

ALGOOD TO BUY WHITE PLAINS

(Algood is a city in Putnam County, Tennessee)

White Plains is on the National Register of Historic Places. Algood bought the property and intends to turn it into a museum.

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By Kate Cook

Algood will soon be the owner of a historic home.

At its regular meeting Tuesday, Algood council members voted unanimously to buy White Plains for \$250,000.



They'll buy the property and 2.27 acres from Dr. Scott and Mona Copeland, who have owned it since fall 2013.

City Administrator Keith Morrison said the Copelands approached the city a few weeks ago. He contacted the council members individually to gauge their interest and organized individual tours for each of them.

Morrison said the property, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, could be used for a museum honoring quilts, the Civil War or even the city itself.

Each council member cast their vote with a comment about how much the property meant to them growing up, with the exception of Luke Hill, who did not grow up in the area.

Hill said when he toured the home, a neighbor approached him, thinking he was a land developer intending to raze the property.

"She told me all about it and how important it is," Hill said.

Mayor Kirk Dyer said buying the property was a good thing for Algood and its citizens.

Those are words Mark Dudney has wanted to hear for a long time.

He's president of the nonprofit Friends of White Plains group, which has lobbied different government entities to buy the property and protect it for years.

“The timing was just right to get this done,” Dudney said. “This required vision on the part of the council.”

Dudney said he’s pleased, but there’s still a lot of work to be done before celebrations can begin.

White Plains was originally the center of commerce for Putnam County. It served as the first county seat and was an important stop along the Old Walton Road. Three presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson, all drank from the well at White Plains, which is why it’s called the “well of three presidents.” Rachel Jackson made a quilt there.

Algood doesn’t own the property yet. It still needs to be surveyed and new plats drawn before Algood city attorney Danny Rader can close on it.

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