



Historic Coates House Marks the Survival of Demolition with Honorary Plaque and Celebration on August 14th

Kansas City, MO, August 1, 2009 On August 14th, the new owner of the Quality Hill Condominiums and apartment homes, CRES Management, hosted an open house at the Coates House to celebrate the return and unveiling of the Kersey Coates Plaque to the historic building. The Historic Kansas City Foundation (HKCF) has co-sponsored the open house to honor the historic nature of the Coates House Hotel as a treasured property for Downtown Kansas City. HKCF saved the building from demolition in 1978.

“Following a tragic fire in the Coates House Hotel in January of 1978, Historic Kansas City Foundation began negotiations to purchase the building in order to save it from demolition. In July 1979, the sale was finally closed and a long search for a new owner who could rehabilitate the building for new uses began. HKCF held the building more than five years, incurring significant costs along the way, until McCormack Baron & Associates of St. Louis purchased the building as part of their Quality Hill redevelopment project.

Exterior renovation was completed in 1987, and the upper stories converted into apartment units for moderate to upper-income levels.”

The Coates House is symbolic in nature to the HKCF. It represents the long-standing commitment of HKCF to save historic structures in Kansas City. Since its founding, the foundation has been the only greater Kansas City nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation of the area’s architectural heritage. The organization is proud to present the new owners with a plaque signifying the historic value to our community.

The Coates House hotel opened in 1868 and was ‘THE’ place in Kansas City. Many dignitaries stayed there, including President Grover Cleveland and his bride, who viewed Kansas City’s first Priests of Pallas parade, October 13, 1887 from their room.

“We (HKCF) are very proud that the Coates House Hotel is still here. One of the organization’s early successes was saving the building,” stated Pete Browne, HKCF Board Member. “I believe having buildings like the Coates House is an important part of our current downtown improvement project.”

In July of 2008, the Historic Kansas City Foundation hired an Executive Director to provide full time advocacy, public policy and education programming for the Kansas City Metro Area. The foundation recently received a \$250,000 challenge grant from the William T. Kemper Foundation.

“The Historic Kansas City Foundation is a great advocate for preserving more than just buildings, but a sense of community. We have a long history, passionate board of directors, and a dedicated new executive director,” commented Browne

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