

*Malvern-Hot Spring County Library
202 East Third Street
Malvern, AR 72104*

November 2, 2004

Hot Spring County Museum Commission
C/O Janis West
12697 Hwy 9
Malvern, AR 72104

Dear Museum Commission,

I am writing to you in regard to the museum lease. After much discussion with Janis and Mr. Gilliam and then again November 1, 2004 with the rest of the board, I wanted to make it perfectly clear as to why we're renewing this lease.

Our files indicate that the lease of the library property that the museum and log cabin are on expired in 1995. The library board has been aware of this, brought to their attention by then librarian Mary Cheatham, after the library fire in 1998. When the legislative audit was done this year, it was again brought to the board's attention. That is when we wrote the first letter dated May 19, 2004 asking for the museum commission to read, sign, and if they agreed, to remit the \$10 for the ten years since the last payment on the lease. We asked the commission to also sign a new lease, which to date, has not been done.

As I have told Janis, Mr. Gilliam, and the museum board yesterday, if there is a different lease, then we need a copy of it for our files. This is the one we have, it survived the fire in a metal file cabinet, and that is what all of our information is based on. We have an intergovernmental agreement with the city and county since the building of the new library. The intergovernmental agreement is based on the property being owned by the library and used for library purposes. We also have a copy of the check from May 1979 where the library purchased the lots with money from an estate left to the library.

It has never been the library board or my intention to stop the museum from being a museum, or even move the museum. If the library does need to expand in the future, the direction of the museum is the only way that it could go. That is what the architect based his drawings and plans on. The board and Friends of the Library have looked at the DeJarnatt property and even if the library purchased that property, it would not allow enough room for a big expansion. The library has no immediate plans for expansion, but at the time the building was built and in long range planning, the direction of the museum was the only way the architect or board could determine we could expand, because that is the property the library owned. This would not mean the museum would have to cease, but looked in to for moving around the corner or somewhere to continue operating as a museum.


I have also explained to all of the museum commission that the board and I did everything we could to build the new library without interfering with the museum. It would have been a lot simpler, and we could have built the library differently, if we had moved the museum at the time of construction of the new library. The renewal of this lease by the board was simply taking care of library matters.

I hope this clarifies our intentions. This is the lease we have on file, the museum and log cabin are on library property purchased with library money, and we need to update the lease for the auditor, board and records. The board and I have always worked to the good of both the library and museum and we would hope that would be the way of the future.

I want to clarify that the library board and librarian would try in every way possible to give the museum commission at least one year's notice before asking the museum to look in to being moved due to library expansion, emergency or for library purposes that may come up.

With all respect, please look again at this lease and either sign the new lease or the board will have to consider the lease expired as of 1995 and proceed from there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Griggs".

Mary Ann Griggs, Librarian