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Adams County prison demolished

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hagerstown Evening Sun, November 4, 2005

By the end of this year, six old doors and some photographs will be the only remaining pieces of the former Adams County Prison building on Biglerville Road north of Gettysburg.

The Adams County Historical Society hired L&W Demolition of Harrisburg to tear it down. The society has owned the building since October 2004, when the county commissioners sold it to them for \$1.

The new prison, which opened in 2003, is located off Granite Station Road in Straban Township.

The demolition will cost about \$100,000, and the society is paying for it with a low-interest community development loan from Adams Electric Cooperative.

After the prison is torn down, the society plans to build a new structure for its main offices, archives, a museum gallery with permanent and changing exhibits, a research facility and a multi-purpose room.

"We hope not only to get more space, but to better design and utilize the space we have," said Wayne Motts, executive director of the historical society.

Motts said they have millions of documents and artifacts at the society, some of which are very rare. Currently, they do not have humidity and temperature-controlled rooms to properly care for the documents.

The new building will also be better organized, with enough room for research.

The historical society is currently located at Schmucker Hall at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Motts said the society is leasing the building until at least 2026, and intends to turn it into an interpretive

site where people can tour and learn about its history.

The Rev. John Spengler of the seminary emphasized that the historical society is not planning on vacating Schmucker Hall. He also said the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation, a subsidiary of the seminary, plans on restoring Schmucker Hall.

"It's our intention to make sure it is well-preserved and it is continued to be well-cared for," he said.

The restoration will cost about \$10 million, and it will not be undertaken until at least part of that money has been raised, Spengler said.

The majority of the historical society's offices and galleries will be located at the Biglerville site.

The board of directors decided a few months ago to tear the prison down instead of using it, Motts said. He explained the architecture of the prison building, built in the 1940s, isn't compatible with the society's needs and it would be difficult to control the temperature and humidity of the archive rooms.

But Motts said that in tearing down the prison, the society is not erasing history.

The society saved six old doors from the original cell block area of the prison, each of which weigh more than 200 pounds. He said they will use at least one in an exhibit at the gallery, and haven't decided what they are doing with the rest.

They also took documented the exterior and interior of the old prison with photographs.

He said the society's board of directors is still in the early stages of planning for the new building, so it will not be built for a few years. He said they will begin a capital campaign to fund construction and maintenance,

as well as the exhibit to be located at Schmucker Hall.

"We're very excited about it. We have 205 years of history to be able to keep and maintain," he said, adding that the new building will be designed to fit in with the architecture of the area.

Adams County Commissioner Lucy Lott said she was happy the historical society, which preserves many county-owned documents, was getting a new building.

"They preserve a lot of the history of Adams County," she said. "(The old prison building) definitely was an eyesore, so I'm glad it's coming down."

Brandy Station Graffiti House gains fame

By DONNIE JOHNSTON, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, November 30, 2005

Brandy Station Foundation Chairman Bob Luddy says his group is thrilled that the Graffiti House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"I think first and foremost we are gratified that an independent body has chosen to recognize the historic properties of the Graffiti House and help ensure its preservation for the enjoyment of future generations," Luddy said from Washington.

The Brandy Station Foundation was told Monday that the historic property it purchased in 2002 would be included on the national list. Inclusion on the National Register makes the Graffiti House eligible for federal aid for historic-preservation projects.

Built around 1858, the Graffiti House was used as a field hospital by the Confederates following the June 1863 Battle of Brandy Station, and again the following winter by federal troops who occupied Culpeper.



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Wounded or sick soldiers from both armies used charcoal to scribble their names and military unit information on the walls of at least three rooms in the two-story home, believed to have been a tenant house before the war. After the Civil War, the walls in these rooms were covered with wallpaper and the writings remained concealed for 130 years.

When some of the wallpaper was removed in 1993, the graffiti was discovered. Since that time, the Brandy Station Foundation has tried to preserve the charcoal scribbling. After purchasing the house, which was used for both residential and commercial purposes after the Civil War, the historic-preservation group turned the structure into both a tourist attraction and an information center for the nearby Brandy Station battlefield.

Visitors may view the graffiti free. The descendants of some of the men whose names appear on the walls have come to see the historic writings.

Luddy believes the Graffiti House's inclusion on the National Register will help boost tourism in the area.

"This should be a very advantageous thing for the historic preservation for both Culpeper County and Virginia," Luddy said. "This should bring in tourist dollars."

Luddy also hopes to parlay the new status into more grant money for the foundation's efforts.

"I intend to use the recognition to seek out other funds to help unearth more historical treasures," he said. "There are still four walls untouched in the house, walls that have been covered over by new layers of plaster. We'd like to remove that new layer and discover what's underneath."

Franklin reclaims part of battlefield

Civil War preservationists flex might with razing of Pizza Hut
By KEVIN WALTERS,
Tennessean.com, December 1, 2005

FRANKLIN — When the metal arm of the backhoe piloted by Franklin Mayor Tom Miller plunged through the roof of what had long been a Pizza Hut yesterday, it scattered roofing shingles, lumber and bricks to loud approval from a crowd of about 200.

In that moment, decades of frustration for many came to an end. The land where the pizza restaurant once stood, bought by the city for \$300,000 earlier this year, will be converted to a park to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died there during the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin.

The occasion served as a display of political might on the part of preservationists on Franklin's Board of Mayor and Aldermen. For some, including many in the national preservationist community, the gesture serves as a sign that Franklin is changing its image as a city that had forsaken its Civil War heritage.

"There's no question there's a number of preservationists on our board, but I think there is a groundswell not just in Franklin but throughout the country of people wanting to preserve the past, and you're seeing that brought out in Franklin," Miller said afterward. With TV crews perched, a surreal scene unfolded that mixed celebration with commemoration while a crowd that included Civil War re-enactors, local and state politicians

such as Rep. Lincoln Davis and sightseers clutching digital cameras gawked as the restaurant was smashed by Miller and others in a ceremony complete with speeches, sledgehammers and, afterward, brie and refreshments.

Jim Lighthizer, president of the national group Civil War Preservation Trust, recalled how years ago he told a group of Franklin preservationists that if they wanted to exact change they had to get involved politically.

"What we have is nothing short of a miracle," he said yesterday.

The city's purchase of the Pizza Hut property, along with the nearby Country Club of Franklin for the same reason, has drawn criticism from some people who have said leaders need to worry about basic infrastructure such as roads before they delve into amenities such as more parks. Still others have questioned the accuracy of some preservationists and historians' statements about where the fighting took place, though the vast majority of that criticism has surrounded the country club property — not the Pizza Hut.

Overnight, a graffiti artist decorated the Pizza Hut building with the Latin motto, "Deo Vindice," translated as "God will Vindicate," which was on the Great Seal of the Confederacy. But the old restaurant, its signature red roof removed earlier, was viewed as an atrocity to many like local historian Ed Bearss.

Bearss, 82, chief historian emeritus for the National Park Service, World War II veteran and participant in Ken Burns' Civil War miniseries, asked people to think about Pizza Huts being built on a long list of battle sites, including Omaha Beach or Mount Surabachi, among others. The demolition of this restaurant was "a



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long step to what is soon going to be bulldozed a blight on the soldiers who fell here," Bearss said.

If a groundswell developed here in Franklin, it came to national attention in April when *National Geographic* writer Adam Goodheart wrote a story for the magazine about the erosion of the nation's battlefields. Part of the pictorial was a shot of the Pizza Hut side-by-side with photos of the six Confederate generals who were killed during the Battle of Franklin. One of them, Gen. Patrick Cleburne, is believed to have been shot near where the restaurant stood.

The Franklin portion of the article received the most attention, Goodheart said in a phone interview. What's happened in Franklin is unique and is an example of a larger change occurring in communities, he said.

"The battlefields are part of the national consciousness, and what we think of when we think of America are these landscapes," Goodheart said. "I think people realize that America is slipping away from us day by day, and they're starting to wake up to the magnitude of the problem."



Thomas Cartwright, executive director of The Carter House in Franklin, takes a swing at the former Pizza Hut building on Columbia Avenue as demolition begins. (JEANNE REASONOVER / TENNESSEAN STAFF)

J.T. Thompson, president of the Battle of Nashville Preservation

Society, believes that after years of neglect "the planets are lining up" for preservation here after years when preservation was ignored. He is trying to raise \$55,000 toward the purchase of historic site Shy's Hill in Nashville.

"It's once in a blue moon that people start to get it," he said.

The Battle of Franklin happened 141 years ago yesterday, which also happened to be Franklin resident and preservationist Tommy Murdic's 52nd birthday. An African-American, Murdic said there is support for the project among black residents in Franklin.

Did the demolition of the restaurant add something extra for his birthday?

"But of course," Murdic said, beaming. "Being born right down at Doctor Johnson's hospital on November 30, 1953, this thing has come full circle. That date was meant for some reason. Today, 52 years later, it's falling together."

Emancipation Proclamation copy auctioned for \$688,000

The Associated Press, November 16, 2005

A souvenir copy of the Emancipation Proclamation autographed by Abraham Lincoln sold for \$688,000 Tuesday at an auction of American artifacts collected by the late publishing magnate Malcolm Forbes.

The text is believed to be one of about 15 surviving copies of an oversize printing of the proclamation made by a pair of Philadelphians in 1864 to raise money for war relief. The Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in the Confederate states was issued in 1863.

Christie's auction house declined to identify the buyer but said it was a New York-based dealer. It had

estimated that the proclamation would sell for between \$600,000 and \$800,000.

The document was one of a number of extraordinary items on the auction block Tuesday from the Forbes collection of American historical documents.

Other Civil War documents offered for sale included Julia Ward Howe's original draft of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which she composed overnight in 1861 after visiting a Union Army camp; an 1865 letter from Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to Gen. George Meade on the eve of Union victory; and a letter that Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote to his son lamenting the death of Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

"It is a terrible loss," Lee wrote. "I do not know how to replace him. Any victory would be dear at such a cost." The collection also included a map of Japan carried by the crew of the Enola Gay on its mission to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945 and two pages from the speech that Theodore Roosevelt carried in his vest pocket the night he survived an assassination attempt in 1912.

The bullet pierced the manuscript and a metal spectacle case but did not seriously harm Roosevelt, who continued on to an auditorium to address the waiting crowd. Holding up the perforated speech for all to see, Roosevelt exclaimed, "It takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose!"

Civil War site added to Harpers Ferry park

by DAVE McMILLION, Hagerstown Herald-Mail, November 23, 2005

HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. - Another 70 acres of School House Ridge property has been acquired for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, putting the park closer to having



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all the land it hoped to obtain in the historic area.

The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization, and the National Park Service announced Monday the acquisition of the Ott property in School House Ridge.

The Trust for Public Land worked with the Ott family, which has owned the property for several generations, to secure an option to purchase the land on the north side of U.S. 340 at the intersection with Bakerton Road for \$2.47 million, according to a press release from The Trust for Public Land.

School House Ridge is where Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson oversaw the capture of 12,500 troops in 1862, the largest capture in the Civil War.

It remained the largest military capture until World War II.

School House Ridge is considered to be the most significant battlefield in West Virginia because 37,000 troops were involved in Jackson's siege, Civil War experts say.

No other West Virginia battle involved that many troops.

School House Ridge consists of rolling farmland on both sides of U.S. 340 west of Harpers Ferry.

Congress recently authorized a 1,240-acre expansion of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and about 600 of those acres were identified as areas the park wanted to preserve in School House Ridge, park Superintendent Donald Campbell said Monday.

Only one large tract - which is about 74 acres - remains in the School House Ridge area which the park hopes to acquire, Campbell said.

Campbell praised West Virginia congressional members, The Trust for Public Land, the Ott family and

others in bringing the latest tract under protection.

"The Ott farm is at the heart of the matter, the center of the Confederate line where General Stonewall Jackson orchestrated his brilliant victory over Union forces - the farm is where history happened," said Campbell.

"School House Ridge is a unique historic landscape whose future is now assured," said Alan Front, senior vice president of the Trust for Public Land.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park plans to establish walking trails in the School House Ridge area and interpretive areas to explain the history of the area, Campbell said.

Public restrooms and parking areas also will be constructed, said Campbell, adding that the improvements should be open to the public by next summer.

Gun Turret Replica Placed On USS Monitor

(AP) - A full-scale replica of the iconic Civil War ironclad USS Monitor has been topped off with a replica of another icon in its own right: the ship's revolutionary revolving gun turret.

Riggers used a crane Tuesday to place the replica turret on the deck of the replica Monitor. It's next to the USS Monitor Center, a 30-million-dollar wing of The Mariners' Museum in Newport News. The wing is due to open March 9th, 2007 - the 145th anniversary of the famous first battle of ironclads.

The Monitor and the CS- Virginia fought to a draw in the Battle of Hampton Roads, changing naval warfare by making wooden ships obsolete. The Confederates built the Virginia on the salvaged hull of a Union ship, the USS Merrimack.

The Monitor sank off North Carolina less than a year later.



Employees of the Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard are building the 170-foot replica of the Monitor in 22 steel sections at the yard, from materials donated by the Navy.

Construction of the replica is to be completed early next year.

Bloomington Ind. school bans confederate flags

Associated Press, November 1, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- Bloomington High School South has banned students from wearing the Confederate battle flag on their clothing, backpacks and by other means after the contentious symbol caused several recent disturbances at the school.

South principal Mark Fletcher cited Supreme Court decisions as a reason for the ban on the flags flown by rebel troops during the Civil War. The ban took effect Thursday.

"The Supreme Court has made it perfectly clear that if continued disruption occurs, we are compelled to act," Fletcher said. "It can't be just the fear of disruptions, but if you, in fact, do have disruptions, the court expects you to act."

The ban is not a corporation-wide policy, because other buildings might



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not have had documented cases of disruption. The district's other school Bloomington North, currently has no such policy.

Bloomington South administrators conducted a meeting with about 40 students Thursday to discuss the flag ban. Older students counseled younger ones about the change.

Bloomington South junior Justin Kirby, who used to display the Confederate battle flag on his clothing, said he now better understands that the flag's symbolism is disruptive.

"One reason I wore it is because I supposedly had family members in the Confederate armies during the Civil War," Kirby said. "A lot of my family is from Texas. And as a NASCAR fan, that flag is all over the track all the time, and that's when I first started wearing it."

Seniors Jordan Brown and Tyree Wells, who are both black, said the Confederate flag doesn't evoke pleasant images for them and for many of their fellow students.

"To many African-Americans, and just people all across the board ethnically, it symbolizes racism, discrimination and death. Since the Civil War, it's been used by the Ku Klux Klan and numerous neo-Nazi groups," Brown said.

"If I went onto a Klan Web site, right now, I think it's pretty much guaranteed I'd see that flag."

State funds eyed for Museum of the Confederacy

By Christina Bellantoni, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, November 22, 2005

RICHMOND -- A Virginia panel yesterday unanimously agreed to ask the state legislature for a cash

infusion to aid the Museum of the Confederacy, which operates the Confederate White House, but it declined to make a recommendation on whether both buildings should move out of the shadow of downtown buildings.

"There is clearly no consensus for recommending that [the White House] be relocated at this time," the panel found. "All members share an absolute commitment to take whatever steps within our power to safeguard and preserve this historic treasure, even if it remains in its current location."

The House and Senate money committees will have to clear the panel's recommendation to offer financial assistance when the General Assembly convenes early next year.

The decision came after a public hearing, during which preservationists and Southern heritage buffs testified that the White House, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis once lived, should remain in its original downtown location as a tribute to the nation's history.

"We are fighting to save not just a house, but a city and a history that is essential to the city's identity," said Jennie Dotts, executive director of the Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods (ACORN). "We must preserve this national historic landmark."

Others have said that moving the White House would cause the structure to lose its place on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The decision on whether to relocate the Confederate White House ultimately lies with the board of directors for the Museum of the Confederacy, which is privately operated. The board does not need

the state's permission to move the museum. The board will meet in January to consider its options.

S. Waite Rawls III, the museum's executive director, said that the museum now has a \$500,000 budget deficit and that it would have to cut its educational programs to stay in operation.

"If we do not cover that deficit somehow, we have to look at other solutions for that," Mr. Rawls told other panel members.

On the panel are state legislators, community leaders and museum officials. Not all of the members were present yesterday.

The White House and museum have been dwarfed by the expanding Medical College of Virginia (MCV) hospital, operated by Virginia Commonwealth University.

Attendance at the museum has dwindled from 91,000 in 1991 to less than 50,000 this year. The museum is just blocks from the state Capitol.

During the hearing, the panel heard from residents and officials who are opposed to moving the White House, which was built in 1818.

Some said moving the White House would render it a "theme park recreation." Others called it the "most historically significant" structure in Richmond.

Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, a panel member, said the state has a responsibility to protect its historic sites and preserve them.

"We have a very unusual history that brings together many viewpoints from many parts of the world," the Pittsylvania Republican said. "It is our charge, our place in history to make sure these antiquities survive to the next generation."

Mr. Hawkins, who last year sponsored a resolution to designate April as Confederate History and



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Heritage Month, said that on his way to the meeting yesterday, he saw only one sign advertising the museum. "That's no way to promote something," he said. Former Museum of the Confederacy board member Robert H. Lamb suggested that an old building near the museum be demolished to clear a path for visitors, and that the MCV hospital dedicate the upper level of its new parking deck to museum visitors.

Mr. Rawls favors moving both the museum and the White House, but few museum donors share his view. However, all agree something must be done.

"It's about maintaining the very fabric of our history and this state and this country," said Leigh Watson, a museum donor who audited its books. "Please, whatever you do, do your best and help us save the museum."

The panel also is recommending that the museum explore forming a partnership with the state's departments of tourism and historic resources to help promote it and with other Virginia historical groups and museums.

Several suggested that the state create a visitors center in Richmond that would direct tourists to museums and historic sites.

Old Gettysburg tourist shops to become history

By JEFFREY B. ROTH, York, PA Daily Record/Sunday News, November 29, 2005

Old Gettysburg Village at 777 Baltimore St. has been a part of the town's tourist district for about 50 years - home to an eclectic group of shops, specializing in everything from Civil War souvenirs, period clothes, Civil War photography and food.

Almost half of those shops are to be demolished to allow room for the expansion of a hotel.

The village and hotel are owned by Gettysburg Tour Center, said Ken Rohrbaugh, vice president. He said four shops will be demolished and 21 rooms will be added to the Travelodge in a project to begin in October, pending borough council approval.

The shops expected to remain are Lola's of Gettysburg, the Horse Soldier, Jim Garrahy's Fudge Kitchen, Highland Rose Civil War Sutlery and the Moccasin Shop. Rohrbaugh said the Christmas Shoppe, T-Shirt Shop, General Store and Pretzel Shop will close. The Moccasin Shop is being relocated from one building to another, he added.

"We've been working with the shop owners for the past two years," Rohrbaugh said. "We have been keeping them posted of developments. Everyone has been cooperating very well."

Tony Strickland, owner of Strickland Enterprises, which operates the T-Shirt Shop, said his shop was moved in October. He said he had heard something about the Tour Center's plans, but it won't affect his business.

The Horse Soldier, which has been at the Old Village since 1980, is one of the businesses that will stay. The company sells authentic Civil War memorabilia.

"So much of our business is on the Internet now, and with our regular customers, we won't be affected by the plans," said Sam Small, one of the owners. "More rooms mean more people starting their day from here."

From the Editor

At the November monthly meeting it was proposed to increase the annual dues to \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a group or family membership. It was pointed out by BCWRT President Don Macreadie that the dues have remained the same for several years while costs have steadily risen. One result of this increasing disparity is the steadily shrinking amount that the Roundtable has to donate to preservation each year. We are also becoming more limited in the speakers that we are able to provide. After some discussion the members in attendance voted to approve the dues increase beginning January 1, 2006.

It was also determined that efforts should be made to reduce costs wherever possible.

The largest expense is the mailing costs for the Newsletter.

Approximately 30 members signed up to begin receiving the Newsletter via email in an effort to reduce costs. If you would like to try getting the newsletter in your email please send an email to the Editor at: moondance1@comcast.net

Please be sure to put BCWRT in the subject line so that my SPAM protection doesn't delete your message. The first month after I receive your message you will receive both the email and the hard copy newsletter. Subsequently, unless you notify me that you wish to continue to receive the Newsletter via USPS, you will receive an email only. We save \$222 for each 50 fewer newsletters we have to mail. Once the cost of first class postage goes up to \$.39 in January, the savings increases to \$234.