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WESTERN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## County moves house to preserve historic Bristow village

By JENN BASHAM  
Observer staff

When Bristow resident Pam Layton came home the afternoon of Feb. 8, her childhood home wasn't where she left it that morning. The early-20th century farmhouse, which used to sit at the end of her driveway on Bristow Road, had been moved more than 300 feet to a nearby field.

Layton and her family lived in the house until a few years ago, when they built another house on the lot. County code prohibits two residences on one lot in the rural crescent, said David Bourne, historic programs coordinator and acting site manager for Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

Layton said they considered tearing the house down or having the fire department burn it down, but in November 2005, Bourne asked them to donate it to Prince William County.

The house is located in the village of Bristow, which is on the national register of historic places, according to Brendon Hanafin, Prince William County Historic Preservation Division chief. The

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Jenn Basham / the Bull Run Observer

The Layton house sits atop a steel dolly as Ayers House Movers prepare to roll it to its new location.

## Dominion designates new preferred route

By GRETCHEN L.H. O'BRIEN  
Observer staff

Dominion Virginia Power revised its preferred power line route Feb. 13 to align with existing power lines in the Prince William

area. The new route maps the line through seven counties. The line will run through two parts of Fauquier County and the southwestern part of Prince William, on a northerly track just on the east side of Gainesville up to

Loudoun's existing substation.

Dominion previously considered the newest route not viable because of forecasting models that showed increased power needs

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## Brush with the President leaves Micron employees smiling

cameramen from CNN, who regu-



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# History moves down the road

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county is working to develop the nearby Bristow Station Battlefield into a public park.

"It would've been a shame to see this house torn down," he said.

In July 2006, the county began planning to move the house to its new location, to its current position in Bristow Station.

"We're trying to keep as much of the integrity of the village intact as we can," Bourne said.

The village of Bristow grew up after the Civil War, and the house is believed to be one of the earlier houses built, Hanafin said. Only seven or eight of the town's original buildings still stand, so he was grateful to be able to salvage the Layton house.

It took \$34,000 and several days of hard work to move the house. Ayers House Movers, a Fredericksburg-based company, started by lifting the house off its stone foundation and putting it on a steel dolly equipped with remote control hydraulics, Bourne said. Once the house was lifted about four feet off the ground, it was shored up with wooden planks.

On Feb. 8, the movers undertook the difficult task of maneuvering a 70,000-lb. house between trees, fences, wells and an existing house. Controlling the house with only a remote control at first, mover Jason

Ayers inched it forward and back for hours until he was certain the move wouldn't affect the Layton's well. When the house was finally in position, the dolly beneath it was hooked up to a truck, which slowly pulled the house the rest of the way.

The frozen ground may have been in the perfect condition for transporting a house, but it has made it nearly impossible for the county to build the house's new foundation, Bourne said. Once the house reached its new location, it had to be left on blocks until a foundation could be dug. Bourne hoped the foundation would be complete within two or three weeks.

Layton said it was strange to come home to the empty pasture where her house had been for so long. "Just seeing it sitting over there by itself, it was very eerie," she said. "I'm kind of glad to see it moved though. It's kind of exciting to hear that they're going to try to save it."

For now, the house will remain preserved until the county decides what to do next.

"It's basically going to be mothballed until" a decision is made, Bourne said.

As for the yard the house left behind, Bourne said the Laytons plan to turn it into another pasture for their horses. The stones from its foundation will be used to make a chimney for the wood cabin at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre.



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