

Buckland proposed as state historic district

From staff reports

A proposal to make tiny Buckland in western Prince William a state historic district will be the subject of a public hearing Wednesday.

If the proposal is approved, the community near the intersection of Va. 15 and Va. 29 will become Prince William's second historical district on the state register.

Buckland, a community of 19th century homes, a tavern and a church, would join a portion of the town of Occoquan now designated a historic district, said Margaret Peters, a representative of the Division of Historic Landmarks of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources.

The division will hear comments on the nomination at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Police Head-

quarters Training Room at 9319 Mosby Street.

Before the public hearing, the director of the Division of Historic Landmarks, Bryan Mitchell, will make a presentation on the state's historic preservation program. Shirley Maxwell of the National Preservation Institute will show slides and discuss the history and architecture of the community.

If a state review board decides at its Dec. 8 meeting to put Buckland on the Virginia Landmarks Register, the community will automatically be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic district status will allow the Division of Historic Landmarks to review all federally funded projects that would affect the district.

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors may also de-

cide to put Buckland in a historical overlay zoning district, which would require a special permit to be obtained by anyone planning to tear down or alter buildings in the district.

The county Historical Commission identified Buckland as a candidate for historic district status several years ago, Historical Commission member and Buckland resident Rose Hazel said.

The county planning department surveyed historic sites in the community with a \$21,000 matching grant from the Division of Historic Landmarks, Ms. Peters said. The planning department then prepared the nomination with the help of the National Preservation Institute, a private consulting firm, Ms. Peters said.

Buckland developed as a com-

munity in the late 1700s around a flour mill and a woolen mill.

The General Assembly established Buckland as a town in 1789. In August 1862, Union soldiers seized Buckland Mills. President Theodore Roosevelt later added to Buckland's fame by stopping at the hamlet to water his horses after a grueling 90-mile ride he undertook as a test of physical fitness.

Among its structures of historic interest is Buckland Hall, a large whitewashed stone house sheltered by maple and locust trees. The place was named Tranquility by the owners, a family named Love.

Other historic buildings include a mill, miller's house, tavern, church and several homes and estates.

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