

ISLAND LIVING
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

STARGAZING

Historic Florida Keys



Historic Florida Keys Foundation
awards 8 stars, 6 certificates

by **DONNA SMITH**

Dawn deBoer photography

Porcelain stars displayed on front porches of homes and buildings throughout Old Town Key West and beyond signify top honors bestowed. Now in its 23rd year, the Historic Florida Keys Foundation's Preservation Awards rewards historic properties rehabilitated in a method that preserves the existing historic fabric.

New construction that exists compatibly within a historic neighborhood is considered as well. The program's mission is to offer acknowledgement and appreciation of what are often difficult and expensive efforts in preservation. The award is to exemplary properties at their best, said historic preservationist George Born.

Entries follow criteria set forth in the national guidelines — the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Some requirements include minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment, preservation of distinctive features, finished or craftsmanship that characterize a structure, retention of the historic character of the property, and

repair, if possible, rather than replacement of deteriorated historic features.

A panel of five judges — locals, architects, designers and historic preservation program members — evaluate applications. This year is an eclectic mix of architectural style and beauty, ranging from new construction to refurbishment.

100 OLIVIA STREET Owner Jim Marsh, draftsman Jim Elwood, builder Castro Construction

This triple, sawtooth cottage was built in the late 19th Century. Renovation included replacing a concrete porch with wooden porch, replacing jalousie windows with double-hung windows,

restoration of wood doors, removal of asbestos siding to reveal wood siding, also inside paneling to expose Dade County pine walls. New kitchen and bathroom added. Electrical wiring updated.





The Historic Preservation of the Year Award, the Ceramic Star, awarded from the Florida Keys Historic Society is the highest and most prestigious award obtainable in south Florida.

Jim claimed his first Ceramic Star in 2004 for restoring a historic conch house. He received the first Star to ever be awarded in the Bahama Village. This award rewards historic properties rehabilitated in a method that preserves the existing historic fabric. Renovations on the 19th Century cottage included replacing a concrete porch with a wooden porch, replacing jalousie windows with double hung windows, restoration of wood doors, removal of asbestos siding to reveal wood siding, and also inside paneling to expose Dade County Pine.

To win his second Ceramic Star, Jim bought a dilapidated cottage two blocks away from author Ernest Hemingway's house. One and a half years and fifteen meetings later, Jim was finally given permission to tear down the existing structure and build a two and a half story building with a wrap-around porch and topped by a turret. The building now houses a small French Creperie and gift shop on street level and two upscale residential units on the second floor.

The awarding of the Ceramic Star to new construction proves that it exists compatibly within a historic neighborhood. The award is to exemplary properties at their best, said historic preservationist, George Born.

HISTORIC FLORIDA KEYS FOUNDATION, INC.

A Florida not-for-profit corporation

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Jack London, Executive Director

George Born, Historic Preservationist

March 26, 2004

Mr. Jim Marsh
444 North Main St.
Hubbard, OH 44425

REF: 100 Olivia St.

Dear Mr. Marsh:

I am writing to you as a participant in the Historic Florida Keys Foundation's annual Preservation Awards program.

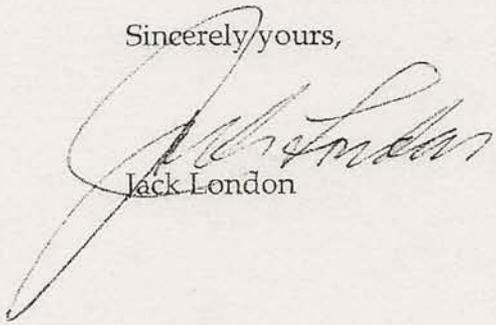
I want to invite you to the awards presentation and reception at the Audubon House and Tropical Gardens at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30. At that time, we will present to you a **Certificate of Excellence** and a **Star for Rehabilitation**. The judges, in particular, noted:

Many inappropriate alterations were reversed. The small scale of this triple sawtooth cottage was preserved, as no additions were made. A positive impact to the streetscape of Bahama Village.

We want to recognize at the awards ceremony all those who contributed to the success of this project -- architects, designers, craftspeople, etc.. Please contact this office with the appropriate names and addresses, so that we may invite them to this event.

I congratulate you on winning our highest level of award, and I hope you can join us for this gala celebration at the Audubon House, showcasing historic preservation in the Florida Keys.

Sincerely yours,



Jack London