

Ford's Boyhood Home Taken Off Sales Lists

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Aug. 12 (UPI)—The house at 649 Union Street here, which President Ford occupied for seven years after his mother came to Grand Rapids and married Gerald R. Ford Sr., came off the sales lists today on orders from the Veterans Administration.

The V.A. owned the house, which has been vacant for five years in a poor, mostly black neighborhood in the city's Southeast Side. The agency took over the property when the last owner defaulted on his mortgage.

The selling price was \$9,000 plus about \$500 for taxes and insurance. But even that drew no takers. An agent for the V.A. said the only offer it received was \$100.

But the agency said it was taking the house off its sales list to prevent any speculators from buying the three-story, four-bedroom home "and taking advantage of the situation."

A spokesman for the V.A. said that it would like to turn the house over to a historical society or any other interested similar group.

"From a real estate standpoint," a property manager for the V.A.'s local agent said, "it's not a salable neighborhood."

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