

## Baker Tower Apartments Fully Renovated

After many years of construction and renovations the Historic Baker Tower at 1705 Main Street has all of its apartments fully remodeled and rented.

The project began when owner's Angelika and Shayne Olsen of HomeTown Management, LLC acquired the building in 2000 and began to restore the iconic Tower as a commercial and residential property. At the time the building was in serious disrepair. The previous owners had failed to complete their mixed use project funded by federal grants and had allowed the property to fall into foreclosure, having not serviced their mortgage debt.

According to Angelika when they took possession it was a nightmare with squatters living in various areas and the residents had no heat. The buildings' mechanical systems were all either down or barely running. "One reason it has taken us this long is because we've financed this project in stages and investment has come from some grants but the majority has been investment from the owner's," Olsen said.

Now the first five floors are home to commercial spaces and local businesses with vacancies available for new businesses. The upper four floors are newly remodeled residential apartments at full occupancy.

A restoration attempt was made in the early 1970s before it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and before the Olsen's owned it. This restoration attempt unfortunately destroyed or removed many of the historical artifacts that remained in the building. However, some photos were recovered and are now displayed in the first floor lobby.

Renovation continues with plans for a new elevator and some cosmetic restorations to entries at the exterior. "We are proud to call it our own and glad that it graces Baker City's skyline in a positive manner," Olsen said.

What was once a glamorous 82 room hotel is now a historic landmark that is home for businesses and residents. Walking through the first floor lobby hints at the original grandeur of the building with historic photos on the wall as tribute to the rich history of the famed local landmark. The owners have successfully managed to retain the old world charm while offering quality office spaces and newly remodeled apartments.

For more information please call David Clewett at (541) 207-8196.