

18th-Century Kingsley Mill outbuilding to be relocated

General
Manassas
Sept. 17, 1996

By **DAVE MARINO-NACHISON**
JM Staff Writer

A historic stone building on Lake Manassas got a new lease on life in August when a Nokesville man signed a contract with Manassas to relocate the building to a new site in Prince William County.

The 18th-century Kingsley Mill outbuilding would have been endangered by the impending raise of Lake Manassas, according to Allen P. Todd, director of public utilities.

The building is the city's concern since Manassas owns the shoreline property by the lake on which the structure is located, said Todd.

It was originally connected to a larger granary building, which was relocated to Fairfax county in order to complete the Coven Run historical display. The smaller, adjoining building, which did not house any mill equipment, was left behind.

Manassas questioned the state's department of historical resources, which said that the historic value of the building without the mill didn't justify the cost of the city recreating

"It was never a viable option to preserve it."

Scott Harris
director
Manassas Museum

it at another site, said Todd.

"It was never a viable option to preserve it," said Scott Harris, director of the Manassas Museum.

The city elected to take bids for the removal of the building, and Rodney J. Klima, a doctor in Nokesville, was awarded the project. Klima signed a contract on Aug. 27, and he has one year to complete the task.

Klima already owns Pilgrim's Rest, an 18th-century house in south central Prince William County that is on the state and national registers of historic places.

Klima plans to take the building and reconstruct it as an outbuilding at Pilgrim's Rest, said Harris. "It was the best available option," said Harris, because the other alternatives, including demolition or removal of

the house, wouldn't have kept it intact and in the county.

In addition, Klima, who believes that a similar building may have existed near his home at an earlier time, will commemorate the moving process through a plaque that will describe the history and transplanting of the stone construction, said James Falls, Manassas purchasing director.

"It was a very pleasant surprise," said Todd. "If possible, we wanted someone to remove [the building] and make use of it in an appropriate manner."

Klima's plan is "pretty good, from a conservation standpoint," said Harris.

Not bad from an economic standpoint, either: Harris said that other bids on the project for simple removal could have run the city about \$5,000. Klima bid a whopping \$1, and will assume all of the costs of the project himself, which Harris said is no small undertaking.

Klima will have to label everything as the building is disassembled so it can be reconstructed in the same manner.

To Subscribe Call 703-368-3101

Historic Site File

Kingsley Mill

BULL RUN REG LIB