

Journal Messenger Feb. 21, 1995 HISTORIC SITE FILE BEN LOMOND HOUSE

Efforts begin to restore Lomond Man

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JM Staff Writer

The Ben Lomond Manor House sits across from the Ben Lomond Community Barn on Sudley Manor Drive. Although it's been there for more than 150 years, motorists may unknowingly pass the brick colonial with a history older than the Civil War.

Now, local historians are pushing an effort to give the landmark a facelift.

Prince William County officials have launched campaign to restore the house, beginning with the appointment of a 13-member Ben Lomond Commission. The commission will hold its first annual meeting at 8 p.m. today at the Ben Lomond Community Center.

"The house is the very first effort by Prince William County at historical preservation," says commissioner Martha Hendley.

The house was built in 1837 by Benjamin Chinn who later married Edmonia Carter. The Chinns owned the property during the Civil War, fleeing the scene until the late 1960s. Hendley says the property was traded for land in Washington, D.C.,

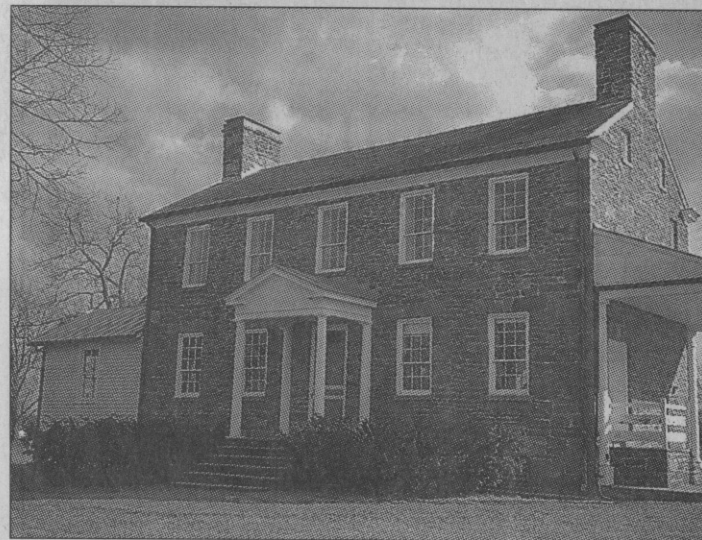
around 1870. Over its history, the property's deed has exchanged several hands, including former Surgeon General of the Navy and personal physician to President Roosevelt, Rear Admiral Presley Rixey.

In 1915, the land was converted to a dairy farm by wealthy industrialist Frederick Bruch. The Bruch family raised dairy cattle, bred horses, and maintained an orchard, Hendley says. The family also constructed the barn where Ben Lomond's Community Center was later modeled.

"Finally, it wound up in the hands of Ridge Development," Hendley says. "They developed the Sudley residential planned community in the early 1970s and donated the Ben Lomond House and 10 acres to the county."

Prince William Park Authority is working with the group to restore the house, particularly the signatures of Civil War soldiers sketched on the walls.

During the First Battle of Manassas, Hendley says the house was converted to a Confederate hospital. As soldiers passed through, they left their marks to be preserved for over a century.



The Ben Lomond Manor House has stood since 1837, c...
tled upon a 2500-acre estate owned by the Chinn fami...
restorative committees are trying to save the Prince...
County monument. (Tammy White, Journal Messenger)

Hendley says the group is work-
ing with an independent contractor
to preserve the writings and original
structure of the home.

"It's going to take support from
the community to get the job done,"
she says. "We need about \$300,000

to do the basic renovat...
house, to put it in shap...
can be used inside."

Preservation groups w...
a Civil War fashion sh...
weekend encampment ar...
display to help raise func...

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