

Feb. 18, 2009:

Owners seek to restore Palace to former glory

Story Body:By Jim Moore

of the Daily Courier

When Jon and Kathryn Bowen bought a pair of historic downtown Grants Pass buildings in September 2007, Jon Bowen said he was "100 percent committed to returning them to their historical glory."

The Bowens have already refurbished the Rogue Gold Cheese building at the corner of H and Fifth streets.

Next is the Palace Hotel at Fifth and G streets and the Bowens are ready to restore the exterior of the building "to reflect the details of the original Palace."

They're seeking approval from the Historical Buildings and Sites Commission to do just that and the commission will consider their application Thursday night.

The current version of the building was built in 1900 and has undergone multiple changes since.

The original windows and doors have been removed and a cupola on the northeast corner of the building was taken down. In addition, metal siding has been added to some parts of the building.

Jon Bowen said he will use a photograph of the Palace taken around 1909 to restore the building. He plans to replace all of the windows and doors, retrofit new storefronts along Fifth Street, remove a metal roof and reconstruct the cupola.

Bowen said nothing is firm for potential tenants but that he has talked with three different businesses and is considering a restaurant, a music venue and a retail shop in the building.

Staff has recommended approval of the application.

The Palace Hotel building was at the center of controversy in late 2006 and early 2007, when Larry Lacey briefly opened a strip club on the second floor of the building. Bowen bought the building from Lacey.

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