

For Immediate Release
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ACWORTH Atlanta's Lakeside Village

Innovative Preservation Plan Saves Unique Acworth Icon

Acworth, GA— A truly innovative rehabilitation project in Acworth has recently been recognized for its unique approach to historic preservation and downtown re-development. Acworth's newly rehabbed Old Mill Restaurant was honored as the private sector's Best Rehabilitation/Restoration, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Office of Downtown Development, and the Georgia Downtown Association.

A landmark plan for the city's old Mill Ruins was devised by Acworth's Old Mill Partners and executed it impeccably. The partnership includes local artist Carol Allegood, wife of Mayor Tommy Allegood; builder Chris Sullivan; property owners John & Gina McMiniman; restaurateur Steven Dudley, and architect Dale Peek. Slated for demolition, by either neglect or intent, the Mill Ruins was rescued by this imaginative group of Acworthians, The Old Mill Partners. They visualized a rehabilitation project, turning the Mill Ruins into fine dining venue for historic downtown Acworth. Their vision is now reality as they teamed preservation and construction expertise

with the Main Street program's downtown development standards. To further insure success for their project, they brought on board an experienced and talented chef...



Today, the results of their efforts, The Old Mill Restaurant, offer both residents and visitors a unique dining experience and a glance at times past in Acworth. Historic photographs depicting Acworth's past grace the walls, a real treat for the history buff.

The restored brick interior complete with its original 75-foot smokestack, coupled with an aptly named full service bar, The Last Chance, blends just the right amount of local lore with a fine dining experience fare billed as "bits of the old South".



Full of history, the Mill Ruins, had become an eyesore, it's burned out shell vacant for over a decade. The brick and heavy timber structure had been built by John Cowan in 1873; a mere decade after much of Acworth had been burned by Sherman's troops on his infamous March to the Sea. Cowan, a prospector, had gone west in the 1850s to seek his fortune in Montana's Black Hills. His band of prospectors, the "Four Georgians", is credited with the founding of Helena and striking gold in the mine, Last Chance Gulch. Returning to Acworth a decade later with a substantial fortune, Cowan, with his friends, Tarlton Moore and Smith Lemon, built what was originally a three-story, steam-driven gristmill. During the next 125 years, the structure housed both hosiery and tapestry enterprises before finally finding service as a warehouse.

A monumental restoration for Acworth, saving this unique piece of history and the Mill Ruins never has look as beautiful as it does today as The Old Mill Restaurant. For more information about The Old Mill Restaurant including pre-restoration photographs of The Old Mill visit www.acwortholdmill.com.

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