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The Lorelton retirement home is being developed in the old Lore school at Fourth Street and Woodlawn

School rebuilt for retirees

By MAUREEN MILFORD
Staff reporter

NEARLY FIVE YEARS after the Red Clay Consolidated School District closed it, the Charles B. Lore Elementary School at Fourth Street and Woodlawn Avenue is gearing up to reopen as The Lorelton retirement home.

The classrooms have been converted into 59 one-bedroom and three two-bedroom apartments for people 62 or older. The developer is Lore Associates L.P., whose president is Richard E. Stat; partners include members of the Stat family.

The cost is a fully refundable entrance fee averaging \$70,000 to \$80,000. Fees depend on the size of the apartments, which vary. Monthly service charges, ranging from \$800 to \$900, include one meal a day, 24-hour security, maintenance, special events and transportation.

The Stat organization expects residents to run the gamut from singles to married couples and relatives. Apartments average about 750 square feet, but some are as small as 500 square feet, while others are 1,000

The former boys gymnasium and girls gymnasium have been divided into two floors for apartments. In the auditorium, the floor has been leveled for a dining hall and the stage has been closed off for a kitchen.

The finished product will include a greenhouse and two courtyards. Landscaping will be done by Edward R. Bachtel & Associates Inc.

The two-story ornate building with limestone and brick is described by architect Joseph T. Chickadel as collegiate-Gothic. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building covers an entire city block from Third to Fourth streets and Bayard to Woodlawn avenues. Because the building is on a slope, there are three levels of apartments.

Chickadel, a partner in Design Collaborative Inc., which designed The Lorelton, said that during a period following the Depression, many Wilmington schools were designed in classical forms. The Lore school was built in 1932. The Stats bought the 75,000-square-foot school in 1983 for \$185,000.

Suite layouts were designed to allow for quite a bit of activity space, including a game room, sun room and craft room. There is also a beauty salon, doctor's office and formal dining room.

Mitchell Associates of Wilmington handled the space planning.

Of the total space in the building, 48 percent is common areas, including hallways, dining areas and activity rooms, and 52 percent is living areas. Two models are open by appointment.

The developers expect to officially open The Lorelton in April, '87.

The \$6 million project received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Construction was handled by Builders and Managers Inc.

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