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Pharmacy

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Kaighn and Haddon avenues in the city's Parkside neighborhood. This stretch of Haddon Avenue is home to some of Camden's institutions, including Donkey's Tavern and Cozy's Place. It soon will see the opening of an arts center and is one of the gateways into Camden from the suburbs.

So, Minetti reasoned, Bell Pharmacy as one of the city's oldest continuously running businesses should reflect the changes in the city. In September, work began to remove stucco that had given the building a fortress-like appearance. Minetti planned to restore the building's large windows, covered over by prior owners in the wake of the riots and violence that once rocked the city.

It was a job that yielded some surprises for contractor Lee Lamasia of Reliable Construction. Underneath the layers of stucco were the original windows and signage for Retail Drugs, a now-defunct chain of pharmacies.

Windows painted with "probably a ton of lead," joked Minetti as advertisements for Coca-Cola, drugs, candy and sundries would have invited customers



Bell Pharmacy at the corner of Haddon and Kaighn avenues in Camden is undergoing an extensive renovation to bring back its original exterior.
PHOTO COURTESY COURIER-POST

to Bell back in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, Minetti said.

Retail's bright orange and navy blue signs are in remarkable good condition, and the biggest challenge he sees in restoring them will be matching the distinctive colors to fill in a couple of rusty spots.

"The windows will present a bigger challenge. The lead paint, commonly used before its dangers were understood, will have to be removed by hand in order to preserve the advertising under the covered layer.

bellabe's workers also uncovered slabs of the original black and white marble that adorned the exterior. Minetti hopes to salvage as much of it as possible and use it for interior displays of antique drugstore equipment like scales, old medicine bottles and mortar and pestle sets.

"We have a unique opportunity to get this building back to where it was," Minetti said.

Opening a scale along a wall in the now-quietly furnished pharmacy, 59-year-old Glenn Holloman shared a

memory: "I remember that scale — my grandmother used to put me on that scale. Is it the same one?"

It is, another artifact of a bygone era, one that asks customers to "Weigh your fate," and spits out paper fortunes. It'll also be part of a new-old interior, Minetti said, with a display reminiscent of the soda fountain that was once inside Bell Pharmacy.

"We're hoping to show other businesses that they can do cutting-edge work but still preserve their past," said Minetti, who earlier told the Courier-Post the pharmacy will soon offer onsite services like phlebotomy and medications used to treat opioid addiction, malnutrition, and hard-to-access preventative drugs like Truvada, which can help reduce the risk of HIV infection.

"We want to be what the chains aren't," he added. "And we can preserve the past while moving into the future."

Phaedra Trohan has been a reporter and editor in South Jersey since 2007 and has covered Camden since 2005. She's called South Jersey home since 1972. Contact her with feedback, news tips or questions at phaedratrohan@courierpost.com, on Twitter @CP_Phaedra, or by phone at 856-986-2477. Help support local journalism with a Courier-Post subscription.

Rutgers

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school of engineering and professor of civil engineering. He has a master's and a doctorate in civil engineering from the California Institute of Technology and earned a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Robert Jones, chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jones became chancellor in 2016. He had been president of the University at Albany, part of the State University of New York. He earned a bachelor's in agronomy from Fort Valley State College in Georgia, a master's in crop physiology from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in crop physiology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was a faculty member at Minnesota and became an authority on

plant physiology.

Bruce McPherson, provost, The Ohio State University

A professor of entomology, he became provost in 2016. He had been vice president for agricultural and environmental sciences, and was dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. He has a bachelor's from The Ohio State University and a master's and a doctorate from the University of Illinois.

Martin Philbert, provost, University of Michigan

Philbert became provost in 2017. He is also a professor of toxicology in the School of Public Health. He earned a bachelor's from the College of Arts and Technology at Cambridge and a doctorate from the London University Royal Postgraduate Medical School. He was awarded a postdoctoral

fellowship in the Neuroendocrinology Laboratories at Rutgers from 1988 to 1990. He was a research assistant professor at the lab until 1995, when he joined the Michigan faculty.

Wendell Pritchett, provost, University of Pennsylvania

Pritchett became provost in 2017. He is a professor of law and education at Penn Law. From 2014 to 2015, he served as interim dean of the Law School. Pritchett was chancellor of Rutgers-Camden from 2009 to 2014. His research examines the development of postwar urban policy, in particular urban renewal, housing finance and housing discrimination. Pritchett has spearheaded in real estate and housing law representing nonprofit organizations involved in the development of affordable housing. Pritchett holds a doctorate in history from Penn.

Mary Ann Rankin, provost, University of Maryland

Rankin arrived at UMD in October 2012. Her previous positions include

CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative,

dean of the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, and chairwoman of biological sciences there. Rankin earned a

bachelor's in biology and chemistry from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in physiology and behavior from the University of Iowa.

Lauren Robel, provost, Indiana University Bloomington

Robel was named provost in 2012. She is a professor in the Maurer School of Law, where she served as dean from 2002 to 2011. She received her J.D. from Maurer and a bachelor's from Auburn University. Her scholarly work focuses on the role of federal courts and addresses issues such as procedural reform and foreign immunity.

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