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UPDATE

On the News



FILE PHOTO/BY TRACY A. WOODWARD—THE WASHINGTON POST

Beverley's Mill, a Civil War battlefield landmark devastated by an October arson fire, will be stabilized if a nonprofit group can raise the money needed. The group wants to preserve what's left of the 18th-century mill.

Nonprofit Group Tries to Save Fire-Ravaged Historic Mill

A historic 18th-century stone mill in Prince William County that was gutted in an October arson fire has been turned over to a nonprofit organization, which is trying to raise money to preserve what's left of the structure.

Officials with the Turn the Mill Around Campaign said that they have taken possession of the former Beverley's Mill and that they hope to bring in engineers to stabilize the landmark structure.

"There's probably no way to really restore it, but we'd like to at least maintain the edifice," said Ellen Percy Miller, the campaign's executive director. "Our goal is to get the walls stabilized as soon as possible and then review our options."

Percy Miller said that her group will need to raise about \$200,000 to stabilize the six-story structure and that it plans to work with state and local agencies to obtain grants and technical advice.

Built in 1742, the mill was first used to grind limestone for making plaster and remained a working mill until the 1940s, when it closed. But the mill is best known as the site of the Civil War's Battle at Thoroughfare Gap on Aug. 28, 1862, the day before the Second Battle of Manassas.

Fire swept through the unoccupied mill

Oct. 22, reducing the once-imposing structure, just east of the Fauquier County line, to charred walls and rubble.

Fire officials have said the fire was arson, but investigators say they will be unable to go inside the crumbling structure to search for clues until the building is stabilized. So far, officials have no suspects.

Shortly after the fire, preservation groups and historians feared that the condemned mill would be torn down to protect the community from falling stones and other dangers, but county officials have said they have no plans to raze it.

—Leef Smith