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Planning District Commission



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Ms. Debbie LeClair
Commanding Officer, Chesapeake Division
NAFAC
Bldg. 57
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374

Attn: Code 2020

Dear Ms. LeClair:

The enclosed clipping from the Washington Post, 30 July 1979, describes Chopawamsic Island, which the owners Mr. & Mrs. Fry have for sale, and about which you called me today. According to the article, there originally were seven houses on the island, some of them possibly dating to the 1600's, but only three of them were saved and restored--the main house, a caretaker's house, and a guest house. I do not know the source of Mrs. Fry's information that the island was a stopping place for river travelers in the 1600's.

You will note that Dr. Fry has a collection of arrowheads from the island, which he believes was home of the Chopawamsic Indians. It would be worth an archeologist's time to inspect the artifacts and survey the island for possible Indian sites before the island is sold and possibly developed.

The agent handling the sale of this property for Key Properties is Bob Lewis (tel: 703-550-9680). As I said on the telephone, he visits the island regularly and would be willing to take anyone along (for a serious purpose naturally) with him on one of his trips.

As I understand, the Navy is preparing a comprehensive plan for the Quantico Marine Base, off which Chopawamsic Island is located, and would like to know about any and all properties of historic significance on and in the immediate vicinity of the Base. In addition to the Marine Corps Museum's Director Col. John Greenwood, Ren Conner, the Director of the Manassas Museum and a local historian (tel: 703-368-1873), may have information on known historic sites on the Quantico Base.

As I told you on the telephone, the island, though included in Prince William on the U.S.G.S. map (Quad. Quantico), is assessed in Stafford County. For that reason, I have not visited the island to survey and record its historical sites, but since the interest in the island's cultural resources seems to be peaking, perhaps as a result of a rumor that the island may be purchased by a foreign national, a visit now may be in order, despite the fact that it may not be actually located in Prince William County.

If you have any questions about what we have discussed, please call me.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Jones
Frances Jones
Architectural Historian

FJ/jh

cc: Tucker Hill, Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks
Commission
Alan Outlaw, Director, Virginia Research Center for Archeology

6/21

Chapawamisc Island 21 acres
up for sale for \$800,000

Morning Brk
686-6160

1 house pre-Civil War - 3 bedrooms
2 other old structures

caretakers house - 1 bedr.
guest house - 2 bedr.

3 structures demolished.

Realtor

Bob Lewis
c/o Key Props.
550-9680

13410 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Woodbridge, Va. Pat Collins.
22191.

Dr. + Mrs. Foye
owned it 20+ yrs.

Indians lived there
arrowheads + other indian relics.

on the Stafford County Tax rolls

Herb Gibson 9/12

Chopawamsic Island. formed at the delta of Chopy.

Creek emptied there once.

creek was rerouted when the airfield
was built.