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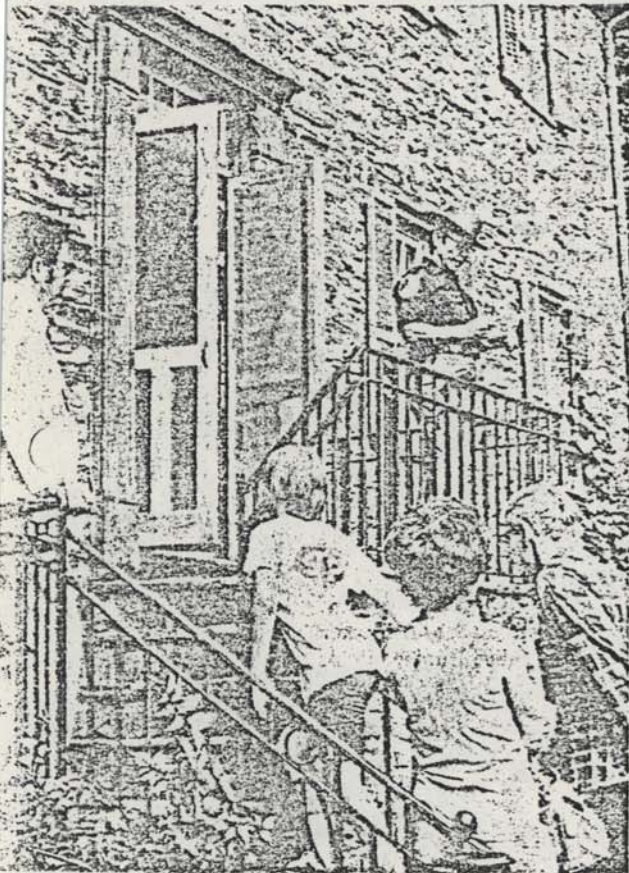
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THE FAUQUIER DEMOCRAT  
Warrenton, Va.

AUG 28 1975

Buckland Tavern  
Bruce Wm Co.

## The Countryside



NOTICE of public auction of Buckland Tavern is read by Sheriff John T. Rollins. Thomas Beane, court-appointed attorney for the former owner, is at the left. The tavern was sold to pay the nursing home bills of the former owner, Grace Bear.

The Fauquier Democrat, Warrenton, Va. A-7  
Thursday, August 28, 1975



—Democrat Staff Photos By Ellie Hamer

POTENTIAL BIDDERS inspect Buckland Tavern Monday before its sale at auction. The historic building went to Thomas J. Ashe Jr., an antique dealer from Cheverly, Md., for \$41,150.



## Buckland Tavern Sold At Auction

Historic Buckland Tavern was sold Monday morning at auction for \$41,150.

Prince William County Sheriff John T. Rollins began the sale at the tavern site between Gainesville and New Baltimore on Rt. 29-211 with a statement that "nothing is guaranteed to be in working order," and opened the bidding.

Thomas J. Ashe Jr., an antique dealer from Cheverly, Md., placed the highest bid to end the 10-minute sale. A crowd of about 250 came to watch.

Ashe has known for some time about the existence of the historic house but he did not know until he saw an article in a Washington newspaper Sunday that it would be offered in sale.

He plans to restore the building and "if it's agreeable to the people here, to the community," he will open an antique shop on the premises. Such a shop presently exists opposite the old tavern.

He says it is possible he may live in the building, if the antique shop becomes a reality. He acknowledges that "everything has to be replaced," starting with the roof.

Dorothy Abbott, secretary to circuit court judges in Manassas, competed to the end with Ashe. She wanted to see the building become a tearoom and, failing that, would have gone to the county for assistance in restoring it as an historic building. "At least I had a dream," said the second highest bidder.

A bidder for the Prince William County Historical Commission went as high as \$32,500, the top price authorized for her to purchase the tavern. Susan Coe said the commission had hoped to restore it and open it to the public.

The house was sold with about one eighth of an acre. The property used to be larger, but four-laning of Rts. 29-211 cut into the original tract. The drainfields of the house are said to lie under the highway now.

Sheriff Rollins, the auctioneer, said he had estimated a sale price at \$40,000 before bidding started. The sum will be used to pay the Manassas nursing home bills of the former owner, Mrs. Grace Bear.

She was not present at the auction. According to Abbott, Mrs. Bear's health is so poor that she was unaware of the sale. Thomas Beane, a Manassas attorney appointed by the court to oversee her financial affairs, represented her.

The fieldstone tavern, situated on a bank of Broad Run Creek, was purchased by Mrs. Bear about 35 years ago. She restored it and lived in it until five years ago when ill health forced her to move to the nursing home. The age of the building is not known.

The Marquis de Lafayette stopped at Buckland in August of 1825. Printed accounts tell of little girls strewing flowers in his path to the tavern where he was entertained.

At that time wagoners transporting foodstuffs and

other supplies along the Warrenton-Alexandria pike would stop to feed and water their horses, eat in the tavern and sleep in their wagons at night before resuming their journey.

During the Civil War it was used as a field hospital for the battles of Bull Run and Gainesville. A doctor's office was located across the road at the time.