



MINNESOTA

Preservation Planner

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

CALENDAR

Reassessing our priorities

These days in historic preservation circles, conversations focus quickly on a topic close to us all – one we've adopted for this year's Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference: the economics of historic preservation and making it work in hard times. It seems that everyone is facing cutbacks. How do we make preservation work in such an economic climate? The first step is reassessing our priorities.

Three years ago, when the current statewide historic preservation plan was released, the economy was flourishing and the federal historic preservation fund (HPF), which helps support the infrastructure of the nation's preservation programs, had reached a new high.

How quickly things change. By 2003 HPF monies had dropped 31 percent in Minnesota, with little promise of recovery soon. Voices for preservation are being raised in the halls of Congress as next year's federal budget is debated. But meanwhile we must make sure we apportion our limited resources wisely. Our success depends on it.



Property owners, architects and local officials study the effects of local building codes on historic buildings in a workshop sponsored by the Faribault Heritage Preservation Commission.

The State Historic Preservation Office seeks your help in fine-tuning the statewide preservation plan to ensure that our limited resources are focused where they're needed most. Please join us Sept. 18-19 in New Ulm for the statewide preservation

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Sept. 30-Oct. 5: 56th National Preservation Conference, Denver, Colorado. For details call the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1-800-944-6847, or go to www.nthpconference.org.

Oct. 28: State Review Board meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, St. Paul. For agenda information call Michele Decker, 651-296-5434.

Nov. 8: 16th Annual Gales of November Shipwreck and Diving Program, 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Duluth. Keynote address: "Views from the Bridge: Piracy on the High Seas," by Capt. Cynthia Robson. For prices and tickets call 218-727-2497 or go to www.lsmma.com.

CLG GRANT DEADLINES

Matching grants are available through the Certified Local Government program for cities with local historic preservation ordinances, commissions and programs certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Approximately \$70,000 will be awarded for CLG grants in Minnesota. See page 4 for details.

Jan. 16, 2004: Pre-application due by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 13: Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

April 1: Grants Review Committee meets.

Priorities continued on page 3

SAVED

Hennepin County: Minneapolis Brewing Company Wagon Shed (1893) and Millwright Shop (1913), Minneapolis. These buildings have been transformed into the Pierre Bottineau Library using funds from the Minnesota Legislature. Reconstruction of the wagon shed involved reinforcement of steel trusses, installation of large windows and the addition of a new standing-seam metal roof. The millwright shop also received a new roof and the exterior brick was cleaned and repointed.



Minneapolis Brewing Company Millwright Shop before (left) and after transformation into Pierre Bottineau Library.

Waseca County: Janesville Free Public Library (1912), Janesville. The original double-hung sash windows and storms of this Neoclassical building have been rehabilitated using funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program. Work included repairing deteriorated wood frames, replacing putty and glazing, and repainting the frames in historically accurate colors.



Janesville Free Public Library before (left) and after rehabilitation.

REGISTRATION

Locally designated properties

Fifty-three Minnesota communities have adopted local preservation ordinances; 32 of those cities participate in the Certified Local Government program. These municipalities are empowered to designate buildings and districts as historically or architecturally significant. The following properties in Little Falls were recently designated for protection.

Morrison County: Viktor Buildings (1892-1902), 47-51 E. Broadway, Little Falls.

Morrison County: Baily and Hunt Building (1891), 53-55 E. Broadway, Little Falls.

Morrison County: Little Falls Water Purification Plant (1936-37), 100 N.E. 7th Ave., Little Falls.



The Baily and Hunt Building (left) and the Viktor Buildings in downtown Little Falls, three adjacent brick commercial buildings built between 1891 and 1902, housed a variety of businesses, from a harness shop to stores for groceries, millinery, clothing, furniture, hardware and dry goods. Such businesses represent the types of retail establishments that made Little Falls – already the site of thriving lumbering, milling and manufacturing industries – into a vital agricultural trade center.



Constructed in 1936-37 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Little Falls Water Purification Plant is one of the city's most visible reminders of Depression-era federal relief programs. An excellent example of the Moderne style, the poured concrete structure is faced with a smoothly dressed stone known as Little Falls black granite. The building's restrained ornamentation, in the form of zigzag motifs and stylized Art Deco lettering and metalwork, is characteristic of the style.

Rail corridor agreement revised

The Federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) has executed a Programmatic Agreement for a large railroad corridor construction project extending across southern Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming (see Summer 2002 Preservation Planner). The agreement, which had been transmitted in 2001 to 50 consulting parties for signature, was withdrawn to make revisions that provide for public involvement in decisions affecting historic properties in the corridor.

The Minnesota portion of the corridor contains 310 bridges, three railroad depots and more than 30 known archaeological sites. Concerned about the fate of those properties, the Minnesota SHPO in 2002 called a public meeting in Winona to gather input from citizens in affected communities.

“The meeting was very well attended,” said Dennis Gimmestad, compliance officer with the Minnesota SHPO. “We were gratified to see such an



This 1882 stone arch bridge in Winona County is one of many in the DM&E Railroad corridor.

outpouring of concern, especially for the distinctive stone arch railroad bridges along the route.” After the meeting nearly 60 residents wrote letters about the effects the proposed project would have in their communities.

As a result of the public’s involvement, the Minnesota SHPO and the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation succeeded in reopening

negotiations with the STB and the DM&E Railroad. That led to the STB decision to revise the agreement. “This experience underscores the importance of the Section 106 review process, which ensures public input on historic preservation issues,” said Gimmestad.

For more information on this and other Section 106 cases, go to www.achp.gov.

Priorities *continued from page 1*

conference and make your voices heard in this critical dialogue.

To get you thinking, here are three words that summarize priorities identified in the preservation plan:

- education
- partnerships
- relevance.

I suggest that those concepts remain central to what we do in the years ahead. By continuing to focus on education, we can generate greater public awareness about the value of our historic resources. An ongoing commitment to working

together will advance our shared agenda. And our historic resources have a central role to play in building healthy, livable communities, promoting heritage tourism and protecting the environment.

Let me add a fourth key word: local. As the SHPO regroup in the wake of state and federal budget cuts, we’re relying on those of you on the front lines of historic preservation, working in local communities across Minnesota. It is you, after all, who are closest to the resources and the decisions that affect them. Our challenge is to find the most

effective means of empowering all our partners, but especially those at the local level.

Education, partnerships, relevance and local focus – these are the keys to a solid long-range plan for preserving Minnesota’s historic resources. That plan can serve as our roadmap when circumstances change. So join us in New Ulm as we plot our future course. Or call, write or e-mail us with your insights. We want to hear from you.

– Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

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CLG grant pre-applications due Jan. 16

Now is the time to begin planning for a 2004 grant from the Certified Local Government (CLG) program (see "CLG grant deadlines" in the Planner calendar, page 1). You are encouraged to submit a draft of your application by Jan. 16 so that Grants Office staff can offer comments and suggestions. Final applications are due Feb. 13.

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, 651-296-5451.

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; and/or
- 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 \$70,000 will be available for CLG grant awards in Minnesota (subject to change pending adoption of the 2004 federal budget). The 2004 CLG grants manual will be mailed to eligible cities in early December. For information before then, call the Grants Office, 651-296-5478.



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