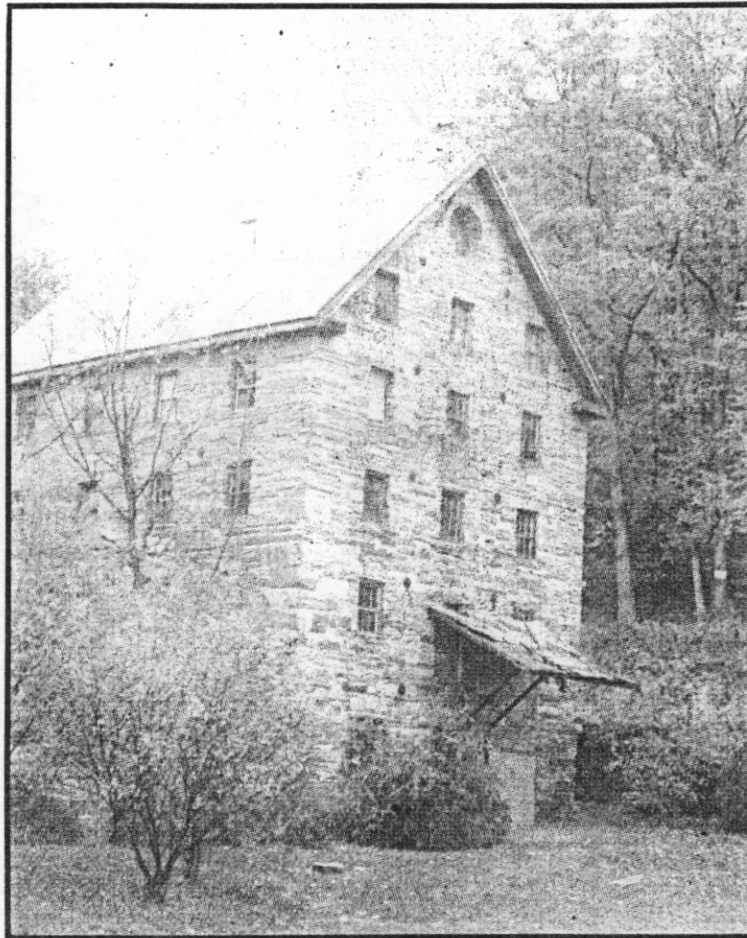


Potomac News 11/11/92  
Historic Site File:  
Beverley Mill

# UNFULFILLED PLANS

## 3,000-acre mountain park never realized "VA"



By Keith Walker-Potomac News

The Beverley Mill on the Prince William-Fauquier county line was planned to be opened as a tourist spot.

By KARI PUGH  
Manassas Bureau

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation had grand plans to restore two historic grain mills and cut hiking trails into 3,000 acres of Bull Run Mountain land spanning Prince William, Fauquier and Loudoun counties.

But nearly 13 years after James Douglass deeded the historic acreage to the Richmond-based foundation, officials there still haven't followed through on their ideas.

But that's not the foundation's main concern, executive director Tyson Van Auken said.

Housing development to the east and a widening of Interstate 66 to the west threaten the delicate natural balance of the mountains that mark Virginia's easternmost peaks.

"The mountains must be preserved," Van Auken said. "And as long as we own the land, they will be."

Those mountains mark the common boundary lines between Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince

William counties.

The dark silhouette of Bull Run Mountain, as it is called in Prince William, can be seen for miles east of the ridge into Manassas.

Wildlife in the area include raccoons, owls, turkeys, porcupines, deer, squirrels, groundhogs and rabbits, Van Auken said.

But there are also bobcats, bears and foxes, he said.

The Douglass family, which owned Beverley Mill in Prince William County and Aldie Mill in Loudoun for six generations, donated the 3,000 acres to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 1981.

The foundation had plans to open both mills as historic tourist spots and plant picnic tables and hiking trails through the land.

Beverley Mill, part of an old family estate just outside Haymarket, is a huge stone structure standing tall at the bottom of a hillside facing Interstate 66 at the county line into Fauquier.

Behind the mill sits an old

manor house, a groom's cottage, a stable, a barn and custodians' quarters.

The foundation had considered using the stone mill as an operating mill for grinding local grain, a museum, an arts and crafts gallery and an information center or a hostel, Van Auken said.

Marking the northernmost point of the Bull Run Mountains is the huge Aldie flour mill, facing U.S. 50 in Loudoun with its familiar gray local brick.

The mill, built in 1807, was once the largest flour mill of its kind in Loudoun County. It was the only mill in Virginia powered by twin overshot wheels, in which water flows over the top of the powering wheel, said foundation historian Philip L. Chabot Jr.

Today, the water wheels and other machinery inside have been restored inside the mill.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation hoped to complete the project by late 1987 or early 1988, but a poor economy and problems with contractors got in the way, Chabot said.

BULL RUN REG LIB