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LEGACY EXPANDS IN ROCK CREEK BUSINESS PARK

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By Betty Lou Blount, Triad Business News

WHITSETT -- Legacy Classic Furniture Inc. is planning to double its space in the second of two buildings named Boulders in Rock Creek Corporate Center at 6530 Judge Adams Road.

Legacy has been leasing 75,800 square feet of space in one of Liberty Property Trust's buildings in the center and signed a lease this week to fill the remaining space for a total of 151,600 square feet.

"It is a long-term commitment by Legacy," said Skip Hill, vice president at Liberty Property Trust. "Their furniture operation has been going well, and they needed more space."

The company, once called Legacy Home Furnishings, moved into Boulders II in 1999.

"They have been there about a year," Hill said.

Legacy, the company, is a relative newcomer to the furniture industry, but its principals are veterans.

In March 1999, president Kevin O'Conner announced Legacy Home Furnishings would show furniture imported from the Far East in a temporary space at Grandover Resort in Greensboro. The showing was part of the April 1999 International Home Furnishings Market.

The wood furniture would be imported, warehoused and sold to retailers. Items included bedroom, dining room, occasional and entertainment furnishings

In May 1999, Legacy announced the opening of a new furniture warehouse in China. Manufacturing would be done in China and the furniture would be consolidated at the distribution center for shipment to the United States.

Legacy's growth has been based in part on the experience of its principles

O'Conner was president of Hyundai Furniture in High Point prior to founding Legacy with partners Richard Mihalik, vice president of sales.

"We're way ahead of where we thought we'd be at this time," Mihalik said. "We didn't think we would turn a profit in the first year, and we did in the latter part of the year."

This is the second major lease Liberty has announced in the past two weeks. Furniture designer and importer InMark USA Inc. plans to lease 70,000 of the 96,000 square feet available in a new building that will be part of Liberty's Eagle Hill Business Park in Piedmont Centre

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