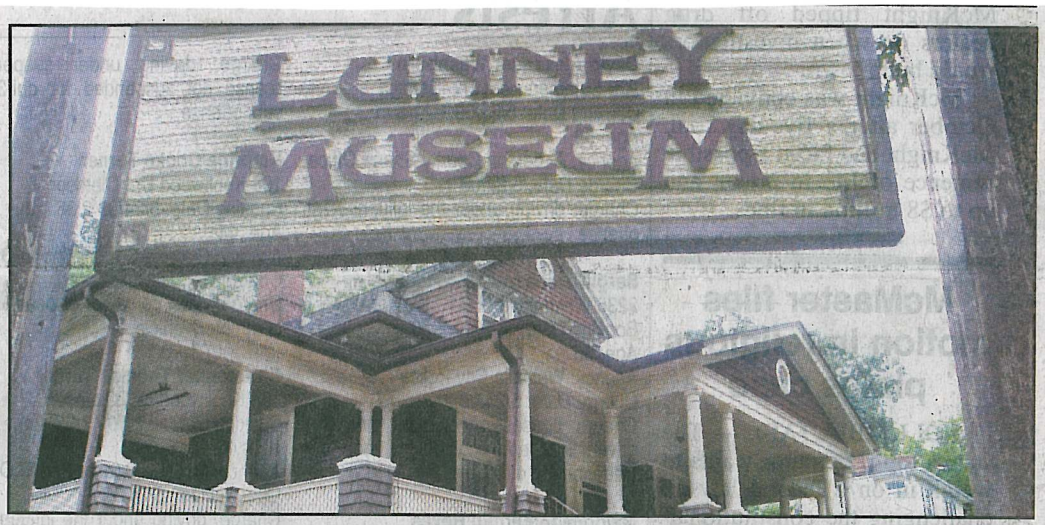
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City to close on Lunney

By ANDREW MOORE
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SENECA — It hasn't been easy, but the city of Seneca is now at the doorstep of officially acquiring the Lunney Museum.

City Administrator Greg Dietterick announced Tuesday during a budget work session that Seneca is expected to close on the property by next Tuesday. City officials will review the final paperwork today and Friday to make sure there are no more hurdles in the acquisition.

The city's purchase of the Lunney Museum has been mired in legal difficulties since the Seneca City Council voted unanimously to purchase it nearly a year ago. The nearly century-old landmark at 211 W.S. First St. in Seneca had county funding cut in 2007, and in June 2008 City Council voted unanimously to buy it for $45,000, contingent upon the clarification of clear title and any other legal issues.

While a reverter clause stating if the county did not utilize or fund it, it would return back to Charlest Finley was in the original deed when Oconee County took the property, a later deed did not this statement.

This made the original clause ineffective and necessitated the passage of a county ordinance that would allow the county to give the Lunney back to Finley on the condition it be sold to Seneca.