

# Historic Old North Davis marked by new signs

By Elisabeth Sherwin

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The close observer walking or driving just north of downtown will notice a new set of historic signs sitting on top of Davis' familiar green and white street signs.

The 16 signs say "Old North Davis" and mark the historic neighborhood of the same name.

On a Friday morning in late March, the city's public works crew installed the heritage brown-and-white signs on existing street sign poles around the four sides of the Old North Davis neighborhood.

The \$52 cost of the manufacture and installation of the signs was raised through a neighborhood pledge drive.

"The city was wonderful to us," said John Lofland, longtime resident and member of the association.

The retired professor said the color of the sign is meaningful.

"Brown denotes historic preservation," he said.

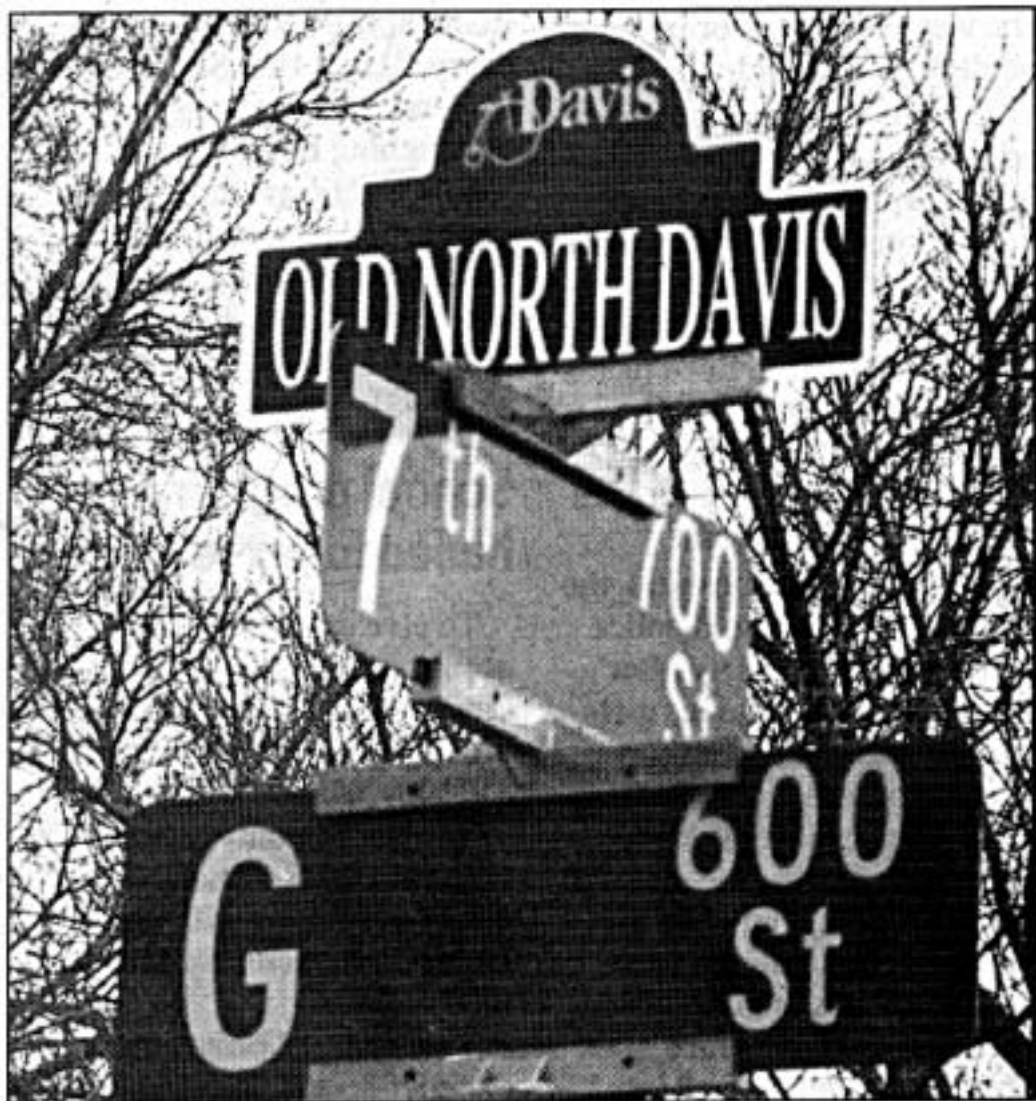
Lofland added that many cities throughout America have historic neighborhood signs.

"They are very common elsewhere," he said. "We are behind the curve here in Davis."

Members of the Old North Davis Neighborhood Association decided the signs were something they wanted to do to mark their neighborhood. It is bordered by B Street on the west, Fifth Street on the south, G Street on the east and Seventh Street on the north.

"The signs are a great contribution to the neighborhood," said D Street resident Max Massey.

Old North Davis is one of three officially designated traditional residential neighborhoods in Davis. The other two



COURTESY PHOTO

**Brown-and-white signs designate the Old North Davis neighborhood north of downtown.**

are University/Rice Lane and Old East Davis.

The three neighborhoods partially encircle a fourth area, downtown. The four neighborhoods make up the original city of Davis that was incorporated in 1917.

Lofland says the Old North district of Davis is a rare surviving pre-suburban neighborhood — a frozen-in-time example of what American cities and towns were like before World War II.

Active settlement of the area now called Old North Davis began in 1913 when Bowers Addition was created. Laid out on what was then open fields, the addition consisted of 100 home sites covering the newly created five blocks bounded by B, Sev-

enth, G, and Sixth streets.

Homes were constructed in the 12-block Old North area at the rate of about 40 a decade over the 1910s, '20s, '30s and '40s. The neighborhood was effectively built out by 1950.

Of the approximately 140 surviving homes constructed before 1950, about 50 are bungalows built in the 1910s-'20s and about 90 are cottages of diverse revival styles built in the 1930s and '40s.

Officers and board members of the Old North Davis Neighborhood Association are Bruce Winterhalder, president; Dan Quickert, vice president; Tony Martin, secretary; Dan Braunschweig, treasurer; and Dennis Dingemans, Steve Tracy and Andy Wallace, board members.