

Miller's office turned into museum

By LINDA PARFITT
for the Potomac News

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OCOQUAN — Hardly a new kid on the block, the Mill House Museum has stood the test of time since it was built in the 1700s.

Located at the end of Mill Street in Occoquan, the one-room museum and its grounds are owned by the Fairfax County Water Authority. The museum itself is run by Historic Occoquan Inc.

Places

Originally, the building was used as an office by the owner of a nearby flour and grist mill. The mill itself was destroyed in 1924 by fire.

Mill House Museum greets about 1,000 visitors every month in the peak seasons of summer and early fall when Occoquan Days are in full swing.

There is no admission charged to view the collection of artifacts, some of which date back to the Civil War. All of the pieces housed in three large showcases were donated by local residents.

Photographs line the museum's walls, depicting Occoquan in its earlier days; one dates back to 1875.

Also on display is a large quilt made by several of the town's long-time residents. Each square shows a picture of a town landmark or structure that still stands. This pictorial piece took a blue ribbon in Woodlawn Plantation's 1980 Quilt Competition and Exhibition.

A docent can show visitors two slide shows upon request, and several pamphlets about the town are free for the asking.

A bookcase inside the door of the mu-



By Steve Davis-Potomac News

The Mill House Museum displays artifacts dating back to the Civil War.

seum holds souvenirs and mementos for sale, including post and note cards, salt and pepper shakers, a cookbook and coffee mugs embossed with pictures of Rockledge, the mansion across the street from the museum. Now a privately owned bed and breakfast, the fieldstone home was designed by William Buckland, the English architect who designed Gunston Hall in Fairfax County.

In order to fend off the curious fingers of children who visit the museum daily, there is a table filled touchable "what-nots" of old.

The museum opens at 11 a.m. and closes at the same time that most of the small shops in Occoquan do — 4 p.m. Visitors are welcome daily, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Mill House Museum

**Prince William Library
Manassas, Virginia**