



Home

- Archives
- Story Index
- Sports
- Business
- Local News
- Stock Market
- World & Nation
- Health & Life
- Obituary
- Sports Staff
- Classifieds
- Classified Ads
- Place an Ad
- Regional Events
- Prize Only
- Real Estate
- Jobs
- Dear Abby
- Journal Board

If you wait too long...

LEXUS



Officials still hope to move historic structure

By TARA SLATE DONALDSON

Journal staff writer

Mount Atlas is safe for now.

Prince William County officials said Wednesday that they are not giving up on the possibility of relocating the Gainesville structure, which dates back to 1795. Although there are some structural problems, a final decision on its fate is still many months away, said Planning Director Richard Lawson.

"We're looking at a couple of options as to whether the building actually can be rehabilitated," he said. "That's a big step we're taking right now. Basically, the staff work on it is not complete."

Even if the county does decide to accept the plantation house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, it will most likely not be given the land beneath it, so a volunteer archaeological expedition is being launched to uncover artifacts around the home.

The project, which begins Saturday, will allow residents to participate in the excavation of one of the county's most historic sites, said Debrae Karnes, a county planner.

"I am so excited that the county and its residents have the opportunity to see archeology in action," she said. "There's a certain amount of stuff you learn by doing that you never see by looking at it."

The excavation, which will be held on Saturdays this summer, will focus on the area where a kitchen/servants' quarters and carriage house were once located. The detached kitchen was demolished around 1910 when a modern electric kitchen was added to the main house, Karnes said.

The Mount Atlas property was originally part of a 41,600-acre land grant, which Robert King Carter received from the King of England in 1724. In 1795, the house was built on a portion of the land north of Haymarket.

The house, along with 489 acres, was deeded to Charles B. Carter in 1801 from the estate of Peter B. Whiting. Karnes said it is unclear whether Charles B. Carter was a descendent of Robert King Carter.

Today the house stands on about 10 acres.

Shortly before Barton Padgett, the home's most recent owner, died earlier this year, a conservator for his estate approached county officials about the house.

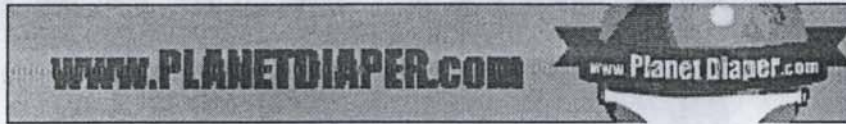
Although Padgett's heirs planned to sell the estate, they believed the property was worth more without the house, which they offered to donate to the county, Karnes said. The county has signed a one-year lease that allows officials to excavate the site and inspect the building to assess the feasibility of relocating it. If the county does not accept the offer, the building will most likely be destroyed.

"The county has until April 1 [2001]," Karnes said. "No decision has been made on it. No one has told me that they're not interested. Either way, it doesn't look like the county will keep the land so we want to know what's there."

The eight-week dig will be led by an archeologist from the firm of Dames & Moore, which the county has retained for a fee of up to \$10,000, depending on the amount of work done.

The excavation will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Saturday through Aug. 5, except for June 24. Volunteers can join the dig for one or more days by registering by the

except for June 24. Volunteers can join the dig for one or more days by registering by the Friday before they wish to attend. Registration is free and open to all residents regardless of age. For more information, or to register, call Debrarae Karnes at (703) 792-7373.



Officials still hope to move historic structure

BY JENNIFER BOWEN

Mount Airy is safe for now. James William County officials still Wednesday that they are not giving up on the possibility of restoring the historic structure, which sits back in 1700. Although there are some structural problems, a final decision on the site will be made in a few weeks, said Planning Director Patrick Lawson.

"We're looking at a couple of options as to whether the building actually can be rehabilitated," he said. "I don't know the answer yet, but we're looking at it."

Even if the county does decide to accept the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, it will most likely not be given the full benefit of a restored archaeological excavation is being launched to uncover its long history.

The project, which began Saturday, will allow residents to participate in the excavation of the site's archaeological remains and historic remains, county officials said.

"I'm so excited that the county and its residents have the opportunity to see archaeology in action," the county's director said. "I think you'll find that you have a lot to learn from this project."

The excavation, which will be held on Saturday, the weekend, will focus on the area where a kitchen was built and a large house was built. The building, which was destroyed in 1910, was a major site in the county's history.

The building was originally part of a 1700s plantation, which James William County officials said was built in 1754. In 1982, the house was built on a portion of the land that is now the site.

The house, which was built by James B. Carter in 1801, from the estate of John B. Williams, was a major site in the county's history.

They're the ones who are interested in the site, and they're the ones who are interested in the site, and they're the ones who are interested in the site.

Although Lawson's plan is to sell the site, he said the project is worth more than the money that will be spent to restore the site, he said. The county has agreed to pay for the site's restoration, and the site will be restored.

Lawson said the county is interested in the site, and he is interested in the site, and he is interested in the site.

The county has agreed to pay for the site's restoration, and the site will be restored.

The site will be restored for a total of \$100,000, and the site will be restored.

The excavation will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday, and the site will be restored.