

BULL RUN REG LIB

BUCKLAND

Historic hamlet has only 8 homes

By CHRISTINE RIEDEL
of the Potomac News

BUCKLAND—This cluster of homes straddling U.S. 29 used to be a watering hole for weary and sometimes famous travelers.

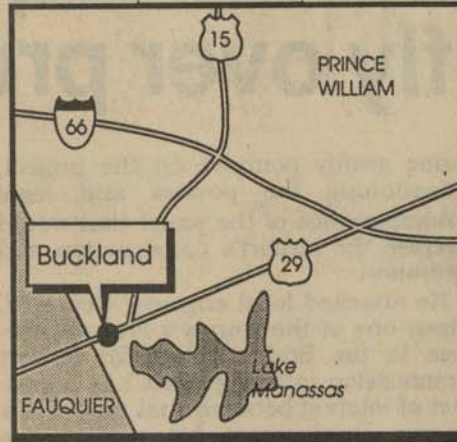
Most of Buckland's homes were built in the early 1800s and have survived some of the most tumultuous times in the county's history. At least half are on state and national registers of historic places and the historic backdrop is part of what makes living in the village in the western corner of Prince William County enjoyable, residents say.

"It has some aesthetic value," said Tom Ashe, an antiques buff who has lived in the hamlet for 15 years. "It's just something about the town. I just like the quiet neighbors and the little babbling brook."

Buckland was declared a town in 1798 by the Virginia General Assembly. In its early years, a woolen mill was the source of the town's livelihood. It was later replaced by a grist mill.

In the spring of 1825, Marquis de Lafayette, the French general who helped Americans fight for their independence, stopped at the town's tavern on his way to visit the home of former President James Monroe. Travelers would stop at the tavern to water their horses, eat a meal and then sleep in their wagons because the tavern had no rooms, Prince William history books say.

Almost 40 years later, another gen-



At home

eral swept through Buckland on a less pleasant mission. In October of 1863, Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and his troops chased Union soldiers through the town, eventually capturing 250 prisoners elsewhere in the county.

Ashe now lives in the old tavern, which he said was constructed sometime before 1825 by an unknown builder.

"I'm very comfortable living here. My furniture is in keeping with that vintage," he said.

Just a stone's throw down the road is Ashe's daughter's house. It used to be the home to John Trone, a preacher and blacksmith who reportedly refused



By Steve Davis-Potomac News

Buckland resident Tom Ashe stands near one of the town's eight homes.

to shoe the horse of a Union officer. And, just south of U.S. 29 lies Buckland Hall, an imposing, two-story stone structure thought to have been designed by William Buckland, who also designed Gunston Hall in Fairfax County, the Colonial home of George Mason.

"Buckland's a beautiful home site," said Herbert Gundelsheimer of Sentry Realty in Gainesville.

Houses around Buckland sell for between \$150,000 and \$200,000, he said. But few of the historic homes have been on the market, he added.

One of the town's more recent sales took place about two years ago, when Ashe bought the old church that lies diagonally across the street from his home. He hopes to have a congregation using the 125-year-old structure this summer, he said.