

## Mansion built for Thomas Jefferson's grandson offered for FREE (but you'll have to pay to move it somewhere else)

- Historic Randolph-Lucas mansion offered free to any prospective buyer who can afford to move house to new location
- 1924 mansion sitting on property wanted by condo developers

By [Beth Stebner](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 08:06 EST, 5 October 2012 | **UPDATED:** 08:42 EST, 5 October 2012



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A condo developer in Atlanta wants to tear down a historic mansion built for the grandson of Thomas Jefferson, as it's impeding the development of their property.

But members of a Georgia historic society have come up with a unique option – offering the opulent Randolph-Lucas House to someone who appreciates its historic ties, for free.

The only stipulation is that the buyer must front around \$350,000 to move the mansion to a different neighbourhood in the area. And of course, the sundry renovations aren't free, either.



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Eminent domain? A condo association in Atlanta is trying to obtain the land where the Randolph-Lucas mansion now stands



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Old hat: The 1924 Federal Revival mansion was moved once before in 1997; a

conservation group is offering the mansion for free to anyone who will pay to move it

The Federal Revival house was built on Peachtree Road in Atlanta in 1924 for Hollins Nicholas Randolph, who was a prominent attorney in Atlanta and a descendent of the third president of the United States.

Preservationists at the Buckhead Heritage Society have tried to spread the word.

Wright Mitchell, a Buckhead attorney, told the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) that the costs of repair are too much of an unknown for prospective buyers.

The condominiums, painted a pale shade of yellow and standing storeys above the mansion, were built in 1997. As part of their contract, they moved the house 35 feet away from the development to comply with zoning regulations.

The association which owns the units claim the historic house is in poor condition, and are filing with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission to tear it down and instead replace it with an open-air pavilion for residents of the condos.



**Fixer-upper: The house has been uninhabited for 25 years, after its last resident died; here, the shutters show obvious signs of wear**



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**Historic:** The house was built by Thomas Jefferson's grandson, who was a prominent lawyer

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But between the two sides, the 2500 Peachtree Condominium Association has an agreement to hold up – when they built the condos 15 years ago, they were required to move the house.



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**Family ties:** Randolph was the scion of President Thomas Jefferson, pictured

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They were also required to renovate it, according to [Reporter Newspapers](#).

The house has been empty some 25 years, since its previous owner passed away in the 1980s. From there, it became a popular venue for weddings, and was granted historic status in 1990.

The condos were allowed to be built if and only if they preserved the house.

Atlanta, like many places in the country, did not have a solid preservation movement in place until well after the 1960s, meaning that many historical buildings from bygone eras have been flattened to make way for newer

constructions.

The preservation society told the Journal-Constitution that they've had several prospective buyers, but no bites yet.

They said the poor economy isn't helping.

They also said the condo association will not let engineers and architects inspect the property to discern how much work the property actually needs.



© buckheadheritage.com

**Saving the past: From left to right, Buckhead Heritage members Henry Howell, Claudia Barnes, James Ottley, Tamara Bazzle, Executive Director Erica Danylchak, and President Wright Mitchell**

Read more:

- [Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Peachtree mansion offered for free by preservationists](#)
- [Reporter Newspapers: Randolph-Lucas House owners present case to design board](#)

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It is rather like an upmarket 'Up'. I think it would take more balloons than I can afford.

- [Philip](#) , Birmingham, 06/10/2012 15:13

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Your comments: Oh man--you are tearing down this beautiful home to build more eye sores? Say it ain't so ! No class and no appreciation of history. Developers --the scourge of the earth ! (well, Tesco, the village killer is worse)

- [Ruckus](#) , over here, United Kingdom, 06/10/2012 13:33

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Pikachu 00:06 - If we had said that about every building ever built there would be no historic buildings anywhere. Can you imagine if they had said that about the Tower of London or Hadrians Wall. That is how buildings become historic because you hold on to them for future generations to look at as part of your history and if you compare this lovely old house to some of the old rubbish they put up today all the more reason to hang on to it.

- [Jo](#) , Essex UK, United Kingdom, 06/10/2012 07:23

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Built by a President's grandson, less than 100-years old, and not maintained. Hardly that 'historic' then.

- [Pikachu](#) , The Real World, 06/10/2012 00:06

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Give it to the state, (Georgia). They have the resources to move it somewhere.

- [chrisq1711](#) , Jonesboro, United Kingdom, 05/10/2012 22:33

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If we would quit pumping out thousands of babies a day, there just might be some land left for the house to sit in peace.

- [Moody](#) , Dallas, 05/10/2012 21:28

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How utterly ridiculous. Leave the House. Let the Condo move. We have the Belo Mansion in the middle of all the highrises in downtown Dallas. It is where the local bar association gathers. Maybe some Atlanta organization can take over the house and preserve it and use it as their meeting location. Modern shoddily built condos are a dime a dozen.

- [Someone](#) , Somewhere in Lone Star, 05/10/2012 19:18

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It looks as though the Condo Association never lived up to their deal by renovating it. That's probably why they won't let anyone in it to inspect it. It should be taken away from them, renovated, and left right where it is. They should have no say in any of this and should be fined because they failed to meet the agreement. This building needs to be taken care of. Where are all the rich people that say they care about the United States now????

- [BillionaireAddresses](#) , Minneapolis, 05/10/2012 18:53

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I'd love to have it - don't live in Atlanta and can't afford it but I'd love to have it.

- [Susan](#) , USA, 05/10/2012 18:30

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So ridiculous, just repair it and turn it into a Club House for the apartments. They could put in a gym and other amenities. It's sad that America doesn't respect its historic buildings.

- [MBB](#) , Boulder USA, United States, 05/10/2012 18:20

Click to rate  Rating 41

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