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NEWPORT HOTEL RENOVATION CREATES AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING

Newport, Pa.- The Perry County Commissioners, along with Tri-County HDC, Ltd., S&A Homes and the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, celebrated the grand opening of the Newport Hotel, a \$3.8 million historic rehabilitation on the Newport square. This former hotel and tavern was renovated to create 13 units of affordable senior housing, space for the Newport Senior Center, a residents' community room, and a commercial space available for lease.

Construction began in 2005 and cost over \$3.8 million. Financing was obtained primarily through a Pennhomes loan, Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credits. Orrstown Bank injected over \$1.2 million in private equity into the project through purchasing Low Income and Historic tax credits.

Located in a flood plain, the Hotel had been underutilized since the Agnes Flood caused severe damage in 1972. A couple restaurants moved into the first floor space since the late 1970s and neither was successful. In 2005, the roof blew off of the Hotel and a large bat population moved into the space. Project developers worked to relocate the bats to a bat house several blocks away near the Juniata River.

This renovation follows a similar conversion in 2000 of the Butz Building, located across Market Street from the Hotel. The \$1.3 million renovation of the Butz Building provided 11 affordable rental units for senior citizens as well as a first floor commercial space which houses the Perry County Council of the Arts.

For more information about Tri-County Housing or this development, call (717) 231-3604 or visit www.tchdc.net.