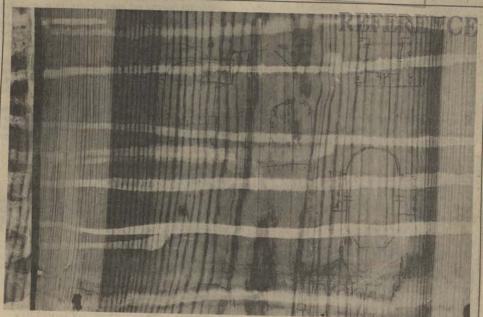
On a Count



Faintly-sketched pencil drawings may be ideas for Dumfries Courthouse Photos courtesy Gunston Hall

Experts: Buckland may have designed Dumfries courthouse

By EILEEN MEAD Potomac News Staff Writer

Small pencil sketches discovered recently at Gunston Hall lead experts to believe that William Buckland may have designed the courthouse built in Dumfries in 1759.

Researchers from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation are conducting an architectural investigation of Gunston Hall. On the back of a piece of interior woodwork, they found "doodlings" believed to be early desires for a country of the conduction of the country of the country

work, they found "doodings" believed to be early designs for a courthouse.

Documentation shows that the frieze board over a window in the Palladian Room, on which the sketches were found, on the back, were completed in 1759 — the same year that the courthouse in Dumfries was started.

George Mason, owner of Gunston Plantation, Buck-land's employer, was a trustee of the town of Dumfries, and would have had an interest in the courthouse, according to Carl Lounsburg, of Colonial Williams-

Lounsburg said he has a special interest in researching early courthouses and he is convinced that the sketches were done by a designer or architect.

"Whoever did it was familiar with Robert Morris' book and was sophisticated enough to incorporate a lot of shapes in a building," Lounsburg said.

Architectural Remembrancer, by Robert Morris was printed in 1751, and Lounsburg said some of the sketches are similar to designs in that book.

The Dumfries Courthouse stood at Fairfax and Duke Streets in Dumfries; and only the foundation remains. No pictures or sketches of the courthouse have ever been found.

The land has remained vacant since 1939 when it was purchased by James Bishop.

Mrs. Bishop said Wednesday that she and her husband received a letter from the Prince William Historical Commission telling of the renewed interest in the courthouse since the sketches were found.

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Drawings found under window's molding

DUMFRIES

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Lorraine E. Dow, present chairman of the Commission said the commission is considering hiring an expert to do an archeological survey of the site of the old courthouse, and

of the site of the old courthouse, and the Bishops said they would agree to such a survey, provided that the land is returned to its present condition.

Mrs. Dow said the commission also sent a letter to the town of Dumfries telling of the sketches.

Buckland, who has been credited with designing Rockledge in Occoquan, the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis and Pohick Church in Lorton among other important buildings, was born in the parish of St. Peters in the east of Oxford, England, in August, 1734.

He was indentured to James Buckland for a seven-year apprenticeship

He was incentured to James buck-land for a seven-year apprenticeship and then signed indenture to Thom-son Mason "in the plantation of Vir-ginia, beyond the seas, for the space of four years, in employment as a carpenter and joiner."