

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

Planner to switch to electronic format

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We're going green. Starting with the October 2009 issue, the Minnesota Preservation Planner will change to an electronic format and will no longer be available in print. The Planner will also transition from a quarterly to a monthly newsletter. The new format and schedule allow inclusion of time-sensitive items that the Planner's current publication schedule cannot accommodate.

Each issue will feature the same content you've come to count on – news, events, conferences and workshops, grant deadlines, recent National Register listings and properties saved.

The electronic Planner will be distributed by e-mail. You'll need to sign up to receive it. To subscribe go to www.mnhs.org/enews.

Look for the calendar of conferences, meetings and grant deadlines on page 4.

Weathering the storm: Challenges, possibilities and change

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In the midst of this dark and unprecedented economic downturn, I find myself wondering how preservationists will weather the storm. Will we look back one day on the volatility of this past year and marvel at our adaptability? Or will we have missed opportunities to make our mark in new ways? Our success in this challenging environment depends largely on our ability to forge partnerships, to be creative in advocating for our cause, and to leverage scarce funding for the historic resources we're charged to protect.

funding is pumping billions of dollars into infrastructure improvements ranging from major transportation projects to weatherization of buildings. And President Obama's 2010 budget includes an increase of \$4 million for the SHPOs, in part to help us respond to the increased workload expected from federal stimulus projects. This funding will enable us to advance the historic preservation agenda in an otherwise difficult environment. After all, historic preservation has a proven track record in stimulating the economy and revitalizing communities.

Some hopeful signs and one disappointment: Federal stimulus

Weathering the storm –
continued on page 2



Miller Dunsmuir Architecture

The Hammer Building (1891) in Chaska's Walnut Street Historic District is among many that can benefit from the federal tax credit for historic preservation.

Weathering the storm – continued

That success has come in the form of the federal investment tax credit, which for more than 20 years has been creating jobs, leveraging additional investment and providing for the sustainable reuse of existing resources. As communities search for ways to encourage sustainable development and jump-start their local economies, the success of the federal tax credit has been key in renewed efforts in Minnesota to establish a state tax credit for historic preservation. In the last days of the 2009 legislative session, however, despite gaining considerable support, the proposed tax credit was not included in the final version of the state's tax bill.

A bright spot for Minnesota's historic resources is the Legacy Amendment

passed by voters last November. A coalition of partners in historic preservation, history and archaeology developed a legislative proposal requesting that a portion of those dollars "preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and its cultural and historic resources." Included in the \$22 million so designated is \$6.75 million for statewide historic and cultural grants. Watch our web site, www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants, for the latest information.

There are other changes afoot in the State Historic Preservation Office. In May Natascha Wiener joined the staff as historical architect. She comes to us from the MHS Historic Sites Division, where she most recently served as historic properties manager.

Most noticeably, readers will see changes in the fall to this newsletter. In October the Minnesota Preservation Planner will transition to an electronic format, issued monthly. First published in the winter of 1990, the Planner has served to communicate with our partners about historic preservation activities in the state and to encourage preservationists everywhere. Shifting to a monthly e-newsletter will allow us to share preservation news with you in a more timely manner and to solicit your comments and input. Information on how to subscribe can be found on page 1. We look forward to our continued partnership with you. ■

Preservation conference to be held at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The 29th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held Sept. 17-18 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska. This year's conference theme, "Preserving History, Conserving Energy," features lectures, hands-on sessions and presentations on preservation and sustainability. Among activities planned:

- Keynote address, "The Greenest Building Is... One That Is Already Built," by Carl Elefante, FAIA, LEED AP, director of sustainable design in the Washington, D.C., office of Quinn Evans | Architects. Elefante's 30-year body of work has made him a leader in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, urban design and sustainable development.

- Presentation by Audrey Tepper, National Park Service, on conflicts between the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).
- Lecture and book signing by Dale Mulfinger, FAIA, principal of SALA Architects and author of "The Architecture of Edwin Lundie."
- Tours of the Carver Historic District, downtown Chaska's Walnut Street Historic District, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Chaska brick farmsteads led by Steve Martens, professor of architecture at North Dakota State University.

Registration materials will be mailed soon. They are also available online at www.mnhs.org/presconf. For more information call the State Historic Preservation Office, 651-259-3450. ■



Keynote speaker Carl Elefante

Quinn Evans | Architects

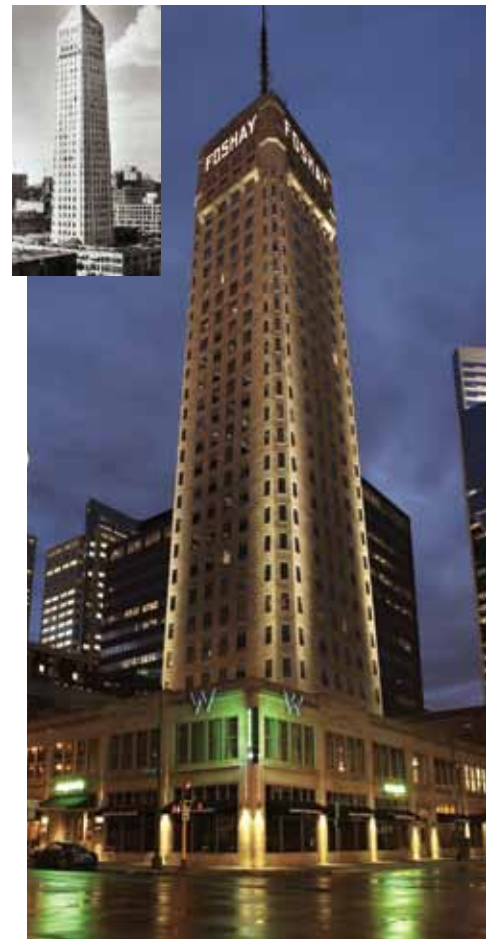
Saved

Blue Earth County: Rensselaer D. Hubbard House (1871), Mankato. The brick-and-stone, French Second Empire-style residence had its three exterior wood porches rehabilitated with funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program. Work included repairing or replacing deteriorated elements of the front, office and kitchen porches.

Hennepin County: Foshay Tower (1929), Minneapolis. The 30-story Art Deco obelisk, modeled after the Washington Monument, has been rehabilitated using federal historic preservation tax incentives and converted into a W Hotel. Work included restoring the elaborate ceiling in the main entrance, repairing and replacing casement windows, and transforming offices into guest rooms.



Hubbard House front porch before (top) and after rehabilitation.



The Foshay Tower in 1935 (inset) and as it looks today.

Heinrich Photography

Registration

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

Becker County: Detroit Lakes City Park (1897, 1937, 1948), Washington Avenue and North Shore Drive, Detroit Lakes. Prepared by Susan Granger, Scott Kelly and Liz Morrison.

Hennepin County: Eitel Hospital (1912), 1367 Willow St., Minneapolis. Prepared by Marjorie Pearson.

Todd County: Northern Pacific Railway Depot (1910), First Avenue N., Staples. Prepared by Thomas Jenkinson and Norene Roberts.



Detroit Lakes City Park played a prominent role in the social history of Detroit Lakes and in the development of the city's summer tourism industry. The park's Recreation Building, constructed of randomly laid granite boulders, was built by the Works Progress Administration in 1937.



Architects for the Northern Pacific Railway designed this Classical Revival-style depot, one of the few structures remaining from the railroad's presence in Staples. The depot accommodated passenger, baggage and express facilities on its first floor and offices for division headquarters on the second floor.

About this publication

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

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www.mnhs.org/shpo

Deadlines for capital grants

The Minnesota Historical Society's State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program will distribute approximately \$700,000 in matching grants for the fall grant round to county and local jurisdictions for historic preservation projects of a capital nature. Grant awards range in size from \$10,000 to \$150,000.

All seekers of capital grants must submit a preapplication. Priority is given to properties that are listed in

the National Register of Historic Places or have been determined eligible for listing. For eligibility requirements and application materials, go to www.mnhs.org/capitalgrants, call 651-259-3458 or e-mail mandy.skypala@mnhs.org.

July 24: Preapplication due by 4:30 p.m.
Aug. 28: Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 1 (tentative): Grants Review Committee meets.

Meetings and workshops

Aug. 11
State Review Board meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information call Michele Decker, 651-259-3450.

Sept. 17-18
Minnesota's 29th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference,

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska. See page 2 for details.

Oct. 13-17
62nd National Preservation Conference, Nashville, Tenn. For information go to www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/.



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