2019 Knox Heritage Preservation Awards

Rick Mallory restored the 1930 Abe Schwartz house at 714 North Beaman Street in the Chilhowee Park neighborhood. This grand home sat vacant, condemned, and badly deteriorated for seven years. In June 2017, Rick Mallory took on the task of faithfully restoring this home to its former glory. The house now has new utilities, a restored terra cotta roof, and upgraded bathrooms and kitchen. The restoration of this home will serve as a catalyst to shine a light on the historic Chilhowee Park neighborhood and facilitate its revitalization.

Knoxville History Project’s newest publication, Knoxville’s National Cemetery – A Short History, tells the stories of this iconic historic cemetery. Researched and written by Executive Director, Jack Neely and edited and images sourced by Director of Development, Paul James. This publication was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Veterans Legacy Program through the University of Tennessee.

Over the past 13 years, the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association has restored and cared for this iconic structure. Brothers Henry and Elmer Nickle of Powell, Tennessee opened a gasoline filling station in the unusual shape of an airplane. He structure ceased being used as a service station in the 1960s, when it became a liquor store. It has also been a produce stand, bait and tackle shop, and a used car lot.

Dewhirst Properties has continues to be advocates for historic buildings in downtown Knoxville. In July 2018, they finished the restoration of the Keener Lighting Building located at 701 World’s Fair Park Drive. Built in 1929 by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, this building was later home to General Electric Supply Corporation and the Keener Lighting Company. Dewhirst redeveloped the building into a mixed residential and commercial, and it is now home to over 20 law students from LMU Duncan Law School.

Marble Hall at Lakeshore Park was built in 1958 as a chapel for Eastern State Psychiatric Hospital. The goal was to both preserve the history of Marble Hall and make it a welcoming space for the public. Johnson Architecture took on the task of reimaging the use, restoring the iconic structure to allow the public to enjoy the space inside and out. New public restrooms were carved from existing space to support the multipurpose area and the structural wooden frame and ceiling, intricate rose window and Tennessee marble cladding remained. The renovation of Marble Hall and addition of the Marble Hall Pavilion enhance the park’s sense of place then and now.

Beginning in the summer of 2015 and through July 2018, Bob and Melynda Whetsel undertook a major renovation to 1012 Gratz Street, a 1913 craftsman home in the Historic Fourth & Gill neighborhood. Upon completion of the project, the home was sold and placed back into owner occupied hands and will be enjoyed by a new family for years to come.

Park City Improvement Company recently renovated the 1929 H.G. Hill Grocery Store at 2300 E. Magnolia Avenue. Sparkman & Associates Architects, Inc updated and restored this once iconic commercial building on Magnolia Avenue. The partnership of Park City Improvement Company is John Craig, James Rochelle, and Jennifer Montgomery and Suzy Trotta of Trotta Montgomery Real Estate. Trotta Montgomery occupies the majority of the building and an adjacent space is available for lease.

The Press Room, a 600 person community event space and performance venue was built as the Dewine Building in 1923. Located at 730 N. Broadway was built as a showroom for the L.S. Harris Motor Company. In 1939 it served as a 12 line bowling alley and had other uses until it was purchased by RRI Project, LLC./Spaces in the City in 2017. Local architects Sanders Pace Architecture restored the
building and it retains historic elements that included the original steel truss structure, wood decking, concrete floors, and brick walls.

The home at 2115 Coker Avenue was purchased by Kyle Anne Lang in 2016 through the City of Knoxville’s Homemaker’s Program. The house had been abandoned and condemned for 11 years. The home, an unusual mix of Victorian and Craftsman styles took 10 months to restore.

This year, the Museum of East Tennessee History celebrates its 25th anniversary. Opened in 1993, by the East Tennessee Historical Society, the museum’s vision is to preserve and interpret the regions rich history. Over the past 25 years, they have collected over 15,000 artifacts and produced award-winning interpretive exhibits. School children to seniors can visit the museum and come learn about the people, places, and historic events that have shaped the East Tennessee region.