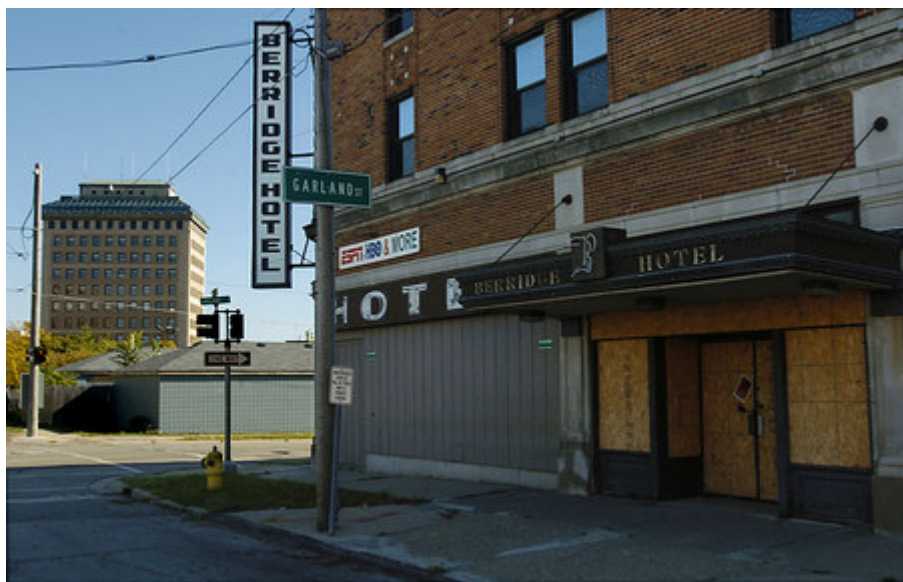


Flint's Berridge gets a last look before getting a facelift

Posted by [jforen](#) October 22, 2007 14:00PM



The Flint Journal / Bruce Edwards

The Berridge Hotel

FLINT -- Most people who came for a last look at the old Berridge Hotel today were a little tentative getting around the broken floorboards and crumbling plaster.

But Steve Peryma, 82, knew exactly the way to room 308 -- his home for several years in the early 1980s

"This is where I lived," Peryma said, turning himself in a circle as he stood inside his one-room apartment for the first time in decades. "I can't believe it wasn't bigger than this."

Peryma was just one of dozens of people who walked through the Berridge today as construction crews prepare to start rebuilding the landmark in a matter of days.

The \$6.2-million job could be completed in less than a year, and the tours gave the curious a chance to see how big a job lies ahead.

From exposed wires to broken-out windows and scattered debris, there's plenty of work to do, but 18 separate organizations, including the city of Flint, Genesee County, and the Charles Stewart Mott and Ruth Mott foundations are taking on the job.

"Take a look at the 'before picture' ... Get a sense of what our starting point is," said Daniel Kildee, chairman of the Land Bank and county treasurer.

Opened in 1928, the Berridge, 421 Garland St., is being redeveloped as a gated, 21-unit condominium project in the city's historic Carriage Town neighborhood. The next-door Tinlinn House is being converted into four rental units as part of the same project.

The job includes a complete renovation of the building's interior and restoration of its outside facade. Condo units will average 1,000 square feet and as many as three bedroom.

Peryma said he's supporting the redevelopment. He came to get one last look at his old apartment after reading about the tours in The Flint Journal.

"It looks like a haunted house, but it was good people" inside, he said of the Berridge.

"I could look out and see everything that was going on."

See complete story in Tuesday's Flint Journal

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Comments

mattbach says...

I remember driving by the Berridge many times and thinking how scary and dangerous it looked. I think this project, if they can pull it off, will definitely be a nice boost for this historic property and for downtown Flint. And the hotel is right on The Flint River so the views for the prospective new tenants should be real nice. I'm the community conversation producer for The Flint Journal and our mlive.com/flintjournal Web Site and I'd like to hear what you have to say about the Berridge and this project as officials make efforts to move downtown forward. So if you have something to share respond to this post - Matt Bach

Posted on 10/22/07 at 3:52PM

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