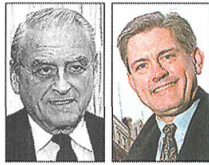


REAL ESTATE

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An award named for real estate investor Andrew J. Asch (left) will be presented to Robin Miller (right), whose apartment developments include Kensington Court, the former Johnston Willis Hospital; Linden Tower, a former medical office building; and the Sydnor and Hundley furniture store.



An award named for Marguerite Crumley (left), who championed restoration of Church Hill, will be presented to Del. Viola Baskerville (right) who successfully lobbied for various pieces of legislation in the General Assembly pertaining to blighted housing and for the creation of the Derelict Structures Fund.



CLEMENT BRITT/TIMES-DISPATCH

Three organizations — the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Church Hill Association, and Historic Richmond Foundation — will share the ACORN Preservation Advocacy Award for their combined efforts to prevent the demolition of the 1850s-era Superior Building on Church Hill.

Hammering issue home

New awards honor preservation work

BY DONNA W. ROGERS
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

An organization dedicated to saving old properties in Richmond is doing something new.

The Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods, known as ACORN, will present its first Golden Hammer Awards next week.

The awards are designed to honor the efforts made in preserving Richmond's older properties, said Jennie Knapp, interim executive director of ACORN.

She said there are thousands — more than 7,500 by her group's count — of vacant properties in Richmond, many of them blighted beyond repair.

The 2-year-old group is forming the annual awards presentation now because "It's just so important that we call attention to good work when we see it," Knapp said. "We want people to follow the example of those who have gone in and restored these buildings and found new uses for obsolete ones."

Two of the three top awards have been named for Andrew J. Asch and Marguerite Crumley, who championed the restoration of Shockoe Slip and Church Hill when it was unpopular, Knapp said.

Both areas of Richmond have since seen a revival.

Asch, who died in 1991, was a Richmond real estate investor and developer who was born in New York City. He is cited for saving Shockoe Slip from demolition and fostering its restoration in the mid-1970s.

Developer Robin Miller will receive The Andrew J. Asch Historic Developer Award. Like Asch, Miller has discovered new uses for a number of historic com-

Acorn Awards

■ **What:** The first Golden Hammer Awards, honoring preservation efforts, featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, visual presentation and history

■ **When:** 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 12

■ **Where:** The Showcase, 2419 E. Franklin St. at 25th Street in Historic Church Hill

■ **Cost:** \$15 per person; \$25 per couple

■ **Contact:** Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods, 1307-A E. Cary St., Richmond, VA 23219; phone: (804) 422-2148; fax: (804) 422-2147; Web site: www.richmondneighborhoods.org

mercial buildings that have outlived their original functions, ACORN said in a statement.

Among the buildings Miller has converted into apartments are: Kensington Court, formerly Johnston-Willis Hospital; Linden Tower, a former medical office building; and the Sydnor and Hundley furniture store.

Crumley, who died this year, moved to Church Hill in the late 1950s, where she helped boost restoration of the area around historic St. John's Church. Later, she led a successful campaign to save Old City Hall from demolition and co-wrote a book on Church Hill.

State Del. Viola Baskerville of Richmond will receive the Marguerite Crumley Preservation Award for successfully lobbying for legislation in the General Assembly pertaining to blighted housing and for creating the Derelict Structures Fund, ACORN said. All of these efforts support

the preservation of historic housing stock in older neighborhoods throughout the state.

Three organizations — the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Church Hill Association and Historic Richmond Foundation — will share the ACORN Preservation Advocacy Award for their combined efforts to prevent the demolition of the 1850s-era Superior Building on Church Hill.

This year, a Cleveland developer attempted to tear down the building to make way for a suburban-style grocery store in violation of city historic district regulations, ACORN said.

Forest City Residential Inc., the project's developers, had wanted to tear down the Superior building at 24th and Franklin streets to make way for the Superior Market grocery store, according to published reports, but historic preservationists objected because the old warehouse served as a Civil War hospital.

After months of debate, Forest City sold the Superior Building to developer Shane Parr, who will form 24 apartments in it.

Forest City plans buy land near 23rd Street for the store and parking. The new store would be just west of the Superior Building, at 24th Street. That street would be closed between Main and Franklin streets.

The Superior Building is next door to the 1853 Yarbrough-Pohlig Factory, at 2419 E. Franklin St., which served as a Civil War hospital, where the awards ceremony will be held.

Golden Hammer Awards also will be presented in Best Residential Renovation, Best Commercial Renovation and Outstanding Community Development Corporation. Winners will be announced at the ceremony.

• Contact Donna W. Rogers at (804) 649-6809 or drogers@timesdispatch.com
• Times-Dispatch archives contributed to this report.



Linden Tower, which formerly was used for medical offices, has been converted into apartments. It is one of several projects developed by Robin Miller, who will be awarded the Andrew J. Asch Historic Developer Award by the Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods.