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Historic places affected even more by storm

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Besides knocking out power, displacing families and shutting down roads, last month's rains also caused heavy damage to some of Fairfax County's historic properties that will take months to repair.

Colvin Run Mill, a 19th century historic site belonging to the Fairfax County Park Authority, lost the underground pump system that sends water from Colvin Run Stream to the waterwheel, which the county spent about \$50,000 restoring two years ago.

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"The mill is not operable for the present time, and we may be talking about an inoperable mill for about a year," said Mike Henry, the site manager.

Rocks, trees and water flowed down a swelling Colvin Run Stream and quickly eroded the dirt around the pump system, according to Henry.

He said it will cost as much as \$250,000 to repair.

"We are exploring a lot of different alternative ways to fix this," he said.

Because the mill, which used to be the county's only operational mill dating back to the late 19th century, belongs to the park authority, there may be federal money or insurance available for repairs, Henry said.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency visited Colvin Run last week to assess the damage.



Times Staff Photo/Brian Price Among the destruction from recent heavy storms was the more than 100-year-old Masonic Temple in Clifton. A section of wall had to be cut out, and three floors had to be removed down to the original level.

Members of Clifton's Masonic Acacia Lodge 16 will probably have less luck fixing their meeting place, a historic landmark built in the 1800s, because it is privately owned.

The house is located next to Popes Head Creek, and, after the stream overflowed its banks, "there was about 17 inches of water that built up around the lodge," said William Baumbach, a member of the lodge's building committee.

The water level inside reached 5 1/2 inches in places, damaging floors, walls and the foundation, which will have to be replaced, Baumbach said.

Baumbach said it will cost up to \$200,000 to restore the building. The lodge is not going to get any assistance from the county or state, he said.

"I've contacted them, and they've all told me that there is no money for the preservation of historical buildings," he said.

Baumbach said they are not only trying to restore their meeting place but they also are "trying to save a historic building for the town of Clifton."

Right now the group's only hope of getting enough money to fix the building is to accept unsolicited funds because it is against Masonic code to ask for donations, Baumbach said.

They hope to make repairs by Thanksgiving.

David Olin, a member of the Fairfax County History Commission, said there is not much the county can do about fixing historic structures that are privately owned.

"Unfortunately, we have no control over it," Olin said.

As far as he knows, there was no other significant damage to historic buildings in the county, Olin said.

Archaeologists at Gunston Hall Plantation in Mason Neck had their pits flooded out, according to Susan Blanketship, development coordinator at the plantation, but the main structures on the grounds are safe.

Michael Rierson, an architect with the park authority, said the county was fortunate the rains did not do more damage to historic structures, but they were not as fortunate with the park systems.

"There was some pretty heavy erosion to the stream valleys," Rierson said.

The foundation for a bridge along the Washington & Old Dominion Trail at Piney Branch Run Stream near Vienna eroded because of high and rough waters caused by the rain, according to Mark Riddell of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Riddell said there is a temporary bridge across the stream until repairs can be made, but he did not know when that will happen.



The advertisement is a horizontal banner. On the left is a logo consisting of a shield with a house silhouette inside, topped with a crown. To the right of the logo is the text "YOUR PERSONAL INCENTIVE PACKAGE!" in a bold, serif font. Below this text is a small rectangular button with the text "CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS" and a right-pointing arrow. To the right of the button is a photograph of a two-story house with a white garage door and a blue roof. On the far right is a dark green vertical bar with the text "STANLEY MARTIN" in white, serif font, and "FEEL RIGHT AT HOME" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

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