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Comment:

The DigiBarn Computer Museum is engaged in an online project to tell the whole 30 year story of personal computing, its culture and people. We have over 50,000 objects on our web site, many of which are "orphaned works" (scans of brochures, photographs, video and audio clips, text, articles, etc) from now defunct firms.

We have a statement on every page on our site offering to remove works if the original copyright holder objects. In 5 years we have never once been challenged about any one of the works on our web site suggesting that a large part of these materials are in fact bona fide orphaned works. However, as professional and amateur historians we could very much utilize a formal definition of what constitutes an orphaned work. This will greatly clarify use of this material and the work of this large group of historians.

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