

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 1979

JUN 30 1980

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Rockledge file



1774

19 Maryland Avenue HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE Annapolis, Maryland 21401

June 27, 1980

Ms. Frances Jones
Architectural Historian
Northern Virginia Planning District Commission
7309 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Frances:

I promise that I haven't purposely neglected to respond to your letter of some months ago. After our phone conversation, I did discuss the question of Rockledge's attribution with Bennie Brown of Gunston Hall, and he concurs with my own conclusion. We perused the helpful information you forwarded, which I am keeping so that I can delve into it more deeply later on.

Since the interior details of Rockledge have disappeared, I think there can be no way to attribute the building to William Buckland. What interiors and other architectural details remain, don't seem to fall into Buckland's characteristic Virginia work. Until I can find out what on earth prompted Mrs. Beirne to consider it a Buckland house in the first place, it would be best to state guardedly that there is no evidence to support that traditional attribution. We can always hope that further research will prove me wrong.

Please let me know the status of the building as it unfolds, especially if demolition or alteration is planned.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Brand
Administrator