Mayor's Award
Gail & Rosemary Robertson
"Excellence in Rehabilitation"
825 6th Avenue

For years, Gail and Rosemary Robertson lived across the street from the home on 825 6th Avenue. Rosemary fondly recalls "keeping her eye on it" to be put up for sale. When that chance came in 1991, Gail and Rosemary jumped at the opportunity to own this beautiful Arts and Crafts style home they fell in love with years prior.

Built around 1917 by Van Dusen and Helen Fishback, this home is full of historical charm. Van Dusen was the brother of Horace Fishback, Jr. and uncle to Bob and Van Fishback. The Fishback family loved to entertain in their backyard, which at one time contained a pond filled with lily pads and water hyacinth. Earlier inhabitants of the house after the Fishbacks were the Cheever and Roberstad families. Bob and Pat Fishback lived in the house for 20 plus years prior to the Robertson's purchase.

Some of Gail and Rosemary's favorite features in the home are the beautiful woodwork, two fireplaces, nice large rooms and the beautiful lot in which it sits. In fact, there use to be a walkway connecting the Robertson's home to Horace Fishback Sr's home on 8th Street through the backyard.

A few years after their purchase, the Robertsons added a garage and cobblestone walk-ways, which only added to its appeal. Rosemary and Gail Robertson continue the garden tradition of the home and maintain a meticulously groomed elaborate flower garden in their backyard.

Most recently, the Robertsons collaborated with the Brookings Historic Preservation Commission and completed a kitchen addition and remodel. The construction included adding a bump out, reconfiguring the kitchen area and slightly expanding the back entrance. They also added several windows, which maintained the historical appearance of the rest of the home. Congratulations to Gail and Rosemary Robertson for their perseverance in historic preservation and receiving a Mayor's Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation.