

June 5, 2009

Historic Ware Shoals Inn to be Dedicated to the Community

Submitted by Cindy Cook

Historic Ware Shoals Inn to be Dedicated to the Community

Ware Shoals, South Carolina, June 5, 2009 – A dedication ceremony for the Ware Shoals Inn has been scheduled for Friday, June 12 in Ware Shoals, S.C. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the Ware Shoals Inn located at 1 Greenwood Avenue North, Ware Shoals, S.C. 29692.

Originally built in 1923 by Ware Shoals Manufacturing Company, the restoration project is the first of its kind in the United States. Totally restored to its original condition, the Inn will serve as multi-family, affordable senior housing. It is LEED Certified and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It will include 23 apartments (one and two bedroom), as well as a large common room area and foyer.

On June 12, the 30th anniversary of its closing, the Inn will be dedicated back to the Ware Shoals community where it once served as a center of activity. It was one of several facilities built by the textile company and a fundamental part of the development of the community, hosting everything from business partners to Boy Scout meetings and wedding receptions.

The Inn originally featured public dining rooms, small meeting rooms, and 52 modern bedrooms, each with a private bathroom and an electric kitchen. The building itself was a beautiful structure highly influenced by the textile company. Its design was straightforward and efficient yet incorporated many elements of the Arts and Crafts movement and the Colonial Revival.

The developers, Vision Ware Shoals, LLC specializes in the redevelopment of historic buildings and communities in the Carolinas, began renovations on May 13, 2008. The vision for the project according to Frank Warlick, managing director of VWS and architects from Perkins Eastman of Charlotte, NC, is to make the building as much like the 1923 version of itself as possible.

The only significant difference will be the absence of a steam boiler and radiators for heat. According to Warlick, there will also be the addition of air conditioning.

It would probably be quicker and cheaper to demolish the old Inn and rebuild a new structure, but Warlick said it was worth the extra time and money to preserve history.

"I think when it's finished, it's really going to be quite a place," he said.

In November 2007, the Inn was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Warlick said this was for the building's protection; now it can never be torn down, and since it is in the protection of the National Park Service, it will never fall into disrepair again.

Funding for this project was provided through programs administered by the SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority. Other funding sources were the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Federal Historic Tax Credits, State of SC Historic Tax Credits and SC Textile Tax Credits.

Join the residents of Ware Shoals at this historic event as they proudly honor the Inn's past, present and future.

For more general information on the Ware Shoals Inn, please visit www.wareshoalsinn.com or call 864.552.1404.

###
