

Minnesota's Preservation Plan To Be Revised

This fall the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) kicks off a two-year planning process that will result in a revision of the statewide historic preservation plan. The first step in the process is an evaluation of the current plan, *Preserving Minnesota: A Plan for Historic Properties in the New Century*, issued in 1995. The revised plan will be issued in the year 2000. Over the next eighteen months SHPO will guide the process that will shape the new plan.

The current plan should be considered a work-in-progress. It identifies the critical needs facing historic preservation in Minnesota—a statewide agenda, greater public awareness about preservation, and making connections between economics and historic preservation—and outlines goals and strategies to address those needs. The six broad goals adopted by the plan are listed in the box below.

Minnesota's Preservation Plan Goals

1. Increase community awareness of the value and importance of the state's cultural resources.
2. Encourage integration of historic preservation at all levels of planning to promote consideration of cultural resources in decision-making processes.
3. Expand and strengthen the network of organizations and individuals engaged in historic preservation throughout the state.
4. Provide incentives to encourage historic preservation.
5. Maximize efforts to identify and designate significant historic resources.
6. Encourage appropriate treatment of historic resources.

The greatest challenge in evaluating Minnesota's preservation plan is that its objectives are carried out by many diverse partners. These include historic preservation organizations such as SHPO, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota—the statewide nonprofit organization—and local heritage preservation commissions, as well as a vast number of other partners, ranging from federal, state and local government agencies to private property owners. As SHPO measures accomplishments in recent years against the goals set forth in the plan, your help is needed to identify the accomplishments of the many partners throughout the state as well as to test the validity of the goals in the current plan.

A preliminary report summarizing the evaluation of the 1995 plan will be produced over the winter months, in time for distribution at a series of regional public

meetings to be held between March and May of 1999. The public meetings will begin the formal process of soliciting input for the new plan. These meetings will be complemented with opportunities for agency and partner participation, and facilitated focus groups.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 20: State Review Board meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information, call Michele Decker at (651) 296-5434.

Oct. 20-25: 52nd National Preservation Conference, Savannah, Ga: "Art and Economics of Preservation." For details call the National Trust, 1-800-944-6847.

Oct. 29: Evaluating Minnesota's Rural Historic Landscapes, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Vang Lutheran Church, 2060 County 49 Blvd., Dennison, Minn. See article on page 4.

Nov. 4: SHPO Workshop for State/Federal Agencies, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. A workshop for state and federal cultural resource staffs and for historical and archaeological consultants. Registration information will be mailed in October. For further information, call Kelly Gragg-Johnson at (651) 296-5462.

Nov. 14: Preservation Alliance of Minnesota Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Anthony Main, 219 S.E. Main St., Minneapolis. Event includes dinner with Bob Yapp, host of "About Your House With Bob Yapp," a PBS television program about preserving historic houses. For more information, call George Edwards at (612) 341-8140.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GRANTS DEADLINES

Feb. 4, 1999: Pre-application deadline: State Grants-in-Aide and CLG grants. We encourage the submission of drafts so the MHS grants office can offer comments.

March 4, 1999, 4:30 p.m.: Final deadline for State Grants-in-Aide and CLG grants applications.

Pending adoption of the 1999 federal budget, we expect at least \$60,000 to be available to Minnesota CLGs. Only cities with local historic preservation ordinances, commissions and programs certified by SHPO and the National Park Service are eligible for these matching grants. The 1999 CLG Grants Manual will be mailed to eligible cities in late November, 1998. For information before then, call the Grants Office at (651) 296-5478.

Historic Saint Paul Foundation Established

The Historic Saint Paul Foundation, a non-profit organization incorporated in late 1997 for the purpose of preserving St. Paul's historic resources, is dedicated to:

- promoting the economic and cultural value of historic preservation;
- articulating a realistic vision for St. Paul's future based on an understanding of the past and an appreciation for our built environment;
- identifying and preserving the historic neighborhoods, buildings, structures, and landscapes of St. Paul;
- educating citizens about St. Paul's architectural heritage and urban history; and
- generating and distributing resources which support historic preservation projects in all of St. Paul's diverse neighborhoods.

The foundation has received \$100,000 as "seed money" from the St. Paul City Council to provide funds for building projects, training, education, events and productions. Additional funds may be available in the spring of 1999. The first set of grant awards will be announced Sept. 30, 1998. For more information, call Judith Trent at 651/290-2034.

Renewal of Preservation Plan

Continued from page 1

The draft revised plan is scheduled to be issued in March of 2000, in time for a second series of public meetings. After a period of public comment, the draft will be revised and reissued in final form. Throughout the process, the *Planner* will carry regular updates.

As the current plan states, the success of the statewide preservation plan "rests on the many citizens, organizations, government agencies, elected officials and preservation professionals who, by

working together, will carry out a shared preservation agenda."

If your organization has developed a plan that includes historic preservation objectives, we want to know about it. For the new plan to be meaningful, your help is needed now and throughout the process.

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy SHPO

REGISTRATION

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Hennepin County: *Westminster Presbyterian Church*, 83 12th St. S., Minneapolis. Prepared by Charlene Roise and Christine Curran.

Meeker County: *Bridge No. 5388*, Mn. Hwy. 24 over North Fork Crow River, Forest City Twp. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

Mille Lacs County: *Bridge No. 3355*, U.S. Hwy. 169, Kathio Twp. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

Rice County: *Bridge No. 8096*, Mn. Hwy. 19 over Spring Creek, Northfield. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

St. Louis County: *Bridge No. 5757*, Mn. Hwy. 23 over Mission Creek, Duluth. Prepared by Jeff Hess.



Westminster Presbyterian Church (1897) (above), the spiritual home to one of the largest Presbyterian groups in the United States, embodies 140 years of social service and community outreach programs that have notably influenced the growth and development of Minneapolis.

Photo above Courtesy Hess, Roise & Co., Mpls.; photo by Christine A. Curran



Bridge No. 8096 (below) in Northfield was originally built in 1918 as a reinforced-concrete arch with a 22-foot roadway. In 1947, the bridge was doubled in width and covered with roughly coursed, rock-faced limestone detailed in the Late Gothic Revival style. The bridge is eligible for the National Register for its architectural design and workmanship.

Lanesboro Named Great American Main Street

The City of Lanesboro has been given the 1998 *Great American Main Street Award* by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center and Edward Jones financial services firm. Lanesboro and four other cities across the nation were selected as having the best revitalized downtowns in the country. The communities were chosen by a panel of experts in community revitalization, economic development and historic preservation for a number of reasons:

- an evolving track record of overall success in preservation-based commercial district revitalization;
- strong support for the downtown revitalization effort from both the public and private sectors;
- broad-based community support; and
- involvement in the revitalization process and innovative solutions to specific downtown revitalization problems.

Lanesboro (pop. 858) is a thriving community that has become a destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Settled in 1856, this little town in the picturesque Root River Valley had grown into a busy mill community by the mid-1870s, when most of

the downtown commercial district that remains today was built. Fewer than 100 years later, however, most historic buildings were in disrepair, storefronts were boarded up, and the theater was dark. The last straw came when the Milwaukee Railroad, which had closed its route through Lanesboro, sold the 1870 depot



Main Street, Lanesboro, 1998. Congratulations!

to an individual who tore it down.

The demolition of the depot was the unexpected catalyst for a group of citizens to form a volunteer task force for cultural and commercial revitalization. City government, local nonprofit organizations and private individuals created a collaborative plan focusing on natural resources, the arts and historic preservation to bring back Main Street.

In 1982, the entire downtown district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the local heritage preservation commission—a group of volunteers who have given their time and expertise to conserving the city's historic resources—was established. Meanwhile, the Root River State Bike & Recreation

Trail took the place of the Milwaukee Railroad bed. Now more than 40 miles of paved trail attracts visitors through Lanesboro in every season of the year. On the arts front, the Lanesboro Art Council purchased and restored the old movie theater and made it the home of the Commonwealth Theatre Company. Other historic buildings now house award-winning gourmet dining and lodging establishments, along with a local history museum.

Lanesboro has been reborn. Businesses essential to residents' and visitors' needs have returned, and 50 new businesses have opened, leading to a 200-percent increase in the number of jobs downtown. The arts flourish and tourism thrives—20 lodging establishments have opened to provide 102 rooms. Agriculture continues to be sustainable, and the local school is still independent.

SAVED

The Carver Water Tower (1900), located in the Carver Historic District along the former Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad line in Carver County, was restored with funds provided in part through the state bond-funded County and Local Preservation Project Grants-in-Aid program. Restoration of the red cypress tower, which is owned by the City of Carver, involved repairing the staves, installing a new tank liner and support structure, and repairing the ladder, water pipe and movable parts.



The Carver Water Tower, as it looked prior to restoration.



The Carver Water Tower, as it looked after restoration. The railroad tracks are to the right.

SHPD files

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WORKSHOP ON EVALUATING MINNESOTA'S RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPES: OCTOBER 29

The **Minnesota Preservation Planner** is published and distributed in January, April, July and October by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. Information for each issue should be received by the editor no later than one month before the publication date at the Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. For further information call (651) 296-5434.

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The transportation corridor between Rochester and St. Cloud still contains vast expanses of agricultural land that retain many of their natural and cultural features. During the next few decades however, this area is expected to experience a wave of expansionism that could alter its rural character forever.

In an effort to guide development within this corridor, the Minnesota SHPO, with funding from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), recently launched a pilot project that is designed to identify intact historic rural landscapes within the Rochester-St. Cloud growth corridor, and to develop strategies to help protect them.

Using a new set of guidelines established in National Register Bulletin 30, the SHPO staff and a team of consulting historians have already spent nearly a year on this project. Late this summer the project team identified a section of the Sogn River Valley in western Goodhue County that may soon be

nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as Minnesota's first formally designated rural historic landscape. Early next year, SHPO and regional land-use planners will meet to explore ways to protect the area.

In this one-day field workshop, preservationists, historians, conservationists, planners, landowners, landscape architects and other interested individuals can explore the history and countryside of the Sogn Valley, and to learn about documenting historically significant rural landscapes. The workshop will include illustrated morning presentations, followed by a box lunch and an afternoon bus tour of the study area.

Registration is \$35 and includes coffee breaks, lunch, handouts and bus tour. To register, send a check payable to the Minnesota Historical Society to Michele Decker, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. Registration deadline is **October 23**. For further information, call John Lauber at (651) 296-5434.



Mark Your Calendar! • May 14-15, 1999

Annual Historic Preservation Conference and Workshop for HPCs and CLGs, St. Peter. Watch for a mailing and the next issue of the *Planner* for program details.



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