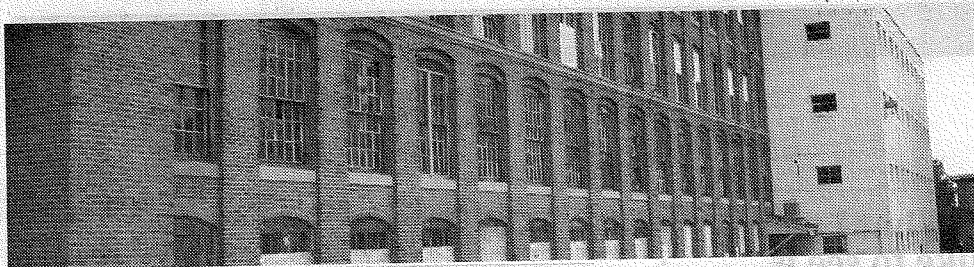


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## Committee approves Silver Mill rehab

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Last week Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services secured the approval of the city's historical committee for their \$10 million Silver Mill Redevelopment Project.

The announcement was an important step in helping the group obtain roughly 10 percent of the funding for the project.

Located off Silver Street on the southeast side of the city, the mill was built as a shoe manufacturing facility in 1916. Since the 1980s however, the building has been used largely as a storage facility, causing it to fall into disrepair.

Once renovations are complete, the 70,000-square-foot building

will contain 57 new apartment units reserved for families whose income is at or below the area's 50 percent median income.

Since the building is historic, the project needs the approval of the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office before the agency can receive state funding.

"They want to make sure that renovations don't negatively impact the historical significance of the building," said David Beauchesne, the city's urban planner. "Obviously with renovations you need to modernize aspects of the building, but sometimes developers can go too far."

The Heritage Commission, a group charged with protect-

ing historical property in Manchester, had been asked by the state's historical office for a recommendation.

Beauchesne said that the group will send a letter to the state explaining their approval of the project.

"The commission feels that the developer is doing enough to maintain the historical integrity of the building," Beauchesne said.

The decision was made during a Heritage Commission meeting held last Thursday.

Robert Tourigny, executive director of Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, said that he expects the Silver Mill Redevelopment Project to begin this winter and take about a year to complete.