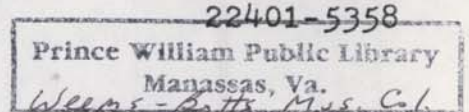


Mary Washington College Center for Historic Preservation

208 Monroe Hall (703)899-4037 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, Va.

VIRGINIANA FILE

*Historic Sites
(Prince William Co.
Courthouse Site)
(Third - Dumfries)*



September 18, 1985

Mr. and Mr. James Bishop
214 Cameron Street
Dumfries, Virginia 22026

Dear Mr. and Mr. Bishop:

I am writing to provide you with up-date of the archaeological research the Mary Washington College Center for Historic Preservation has conducted on the site of Prince William County's 18th-century Courthouse.

As you know, Mary Washington College students, working under my supervision, expanded the test excavations conducted in 1984 and opened new excavations in an effort to determine the plan of the Courthouse. We discussed the results of our excavations with you and other members of the public on June 21st when the site was opened and cleaned for final record photographs. The Prince William County Courthouse at Dumfries, with its three separate entrances, apsidal end, and semi-hexagonal interior walls at the public end of the Courthouse, is unique, and our excavations suggest that there was indeed a close relationship between the work of George Mason at Gunston Hall and Prince William's Courthouse. What we found in the spring and summer of this year has added an important new chapter to what we know about 18-thcentury public buildings.

Dr. Carl Lounsbury and I will soon turn our attention to writing a report of this year's excavations. Dr. Lounsbury's schedule and commitment to other projects and my onw schedule have dictated that

that we will not be able to turn our attention to preparing a report until October. Please be assured, however, that we will complete our report as expeditiously as possible and provide you with a copy as soon as we have had an opportunity to compare those artifacts with the artifacts recovered during 1985. The latter artifacts will also be deposited at the Weems-Botts Museum as soon as identification and analysis of these artifacts is complete.

Lee Lansing assures me that the site will be back-filled as soon as possible. We will continue to do all that we can to ensure that site receives the attention and protection it deserves.

I hope that you both will know that I continue to be grateful to you for providing me and my students here at Mary Washington College with the opportunity of participating in the excavations at Prince William County's 18th-century Courthouse. Not only have these excavations told us a great deal more about this important building, they have provided an important educational opportunity for our students. For that I am most Grateful I look forward to providing you with a copy of our report on our excavations; if there is anything else we can do for you in regard to the Courthouse site, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Carter L. Hudgins

Director