

For immediate release  
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Mrs. Ford will participate in a photo session unveiling a newly acquired mantelpiece at Gadsby's Tavern in Olde Towne, Alex., today at 2:45 p.m. (The Tavern is located at 138 N. Royal St.).

Mrs. Ford is accepting the mantel as Honorary Chairman of The Friends of Gadsby's Tavern. The mantel, which was a part of the original Tavern, has been in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The Museum recently returned the mantel after 58 years for the Tavern's restoration project, which it hopes to have completed by February, 1976.

The mantel is of the Eighteenth Century, and along with its accompanying cornice is considered a good example of American craftsmanship of the Georgian period.

Participating in the unveiling with Mrs. Ford will be William Robert Adam, curator of Gadsby's Tavern; and Alexandria Mayor Charles Beatley.

When the Tavern buildings have been restored, they will include an authentic house museum and working tavern reminiscent of those in Colonial Williamsburg. The City of Alexandria owns the buildings and is restoring them, with the support of American Legion Post No. 24 (which presented the buildings to the city in 1972) and the Friends of Gadsby's Tavern, a volunteer group of historians and other interested citizens.

Gadsby's Tavern is generally considered to be one of the important historic sites in the area because of the prominent men who frequented it and the importance of decisions discussed there. It was the scene of many dramatic events which paved the way toward Independence and the drafting of the US Constitution. At least six Presidents were entertained there, and such figures as Lafayette, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay, Francis Scott and Key.

Another important acquisition came in 1949 when the doorway from which George Washington gave one of his last military commands in November 1798 was returned. Also a part of the Metropolitan Museum since 1917, it was donated to Gadsby's by Col. and Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore and the Alexandria Association to mark the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Alexandria. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was the honored guest at that ceremony.

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note; the ceremony is inside. No power is available. Photographers and crews will be at a distance of about 10-20 feet.

