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## Northern Virginia Planning District Commission

7309 Arlington Blvd. • Falls Church, Virginia 22042 • 703-573-2210

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April 25, 1979

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Tucker Hill  
Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks  
Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Tucker,

Here is the material relating to the Ben Lomond Stone Accessory Building, or alleged slave quarter, we discussed on April 16th, which the congregation of the Westover Baptist Church intends to demolish for its driveway and parking lot. The materials include a survey form, photographs, a quad map and some other information relating to the stone accessory building, which is said to have been both a slave quarters and overseer's house.

In a few days I hope to receive the report on the April 14th field trip to the site when Klein (Alexandria Archeologist) and Wittkofski (VRCA) did a preliminary archeological investigation. Their immediate recommendation was that the site be placed on the National Register for its architectural/historical/archeological significance, based on the comparative rarity of known slave dwellings in Northern Virginia.

Ken Anderson, who is in charge of recording projects at HABS, is interested in doing measured drawings and photographs to document the building prior to its being moved, if that is what will be done. The question, though, is who will pay for HABS' work.

Yesterday, Mrs. Anne Flory, the vice-chairman of the Prince William County Historical Commission, and a very effective speaker and advocate of preservation in the County, went before the Board of Supervisors to request an appropriation of \$18 - \$20,000 for moving the building. (I was also there to answer questions on the building's architecture, history and condition.) At the same time, the matter of the County's acquisition of the adjacent Ben Lomond manor property (which the Park Authority says has been promised to the County since 1970) was raised. The Board will probably begin negotiations to acquire Ben Lomond as a result of the threat to the stone "slave quarters", which, if the County gets its way, may then only need to be moved some 40 feet across the church-manor parcel property line. The Board members expressed interest

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and concern about the building, and said they would visit the site during their lunch break that day. Flory and Park Authority Director H. French think there may be some strong support among the Board members for the building's preservation.

I hope these attempts by the County to acquire Ben Lomond do not deter our getting the present owners' cooperation in nominating Ben Lomond (with the Stone Accessory Building) to the National Register. I think you will agree once you see the manor house, the accessory buildings, and the park-like setting, that it is Register quality.

If you decide to write to Reverend Philley, please mention how much their cooperation in saving the building is appreciated by those concerned. They could have simply torn it down without notifying any of the history groups in the County; no demolition permit would have been required.

Thank you for your help in this problem. I await your instructions.

Sincerely yours,

*Frances*

Frances Jones  
Architectural Historian/  
Surveyor

P.S. The Church has agreed to delay indefinitely putting in the driveway so as to give the County time to arrange for the building's preservation.

FJ:eas  
Enclosures