

Ben Lomond



*Draft of the
application*

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 22110

Prince William
Board of County Supervisors
9250 Lee Avenue
Manassas, Va. 22110

Subject: Recommendation to Designate a County Historic District at Ben Lomond

Dear Board Members:

As a result of the on-going survey of historically and architecturally significant sites and structures in Prince William County and ~~because of~~ the uncertainty of the current preservation status and future of Ben Lomond and its accessory buildings, the Prince William County Historical Commission has recommended that ^{the} Ben Lomond ^{be} designated a County historical district. The attachments propose the boundaries of the historic district and provide other facts necessary for ^{your} consideration. The method to accomplish the historic district recognition is historic overlay zoning.

A Prince William County Historical Sites Survey is being conducted by the Northern Va. Planning District Commission under the direction of the Va. Historic Landmarks Commission. ^{Conducting} the survey for over one year has been Frances Jones, an architectural historian. Ms. Jones has designated nearly 600 structures or sites as having historical or architectural significance. Ms. Jones, who works closely with the County Historical Commission, anticipates that by the end of March, 1980, the survey will be about half completed.

During the course of the ^{survey}, several buildings in Prince William County which are threatened with demolition have come to light. Last February, the owners of a small stone accessory building to Ben Lomond announced that this building was located in the area where the owner, ~~a church~~, intended to place a driveway and parking lot for a new church facility, ~~which they have since constructed on the parcel~~. They had purchased the church site five years earlier from the owners of the Ben Lomond tract.

As a result of a request made by the Prince William County Historical Commission to save the building from demolition by moving it, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors appropriated up to \$20,000 to relocate the structure. The owner of the manor parcel adjacent to the church's property allowed the building to be moved to the other side of the Ben Lomond Manor house. The actual move of the building took place recently.

the

save it

A larger issue remains of whether the County is to acquire the Ben Lomond parcel for use as a historical and recreational facility. This question has gone unanswered since 1966 when Robert L. Garner, then the owner, is alleged to have stated, as a condition of the sale to the present owners, that the manor house and its accessory buildings were to be turned over to the County for a historical preservation purpose.

The Historical Commission wants to take positive action toward ensuring the preservation of Ben Lomond and its accessory buildings. The Commission believes it can help achieve this by applying historical zoning at Ben Lomond; therefore, the Commission hopes that the Board of County Supervisors will act immediately to approve this designation. The recent loss of Rockledge in the town of Occoquan to five makes one increasingly aware of the need to preserve the valuable sites still remaining in the County.

The Historical Commission will be pleased to meet with the Board of County Supervisors at any time to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Donald Curtis
Chairman
Prince William County
Historical Commission