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Local homeowners receive Preservation Awards

On Sunday, Dec. 5, the Bay Head Historical Society held its annual holiday party at the newly restored Bridge Avenue home of Jamie and Sunshyne Paradise.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Preservation Awards, which are given each year to acknowledge local property owners who have made considerable effort to restore, renovate and, or preserve their buildings in such a way as to maintain the architecture and character of the area.

This year, the historical society awarded trophies to five recipients, each different from the other, and each, according to the historical society, worthy of the award for different reasons.

The first award was given to Ed and Mary Beth King for their complete renovation of 21 Harris St., Bay Head. This home was a candidate for demolition, but was saved by the Kings to preserve one of the oldest homes in Bay Head.

This house was built in the late 1880s, and through the years had undergone changes, which the Kings restored.

This is the second preservation recognition given to the Kings, who also won a Preservation Award in 2006 for the complete restoration of their current home at 500 Main Ave., Bay Head.

The second award, for the private residence at 735 East Ave., Bay Head, was to acknowledge the considerable time and effort needed to renovate this beachfront home.

Only the second owners of the property, Hal and Kathy Kamine, chose to keep as much as possible of the original home. One of their biggest challenges was to restore the tower on the roof, which is an observatory that turns 360 degrees, enabling the viewer to see all of the sky, as well as viewing the panorama of a full circle of the ocean and the land.

JOSEPH J. DELCONZO, The Ocean Star

The home of Jamie and Sunshyne Paradise, located at 101 Bridge Ave. in Bay Head, was recently recognized by the Bay Head Historical Society with a Preservation Award, for the efforts taken to maintain the original architecture of the property.

The next two awards were given to homes located side by side in Mantoloking, which personify the look of "old Mantoloking."

One award was given to Lili and Corell Durling, for their preservation of "The Porches," a landmark house located at 300 Old Bridge St., and the fourth 2010 Preservation Award was given to its next door neighbor at 304 Old Bridge St., owned by David and Donna Guariglio.

The two homes were restored by the owners at a considerable cost in their effort to keep the old woodwork, the outstanding porches, and the original architecture of the time.

The fifth and last award this year was presented to Jamie and Sunshyne Paradise for their time and considerable expense restoring one of the earliest homes in the center of Bay Head.

Once the Tilson Rooming House, the building at 101 Bridge Ave. had, over the years, been used as a small hotel. In its early years, its location by the railroad in the center of town made it a popular place among the early tourists in town.

Rather than demolish the now-aging building, the new owners chose to renovate and restore.

The Bay Head Historical Society, which represents Bay Head, Mantoloking and the Lovelandtown area of Point Pleasant, has awarded the Preservation Awards since 1994 and has acknowledged the restoration and preservation of residences, churches and commercial building.

The society takes great pleasure in presenting the awards to owners who take the extra steps to preserve the architecture and character of the area. As a culmination of this and other efforts, the Borough of Bay Head in 2005 attained status in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and in 2006 was recognized for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the historical society, the recognition of the borough in these registers is due to the preservation of over 60 percent of the buildings in Bay Head as being architecturally consistent with the original development of the community as a seaside resort built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.