the purpose of utilizing cheap garbage furnished by truck or railway by the City of Washington, either through the District Commissioners or private institutions.

Our society has been interested for many years in the preservation or restoration of old historic places in Virginia, such as Wakefield, the birthplace of Washington; Stratford, the home of Robert E. Lee, and others.

The owners of old homes in this section of Virginia, such as Hollin Hall, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn, Rippon Lodge, Chatham, and others, have generously opened their houses and assisted us to collect large sums of money in this most worthy undertaking.

It would be not only a serious loss to property values for purposes of taxation or sale, but would retard the growth of this section of the state where large sums of money are now being expended by Virginia in the widening of roads, the construction of beautiful boulevards and the like, if there should be established large hog feeding plants in the vicinity either of these homes, or of the main thoroughfare between Washington and Richmond, passing great quantities of garbage through Alexandria, past Mt. Vernon and other places of historic interest. In addition to this, the effect would be not only deleterious to health and comfort, but it would very materially lessen the number of visitors to Virginia from other sections of the country and create the impression that the Old Dominion, with its splendid history and traditions, was willing to be made the dumping ground for the garbage of surrounding cities.

There is no objection, and there ought to be none, on the part of any one, to the raising of hogs by farmers in Virginia, but it is not fair to such farmers that they should be put into competition with a wholesale industry raising thousands of hogs and obtaining free of expenses, vast quantities of noisome and insect and disease-breeding offal, which would render uninhabitable the neighborhood where such enterprise was conducted, and would completely destroy the private business of hog raising on a reasonable scale.

We are not advised as to the powers of your board, or what steps you may contemplate, but we earnestly urge you in the interest of the health, the dignity and historic beauty of Virginia, as well as in the interest of individual farmers throughout your section of the state, to take such action as you may find available to avert not only a public nuisance, but a distinct injury to the state that you and all of us love and honor.

The above letter was unanimously approved by Association of Virginia Antiquities,
January 20, 1933.

Attest Directors

Mamie B. Little
Ella Rust Smith