

Downtown turnaround put Fayetteville over top

On March 27, Fayetteville, North Carolina, was named one of eight All-America Cities in honor of its Great Downtown Turnaround -- a 10 year multi-million dollar effort to clean up a deteriorating downtown and stem the exodus of local businesses and stores to the suburbs.

Based on the assumption that restoration of its fine historic buildings and features would provide a unique basis for the future, Fayetteville's revitalization integrates a number of diverse

elements around a central transit and pedestrian mall, the Olde Fayetteville Commons.

The \$3.2 million Olde Fayetteville Commons is a three-block transit/pedestrian mall that has created a fresh new image, provided an appealing environment for public events, and already increased downtown business.

Streets and sidewalks have been reconfigured to facilitate bus and pedestrian traffic; special bus shelters and stops along the Commons are easily accessible to transit

patrons. Handsome historic structures, including the landmark Market House dating from the early 1800s, are a vital part of the Commons. A turn of the century motif with decoratively paved streets and sidewalks, decorative cast iron planters and street lamps, a fountain, and dozens of willow oaks and dogwoods, make a charming setting for strolling and shopping.

The Olde Fayetteville Commons was formally dedicated on June 1 in a gala round of day-long

festivities. Congressman Charles G. Rose, III, Fayetteville Mayor Bill Hurley, Commanders of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, administrative officials of Urban Mass Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, many other local and state dignitaries and thousands of area residents are expected to attend. "It will be a celebration of the fantastic public and private support that made Olde Fayetteville Commons possible," says Mayor Hurley.

Fayetteville's downtown resurgence, conceived by the San Francisco urban design firm of CHNMB and faithfully implemented by the City of Fayetteville, incorporates a host of improvements in various stages of completion.

Already in place are Maiden Lane Park, a lush urban open space overlooking Cross Creek, and Hospital Corporation of America's new Highsmith-Rainey Memorial Hospital.

Under development and/or construction are The Municipal Market, an attractive, brightly canopied center for festive retailing; a new central library; and medical/office condominiums on conjunction with the new hospital. On the drawing boards are the full restoration of the Prince

Charles Hotel to its Roaring Twenties look -- complete with a rooftop ballroom -- and the conversion of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Station to a restaurant.

A key element slated for future development is the Cross Creek Linear Park intended to follow the course of Cross Creek through the downtown and provide a series of cultural and recreational nodes connected by a hiking trail.

The Linear Park was inspired by San Antonio's famed Riverwalk.

"The plan is a reflection of the dreams and practical objectives of the citizens of Fayetteville," says Mayor Hurley. "It was developed with enormous public support -- both through the voting process and frequent public workshops. We're all very excited about the outcome."

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Williams completes Army basic training

Pfc Charlotte A. Williams, daughter of Larry B. and Eva R. Williams of Rural Route 1, Raeford, has completed basic training at Fort Dix.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and

ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

She received an associate degree in 1983 from Fayetteville Technical Institute.

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