



“I feel like I’m a part of history when I’m here in this building.

We moved in after we got to the end of our lease at our first location. When that lease ran out, the team and I knew we had to find somewhere new and somewhere more visible. We looked at all over town and for whatever reason, we came Downtown one day, and this building was the one that caught my attention.

Looking up and down the street, there were several historic buildings that were preserved, but they were all taken and those that were available had too much of a big-city look for me.

This building spoke to me as something that would fit with the Heritage part of our name.

It was just plain, white walls when we walked in except for the ceiling. When I pulled the building up on Google prior to construction starting and did the overhead shot, you could see the top of the dome because there was no roof at all. It was amazing that they were able to take nothing and recreate this incredible ceiling just from a picture of what it used to look like.

During the renovations, I specifically requested that they do the entry way with the same tiles that were on the outside of the building. They went back and found photos of the building when it was a bank and recreated the tile as it used to look.

I also did not want to come in here, in this historic building, and put up office walls that, in my opinion, made it look more modern. So, I gave the contractor the former bank photos, and he was able to recreate the teller stations.

I’m all about trying to increase the knowledge of history of our area and the importance of it. Other buildings...there are no stories to them. For example, when they were renovating this building, they found an underground tunnel from when this was a bank that led from this bank all the way to the other bank on West Evans. And that is how they would safely transfer money back and forth from the two locations.

It’s amazing what they were able to do then and how well-preserved it still is. And if we don’t preserve some of this, we won’t have that history to see how things were or to stimulate our minds.

I welcome anyone to come in and take a look around because I think it’s a piece of Florence history that everyone needs to see.”

- **Marty Parker, Owner & General Manager of Heritage Digital at 119 North Dargan Street**

The historic Guaranty Building at 119 North Dargan Street was constructed in 1900. One of Florence’s earliest settlers, John Kuker, opened the Commercial & Savings Bank in the location and had it remodeled by local architect William J. Wilkins in 1910. The building was completely renovated in 2017 by replicating many historic elements such as the curved ceiling and restoring existing elements such as the bank vault door.