

Gadsden Arts Center ready to open

By ALICE DuPONT
Times Editor

Gadsden Arts Center will officially open Friday night in its new home. The east side of the square will be lit up as members and invited guests browse through the historic building that was once a hardware store, now turned gallery.

"The celebration is to show members our appreciation for their work and contributions and to recruit new members," said Zoe Golloway, executive director.

Included in the evening's celebration will be scrumptious hors d'oeuvres catered by Susan Hinson and classical mitar music will

be provided by Sean Beavers of Tallahassee.

Another highlight of the evening will be the unveiling of the plaque. "Ed Hulsey designed the plaque which contains the names of the major donors, \$5,000 or more. The design is beautiful with the courthouse as a backdrop for mangolias," Golloway said.

Golloway said that Friday night's gala and the Sunday afternoon grand opening is the beginning of a new and exciting era for downtown Quincy. "This is the most significant thing that has happened in Gadsden County in the past 100 years," Golloway said.

Beth Appleton's work will

make up the first major exhibit in the Main Gallery. It is appropriate that Appleton's work open the gallery. It was Appleton and her husband, David Harbaugh, who started things in 1989. The couple worked with the local artist community to create an exhibition of fine art in Quincy.

The show they created, called "Art in Gadsden: A Regional Exhibition of Fine Art" was the beginning of the Gadsden Art Center. The couple did most of the work for two years to get the annual exhibit off to a good start. In 1991 they handed the reins over to a then thriving Main Street Quincy.

Monday afternoon as painters

and carpenters were putting on the finishing touches. Golloway said the excitement was building among the board of directors as well as donors. Even as fire alarms were sounding during testing and the occasional thud or thump of carpenters in the next room interrupted conversation, and items for the gift shop were still in boxes, Golloway was all smiles and full of anticipation about Friday night's gala.

"This is going to be absolutely wonderful," she said.



The old Bell and Bates hardware store has been converted into a state-of-the-art gallery.