

Feb. 20, 2009:

Palace Hotel will be blast from the past

Story Body:By Jim Moore

of the Daily Courier

The historic Palace Hotel at Fifth and G streets will be getting a new look — make that an old look — within six months.

The Historical Buildings and Sites Commission unanimously approved an application Thursday night giving Jon and Kathryn Bowen the go-ahead to restore the exterior of the building "to reflect the details of the original Palace."

"We're very excited," Jon Bowen said.

The Bowens bought the Palace and the neighboring Rogue Gold Cheese building at the corner of H and Fifth streets in September 2007. They've have already done some work to the Rogue Gold building and are seeking tenants there.

The current version of the Palace 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.

The Bowens plan to replace all of the windows and doors, retrofit new storefronts along Fifth Street, remove a metal roof and reconstruct the cupola. They will use a photograph of the Palace taken around 1909 to restore the building.

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.

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