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Prince William Public Library
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Ben Lomond To Be Restored

By ROBERT KUREK
JM Staff Writer

Restoration work on the Ben Lomond Manor House is proceeding on schedule and could be completed as early as next summer, according to Prince William County Cultural

Arts Federation Director Roger Maier.

The project could pick up even more steam if the Board of County Supervisors approves a \$50,000 grant Tuesday afternoon. The measure is being sponsored by

Gainesville Supervisor Guy Guiffre.

"Tony Guiffre has been a great help to us. Until he came along, we were really lacking the support we needed," Maier said. "He's at least putting his money where his mouth is."

So far, the board has given an emergency repair fund for the house, and the Virginia General Assembly last year approved spending \$30,000 for the restoration of Ben Lomond.

While the property is owned by the county Park Authority, the restoration is currently leasing the house. Maier hopes of converting it into a community center featuring historical displays, concerts and other events. Maier hopes to restore the house with volunteers.

According to Maier, the funding received so far has been used to "keep the house from falling down." Now that the house has been cleared of any fire code violations, Maier said the next step will be a complete interior renovation which will be confined to the historical standards. The time period is the time frame of the restoration is aiming for, Maier said.

Money for the architectural work was received from a grant through the support of Dr. Harris, R-Prince William County. However, all of the paperwork for the project is routed through the Division of Historic Landmarks in Richmond.

"They're pretty tight on the requirements — they specify everything down to the letter," said Maier.

"When the restoration work actually begins is all contained in this architectural study,"

Once the actual restoration begins,

See House on A-2.



By Douglas Tesner—The Journal Messenger

Renovation Time

Restoration work on the Ben Lomond Manor House, above, may be finished by the summer of 1988. According to Roger Maier, director of the Prince William County Cultural Arts Federation, the project will give

the county a location for cultural events. While work on the outside is close to completion, the interior of the house will require substantial time and effort to restore it back to the Civil War time period, Meir said.

House

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begins, Maier said the federation can solicit private donations to further fund the repair and maintenance work. Right now, he said there are too many unknowns about the project to give potential supporters a price tag and a formal timetable for completion.

"We're a little unsure about this, but we're asking for all the help we can get."

Work on the outside is very close to completion, Maier said, noting work on outside window frames, gutters and columns is minor compared to the interior of the house, where flood damage in the central hallway and other climatic damage throughout the rooms will take considerably more time and effort.

"We're never going to get it to what it originally was (the 1840's) — we're aiming for the last realistic historical period we can try for."

Ben Lomond Manor was erected in 1837 by Benjamin Tasher Chinn, who used slaves to build the house. He inherited the 730 acres on which the house currently stands from the daughter of Councillor Robert Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter who once owned 6,730 acres in present day Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

The Chinnns later sold the house in 1870 to William H. Campbell, after it was used as a field hospital during the Civil War.

The name "Ben Lomond" comes from a mountain on the east side of the Lake of Loch Lomond in central Scotland.