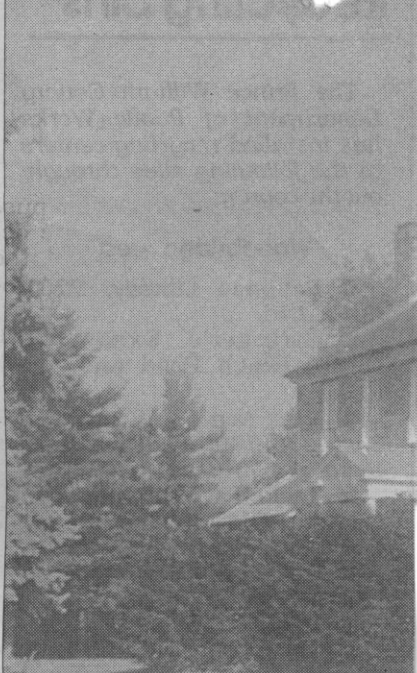


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BEN LOMOND

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Prince William Library

Manassas, Virginia

The Ben Lomond Manor House is

# History of

## Preserve the past to insure the future

By KARI PUGH  
Staff Writer

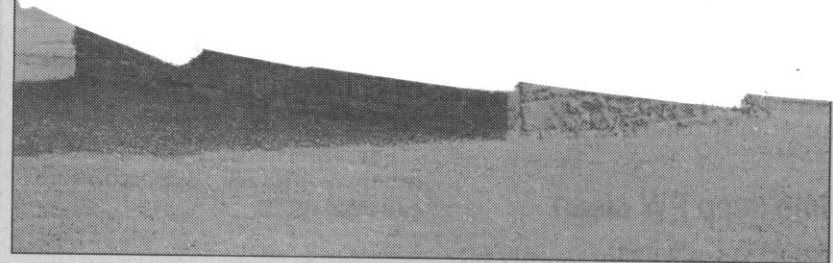
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The Prince William Park Authority, deeded the historical estate 10 years ago by the Ridge Development Corporation, is searching for pictures, letters, biographies and family memorabilia from the people who once lived there.

"The house has a history worth remembering," Park Authority spokeswoman Sharon Cavileer said. "Although architects and historians have been retained, there's something missing if we don't have the character of the house."

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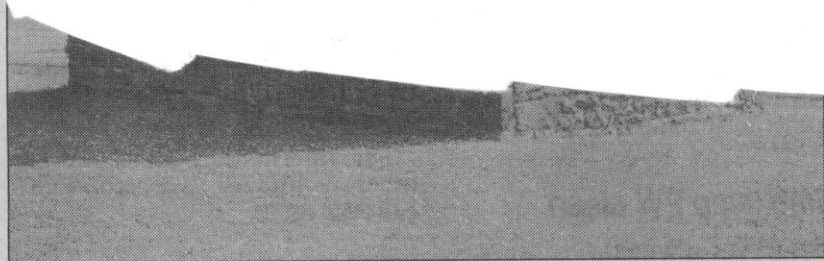
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The company — called Browne, Eichman, Dalglish, Gilpin and Paxton Inc. — has preserved and restored such historic sites as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Sully Plantation in Fairfax, Kenmore in Fredericksburg, the Stonewall Jackson house in Winchester, the Executive Mansion in Richmond and the Massanutten Lodge in Shenandoah National Park. The firm is now working on the Brentsville courthouse.

The firm is also assessing the Ben Lomond house and will soon submit restoration cost estimates to the Park Authority, Cavileer said.

The architects need biographies and remembrances of those who lived and visited the old home.

Benjamin Tasker Chinn built the manor house, on what is now Sudley Manor Drive, in 1837. Until the late 1970s, the house



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was the center of agricultural and social life for a succession of owners.

Other families who lived in the stately manor include William Campbell, John F. Rixey, F.W. Bruch, George B. Harris, Charles C. Lynn, Salomon Costa, Thomas Carey and Robert Garner.

Reportedly built by slaves, the manor boasts two-foot thick

walls of local red sandstone. The house sits about a mile from the Manassas National Battlefield Park and served as a hospital during the battles of first and second Manassas.

Recovering soldiers left graffiti on the walls; others, convinced they wouldn't survive their injuries, scrawled their last wills and testaments.

In the early 1900s, U.S. Congressman John R. Rixey and his cousin Admiral P. Rixey, surgeon general of the U.S. Navy, owned the house. In those days, presidents McKinley and Roosevelt frequented Ben Lomond to hunt quail, pheasant and rabbit in its surrounding fields and forests.

Anyone with letters, journals, family photographs, diaries or any information about Ben Lomond Manor should call the Park Authority at 792-7060.