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June 3, 1981

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Niedernhofer
11508 Park Gate Drive
Nokesville, Va. 22123

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Niedernhofer:

This office, with the cooperation of the Prince William County Historical Commission, is conducting a comprehensive architectural and historical sites survey in Prince William County. The survey, which is partly funded by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, is nearing completion. To date, we have recorded over 375 structures and sites in the County having architectural or historic interest.

We would like to include your house Park Gate in the survey. As the surveyor, I am currently working in the Nokesville-Aden area and would like to arrange to photograph your house sometime in the near future, at your convenience. I am aware that a representative from the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission visited the house in 1976 to determine whether it may be eligible for the National Register. Since Mr. Upton measured the house then, it should not be necessary for me to do that again.

Please telephone me at (703) 573-2210 or write to the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission address so that we can arrange for me to see Park Gate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Jones

Frances Jones, Architectural
Historian/Surveyor

FJ:bf

Strengthening Local Government

file: Park Gate,
Prince William Co

11508 Park Gate Drive
Nokesville, Virginia 22123
June 1, 1976

Mr. Tucker Hill, Assistant Director
State Historic Preservation Office
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Hill:

I would appreciate your consideration of Park Gate for nomination to the Virginia Landmarks Register. I feel that Park Gate is a highly qualified candidate for registry due to the following:

1. Park Gate is one of the older homes in Prince William County. Historians¹ have dated it as being built about 1750 or earlier. It must have been a magnificent home in its pioneer surroundings.
2. The prominence of its early owners. Sources² have listed it as being built by Daniel Carrol Brent on part of the Brent Dividend. Thomas Lee (1758 - 1805), eldest son of Richard Henry Lee (Signer of the Declaration of Independence) purchased Park Gate from the Brents in the late 1700's. Thomas Lee's wife was Mildred Washington, niece of George Washington. Col. John M. Washington (? - 1854), grand-nephew of George, was one of the subsequent owners. Thomas Lee, his wife Mildred Washington Lee, and infant are buried in a cemetery on the property. (See Thomas Lee's will, copy enclosed).
3. Park Gate is architecturally fascinating.
4. The inside structure is unique.
5. There is a slave quarters to the rear of the main house.

I realize that historical dating is difficult. However, the construction and the materials used support that Park Gate was built in the early 1700's. Relatively few alterations were made over the years.

Page 2 Park Gate

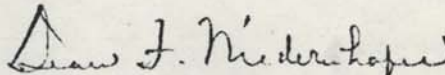
To assist in your research, I have enclosed copies of the deeds and wills which trace Park Gate to 1827. We are stymied at this date. Thomas Lee, Daniel Carrol Brent, and several other Brents are mentioned in the 1827 document, but subsequent checks in the deed and will books in Prince William County do not show direct passage of the property. No doubt an executor is involved and further research is necessary to confirm the early ownerships. We are hopeful that we can find when Park Gate was built.

Restoration is under way. We are planning to restore as authentically as possible. I am photographing extensively to record all the features.

I appreciate Del Upton's visit. I hope it was as beneficial to your organization as it was to me.

Thanks for your help and advice.

Sincerely,


Dean F. Niedernhofer

Footnotes:

- 1 - Northern Virginia Heritage - Templeman & Netherton - 1971, page 186.
- 2 - Prince William - The Story of Its People and Its Places - WPA in Virginia - 1941, pages 154-5

Enclosures