

Published on Sunday, October 14, 2007

## Hotels key to resurgent downtowns

By Michael Futch  
Staff writer

The quaintness of a distinguished old downtown hotel can produce a pleasant glow of Americana, as well as a tidy profit.

“A lot of people like to stay in those historical facilities,” Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne said.

For many, the old hotels offer a pleasant option, despite the modern perks and amenities of newer buildings.

The Grove Park Inn in Asheville and the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va., are examples of old hotels that capture an early 20th century elegance and a steady flow of guests in the 21st century.

More on par with the Prince Charles is the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville, S.C.

Greenville has a population of slightly more than 58,000 inside the city limits and more than 400,000 in the metro area.

Pam Swanner, vice president of the Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau, said the hotel adds ambiance to the city’s successful, revitalized downtown.

Built in 1925, the Poinsett Hotel stays busy on weekdays and attracts corporate business on weekends, Swanner said. The hotel is a few blocks from more than 50 shops and restaurants, as well as the Peace Center for the Performing Arts and the Bi-Lo Center arena.

The Iredell County town of Statesville, in the foothills of North Carolina, is continuing efforts to resurrect its downtown and the historic Vance Hotel.

Built in 1922, the Vance was used in May for the filming of the George Clooney comedy “Leatherheads.”

The Vance has been closed for three years.

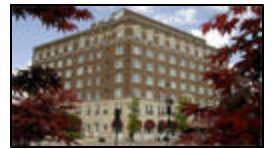
“It’s a key piece of property in our downtown revitalization,” said Marin Tomlin, executive director of the Downtown Statesville Development Corp. “We need it back in use. We would love to have it as a hotel. I don’t know if we’re ready for that yet — whether our market can handle it. It might be converted into condos or for mixed use — office space and rental.

“The more it sits empty, the more it deteriorates. It needs use.”

The Vance Hotel, a five-story structure with 90 rooms, is on the market for \$1.9 million.

---

### TELL US



[Share your memories about the Prince Charles Hotel](#)

[Our readers responses](#)

### RELATED

[Prince Charles mostly known for struggles](#)