

Project Profile

Location:

9 Decatur Street
Cumberland, MD
9decaturguesthouse.com

County:

Allegany

Description:

Business Development

Total Project Cost:

\$108,837



9 Decatur Guest House and Hostel

People:

Gail Hall, owner of the Inn on Decatur, was tired of turning away customers because her Inn was full or because her customers sought cheaper lodging. She decided to buy a vacant, century-old apartment house a block away, and turn it into a guest house and hostel – something Cumberland, at the intersection of two trails, desperately needed.

Progress:

As the owner of Mountainside Bike Tours and a sales representative for the official TrailBook for the Great Allegheny Passage, Gail was familiar with The Progress Fund's Trail Town Program®. As a former mortgage banker, Gail says she “wasn't going to bother with a bank.” The Progress Fund loaned her \$99,837. “I was surprised how simple it was,” she says.

Impact:

Gail's updates have retained the turn-of-the-century flavor. The heating system, for instance, is new, but the old radiators have been turned into tables. The building has bicycle parking and rooms to accommodate anyone from a single rider to a group, for well under \$100 per memory-foam-mattress-clad bed. Cumberland now has a lodging option between the campsites and the bed-and-breakfasts. “There are a lot of people who come through who don't want to spend \$125 for a bed and breakfast,” says Gail. Now, she says, “We have the beginning, the middle and the end.”

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