

Society's effort to save 1910 cottage fails

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The Wheeling Historical Society, lacking time and money, has given up its effort to move one of the Childerley cottages at Addolorato Villa to its historic village in Chamber Park.

Society members were hoping to add the cottage, one of eight on the Villa property, to the church, original village hall and carriage house that already are part of the historic village at 251 N. Wolf Road.

Addolorato Villa officials were willing to donate one of the cottages to the historical society on the condition that the society foot the bill for moving it. The cottages, built in 1910 as part of the Childerley home for widows and orphans, are scheduled to be demolished in late November to make way for a second 100-unit apartment building for senior citizens.

"The opportunity to move the cottage came up very fast," society member Robert L. McIntyre said. "There wasn't time to do it right. We

couldn't get the proper permits. Maybe the money could have been taken care of but there just wasn't enough time."

The money to move the building would have come from the museum tax fund, which is part of the park district tax levy each year. The fund has a balance of about \$42,000 and is also used for upkeep, maintenance, supplies and other costs associated with running the museum and historical village.

Park district officials estimated that it would cost about \$72,000 to

relocate the building. They also said that it would be impossible to get the building moved before next spring.

"It is too bad this didn't work out," McIntyre said. "This one was free."

McIntyre said that the historical society has learned from this experience and is in the process of scouting for houses that would be suitable for the historical village.

"We need to take the initiative instead of waiting for word that a suitable building is going to be demolished and then scramble to try and save it," he said.