

# Demolished

## Old Clay County Hospital torn down after years in limbo



Alex Haglund ~ Advocate-Press

**The old Clay County Hospital, in Flora, is currently being demolished. The top photo shows the progress of the demolition of Friday afternoon, the bottom, its condition Monday morning.**

**By Alex Haglund**

[The Clay County Advocate-Press](#)

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Flora, Ill. —

A piece of Clay County history, the old Clay County Hospital, is now being demolished. One of the building's owners, area businessman Steve Taylor says that the reason for the demolition is not due to progress, but due to a lack of it.

Taylor, who says the hospital is owned by, "Me and a couple of other guys," says that they are the second owners of the hospital since the new hospital opened and, "The second ones to find out that the city wouldn't allow us to do a (expletive) thing with it."

Taylor said that he and the other owners, "Found plenty of uses for it, but none that passed the city fathers. Finally said 'The hell with it,' And tore it down."

Taylor says that the city of Flora didn't want anything done with the old building, "To the extent that they re-zoned single family residential, with no special uses, which made it absolutely impossible to do anything with it, would not work with us. I'd love to vote the whole (expletive) bunch of them out."

Taylor said that the demolition of the hospital has been a long time coming, because, “We were still trying to find something to do with it.”

“We had ample opportunities to turn it into apartments or assisted living-type apartments,” said Taylor, “We had an offer that would have curled your hair to turn it into a car museum, but they wouldn’t allow us to build a privacy fence or allow a 24-hour caretaker in there so they queered that deal.”

“The simple fact of the matter is that it became apparent that there was no other choice but to tear the building down,” Taylor said. And now, he says, there’s, “Not much left.”

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