

BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

May 2004

New Frontiers in Preservation

The theme of Preservation Week 2004, “New Frontiers in Preservation,” calls on Americans from coast to coast to make a difference in the appearance and livability of our cities and towns, and to identify and tackle new challenges of protecting and preserving our diverse heritage.

Preservation Week 2004 is the time to celebrate Birmingham’s special places and those whose innovative ways help ensure that future generations will celebrate them too.

2004 Preservation Awards

This year’s awards salute great efforts to save historic places and revive them with sensitivity to historic fabric and neighborhood.

Jemison Flats (1908, 1895, 1928)

1827 First Avenue North

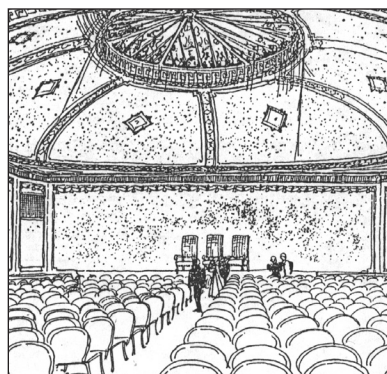


This is *Jemison Flats*: three historic buildings now linked internally. The corner office building with its crowning cornice — developed by Robert Jemison Jr. as the Chamber of Commerce headquarters — opened in 1908. Beneath its stained glass dome, a 200-seat auditorium provided meeting space for business and civic groups. Next door was Mayberry Hardware, built c. 1895. This warehouse later served Mathews Electric and Golbro Distributors. To the far right is the National Birmingham Garage, built in 1928 as the city’s first high-rise parking deck with its continuous panels of metal-framed glass.

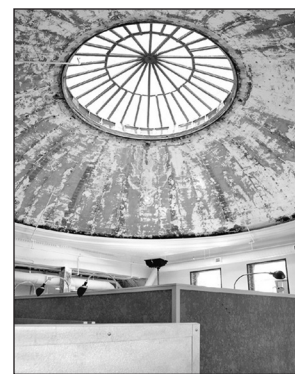
Photograph above by John O’Hagan.



Today, *Jemison Flats* offers 57 one-and two-bedroom loft apartments and 25,000 feet of commercial space. It is also home to Giattina Fischer Aycock Architects and a new park.



Auditorium, 1908



Ad Agency, 2004

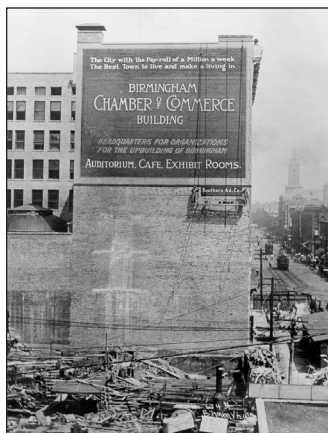
Award for preserving and invigorating the spirit of the place

Owner/Client Corporate Realty Development: Robert Simon, Chris Giattina, Brian Giattina, Geoff Golden.

Architect Giattina Fischer Aycock Architects Inc: Chris Giattina, Project Architect; Amanda Moore, Project Manager

Contractor Golden & Associates Construction, LLC: Geoff Golden; Hugh Stewart, Project Superintendent; Brad Condray, Project Manager.

Current photos Giattina Fischer Aycock Architects Inc.; *historic photos* BPL Archives



“Headquarters for the Upbuilding of Birmingham,” reads the sign above, 1908



Jemison Park, 2004



Close to rail lines and then active industries, St. Louis brewer Anheuser-Busch built its Alabama distribution center here in the 1880s. The great arched entrances along 17th Street led to the stable. From Birmingham's Prohibition in 1910 until 2002, Young & Vann supplied mines and mills and hardwares from this location.

Award for respecting and reviving the historic distribution center

Developer Sloss Real Estate Group, Inc., Cathy Crenshaw

Clients Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, Larry Watts; Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Studies (AUCAUS), Cheryl Morgan; Region 2020, Ann Florie

Architect Chris Engel, Workshop7

Contractor Stone Building Company Inc., Bill Stone, President; George Walker, Vice President; Lance Duck, Project Superintendent; Tommy Prewitt, Project Manager.

Photo courtesy Sloss Real Estate Group, Inc.

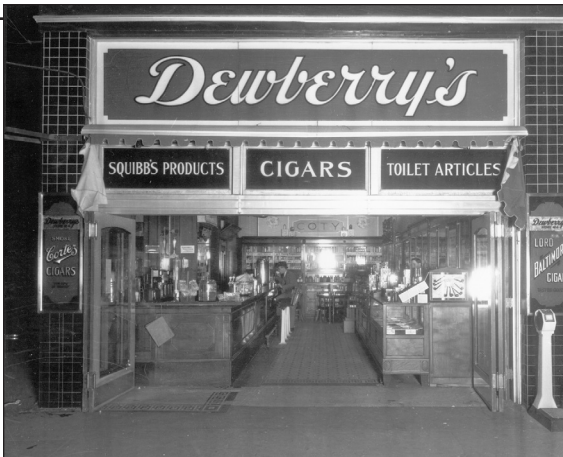
The Center for Regional Planning and Design

1731 First Avenue North



It took years to find the right building and the partners. Cheryl Morgan, Larry Watts, and Ann Florie are pictured in Auburn's third floor studio, but Sloss Real Estate put together the deal and Auburn alum Bill Stone made it happen. The renovation highlights existing character (even notes on concrete beams and labels on racks!) and achieves simple, functional space. And, it looks like designers live here.

Photo courtesy The Birmingham News



Dewberry-Phenix Buildings (1881, 1884)

Second Avenue North at 21st Street

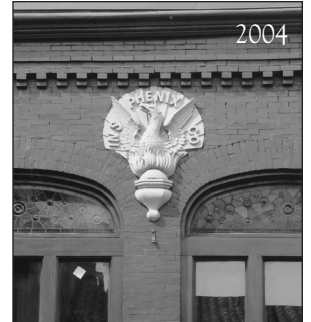
Award for the rescue & rebirth of two of Birmingham's oldest business houses

Godparents: John Lauriello, Julie Gieger, Southpace Properties.

Owner: Ike Gulas, Jason Stuckey, The Gulas Law Firm

Architect: Cohen & Company, Incorporated: Project Architect, Tammy Cohen, Project Manager, Stan Corson

Contractor: Bradford Bldg. Co. Inc., Kevin Lynerd, owner; Stewart Robinson, Project Manager; Project Superintendent, Steve Arnold



The corner drug store had been there forever, and so had the Phenix Building, its 21st Street neighbor. But it took a star-studded cast to keep city inspectors at bay and the walls

standing through the recent rehab. Look on these brick walls with awe!

Historic photos courtesy Birmingham Public Library Archives



Adamson Ford

1922 Second Avenue South

Award for preserving and enhancing an entire city block

Owner/Developer Bill Israel, Adamson Ford

Architect: Alberto Chiesa

Adamson Ford, Birmingham's oldest Ford dealership, began in 1917 to provide vehicles for coal mining. Its Southside operations now span 11 buildings and include a vehicle showroom opened last year in an historic theatre, *pictured left*, a service facility ("exhaustively renovated" during 2002), a 24,500 sq. feet walk-in and wholesale parts facility, a body shop and an accounting office above an historic blacksmith shop. John Israel bought the dealership in 1956, encouraging son Bill to join him in 1982.



Agee House/Rucker Place (c. 1900)

1804 Twelfth Avenue South

This house was definitely in peril. The porches and interior were dark and cut up like a rabbit warren. No longer. Renovations restored the original, open floor plan, high ceilings and grand views, which you too can rent for your next social affair.

Award for giving this grande dame great new life



Madame Blanche Bernard's – Jackson Galleries Fine Antiques & Accessories (1907)

2227 First Avenue South

The surprise is on the inside. Here, the layout of interior spaces, within the profile of the windows, recreates the sequences of halls, parlors and small rooms, chock full of saleable treasures.

Award for sensitive and innovative preservation

Owner Daniel Jackson, Jackson Galleries
Architect Alex Krumdieck, Krumdieck A Plus I Design Inc.,
Project Architect, Alex Krumdieck; Intern Architect Bruce Lanier; Interior Design Elizabeth Wilson



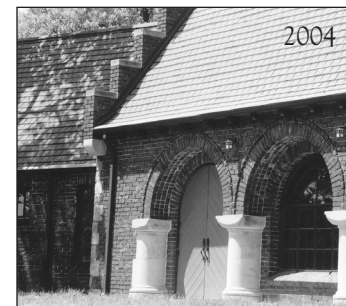
Avondale Villa (1931)

Avondale Park

The villa has sat on the wooded knoll above Avondale Park for as long as anyone can remember . . . unused and deteriorating. Piecing together money from here, there and everywhere, the Friends raised the roof and restored (researched & duplicated what was there) the auditorium, kitchen, and terraces, creating a fabulous facility for our Birmingham parks.

Award for vision, determination, and hard work

Client Friends of Avondale Park, Catherine Browne, President
Supporters: Mr. Melvin Miller, Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board; Senator Rodger Smitherman; City Councilor Valerie Abbott
Architect Jim Waters, Jim Waters & Associates Architects



Special Awards for Enlivening Urban Life



Safari Cup

Title Building, Third and 21st

They came all the way from Zimbabwe to bring us the city center's most sophisticated cups of coffee, good food, art, and Irish music. "A" for terrazzo restoration!

Owners David and Sharon McLaughlin
Architect Cohen and Company, Tammy Cohen



Zoë's - One Federal Place

When son John entered the family restaurant business, named for his mother, Zoë's went uptown downtown, creating a chic look for the firm and its franchises, as well as fabulous views of adjacent buildings.

Client Zoë's Kitchens, Zoë Cassimus; Zoë's Restaurants, LLC, John Cassimus
Owner Sloss Real Estate Group, Inc., Cathy Crenshaw et alii
Architect One Federal Place MSTSD, Inc. Architects, Larry Sweat

Sutton Candy Company—Sonya Faye's (1907)

1709 Third Avenue North



Ticky...



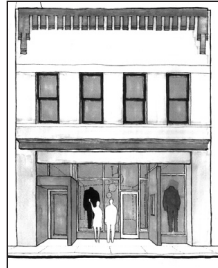
tacky...



terrible...

This renovation preserved the brick shell for a new venue: a high-end clothing boutique and tailoring shop. The new storefront reaches out to engage passersbys. The look is big city.

Owner Eric A. Gardner
Retailer Sonya Faye Thomas
Architect Jeremy Erdreich, Erdreich
Architecture PC



terrific!



Alison Glascock & the Highland Park Neighborhood

For advocating preservation in word and deed

Vicki Barnes and Alison Glascock, pictured in front of their current "cause celebre:" the preservation of the Otto Marx-Louis Clark House, built c.1909 following the Mission Revival designs of William C. Weston (plans published in *Architectural Record* of 1911). You might know the landmark Highland Avenue residence as the Mary Lewis Convalescent Center that a developer currently seeks to demolish and build a high-rise.

With determination, vigor, and indefatigable leadership Ms. Glascock and other neighborhood leaders have completed three more National Register districts and listed more than 500 properties in a new local district, efforts that have and will continue to increase the long term viability of Highland neighborhoods which have been under threat since the Great Depression.

New National Register of Historic Places Listings

The South East Lake Neighborhood

Officers: Angela Anderson, Dana Cockrell, Sandy Rivers
For listing the South Highlands of East Lake National Register District

The Highland Park Neighborhood

Officers: Alison Glascock, Terry Gunnell, Vickie Barnes
For listing the Country Club, Hanover Place, and Milner Heights National Register Historic Districts

The Rosedale Community Development Corp.

Officers: Thomas Hamner, Jr., Adrienne Lee, Dr. Bobby Wilson
For listing the Rosedale and Rosedale Park National Register Districts

New Birmingham (Local) Historic District

The Highland Park District – 570 properties

Photography & copy courtesy Linda Nelson & Marjorie White



Café Dupont

113 20th Street

Within its new period storefront, Chef Dupont offers great food with white tablecloth service. Future plans call for a banquet room upstairs and a bakery next door.

Owners Chris and Leslie
Dupont
Architect Richard Carnaggio

SOCIETY CALENDAR

Preservation Awards Presentation

May 13, 2004, 5:15 p.m.

Giattina, Fischer Aycock Architects, Inc. Offices
Jemison Flats, 1827 First Avenue North
Followed by a reception and tour of Jemison Flats
and the Center for Regional Planning and Design

Ladies of the Art Club

Publication Celebration • Exhibit Opening
November 7, 2004, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Library Gallery • Birmingham Public Library

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Birmingham, Alabama 35222

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Join us for
Preservation Awards
Presentation

May 13, 2004, 5:15 p.m.

Photo courtesy The Birmingham News

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