

A newsletter on historic preservation from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Meetings and workshops

Oct. 21-25

61st National Preservation Conference, Tulsa, Okla. For information, go to www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/.

Nov. 7-8

21st Annual Gales of November Shipwreck and Diving Program, Duluth. For information, go to www.lsmma.com/gales or call 218-727-2497.

Nov. 13-15

"The Second Wave of Modernism in Landscape Architecture in America," Chicago. Cosponsored by the Cultural Landscape Foundation and the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Cost: \$240. For details and to register, go to www.tclf.org/second-wave/index.htm.

Nov. 18

"History Lounge: The Sacred Landscape of the Twin Cities," a presentation by Larry Millett, retired Pioneer Press architecture critic, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For details, go to <http://events.mnhs.org/calendar>.

CLG grants

An estimated \$78,000 in matching grants is available through the Certified Local Government program for municipalities with local historic preservation ordinances, commissions and programs certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. See page 4 for details.

Jan. 9, 2009: Preapplication due

Feb. 20: Final application due.

April 2: Grants Review Committee meets.

Local historic preservation community is thriving

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

When Minnesota preservationists gathered recently at the annual statewide historic preservation conference, I was reminded once again of the vital role that local communities play in the state's historic preservation arena.

There are many avenues through which our local communities engage in preserving their historic resources. To date, some 60 local governments across Minnesota have taken the most common route, enacting local historic preservation ordinances and establishing heritage preservation commissions.

Of these communities, 39 have achieved Certified Local Government status, granted by the National Park

Service and the SHPO. Fergus Falls is the most recent addition. CLG cities have several advantages: eligibility for federal matching grants administered by the SHPO, an expanded role in the process of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and greater credibility in a field that has become increasingly professionalized.

Another preservation program open to local communities is the federal Preserve American program. So far, nine Minnesota cities have been designated Preserve America communities. Conferred by the

Local historic preservation – continued on page 2



The city of Wabasha, a CLG and Preserve America community, recently installed a series of interpretive kiosks, funded by a CLG grant, that tell the story of the city's development.

Local historic preservation – continued

federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, this designation recognizes a commitment to historic preservation with a focus on heritage tourism. Like the CLG program, Preserve America designation also carries the incentive of federal matching grants, although in a more competitive national arena.

Yet other communities have sought designation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a “Distinctive Destination.” Red Wing is the most recent Minnesota example.

At the grassroots level, interest in historic preservation has spawned a growing number of nonprofit organizations across the state. The St. Cloud Historical and Neighborhood

Preservation Association and the Wanda Gág House Association in New Ulm are two examples.

And, finally, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota has been exploring ways to launch a sustainable Minnesota Main Street program in conjunction with the National Trust’s Main Street program. While dozens of communities have participated in similar programs over the years, a coordinated statewide approach has been lacking. A Minnesota Main Street program would be a welcome addition to the historic preservation tool kit our communities have at their disposal.

Taking the measure of local involvement

The Minnesota SHPO is now in the early stages of planning for a survey of

all local preservation programs in the state. Here is just some of what we want to study:

- What are the hallmarks of a community where historic preservation is thriving?
- How do communities measure the success of their preservation programs?
- What will it take to sustain that success?

What other questions do you think we should ask? We want to hear from you as we seek to strengthen our work with Minnesota’s local communities and local organizations dedicated to historic preservation. ■

New Preservation Briefs available

Three new publications from the National Park Service address issues of interest to preservationists:

- “Preservation Briefs 45: Preserving Historic Wood Porches,” by Aleca Sullivan and John Leeke. Topics include the history and evolution of porches and their preservation, from assessing condition to repair versus replacement to considerations for contemporary alterations.
- “Preservation Briefs 46: The Preservation and Reuse of Historic Gas Stations,” by Chad Randl. This comprehensive overview of historic gas station types and their character-defining features offers guidance on maintenance and repair and looks at considerations common to the rehabilitation of these properties.



Gas stations have a long history of reuse. This Scenic City Cooperative Oil Company station in Redwood Falls, built ca. 1925 of rainbow-colored concrete block made by American Artstone of New Ulm, is now a realty office.

- “Preservation Briefs 47: Maintaining the Exteriors of Small and Medium Size Historic Buildings,” by Sharon C. Park, FAIA. This brief provides guidance on maintenance treatments, discusses the benefits of regular

inspections and recommends keeping written records of work done.

All 47 Preservation Briefs are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>. ■

Saved

Rock County: Palace Theater (1915), Luverne. This Classical Revival performing arts hall designed by W.E.E. Greene features an elaborate Art Nouveau interior. Rehabilitation of the property, funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program, included restoring the original seat frames, repairing and repainting damaged brick, incorporating handicapped accessible bathrooms and installing new carpet.



Palace Theater seating before (left) and after rehabilitation.

Cook County: Chik Wauk Lodge (1933), Grand Marais vicinity. This lodge was the centerpiece of the Chik Wauk Resort, a family-owned facility that catered to automobile tourists seeking rustic accommodation and guided fishing. The Lodge has been rehabilitated by the U.S. Forest Service, which owns the property, and the Gunflint Trail Historical Society, which will operate a museum and information center.



Chik Wauk Lodge before (left) and after rehabilitation.

Superior National Forest

Registration

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

Dodge County: Kasson Public School (1918), 101 3rd Ave. N.W., Kasson. Prepared by Daniel Hoisington.

Lake County: *Benjamin Noble Shipwreck* (1909, 1914), Knife River vicinity. Prepared by Jeremy Nienow, Patrick Labadie and Scott Anfinson.

St. Louis County: Listening Point (1957), 3128 Listening Point Rd., Ely vicinity. Prepared by David C. Anderson.

Kasson Alliance for Restoration



The Kasson Public School, the community's only educational institution from 1918 to 1958, served generations of children. In accordance with the County Life Commission, the school also offered agricultural programs and training for rural teachers, hosted public health programs and provided space for the community's social activities.



Located on Burntside Lake, Listening Point is a 20-acre historic district that includes the log cabin and sauna of Sigurd Olson, author, environmentalist and advocate for wilderness protection. Listening Point, which provided solitude and inspired Olson's writing about nature and conservation, was the touchstone of his intellectual and spiritual growth.

About this publication

The *Minnesota Preservation Planner* is published four times a year by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. Unless otherwise noted, photographs are from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Material from this issue may be reprinted with the following credit line: Reprinted with permission from *Minnesota Preservation Planner*, Vol. XIX, No. 4, Fall 2008, published by the Minnesota Historical Society. Do not reprint material from another source without permission.

Upon request, this publication is available in alternative formats: audiotape, large print or computer disk. Back issues can be found online at www.mnhs.org/about/publications/planner.html.

For address corrections, e-mail michele.decker@mnhs.org or call 651-259-3450.

This newsletter has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Minnesota Historical Society under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior.

Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Britta Bloomberg, Editor
Michael Koop, Assistant Editor
Mary Ann Nord, Assistant Editor

www.mnhs.org/shpo

CLG grant deadlines

Begin planning now for a 2009 grant from the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. You are encouraged to submit a draft of your application by **Jan. 9** so that Grants Office staff can offer comments and suggestions. Final applications are due **Feb. 20**.

Who is eligible?

Only cities with local historic preservation ordinances, commissions and programs certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service are eligible to apply for these matching grants. Heritage preservation commissions interested in achieving CLG status for their city should call Michael Koop, historic preservation program specialist, 651-259-3452.

Priority is given to projects that:

- promote surveys in areas of known

development activity, in order to reduce project delays;

- generate data for planning use;
- result in local designations;
- involve properties associated with the history of underdocumented groups or communities.

Available funds

Funds for the CLG program are provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. It is anticipated that at least \$78,000 will be available for CLG grant awards in Minnesota (subject to change pending adoption of the 2009 federal budget).

The 2009 CLG Grants Manual, containing grant guidelines and application forms, will be mailed to eligible cities in early December. For information before then, call the Grants Office, 651-259-3458. ■



345 Kellogg Boulevard West, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1906
651-259-3000 • www.mnhs.org

Address service requested.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit 854