

Old Tavern's Restoration Considered

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JM Staff Writer

The Prince William Historical Commission is exploring ways to preserve Buckland Tavern for posterity. The gray stone structure, which stands poised on Routes 29-211 at Buckland near the Fauquier County line, is said to have been the scene of a gala turnout when General Marquis De Lafayette passed that way in 1825.

As the story goes, little girls strewed flowers in his path and ladies presented him with poems written in his honor and he was entertained at Buckland Tavern.

"Prince William: Its People and Its Places," a book of local history, characterizes Buckland Tavern as "a building of plastered stone lengthened at the rear by a frame wing standing unsteadily two stories above a high basement."

R. J. Ratcliffe, Prince William County Historian, says that Buckland was a "wagoneers" tavern. It had no sleeping rooms, but did serve meals. Persons hauling groceries back and forth along what was known in those days as the Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike would stop to water and feed their horses, then eat in the tavern, and then return to their wagons to sleep for the night before traveling on.

Ratcliffe related that a French officer, aide to Lafayette, recorded in his diary that he lost a medal during the entourage's respite at Buckland. The diary describes the medal in detail, Ratcliffe said, and peculiarly in 1925, a hundred years after Lafayette's reported visit, the medal was found.

Ratcliffe says he has never seen the medal, but it was recovered by a Will Jordon, a relative of the Haymarket postmaster.

The Historical Commission meets tonight, but Mrs. Sue Coe, who has proposed that the Commission explore ways of preserving the tavern, says it will be at least two weeks before a progress report can be made.



Bennie Scarton Jr. - The Journal Messenger

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VA PR WM CO - HISTORIC PLACES
TM 11-13-73

The Historic Buckland Tavern on Route 29-211 May Be Restored

VIRGINIANA FILE JUL 16 1980

PWC - Historic Buildings
(Buckland Tavern)

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

REFERENCE

Old Tavern

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Both Ratcliffe and Mrs. Coe have suggested that one step toward preservation of the tavern could be historical zoning for the entire tiny town of Buckland.

Historic zoning is a fairly new category, added to Prince William's zoning ordinance about two years ago. At present, no land in the county has been placed in this category. The zoning classification was developed by the planning office at the Historical Commission's request in order to prohibit the demolition of historic structures or desecration of those placed in the classification.

John Love, a mill owner, laid out Buckland as an inland town in 1796 and in 1798 Virginia's legislature decreed a town be established there "by name of Buckland." Buckland is not now among the county's six incorporated towns, but sleeps by the side of the road waiting to be awakened from its historical past.