

News Release for May 5th, 2021

May is observed each year as National Preservation Month. It is a time to recognize and celebrate preservation efforts across our country. The Eatonton Historic Preservation Commission is delighted to acknowledge and highlight the outstanding efforts of nine property owners for their tireless work in restoring, rehabilitating, and caring for their historic homes and buildings. Eatonton is fortunate to have many places worthy of preserving and even more fortunate to have individuals willing to do the hard work to maintain and enhance their beautiful and historic homes for future generations.

On May 4th, at the Eatonton City Council meeting, nine awards were presented in recognition for contributions made in preservation. An Excellence in Stewardship Award was presented to the Eatonton-Putnam Historical Society, Inc. for their work to maintain and enhance The Bronson House which serves as the group's headquarters, and as a house museum and special events venue.

Tom and Sandra Rosseter, Dan Waggoner and Will Deller, Dennis and Dottie McClain, Jeff and Linda Albe, and Allen Gregg were also recipients of the Excellence in Stewardship Awards. All of these homeowners beautifully maintain their homes and demonstrate ongoing dedication to preservation. Additionally, these property owners are always diligent about consulting with HPC for guidance and assistance prior to beginning work on their properties.

A major victory for our city was achieved this year with the saving of the Shields-Etheridge-Leverette-Blackwell House on Madison Avenue! This circa 1818 home has been unoccupied and deteriorating for many years until Mark and Sandra Mason saw the potential and purchased the house in 2020. For their tremendous "leap of faith," they were awarded the Excellence in Preservation Intervention.

Preservation is also achieved when homeowners make historically sensitive additions to their properties. John and Christyne Holmes received a Historic Preservation Award for an Architecturally Compatible Addition made to their property and the use of appropriate landscaping around it.

Newcomers to Eatonton, Michael and Diana Homeier received a Preservation Excellence Award for the extensive repair and restoration work done to Panola Hall, one of Eatonton's most significant historic structures. Numerous projects completed will extend the life of this home for generations to come.

It has been an exciting year for the Plaza Historic District which is primarily a residential area of about 72 properties. The Historic Preservation Commission is grateful for tremendous progress made and looks forward to continued efforts and the recognition of more local preservationists in 2022!

For additional information, please visit our website www.eatontonhpc.com or contact Chair Lyn Romine. Contact information is available on our website.

