



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647
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www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

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**ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
HONORS LOCAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 27, 2009 — On June 1, the City will honor citizen and business commitment to preservation during the Historic District Commission's annual awards ceremony. The awards are given to property owners who rehabilitated a building or structure while respecting its significant historic and architectural features or who have preserved a property or structure's historical, cultural or architectural value for 10 or more years. A Preservation Project of the Year is also honored, as well as milestone anniversary awards to businesses and organizations that have been in Ann Arbor for at least 100 years. This year's winners are:

Preservation Awards

- Michele Derr for 929 Olivia
- Ann Larimore for 916 Olivia
- Susan Gardner for 220 North Fifth Avenue
- Barbara and David Copi for 1601 Cambridge
- Donna Sell for 1619 Cambridge
- Kris and Eric Meves for 1706 Cambridge
- Herbert Black for 124 East Washington
- Kent Berridge for 2021 Pontiac
- Mary Underwood for 1219 Traver

Rehabilitation Awards

- Phi Delta Phi Fraternity for 502 East Madison
- Kristi Gilbert and Doug Bernardin for 307 West William
- Kelly Morris and Michael Graye for 309 West William
- Tracy and John Beeson for 512 Hiscock
- Ronald Miller for 1901 Washtenaw
- Galanis Real Estate, LLC, for 808 East Kingsley

Centennial Awards—100 Years

- Ann Arbor Art Association
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Sesquicentennial Award—150 Years

- YMCA

Quartoseptcentennial Award—175 Years

- Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Preservation Project of the Year

- University of Michigan Law School Library, Reading Room

The awards will be presented June 1 at 7 p.m. at the City Council meeting. The awards will be preceded by an earlier reception at the Michigan Theater.

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PRESERVATION AWARDS

These awards are presented to owners of city historic properties who have maintained them for 10 years or more. Attention to the preservation of historic details is a major factor in this award.

929 Olivia-1890s; Owner: Michele Derr

This house dates from as early as 1894 and was occupied by the A. S. Berry family from the 1890s until 1920. The house is a Colonial Revival with Tudor-style elements and several additions, all within the spirit of the original. It has been lovingly maintained by Michelle and the late Ellwood Derr for many years.

916 Olivia-1899; Owner: Ann Larimore

This Colonial Revival appears in the 1899 City Directory as 'vacant' but by 1901 Thomas Smurthwaite, farmer, is listed as the occupant. The current owner and occupant is Prof. Ann Larimore who has beautifully maintained it for many years, keeping it in its original condition, including a complementary paint scheme.

220 N. Fifth Ave-1844; Owner: Susan Gardner

This brick structure, in the Old Fourth Ward Historic District, was built by businessman Jacob Vandawarker in 1844. The house is rich in Greek Revival-style massing and details and features an intricate Italianate-style porch. It became a rental in the 1930s and was later restored by Casey and Myra Jones in the 1970s. Today it is owned and cared for by Susan Gardner who maintains her business here. The building also provides space to several other small businesses.

1601 Cambridge-1912; Owners: David and Barbara Copi.

Albert Kahn designed this Craftsman house for Louis Strauss (his cousin), Professor of English and Department Chair and his wife Elsa in 1912. They lived here 36 years. The house has most recently been owned for over 20 years by David and Barbara Copi who have lovingly maintain the house and grounds.

1619 Cambridge-1909; Owner: Donna Sell

This house was built for Charles Tilden, University Engineering Professor, and was later the home of Lillian and Charles Edmunds, a professor of Medicine and Dean of the Medical School, for over 40 years. This stucco Craftsman home with Asian elements has been maintained in beautiful condition for many years by owner Donna Sell and her partner, the late Paul Bronstein.

1706 Cambridge-1908; Owners: Eric and Kris Meves

Clara and William Wait, an Associate Professor of Modern Languages, first occupied this home in 1908. This vernacular Colonial Revival has been the home of Eric Meves and Kristine Moore Meves since 1986. Eric Meves personally re-roofed the house with cedar shingles, which required driving 14,000 nails by hand, and re-roofed the porches in copper. He also rebuilt one of the chimneys and restored the front porch, spending 100 hours on the ionic columns alone. The results are very apparent in their well maintained and preserved home.

124 E. Washington-1904; Owner: Herbert Black

This vernacular commercial building was erected in 1904 by Christine Rentschler and replaced a residential structure that she owned. The first occupant was Taylor and Co. merchant tailors. The building was home to two bakeries (White Bakery and Delux Bakery) for over 50 years from around 1920 through the 1960s. It was recently awarded a plaque by the Historic District Commission and is in the Main Street Historic District.

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2021 Pontiac-c.1861; Owner: Kent Berridge

This nicely preserved Greek Revival farmhouse was built by Wesley Hicks and Sumner Hicks, mostly likely in the 1860s. Robert McCormick bought the farm in 1863 for \$3500. The 60 acre site, then in Ann Arbor Township, was occupied in 1895 by B. Keenan and in 1915 by G. Fisher. It is one of a handful of Hen and Chick style Greek Revivals with an umbra porch that survives in the area. The current owner has maintained it beautifully for over 20 years.

1219 Traver-c.1851; Owner: Mary Underwood

The house was built around 1851 in the Greek Revival style by Solomon Armstrong, a native of upstate New York. Amos Corey bought the house in 1861. It features simple massing, end gables and cornice returns. The current owner has preserved the original structure while adding additional space in a separate building, complimenting the original.

REHABILITATION AWARDS

Rehabilitation awards are given to owners of city historic properties who have rehabilitated their structures according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

502 E Madison-1916; Owner: Phi Delta Phi, University of Michigan Fraternity

This Georgian style (with Dutch gambrel elements on the side gables) fraternity was built as Phi Delta Phi in 1916, making it one of the few fraternities still occupying its original building. They have resisted generous offers for their property from the University of Michigan and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars renovating their building, adding a new roof, a new boiler, replacing four columns with fiberglass ones that replicate the originals, and keeping their original windows. Photographs of the exterior and interior taken in 1919 by local photographer Swain reveal the appearance of the structure today is as much as it was when first constructed. Now in the shadow of the towering South Quad, this fraternity manages to maintain its presence in glorious style.

307 W. William-1917; Owners: Kristi Gilbert and Doug Bernardin

This simple Dutch Colonial-style home was first occupied in 1917 by Harry Ryckley, an electrician with Detroit Edison. Since their purchase in 2000, Kristi and Doug have done extensive exterior and interior rehabilitation, including removing the asbestos siding, reconstructing the front porch using the original columns and railings, rehabilitating the original garage and reconstructing the back porch and turning it into an entry point for the back and side yards, which have been re-landscaped. On the interior, four new basement walls were installed, all the original woodwork has been restored, including the floors, and the kitchen and bathroom were completely renovated.

309 W. William-1917; Owners: Michael Graye and Kelly Morris

This home was first occupied in 1917 by Daniel Eveland, a foreman at Hoover Steel Ball. The current owners have transformed this Colonial Revival by removing the insul-brick siding and restoring the clapboard, and installing extensive landscaping in the back yard, including a retaining wall and blue stone patio.

512 Hiscock-1917; Owners: John and Tracy Beeson

John and Tracy Beeson have painstakingly chiseled fake stone siding off this house and restored the original clapboard by stripping off the old paint and backpriming the boards for reinstallation into a new rainscreen-type wall system. They also made the house more energy efficient by restoring the original windows with weather-stripping and storm windows, retrofitting cellulose insulation into the walls, tripling the attic insulation, installing a new heating system, and insulating the foundation walls. The house was built in 1917 for Edwin F. Kleinschmidt, a laborer at Economy Baler.

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1901 Washtenaw-1917; Owner: Ronald Miller

This large Craftsman home was built 1917 for Mrs. Edith Hendrickson on the site of the former Ferdon homestead. It was lived in by University of Michigan Football Coach Fielding Yost in 1930. The home has recently been converted into three condos with seamless design and preservation of original elements.

808 E Kingsley-1906; Owner: Galanis Real Estate, LLC

Panos Tharouniatis purchased this house in May 2008 from the ICC which had planned to open another Co-op here. Tharouniatis orchestrated the removal of asbestos siding and restored the front porch in this student rooming house in the Old Fourth Ward. This work has resulted in a great improvement to the streetscape. The house was built in 1906 by Wm. J. Conlin, Vice President of Reule, Conlin and Fiegel (clothiers on Main Street).

PRESERVATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR

University of Michigan Law School Library, Reading Room – 1931
Original Architect: York and Sawyer of New York City

The cathedral like Reading Room in the William W. Cook Legal Research Building, with its stained glass windows and elaborate hanging fixtures, wins our Project of the Year Award because of the spectacular restoration of the barrel vaulted ceilings, the upgrading of the lighting, the restoration of the light fixtures, and the replacement of the original cork floor. These efforts have brightened and enhanced this already beautiful interior. As one of Ann Arbor's most historic buildings and recognizable landmarks, this renovation by architect Lord, Aeck and Sargent deserves recognition not only for the finished product but for the care taken to maintain the original as much as possible. In one history of the campus, this former library was described as "the most awesome space in decorative splendor on campus, from the paneled and medallioned plaster ceiling to the floor of quiet cork." (MacInnes, 1978).

CENTENNIAL/SESQUICENTENNIAL/TERQUASQUICENTENNIAL AWARDS

These awards are given in recognition of milestone anniversaries of major organizations or businesses in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Art Center - Centennial - 117 W. Liberty Avenue

One hundred years ago the Art Center (then known as the Ann Arbor Art Association) was formed and held its first exhibit in the newly built Alumni Memorial Hall (now known as the UM Art Museum) in 1910. Then as now the board of directors represented town and gown and was headed by President Emil Lorch.

In 1974 the Ann Arbor Art Center purchased the Walker Carriage Works building on West Liberty, and 50,000 visitors and 5,000 students use the building each year. Recent renovations to the building have double the exhibition space and opened studios so that visitors to the building can see courses in action throughout day and evening.

Alpha Phi Alpha, University of Michigan Fraternity - Centennial

The Epsilon Chapter celebrated its 100th year in April with a variety of events. According to their website, they were founded "before all black Greek lettered organizations with the exception of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. We are the Father of the Midwest. Our history speaks for itself."

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YMCA - Sesquicentennial - 400 W. Washington Street

The YMCA celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding in the fall of 2008 with many lectures and an exhibit at the Museum on Main Street.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ- Quartoseptcentennial - 423 S. Fourth Avenue

The congregation of Bethlehem church marked the 175th anniversary of its founding in late 2008. The church was formed in 1833 and was the first of many German Lutheran churches established by Pastor Friedrich Schmid in Michigan.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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