

## Fenton: Building gets financial boost

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tually, production will be moved to the building too.

The 10,200-square-foot mixed-use commercial structure has six apartments upstairs and one downstairs but most of the ground floor will go toward the public house.

"There isn't a place like it in Warrenton," said Elliott, a former bartender at Bubba's Bar & Grill. "There is a lot of work that needs to be done to that building – being a 100-year-old building. ...

The city has been really helpful. We definitely have

an attitude of gratitude."

The city's urban renewal agency hopes a financial contribution will help make the project viable.

"This is an incredible building downtown," said Kevin Cronin, the city's community development director.

"It's really a stimulus package for the downtown. God knows we need something for our downtown," City Manager Linda Engbretson added.

Maize and Roberts asked the agency Tuesday to consider kicking in more funds to help; they'd already been approved for a \$10,000



Engbretson



The 1926 Fenton Building will receive urban renewal funding.

Below: Frances and Doc Wilson, who ran the pharmacy at the corner.



renewal district.

The building's exterior will get an "extreme makeover by

enhancing historic aspects and removing nonhistoric elements," Cronin said.

The city's investment will provide a major boost downtown, Cronin said. Hopefully, it encourages more property owners to participate in the façade grant program.

The Fenton Grocery Building at 60 S. Main Ave. was built by logging company owner Jake Bosshart.

Maize's grandfather worked at Fenton Grocery before opening Maize's Red and White Store at the current site of Main Street Market. Fenton's closed in 1956 and, during the '60s, the building was home to a Coast-to-Coast Hardware store.

The building has much deferred maintenance and the roof, heating and plumbing systems must be upgraded.

City Commission Mark Baldwin, a contractor, raised some concerns about how siding was installed last year.

"I don't want us to throw good money at bad, I guess," Baldwin said. "It concerns me... is this being managed correctly?"

The city's building official did not require a building permit to replace the siding, Cronin told him.

Because of the required dollar match, "Our exposure is really limited here," Cronin said. "But the upside is really good. It really comes down to: how do we want to spend our money to improve the economic development in the downtown?"

The city manager assured commissioners the building official will stay on top of the project, as a condition of the façade grants is to get approval for the materials and work that will be done.



Baldwin

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