Chesapeake Dispatch

Chesapeake Reporter Gerald R Cornflake is breaking the news with this story

The State of Greater Appalachia appeals to the United States Secretary of the Interior's Office to determine whether the Kirtland Temple, a National Historic Landmark, owned by the Community of Christ will be delisted from the registry. The state is looking for approval to use eminent domain to seize the land with compensation for the construction of a new state project.



The Kirkland Temple, founded by the Church of Christ (now known as the LDS Church) was their first temple constructed for the newly founded faith in 1800s

The State of Greater Appalachia has appealed to the Secretary of the Interior to delist the Kirtland Temple from the National Historic Landmark which would protect the

landmark from requests to use eminent domain on the land. Eminent domain is the right of a state to expropriate private property for public use with compensation. The State of Greater Appalachia will appeal to use their power in the eminent domain to seize the land that the Kirtland Temple stands on and compensate the Community of Christ Church with above market value for the land.

The state of Greater Appalachia is reportedly planning on either building a park or new state offices on the land that the Kirkland Temple. However, the lieutenant Governor recently stated in a press conference that it might not be used for such noble purposes. He said,

"Well, the Kirkland Temple's land will be used to build the best and grandest new park in all of Greater Appalachia. There will be swings, a baseball field, and a giant statue to Governor Goog and Lieutenant Governor… I mean who knows what great things the state will come up with to put in this park."

The Community of Christ Church has been outraged by this and has appealed to the Federal Government not to revoke the National Historic Landmark status of their land where the historic temple sits. Additionally, they have said they will fight in court to prevent eminent domain of their property if the State tries to use the power on their land. They don't want compensation above market value, but they want to keep their temple for the historic and religious significance to themselves. It will likely be in battle for months, if not years; the current occupants of the governor's mansion and lt governor's mansion would be gone by the time the land is seized.

On the other hand, others question why the State seems so determined to use this land and whether this is an example of religious discrimination against members of the Latter Day Saint movement. It could be a reaction to the rising LDS influence in the state of Fremont. Lieutenant Governor BranofRaisin, a proponent of religious freedom,

is still a bit concerned about aspects of LDS theology and some have proposed this is a way to get back. The lieutenant Governor's office has been asked to comment and strictly denied that this is religious discrimination.

"The Lieutenant Governor, BranofRaisin, denies any religious discrimination as the reasoning for the attempt to use eminent domain to allow the state to own this piece of property. He believes that this could be a ruse to undermine religious supporters of the Lieutenant Governor"

Nevertheless, the National Historic Registry must delist the property for any eminent domain to occur and this seems unlikely. However, the Chesapeake Dispatch is waiting and ready for any updates to this story.