

# Mt. Atlas can be sold, restored and used as a home, say planners

By ROSE MURPHY  
Observer staff

Prince William County Planning Commission gave unanimous recommendation for approval March 5 to plans allowing the historic Mount Atlas house at 4105 Mt. Atlas Ln., Gainesville District, to be sold, restored and used as a residence.

John White of the county's planning department outlined the proffer amendment. No one from the public spoke at the hearing.

The amendment would permit the house to be subdivided from the newer Padgett home on the property and to be sold separately to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The Mount Atlas home then could be restored and used for a residence and not be moved from the site.

In 2001 Prince William Board of County Supervisors passed a resolution to facilitate private efforts to coordinate with the Padgett estate to purchase and restore the historical property.

In October, 2002, supervisors initiated the proffer amendment at the request of the executor of the Padgett estate. The amendment would allow the property to be subdivided and the historic Mount Atlas house sold separately from the non-historic, newer dwelling on the property.

The property was zoned Semi-Rural Residential (SRR-1) in 1988, permitting four homes on the land. The Padgett lot with the Mount Atlas house and a newer home was limited to the use of the newer house for one dwelling. The latest proffer change would allow for a fifth separate lot for the historic home on a 1.8-acre site and the use of the historic home as a residence.

The county's planning department favored the proffer amendment.

The proposal will come before supervisors at a later date for a public hearing.

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