

For Immediate Release

City of Fond du Lac Historic Preservation Nominations win Awards of Excellence from the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions

The City of Fond du Lac Historic Preservation Commission brought forward projects at their February meeting to be nominated for awards at the 2021 Virtual Spring Conference of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions (WAHPC). Two of the nominations were recipients of Awards of Excellence during the awards ceremony Friday April 23.

In the category of Restoration/Rehabilitation, the Brick House won for “great work on a long empty building using preservation tax credits to enhance business and stimulate economic development and rebirth in the South Main Street Historic District of downtown Fond du Lac”. The north building had been vacant for five years and the south building had been vacant for at least ten years – creating a dead zone in the South Main Street Historic District. With great determination, Laurie and Dan Baumhardt, small business owners with only a passion for their vision and the buildings themselves, worked to navigate historic tax credits and a significant historic preservation renovation. Both Dan and Laurie Baumhardt, were present virtually to receive the award and in return thanked the various agencies that helped them through the process.

In the category of Identification and Designation, County Executive Allen Buechel won “for leadership as Fond du Lac County Executive to identify County and private historic properties, including Galloway House, then take the unusual step to use the 1/2% sales tax to finance the restoration projects”. The projects took place over three years, with the first year repairing and restoring the roof and chimneys. The second year was repairs and replacement of railings and failing wood from roofline down. The third year and completion of the projects was painting of entire house plus gazebo. Mr. Buechel present for the virtual ceremony stated his interest in the preservation of history and was honored to receive the award.

WAHPC advances education within the fields of historic preservation and the administration of landmarks and historic preservation commissions, through public discussions, groups, forms, panels, lectures, distribution of newsletters, and other similar programs. Founded in 1985, the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions, Inc. (WAHPC) is a non-stock, not for profit Wisconsin corporation, formally affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society.

An annual meeting and conference is held each April normally at a historic site to provide programs on a variety of topics and to permit attendees to exchange information and news. This year’s topics ranged from “Local Unit of Government Project Submissions” to “Post-War, Mid-Century Architecture: Where to start; what is significant?” to “13,000 Years of History: The Archaeology of Wisconsin”. The conference was offered to all Wisconsin Historic Preservation Commissioners and others interested in preservation free of charge this year with record attendance.

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