

NEWS RELEASE

For Release
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Idaho Historic Preservation Council
Orchids and Onions Awards

The Idaho Historic Preservation Council's fifth annual Orchids and Onions awards will be handed out at the Council's dinner meeting to be held on Monday, February 16, 1981 at the Hillcrest Country Club, Boise, Idaho. The Orchid awards are presented to the State's best examples of historic restoration and preservation, while the Onion is given to insensitive treatment of historic structures.

Those receiving Orchids awards are the Bishops' House, Saint John's Cathedral, and the Coughlin Home, all in Boise; the Bollinger Plaza in Lewiston; and the Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum in Weiser. Onions will be presented to the Nampa City Council for the demolition of the Dewey-Park House, to sandblasting which damaged the masonry of the Smokehouse Building in Wallace as well as other fine old buildings, and to the Dutch Elm bark and leaf beetle which has led to the significant loss of graceful elm trees throughout the State. This year the Preservation Council is also initiating a distinguished preservationist award. Charles F. Hummel, a Boise architect who has directed a number of renovation projects and has been an inspiration to fellow preservationists, is the first recipient of this award.

1981 ORCHIDS

The Bishops' House
Old Idaho Penitentiary - Boise

Threatened by demolition in 1974, the Friends of the Bishops' House formed to move the Victorian house to the Old

Idaho Penitentiary grounds where it has been handsomely restored to its turn-of-the-century appearance. The historic house with its turret, numerous porches, and stunning interior has been assisted by literally thousands of contributions and is now available for use by the public.

Saint John's Cathedral
Eighth and Hays Streets - Boise

Saint John's Cathedral which has served as a Boise landmark since 1906, found that the church's original beauty was diminishing from age and use and the congregation undertook with great care an extensive exterior and interior rejuvenation. Great attention to detail was given to repairing the stained glass and stonework, cleaning and repainting the fine interior and ceiling and rearranging the sanctuary and seating. This fine Romanesque style building possesses a wealth of old and new craftsmanship and continues as a fitting tribute to man.

Coughlin Residence
1301 North 16th Street • Boise

Built in 1906 in Boise's North End Neighborhood, this Queen Anne style residence has been handsomely restored by the Coughlin family. Restoration began in 1979 and has included rebuilding the porches, a new roof, extensive painting, new wiring, kitchen and bathroom, stripping and refinishing of interior woodwork, along with an energy efficient heating system, insulation and storm windows. Attractive landscaping and period furnishings complete this extensive restoration. The Victorian home features a corner entrance with a semi-circular columned porch, bay windows, numerous gables and a delightful square tower.

Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum
Weiser, Idaho

Featuring a central clock tower, the large four story Hooker Hall building was built in 1920 as part of the Intermountain Institute and later served as Weiser High School. The building has now been recycled as an activity center and museum serving the community. Through the effort of the Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum windows have been repaired, paint has been removed from banisters, doors, and moldings, plaster repaired and replaced, floors sanded, and the 300 seat auditorium has been renovated.

Now serving as a community resource with space for the arts, theater and history, Hooker Hall is fulfilling the legacy passed down by the original founders of enriching people's lives once again.

Bollinger Plaza
Lewiston, Idaho

This brick three story former hotel in downtown Lewiston has been tastefully recycled for commercial and office use. A number of innovative features undertaken in the rehabilitation include an underground restaurant with a skylight view of the building, a compatible new elevator and stairway addition, interior plaza and attractive awnings.

ONIONS

Dewey-Park House Demolition
Lakeview Park - Nampa

The Nampa City Council is awarded an Onion for its order to demolish the Dewey-Park House while citizens were still trying to save the historic building. The 1899 Victorian house graced by its round turret, was located in Lakeview Park and was built by former Nampa mayor E. H. Dewey. The community still resents the loss of Nampa's Old Dewey Palace and with the demolition of the Dewey-Park House another of the city's resources is lost forever.

Smokehouse Building Sandblasting
Bank and 6th Streets - Wallace

The Smokehouse Building in Wallace has been awarded an Onion because it is an example of how sandblasting can damage a building. Sandblasting the exterior of old brick buildings to remove paint or dirt damages the masonry and shortens the building's life. Sandblasting removes the hard surface of the brick, exposing the soft inner core which is much more water absorbent, and with freezing the water expands causing spalling or breaking of the brick. In some cases 1/4 inch or more of the surface will be blasted away and the mortar joints will be disintegrated. Sandblasting also means the loss of detail, as edges and corners are rounded creating a blurred facade.

Preservationists recommend chemical cleaning or a non-abrasive low pressure water wash or even repainting.

Dutch Elm Beetle

Trees play an important role in defining, shading and creating an aesthetic environment for historic buildings, neighborhoods, and sites. Unfortunately many mature trees throughout the State are falling victim to the dreaded Dutch Elm disease. The Dutch Elm leaf and bark beetle has been awarded an Onion for its devastating attack on Idaho's elm trees.

DISTINGUISHED PRESERVATIONIST

This year the Preservation Council is initiating a Distinguished Preservationist award. The first recipient of this award is Boise architect Charles F. Hummel, whose principal works include the Egyptian Theater and St. John's Cathedral restoration as well as his direction of the book, Historic Boise. Mr. Hummel has been active in numerous civic projects, and is leading historian and preservationist in the State.

The Idaho Historic Preservation Council is a private non-profit statewide organization that promotes and supports preservation issues. The Council extends its concern and interest about historic buildings throughout the state and offers assistance through a variety of worthwhile projects from education to limited funding for deserving projects. The Preservation Council is working to bring persons interested in historic preservation in Idaho together and we extend an invitation to all to call on us when needed and to join the Council. Our address is Box 1495, Boise, Idaho 83701.

IDAHO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL
ONION AWARD
TO
WINMAR - BOISE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

As dedicated preservationists who strive to protect and support our architectural heritage it is our responsibility to point out Idaho's most endangered historic structures. This year the Idaho Historic Preservation Council has awarded the "Onion" to Winmar and the Boise Redevelopment Agency for its actions threatening those few significant historic buildings within the downtown renewal project. Demolishing the interior of the 1890 Commercial State Bank Building, removing a wing of the 1910 Idaho Building, demolishing the 1905 Eastman Building and overshadowing the 1902 Union-Fidelity Block leaves preservationists asking for better solutions. Not to mention the regrettable loss we all face in the planned demolition of the Mode, McCarty Building, Tourtellotte Shops and Standard Furniture Building.

It has always been the contention of preservationists that the retention of the most significant historic buildings within the project would provide the diversity and character that would separate Boise's City Center mall from so many other malls. Unfortunately the developers of these buildings look at them as liabilities rather than assets that will strengthen the project. This lack of appreciation has led preservationists to question the end results of those few remaining historic buildings and seek public support in ensuring their sympathetic rehabilitation.

As with the Preservation Councils "Orchid" award to the restored Egyptian Theater we look forward to the future in hopes that an "Orchid" could be honored to City Center project for its successful integration and rehabilitation of those historic buildings supported by so many Boiseans.

ORCHIDS AND ONIONS AWARDS

1980

Orchids: Mission Store (DeSmet)
Odd Fellows Building (Boise)
Rexburg Tabernacle (Rexburg)
McConnell Building (Moscow)
Temple Beth Israel (Boise)

Onion: Holy Trinity Catholic Church (Nezperce)

Honorable Mention: Quarters Buildings, Veterans Administration (Boise)
St. Josephs Catholic Church (Idaho City)
Lewiston Water Treatment Plant (Lewiston)

Distinguished Preservationist: Rick Mansena

1981

Orchids: The Bishops' House (Boise)
St. John's Cathedral (Boise)
Mike and Kirsten Coughlin residence (Boise)
Intermountain Cultural Center and Museum (Weiser)
Lollinger Plaza (Lewiston)

Onions: Dewey-Park House demolition
Smokehouse Building (sandblasting)
Dutch Elm Beetle

Distinguished Preservationist: Charles F. Hummel

1980

Orchids: Daly-Archer house (Boise)
Egyptian Theater (Boise)
Moore-Cunningham house (Boise)
Jameson Building (Wallace)
Old Mission (Cataldo)

Onion: BRA-Winmar

Honorable Mention: Nine Walking Tours of Boise (Patricia Mickelson and
Vicki Johnson)
Historic Boise (Boise City Historic Preservation
Commission)

1979

Orchids: Standrod Mansion (Pocatello)
Means Building (Lewiston)
Julie and Murray Stromberg house (Boise)
Idanha Building (Boise)
Hoff Building (Boise)

Union: BRA (neglect of the Eastman Building)

Honorable Mention: Boise Tour Train (Arnold Panitch)

1978

Orchids: Hendren's Furniture Store (Boise)
Alumni House at Idaho State University (Pocatello)
Pengilly's Saloon (Boise)
First Security Bank (Jerome)
Eighth Street Marketplace (Boise)

Union: Amtrak (various stations in Idaho)

1977

Orchids: Old Boise (Boise)
GAR Hall (Boise) now Duane Garrett's photography studio
Belgravia (Boise)
Sonna Building (Boise)
The Bouquet Bar (Boise)

Union: Boise Redevelopment Agency ("the wrecking ball")