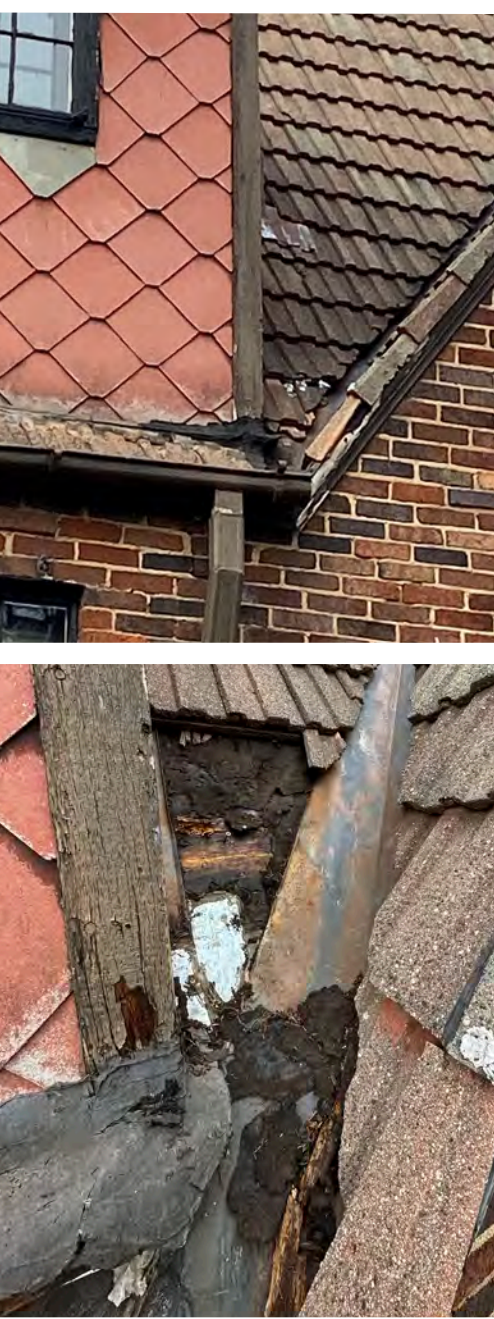


# 2025 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



**Awardees: John and Victoria Lange; Terry Swafford, Inc.; McCarver Mechanical Heating and Cooling; and Koala Insulation of East Metro Detroit**

## ***Rehabilitation of the Harry and Lucy Gordon House, Detroit***

Harry and Lucy Gordon were the first occupants of this 1926 Tudor Revival home in Detroit's fashionable Sherwood Forest neighborhood. The Gordons' original house design featured decorative half timbering, dormers with diamond shingle cladding, and roofing tiles made from concrete.

After nearly 100 years in service, the roof of the home required repairs to address water damage and runoff. Owners John and Victoria Lange addressed this and other rehabilitation concerns by utilizing the new State Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

Exterior half timbering repairs took care to replicate the texture of the tooling marks on the historic components, maintaining the visual qualities of the original. Stucco between the timbers was patched in-kind. Some of the concrete tile ridge caps and

raking eave trim pieces were either missing or too deteriorated to reinstall. After an extensive search to locate salvaged components that would match the remaining roofing tiles, the homeowners traveled out of state to procure enough materials not only for the current project, but also in case future repairs are needed. On the interior, compatible insulation was installed in the attic and a sensitively placed air conditioning system was added to the upper floors.

Historic materials and details contribute to the authenticity of a place. Homeowners such as the Langes exemplify the efforts of property owners across the state who live in historic districts, believe in their community, and are willing to go the extra mile, or in this case miles, to preserve the distinctive character of their home.

Harry and Lucy Gordon House

