

BEAL CENTER PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2018

Guest writer: Barbara Deas

At Monday's Town Council Meeting, Paul Price and Barbara Deas of the CCCRA Courthouse Committee discussed the rebirth of the Historic Clay County Courthouse as a unique historical event venue and revealed it's official logo for the first time. The logo and resulting signage was presented to the Town Council for their approval as the owner and lessor of the historic building.

The Historic Clay County Courthouse, located on the Square in downtown Hayesville was built in 1888 at a cost of \$7,800, and entered service in 1889 as the center of our small mountain community.

Constructed by local craftsman Captain J.S. Anderson in the Italianate Vernacular style, it was entered into the National Registry in 1975 and served as the Clay County Courthouse until 2007, when county offices moved into the newly built Courthouse on Business Hwy. 64.

Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) had been a leader in making interim repairs to the building while it was in service and after it was closed. In 2016, CCCRA entered into a long-term lease with Clay County for the building and surrounding square. In 2017, Clay County deeded the property to the Town of Hayesville and the Town of Hayesville became the new lessor, with CCCRA remaining the lessee and operator.

In 2017, our community was fortunate that Mr. Ron Beal, a Hayesville High School graduate and part-time area resident, stepped up to add to the on-going community donations. Mr. Beal made a large commitment of funding that would allow CCCRA to complete the restoration of the property and open it once again for business. In mid-2017, Robert Penland was hired as the General Contractor and the intermittent repairs moved to a full-time re-build and restoration project.

As is typical with historic buildings, unforeseen work items were encountered. When the first floor ceiling was opened up for ductwork, it was discovered that the entire joist system holding up the courtroom floor was just about to collapse. The entire joist and sub-flooring system had to be replaced. The same situation was encountered when the ceiling in the courtroom was opened up. The main beams were sagging badly under the weight of the roof and had to be completely reinforced with new and additional beams. As these additional work costs were incurred, Mr. Beal never wavered in his support.

Through community donations and the dedication of CCCRA and the Town of Hayesville, the Historic Clay County Courthouse has been rejuvenated to the

simplicity and beauty of its early roots. It will re-open in mid-2018 as a unique historical event venue, known as the Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center. It will be the perfect venue for weddings, family gatherings or celebrations of life. It offers a memorable location for meetings, classes, gala dinners, trade expos and cultural events as well as concerts, dances, community events and children's programs.

The upstairs courtroom of over 2200 square feet allows great flexibility in planning events. The upstairs tower room, over 100 square feet, will make the perfect bride's room. There is a small meeting room downstairs, perfect for groups of 10 or less, and a larger meeting/training room for groups up to 25. The downstairs also features a full catering kitchen to add to the success of your event. In addition, there is space to use as a groom's room, with entry directly to the upstairs stage area.

The Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center stands as a proud symbol of the spirit and determination of our regional forefathers. The tasteful décor and displays will recall the beauty and simpler way of life that shaped the local Clay County history. CCCRA will sponsor a tastefully appointed, full-time gift shop on the ground floor, featuring a selection of courthouse gifts and souvenirs. Watch for information as CCCRA welcomes the community to the grand re-opening, anticipated to occur in mid-summer. Join us to experience the quaint serenity and surroundings of a by-gone era as this beautiful venue once again becomes the center of the charming, revitalized downtown area of Hayesville and Clay County.

For reservation information, please contact Kay Worden, Manager, at 828-360-2368 or send inquiries to bealcenterevents@icloud.com. Watch for additional information on CCCRA's website, www.cccra-nc.org and the launch of separate courthouse/event center media platforms in the near future.

