His Excellency Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington D.C.

Most Honored Sir:  

On Sept 14, 1836, an ex Vice Pres of the U.S.A. breathed his last in a little hotel on Staten Island, just across New York Bay. He was old, paralyzed and quite helpless and almost alone. Two days later, the body was conveyed to Princeton N.J. escorted by some old friends of the military and the legal professions. After the Rev. Dr. Carnegie, the Pres of Princeton had delivered a splendid sermon, the mortal remains were interred at the feet those of his father and maternal grandfather, former Pres'ts of the College. The ceremonies were concluded with a volley fired over the newly-filled grave by the Mercer Guards. The man was James Monroe and he had at last found release from that vilification as no man in this our country's history had to endure and be it a lasting shame to the Democratic Party. But no clarion voice was raised in the defense of the name and honor of this grand gentleman who together
with Jefferson, built up what is today the Democratic Party.

In the Revolution, serving with Knox, Montgomery, Washington, Putnam, and Musgangall, he was rated one of the most valued officers, with an unblemished record for discipline, gallantry, and initiative. As a lawyer, he was all erudition and logic, and never lost a case. A Senator without reproach, and then as Vice President, that was a glorious page in the history of our young Republic—only as he rose in public office and to fame—did the envious, the malign, the envious, the malign, found in great tribute of the people, a suitable target for all the venom and abuse imaginable—even for these hectic days. The instigator—in-chief was the brilliant, but morbid Federalist Alexander Hamilton, and aided by such degraded creatures like the Englishman, Cheatham, and his ilk, the falsehoods, constantly repeated, came to be believed.

After his dramatic acquittal in 1807 in Richmond of any charges as to his designs on Texas, then a part of Mexico, (and 40 years later, we took it anyway) he sailed to Europe, and the American representatives abroad, to their everlasting shame treated him not as an Ex Vice President, but as one to be avoided. On his return to this country, after 4 years of neglect and extreme poverty, he re-opened his law office in N.Y.C. with very happy results, but notwithstanding his large
income, he was oft 'cleaned out,' as he could never refuse a soul who came to him for help, and he had many such cases every day.

His only child, his beloved daughter Theodoria, the wife of Governor Joseph Alston of S. Carolina had been lost at sea, and his only grandchild, Bason Burr Alston had died—and the his cup was overflowing, he remained the same serene, kindly chivalrous gentleman as of old—but with it all, the slander persisted. What a field day for the Ignorant and the depraved. Always a sensitive being, he shrank from answering the human blabbermouths. His vindication he left to a kinder and more understanding posterity. We are that posterity. Let us in our lifetime—now, right against wrong, and restore the fair name of Bason Burr—unsullied, and placed with those others of our worthy great and noble.

As we approach the 111th year following his passing, the leaders, the heirs of the Burr Jefferson Jackson tradition should honor this great and good man (his tardy) whose fault it was that in statecraft he was so zealous and more ahead of his contemporaries. On the 14th of this month, may eulogies be sung before Baron Burr, (not the one in the Hamilton guide) be delivered in every corner of our land, and pay our humble homage to our martyrred Vice President. We look to our leaders to be in
the forefront in this good fight, a fight dear to the heart of every good American who loves fair play.

The old St. James Hotel in Richmond Terrace, Staten Island (where he died) about 3 years ago had been demolished and a high wooden boarding put up across the length of the front. It is a small plot and were the Government or the City of N. Y. to take it over—it would make a fitting memorial in the form of a little Burr Park beautiful with trees, shrubbery and a statue of the man who was instrumental in electing Tho. Jefferson Field and who years latter started the movement that placed Andrew Jackson in the White House.

It is a privilege to be counted as a fighter in the cause of the man who made the People's cause his own—and with the crusade once under way all the filth, the venom and lies will have been removed, and all true Americans will again read with pride the true history of him who in his own lifetime bore his afflictions in majestic serenity, for he was at all times—

Fearless and just,

Chivalrous and gallant,

Charitable and gentle—

and that was Aaron Burr.

I trust that this will find an echo in your heart as it lies in mine.

I remain with every kindred salutation

most honored Sir,

most respectfully,

Harry Paul Eismann.
September 5, 1947

Respectfully referred to the appropriate officials of the Interior Department for handling.

M. C. LATTA
Executive Clerk
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

September 19, 1947.

Mr. Harry Paul Eiseman,
111 East Grand Street,
Fleetwood,
Mount Vernon, New York.

Dear Mr. Eiseman:

Your letter of September 3 to the President, concerning a memorial park to Aaron Burr, has been referred to this Service for acknowledgment.

We note your suggestion that the site of the old St. James Hotel, Staten Island, be developed as the Burr Park by planting bushes, trees, and erecting a monument to Burr.

We suggest that you bring your proposal to the attention of the City officials of New York. The National Park Service does not have funds to develop such a park as you have in mind.

We enjoyed reading your excellent presentation in behalf of Aaron Burr.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Hillory A. Tolson,
Acting Director.

HEK:1c

cc: Mr. Demaray.
Hon. Hillory A. Tolson
Acting Director
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
Chicago, Ill.: 25, Illinois

Dear Director Tolson:

Acting upon your most welcome suggestion, in my letter of Sept. 1st., (in regard to creating a tiny Aaron Burr Mem. Park on Richmond Terrace, Staten Island), I wrote to his Hon. Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City and await his reply. I find it but just to inform you of matters to date.

With the city taking title to the small plot, could we count upon you to help in a more modest landscaping with a few trees and some shrubbery? The city will supply several benches and a historical sign. (Perhaps the Aaron Burr Assn. of Arlingtn, Virginia) will see to the placing of a tablet with proper inscription. A monument will be added later.

Your help is most earnestly solicited, and will really start the ball rolling.

This little act surely one to a man who in helping others only suffered three ingratitude and foul vilification. So far as I can learn, there is not a street, a town, a country named after Aaron Burr, and were it not for him, Jefferson never would have become President, or Andrew Jackson come to be the occupant of the White House.

Looking forward with glad expectations to your reply, and sincerest thanks for your most kind expressions in your letter of Oct. 19th. Permit me to remain

Yours truly
Harry Paul Edelman.
October 8, 1947.

Mr. Harry Paul Eisman,
111 East Grand Street, Fleetwood,
Mount Vernon, New York.

Dear Mr. Eisman:

We have received your letter of October 3 and are pleased to know that you have found a solution to establishing the Aaron Burr Memorial Park, Staten Island.

We regret that we have neither the authority nor the funds to do the modest landscaping that you propose for the area. Doubtless the City, in taking title to the small plot, would be willing to provide for this modest expenditure, or you may find that some of the garden clubs in Staten Island would be interested in undertaking a project of this nature.

Sincerely yours,

Hillery A. Tolson,
Acting Director.