

# County spares historic home

## Supervisors seek new site for Barnes House

By LILLIAN KAFKA  
lkafka@potomacnews.com

The future home of the Barnes House has yet to be determined, but officials decided Tuesday that demolition wouldn't be the historic home's final fate.

Prince William County supervisors directed staff to continue researching two potential sites for the permanent relocation of the Barnes House — either the future site of the Montclair Library or next to the Lucasville School in Brentsville.

"This is a fine example of a free black community after the Civil War," said Brendon Hanafin, referring to the Barnes House.

The county has plans to move the house to an area at the county-owned landfill, where it would be secured and wait for a final location, said Hanafin, the county's historic preservation manager.

It's possibly the only building of its type in the county, said county officials.

He said the most notable permanent location would be next to the Lucasville School, which was used by African-American families in the early 1900s.

Developer Pulte Homes promised in a Brentsville development plan that it would move and stabilize the home so the county



Peter Cihelka/News & Messenger

**The Barnes House, possibly the county's only remnant of a post-Civil War black settlement, is no longer threatened with demolition.**

could operate an educational program there.

Hanafin said moving the Barnes House to the same property could save program costs.

Otherwise the county could move it to the future site of the Montclair Library near the Montclair Shopping Center.

There, it could be opened for a children's

reading room, staff suggested.

"I would just keep your options open," said Supervisor Maureen S. Caddigan, R-Dumfries. "You might be surprised."

Staff writer Lillian Kafka can be reached at (703) 878-8091.