

PWC - Historic Buildings
(Ben Lomond)

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

Ben Lomond-Named For a Mountain

By Gladys Bushong

One of Prince William's attractive estates, Ben Lomond, soon will be enveloped by a large subdivision. It will be most fortunate, however, if as has been reported, this estate may be given to The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The name of Ben Lomond, this mansion, was so called for a mountain, located on the east side of the Lake of Loch Lomond in central Scotland. This mountain has a height of 3,192 feet, while the Lake of Loch Lomond is more than 27 square miles. Thus a thought of old Scotland came to Prince William.

Robert "King" Carter, who secured grants of tremendous acreage in this section, as he did in other sections of Virginia, devised to his son, Robert, the greater part of this particular tract, in and around Ben Lomond, of more than 5,000 acres. Part of this tract lay in what is now Fairfax County.

The son, Robert, had one son and two daughters. These became devisees of Robert's inheritance. Robert's son, George, came in for a big slice of acreage in the northern section of the large tract, which in later years comprised four large farms. Namely, "The Commons," formerly the Haydon homeplace; "Portici" for many years the Lewis' farm;

the "Conrad House," given to Mrs. Weir (second wife of William Weir) then later sold to the Conrads; and the fourth large farm was the "Henry House," from which emanated a tragic incident during the War Between the States. During the course of events, the two daughters were generously remembered by their father, Robert. The one received an extensive acreage, enhanced by the mansion "Liberia," which after some years was given to her daughter. Ben Lomond, together with the part which lay in Fairfax County, was bequeathed to the other daughter.

Historically, Ben Lomond probably is best known for its association with episodes during the War Between the States. It was near this place where Colonel Jubal Early led his brigade to strengthen the Confederate lines; it was near this place where the cannon's boom was heard, with the skies being lit by the flames of conflict, and as near to the battlefield as Ben Lomond lay, it could not escape the rumble of artillery, or the ravages which war imposes.

The original house is yet standing and apparently the structure is in good condition. It is believed to date back to the late 1700's. The simplicity of lay-out is revealed in the plan of this place designed by the "King" Carter heirs.

The two-storied house, containing eight or more rooms, together with basement, is constructed of stone, with its pattern following a colonial design similar to the Old Stone House, a few miles distant. The beautiful recessed windows flooding the rooms with light, add charm to the high-ceilinged rooms. Some of the interior has been remodeled for conveniences of the present day, but does not in any way detract from its originality. In fact, the entire building has met with very few changes.

Ben Lomond has, over the passing years, had many different owners. Even as late as 1910, or later, a large apple

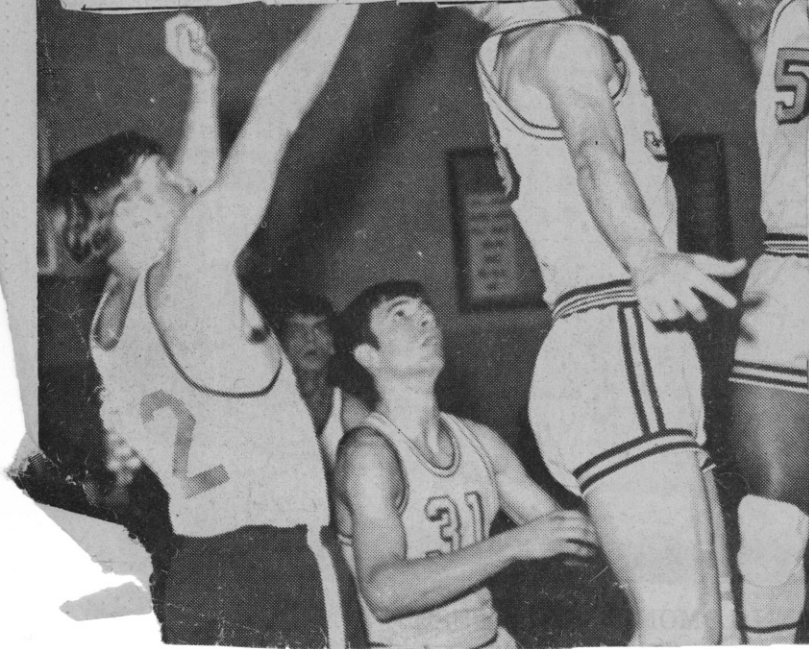
orchard was planted in the field being parallel to Sudley Road--Route #234. Hundreds of trees were planted, and being nurtured for a few years their growth was rapid, but acquiring another owner, the fruit trees were neglected. Later on, the trees were taken out, and the land put into grass. Now the village of West Gate and the new Sudley subdivisions occupy portions of the former apple orchard.

If this old mansion, with ten acres of land around it, should be given to The National Trust for Historic Preservation, it would most assuredly be of great value to Prince William County, and the surrounding community. Its worth to the community is something which could not be estimated.

The following is quoted, in part, from the Fact Sheet of The National Trust:

"The National Trust is the one national private organization chartered by Congress of the United States, directed to encourage participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture. The Trust is not a government agency, and is financed primarily by dues and contributions from its members."

Visit some of these historic places which have been given to the National Trust, and you will perceive untold benefits received by the various communities. Woodlawn, in Fairfax County; Oatlands, in Lou



tin In Scotland

Section C- Sports-Church-Farm

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doun County; Belle Grove, in Frederick County; Woodrow Wilson home in Augusta County, besides many other historical shrines scattered all over the United States.

MANASSAS, VA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1968



THE HISTORIC BEN LOMOND FARMHOUSE

opponent being the valley District Champion.

FINALS BOX SCORE

Osbourn	FG	FT	Total
Goff	10	0	20
Cole	3	1	7
Hess	3	2	8
Wineholt	2	0	4
Pettus	1	0	2
Dyer	2	1	5
Pannell	9	7	25
	30	11	71

Woodbridge	FG	FT	Total
Newton	7	2	16
Jackson	8	12	28
Fortenberry	3	0	6
Cook	3	1	7