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<b>RECORD NO.</b>	<a href="#">VHIR/22/0735</a>
<b>REPORTER</b>	<a href="#">Morton, Susan R.</a>
<b>TITLE</b>	Rockledge : survey report, 1937 July 12 / research made by Susan Rogers Morton. 4 leaves.
<b>NOTE</b>	Map location number: PW162
<b>NOTE</b>	Additional report with same map location number: VHIR/22/0736
<b>NOTE</b>	Class: Home
<b>NOTE</b>	Building date: 1758
<b>NOTE</b>	Builder: John Balladine
<b>NOTE</b>	Building plan: Rectangular
<b>NOTE</b>	Number of stories: 3
<b>NOTE</b>	Building material: Stone
<b>NOTE</b>	Antiques described: China, glassware, pie crust table, Queen Anne's chair, bedroom and kitchen furniture
<b>NOTE</b>	Location: Off Rt. 9, Occoquan.
<b>NOTE</b>	Primary owners: John Balladine, John Semple, Nathan Ellicott, William Janny, F.A. Barnes
<b>NOTE</b>	The house was designed by Nathew Buckland of England, who also designed Gunston Hall and Harwood House in Annapolis, Md. The Ellicotts were Quakers and held many meetings here. The docks and mill are on the river across from the house.
<b>NOTE</b>	Includes description of the antiques, house, interior and site. The springhouse still stands and is in use.
<b>NOTE</b>	Includes abstracts of title.
<b>NOTE</b>	Includes form: Architectural description of buildings called for in 5-A. of Bulletin 3400.
<b>NOTE</b>	Report accompanied by photograph: VHIP/22/0130.
<b>OTHER FORMAT</b>	Also available on microfilm.
<b>ISSUING BODY</b>	This write-up is a part of the Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History.
<b>REPRODUCTION</b>	Computer file. Richmond, Va. : Library of Virginia, 1998. 4 image files.
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<a href="#">Buckland, Mathew.</a>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<a href="#">Ellicott family.</a>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<a href="#">Rockledge (Prince William County, Va. : Dwelling)</a>

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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<a href="#">Abstracts of title -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.</a>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<a href="#">Genealogies -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Ewell, Maud, informant.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Lyon, William, informant.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Selecman, George D., informant.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Barnes, F. A., informant.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Virginia Historical Inventory Project.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">Virginia Conservation Commission. Division of History.</a>
<b>ADDED ENTRY</b>	<a href="#">United States. Works Progress Administration.</a>
<b>LINK FIELD</b>	<a href="http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VHI/html/22/0735.html">http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VHI/html/22/0735.html</a> -- ReportHome Page



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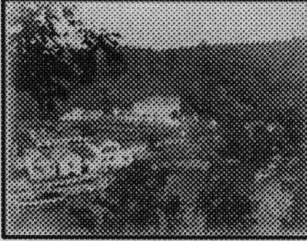
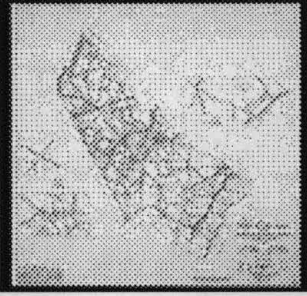
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Rockledge

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**(Prince William County - Dwellings)**

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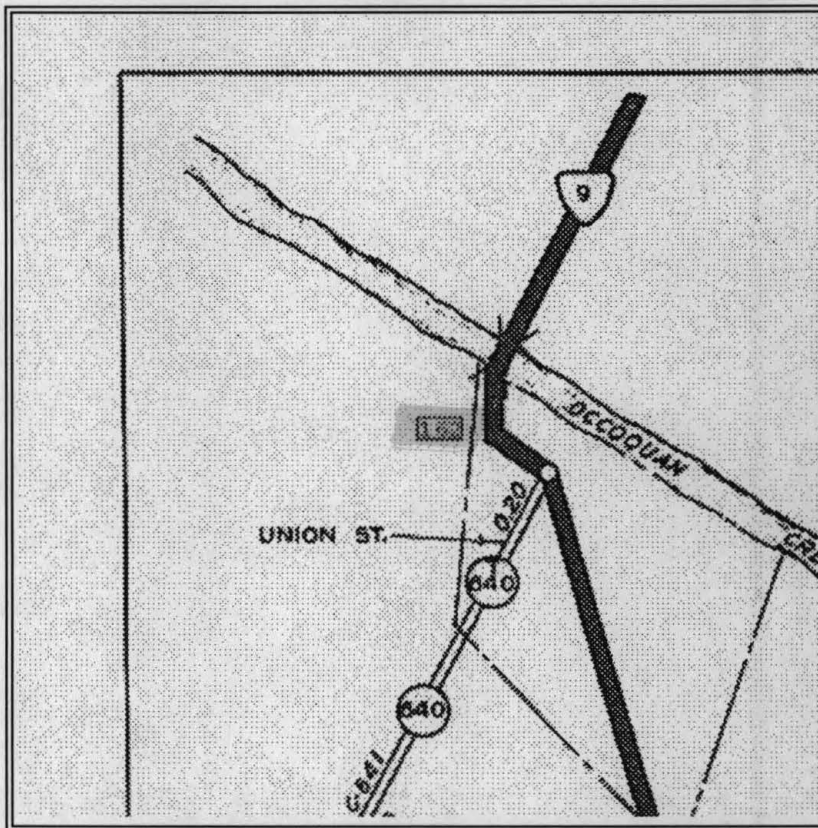
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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA  
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

162

COUNTY: Prince William

GLASS: Home

Photograph

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--- "ROCKLEDGE" ---

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by  
Susan Rogers Morton,  
Haymarket, Virginia.

July 12, 1937

1. SUBJECT:

"Rockledge", "Rockledoe", Balladine Mansion, Semple Mansion, "The House on the Rock", Janny Mansion.

2. LOCATION:

To the west of Route #9, in the village of Occoquan, Virginia 19 miles from Manassas, Virginia, via Route #612, out of Manassas, thence on to Route #662, thence Route #610 a short distance, thence Route #646, thence Route #648, up to the village of Occoquan.

3. DATE:

1758.

4. OWNERS:

Built by John Balladine, it was later sold to John Semple, of Maryland, who took it for a debt. Then Nathan Ellicott bought it, and he sold it to William Janny in whose family it remain for many years. Some time ago it was bought from the Janny heirs by Mr. F. A. Barnes, of Washington, D. C., who uses it as a summer home.

5. DESCRIPTION:

"Rockledge" is built from the plans and under the supervision of Mathew Buckland, a bonded man from England, who also designed Gunston Hall, and the Harwood House, at Annapolis. The house is built directly on a ledge that rises on the west side of the Occoquan River. The cellar was drilled from solid rock, and the back of the house is a wooded hill. To the north is Occoquan Glen, and half a mile up the river is the ruin of the Balladine Iron Furnace, while across the road are the walls of the old flour mill, and the mill house, the latter in good condition still. Also close by are the once famous cotton mill

The doors and much of the wood in "Rockledge" are fastened with wooden pegs, and where nails were used they were shop made. While some of the old glass has been replaced, there is some of the original which is iridescent, and very beautiful. There is much of the old hardware, and in fact there are but few changes since the house was built. Notable is the staircase with the spindles which are set at an angle, and the Sheraton mantel in the room at the north end of the house.

The large old spring house is in good condition, and there is a constant flow of water from the spring which comes from the rocky ledge at the back of the house. This spring also supplies much of the water to the house, and there is a cistern in the yard which was once used for the town's lighting system.

## 6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This old house is so closely woven in the history of the town, and the industries which were such an important part of it that it is difficult to write of the one without touching upon the other.

John Davis, the English novelist, came to Occoquan to tutor the Ellicott children, in 1798-1802, and left a highly interesting account of his sojourn there. Mr. Barnes saw a copy in London recently.

The Ellicotts were Quakers and so were the Jannys, and there were many Friends Meetings held here. There are also the remains of a small Meeting House some little distance away. As the mill and docks are directly across from the house the busy scene that was ever present can be imagined. The house was standing at the time a brick yard trade was common, and large ships came up the river.

The house is filled with beautiful antiques that are in line with the surroundings, lovely china and glassware, a remarkable piecrust table made from one solid piece of mahogany, this was the "Crow's nest", so named from its resemblance to the crow's nest on shipboard. This dates back to 1700 and is in perfect condition.

There is also a fiddle back, Queen Anne's chair with the feet which is really a museum piece. There are four post beds, tester beds and a trundle bed still used. Nearly all have counterpanes which are also old and rare.

In the large kitchen the seven foot fireplace with swing crane and pots still does duty. The owner has a refectory table made, and some fine old chairs which are a perfect match, and cool evenings the meals are eaten before a blazing fire where the cook prepares the food. There are large Dutch ovens also.

## 7. ART:

Photograph

## 8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Miss Maud Ewell, Haymarket, Virginia,  
Mr. William Lyon, Occoquan, Virginia,  
Mr. George D. Selecman, Occoquan, Virginia,  
Mr. F.A. Barnes, Occoquan, Virginia.

Prince William County Court Records.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING CALLED FOR IN  
5-A. of BULLETIN 3400

3686

Name of Building "ROCKLEDGE".

EXTERIOR

- 1. Building Plan Rectangular Cellar (  )
- 2. No. of stories: ( 3 ) Attic classed as 1/2 story.
- 3. Material: Brick ( ) Frame ( ) Stone (  ) Log ( )
- 4. If brick, state what bond: Flemish ( ) English ( ) Common ( ) Other ( )
- 5. Kind of roof: Hip ( ) Gabled (  ) Gambrel ( ) Lean-to ( ) Deck ( )
- 6. If church, describe or draw sketch of roof on reverse side.
- 7. Roof Material: Slate ( ) Shingle (  ) Metal ( ) Tile ( )
- 8. Chimneys: Number ( 4 ) Brick (  ) Stone (  ) Location Ends.
- 9. Weatherboarding: None Beaded ( ) Plain ( )
- 10. Cornices: Plain or Elaborate Elaborate Material Wood
- 11. Windows: Number ( 35 ) Size and number of panes 24 panes, 6x8".
- 12. Shutters: Describe: Solid wooden shutters and slats.
- 13. Dormers: Number, and Shape of roof Six, gabled roof.
- 14. Porch: Front entrance, open porch.
- 15. Type of Entrance: Wide six panel door with transom.
- 16. Columns: Doric ( ) Ionic ( ) Corinthian ( ) Square ( )

INTERIOR

- 17. No. of Rooms: ( 12 ) Large ( 4 ) Small ( 8 ) Approx. ceiling height. 9 ft.
- 18. Stairway: Open String ( ) Closed String ( ) Describe: Three flight, winding stair, spindles three to a step, placed at angle.
- 19. Cellar: Describe One large room, until recently partitioned.
- 20. Doors: Style and type of wood Six panel, hard pine.
- 21. Walls: Panelled, papered or painted Papered.
- 22. Interior Cornices None
- 23. Hardware: Locks and hinges "HL" hinges.