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## Northern Virginia Planning District Commission



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

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May 17, 1979

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Mr. Jeff Middlebrooks  
Director of Planning  
Prince William County  
9250 Lee Avenue  
Manassas, VA 22110

Dear Jeff:

On Tuesday, May 15, 1979, two well-known house movers in the area, William B. Patram and Francis I. Gerrick, examined the small (18' x 23') stone accessory building of Ben Lomond, located in the Sudley subdivision to estimate the cost of moving the building to each of several alternative locations. The building is currently threatened with demolition, as you know, by the Westover Baptist Church, whose proposed driveway and parking lot entrance are projected to cut through the accessory building, which was built in the early 19th century and is traditionally thought to have been used as a slave quarters, and prior to that, as an overseer's house.

At the instigation of the County Board of Supervisors, these movers were invited to provide estimates of the cost of moving the building off the Church's property, 1) about 50 feet to the west to the Ben Lomond house property, or 2) across Sudley Manor Drive to a spot beside the county-owned Ben Lomond Community Center. (During the site examination, Mr. Patram suggested that the building be moved even closer to the "manor" house, and added that this would not increase the cost of the move.)

Mr. Patram (address: P.O. Box 70, Fairfax, Va., tel: 703-273-5920) estimated that it would cost \$25,000 to move the building. He also said that, according to his work schedule, he would be available to move the building no sooner than mid-July.

Mr. Gerrick, (address: Littlestown, Pa., tel: 717-359-5011 or 717-359-5187) whom I met at the site later during the day, said that he would prepare a written estimate and mail it to me, so that it would arrive before next Tuesday's Board meeting. Gerrick would also not be available until mid-July at the earliest.

In connection with the possible move of the "slave quarters" to the Ben Lomond "manor" property, I have so far been unable to

*Strengthening Local Government*



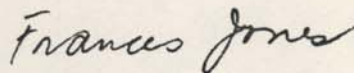
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reach Ken Thompson to ask whether they will accept the building on the manor property.

There is also the question of the recommended archeological work, which, if it is going to occur, should take place before the church begins to build, because the church may immediately want to cut through an area behind the house which was strongly suggested for archeological excavation. (The archeologists, Wittkofski and Klein, felt that this area could contain potentially yielding trash pits or refuse dumps, and they recommended "trenching" in this location.) Volunteers from the Northern Virginia Archeology Society may be available to do the excavating.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Jones".

Frances Jones  
Architectural Historian/Surveyor

FJ:cae