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New construction adheres to historic neighborhood charm

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Railway and an early occupant of the house.

Unfortunately, following decades of neglect, the distinctive Victorian house was demolished by the City of Durham in 1999, and the lot sat vacant for more than 10 years.

However, as interest in the Cleveland-Holloway neighborhood increased -- resulting from revitalization efforts undertaken by many of the neighborhood's newer residents -- folks began to think about what could be done with this vacant piece of land.

The lot was bought by Maureen Kurtz in 2009, but, having found her project house just down the street, she arranged to sell the lot to Charles and John to build a new house.

Both parties felt it was important that this property be protected from potentially inappropriate architecture in the future, and Maureen chose to put a preservation easement on the property via Preservation Durham.

402 Oakwood is a perfect fit for the Neighborhood Conservation award because it is an example of sensitive new construction that gives a nod to the surrounding architecture and that also incorporates the historic features of the lot -- including the stone retaining wall and the mature hardwood trees; it also features a new stone walkway that compliments the historic stone wall and an open front porch like so many of the other

By Preservation Durham

Submitted story

Durham -- Today, the northeast corner of Carlton and Oakwood now features this recently-constructed neo-Craftsman-style cottage.

Originally, this corner was the site of the Roach House -- named for J.N. Roach, a freight agent for the Southern

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neighboring houses, and the porch swing even has cup holders cut into the arms.

For all of the reasons mentioned, including having executed a high quality design/build plan, respecting the historic scale and qualities of Cleveland-Holloway, and having wholeheartedly embraced their new neighborhood, we are delighted to award 402 Oakwood Avenue and its owners Charles Davies and John Seal, III with Preservation Durham's Neighborhood Conservation Award.

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