

# County Plans To Sell Bonny Oaks Chapel

By JOHN SHEARER

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A landmark Bonny Oaks Drive church building dating to 1939 will soon be put on the market by the county. *FD-31-936-1*

County commissioners Thursday approved a resolution by a 5-2 vote to sell the historic Bachman Memorial Chapel that formerly served the now-closed Bonny Oaks School.

But preservationists need not worry that it will be torn down for a warehouse development for the Bonny Oaks Industrial and Office Park because the stipulation for the property is that its architectural integrity must be preserved.

According to Dan Wade of the County Public Works Department, the property was earmarked for use by the Hamilton County Board of Education after the county took over the property in the 1980s, but now it is considered surplus property.

"We're thinking about selling it because all kinds of people want to buy it," he told commissioners. But not all commissioners en-

dorsed the proposal.

"I just hate to see us sell a landmark," said Commissioner Curtis Adams. "We don't need the money."

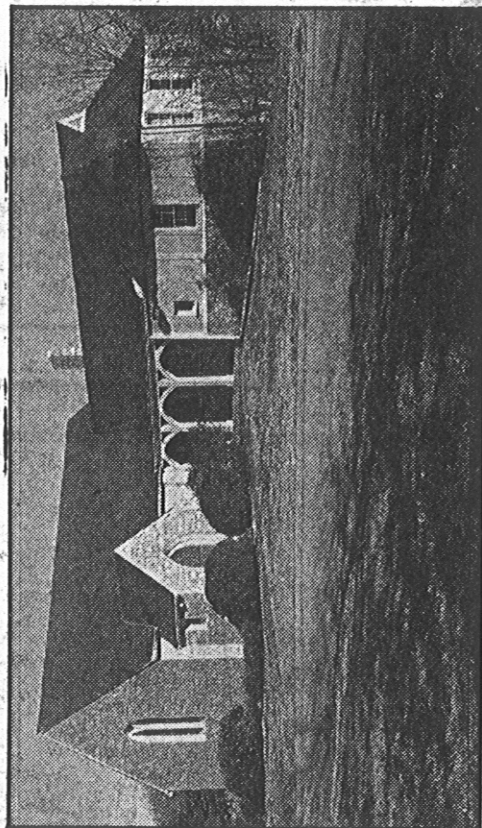
County government officials say that the minimum purchase price for the chapel and adjoining acreage will be \$69,000. No parking currently exists, but enough acreage adjoins the property to construct a parking lot large enough for the chapel's seating capacity.

While discussing the measure Thursday, commissioners said they will make sure to study any proposal carefully before agreeing to it.

At least one commissioner also said the commission may want to look at the possibility of leasing it. But Mr. Wade said he thought it might be better to sell it instead.

The structure is a one-story stone and stucco building with approximately 2,800 square feet of space on the main level plus a full basement.

The main auditorium has oak flooring with 29 rows of pews. The seating capacity is 230 peo-



Free Press photo by LAURA WALKER

**LANDMARK CHAPEL:** Hamilton County government is expected to sell this historic chapel at the old Bonny Oaks School.

The chapel and other historic buildings were bought by the county in the 1980s with plans to convert the school's farm land into an industrial park. However, the agreement from the start was that the historic buildings had to be preserved.

In addition to the architectural integrity, the pews and other fixtures must remain with the chapel and be incorporated into the renovation, officials said.

The chapel is expected to be sold through bids.