

PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

JUNE 13-19
2008

THE INSIDER



PETER VAN ALLEN | BUSINESS JOURNAL
1234 Locust St.

Boutique hotel opening at the Inn at Locust site

The former Inn at Locust has new life.

The hotel, at 1234 Locust St., will reopen June 20 as The Independent, a 24-room boutique hotel.

The developer is Philadelphia-based Hersha Hospitality Trust, which owns hotels throughout the Northeast Corridor, as well as California and Arizona. It also owns boutique hotels like the Duane Street Hotel in New York's Tribeca neighborhood.

Hersha did not disclose how much it invested in the property.

According to city property records, the site's market value is assessed at \$2.2 million, and contributes \$58,178 a year in property taxes.

The Inn at Locust had been run

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by Marvin and Kathleen Factor. Rooms at the inn ranged from \$200 to \$350 a night, and it included ground-floor night spots Glocal and then Bump. The inn faltered when travel declined post-9/11.

It is also on the corner of 13th and Locust where one of the city's highest-profile murders took place, that of officer Daniel Faulkner, who was gunned down by Mumia Abu-Jamal in 1981. For years, the inn was at the south end of a stretch of strip clubs.

Today, the hotel is part of the thriving Midtown Village neighborhood, which is now dotted with restaurants like El Vez and Vintage.

"We saw a diamond in the rough in this building, which we now invite business travelers and discerning tourists alike to rediscover as The Independent," said Neil H. Shah, president and chief operating officer of Hersha Hospitality.

— Peter Van Allen