



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“Historic Hilltop House Hotel in Harpers Ferry to Undergo Comprehensive Restoration; To Emerge in 2010 as a World-Class Destination Hotel, Spa and Meeting Venue.”**

Harpers Ferry, WV--SWaN Investors, the owner of the Historic Hilltop House Hotel, announced today that it will embark on a major renovation of the hotel to transform it into a luxury hotel and spa.

According to Mike Miller, SWaN Investors’ Project Manager, “we purchased the hotel and surrounding parcels with a vision to restore and reposition it as a first-class, destination hotel & spa. Once the construction and restoration project is complete, this property will be transformed into a top flight property with first-class amenities, including luxury guest rooms and suites, a spa, conference center, restaurants and outdoor event space, in a naturally beautiful, one-of-a-kind, historic location just over an hour’s drive or train ride from Washington D.C. or Baltimore, MD”

The hotel, which is uniquely located on a large crest of land overlooking Harpers Ferry National Park with breathtaking views of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers two hundred feet below, has long been a tourist favorite and a fixture in Harper’s Ferry since its establishment in 1888. The hotel and annex, with seventy-five guest rooms, has hosted cultural and political luminaries such as Alexander Graham Bell, Mark Twain, Carl Sandburg, Pearl Buck, Woodrow Wilson and Bill Clinton.

The restoration project will involve approximately nine acres that SWaN Investors owns in the Harpers Ferry Historic District including the hotel structures, parking lot, five surrounding residential properties and one commercial property. In addition, SWaN Investors purchased Byrnes Island, which comprises approximately 8 acres situated in the Potomac River below the bluff where the hotel is located.

According to Miller, SWaN Investors has retained the professional civil engineering firm of William H. Gordon Associates in Charles Town, West Virginia to complete a project site assessment study and aerial topographical and boundary surveys and is evaluating proposals from some of the finest hotel restoration architects in the country to lead this project. SWaN tentatively plans to have restoration master plans complete for consideration by Harpers Ferry Town Council by Spring 2008 and hope to begin

construction by the end of this year with completion of the project in time for a 2010 grand re-opening of the hotel.

Beginning in mid-February and throughout the restoration project the hotel will be closed. Miller stated that SWaN has offered all hotel employees generous severance packages and assistance in locating other positions in the area. "It is unfortunate that we have to cease operations for a period of time and disrupt the careers of our terrific staff," said Miller, "but given the scope of the project, and safety concerns about the current condition of the property, there was no way we could continue to operate." He added, "We decided very early that it was important to provide separation benefits and to assist our staff as much as we could in their transition to other positions. It should be noted," Miller said, "that this project will continue to generate local employment opportunities, including jobs associated with the construction and restoration phases and, of course, once we reopen, additional hospitality and operations positions attendant with a facility with these incredible amenities."

Miller concluded, "We believe this restoration will transform the Historic Hilltop House Hotel into a successful business that is a valuable asset to the Harpers Ferry community and that will endure for another century."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MIKE MILLER AT:  
703-771-6301.**

**More Information Regarding the Hilltop House Hotel can be found at  
<http://www.hilltophousehotel.com>**