



GRACE CHAPEL

May 2, 1974

Mr. Calder C. Loth
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Va. 23219

Dear Mr. Loth:

Recently I was in contact with Mr. John Lewis, Northern Virginia Representative of the Virginia Historical Landmarks Commission. He advised me to write to you concerning the possibility of having Grace Chapel placed on the Virginia State Register and also of the possibility of the Committee for the Preservation of Grace Chapel receiving matching funds from the Landmarks Commission.

I am enclosing a history of the chapel, local newspaper articles, a copy of a letter written by a representative of the Prince William County Historical Commission, and snapshots showing the present condition of the chapel and the urgency of the committee's need. There are also snapshots taken on our grounds clean-up day.

These enclosures reveal that Grace Chapel is of historic importance. Also revealed is the fact that restoration on the chapel must start immediately in order to save it from further deterioration. A part of the foundation has fallen away, there is damage to the roof and the right side is about to collapse.

In order to start restoration, the Committee for the Preservation of Grace Chapel needs funds. The parent church, understandably, is unwilling for us to start work until funding is in hand. We have received two informal estimates from contractors for the work—one for \$9,000 and one for \$10,000. Once we are assured of funding, we would solicit formal bids for the restoration, and work would be carried out under the guidance of the architect for the Prince William County Historical Commission.

There is wide-spread interest in the restoration of Grace Chapel. The committee has received a \$2,000 grant from a historic foundation in Penna., the Ruritan Club of the area has given evidence of its support, the Town and Country Garden Club has offered its support to the landscaping and gardening, and the Cub Scouts have been active in the grounds clean-up. There is, however, some limitation on our solicitation of funds, because the chapel, being the property of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Haymarket, must by deed remain the property of the church.

Upon completion of the restoration, it is anticipated that in addition to its use as a house of worship, the chapel could be used as a gathering place for civic activities of the community. Physically it is located in a rapidly developing area of the county.

The Committee for the Preservation of Grace Chapel has been given continuing responsibility to see that the chapel does not again fall into disrepair.

If Grace Chapel should be able to be placed on the State Register and to receive matching funds, your favorable consideration would be gratefully received. The historical chapel has been attended by many of Prince William County's old and prominent families, and the committee feels that it would be a tragic mistake for it to slip away among the lost pages of history.

We respectfully await your reply, hoping that it will be favorable.

no answer from VHLC

Sincerely yours,

Janet
Mrs. Ray N. Newcomb

Mrs. Ray N. Newcomb, Chairman
Committee for the Preservation of Grace Chapel

refused in 1976

Enclosures

Mail Address
2106 Youngs Drive
Haymarket, Virginia 22069

703-754-7517

*her sister is owner of
McCormick House — MR house?*

wants a plaque.

Mrs. Cobb ~~754-626~~ 754-4924

*see Francis Watson - rel. of King Carter.
Ravenwood antiques.*