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I mentioned to the Cupers when I was there that a rumor had reached us that the property was to be torn down, and they said that they had never heard anything of that kind. They said that they had no intention of so doing.

Q. & A. File No. 18-B-4

*Belden Home*

Thank you for writing me at length about this matter. I wish that something could be done for the preservation of this property. **November 26, 1957**

Yes, I wish you was happy to know that the location of the Whites' home has been spotted. The house, of course, is gone. The Woodrow Wilson school now stands on the land which served as the Whites' home in Middletown. It was my privilege to stop by this school on this last trip. I may be assured, Brother Shankel, that if you take these seriously, you will be of interest to us as we take these seriously. We shall be most grateful to you for it. **Dear Brother Shankel:**

It was a pleasure to hear from you in October. I am sorry that I have not been able to get to all of my mail, and your letter is one that was unanswered. I am interested in what you write about places of interest in our denomination in New England. I, with you, feel that it is important that we keep the story of our early work fresh in the minds of our young people, and the visits to these places of interest are a major factor in this. It was my pleasure to guide a group of some forty seminary students through a number of these places on a six-day tour early in October. We were very happy to have Elder C. L. Taylor join us at Atlantic Union College and spend a delightful evening with us. Our tour took us through Middletown and Rocky Hill, Connecticut, over to Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and up through Boston and over to South Lancaster, then to Portland, Topsham, and Paris, Maine, back to New Hampshire, with visits to the Hastings place in New Ipswich, the birthplace of Uriah Smith in West Wilton, and the Washington, New Hampshire church for Sabbath, then on to the Miller home and chapel in eastern New York.

We found that Elder Spalding's work, Footprints of the Pioneers, represents careful research over a period of many weeks on his part, and is, as far as we were able to see, in every sense reliable. Elder Spalding points out that the Belden home where the Whites most likely lived and where Edson White was born and the first of the Sabbath conferences was held is the property now owned by the Cupers. The building stands and it was our privilege to take a group of students through this building. For many years we had looked to a smaller building owned by Mr. Kantz, which is the house nearer the highway than the Cuper property. But Spalding's research indicates that it could hardly be the Kantz property. There was a Belden home, between the two properties here named, which burned down some time ago, and some outline of the foundations may still be seen, according to Brother Spalding. But his research indicates that this could not have been the property, for it was conveyed by deed to other than the Beldens prior to 1848. So I have felt quite content to let the matter rest with Elder Spalding's weeks of careful research, and if this is so, the Cuper property is the home in which the Whites lived in 1849, and it was from this point that the Present Truth was started in Middletown. This is on France Street, as you have indicated in your letter.

I mentioned to the Cupers when I was there that a rumor had reached us that the property was to be torn down, and they said that they had never heard anything of that kind. They assured me that they had no intentions of so doing.

Thank you for writing me at length about this matter. I wish that something could be done to assure the preservation of this property.

Yes, I wish you was happy to know that the location of the Nichols home has been spotted. The house, of course, is gone. The Woodrow Wilson school now stands on the land which served as the Nichols' home in Dorchester. It was my privilege to stop by this school on this last trip north. You may be assured, Brother Shankel, that if you have any information that would be of interest to us as we take these seminary students to these historical points throughout New England, we shall be most grateful to you for it.

I am leaving tonight for Australia, where I am to assist in teaching a seminary extension school held at our Avondale school at Coorabong. I am looking forward to this particular assignment, for I have never been to Australia, and it will be a pleasure to spend a couple of months at Avondale, where Sister White lived and worked for so long.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary

ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

ALW/10

Dictated November 25.

We found that Elder Spalding's work, Footprints of the Pioneers, represents careful research over a period of many weeks on his part, and as far as we were able to see, in every sense reliable. Elder Spalding points out that the Belden home where the White's most likely lived and where Edson White was born and the first of the Sabbath conferences was held is the property now owned by the Cupers. The building stands and it was our privilege to take a group of students through this building. For many years we had looked to a smaller building owned by Mr. Kent, which is the house near the highway than the cuper property. But Spalding's research indicates that it would hardly be the Kent's property. There was a Belden home between the two properties here named, which burned down some time ago, and some outline of the foundations may still be seen according to Brother Spalding. But in a research indicates that this could not have been the property, for it was conveyed by deed to other than the Beldens prior to 1848. So I have felt quite content to let the matter rest with Elder Spalding's weeks of careful research, and if this is no, the Cuper property is the home in which the White's lived in 1849, and it was from this point that the present truth was started in Middle-town. This is on France street, as you have indicated in your letter.