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PWC - Historic Buildings  
(Ben Lomond)

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Manassas, Va.



Historic Ben Lomond House at Sudley

# Lomond Wasn't a Person

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There is a joke up at the Ben Lomond Community Center having something to do with Ben Lomond and his brother Loch.

After a diligent research, it turned out that Ben Lomond, which has existed in Manassas for the past two centuries, is not a person, nor ever was. The name is Scottish and refers to a hill (ben) over a lake (loch) called Lomond.

The Pringle family, believed to have been the original owners of the land northeast of Sudley Road, probably named the area after their homeland in Scotland.

Steeped in history, these rolling hills of Northern Virginia were once "Carter country". In 1794, a gentleman known as Robert "King" Carter patented a 6,730-acre expanse of land, called the "Lower Bull Run Tract," which included Ben Lomond.

"King" Carter bought the land originally for his son, who left it to his son, "Councillor" Robert Carter of Nomini Hall.

"Councillor" Carter was a lawyer, as the nickname implies, and had three children, Pricilla, Sarah, and George. He divided his land holdings between them. Sarah, who later married Dr. John Yates Chinn, received the 730-acre tract of land known as Ben Lomond plus a portion which is now in Fairfax County.

It was Sarah Carter Chinn's son, Benjamin Tasker Chinn, who inherited the estate and built the house, which is still standing, in 1837.

In a book called "Prince William, The Story of Its places and Its People," compiled by the Writers Program of the Work Projects Ad-

gabled roof slopes down to an informal portico veranda stretching across the front of its two stories. A large red barn and numerous other outbuildings are set nearby."

The original barn was destroyed by fire in 1924 and another was erected in its place. This new barn served as a landmark—it was the only building in the area at the time and was visible for miles.

In the early 1970's, when plans were being made to destroy the barn and clear the land for development, Patricia White of the West Gate Woman's Club lobbied to save the barn and turn it into a community center.

Richard Metz of the Ben Lomond Community Center said that bids from builders proved it was less costly to build a new barn rather than renovate the old one, and in 1974 the "dream became a reality."

Metz went on to explain that the property the barn is on is owned by the Greater Manassas Sanitary District, while the area behind the house and the outbuilding and up to Stonewall Middle School is school property and

REFERENCE