



Historic
Preservation
ALLIANCE OF ARKANSAS
2013 ARKANSAS PRESERVATION AWARDS



Program

Reception

Welcome

Courtney Crouch III / President, Historic Preservation Alliance

Dinner

Remarks

John T. Greer Jr., AIA, LEED AP / Past President and Awards Selection Committee Chair

Awards Program

Rex Nelson, Master of Ceremonies
Awards presented by Courtney Crouch III

Closing Remarks

Vanessa McKuin / Executive Director, Historic Preservation Alliance



Sponsors & Patrons

BRONZE SPONSORS



TABLE SPONSORS



ADDITIONAL TABLE SPONSORS

Courtney Crouch Jr. & Brenda Crouch
Ann McSwain

PATRONS

Ted & Leslie Belden
Bristler Construction
Richard C. Butler Jr.
William Clark, Clark Contractors
W.L. Cook
Courtney C. Crouch III & Amber Crouch
Energy Engineering Consultants
Senator Keith Ingram
Representative Walls McCrary and Emma McCrary
The Honorable Robert S. Moore and Beverly Bailey Moore
Justice and David Newbern
Mark and Cheri Nichols
WER Architects/Planners

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



Theodosia Murphy Nolan
Golden Eagle of Arkansas

Special Thanks

Special thanks to:

Holly Frein
Laura Gilson
Missy McSwain
Caroline Millar
Greg Phillips
Susan Shaddox
Cary Tyson
Amara Yancey



Lifetime Achievement

Named in honor of the Alliance's Founding President, the Parker Westbrook Award recognizes significant individual achievement in historic preservation. It is the Alliance's only award for achievement in preservation over a period of years. The award may be presented to an individual, organization, business or public agency whose activity may be of local, statewide or regional importance.

Recipients of the Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement

- 1981* Susie Pryor, Camden †
1982 Edwin Cromwell, Little Rock †
1983 Dr. F. Hampton Roy, Little Rock
1985 Carl Miller Jr., Little Rock
1986 Richard Mason, El Dorado
1987 Pauline Hoelzel, Little Rock †
1988 Cyrus Sutherland, Fayetteville †
1989 Judge James H. Pilkington Sr., Texarkana †
1990 Marjorie Crabaugh, Russellville †
1991 Richard Dixon, Little Rock †
1992 Laura Findley and the Ouachita County Historical Society, Camden †
1993 Peg Newton Smith, Little Rock †
1994 Margaret Woolfolk, Marion †
1995 Lois Bailey Moore, Rison †
1996 David Pryor, Little Rock
1997 Sam Dickinson, Prescott †
1998 Jane Ross, Arkadelphia †
1999 Sandra Taylor Smith, North Little Rock
2000 Wayne Bledsoe, Fort Smith
2001 Dorothy Moore †
Robert Moore Jr., Arkansas City
2004 Becky Witsell, Little Rock
2005 Charles Witsell, Little Rock
2006 Courtney Crouch Jr., Hot Springs
2007 Mark Stodola, Little Rock
2008 Bobbie Heffington, Mayflower
2009 Marty † and Elise Roenigk, Eureka Springs
2010 Theodosia Murphy Nolan, El Dorado
2011 Bobby Roberts, Little Rock
2012 William B. Worthen, Little Rock
2013 Frances "Missy" McSwain, Lonoke

Deceased †

Award Recipients

Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement
Award - Frances "Missy" McSwain, Lonoke

Excellence in Heritage Preservation Award
Award - Delta Cultural Center, Helena

Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation
Award - Fort Smith Regional Art Museum, Fort Smith
Large Project - Mann on Main, Little Rock
Small Project - Lesmeister Guesthouse, Pocahontas
Honorable Mention - Boone Murphy House, Pine Bluff

Excellence in Preservation through Restoration
Award - Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, Dyess
Honorable Mention - Tushek Building, Lake Village

Ned Shank Award for Outstanding Preservation Publication
Award - John Lee Webb, *The Man and His Legacy*
Co-Authors: Cheryl Batts, Janis Kearney and Patricia W. McGraw, Ph.D.

Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy
Award - White River Bridge, Newport

Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education
Award - Nancy Lowe, Little Rock

Outstanding New Construction in an Historic Setting
Award - Ozark Hall, Fayetteville
Honorable Mention - Blacksmith Shop at Plum Bayou Homestead, Little Rock

Outstanding Service in Neighborhood Preservation
Award - Anita Davis, South Main Street, Little Rock

Outstanding Work by a Craftsperson
Award - Danny Ball Sr., New Hope School Windows, Wynne

Outstanding Personal Projects
Award - Connelly-Harrington House, Siloam Springs

About the Alliance

The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering Arkansans to save and rehabilitate historic places.

As Arkansas's only statewide nonprofit organization focused on preserving Arkansas's architectural and cultural resources, the Alliance has been educating, advocating and assisting preservation efforts across Arkansas since 1981. From educating lawmakers to assisting individual property owners, the Alliance is committed to protecting the many valuable heritage resources that make our state unique. The Alliance's numerous educational programs include the quarterly Arkansas Preservation Digest, the annual Arkansas Preservation Conference and the Ramble tours of historic sites. The Alliance has effectively advocated for public sources of preservation funding and incentives, such as the Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. The Alliance assists local governments and historic downtown communities through administration of the federal Preserve America program in Arkansas and participation in the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's Main Street Arkansas program—programs which promote historic preservation and heritage tourism as economic development tools. We hope that you will support the Alliance in these efforts by becoming a member and staying informed of our many programs and events which enhance the sustainability and quality of life in Arkansas.

Connect with us!

In Person:

323 Center Street, Suite 1201
Little Rock, AR 72201

By Mail:

PO Box 305
Little Rock, AR 72203

Online:

PreserveArkansas.org

Facebook:

[Facebook.com/PreserveAR](https://www.facebook.com/PreserveAR)

Twitter:

[PreserveAR](https://twitter.com/PreserveAR)

Flickr:

[Flickr.com/preservearkansas](https://www.flickr.com/photos/preservearkansas/)

Board of Directors

Class of 2013

Billy Blann, El Dorado
Gregory Herman, Fayetteville
Martin Smith, Cherry Valley
Leslie Wren Ward, Little Rock

Class of 2014

M. Christine Allen, Little Rock
Kate East, Little Rock
John Greer Jr., Little Rock
Cary Tyson, North Little Rock
Ronnie Walker, Pocahontas
Clayton Blackstock, Little Rock

Class of 2015

Jamie C. Brandon, Ph.D., Magnolia
John R. French, Arkadelphia
Caroline Millar, Little Rock

Class of 2016

Courtney Crouch III, Little Rock
Representative John C. Edwards, Little Rock
Beverly Bailey Moore, Arkansas City
Christine Moschitta, Haskell
Blake J. Wintory, Ph.D., Lake Village

Class of 2017

Sammy Angel, Lake Village
Representative Eddie Armstrong, North Little Rock
Jodi Barnes, Ph.D., Monticello
Leslie Wren Ward, Little Rock
Tom Wing, Fort Smith

Ex-Officio Members

Honorable Mark Martin, Secretary of State
Martha Miller, State Historic Preservation Officer
Ruth A. Hawkins, Ph.D., Advisor to the National Trust
Carl H. Miller Jr., Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust
Cheri Nichols, Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust
Debbie Shea, Advisor to the National Trust
Parker Westbrook, Founding President & Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust
Charles Witsell Jr., FAIA, Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust

Awards Selection Committee



Ann Pryor Clements

A native of Morrilton, Arkansas, Clements's interest in historic architecture began in her childhood with her fascination of the Victorian "haunted" house across the street. When it was demolished, she found herself sad that a part of her memory had been destroyed. Growing up she spent countless hours in the Conway County Library, one of the few remaining Carnegie Libraries in the state, in her mom's office in the Conway County Courthouse and attended junior high in the "old" Morrilton High School. Time spent in these buildings cemented her passion for historic structures. After attending Ouachita Baptist University, receiving a degree in history and political science, Clements began a 27-year career at the Secretary of State's office where she was fortunate to work for four Secretaries of State in varied capacities including Capitol Historian, Director of the statewide Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commemoration, Education Coordinator and Director of the Communications and Education Division of the Secretary of State's office. Clements served as the Secretary of State's representative on the HPAA board for many years and was involved in the efforts to save the Morrilton High School from destruction. After this second piece of her childhood was demolished, she dedicated her career to helping promote and preserve our state's history and particularly the state Capitol Building. She assisted the design teams in the restoration of the Governor's Conference Room, the Old Supreme Court Chamber and the redesign of the first floor Visitor's Center. In addition, she oversaw the restoration of the four murals in the Capitol and developed numerous public programs, educational programs, lesson plans and events to promote Arkansas's history. Currently, she continues to promote and preserve our state's history as an Outreach Specialist at the Arkansas History Commission. Clements, her husband Gary, and son Austin, live in the Argenta Historic District in a restored 1919 American Foursquare with their rescue lab mutts, Liberty and Hershey.



Brian Lang

Brian J. Lang serves as Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Craft at the Arkansas Arts Center, located in Little Rock. Before joining the Arkansas Arts Center, Lang served as Curator of Decorative Arts at the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC. Mr. Lang has also served as Museum Curator for Dumbarton House, national headquarters for The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and a Federal-period historic house museum. While at Dumbarton House, he undertook extensive research on the social and cultural histories of Georgetown and the early City of Washington utilizing primary source material in the museum's archival collection. Based on the findings from this research, he began the restoration and re-interpretation of Dumbarton House to more accurately reflect the occupation of the Joseph Nourse family and to incorporate a more inclusive history. In 2006, he successfully guided the museum to accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Prior to his employment at Dumbarton House, Mr. Lang worked as the Manager of Operations at the Vance Kirkland Museum and Foundation, a private museum dedicated to the artist and located in Denver, Colorado. From 1995 to 1999, he served as Curator of the Hiwan Homestead Museum, a 19th-century historic house museum located in Evergreen, Colorado.

Brian Lang (continued)

Mr. Lang received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, Spanish and Museum Studies from Beloit College, a small, liberal-arts school located in Beloit, Wisconsin. In 1997, he was awarded the degree of Master of Arts in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado.



John Greer Jr.

John is a principal at Witsell Evans Rasco Architects in Little Rock, Arkansas, leading the firm's preservation team on Preservation and Renovation projects throughout the state of Arkansas. Notable and award winning preservation projects that John has been involved with include the eStem Public Charter Schools Old Gazette Building and Federal Reserve Bank Building renovations, Lakeport Plantation, Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery, Old Washington Historic State Park 1874 Courthouse, Arkansas State Capitol, Old Statehouse Museum, US Bankruptcy Courthouse, the Richard Sheppard Arnold US Courthouse and the Little Rock Visitor Information Center at Curran Hall. In addition to the work that John does in the field of preservation, as a LEED accredited professional, John oversees the firm's opportunities for sustainable design projects in the office. John is a recipient of the 2012 Quapaw Quarter Association Jimmy Strawn Historic Preservation Award for his vision and leadership in the preservation of Little Rock's historic places. John is proud to have been an Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas board member since 2011 and to serve as President of the board in 2013.



Samantha Evans

Samantha Evans currently serves as an assistant director for the Main Street Arkansas program. Main Street Arkansas is a program area of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. With Main Street Arkansas, Samantha serves as the state coordinator that provides technical assistance and design services to help create economic development in the state's downtown areas. Samantha received her B.A. from v College in Atlanta, Georgia and, has a master's degree in urban planning and regional development from the University of Minnesota.



Bob Kempkes

Bob Kempkes is a founding partner of Taylor/Kempkes Architects in Hot Springs. Bob has been involved in numerous preservation projects in his firm's 27-year history. He's served as a past board member with the Historic Preservation Alliance and is currently a member of the State Review Committee on Historic Preservation. Bob is also one of the owners of Quapaw Baths and Spa in the landmark Quapaw Bathhouse on Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs National Park.

AWARD

Parker Westbrook Award — FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT —

FRANCES "MISSY" McSWAIN

The Parker Westbrook Award recognizes significant individual achievement in historic preservation. It is the Alliance's only award for achievement in preservation over a period of years. The award may be presented to an individual, organization, business or public agency whose activity may be of local, statewide or regional importance.



As a constant champion of history and heritage in her personal, professional and volunteer activities for three decades, Missy McSwain has played a role in various aspects of the field of preservation.

Missy's first professional foray into preservation was in 1987 when she was hired as the Executive Director of this fine organization, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, a position she held until 1993. Also during her years at the Alliance and as a result of her growing love for historic houses, she purchased her grandmother's house, the c. 1885 Folk Victorian Trimble-McCrary House in Lonoke. Missy is the fifth generation of her family to live in the house.

With a preservation project of her own and her young son, Jackson, to care for she decided to give up her job as director, but Missy remained closely connected to the Alliance. She also became reconnected to her Lonoke County roots.

Her work with Main Street Communities through the Alliance and her knowledge of the National Main Street Center's Four-Point approach to downtown economic development made Missy a perfect person to lead the Main Street program in Lonoke, further integrating the preservation ethic in economic development efforts.

Missy also continued her work with the Historic Preservation Alliance as a dedicated volunteer, putting in countless hours on committees and sub-committees. Missy also served on the board of HPAA multiple times and has planned numerous conferences, Rambles and other programs to promote Arkansas's architectural heritage and the Alliance's mission. Her experience with preservation and historic buildings has also made her a valuable member of the boards of the Little Rock Visitor Foundation and Scott Connections as well as the Historic Arkansas Museum Commission. She also serves on the Heartland Renaissance Fund Advisory Board.

For ten years, Missy managed Federal Programs for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, before being appointed in 2007 to serve as the director of the agency and as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Under her leadership, the agency has seen an increase in funding for County Courthouse Restoration Grants via the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council. The agency has also implemented and promoted the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit with much success. Since the program's passage by the Arkansas Legislature in 2009, the credit has leveraged over \$42 million in private investment in preservation projects. Under Missy's direction, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program added a cemetery preservation program consisting of hands-on workshops around the state and will soon add a grant component. The agency has also expanded social media and outreach, including a popular blog. Through Missy's work with the AHPP she has been a part of some of the state's most recognizable preservation projects like the Jacob Wolf House in Baxter County, Lakeport Plantation in Chicot County, the Drennen-Scott house in Crawford County and numerous historic county courthouses.

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Missy serves not only as the voice for the agency in Arkansas, but as Arkansas's voice in the national preservation forum. Elected by her nationwide peers, Missy now serves on the Board of Directors for the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Missy is a tireless advocate in her outreach to local, state and federal officials, always beating the drum of how preservation ties into quality of place and that building places where people want to live is the key to 21st century economic development.

For her ongoing commitment and contributions to the preservation of Arkansas's rich historic resources, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas is pleased to recognize Missy McSwain with the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award.

AWARD

Excellence in Heritage PRESERVATION AWARD

DELTA CULTURAL CENTER, HELENA



The Excellence in Heritage Preservation Award recognizes Preserve America communities or organizations in designated communities that have proven their commitment to the preservation of their historic, cultural and natural heritage and strive to meet the goals of Preserve America: a greater knowledge of the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving cultural and natural heritage assets and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

As an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Delta Cultural Center's (DCC) existence centers on the preservation of the history and heritage of the Arkansas Delta. Some major properties, which the DCC acquired over the past two decades, were preserved as venues that interpret the different slices of this region's diverse heritage.

- The DCC's original property was a restored 1912 Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot, which it opened to the public in 1990 with museum exhibits featuring Native American history, the Civil War, the Mississippi River and music from the Delta.
- The historic Moore-Hornor House, donated to the DCC in the mid 1990s, is an 1859 structure that experienced the crossfire of the Battle of Helena in July 1863. The DCC uses this house to interpret the Civil War in Helena, along with the newly constructed replica of Fort Curtis.
- The Beth El Heritage Hall, also donated to the DCC, was restored and now symbolizes the large and influential Jewish population that existed in Helena during the 20th century.



The DCC has also played a vital role in the revitalization of downtown Helena, and its presence there has grown through a number of community-oriented projects, many of them focused on heritage tourism. The Delta Bridge Project, which began in 2005 as an initiative with Southern Bancorp Community Partners and the Walton Foundation, is a community strategic plan created to move the Delta forward in a variety of ways, from healthcare to education to economic development. The DCC has implemented that plan's heritage tourism goals, particularly through the interpretation of Civil War sites.

Through its ongoing effort to interpret and preserve the Delta people's heritage, the DCC has partnered with too many organizations in the county and region to mention here, among them Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Main Street Helena, the Phillips Community College, the Warfield Concerts Committee and several additional agencies within the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Its efforts over the past 23 years stretch beyond simply historic preservation, but using heritage preservation as a means to revitalize a unique region in our country.

AWARD

Excellence in Preservation — THROUGH REHABILITATION —

FORT SMITH REGIONAL ART MUSEUM

Owner: Fort Smith Regional Art Museum
Architect: Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects
Contractor: Goodwin & Goodwin, Inc.



The Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation Award recognizes projects that retain significant historic fabric but do not attempt to restore a structure to an earlier appearance. Special consideration is given to how new materials and design were integrated with historic fabric to make the project successful.

When the architectural firm Polk Stanley Wilcox took the Fort Smith Regional Museum (RAM) building under its wing, the rehabilitation project was a million dollars over budget, and the mid-century building had been gutted and was in dire need of a design plan to transform it from a former bank to an art museum. On a tight budget, the architects quickly focused on saving the historic characteristics that were still intact and creating simple, elegant and usable spaces for the art museum.



Before RAM moved into its new home, the bank building sat empty for several years amongst a slew of non-descript 1960s' retail buildings. Today, the building stands as an icon of the transformative power of historic preservation through rehabilitation. A few architectural interventions were done in order to save some of the beautiful period detailing that was still intact, like the monumental stairway, which

was saved by the careful insertion of glass panels to enclose its one-foot gaps. To showcase the historic stairway, the building's entrance was reversed to the north side, where the stairway became the front lobby focal point.

Perhaps the most stunning symbol of the building's transformation is the color-changing lantern that was installed on the exterior. It speaks to the building's new use and also symbolizes the museum's ever-changing and dynamic interior art galleries. A lantern, which displays thousands of color combinations, was installed on top of a pre-existing elevator shaft and is now the tallest element on Rogers Avenue besides a historic church steeple a few blocks away.



The upper floor houses the museum's permanent collection and gallery, along with administration offices. A full basement houses children's classrooms and a stage, catering kitchen and art storage.

Polk Stanley Wilcox and the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum are commended for their vision and employment of creative design solutions to highlight the mid-century architectural features and to not only meet the needs of the museum, but to make the building shine as a new Fort Smith landmark.

AWARD - LARGE PROJECT

Excellence in Preservation — THROUGH REHABILITATION —

MANN ON MAIN, LITTLE ROCK

Owner: Mann Property Group, LLC

(Doyle Rogers Company and Moses Tucker Real Estate, Inc.)

Architects: AMR Architects, Inc.

Contractor: Clark Construction and Central Construction Group



The Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation Award recognizes projects that retain significant historic fabric but do not attempt to restore a structure to an earlier appearance. Special consideration is given to how new materials and design were integrated with historic fabric to make the project successful.

Partners in this joint venture, Moses Tucker Real Estate, Inc. and the Doyle Rogers Company, developed Mann on Main for mixed use on Little Rock's Main Street during 2012 and 2013. The original seven-story building, known formerly as the Blass Department Store, along with a neighboring building now called the Mann Annex, were renovated for use as first-class office, ground floor retail and loft-style, multi-family residential.

The original 1913 Blass Department Store was Little Rock's fifth skyscraper, designed by one of Arkansas's most distinguished architects, George Mann, architect of the Capitol. The seven-story building's design was heavily influenced by renowned Chicago architect, Louis Sullivan. Blass was Arkansas's largest department store for several years and was the first of its kind in the state to be air-conditioned (1936) and to have an escalator (1948). It was also one of the earliest examples in the United States of two-way, flat-slab concrete construction. It was at the forefront of innovative structural techniques.



In 1999, Doyle Rogers Sr., founder and chairman of Doyle Rogers Company purchased the Blass Building and Annex without immediate plans for its use. It was 2012 before a redevelopment project became a reality with the formation of the partnership, Mann Property Group, LLC. The partners' vision for Mann on Main is the shared goal for furthering the city's downtown revitalization.

The developers pursued the Federal and State Rehabilitation Tax Credits and Federal New Market Tax Credits during the renovation process. The original seven-story Blass Building and its Annex have been completely remodeled, both exterior and interior. Today, the building is home to several offices, including the Office of Child Support Enforcement (housing 200 employees). The Mann project also attracted the revival of Bruno's Little Italy restaurant, a legendary Little Rock eatery that, like the Mann, has returned. Bruno's is located in the adjacent Mann Lofts building, which also contains 20 residential units—Main Street's first housing in decades.

For the project team's vision in creating functional, adaptive reuse space and commitment to revitalizing the prominent corner of Main and 4th, the Mann on Main project is commended.



AWARD - SMALL PROJECT

Excellence in Preservation — THROUGH REHABILITATION —

LESMEISTER GUESTHOUSE, POCAHONTAS

Owner: St. Charles Properties, LLC/Dr. Patrick Carroll, DDS

Architect: JAMESON Architects, PA

Contractor: T-Co Contractors, Inc.



The Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation Award recognizes projects that retain significant historic fabric but do not attempt to restore a structure to an earlier appearance. Special consideration is given to how new materials and design were integrated with historic fabric to make the project successful.

The building in which the Lesmeister Guesthouse is located has always played an active role in the life of downtown Pocahontas. It's hosted various businesses during its 111-year lifespan. Now, after a year of rehabilitation, the building is open for business once again, this time as an upscale overnight accommodations facility, and it is once again contributing to the economic vitality of Pocahontas.

The Lesmeister Guesthouse sits on property purchased in 1902 by Henry Lesmeister. He built the commercial structure just off of the Pocahontas downtown square. His brother, Henry, was an architect associated with some of the grandest buildings erected in downtown Pocahontas. The building remained in the Lesmeister family for over 100 years, and is remembered by most people as the Bennett and Rice Grocery.

The architects at JAMESON Architects, PA, who led the rehabilitation, found a c. 1910 photograph of the old grocery to be a helpful historic document, as it helped them mark the many changes made to the building throughout its history. The team generated a digital base model, using it as a design tool throughout the project. They began the project by selectively demolishing contemporary walls and ceiling layers to expose the building's earliest remaining features. This selected demolition revealed some surprising original architectural details, including mezzanines made of cast concrete, a rare material for the early 1900s. In the attic, the north and south masonry walls were found to be smoke-stained, while the front masonry walls were not.

To transform the historic building to its new use as guesthouse quarters, the architects split the building in half from front to back, creating apartments accessible through the storefronts. They also fashioned two units accessible from the rear porch. At present, only two of the apartments have been completed. The Julia Dean (front apartment) hosts combined living and dining areas, a kitchen, separate bedroom area and a large accessible bath with a shower and spa tub. Select walls do not reach the pressed-metal ceiling so as to reveal and showcase as many of the historic features as possible. The Laurel (rear apartment) utilizes an existing, elevated mezzanine for the living area with a kitchen, dining room and bath on the main floor. The bedroom is located in the basement area below the mezzanine. Historic elements were retained throughout, including the pressed metal ceilings and worn concrete steps in the Laurel. An eight-foot diameter cistern was discovered in the basement of the Laurel and is now glass-covered and visible in the bedroom.

For the reuse vision and creative design solutions to take this prominent downtown building into another century, the owner and project team are commended for rehabilitation of the Lesmeister Guesthouse.



HONORABLE MENTION

Excellence in Preservation — THROUGH REHABILITATION —

BOONE-MURPHY HOUSE, PINE BLUFF

Owner: City of Pine Bluff

Architects: Nelson Architecture Group, Ruby Architects, Inc.



The Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation Award recognizes projects that retain significant historic fabric but do not attempt to restore a structure to an earlier appearance. Special consideration is given to how new materials and design were integrated with historic fabric to make the project successful.

It's a miracle that the Boone-Murphy House survived to be rehabilitated in the 21st century. The house, built in 1860 by Thomas Boone, was originally located at 702 W. Second Avenue. During the Union Army's occupation of Pine Bluff from 1863-1865, the house was used as the army's second headquarters and Federal Colonel Powell Clayton took up residence there. After the war and the subsequent death of Mr. Boone, the house was auctioned to David Carroll, who sold the property to John Murphy in 1871. The National Register nomination states, "The Murphys lived there until he died in 1892 and by that time, the structure had been much altered. In 1894, Mrs. Murphy moved the house to the west side of the lot and constructed a large two and a half story house with tall columns. The small Boone-Murphy House was used as servants quarters and later as a storeroom."

Years later the Murphy family donated the two properties to Trinity Episcopal School, who razed the big home and moved the small house to the property's edge, making room for a day school. In 1977, the school expanded and, to prevent its demolition, the house was then moved to its present location at 714 W. Fourth Avenue.

Despite changes in ownership and the razing of buildings on the property, the small Murphy-Boone home managed to escape demolition; each time a new building went up on the lot, the house was carefully moved so as not to demolish one of Pine Bluff's most important Civil War-era homes.

Work began to rehabilitate the small Boone-Murphy house in 2008. The house had deteriorated and was overgrown with vegetation. The project was awarded grants through the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the State of Arkansas and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin the arduous rehabilitation. Rotten floor joists were removed and replaced with like materials, the original metal shingle roof was removed, the original hardwood floors, windows and doors were repaired and restored and the entire building was brought up to current city code. Finally, the small house was painted in a historically accurate three-color scheme similar to the house's final appearance in the 1880s.

In 2013, a Civil War Historical Marker was dedicated to commemorate the role that the Boone-Murphy house played during the occupation of Pine Bluff. Today the restored Boone-Murphy house is the home of the Pine Bluff Historic District Commission, giving life to the small house that miraculously survived three moves, a war, an occupation and decades of neglect to become one of Pine Bluff's best preservation success stories.



AWARD
Excellence in Preservation
— THROUGH RESTORATION —

THE JOHNNY CASH BOYHOOD HOME, DYESS

Owner: Arkansas State University, Arkansas Heritage Sites Program
Architect: Ruby Architects, Inc.



The Excellence in Preservation through Restoration Award recognizes projects in which a primary goal was returning a structure to a documented earlier appearance. The jury considers efforts to retain the integrity of the structure and the process involved in achieving the result, including research and solutions chosen to problems presented by modern mechanical intrusion, meeting code requirements, etc.

The Johnny Cash Boyhood Home project, a joint effort of Arkansas State University's Arkansas Heritage Sites Program, the City of Dyess and the Rural Heritage Development Initiative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is an ambitious and dedicated endeavor to restore the childhood home of American music icon, Johnny Cash.

The Cash family home was built under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Farm Resettlement Authority to assist destitute farm families across Arkansas. Ray and Carrie Cash relocated their growing family to Dyess in early 1935. It was here that young J.R., later known as Johnny, worked the cotton fields alongside his father, fished in the Tyronza River with brother Jack and listened to gospel and county music each evening on the RCA radio.



J.R. lived in the home from 1935 through his graduation from Dyess High School in 1950. His family continued to live in the same house until 1954. In 1972, the multi-platinum recording artist and successful film and television actor revisited his childhood home in Dyess noting its influence on his music, lyrics and life, especially many of his early recordings.

The house, although notable for its association with Johnny Cash, is also significant as a representative example of the houses of families who populated the Dyess Colony. By the early 2000s, the house was in serious disrepair, and in 2006 the Cash boyhood home was listed as one of Arkansas's Most Endangered Places. Arkansas State University purchased the house in 2011.

The primary goal in the restoration of the home was to accurately return the weathered and significantly altered structure to its appearance during the time when the Cash family occupied the house, primarily 1935-1950. The house was moved off its original site, its "gumbo" soil removed and replaced by compacted fill dirt and re-sited on its original piers at the original location. Once stabilized, exterior and interior restoration began. This included a return to the original floor plan of the house, reconstruction of original windows and window openings, as well as the recreation of railings and porches which had been removed. Necessary additions to meet current code requirements were addressed as sensitively as possible.

Copious research formed the basis for all restoration work. Team members traveled to the National Archives and Records Administration in Maryland to access federal and state New Deal documentation. Remaining Cash family members were contacted and assisted in the restoration process by identifying and verifying drawings, finishings and furniture placement. Other colony houses still standing in Dyess were consulted to aid in the recreation of missing design elements. Because of the hard work of the dedicated project team, the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home is an impressive and authentic restoration of a rural Arkansas home with a very special past.



HONORABLE MENTION

Excellence in Preservation — THROUGH RESTORATION —

TUSHEK BUILDING, LAKE VILLAGE

Owner: City of Lake Village, Honorable JoAnne Bush, Mayor

Architect: Ruby Architects, Inc.

Contractor: James H. Cone, Inc.



The Excellence in Preservation through Restoration Award recognizes projects in which a primary goal was returning a structure to a documented earlier appearance. The jury considers efforts to retain the integrity of the structure and the process involved in achieving the result, including research and solutions chosen to problems presented by modern mechanical intrusion, meeting code requirements, etc.

“The greenest building is the one that’s already built,” said architect Carl Elefante. The restoration of the now LEED-certified Tushek Building in Lake Village is an excellent example of how much environmental and economic sense historic preservation makes in our increasingly energy-conscious world.

The John L. Tushek Building, constructed in 1906, occupies a prominent corner in downtown Lake Village. It sat vacant and under-utilized for years. The City of Lake Village desired to restore the historic Tushek building for the purpose of consolidating city personnel in a single location. Prior to its restoration, the Tushek Building was vacant and the city’s numerous offices and departments were scattered around in the community.

The project was a recycling effort from the beginning, with the contractor saving as many materials as possible. Dropped ceilings, which were removed to expose original transoms and tongue and groove beam-board ceilings, were reused as wainscoting. Original doors that could not be reused were hung as wall art. Other materials were donated or sold as salvage. All non-usable materials were weighed before being sent to the landfill, so that their impact on the environment could be monitored and minimized. By the project’s end, at least 95 percent—in weight—of the waste generated by the project had been diverted from the local landfill.



Recycled denim jeans were used for batt-insulation and low-power HVAC and lighting and low-flow plumbing systems were installed to save on both energy and money. To maintain the building’s temperatures, the city incorporated cool-roof technology and permanent overhangs to protect the large glass storefronts on the ground floor and installed Energy-Star rated windows on the second floor.

Besides the more obvious energy and money-saving alterations listed above, the project has some less visible, long-term benefits as well, such as its impact on economic development in the area. The project created new jobs for construction crews and the rehabilitation has the potential to spur further investment and growth in downtown Lake Village.

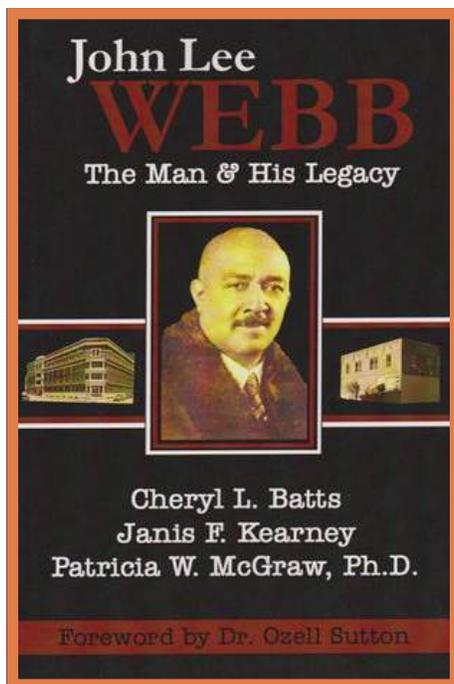
This project was spear-headed by Mayor JoAnne Bush and the Lake Village City Council. The building was donated to the city, making the project possible. Early funding was provided through grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Delta Regional Authority USDA Rural Development and the Arkansas Energy Office.

AWARD

— *The Ned Shank Award* — OUTSTANDING PRESERVATION PUBLICATION

JOHN LEE WEBB, THE MAN AND HIS LEGACY

Co-Authors: Cheryl Batts, Janis Kearney and Patricia W. McGraw, Ph.D.



The Ned Shank Award for Outstanding Preservation Publication combines excellence in writing with preservation achievement. It recognizes authors, editors and publishers who write or create books or significant journal articles about preservation in Arkansas. Publications may document a particular preservation project, profile a person or group active in preservation or discuss general preservation themes and issues.

In 1919, the "winds of change" swept across the United States carrying the souls of former slaves and sharecroppers, many of whom were educated, industrious, inventive, creative and wealthy philanthropists. Mr. John Lee Webb, Supreme Custodian, contractor and visionary of the historic Woodmen of Union Building in Hot Springs was one of those souls. *John Lee Webb, The Man and His Legacy* gives the reader a remarkable look into the life of John Lee Webb and his lasting contributions to Hot Springs.

John Lee Webb was born to the Rev. B.L. and Mrs. Henrietta Webb on September 17, 1877, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mr. Webb, the oldest of 10 children, understood that necessity demanded he work to provide a living for his family and was deprived of the few educational opportunities available to black children in rural Alabama. However, Mr. Webb was determined to further his education and entered Tuskegee Institute at the age of 19, leaving only in 1898 to volunteer in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War. After



the war and the completion of his education at the Institute, Mr. Webb worked as a general contractor in Mississippi and Arkansas, and in 1913, joined the Supreme Lodge of the Woodman of the Union, a fraternal organization that he would eventually lead. By 1930, Mr. Webb and his family were living in Hot Springs and Mr. Webb was the Supreme Custodian of the Woodman of the Union, president of a large

insurance company and president of the National Baptist Layman's Convention. He was a highly influential leader in the African-American community in Hot Springs and at his death in 1946, was regarded as one of the most important citizens of Hot Springs.

At a time when many people of the South lived in poverty, particularly within the black communities, business associates led by Mr. Webb came together to create a productive African-American community in Hot Springs. Mr. Webb's commitment and dedication to Hot Springs led this small Southern town to become the mecca of African-American tourism during a time of segregation.

Founded by five Hot Springs citizens who accumulated the photographs and oral history of the African-American community living in Hot Springs, the Uzuri Project is a continuing endeavor within People Helping Others Excel by Example (P.H.O.E.B.E.) to protect and preserve over 1,500 donated photographs, artifacts and documents.

The authors are commended for their tireless and dedicated work in retelling the story of one of Hot Springs lost heroes, John Lee Webb. His contributions to the city of Hot Springs are unmistakable and without the dedication of the researchers at P.H.O.E.B.E. Publishing, Mr. Webb's remarkable story might have slipped away.

AWARD

Outstanding Achievement — PRESERVATION ADVOCACY —

WHITE RIVER BRIDGE ADAPTIVE REUSE CASE STUDY, NEWPORT

Partners: Newport Economic Development Commission
University of Arkansas Clinton School for Public Service students -
Abby R. Oliver, Frederick Holcomb and James Stephens



The award for Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy recognizes individuals, publications, organizations, etc. that have made a strong impact on preservation through advocacy efforts and have made a notable contribution to championing the cause of preservation.

Mention the “blue bridge” in Newport, and most people know exactly where it is. The 2,831-foot double cantilevered bridge spanning the White River was constructed in 1930 and has served the surrounding communities for over 70 years. However, a new bridge is under construction and the future of the historic bridge is uncertain.

In December 2011, Mayor David Stewart received a letter from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department that left the fate of the historic bridge in the city's hands. The city was given 45 days to decide whether to keep the bridge or allow it to be demolished. Mayor Stewart and the city council decided it was important that they investigate saving the bridge.

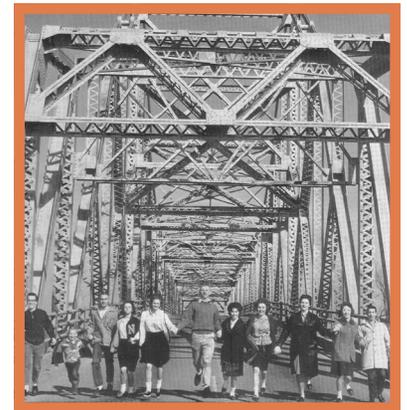
Enter Jon Chadwell and the Newport Economic Development Commission (NEDC). Recognizing the landmark bridge's potential as a community asset even



Courtesy Newport Independent

after its long life as an automobile bridge, Mr. Chadwell engaged the University of Arkansas's Clinton School for Public Service master's-level students for assistance with creating a case study and plan to save the bridge. Mr. Chadwell did not hesitate to take advantage of resources such as those offered by the Clinton School, resources that are critical for Arkansas's small towns.

The project was approved in September 2012 and a team of three Clinton School students were assigned to the project: Frederick Holcomb, Abby R. Olivier and James Stephens. Mayor Stewart appointed a local committee to work with the Clinton School team and the NEDC. The students surveyed opinions from community, business and government leaders in Newport and found that most respondents hoped to see the bridge preserved. They performed key informant interviews with leaders in Little Rock to gain knowledge from experts in the field of historic preservation, particularly historic bridges.



The team sought community input and identified best practices, then recommended various adaptive reuses including an educational and historical walking trail, an events venue or art gallery and a consideration to use the bridge as a component or catalyst of a larger downtown revitalization project. Walkability and rails-to-trails were at the forefront of their recommendations.

Although the future of the historic bridge is still unclear, Mayor Stewart, the City of Newport, Jon Chadwell and the Newport Economic Development Commission are commended for their tireless advocacy efforts to save the historic “blue bridge” and decision to bring the talent of the Clinton School students to the project.

AWARD

Outstanding Achievement — PRESERVATION EDUCATION —

NANCY LOWE

Former Principal Design Consultant for Main Street Arkansas, a program of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (division of the Arkansas Department of Heritage)



The Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education Award recognizes significant contributions to the cause of historic preservation in Arkansas through education.

Nancy Lowe was the principal design consultant for Main Street Arkansas from the program's beginning in 1984 until her retirement in August 2013. Nancy earned her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Architecture degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to joining the Main Street Arkansas staff, she worked with the Georgia Main Street program, the Quapaw Quarter Association, the Memphis and Shelby County Planning Commission, private architecture firms in Memphis and St. Louis and utility companies in St. Louis and Little Rock. Her experience with Main Street programs across the country made her a great asset to the nascent Main Street Arkansas program.

Nancy was an invaluable member of the Main Street Arkansas team and Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff. She was a tireless and tenacious advocate of preservation at the local level. Throughout her years with Main Street, she worked with countless property owners on a number of preservation related building issues, as well as providing drawings and photo renderings of her suggestions for possible rehabilitation and renovation. She also conducted hundreds of design-related trainings to Main Street directors, board members and volunteers.

Nancy quickly created trust among her Main Street Arkansas colleagues regarding her sound commitment to the principles of historic preservation. She was committed to ensuring that Main Street businesses, property owners, local boards and committees and even city code and zoning officials were well-versed in preservation techniques and materials.

Because of her commitment and perseverance over the last three decades, Nancy's contribution to the historic landscapes of Main Streets throughout Arkansas will be preserved for years to come. The Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education Award recognizes significant contributions to the cause of historic preservation in Arkansas through education.



REVISIONS	BY
RECORD COPY	NL
11-8-02	COPY
	NL

FACADE REHABILITATION
 ED'S BEAUTY SALON
 229 W. MAIN
 BAYTOWNE
 ARKANSAS

Main Street
Arkansas

DRAWN	N. LOWE
CHECKED	
DATE	12-24-1984
SCALE	NONE
JOB NO.	94-41
SHEET	1

AWARD

Outstanding New Construction — IN A HISTORIC SETTING —

OZARK HALL, FAYETTEVILLE

Owner: University of Arkansas
Architects: Wittenberg, Deloney & Davidson, Inc.
Robert A.M. Stern Architects
Contractor: VCC Construction Company



The Outstanding New Construction in a Historic Setting Award recognizes contemporary buildings located within a historic context, including a major addition to a historic building. The project is expected to respect and complement the historic integrity of its setting. Nominations should focus on significant aspects of the historic setting and the manner in which the contemporary design acknowledges and complements them.

Ozark Hall is prominently located in the Historic Core of the University of Arkansas campus, just south of iconic Old Main. Constructed in 1940 and 1947, the Collegiate Gothic building is constructed of reinforced masonry and Batesville limestone ashlar with Bedford white limestone moldings. In the 1925 university master plan, the building was envisioned as a "U" shaped building with two wings, but only one side was ever completed.

This award-winning project included complete exterior renovation and interior retrofit of the 68,500-square foot building as well as a new multi-story addition of 22,500 square feet. While structurally intact, Ozark Hall required modernization of its mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

The addition completed the intended "U" configuration of the building first set out in the 1925 master plan. It extends the architectural language of the two existing wings, as well as the other Gothic buildings in the historic core of campus. The addition is faced with Batesville limestone selected from the original quarry with Indiana Limestone detailing matching the two earlier wings. The random ashlar pattern of the Batesville limestone field was replicated, as was the composition of the original mortar, providing an exact match to the old building.

To unify the appearance of the old and new buildings, many features of the 1940s' structure were returned to their historic appearance. New windows that met the profile and fenestration patterns of the original were installed, custom light fixtures were designed to replicate fixtures of similar Collegiate Gothic structures and the interior was reconfigured to accommodate modern teaching and laboratory needs, while maintaining the historic character of the main hallways and stairs. Work included cleaning and repairing the existing terrazzo flooring and removing inappropriate light fixtures. Renovated spaces include classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, student lounges, conference rooms and a 220-seat auditorium. The new courtyard ties the historic and new and allows students and faculty space for interaction, study and reflection.

The University of Arkansas, architects at Wittenberg, Deloney & Davidson, Robert A.M. Stern Architects and VCC Construction Company are commended for their renovation of Ozark Hall and the seamless creation of new spaces that enhance historic Ozark Hall and are sure to be enjoyed by students and faculty for many years to come.



HONORABLE MENTION

Outstanding New Construction — IN A HISTORIC SETTING —

BLACKSMITH SHOP AT PLUM BAYOU HOMESTEAD, HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM, LITTLE ROCK

Owner: Historic Arkansas Museum
Architect: Ruby Architects, Inc.
Contractor: Brister Construction



The Outstanding New Construction in a Historic Setting Award recognizes contemporary buildings located within a historic context, including a major addition to a historic building. The project is expected to respect and complement the historic integrity of its setting.

It has always been a goal of the Historic Arkansas Museum to construct a period-correct blacksmith shop as a means to expand the museum's ability to tell visitors of Little Rock's early history.



The blacksmith shop was designed and built to the 1840s -1850s period, a point in which Little Rock's population was growing dramatically and the services of a blacksmith would have been in high demand. The design of the blacksmith shop was based on research of multiple sources including museum records, online Historic American Building Survey drawings, visits to the Anderson Blacksmith Shop at Colonial Williamsburg, along with study of its drawings and phone interviews with modern-day blacksmiths including Peter Ross and Josh Greenwood, as well as study of a well-known book, *Practical Blacksmithing* by M.T. Richardson.

Designed by Ruby Architects, Inc., the blacksmith shop includes a fully functioning forge complete with authentic leather bellows, tuyere and strategically placed rocker arm for stoking of the fire. The forge was built by master carpenter and mason Peter Post, using custom, handmade brick left over from the recently completed Woodruff Print Shop across the street. Mr. Post also installed the wood shingle roof. No nails were used in the timber frame as it is put together through use of traditional mortise and tenon joinery. For wheelchair accessibility, the shop was placed on a concrete slab, stained a dark color to simulate dirt. A simulated white-wash paint was used on the exterior lap siding.

The result is a new structure among the historic buildings on the grounds of the Historic Arkansas Museum that reflects period design and construction techniques. The building functions well as a static exhibit, and even better as a shop where experienced blacksmiths engage the visitor in a dramatic demonstration of period craftsmanship.

AWARD

— *Outstanding Service* —
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

ANITA DAVIS
SOUTH MAIN STREET, LITTLE ROCK

The Outstanding Service in Neighborhood Preservation Award recognizes an activity or project that has made a significant contribution to a historic area in Arkansas.



Photo Credit: Nancy Nolan

When Anita Davis saw an empty lot at 1401 South Main Street in Little Rock, she envisioned a gathering place to celebrate community, sustainability and local artists. The lot was originally part of the Augustus Garland-Mitchell House property at 1404 Scott Street. The Garland-Mitchell House was built in 1873 by Augustus Garland, who later became governor, senator and the first Arkansan to serve on a Presidential Cabinet. During the 1940s, the back portion of the lot on South Main Street was purchased to build the Little Rock Inn, a drive-in restaurant. After the inn closed, a small motel, then a Captain D's fast-food restaurant, did stints at the corner. In 2005, the Captain D's burned, leaving a concrete pad and a few crepe myrtles.

In 2006, Anita bought the empty lot at 1401 South Main Street and founded the Bernice Garden in 2007. The garden, named for the Bernice Building, located at 1411 South Main Street and purchased by Anita in 2005, and for her own grandmother, has become a gem in downtown Little Rock. It's an unlikely place for a garden: the corner of a busy downtown intersection, on what once was the site of a fast-food restaurant, but Anita's vision for the site created a spark for the rapidly revitalizing historic SoMa district.



Photo Credit: Nancy Nolan



Photo Credit: Nancy Nolan

In collaboration with Ecological Design Group, Inc., the garden was designed to celebrate the community. It plays host to community events such as a farmer's market, vintage market, cornbread festival, food truck Thursday and others in an effort to foster community interaction. Anita's other properties in the area provide space for the Green Corner Store, the Root Cafe, Boulevard Bread and now Anita's own Esse Purse Museum.

Anita's investments have attracted others to the area. Former *Oxford American* publisher and State Representative Warwick Sabin moved the magazine's offices to South Main Street and opened a restaurant and performance space. Sabin told *Arkansas Business*, "I didn't even question the wisdom of bringing the *Oxford American* here because of the progress that had already been made. There were so many good things happening down here."

Anita Davis says she had a lot of help, but it is clear that her vision and her personal actions have played a major role in transforming the South Main Street neighborhood in just a few short years. Her vision for South Main Street, her creativity and her determination to make her community a better place are commended with this award.

AWARD
Outstanding Work
— BY A CRAFTSPERSON —

DANNY BALL SR.
NEW HOPE SCHOOL WINDOWS, WYNNE



The Outstanding Work by a Craftsperson Award recognizes high-quality work that demonstrates an understanding of the principles and practice of preservation techniques on a specific project.

The New Hope School, located on Highway 284 in Wynne, was built in 1903 as a one-room school building. At some point not long after its construction, a second room was added to the north end resulting in a "T" shaped structure. The building remained in use as a school until 1951 when the school board voted to close it. In the years that followed students were sent to nearby Wynne schools and the building was used for agricultural-related purposes.

In 2001, the Cross County Historical Society began efforts to preserve the New Hope School. It would take several years and countless volunteer hours to get to the point where the CCHS was ready to begin repairing and restoring the building elements.

Danny Ball Sr. was engaged by the Cross County Historical Society to complete the window restoration and replacement for the school. Mr. Ball began by researching the original window sash and jamb construction details. After careful assessment, he determined that nearly all of the original window components would need to be carefully replicated as the originals had either been lost or severely damaged.



As he began the restoration process, Mr. Ball wanted to use locally grown and milled lumber. This presented a challenge as not many local sawmills exist in the Wynne area. After much searching, an appropriate quality of local cypress was found in Powhatan, Arkansas. The rough sawn lumber was carefully handplaned to the original size and dimension and every original detail was replicated, including the use of tongue-and-groove joints. Mr. Ball made several nine-hour trips to Kansas at his own expense to access tools used by his son, Danny Ball Jr.

Each sash was hand glazed by sealing the window glass into the window sash. Mr. Ball spent several tedious evenings hand glazing the sashes to perfection.

The window project took several months of planning, many tanks of gasoline and full weekends of work. For his dedication and commitment to using traditional window building practices, Mr. Ball is commended.

AWARD
— *Outstanding* —
PERSONAL PROJECTS

RON AND CHRISTINA DRAKE, DRAKE CONCEPTS
CONNELLY-HARRINGTON HOUSE, SILOAM SPRINGS

Architect: Matthias J. Pearson

Contractor: Ron Drake



The Excellence in Personal Projects Award recognizes the achievement of individuals in preserving, rehabilitating or restoring structures for their own use.

The Connelly-Harrington House, constructed in 1913 for a prominent local banker, is significant for its use of various architecture styles. Elements of Prairie, Craftsman and Classical design are all evident in the property. During the 1930s the building was a hospital for John Brown University and later became apartments. It most recently became the offices of Drake Renovation and Construction, Drake Concepts and Main Street Siloam Springs.

A major fire in January 2012 destroyed the third floor and caused extensive smoke and water damage to the other floors. Many people followed the future of the damaged building and encouraged Ron and Christina Drake to salvage what was left and to rehabilitate and reuse it.



The Drakes accepted the challenge and executed a thorough rehabilitation plan with the assistance of Tom Marr, Rehabilitation Tax Credit Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. They pursued tax credit certification using both state and federal credits.

The Drakes were determined to restore and salvage as much as possible. As work began, an intact oak banister enclosed many years ago with drywall was discovered in the stair to the second floor. Though the uncovering of the historic feature was exciting, the banister could not be completely left open because the wall had separated two private spaces. Mr. Drake's creative solution was to install a glass block base below an electronic glass wall that changes from clear to frosted when privacy is needed. The feature is a centerpiece of the second floor, which houses Mr. Drake's personal office.

The roof features a new type of barrel-tile asphalt shingles that replicate the look of the original clay tile roof. The third floor was reconfigured as a two-bedroom apartment with excellent views of downtown Siloam Springs.

By fall 2012, the building was completed and leased up. John Brown III, the grandson of the founder of John Brown University, has office space for his work with the Windgate Foundation. Also local students fill the apartments and contribute to downtown vibrancy. Once again the Connelly-Harrington House stands proudly in downtown Siloam Springs.