



SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORICAL TRUST

2021 Awards

Each year the Somerset County Historical Trust recognizes outstanding preservation projects and the stories behind them. Private and/or public funding supported the projects being recognized, and the Somerset County Historical Trust is dedicated to helping preserve those properties.

Outstanding Restoration of an Historic Property

This award honors excellence in the restoration or rehabilitation of a dilapidated, neglected, or damaged historic property while preserving the essential features significant to its architectural and cultural integrity.

- 🌀 Eric Jodlbauer and Sarah Timko-Jodlbauer
Beauchamp House, Princess Anne, MD
- 🌀 Town of Princess Anne Commissioners
Election House, Princess Anne, MD

Outstanding Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings

This award honors the successful adaptive reuse of an historic building for a new purpose, with sensitivity to the building's character-defining features, architectural integrity and economic impact of the project on the local community.

- 🌀 Sharon Upton
Somerset Choice Station, Princess Anne, MD and St. Mark's Chapel, Westover, MD
- 🌀 Paul Thornton's Craftsmen, Inc.
Multiple residential rehabilitations in the Mt. Vernon and Princess Anne areas

Community Stewardship

This award honors individuals for their extraordinary leadership and dedication to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of structures, streetscapes, character and culture of historic districts in Somerset County.

- 🌀 Jay Tawes Crisfield, MD
- 🌀 Dennis Williams Princess Anne, MD

OUTSTANDING RESTORATION



Eric Jodlbauer and Sarah Timko-Jodlbauer Beauchamp House

Eric A. Jodlbauer and **Sarah Timko-Jodlbauer** are being recognized for their work on the long-term restoration of the Beauchamp House, a circa 1900 Colonial Revival located two doors down from the Teackle Mansion on Prince William Street. The Trust felt this project was especially deserving of attention because so much of the work was done by what became a young family of do-it-yourselfers. While Eric started the project alone, without Sarah it might never have been completed.

When he purchased the Beauchamp House in 2009, Eric had brave intentions of bringing the dilapidated property back to its original condition by using historical colors, taking interior woodwork down to its original finish, and restoring interior plaster. He started boldly by removing the exterior asbestos shingles and a multi-colored paint job that within a few years ended up in large flakes on the lawn. Even worse, he lost the insulating value of the asbestos shingles, and now had a house that was impossible to heat affordably.

Five years into the project, he'd morphed from purist to pragmatist. He'd completed the plumbing and electric work, installed a kitchen and bath, drywalled collapsing plaster ceilings, and had a few rooms that were comfortable in warm weather; he also had a small daughter and a big house that was still a construction site. Disheartened, he closed the house down and moved out, focusing on completing his doctorate in history, and deferring the decision to either sell the house unfinished or get back to work and make it his home.



Sarah's role began when she and Eric became engaged. Eric gave her a tour of the house, and let her make the choice: keep or sell? She did not hesitate. She saw the house's possibilities. Prior to their wedding in 2017, Eric and Sarah, with many hours of help from family, turned possibilities into realities. Exterior vinyl siding carefully crafted to replicate the original not only solved the problem of peeling paint - it made the house easy to heat. A claw-footed tub, once used in the garden, was restored and found a home in a glamorous bath of Sarah's design. Pocket-doored parlors were painted serene colors which spoke to the unusual tiles surrounding the fireplaces. A special bedroom was created for daughter Lily. Bemused neighbors watched the multi-year reconstruction of the wrap-around porch, with new supporting pillars, columns, balusters and handrails to replicate the originals. Over several springs, Sarah brought the garden back to life. Her final project was a brick-lined driveway.

What became a true labor of love is now finished and is greeting new owners, as the Jodlbauers have moved their growing family to a house in the country, leaving Prince William Street and the Beauchamp House far better than they found it.

OUTSTANDING RESTORATION



Town of Princess Anne Commissioners Election House

The **Commissioners of Princess Anne** are being recognized for renovating the Town's 'Election House'. Built around 1876, the single story one room frame building is the only election house to survive on the Eastern Shore.



In year's past, private homes, stores and purpose-built polling houses met the need for citizens casting their votes. Princess Anne's Election House was used for local elections and then as a visitors center, but suffered serious decay during the 'Great Recession' of the early 2000s. Thanks to the recent intervention of the Town Commissioners, the building was saved from demolition and restored for public use.

One of the most decorative examples, this one-room structure boasts eave brackets, corner pilasters and (originally) a lath and plaster interior. Its historic architecture serves as a beautiful portal to Princess Anne's main street. It serves as a centerpiece of Manokin River Park, and is listed on the Maryland Historical Trust's Historic Sites inventory.

In restoring the Election House, the Town continues its long tradition of protecting the historic nature of the community. Through a mixture of private and public funding, the Town has been

instrumental in major restoration projects, including the Washington Inn and Tavern and exterior renovations and façade improvements of many commercial buildings along Somerset Avenue.



OUTSTANDING ADAPTIVE REUSE



Sharon Upton

Somerset Choice Station Antiques & St. Mark's Chapel

Sharon Upton is being recognized for giving several historic buildings new life and purpose. Over the past 15 years, she has led the transformation of a defunct, derelict 1950s Texaco gas station into a revenue generating business and tourist destination. Known as Somerset Choice Station, proceeds of the shop's sales of vintage, antique and collectable items support the Princess Anne's historic Teackle Mansion's upkeep, utilities, taxes and insurance.



Somerset Choice was made possible by a generous gift from Katherine Washburn who purchased and renovated the building. Sharing Sharon's, vision, Mrs. Washburn gave the building to the Somerset County Historical Society to use as an antique shop.

Sharon's energy and leadership significantly impacts the economic revitalization of the Town of Princess Anne. Somerset Choice draws hundreds of tourists annually -- and is highly respected as an opportunity for locals to find new homes for cherished objects.

Her passion for preserving historical gems began many years ago when she restored her family's 1836 farm house (Jephtha Hayman Farm). The farm won the 2008 Restoration award from the Maryland Historical Trust, and was recently recognized as a Maryland Century Farm by Governor Hogan.

Recently she completed the meticulous restoration of an abandoned small church adjacent to her farm. Known as St. Mark's Chapel in Westover, the building had been vacant and deteriorating for many years. While the chapel is no longer affiliated with a church, she plans to make it available for small events, christenings and weddings.



Sharon is an active leader in the Somerset County Historical Society, the Somerset County Historical Trust, on the board of advisors for the Fairmount Academy restoration, and a member of the Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce.

OUTSTANDING ADAPTIVE REUSE



Paul Thornton's Craftsmen, Inc. Multiple projects

We are proud to honor **Paul Thornton's Craftsmen, Inc.** and its proprietor, **Paul Thornton**, with the Somerset County Historical Trust's Adaptive Reuse award.

Paul has been changing the landscape in Somerset County, one property at a time, starting soon after he emigrated from Ireland at age 19 to study business at UMES. If you ask him how many properties he has renovated, he'll tell you that he stopped counting years ago before reaching 100, but he is sure to remember one of his first: The Governor J. Millard Tawes Homeplace in Crisfield. Only seven years after his arrival in Somerset County, this project was added to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties with restoration of its elaborate interior woodwork, and on completion used as the J. Millard Tawes Library.

Subsequent projects may not have been as dramatic, but they have been many and varied. Paul delights in finding a sad old house and turning it into something special. Recent projects dot Mt. Vernon Road, from a mid-century ranch, to a 1930's bungalow with a beach house look, to a re-born Victorian that retains its gingerbread façade, but has an addition with all the space a modern family requires.

Most of Paul's Mt. Vernon renovations don't have sale signs; they usually sell to passers-by who have been watching the work progress. Perhaps it is his use of top quality materials that attract buyers; it could also be his efforts to design modern floorplans without compromising the character of original interior details.

His small but dedicated team of seasoned craftsmen have taken on the most challenging projects, like Ed Corbett's "house of dreams" - a 28-year effort to reproduce the circa 1700-25 Powell-Benston house. The unfinished house was left vacant and disintegrating. Paul bought it in 2019 and brought it back to life, repairing damage and adding a modern wing. He purchased a portable sawmill to process floorboards from downed trees on the property, and in a new form of stewardship, now transports the mill to properties so fallen timbers can be salvaged.



Paul also takes on commercial properties, like the old C. H. Hayman Hardware store in Princess Anne. From the street, the building still looks like an old store with fresh paint. From Manokin River Park, the view is radically different. The property still serves as a materials storage yard but fenced from the park. Dilapidated warehouses have been removed, and the remaining structures have new facades. One more landscape, notably improved.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



Jay W. Tawes Crisfield, Maryland

Jay Tawes is being recognized for his stewardship in protecting the culture and historical buildings of Crisfield, Maryland.

The restoration of the Customs House reflects one of Jay's major projects. After heavy damage from Hurricane Sandy, Jay purchased the two story building which was destined for demolition. The building was originally used as a post office and office for federal agents to collect taxes/customs on goods brought into Crisfield's port by merchant mariners. The Customs House remains a prominent feature of Crisfield's main street and harbor.

Jay's vision was to stabilize the building and use it as a visitors center and museum to display artifacts from Smith Island, Tangier and relics from the original Customs House. He personally funded a great deal of the restoration and facilitated multiple grants to continue the project. Now stabilized,

the building is being used for a variety of community events, including a large art show, which drew hundreds of visitors to Crisfield. The building is now managed and owned by the Crisfield Heritage Museum, which Jay helped organize and fund.

Jay's commitment, volunteer and restoration efforts on the lower Shore run vast and deep. He has organized major funding campaigns for the Alice B. Tawes Nursing and Assisted Living Facility, the Ward Brothers Workshop, the Crisfield Heritage Museum, restoration of the J. Millard Tawes family home and the Sunset Blue Grass Festival.

An entrepreneur at heart, Jay has championed multiple small busi-

nesses to stimulate Crisfield's economy. He continues his family legacy of serving the local community through his generous volunteer work, and as current President and CEO of the Philip W. Tawes Insurance Agency where Jay has served for more than 48 years.



COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



Dennis Williams Princess Anne, Maryland

Dennis Williams is being recognized for his exceptional stewardship in the care, beauty and preservation of public and private buildings, streetscapes and community in the Town of Princess Anne.

Dennis is a force. From the trunk of his car, he personally waters all of the public flower planters on Somerset Avenue; he restores deteriorating homes; he saves old buildings – and he masterminds events that entertain and unify the entire community.

It was Dennis who first conceived the annual New Year's Eve muskrat drop, which has brought world-wide attention to Princess Anne. He also personally funded the initial renovation of the 1876 Election House on Somerset Avenue, turning it into a Visitor Center.



Dennis first visited Princess Anne in 2004 and was charmed with the beauty and history of the town. Within a month, he purchased six old homes or buildings, including the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (old library) on Prince William Street and Dr. Virginia Layfield's house on Beechwood. When his home in Annapolis was destroyed by flooding, he moved permanently to the Beechwood house.

Being a "come here" and stranger to Princess Anne, Dennis knew the best way to meet people was to be involved in the community. In Annapolis he was President of the Opera Guild, member of the Historic Annapolis Foundation and President of the Southern Anne Arundel County Chamber.

A tireless champion of the community, Dennis became a Town Commissioner in Princess Anne in 2006, where he served four terms including President. He has been an active member of the Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce, where as president he built the membership to an all time high. He is a long term board member of the Princess Anne Main Street program, Somerset County Economic Development Commission and current President of the Somerset County Sanitary Commission.

Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc.

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Is there a person or project that you would like to see recognized?

Nominations for next year's awards will be accepted through June 30th, 2022. You can submit your nominations by email to info@schtrust.org.



Help spread the word . . .

We thank all of you for your ongoing support of the Trust. You can help us grow our membership by encouraging interested neighbors and friends to become members of the Trust.

Our website - **schtrust.org** - explains the Trust's mission and ongoing work in the areas of preservation and stewardship. Go to our Join Us page **schtrust.org/join** for info on how to open or renew a membership.
