

PWC - Rippon Lodge

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FOR THE RECORD

Board of Supervisors agrees in principle to purchase historic Rippon Lodge *

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors agreed in principle Tuesday to purchase Rippon Lodge — believed to be the county's oldest home.

County supervisors will hold a public hearing next month before deciding whether to purchase the 40-acre parcel for \$1.4 million.

A resolution approved following a closed session by the board authorizes County Executive Craig Gerhart to execute a contract of sale on the property located on Blackburn Road in Woodbridge.

The county hopes to preserve the main home and related structures for historical and educational purposes.

Rippon Lodge was built in 1725 by Richard Blackburn — an Englishman who named it for the town of Ripon in Yorkshire, England.

The main residence is located on a wooded parcel that includes a carriage house, caretaker's cottage, cabin barn and a small cottage behind the main house.

Rippon Lodge is listed on the National Register of Historical Properties.

County officials said Rippon Lodge has been kept in good condition by the Blackburn, Ellis and Black families over the years.

Early visitors to the home included George Washington, which adds to the historic significance of the property, according to the board's resolution.

— Alfred M. Biddlecomb