

JUL 16 1980

PWC-Historic Buildings
(Cloverland)

Krom Co.

History

8-27-70

VA 200



Old Cloverland Mansion, near Thoroughfare

Old House May Be Razed

Cloverland, a clapboard mansion dating back to 1790 or thereabouts, is being considered for razing to make way for a proposed gun club.

Ben T. Rome of Bethesda, present owner of the property, said he is considering tearing down the old house, but that he "is open to suggestions."

One suggestion forwarded by members of the Prince William County Historical Commission was that a renovated Cloverland would be a far finer club house than any new building on the site.

Cloverland is described as being important architectural-ly by W. Brown Morton III, architect for the National Landmarks Program of the National Park Service. He says

it is one of about five or six remaining in Virginia; the type is most handsomely represented by the James Semple house in Colonial Williamsburg.

* * *

Cloverland was built by Charles Carter, a grandson of "King" Carter of Virginia. Both Charles Carter and his son, John, who built nearby Falkland in the early 1800s, are buried on the estate.

A legend attached to the house has it that two ghosts—one benign, one malignant—still occupy Cloverland. The pleasant apparition is a female figure wearing slippers and rustling petticoats. The scary ghost is a male figure, carrying his head under his arm.