

# Renovation Seeks to Keep Historical Charm

BY ERICE MARTIN

Hinsdale Doings, Thursday, December 1, 2005



**33 South Washington c. 1930**

For the past 105 years, drivers heading south on Washington Street into downtown Hinsdale have been greeted by the same corner building.

But the brick, Queen Anne-style former pharmacy at 33 S. Washington St. has been through changes since the heirs of the builder Adolph Froscher, who erected the building in 1900, sold it to local developer John Bell.

Bell has since renovated the historic building to the applause of some local preservationists because of the project's sensitivity to history, even though a few of the changes are modern.

"They did a phenomenal job renovating that building," said Kim Stephens, Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission Chairman.

Bell, whose development company, Waypoint Properties, purchased the building in November 2004, said when he decided to renovate the building, he turned to old photos in the Hinsdale Historic Society archives.

"We basically kept the exterior of the building pretty much along the lines of the way it originally looked," Bell said.

"The goal here was to try to keep the integrity of the building. That's one of the things that make's Hinsdale unique."

Bell said he even removed signs that were covering some of the building's original features.

Sandra Williams, who held the historical society archives, said she is pleased the building would not be demolished, an option Bell considered.

"It's a win-win for Hinsdale. We got to keep one of our historical buildings," she said.

Modern improvements include the installation of more energy-efficient windows. Stephens said the change was minor.

The developer removed some interior walls to make the new second-floor shops more spacious, so steel supports were added to hold up the roof. Women's clothing boutique Studio 910 and women's sportswear shop A Lady's Game have moved into the space.

In a sign of the times, Starbucks opened November 11 in the flagship, ground level shop on the corner of Washington and Hinsdale Ave.



Hinsdale Ave. Storefront



Washington St. Storefront