

VS

# County to Seek Money To Fix Up Historic Mill

## \$200,000 Federal Grant Request Is 1 of 7

By DAN EGGEN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Prince William supervisors endorsed plans yesterday to restore a historic 18th-century mill that burned last fall, agreeing to ask for \$200,000 in federal grant money for the project.

The restoration of Beverley Mill in Gainesville would also require matching funds of 20 percent from a private group, the Turn Around the Mill Campaign, which took ownership of the structure after it burned. No county money would be involved.

A final decision will be up to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board, which will determine how to allocate about \$7 million in total federal grants in June.

Ellen PercyMiller of Haymarket, executive director of the Turn Around the Mill Campaign, said the group has raised about \$25,000 and hopes to raise \$100,000 more to shore up the sagging structure and develop the land around it for tourism.

PercyMiller and other supporters said a restored mill would add to Prince William's array of historic sites, such as nearby Manassas National Battlefield Park.

"I certainly think the goals and objectives we have for Beverley Mill feed right into a growing trend toward historic tourism," PercyMiller said. "It has tremendous meaning

to this county. It's going to be a tremendous site to promote history, not just to tourists but to schoolchildren."

Built in 1742, Beverley Mill was first used to grind limestone for making plaster and remained a working mill until it closed in the 1940s. The mill, just east of the border with Fauquier County, was also the site of the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap on the day before the Second Battle of Manassas in 1862.

Officials have determined that the fire that swept through the mill on Oct. 22 was the result of arson, but no suspects have been announced. Investigators have been hampered by their inability to search the inside of the mill until it is stabilized.

In addition to Beverley Mill, Prince William supervisors have included six other projects on their list for special transportation grants.

The county-sponsored proposals, which would require matching funds of 20 percent, include \$135,000 for a bike trail between Route 1 and Leesylvania State Park; \$250,000 to spruce up the gateway to Quantico National Cemetery; and \$350,000 for additional work on the historic Brentsville Courthouse. The towns of Haymarket, Occoquan and Quantico have submitted their own project proposals, which also would require matching funds, officials said.

See GRANTS, Page 4, Col. 1



BY TRACY A. WOODWARD—THE WASHINGTON POST

County supervisors and preservationists are hoping for a \$200,000 federal grant to help restore Beverley Mill, built in 1742 and burned by an arsonist last fall.

PRINCE WILLIAM EXTRA / WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1999