



Hacker, Nelson & Co. of Decorah received the annual historic preservation award from the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission last week. From left to right: Mark Muggli, Darv Hacker, Neil Schraeder, Joe Bouska and Cindy Womeldorf. (Photo by Julie Berg-Raymond)

## *Hacker, Nelson & Co. landmark building earns annual historic preservation award*

The Decorah Historic Preservation Commission presented its annual historic preservation award to the accounting firm Hacker, Nelson & Co. for their exterior rehabilitation of their landmark downtown Decorah building.

The award was presented Friday, May 13, at an afternoon public reception at Java John's Coffee House.

"The Hacker, Nelson building on the corner of Water and Winnebago streets is one of Decorah's

gems. The firm has shown architectural sensitivity and great community spirit in restoring the elaborate stonework that graces the building's corner turret," said Commission Chair Mark Muggli.

"It would be a sin not to preserve this historic building. We consider the building part of Decorah's public legacy and are pleased that we are able to preserve it," said Neil Schraeder, who is one of the firm's three partners along with Ken Keune and Joe Bouska.

The award ceremony included brief introductory remarks by Muggli, a historical overview of the Hacker, Nelson building by local researcher Cindy Womeldorf, and a response by Neil Schraeder.

The Commission designed the gathering as a casual, "Happy Hour" atmosphere at Java John's, which is housed in another historic structure. Java John's was the former "Ness Store" building on the corner of Water and River Streets.