

Hoping to save family history, woman wants to buy site in Evergreen landfill

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7/9/86

An Annandale woman, hoping to preserve a dilapidated historic home of her ancestors, has offered to buy the home and surrounding land that has been proposed for a debris landfill near Evergreen.

A home called "The Shelter," built in 1740, sits in the midst of 30 acres that Resource Conservation Management Inc. has proposed to use as its first debris landfill on a 375-acre site.

The home is in danger of collapse because of its age.

Barbara Garcia of Annandale has written one of the partners in the RCMI venture asking about purchasing the land, Ms. Garcia said Monday.

The Shelter was home for several generations of Ms. Garcia's ancestors, the Tyler family. Among the Tylers who inhabited the house was Robert H. Tyler, a captain in the Confederate army.

"I've always been interested in getting that land back," she said. "I've just written to them, relaying that fact, in case the county doesn't let them have the landfill."

The debris landfill proposal has

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Chairman, Historical
Commission

triggered heated opposition among western end residents. An organization called Halt Dump formed to battle a rezoning application that RCMI, a Catlett firm, needs for the landfill.

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors is expected to consider today whether to allow privately operated debris landfills in the county.

County Attorney John Foote said that the RCMI proposal and plans for another debris landfill on Cherry Hill Road would be stopped if the county adopts a ban on private dumps.

Ms. Garcia said she has contacted Raymond Hawkins, the

owner and operator of the Lorton landfill and a principal in RCMI, about purchasing the Shelter land.

Hawkins could not be reached for comment Monday.

In addition to the house, a historical cemetery sits on a portion of the 375 acres RCMI plans to use for its operation. The Prince William County Historical Commission has asked RCMI to acknowledge the cemetery in future site plans.

“There's some concern about the graveyard being devastated by the advancing progress of the landfill,” Historical Commission Chairman Steve Bodolay said.

RCMI did not note the cemetery in its initial plans, according to Mavis Stanfield, a county planner.

“Disturbing a gravesite in the state of Virginia constitutes a crime, subject to criminal penalties,” Ms. Stanfield stated in a memo about the RCMI proposal.

Benjamin Tasker Chinn [1807-1886] is among the 11 people said to be buried at the cemetery. In 1837 Chinn built Ben Lomond, a home near the sites of the First and Second Battles of Manassas that was used as a hospital during the Civil War.