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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTICE TO PROCEED ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CORDELL HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN GAINESBORO

May 26, 2026 – GAINESBORO, TN – Wasioto Restoration Company (WRC) announced today a Notice to Proceed has been issued for construction of Cordell Hotel, with general contractor RNGD scheduled to mobilize on May 26 for the historic restoration project in downtown Gainesboro.

The project marks a major milestone in WRC’s broader investment across Gainesboro and the Upper Cumberland region - an effort centered on thoughtful revitalization, hospitality, outdoor tourism, and long-term placemaking.

Originally constructed in 1928 as the Shamrock Hotel, the building has remained one of the most recognizable structures on Gainesboro’s Town Square for generations. Under WRC’s restoration plan, it will be transformed into Cordell Hotel: a boutique hospitality destination inspired by the legacy of Cordell Hull, Tennessee’s Nobel Peace Prize recipient and longest-serving U.S. Secretary of State, whose roots trace directly to Jackson County.

Rather than approaching the property as a conventional hotel development, the team behind Cordell Hotel has focused on creating an experience deeply connected to the character of the region - one shaped by Tennessee history, layered storytelling, thoughtful design, outdoor recreation, and a strong sense of place. “There’s a growing desire for places that feel authentic and grounded,” said Marc Stengel, President of Wasioto Restoration Company. “What makes Gainesboro special is that nothing about it is manufactured. The history is real. The community is real. Our responsibility is to restore this building in a way that honors all of that while contributing something meaningful to the town’s future.”

Located approximately 90 minutes east of Nashville along the Cumberland River, Gainesboro has increasingly drawn attention for its historic downtown, natural beauty, and access to outdoor recreation throughout the Upper Cumberland. Cordell Hotel is intended to build on those strengths while creating a new hospitality anchor for both the community and the region.

RNGD, a nationally recognized contractor with extensive experience in adaptive reuse and historic restoration projects, will oversee construction operations for the development. “A project like this requires a tremendous amount of coordination, craftsmanship, and respect for the existing structure,” said DJ Benedetto, Mid-South Sector Leader for RNGD. “There’s a responsibility that comes with restoring a building that already holds meaning within a community. We’re proud to partner with the Wasioto team to help bring new life to this landmark in Gainesboro.”

Designed by Nashville-based Joseph & Joseph Architects, the restoration approach balances preservation of the building’s historic character with a hospitality experience intended to feel distinctly rooted in Tennessee and the Upper Cumberland region. When completed, Cordell Hotel is expected to offer boutique accommodations, layered interiors, locally influenced art and storytelling elements, and a hospitality approach centered on warmth, connection, and authenticity.

About Wasioto Restoration Company

Wasioto Restoration Company, LLC is a Nashville-founded, Gainesboro-based development firm focused on thoughtful revitalization projects that preserve heritage while creating long-term economic and cultural value. Through hospitality, adaptive reuse, placemaking, and cultural storytelling, WRC seeks to create projects that feel deeply rooted, enduring, and genuinely connected to place. Learn more at Wasioto.com.

About Cordell Hotel

Currently under development in the heart of downtown Gainesboro, Tennessee, Cordell Hotel is a boutique hospitality destination inspired by the legacy of Cordell Hull and the spirit of the Upper Cumberland. Designed around the belief that great hospitality should feel personal, grounded, and deeply connected to its surroundings, the hotel will blend thoughtful design, regional storytelling, outdoor adventure, and small-town warmth into a one-of-a-kind Tennessee experience. Learn more at CordellHotel.com.