

County Financial Support Sought for Slave Quarters

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Financial support will be solicited next week from the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for the campaign to save the historical slave quarters at Ben Lomond Farm.

Prince William's Historical Commission and Park Authority have joined together for the campaign. At a commission meeting earlier this week, Mrs. William Flory urged that the groups persuade the supervisors to contribute at least \$5,000 as a show of good faith so citizens would also contribute. Others involved feel that the supervisors should turn over up to \$25,000 from county surplus funds.

Historical Commission Chairman Don Curtis pointed out he had discussed use of part of the \$800,000 county surplus with County Executive Robert

Noe, with no apparent results. "I feel \$25,000 is a mere pittance compared with the county surplus," Curtis added.

Shirley Houchin, who is involved with liaison work between the planning department and historical commission, and Ray Luce, another commission member, volunteered to direct efforts in the planning and implementation of the drive to save the slave quarters.

Flory wants the Board of County Supervisors to take full charge of the project. But another commission member, Barbara Kirby, said that to expect the county to hand over \$25,000 is a pipe dream.

The county historical commission was assured this week of the Park Authority's cooperation. Authority member John Owen also urged that a definite stand be taken because the

question has been in limbo since April. *Journal Messenger* 6-14-79

Harry French, deputy director of the administrative staff of the Park Authority, said he would also personally donate \$200 to the project. He felt that there were at least 25,000 people in the county who would each donate at least \$1 to the cause if they heard about it.

He further noted that county resident B. Oswald Robinson attested to the authenticity of the slave quarters.

French likened the joint campaign to that made by county residents who supported restoration of the Old Brentsville Courthouse, now used for county recreation and administrative purposes.

Representatives of both the commission and authority are expected to address the county board Tuesday to seek both moral and financial support.