

# Old Westerville State Street

Others – such as the Holmes Hotel, built 1889 – have evolved significantly. Born as a 30-room hotel, it currently houses Aumiller Gun Shop, David Myers Art Studio, Heavenly Cup, Uptown Pharmacy and Abbey Rose Boutique, among other businesses. It has even had residential uses in the past; relatives of Hedges once lived in the turret that overlooks Main Street. “It was a very modern hotel when it was built,” Hedges says. The home of the Old Bag of Nails is another historic site. Built in the early 1880s, it initially had an opera house on the third floor, and it has since held a Ben Franklin store and Calico Cupboard. - See more at: <http://www.cityscenecolumbus.com/communities/westerville/hoof-it-through-history/#sthash.z3nRIhRP.dpuf>

Consider the former Hotel Holmes in the heart of Westerville. Owner Dan Aumiller's renovation includes a new cupola to restore the 119-year-old building to its former grandeur. The building

is drawing stares from passers-by and commendations from the local business community, which has been on the rise.

The old hotel, at 25 N. State St., is one of several commercial buildings selected as part of a planned walking tour of the historic downtown area known as Uptown. Information plaques will be installed on the buildings this year, as the owner's permit.

"These buildings are a part of the real history of Westerville," said Beth Weinhardt, local-history coordinator for the Westerville Public Library. "We want people to realize what they were used for."

The headliner is the former hotel. Aumiller said replacing the cupola is about a \$30,000 project. That's twice what it cost to build it. Durable Restoration Co. is doing the work on the three-story Queen Anne-style building at Main and State streets. In addition to Aumiller's Gun Shop, it houses a pharmacy, an art gallery, a coffee shop and a gift shop.

"That's always been a unique building, and this will give it a lot more character," said Tim Bullock, president of the Uptown Merchants Association.

The hotel site was the first lot on paper when the initial platting of the city was done in 1839, and James Westervelt, a relative of the city's founders, later built a log cabin there.

Weinhardt said a drugstore opened on the site in 1850. Four decades later, Thomas Holmes bought the property and had the hotel built. It had 30 rooms, space for two retail stores in the front, and a livery stable and blacksmith shop in the back.

"Because of where it is, it's still the pre-eminent corner in Uptown," Weinhardt said. "It's very impressive that the building will look like it would have when it opened."

<http://westervilleuptownmerchantsassociation.blogspot.com/2009/03/uptown-westerville-is-place-to-put-new.html>