

NEWS RELEASE

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15th Annual Ken Kringle Historic Preservation Awards Announced

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque Historic Preservation Commission will present the 15th Annual Ken Kringle Historic Preservation Awards at a reception and ceremony on Tuesday, April 4, at 5:30 p.m. at The Venue, 285 Main St., Dubuque. This event is free to the public and light refreshments will be provided. Reservations are required by contacting Dubuque Main Street at 563-588-4400 or michaela@dubuquemainstreet.org.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and book signing with Larry Friedman and Katherine Fischer, co-authors of the recently released “A.A. Cooper: Reinventing the Wheel.” The book is available at the River Lights Book Store and chronicles the rise of prominent Dubuque business man Augustin Augustine (A.A.) Cooper and his wife, Mary Smith Cooper. At 6:00 p.m. a presentation on A.A. Cooper, president of Cooper Wagon Works and one of Dubuque’s and the nation’s most influential 19th century industrialists, will be offered. Immediately following the presentation, the City of Dubuque Historic Preservation Commission will present the 2017 Ken Kringle Historic Preservation Awards.

The Ken Kringle Historic Preservation Award was established in 2002 by the City of Dubuque Historic Preservation Commission to recognize excellence in historic preservation. Awards are announced annually for the best preservation efforts located in the city of Dubuque. The award is named after the late Ken Kringle for his dedication to historic preservation through his involvement as a member and past chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission, president of the Bluff Street Neighborhood Association, resident of the Cathedral Historic Preservation District, and member of the Old House Enthusiasts Club.

The following people will receive awards in recognition of their outstanding preservation achievements:

- 1) JKBS Investments, LLC - 1025 Walnut Street

Jason Kemp and Brett Schueller of JKBS Investments brought the façade of this 1882 Second Empire style home back to life. JKBS, along with their numerous contractors, preserved the historic integrity of this West 11th Street Historic District home. Kemp and

Schueller invested considerable sums of money and sweat equity to complete the project. They replaced the storm windows and screen doors for the entire home, being careful to repair and preserve original features of the facade. Martin "Marty" Arensdorf and crew replaced the concrete sidewalks and back patio of the residence. Petche Decorating, Inc. out of Elizabeth, Illinois did an amazing job on the exterior paint that updates, yet remains true to the historic aesthetic. The color combination could not have been better. Last, A Cut Above Tree Specialists, based in northeastern Iowa, headed tree removal, stump rounding, and grading needs for the property, which cleared the sightlines this building deserves. This project is being recognized because of the amazing effort put forth by JKBS Investments to preserve the original details and materials of the building and the incredible paint job.

2) CARICH Properties, LLC / Chris & Allison Richard - 1734-36 Central Avenue

Chris and Allison Richard completely renovated the façade of this Queen Anne commercial building constructed in 1892. The effort restored the original architectural and historic character of the building. The Richards restored all upper-story windows to their original openings. The new wood windows now reflect the historic material and appearance. The wood that once covered the storefront transoms was removed and new wood transoms were installed. The unique, curved, wood storefront was meticulously restored and finished with a fresh coat of paint. Paint was removed from the exterior wall on the side of the building exposing the naturally-beautiful red brick. The building is a catalyst and a highlight of much of the current investment along the Central Avenue corridor.

3) The Fischer Companies - 2204 Central Avenue

The Fischer Companies continue their commitment to design and preservation with this completely rehabilitated storefront at 2204 Central Avenue. This project, like so many storefront restoration efforts, began with a lot of unknowns and risks. The Fischer Companies were unaware of what historic resources remained behind the inappropriate commercial façade. They took a leap and began removing the 1960s commercial façade. The brick bulkhead was removed and revealed evidence of a traditional wood bulkhead which inspired what you see today. The awning was removed and new display windows in keeping with the building's historic character were installed. Existing architectural features which contributed to the historic façade were restored and are now a focal point of the building. The storefront received new paint. The choice of colors compliment the features and history of the building perfectly. The overall effect resulted in an amazing transformation of this important corner building in the Central Avenue corridor.

4) Gary and Chris Stelpflug and Gary Carner - 1576 Locust Street

Chris and Gary Stelpflug entrusted this two-story, 1885 Queen Anne home to their general contractor, Gary Carner. The Stelpflugs and Carner partnership has become well-known in the Dubuque Historic Preservation circuit. The nomination of this property holds little surprise to all that know them.

The Stelpflugs and Carner spent considerable time consulting on the best treatment approach for the historic property. It was important to them to preserve all the unique features that make the historic building special.

The building was completely renovated inside and out. This once two-unit property now boasts three units, after conversion of the basement's coal room into a one bedroom apartment. This unit has immaculate, multi-color, polished concrete floors that are historically compatible with the late 19th century structure. Original barnboards and built-in shelving were immaculately refurbished and kept in their original location throughout the property.

The first and second floor bathrooms have original clawfoot bathtubs and pedestal sinks. The first-floor kitchen contains refurbished cabinetry along with additional fabricated cabinets to match and add additional storage. Moreover, a new sink was installed, while preserving the original cabinets, which was not an easy feat. The entire property has original wood, trim, and pocket doors. New utilities were installed by channeling out walls and Cal coat was applied to cover holes and in keeping with the historic materials and features of the home.

On the exterior, all storm windows and doors were removed and replaced with wood storms to fabricate the original character of the façade. All doors are original with fabricated panels that are consistent with the period. The north side garage was given a face lift and a new foundation poured. The garage façade is a wonderful combination of brick and limestone with charming cedar shake shingles. The concrete deck was removed, revealing an original wood deck, which had decayed over time. The deck was rebuilt to resemble the original dimensions and character. The Stelpflugs and Carner put in a lot of sweat equity into this property that took a few months longer to complete than originally projected, but was well worth the wait.

5) James Kunnert - 302 Locust Street

This 1901, two-story, commercial building is being recognized for the amazing vision and effort put forth by James Kunnert to rehabilitate the former covered, clad, and plastered building into the brick gem it is today. The interior of the building was completely gutted and Kunnert preserved the original floors and limestone walls. These original features are the centerpiece of the interior renovation. All plumbing and electrical was replaced throughout the structure and a lift was added.

On the exterior, stucco, wood cladding, siding and a variety of other recent treatments were removed to expose the original openings, brick, and limestone foundation. Masonry was repointed and cleaned. Windows that had been previously infilled were opened and new windows were installed. The storefront also was updated using materials that offer a modern appeal while still being respectful of the historic character of the building. This remarkable effort exemplifies what vision and investment can create. This once dated building has been transformed into a wonderful building that contributes to the visual and social appeal of the neighborhood.

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