

Straw Mansion conversion complete

Former house and motel building are now 33 low-income apartments

By DAN MAGAZU

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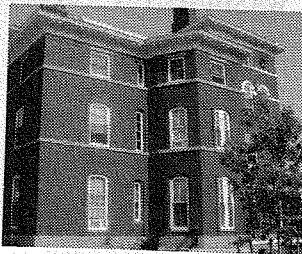
An open house will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, to celebrate the completion of 33 new low-income apartments, dubbed the Straw Mansion Apartments Project.

The property, along with the former Uptown Motel building, was bought by Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services in 2002. A combination of federal, state and city money, low-income tax credits, and numerous donations, helped raise the more than \$6 million needed to complete the project.

Starting in September of 2005, tenants slowly began moving into the apartments, according to MNHS Senior Project Manager Jennifer Vadney. The entire property, which is located at 15 Temple Court off Brook Street, is now filled to capacity.

"Thursday's open house will give us a chance to recognize the funding forces behind this project," Vadney said.

The Straw Mansion is an 1870s vintage house, originally owned by Ezekiel Straw. In 1838, while working for the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, Straw laid out the



The Straw Mansion on Temple Court in Manchester. (Express Photo/Dan Magazu)

grid pattern for Manchester's city streets. During his life, Straw served as a state Representative and Senator, and served two terms as governor. He died in Manchester in 1882.

To qualify to get into one of the apartments, a prospective tenant's income must fall below a certain point, depending on family size as well as the size of the apartment.

The tenant must also make enough to pay for the rent and have a good record with prior landlords.

The project includes 12 one-bedroom apartments, 19 two-bedroom apartments, and two three-bedroom apartments.

The bigger the family, the more helpful the apartment prices become. For example, the one-bedroom apartments rent for \$650 per month, while the two-bedroom apartments rent for \$682 per month.

The property is managed by Stewart Property Management Inc. of Bedford.