

Ann Arbor Historic District Commission

1998 Awards

Preservation Awards

438 South Fifth Avenue, Frederick Schmid House, 1862

To: Emma Schmid

Ms. Schmid is a descendant of Frederick Schmid, a son of pioneering German immigrants who came to Lodi Township in the 1820s. Frederick Jr. was a partner in the well known dry goods firm of Mack and Schmid, which was located on Main St. He built the family home at this address in the 1860s and a lithograph of it appears in the 1874 Atlas of Washtenaw County. The home was later remodeled to the immaculately maintained home on the site today. An 1890 biographical sketch noted that "his elegant residence on Fifth Ave denotes refinement and culture in its owner and occupant." Testimony to this is the lovely 19th century wrought iron fence which still surrounds this and 444 S. Fifth Ave. (see below)

444 South Fifth Avenue, Erwin Schmid House, 1905

To: Catherine Walz

This large elegant Queen Anne house has served as the Walz family homestead since the 1920s. Before that it was the home of Erwin Schmid, son of Frederick Schmid Jr. William L Walz worked his way up in the banking world from messenger boy to President. He also served as Mayor of Ann Arbor from 1909-1913. The current occupant is the widow of his son, William C. Walz, also active in banking. The prominence on S. Fifth Avenue of this and 438 and their pristine maintenance make them highly visible landmarks in the city. They serve as rare remnants of the former Victorian ambiance of this street in the 19th century.

412 Hamilton Place, Fred Lamb House, 1907

To: Gene & Rose Wilson

This small Craftsman house was built for Fred Lamb, owner of Lamb and Spencer, grocers. The house has wonderful detailing which has been meticulously maintained by its owner-occupants in this otherwise rather run-down neighborhood. Gene Wilson served for many years as the Director of the Ann Arbor Public Library. In his retirement, he continues to serve on the Library Board.

2038 Norway Road, George & Genevieve Moe House, 1933

To: Kenneth & Casey Wilhelm

This is a beautifully maintained Late Tudor Revival brick house. George Moe, the original owner of Moe's Sport Shop, which is still doing business on North University, commissioned a house with rusticated brickwork, steeply sloping slate roofs, and a golden sandstone entrance with acorns and oak leaves carved above the broad Gothic arch. After Mrs. Moe died in 1980, it was purchased by the Wilhelms who have maintained it true to its original appearance and character.

1920 Scottwood Avenue, Mary & Theophil Raphael House, 1927

To: Joe & Karen O'Neal

This is another handsome brick and half timbered Tudor Revival home which has been meticulously maintained by decades by the O'Neals. Even the moss covered roof has been preserved with care.

Rehabilitation Awards

1221 Brooklyn Avenue, Helen Martin Apartments, 1941

To: Duane Black

This handsome limestone apartment building was cleaned with a restoration cleaner and had new storm windows and copper canopy and gutters installed. The slate roof was repaired and the garage roof was replaced with a slate-like material to match that of the main building.

1012 Hill Street, Arthur & Cora Brown House, 1907

To: Duane Black

This Tudor Revival home was designed by architect Herman Pipp and built in 1907 for the Browns shortly after Arthur has served as Mayor (1903-1905). It was substantially remodeled by Fry and Kasurin in 1932. Mr. Black replaced many original roof tiles including the ridge tiles, added new storm windows and restored the oak entry which had been painted purple. Extensive rehabilitation was done on the porch, the landscaping and the interiors as well. It was converted from a fraternity into 2 apartments and 9 individual rooms. This kind of expenditure is unusual in this student neighborhood.

414 East Kingsley Street, Herbert Burke House, 1904

To: Richard Borer

This house, built in 1904 for dentist Herbert Burke, had been completely covered with asphaltic imitation brick siding. Its removal revealed many unusual original architectural details on this modest Arts and Crafts House. These features have been carefully repaired and painted and the house now contributes significantly to the Old Fourth Ward Historic District.

2037 Norway, Irwin & Grace Earl House, 1927

To: Deborah & James Beuche

This elegant Georgian Revival house has been gracefully renovated and a large new wing added at the rear. It is a fine example of an appropriate addition to a historic structure.

2460 Washtenaw Avenue, Tuomy Hills Gas Station, 1928

To: University Bank

This abandoned former gas station, designed by Fry and Kasurin in 1928 in an English Cotswold Cottage style, has been wonderfully restored as a drive-through bank. The long-awaited rehabilitation of a beloved landmark at the gateway to town serves as an excellent example of adaptive reuse.

Special Merit Awards

New garage, 2107 Hill Street, Joseph & Marguerite Bursley House, 1919

To: Randall & Mary E. Pittman

A large new garage has been added to this 1919 Tudor Revival Home, built by Bursley, professor of Mechanical Engineering and namesake of a dormitory in honor of his work as the first Dean of Students. The garage has been carefully designed and constructed to blend harmoniously with the main house and also with the neighboring houses. A slate roof, matched to that of the house, was a major expense in this undertaking.

Zwerdling Fur Shop Sign Restoration, 213 East Liberty Street, 1909

To: Zwerdling Sign Committee

The Zwerdling Sign Committee raised \$12,000 to hire decorative paint consultants Seebohm Limited to research, clean and replicate the original paint colors. The sign, commissioned by Osias Zwerdling in 1909, is a rare surviving example of advertising art from the Arts and Crafts period. The restoration of the sign was done not only to protect it as a work of art, but also to honor the memory of Mr. Zwerdling, a well-respected businessman, philanthropist, and pillar of Ann Arbor's Jewish community.

Shutter Restoration, 2781 Packard Road, Ticknor/Campbell Farm, 1844

To: Cobblestone Farm Association

Careful historical research and procurement has resulted in an exemplary restoration and replacement of the original shutters and hardware of this home built in 1844. It has been a city owned and operated museum since 1973.

New Garage and Remodeling, 2100 Scottwood Avenue, Amy & Earl Steward House, 1932

To: Angie & Steve Fisher

The Fishers hired a designer from Flint to convert the original garage to a family room and attach it to this Tudor Revival home built by businessman Stewart, manager of the Stewart Garment Company. A new garage was built to match in the rear of the yard. This is a very fine example of appropriate remodeling and new construction.

Preservation Project of the Year

Harry Boyd & Carrie Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes Road, 1936

To: Concordia College

A million dollar restoration of the Earhart's English style mansion for use as the administrative offices of Concordia College was undertaken last year. Architects Four was retained and the result is a superb example of restoration and adaptive reuse.

Sesquicentennial Award

First Congregational Church

Organized 1848

To: Reverend Robert K Livingston

The Awards Committee for 1998 included the following people:

Duane Black

Rosemarion Blake

Mary Culver

Marc Rueter

Grace Shackman

Susan Wineberg, Chair

Louisa Pieper, HDC Staff