

FOOD SP

Home to Abattoir restaurant, opening later this year



NEIGHBORHOODWATCH

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The expansion of the White Provision District

BY NANI MATTHEWS

I stared out of the panoramic glass pane window on the fourth floor of the White Provision building. What stared back at me was the most amazing skyline of the city of Atlanta I've ever seen. Every building as far south as Downtown and as far north as Buckhead was visible from the space. At the edge of the metropolis and at the

crossroads of Howell Mill Road and 14th Street, stands the historic White Provision building. Formerly a slaughterhouse in the meatpacking district of Atlanta, evidence of its past life has almost dissipated entirely. The newly renovated building's modern-age architecture and design breathe new life into the former red-brick warehouse, and into the budding Westside Provision District.

The \$70 million makeover of the building and the neighborhood has been no easy feat. The already established Westside Urban Market, home to Star Provisions and JCT Kitchen, recently joined together with the White Provision building and soon-to-open White Provision residences by a massive pedestrian bridge. The growing neighborhood showcases some of Atlanta's and the nation's premiere retailers (Knoll,

Seed Factory, Room and Board), salons (Dragonfly), designers and restaurants (Bacchanalia, Quinones and soon-to-come Abattoir).

In the early 1900s, this area in west Atlanta was built from the ground up with all the characteristics of the era, including Industrial Age buildings, railroads, concrete and steel. More than 100 years later, devel-

continued on 44



Corridor in the new Westside Provision building



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new foot bridge (here and at right) connecting the White Provision District





A look at the historic buildings in the White Provision District before the redesign

continued from 43

PHOTOS/TRC

opers of the property are taking that same angle; only this time, they're working from the top down. A complete renovation of the existing buildings has paid homage to their past existence while making use of them in a modern way. Clean lines and modern decor combine with the 1920s exposed brick walls and steel-framed windows. Trends of today are found in the new architecture and the general use of the building.

The mixed-use White Provision building encompasses 145,000 square feet of office, restaurant and boutique retail space. The White Provision Residence building, just south of the property, will fully integrate the area as an Atlanta community with 95 newly built condominiums, along with 20,000 square feet of retail and restaurants.

Chris Faussemagne, one of the principals of the project, is excited about the grand opening of the White Provision Residences building. "Some condominiums project that they will have great retail and restaurant options, but we already have all that here," he says. "We have an environment where people want to live."

While some of Atlanta's most highly acclaimed restaurants are already located in the Westside Provisions District, more are on the way. Anne Quatrano and Clifford Harrison, the masterminds behind Bac-

chanalia and Star Provisions, are working on a new restaurant in the White Provision building. Quatrano and Harrison incorporate the history of the building in their new concept, which has simply been described as a "meat-centric" restaurant. Abattoir (French for slaughterhouse) is set to open sometime later this year. The restaurant will feature whole animal cuisine, utilizing all parts, including items such as lamb brain fritters. Sources hint that it'll be a space that turns the table on the dimly lit dining room and dark heavy woods that traditional steakhouses embody.

More moves into the building include West Egg Café, which is currently housed in the nearby 1930s addition to White Provision. The quirky eatery will move into the newly renovated White Provision Residences building by the summer of 2009, offering guests more space to enjoy breakfast and lunch.

As the New Year begins and the White Provision building and the White Provision Residence renovation projects come to a close, a new chapter begins for the district. The unoccupied residential, office, restaurant, boutique and potential bar space will soon fill up, bringing new life to the once-vacant west side of Atlanta. **SP**

For more information, visit [www.whiteprovision.com](http://www.whiteprovision.com) and [www.westsidepd.com](http://www.westsidepd.com).



Construction on the old edifices in the White Provision District

