

Developer razes antebellum house near I-66

By PHILIP HANYOK
of the Potomac News

4/22/85



By Philip Hanyok—Potomac News

Holladay Corp. workmen pull down the Conrad House

Workmen near Manassas began demolishing the antebellum Conrad House on Friday as the Prince William Historical Commission and the county planning office were preparing efforts to save the building.

Area historians say the Conrad House, built in the early- to mid-1800s, was a Confederate hospital during both battles of Bull Run. They say that cavalry charges formed there during the Civil War.

The house is between Interstate 66 and the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Manassas Museum Curator Douglas Harvey said the two-story house is one of a few remaining antebellum homes in Prince William County.

"The fact that it was an antebellum home made it historic in this area," he said. "Sometimes people only think it's special after it's been gone."

Jerry Gregg, project manager for the developer, the Holladay Corp., said "we've investigated and

looked into it carefully" and found the building had been "misrepresented."

Mr. Gregg said the house had been gutted and remodeled with modern lumber and drywall. Workmen at the site also said it had been remodeled with modern plasterboard and other supplies.

"It just was not significant at all ... so we went ahead and got a demolition permit. We filed a full report with the county," Mr. Gregg said.

The Holladay Corp. plans to develop the Conrad property and the area northeast of I-66 and Sudley Road as the 132-acre Battlefield Business Park.

The county historical commission had planned to send a letter documenting the historical significance of the building to the Holladay Corp. A copy of the letter was not available on Friday.

The commission recently voted to ask the Holladay Corp. to preserve the building, either leaving it on the

— See HOUSE, Page A7

HOUSE / From A1

site or allowing the house to be moved to another location, a copy of the commission's motion states.

When told that the house was being torn down, county planner Patrick Mulhern said, "I was afraid that [the Holladay Corp.] might do that."