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Naples, Marco  
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## Wilkinson House no longer historic

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The Wilkinson House, the subject of a bitter battle over historic preservation in Naples, became just another house on the beach Wednesday — at least on the city's zoning map.

The Naples City Council voted 5-2 to rezone the house of Naples' first elected mayor from a public museum to single-family residential amid concern about the house's fate.

Rezoning the house was a condition of a deal the City Council approved in September to sell the dilapidated house to neighbors /

*The house of Naples's first elected mayor has been rezoned to single-family residential*

Robert and Pamela Sibcy and settle years of litigation over the house.

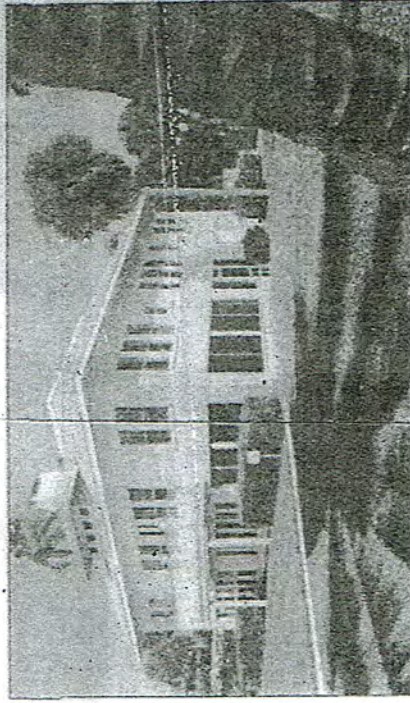
A previous City Council agreed in 1998 to buy the house as part of a plan to save it from demolition, but the plan fell apart when the Collier County Historical Society defaulted on its end of the deal to pay off the city's loan.

The \$4 million deal with the Sibcys includes deed restrictions intended to preserve the house, but the restrictions expire in five years. The Sibcys have said they intend to restore the house and use it as a guest house.

Preservation advocate Falconer Jones told the City Council on Wednesday that he wished the deal with the Sibcys had included permanent preservation requirements beyond the five-year deed restrictions.

"Sometimes I wish this house were a manatee," Jones said. "I think it would be easier to pro-

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The Naples City Council voted 5-2 to lift historic preservation status from the Wilkinson House. Dan Wagner/file photo

*Drive-thru flu clinic*