

HARGROVE & MOFIELD HARDWARE STORE

Overton Co., TN

'Brothers breathe new life into historic building'

By Amy Davis

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LIVINGSTON – From his second-story office window overlooking the courthouse square in Livingston, Gene Gantt enjoys the daily sights of small town life.



This building at 102 West Court Square in Livingston was purchased by the Gantt brothers in 1984. It was built in 1912 by Hargrove and Mofield, starting out as a hardware store. This view is from the 1920s.

It's the same view several others have enjoyed over the past century – and it's a good feeling.

"Every day I get cold chills about working here," he said. "There's so much history. It's just phenomenal."

Gantt and his brother, Scott, have owned the property at 102 West Court Square since 1984 and the building next to it (now a salon) since 1982. They also own the building on the other side of the square, which houses the Antique Market and Apple

Dish restaurant, and a large warehouse just off the square.

It's a strong love for the town and the courthouse area in particular that drew them in – and they've put a lot of effort into making them what they are today.

"When we bought these buildings, they were all in disrepair," Gantt said.

It was only a few years earlier that Gantt had made Overton County his home.

"I came here in 1977 from North Carolina with \$50 in my pocket and a dog – and that was it," he said.

But the Gantt brothers have come a long way since then, working together in multiple business ventures – everything from the respiratory care field to plant sales to publishing.

The latest – which they are calling EVENTA – is the first-of-its kind operation for the town.

And it's located right on the courthouse square, of course.

Unlike other businesses the brothers have sold both nationally and internationally in recent years, EVENTA is a "keeper."

"This one I intend to operate until my last breath," Gantt said.

"It's all about outcomes."

The venture has two parts: one being the brothers' own new healthcare consulting business while the remaining offices in the historic building will serve as part of what they're calling the EVENTA Business Center.



"It's been the site of successful businesses since it was built by Mr. Hargrove and Mr. Mofield in 1912 – from hardware stores to healthcare companies, which is what's going on here right now," Gantt said.

Of the 10 new offices created so far, five are already filled – three of them by the Gantts' new healthcare consulting company, which bears the same name as the business center. But there's room for more.

The space is ideal for lawyers, real estate agents, staffing companies and other professionals but not retail.

"EVENTA is Latin for 'out-comes,'" Gantt said. "With our new company we are contracting with insurance companies, state governments and equipment manufacturers to work on rules and regulations for the development of new payment methodologies fro complex respiratory patients."

The payment methodologies would be based on "outcomes," he said.

"If you have a good outcome, you should be rewarded. If you have a bad outcome, you shouldn't," he said. "right now, it doesn't work that way in healthcare." *the article continued.*

*Read more about Putnam Co., TN and surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>