

The Word From:
Published: May 16, 2006 12:30 AM
Modified: May 16, 2006 08:12 AM

1875 chapel to have new life, new location

The Word From - Raleigh

YONAT SHIMRON, Staff Writer

RALEIGH - The paint is flaking. The windows are cheap opaque glass. Pipes poke out of one wall.

Little of the original beauty of the 1875 chapel is apparent.

Soon it will be gone.

Gone, but not demolished. Next month, Raleigh developer Greg Hatem plans to hoist All Saints Chapel from its brick foundation downtown and move it to a new location.

The Church of the Good Shepherd -- the Episcopal church that got its start in the chapel and then expanded all around it into grander quarters -- doesn't want the old structure.

Groundwork is under way. Two weeks ago, a 1950s-era red-brick building that abuts the chapel was razed. Last week, workers on tractors with mechanical shovels painstakingly cleared out the debris -- one shovel-full at a time.

Once workers complete the job, all that will remain on the corner of Morgan and McDowell streets is the old chapel.

Hatem, of Empire Properties, aims to move the chapel to a vacant lot on East Street. There, he plans to restore the Carpenter Gothic Revival style structure and rent it out to a church, or use it for special functions such as weddings.

Hatem said he will have the chapel scraped and repainted, the plaster repaired, and a small addition built.

"It will look like a natural extension of the church," Hatem said, referring to the addition. "We'll add bathrooms and a kitchen area."

The renovation also will restore the original stained glass windows -- work the Church of the Good Shepherd has agreed to pay for. When done, the beauty of the 3,000-square-foot building, with its pointed arches and cathedral-like wood ceiling, will be apparent to all, Hatem said.

In its place on Morgan and McDowell, Good Shepherd will pave a parking lot. It won't be a big lot, said the Rev. Robert Sawyer, the rector of Good Shepherd. Only about a dozen spaces. And it will have lots of trees, plants and flowers.

Staff writer Yonat Shimron can be reached at 829-4891 or yshimron@newsobserver.com.