

Upscale grill coming soon

Erwin teams with Windsor/Aughtry to put seafood restaurant downtown

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Greenville restaurateur Rick Erwin thinks he's got the best spot in South Carolina for his latest upscale restaurant.

Erwin on Tuesday unveiled plans for Nantucket Seafood Grill at the corner of Main and Broad streets downtown, right next to City Hall.

The restaurant is planned in the six-story Main at Broad development that Windsor/Aughtry Co. is building on 1.6 acres purchased from the

city of Greenville. The development's anchor, a 135-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel, was previously announced.

"I consider this location the best location in the state of South Carolina," Erwin said during a groundbreaking ceremony for Main at Broad that took place in the parking lot of the Peace Center for the Performing Arts across the street. Erwin also owns Rick Erwin's West End Grille, a little farther down Main Street in the West End.

Erwin said Nantucket



ALAN DEVORSEY / Staff

Paul 'Bo' Aughtry speaks at a press conference announcing plans to open a seafood restaurant, Nantucket, at the Courtyard by Marriott project downtown.

Seafood Grill will have between 220 and 235 seats and include outdoor dining along Main Street. The

menu will emphasize fresh fish, oysters and lobster.

"We'll certainly have some beef selections, but

the base of the menu is going to be fish," Erwin

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said.

The restaurant, which will provide food service for the hotel, is scheduled to open in the late summer or fall of 2009. It should employ more than 100 during holidays, and between 75 and 85 year-round, Erwin said.

Main at Broad will also include five stories of office space, but so far no tenants for the office space have been announced. Windsor/Aughtry said it's willing to make naming rights part of

any deal with a major office tenant.

Paul C. "Bo" Aughtry III, a principal in Windsor/Aughtry, said the Greenville real estate development company itself might end up occupying some of the space.

"I've had discussions with my two principal partners about us moving downtown, and I would say we are favorably inclined to do that," Aughtry said. He said Windsor/Aughtry employs about 40 at the Green Gate office park along Interstate 385.

Also planned at Main at Broad are a 250-space parking garage and a public

green space next to City Hall that would include a 12-foot "water wall," public bathrooms and maybe an ice rink in winter.

Main at Broad was designed by Greenville architect Ben Rook, whose firm, DesignStrategies LLC, also designed Greenville Hospital System's new Patwood Memorial Hospital and the BMW research center at the International Center for Automotive Research.

Rook said the Main at Broad site is "the most important remaining site downtown," connecting development north and south of Broad Street.