

# COMMUNITY

## Madrona Manor, Tucker Street home win preservation awards

### Historical Society honors Muir and Smith families

Healdsburg's stately Madrona Manor and a two story Tucker Street Tudor were the recipients of the second annual Healdsburg Historical Society Building Preservation Awards.

Madrona Manor, a Westside Road in and critically acclaimed restaurant, was nominated in the commercial category of the awards and the Tucker Street private residence was nominated in the residential category.

Madrona Manor, owned by John and Carol Muir, is the original historic Madrona Knoll Rancho and was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in the spring of 1987, as a

historic district.

Madrona Manor was built in 1858 and was the original home of banker, politician and mine owner John A. Paxton.

The district is actually comprised of four buildings, the mansion itself, a carriage house, the original homestead farmhouse and the pantry building.

The renovation of these buildings by the Muirs required extensive structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical work. The building exteriors were changed very little, in compliance with the office of Historic Preservation criteria. Much of the "gingerbread" was recreated with an on-site band saw and lathe. The carriage house received a concrete foundation, as did one wing of the mansion. The carriage house, as well as the mansion third floor,

was completely gutted to provide 13 additional lodging units. Eight fireplaces were converted to gas logs. Thirteen wood-burning fireplaces have been added and roofs were replaced on six buildings.

Madrona Manor has 18 rooms and three suites. All units have full private baths and are air-conditioned. Eighteen units have fireplaces and seven units have either decks or balconies. The common rooms on the first floor of the mansion include three dining rooms, the music room and the lobby.

In addition to the mansion's rooms being restored to their original splendor, the estate's grounds have also undergone renovation. The gothic arch at the entry with its iron gates was locked for about 20 years. Trees with trunks of 10-12 inch diame-



HONORS FROM HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY TO THE MUIR AND SMITH FAMILIES FOR THEIR TUCKER STREET TUDOR AND MADRONA MANOR INN.

ter were removed from winding drive. With the restoration of the large old tree grounds as they are seen are completely new. The excess of 200 varieties of plants and flowers surround buildings and the pool lawns cover over an acre. The upper garden consists of fruit orchard and areas for specialty produce for the inn and flowers for the inn.

In the residential category the Preservation Awards home of Dr. Gary and Carol Smith at 428 Tucker Street this year's honors.

The house was designed and built around 1940 by George A. Smith and Heitz. George A. Smith, owners of Smith Dairy, bought the house from the former owner of the Healdsburg Tribune in 1948 and it remained in their family since that time. George Smith was a prominent Healdsburg civic leader and owned Healdsburg's printing plant from the late 1940s to the late 1950s. When Mrs. Smith died in 1987, her son and wife decided to re-do the home and make it their permanent home.

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**HONORS FROM HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - The Healdsburg Historical Society recently presented its Historic Preservation Awards. Pictured here, from left, are recipients Faye and Dr. Gary Smith for their Tucker Street Tudor style home, Historical Society representatives John Hoag, Bill Caldwell, Healdsburg Museum curator Hannah Clayborn and recipients Carol and John Muir for their Madrona Manor Inn.

ter were removed from the winding drive. With the exception of the large old trees, the grounds as they are seen today are completely new. There is in excess of 200 varieties of flowers and plants surrounding the buildings and the pool. The lawns cover over an acre. The upper garden consists of a small fruit orchard and areas for specialty produce for the kitchen and flowers for the inn.

In the residential category of the Preservation Awards, the home of Dr. Gary and Faye Smith at 428 Tucker Street took this year's honors.

The house was designed and built around 1940 by Whitter and Heitz. George A. and Jean Smith, owners of Sanitary Dairy, bought the house from a former owner of the Healdsburg Tribune in 1948 and it has remained in their family since that time. George Smith was a Sonoma County civic leader who owned Healdsburg's milk bottling plant from the late 1940s to the late 1950s. When Mrs. Smith died in 1987, her son and his wife decided to re-do the family home and make it their retirement home.

Remodeling plans started back in 1988 and the \$166,000 project included an addition to and re-model of the kitchen, the conversion of Dr. Smith's small room as a youngster into the

finishing and wood trim replacement, painting inside and out, added brick patio and much more.

The remodel was completed by local contractors Caldwell and Trouette, and the minute attention to detail includes "coyote prints" on the Mexican clay tile. Apparently, coyotes pranced over some of the poured tile before it set in Mexico and the resulting footprints in a section of the tile make a charming path from the doggie door to the kitchen for the Smith family dogs.

When possible, existing door

frames were preserved and used and the original English Tudor style of the house was meticulously maintained throughout.

The Smith home was featured in an edition of *Great Homes of the North Bay* in December 1990, which called the Healdsburg home a "melodious marriage of old and new."

The Healdsburg Historical Society Preservation Awards annually recognize owners of homes or buildings who have preserved or restored these historically or architecturally significant structures.

