

Save Our Heritage Grant Recipients

The 2019 Save Our Heritage Grants recipients are a great example of the importance of this grant program. The structures receiving grants this year range from a massive and intricate mercantile building to a small, but vital storefront. The recipients illustrate the wide range of historic architectural assets found throughout the city.

302 S. 3rd Street – The Turner Frazier Mercantile Building.

Some projects make you step back, take a deep breath, and say “thank you.” This is certainly one of those. On October 21, 2016 a devastating fire broke out in the historic Mitchelhill Seed Co. which was the neighbor of the Turner Frazier. The fire completely destroyed the Mitchelhill building and did significant damage to 302 S. 3rd Street For a long time there were real fears the building was beyond repair and it would be lost. Then Royal Packaging took the brave step and purchased the building and began its rehabilitation. The SOHG funds were used for badly needed tuckpointing, primarily on the southern wall of the building.

[pic]

The stunningly impressive Romanesque Revival Turner Frazier Mercantile Building was designed by legendary St. Joseph architect, E.J. Eckel and built in 1901-02. The structure is most notable for the decorative terra cotta and sandstone embellishments on the exterior. These include scroll shapes, wreaths, garlands, and huge granite columns. The structure once anchored a large warehouse district, it now sits at the entrance to St. Joseph from I229.

1201-1207 Frederick Avenue – Gem Tailoring Building

A building does not have to be a 5-story terracotta warehouse to be important. Often it is the smaller buildings which define our streetscapes. This is certainly the case with the modest storefront at 1201-07 Frederick Avenue. The charm of this lovely structure had been hidden away for decades behind unsightly mid-century era metal cladding. The current owners have been stripping away the cladding revealing impressive windows and exterior details that are finally seeing the light of day once again along the Frederick Avenue corridor.

[pic]

Built in 1909, this storefront row has had a wide variety of business give a wonderful view into the commercial life of St. Joseph in the first half of the 20th century. The first recorded occupants were the Gem Tailoring Company and Runey E. Hayden a baker. Hayden occupied 1203 and this address always had either bakers or grocers in it. A number of tire companies occupied 1201 and in the other storefronts were confectioners, shoemakers, and plumbers. The Frederick Avenue commercial corridor is seeing a revitalization and the rehabilitation of this building is an important part of that effort.

305 S. 8th Street, The Enterprise Building

Standing alone now on its block, the 3-story brick commercial building at 305 S. 8th Street is a reminder of a time when this part of St. Joseph was a bustling commercial center. In the mid-1970s, the building was sold to a graphic supply firm and the building suffered a less-than-respectful remodeling. The large windows which graced the front of the structure were bricked in with small modern windows installed. Luckily the charming details, including the shield medallion bearing the date 1907 and the Art Deco inspired embellishments at the top of the pilasters, remain. The current owners have reopened the large window openings which had been closed in the 1970s



The small commercial building at 305 S. 8th Street spent much of its life as part of one of the many car dealerships which thrived in early 20th century St. Joseph. Before then, J.A. Orwall had his tailor shop, The Enterprise, located in the building. By 1917 it was home to the Trachsel Motor Car Co. “agents for Willys Knight and Overland Automobiles.” In the mid- 20th century Miller Chevrolet used the building as a repair garage and in the mid-1970s it was purchased by Graphic Supply and Equipment Company. This relatively small commercial structure is one of the few of its type remaining in the city.

208 N. 19th Street, the A.P. Clayton House

City planners often talk about the importance of corner lots – structures on the corner have a profound impact on the streetscape. The A.P. Clayton House on the corner of 19th and Jules is one of those great houses. This blonde brick house was a Colonial Revival stunner, but it had suffered from deferred maintenance for decades as well as some less-than-ideal updates including covering wonderful dentil detailing at the roofline. The current owners have been bringing this blonde beauty back to life with extensive masonry repairs and the uncovering of hidden details.

[pic]

Built in 1902 for prominent St. Joseph politician and businessman A.P. Clayton the home at 208 N. 19th Street is a contributing structure in the Harris-Kemper Historic District. Mr. Clayton was Mayor of St. Joseph from 1908-1912 and was the founding member of the Moila Temple. The Claytons lived in the home well into the 1950s. In the 1970s it was home to local building engineer, John S. Creal. The work being done on 208 N. 19th Street would make the Claytons proud.