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Plans call for towers at Gwinnett Place mall
Developer proposes two mixed-use high-rises

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Plans for two more high-rise towers in Gwinnett emerged Thursday.

Developer George Thorndyke has proposed two 25-story towers at Gwinnett Place mall, according to a request for review sent to the Atlanta Regional Commission on Thursday afternoon by Gwinnett County planners.

The project, called The Place at Gwinnett, will be a mixed-use development with residential condominiums, retail and office space, according to the request. The filing shows 312 high-rise condos and loft condominiums, but doesn't indicate how many would be in the towers and how many would be in other buildings.

Thorndyke's development company, Madison Walk LLC, owns the empty Macy's building at the mall along with a swath of the mall's parking lot.

Scott Rolston, manager of Gwinnett Place, said he has seen drawings of the proposal from Thorndyke, a former candidate for the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners. The drawings show both towers in the corners of the parking lot, with an office building in the middle, he said. The former Macy's building had been grayed out, however. It wasn't clear from the drawings if Thorndyke planned to keep the existing building or not, Rolston said.

"I think part of the revitalization effort is to develop that live/work/play concept," Rolston said. "All that's around the mall is renters. But I don't know if the old building is going to be demolished, and I don't know what is going to happen with parking."

Thorndyke, who did not return calls Thursday, had planned earlier this year to purchase about 50 acres near the mall for a mixed-use development. That deal fell through, leaving Gwinnett developer Wayne Mason to scoop up the Gwinnett Prado and Gwinnett Station shopping centers in his place.

Mason said he is working with outside investors to build a \$600 million series of high-rise residential condominiums and shopping space on the property.