

# Student designs Ford birth marker

President Gerald Ford's birthplace in Omaha will become a memorial, thanks to the generosity of James Paxton and the UNL Department of Architecture.

Paxton bought the land on which Ford was born and donated it to the city of Omaha. He and Sen. Roman Hruska then sponsored a contest, conducted by the Department of Architecture, to design a marker for the spot.

The winner of the design contest is Gary Dubas, who said his winning design was a project for a design problems class. He wouldn't have entered the contest except that it was a class assignment, he said. Dubas, who won over 96 entrants, will receive \$1,000.

Dubas is an Omaha native and is familiar with the area in which the memorial will be located. He said his design incorporates retaining walls and forms of the house that occupied the sight into a garden setting in harmony with nearby Hanscom Park.

Dubas said he was "glad to be a participant in the contest, and so were most of my classmates. I was totally shocked and surprised when I found out that I'd won. I saw a lot of other designs. I never dreamed I'd win."

Dubas indicated he would use the money for college expenses. The different designs were grouped into three categories, buildings, gardens, and obliques.

Dubas said he doesn't know if his design will be the actual one used on the sight. Such things as final cost and processes have to be analyzed, he said. A final decision will be made at a later date.



Gary Dubas, winner of the contest to design a marker for President Gerald Ford's Omaha birthplace. Photo by Ted Kirk



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