

Historic home on the market



By **BENNIE SCARTON JR.**
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Another famous historic site is for sale in Haymarket, although it is less likely to cause the controversy that the Payne property has generated.

The home at 6741 Jefferson St. is on the site of the Red House Tavern and Inn, which was the origin of the Haymarket community and which Thomas Jefferson included on his map of Virginia in 1787.

Brownie Smith, who became the town's first mayor, lived in the house from 1910 until her death in 1981. Various families occupied the house before Steve Beck and Beverly Beck purchased it five years ago and commenced an extensive remodeling job.

The couple spent three years doing over the entire house while living in it. "You wouldn't believe the sad shape the house was in when we started the remodeling," said Beverly Beck.

Red House was one of the many inns and taverns along the Carolina Road in the late 18th century. The tavern was built by William Skinker, son of Samuel Skinker, a wealthy merchant from Bristol, England.

William Skinker settled his father's Green Hill tract on the Carolina Road — future site of Haymarket — and erected the tavern at the intersection with Dumfries Road, now Route

The Brownie Smith House in Haymarket which is located on the site of the original Red House Tavern and Inn dating back to 1775 is up for sale. (Bennie Scarton Jr., Journal Messenger)

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55, late in the 1770s.

The tavern quickly became the most popular stopover for travelers from Dumfries going across the mountains to the Winchester area.

Built of red bricks made in the English manner, the building quickly suggested the name Red House Tavern to travelers.

Evidence shows that it was destroyed by fire sometime shortly after 1800 when Mann Page III sold 5,000 acres in front of its doors.

After the tavern burned, several private homes were built on the site, including the present one which dates to 1890.

The impeccably restored house now boasts 9 1/2-foot ceilings on the first floor, original wide plank floors, intricate lacy window corner details and a wonderful lemonade porch.

It is light, bright and airy and is beautifully decorated and landscaped.

The house is richly steeped in early American history, yet offers all modern amenities. With its wrap-around porch, it is a reminder of the earlier times in Haymarket.

Beverly Beck said the couple is selling the house to move to more spacious acreage in Warrenton.

She said that while remodeling the house, they spotted traces of what is believed to be the old tavern beneath the dwelling.

The house is priced at \$189,000 and is being handled by Weichert Realtors' Historic Home Division.

From 1803-1807, Haymarket enjoyed a time of prominence as the home of the district court for the counties of Prince William, Fauquier, Fairfax and Loudoun. The village languished after the court moved. However, many historic home still surround the community. While many have been torn down, preservation groups are working to keep others from falling by the wayside. Among those caught in the middle is the Payne house, recently purchased by Don Costello who plans to use it for office space for his business, Century Stairs.

Some town residents, however, suspect that Costello is going to tear it down and have protested to the Town Council to turn down his request to rezone the site for business use.

The council will vote on the request on April 1.