

New owner for Cohasset Hardware

Pilgrim Bank purchases building

By Nancy White
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Leading up to the holidays, residents might have noticed some action at the Cohasset Hardware building. Painters outside, Christmas trees and other festive decorations in the windows, workers moving things around inside and a general sprucing up of the prominent village building.

The reason is the Cohasset Hardware building – after more than two years of dormancy – has a new, but very familiar, owner: Pilgrim Bank.

Frank Campbell, president and CEO of Pilgrim Bank, and the building's longtime co-owner Tina Watson confirmed the sale this week. Rumors had been circulating around town about the hardware store over the last few weeks and



PHOTO/NANCY WHITE

The Cohasset Hardware building, the centerpiece of the Village, has been sold to Pilgrim Bank.

Campbell was happy to announce the acquisition.

Campbell said with the bank's growth over the last two years cou-

pled with its commitment to the town of Cohasset and the village the purchase "just made a lot of sense."

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Pilgrim Bank purchases Cohasset Hardware building

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"It is the defining building of the village," Campbell said. "Our next phase is to sit down and figure out what to do with the building (but) we know we don't need the whole space."

Campbell, who declined to comment on the purchase price of the building, said the rough draft version of the building's future includes expanded office space for Pilgrim Bank on the second floor and leased space, potentially for retail or

another commercial use, on the first floor.

Located at 40 South Main Street at the crossroads of Elm Street and Main Street, the Cohasset Hardware building has been for sale since November 2007. The hardware business, owned and operated by Jim Watson since the 1980s, closed May 1, 2007.

Tina Watson said a "melancholy feeling" accompanied the sale of the building for her and her family.

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"It's great for the town. In the big picture, we know Pilgrim Bank will do right by the building."

—Tina Watson, former owner

ever," Tina Watson said. The Cohasset Hardware building, as it has been referred to for decades, has been in their immediate family since 1964 and their extended family since 1920s. Tina's brother, Jim, spent a good part of his career owning and working at

Cohasset Hardware.

"It's great for the town. In the big picture, we know Pilgrim Bank will do right by the building," she said.

Watson has given Pilgrim Bank permission to utilize any of the historic elements of the building. Campbell hopes

some of the historic pieces can be incorporated into the interior of the to-be-renovated building. A kerosene pump, an antique safe, scales, and even the "Eastwick Hardware" sign used during the filming of "The Witches of Eastwick" are among the items.

"One of the important aspects of the project is to maintain the historic integrity of the building," Campbell said, adding care will be taken to hire contractors and architects who understand the character of the building, the village, and the town.

A building committee made up of several members of the

Pilgrim Bank Board of Directors has been formed to steer the renovation and project.

The current village Pilgrim Bank location was renovated recently and Campbell said he does not envision moving the bank next door to the hardware building.

Although the Watsons had received a variance to create four apartment units on the second and third floors of the building, Campbell said it was "unlikely" those plans would come to fruition.

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