

MEDIA RELEASE



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Historic Suffolk Towers Undergoing Restoration and Revival Following a 2021 Fire The former Elliott Hotel will retain critical historic character with 45 new apartment homes.

Suffolk, Virginia, May 16, 2023: Tymoff+Moss Architects (TMA), Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG), and Elliott Apartments LLC are teaming on a project financed by TowneBank to renovate the 1925 Suffolk Towers building. The “skyscraper” at 181 N. Main Street began life as The Elliott Hotel during the heyday of Suffolk’s peanut industry. Original spaces included the lobby with decorative plasterwork and terrazzo floors, ballrooms and banquet spaces, dining room, 57 rooms for lodging and quarters for housekeepers, and commercial spaces on the ground floor. The hotel was converted to apartments in the 1980s, the building slowly deteriorated over time; in 2021, two different fires resulted in the building’s vacancy.

This fast-tracked project’s construction begins this summer, with 45 units to be available to rent in 2024. The existing Baron’s Pub and Restaurant on the ground floor will remain open throughout and beyond the renovation.

The 1980s conversion to apartments simply removed walls between existing hotel rooms. The current renovation will expand the apartment footprints to make more sensible, user-friendly kitchen and laundry accommodations. Evidence of the building’s original life as a hotel will remain with the restored check-in desk, decorative plasterwork, and terrazzo floors. Historic hotel doors and details from the ballrooms will be retained, adding clever and charming character to the new apartments. A freight elevator will be sealed off, but its doors will remain as an echo of its former use. Careful demolition continues ahead of construction to make sure that original materials don’t wind up in the dumpster.

TMA and CPG have worked together on more than a dozen historic renovation projects totaling close to 1,000,000 square feet in restored, rehabilitated, and revived spaces. The TMA/CPG team’s other historic renovation projects include the Razzo restaurant in an historic fire-station in Norfolk, the Governor’s School for the Arts in a former department store, and the straightening and renovation of the former “leaning tower of Norfolk,” The Savoy. The Savoy similarly houses retail on the ground floor and apartments above.

Says Suffolk Mayor Michael “Mike” D. Duman: “The historic rehabilitation of Suffolk Towers is a major private investment in our beautiful downtown. Suffolk is eager to see this adaptive reuse project through to completion and hope it initiates further public and private investments in Downtown Suffolk.”

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