

Historic group honors Durham, Caraway

Mary Kate Durham and Jake Caraway were the recipients of the 2003 Preservationists of the Year award at a ceremony Thursday night at the Granbury Opera House.

The awards were presented by Granbury mayor David Southern on behalf of the city's Historic Preservation Commission. The

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mayor also read a proclamation recognizing National Historic
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HCN photo/Stan Weinberg



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Mary Kate Durham, Jake Caraway honored as Preservationist of the Year Thursday at Opera House

HISTORY

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Preservation Week in Granbury.

Claudia Southern, the commission chairwoman, noted Durham is a "walking history book and oral storyteller" who has given unmeasurable time to educating and entertaining Hood County residents and others with her remembrances.

"She has a wealth of personal knowledge about the area and has opened the community to its history," said Southern.

She went on to say Caraway's long association with Granbury can be traced back to several generations of his family, and he is well grounded in the area's history.

"Jake has restored two homes

here and is closely associated with the restoration of the First National Bank downtown," said Southern.

Caraway was also a member of the Historic Preservation Commission and is tied to Granbury's past and its future.

This is the third year the preservationist award has been presented.

Southern told the group the historic restoration of the square and its increased monetary value represents a true form of economic development.

The chairwoman says she is totally dedicated to preserving the city's and the state's history as a way to ensure its future.

"Texans to the core honor their ancestors and appreciate their past," said Southern.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the relatively small but enthusiastic audience was entertained by a vintage fashion show hosted by local businesswoman Diane Rawls Davis. A group of women elegantly modeled fashions from the mid-1800s to the 1940s, while Davis commented on how the specific outfits were worn keeping with their period. Davis was dressed in a period costume.

The audience was also entertained by Randy "Mac" McLelland with a sing-along and comedy routine and they were invited to attend a reception at the