

HDC AWARDS COMMITTEE- RESULTS OF VAN TOUR AND FINAL LIST APRIL 21, 2018 SUSAN WINEBERG, CHAIR

The Van Tour was highly successful and as Patrick noted, Jill's driving was excellent and "not a tulip was crushed!" (Maneuvering at Forest Plaza). Thanks again to Louisa Pieper who did the driving map. Unfortunately Louisa was in the hospital but she was there with us in spirit!

We have a good list of 15 structures, and one preservationist of the year. We made decisions about some properties to consider next year as well.

Here is our Final List:

PRESERVATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR AND PRESERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

1. **The State Theatre** renovation undertaken by **Russ Collins** and his Michigan Theater Foundation will be the recipients of these awards. Russ advocated for keeping the second floor of the State as a movie theater and put together a group to buy it as a condominium. Then he spearheaded a Capital Campaign to bring the theater back to its original look both inside and out. They also added an elevator and handicap accessible bathrooms. Susan Wineberg helped by providing a piece of the original carpeting. If you haven't been yet, check it out! You can go inside without buying a ticket for a movie.

PRESERVATION

2. **415 N. Fourth Ave- Kerrytown Concert House- 1866** Deanna Relyea and her board have maintained this 1866 former house that she transformed into a performance space in 1984. She has hosted jazz, classical, theater and opera performances since then and music lessons are given on the second floor. This is truly a community gem and we are happy to honor their commitment to Ann Arbor.
3. **3087 Override-Dorothy Engel home-1963-** This mid-century modern home, designed by local architect Edward Olencki, has been meticulously preserved by owners Sally and Tom Klein since 1989. They have respected and loved the house since purchasing it and even let A2Modern use it for an open house fund raiser in 2017.

4. **837 W. Huron- Grover Koch- 1928-**This beautiful brick house was built Grover C. and Olga Koch in 1928 and replaced an older house from the 1860s belonging to Mrs. Fredericka Miller. Koch was president of KYS Sales Co. at 208-210 W. Washington. It specialized in Willys-Knight and Whippet autos. The Depression must have wiped him out as by 1937 he's listed as a mechanic at the Pratt and Stribley Garage (113 N. Ashley). Since 1968 it has been the home of Richard and Susan Isaacs Nisbett and they have maintained it in meticulous condition in their 50-year stewardship. This could be some kind of record! Richard is a professor of Social Psychology and Susan is a freelance writer formerly for the Ann Arbor News where she covered the arts especially classical music and dance.
5. **2998 Geddes-The Carlos Lopez House was designed in 1950 by George Brigham.** Donald and Barbara Sugerman have owned it since 2001 and have taken immaculate care of it. Lopez was one of the most recognized modern Latino painters in the US and received many awards during his lifetime. He was born in Cuba and studied at UM with painter Leon Makielski. Lopez became a professor of art at UM in 1945 and worked there until his untimely death in 1953 at the age of 44. In typical Brigham style this house is one long and low story nestled among the trees along Geddes. Sugerman is a labor attorney in Ann Arbor.
6. **427-431 Spring St. - The Samuel Burchfield Row House- 1911-**This four unit townhouse arrangement was built in 1911 and is unique in the city. It is an odd mix of architectural styles and combines Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Craftsman features. Burchfield was a tailor and lived around the corner. His family owned the houses (which were rentals) until 1961 and since 2007 the Spring Street Townhomes, Inc maintain it with loving care.
7. **15 Harvard- William and Miriam Baum House-1952-Brigham.** We recognize another Brigham, owned since 1999 by Peter and Lois Eckstein. They have maintained its historic character both inside and out. Baum was a physician at University Hospital and a professor of medicine at UM.
8. **1601 Broadway-Carl Rehberg House- 1936-** current owners Mary Ellen and Leslie Guinn have owned this property since 1987 and have taken fastidious care of it. It's in the Colonial style, with the long side of the house facing the street and a beautiful fanlight (in the Federal style) above the door. Rehberg was the manager of Arbor Springs Water Co. and shared the house with wife Elsa. We applaud Leslie and Mary Ellen for their excellent stewardship.
9. **715 S. Forest – Forest Plaza Apartments-1928.** Campus Management, formerly known as Schott and Lighthammer, has been managing apartment buildings for over 40 years. Their care and concern for the historic qualities of their buildings is best exemplified by their preservation of Forest Plaza. Constructed in 1928 in a Spanish Revival style, it is a red brick building that has Spanish style roof tiles, terra cotta decorations, and fancy plasterwork inside. It also has some interesting diaper brickwork and unusual touches on some of the windows. Famous residents included Harry Kipke, UM football coach and Jan Vandenbroek, UM Engineering professor when apartment living was fashionable. The most outstanding feature is the deep setback, which allows a grove of trees to greet the tenants as they cross a small bridge over a former creek. We also need to mention that they restored the old elevator by sending it to the Detroit Elevator company in Ferndale which left many original features intact. This alone cost about \$240 K. We applaud Campus Management and all the great work they do throughout the city.

REHABILITATION

- 10. 830 Avon- H. Richard and Florence Crane house- 1954-** this was the first house architect Bob Metcalf designed after finished his own home. It remained in the Crane family until their deaths. It has been regarded among the appreciators of midcentury modern as one of the premier examples of the style. Those features are still present today and were lovingly restored by current owners Linda and Jim Elert. It's been featured on tours by A2modern and in books about midcentury architecture of Michigan.
- 11. 505 Burson-William Bandemer and wife house- 1956-** James Livingston, a prolific local architect whose buildings most people would recognize (Lurie Terrace, Maynard house among many) designed this house in the typical one story, flat roofed style of the period with a doorway hidden from public view. The current owners, Joh and Renate Mirsky, have restored both the exterior and interior, even preserving the kitchen cabinets. They have also beautifully landscaped the grounds. The Mirskys have held open houses for A2Modern and have become active in the group and experts on Livingston's work.
- 12. 509 Detroit St- E.L. Seyler house-1895-**Edward L Seyler was a Cashier at the German American Savings Bank and built this as a rental property. Occupants changed often and by the end of the last century it was a run-down student rental. Current owners David Santacroe (a UM Professor of Law) and Holly Parker have restored the exterior, added an addition approved by the HDC, and landscaped the property making for a great visual improvement.
- 13. 812 W. Washington- Herman D. Allmendinger-1900-** This house was occupied by successive German families in the Allmendinger, Hoch, and Stoll families. The rehabilitation, done by Nadine Hubbs who purchased the home in 2013, involved removing aluminum siding, fire escapes and other weird things. Hubbs also restored her front porch and painted the house these eye-catching colors!
- 14. 826 W. Huron- Edward Bycraft House-1914-**Built by a retired farmer, this Arts and Crafts house was recently converted from a single room occupancy house to an owner-occupied one. The new owner, Patricia Wilinski, received approvals from the HDC for her conversion. It is so seamless that one can hardly tell it's been touched.
- 15. 1418 Broadway- Traver-Tuttle House - 1830s/40s? -** This home, formerly belonging to Councilperson Sabra Briere, has been completely restored by owners Patrick McCauley and Andrea Kinney. They had to shore up a failing rear porch, even out foundations, restore storm windows and upgrade electrical and plumbing. They've built a fence in front for their dogs to romp behind and have painted it a dark ruby hue, giving it a totally new look on the block. As a result of his move here, Patrick has written a long article about Absalom Traver that is in the *March Ann Arbor Observer*.