New downtown hotel planned

JHM to pursue project in next year or two

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JHM Hotels is planning another hotel in downtown Greenville, even as it wraps up a major renovation of the Hyatt on Main Street, the president of the company said.

The proposed hotel would have about 300 rooms and be built at the corner of Spring and Washington streets in the next year or two, though no firm schedule has been set, said D.J. Rama, president of JHM Hotels.

He said the Greenville-based company would develop the "premium brand" hotel "as the market matures."

For now, he said, JHM Hotels needs a "little breather" after its multi-million-dollar renovation of the Hyatt Regency Greenville.

"We will continuously focus on Greenville because this is our home turf," Rama said. "And we will be working to make sure we put Greenville on the map and put the quality products in this town."

The square-shaped site where JHM Hotels plans the 300-room hotel consists of about an acre between the Spring Street municipal garage and the federal courthouse.

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An entity controlled by JHM Hotels bought the site last year from Independence National Bank for $1.75 million, according to property records.

JHM Hotels owns 42 hotels in six U.S. states and India, including the Greenville Marriott next to the headquarters of Michelin North America.

It's putting the finishing touches on its renovation of the 328-room Hyatt, Greenville's largest hotel, which it bought in 2010 from the Hyatt Hotels Corp. and its majority stakeholder, the Pritzker family.

JHM Hotels is scheduled to mark completion of the renovation during a presentation next month.

The renovation included an eight-story office complex attached to the Hyatt.

JHM Hotels made room in the tower for three small shops on the ground level and on Tuesday it announced that Kilwins, a chocolate, fudge and ice cream shop, would be one of the tenants.

It will be managed by Ashley Adams, a Clemson University graduate who owns the franchise with her parents.

Founded in 1947, Kilwins Chocolates Franchise Inc. is headquartered in Petoskey, Mich.