

## 1991 Historic Preservation Awards

### *Rehabilitation Awards*

**Awarded to: Margaret Bayless & Ari Weinzweig**  
**For: 510 North Fourth Avenue – George Cooper House**

This house was the middle one of three identical vernacular houses built in 1898 on the site of a former lumber yard in the 300 block of North Fourth Avenue. In the late 1970s, in order to make way for an expansion of the Farmer's Market parking lot, the house was moved one block north to a vacant lot on the corner of Beakes. After insuring that the urea formaldehyde insulation had been removed, the present owners restored the clapboard siding, repaired the front porch and completely renovated the interior.

**Awarded to: Kevin & Susan Johnson**  
**For: 603 West Liberty – John & Andrew Jackson House**

The Jacksons purchased this lot in 1847 for \$125, selling it eight years later for \$350. It is thus likely that they built the front wing around 1848. The smaller rear wing housed Lunsford's Bakery from 1935-70, beloved throughout Ann Arbor for its delicious cinnamon rolls. The Johnsons have restored the exterior by removing inappropriate asphalt siding and a corrugated porch canopy that hid the classical front doorway. They are also to be commended for the attractive new landscaping.

**Awarded to: Peter Fink & partners**  
**For: 415 North Main – Thomas Earl House**

Built around 1861 for alderman and successful local merchant Thomas Earl, this house has had only two subsequent owners: Fred Schaible, who bought it in 1900 and whose daughter continued to live in the house until 1989, and Mr. Fink who has recently restored the interior. In adapting the house for office use, Mr. Fink added a handsomely designed access ramp to the south side. The building is a locally designated Individual Historic Property and has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Awarded to: Dwaine V. Lighthammer & Gordon W. Schott**  
**For: 322 & 324 South State Street – Bowdish Building & Smith Gymnasium**

322 South State is the southernmost of a row of six commercial buildings built after a fire in 1888. Similar elaborate pressed metal fronts once covered the upper story or all six storefronts, though only three remain today. The first occupant listed in the city directories is John R. Bowdish, (Gents Fine Shoes, Goods and Furnishings) in 1892. 324 South State is older, appearing in the 1874 directory as the location of both William Smith's Gymnasium and Mrs.

West's Dining Hall. A photograph from the late 1870s indicates that the dining hall was upstairs. Continuing in the tradition of providing student-oriented services so close to central campus, these two buildings later became well known as Follett's book store. Unfortunately, that involved a huge metal sign that obscured half of both second stories. Mr. Lighthammer has removed the sign, restored the double-hung wooden windows on the upper stories and replaced the missing sections of pressed metal decoration on the smaller building.

**Awarded to: Katherine & Robert Vernon**  
**For: 813 Third Street – George Nelson House**

Erected in 1926 by contractor George Nelson, this was Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s "Hathaway" model house, available by mail for \$1,299. It features clipped gables and unusual trim details that are matched in the small garage to the rear. The Vernons have converted the house, which they bought as a duplex, back to single family status and meticulously restored or replaced the original exterior details.

**Awarded to: John Metzger**  
**For: 201 East Washington - Hoelzle Meat Market**

The Hoelzle Meat Market was known most recently as the home of Harry's Army Surplus. In planning for the expansion of Metzger's well known Bavarian restaurant, Birmingham architect Paul Green was careful to respect the historic character of this 1893 Queen Anne commercial structure. Its prominent corner location accented by the tower which originally sported a finial with a cow on the top, have long made this building a downtown landmark. Mr. Metzger and Mr. Green are to be commended both for their restraint with exterior as well as the charm with which the interior space now blend.

### *Preservation Award*

**Awarded to: Van Boven Clothing Store**  
**For: 326 South State Street**

As a purveyor of men's fine clothing at this location since 1921, Van Boven's has consistently maintained its storefront and interior paneling, giving a sense of timeless tradition to the ever-changing campus scene. The antique toy furniture used to decorate the display windows enhances the traditional aura of the Ann Arbor landmark.

## *Awards of Special Merit*

**Awarded to: Carolyn & Joseph Arcure**

**For: Replacing the cornice at 111 West Liberty – Ludwig Walz Building**

The Commission has previously recognized the Arcures' contributions to downtown preservation both for their rehabilitation of the John Haarer Building at 113 West Liberty as well as for this building. The handsome new cornice, fashioned with eight huge brackets saved during the demolition of the Maynard House at William and Main, provides the crowning touch for the Walz Building, restoring completely its elegant 1880 Italianate appearance.

**Awarded to: R. Van Harrison**

**For: Pumping Station No. 2 Exhibit**

Some proud owners of historic property like to exhibit a historic photograph or two of their building in its heyday. Though Mr. Harrison may have begun with that intention, his research eventually resulted in documenting the building and its site from the retreat of the glaciers up through the present. Beautifully designed and mounted by graphic designers Laura and Bruce Meader, the 25 foot long exhibit was a highlight of the Old West Side Association's 1990 Homes tour.

**Awarded to: Elizabeth Rice, David Mueller and Milford Boersma**

**For: Preserving the original tile floors at #5, #7, & #14 Nickels Arcade**

The recently rehabilitated Nickels Arcade is both a locally designated Individual Historic property and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of its many shops, however, only three – Elizabeth Ann's, University Flower Shop, and Boersma Travel, the international section – retain the original handsome floors of maroon and white hexagonal ceramic tiles.

**Awarded to: University of Michigan**

**For: Addition to Tappan Hall**

Built in 1895 in the late Romanesque style, Tappan Hall is now the oldest remaining academic building on the central campus. In 1985, after years of lobbying by its occupants, the History of Art department, a new 10,000 square foot addition was completed. Birmingham architects Luckenbach Ziegelman/Associates followed the original roof and foundation lines and chose materials that match in color and texture. Their boldly contemporary design with its huge recessed arch in the center reflects the entrance arch of the original structure. The result is an outstandingly successful example of an appropriate addition to a historic building.

## *Preservation Project of the Year*

**Awarded to: The Washtenaw County Historical Society**  
**For: 500 North Main – Museum on Main Street**

Founded in 1857, the Society has never succeeded in having a permanent home and museum in which to display its extensive collection of Washtenaw County artifacts. The fortunate combination of the University's offer of an 1837 house with \$5,000 in lieu of their cost to demolish it and a vacant city-owned abandoned gas station at Beakes and Main began the process. One by one seemingly insurmountable obstacles were conquered. Soil contaminated by leaking gas tanks was removed to a breathtaking depth on the Main Street site. The various crews necessary for moving even a modest size structure over the Broadway bridge and up Beakes Street had to come back a second time after Edison's crews were delayed by a storm. Donations – of materials, labor and funds were raised to cover expenses as the project moved ahead. Secure on its new site, with a fine new basement and plans progressing for the site and the renovation of the interior, the target date for opening is now spring of 1992.

## *Centennial Awards*

**Awarded to: Fiegels' Mens' and Boys' Wear, founded in 1891**

**Awarded to: George Wahr Publishing Company, founded in 1883**

**Awarded to: Memorial Christian Church, founded in 1891**