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Hardesty-Higgins House receives donation for Showroom

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A piece of the past has found a new home at the Hardesty-Higgins House Virginia Craftsmen Showroom.

James Zirkle Sowers, the grandson of Virginia Craftsmen founder Walter Zirkle, has donated a down-filled sofa to be used at the Virginia Craftsmen Showroom. The Hardesty-Higgins House was home to the Virginia Craftsmen business from 1931 to 1988, and was formerly known as The Craft House. In addition to the sofa, which had belonged to Sowers' mother, Natalie Zirkle Sowers, the Hardesty-Higgins House received a framed copy of an original Craft House newspaper advertisement, which now hangs in the Showroom.



(Above) James Zirkle Sowers shows off the sofa he donated to the Hardesty-Higgins House Virginia Craftsmen Showroom.

“The American Craftsmen camel back sofa has nice detailing on the wood base and is a perfect addition to the Hardesty-Higgins House Virginia Craftsmen Showroom,” Harrisonburg Tourism Manager Jennifer Bell said. “We greatly appreciate this charming donation.”

The Virginia Craftsmen Showroom opened in March at the Hardesty-Higgins House and was made possible by the Swartz family – local photographers Ashley and Ryan Swartz and Roy Swartz, who was shop manager for Virginia Craftsmen.

The City of Harrisonburg Tourism Department operates the Hardesty-Higgins House, which includes the Harrisonburg Visitor Center, Valley Turnpike Museum, Rocktown Gift Shoppe and Civil War Orientation Center as well as the privately-owned Heritage Bakery & Café. The Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center and the Virginia Craftsmen Showroom are open to visitors seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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