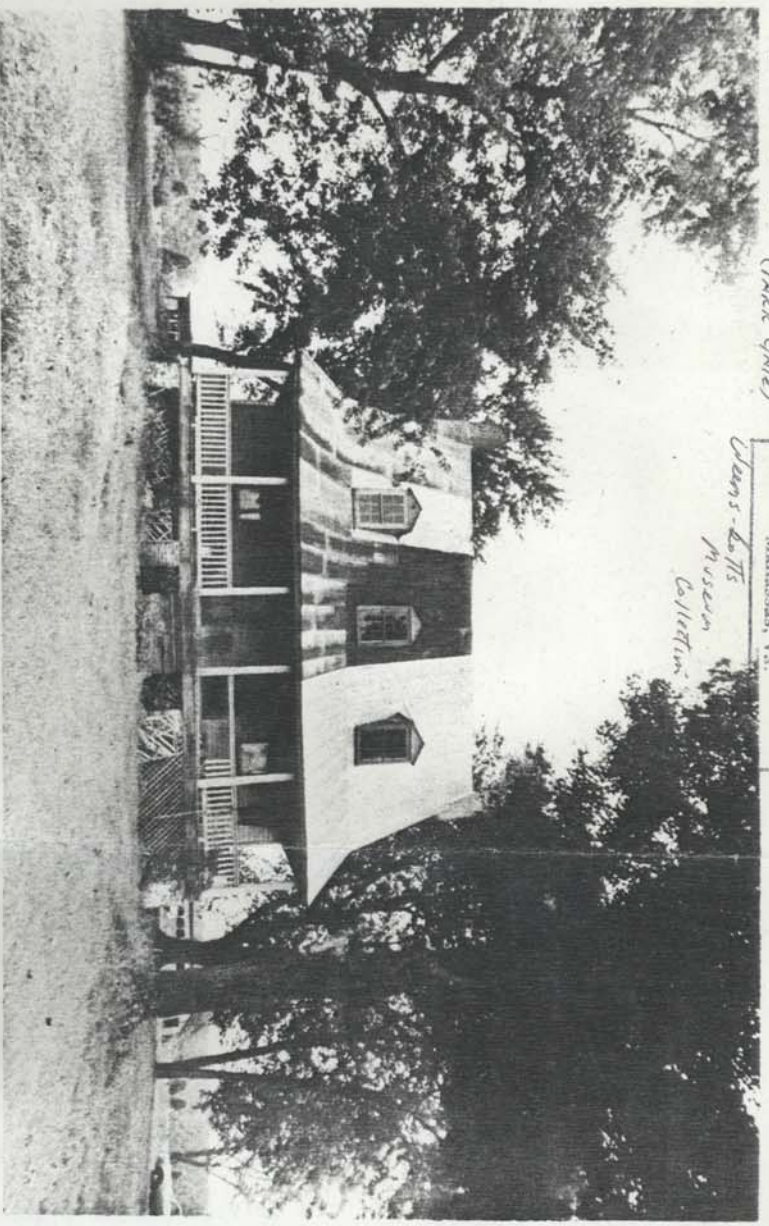


Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

Chans-Boyle
Museum
Collection



Park Gate - built in 1750 - is up for sale

**Just
musing**
with
Marilyn Muse

POTOMAC NEWS, Wednesday, September 19, 1973.

Park Gate mansion - one of the oldies

An old photograph, taken by a traveling photographer, shows how Park Gate looked in its hey day. The photograph still hangs in the parlor although the parlor, now, has a gaping hole in the ceiling and the old wallpaper has peeled off much of the walls.

Renel Liskey, who is part-owner of Park Gate, says he'll keep the antique photograph until the day he dies.

Its People and Places, also verifies that Mrs. Lee is buried there. Before moving to Park Gate, Thomas Lee (1758-1803) had lived in Dumfries where he practiced law and in several cases acted as special attorney for the Commonwealth.

Liskey currently has Park Gate up for sale along with the 7 1/2 acres he owns. The other half of the property is owned by his sister-in-law, wife of his late brother. That half of the property includes the graveyard and old barn.

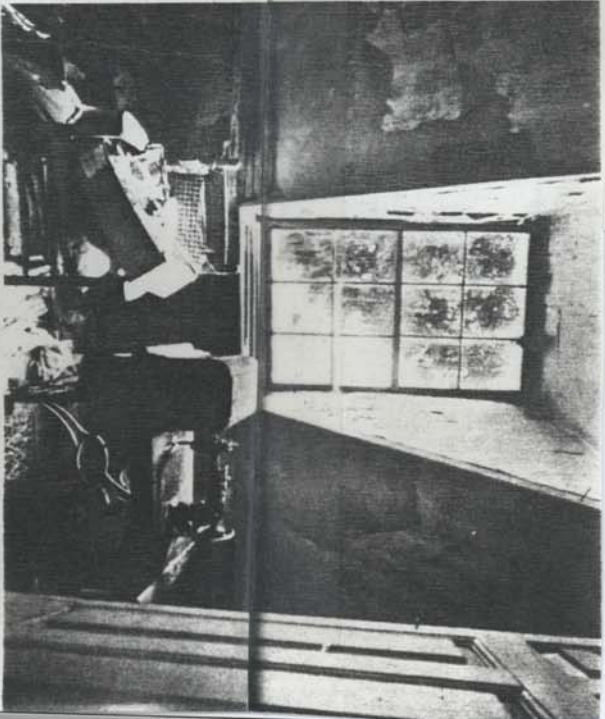
On Renel Liskey's land, is the chicken house, where Liskey still raises chickens, when not working at Prince

recently partially replaced. The steep gable-roof breaks out, lean-to style, over the front veranda and the rear extension. Rails in the front porch have long ago given way but the old stone front steps are still there.

A maple tree, during a fierce storm, fell over the house and damaged the ceiling in the home's parlor. Fireplaces are in every room of the eight-room house and the original wainscoting and overmantels still grace many of them.

Another feature of the house, is the three dormer windows set in each roof surface between the huge locust trees, once abundant at the house but the Liskeys replaced them with maples.

"Those thorns were awful hard on your feet," remembered Renel Liskey.



Old Singer machine waits to be used in bedroom

has peeled off much of the walls.

Reuel Liskey, who is part-owner of Park Gate, says he'll keep the antique photograph until the day he dies.

Liskey grew up at Park Gate, at Nokesville, which is said to have been built in 1750, making it one of Prince William's oldest homes. It was the plantation of Thomas Lee and his wife, Mildred Washington, a niece of George Washington. Mrs. Lee is said to be buried in the graveyard on the farm.

"They say there are some Washingtons buried there but I've never been able to find any of the tombstones, said Liskey who lives alone in the mansion in a back room which was added on years later to the home. Some of the Washington women came here years ago to look at it, they said their descendants were buried here."

The book, Prince William,

the commonwealth.

Liskey currently has Park Gate up for sale along with the 70 acres he owns. The other half of the property is owned by his sister-in-law, wife of his late brother. That half of the property includes the graveyard and old barn.

On Reuel Liskey's land is the chicken house, where Liskey still raises chickens, when not working at Prince William Hospital. Near-by, too, is an old cabin with old brick fireplace which is believed to be the old slave quarters. During a recent storm, the second story of the cabin was destroyed but the fireplace is still intact as is the first floor.

The main house, which Liskey admits needs "a lot of work and money", is of brick and frame home. The paint is fading but it can be seen that the home was once cream yellow.

The home has an unusual roof, which Liskey just

fierce storm, fell over the house and damaged the ceiling in the home's parlor. Fireplaces are in every room of the eight-room house and the original wainscoting and overmantels still grace many of them.

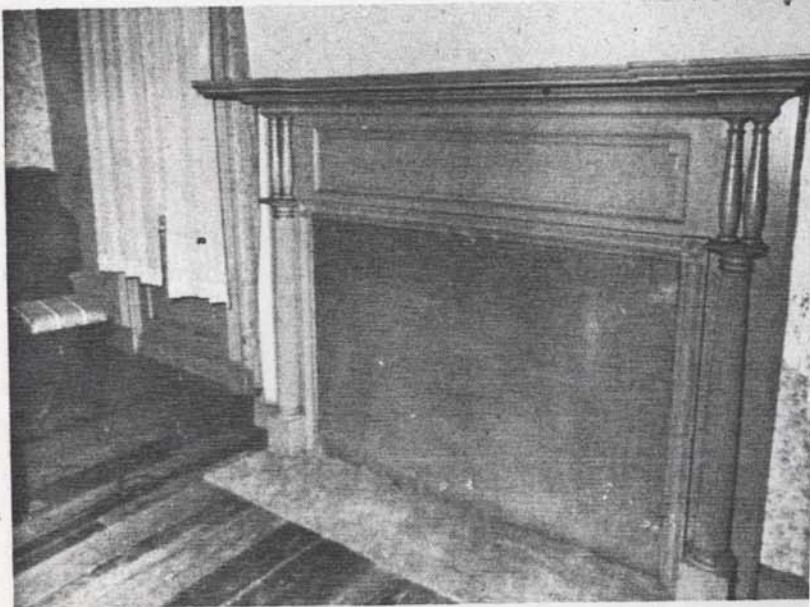
Another feature of the house, is the three dormer windows set in each roof surface between the huge brick chimneys at each end. In the basement, one can see the ax marks on the hand-hewn beams.

Park Gate is situated on Park Gate Drive, which was named after the old horse and is surrounded by what were once flourishing dairy farms. Park Gate was never a dairy farm but Liskey manages to cut a little hay and plant some corn.

The farms which surround Park Gate were once part of the original estate which number almost



Building is thought to be slave quarters



Fireplace in parlor has original mantel