

Recovery Underway at St. Peter

In October, Gov. Arne Carlson announced that additional funds would be available for the tornado relief funding in St. Peter and Comfrey, including \$350,000 for historic preservation assistance. This was especially good news for St. Peter, where a large concentration of historic properties was hit by tornadoes in late March of 1998. Together with the \$1 million in state funds earmarked for historic preservation in the tornado relief bill passed by the Legislature last April, these funds are making a significant difference in the work of recovery.

The funds provide gap financing—grants and loans after insurance and other sources of assistance have been exhausted—to owners of historic properties damaged by the tornadoes. Many owners have reported that without the technical and financial assistance available through this program, their work would not have been possible. The additional funds are making it possible to assist more property owners and to increase the level of assistance to others. Applications are still being accepted.



The Nicollet Hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sustained major damage. The new owners who acquired the building following the storm expect it to reopen in the spring.

The buildings in these photos are representative of the dozens of historic properties that are being brought back to life. A total of 178 property owners have received technical assistance through our office, with the help of

some 35 volunteer architects. To date, 40 owners have submitted applications for financial assistance. More than half of the

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The historic Jensen House at 614 South Washington Ave. was rescued by a new owner who is restoring what might have been another demolished building.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GRANTS DEADLINES

Feb. 4: Pre-application deadline: State Grants-in-Aid and CLG grants.

March 4: 4:30 p.m.: Final deadline for State Grants-in-Aid and CLG grant applications.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SHPO will host three public meetings to discuss planning for historic preservation as it relates to the needs of the general public, government agencies, and communities throughout Minnesota. Your thoughts are needed to help SHPO review the goals of the statewide preservation plan that were issued in 1995 and to revise the plan for 2000. We encourage you to attend one of the meetings listed below; no advance registration is required. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.; receptions are at 6 p.m. For more information, call Michael Koop, 651/296-5451.

March 18: Mankato, Hubbard House

April 22: Morris, University of Minnesota-Morris campus

May 20: Grand Rapids, Central School

Feb. 18: "Whose House Was This?" 10-11 a.m. Learn how to use resources such as city directories and photographs to uncover your house history. MHS Research Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. \$3 for MHS members, \$5 for nonmembers. Registration required; call 651/296-2143.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Early March: Two workshops for Rural Historic District planning: Goodhue County and St. Paul; dates to be announced. See Jan. 1999 *Interpreter* for more details, or call Dennis Gimmetstad, 651/296-5462.

March 23: 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.

April 15: Grants Review Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information, call Mandy Skypala, 651/296-5478.

May 9-15: National Historic Preservation Week, including the state-wide Historic Preservation Conference in St. Peter. The next issue of the *Planner* will include a list of events.

May 18: 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.

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applications are for assistance in preserving historic homes, and the balance for historic commercial and public buildings.

The unseasonably warm fall extended the construction season this year—also very good news for the recovery efforts. The hard work of recovery will continue through the winter and for many more months. There have been significant losses, but anyone driving through St. Peter today will see the dedication and hope of a community hard at work. It has been highly rewarding to be able to assist in the work that will help bring back the qualities that make this community the special place that it is.



Before



After



Work underway

The Nicollet County Courthouse is undergoing a major restoration; the tower is being restored as well as the original entrance that was covered with an incompatible vestibule in the 1960s.

For information about obtaining applications, contact SHPO at (651) 215-0119, or e-mail angie.edwards@mnhs.org

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy SHPO

(Note: All photos are from SHPO files)

REGISTRATION

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places



SHPO file photo

Carlton County: *Kalevala Finnish Evangelical National Lutheran Church*, Kalevala Twp. Prepared by David C. Anderson.

Crow Wing County: *Bridge No. 5265*, U.S. Hwy. 169, Garrison. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

Lyon County: *Bridges No. 5083 and 5151*, Mn. Hwy. 19 over Redwood River, Marshall. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

Pine County: *Kettle River Bridge*, Mn. Hwy. 123 over Kettle River, Sandstone. Prepared by Jeff Hess.

Winona County: *Winona Commercial Historic District*, 3rd St. between Franklin and Johnson Sts., Winona. Prepared by Christine Curran and Charlene Roise.



SHPO file photo

The Winona Commercial Historic District is comprised of 91 buildings in a seven-block area along East and West Third Street. It represents adaptations of Italianate and Queen Anne architectural styles. Also included in the district is the Merchant's National Bank (1912) (to the right in the picture). It was designed by Purcell, Feick and Elmslie and is recognized as an important contribution to the development of early 20th-century American architecture.

Threats to the Stillwater Bridge: An Update on the Section 106 Review Process

The Section 106 review process for the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (MnDOT/WiDOT) proposal to build a new bridge across the lower St. Croix River has started over. In 1994, the review of an earlier proposal resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which included mitigation for the effects of the project on three historic properties—the Moritz Bergstein House, the Log Cabin and the Stillwater Overlook. The agreement specifically stated that the historic Stillwater lift bridge was outside the area of effect for the project.

Following the completion of this MOA, the National Park Service (NPS) conducted a review under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It concluded that the bridge then proposed was not compatible with the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. After litigation on the issue, an advisory group was convened to discuss alternatives for the

project, and make a recommendation for a new bridge site.

Since the proposed location of the project has changed, MnDOT and WiDOT have requested termination of the earlier MOA and have begun new studies of historic properties in the area affected by the new project. Because the new location is upriver from the original, it is closer to the central area of Stillwater, and a more detailed analysis of historic properties in this area is needed. The archaeological potential of the approach areas will also need to be considered.

Meanwhile, the NPS has continued to advocate removal of the National Register-listed lift bridge as mitigation for the effects of a new bridge. Throughout the process, NPS has appeared to be unwilling to accept the historic bridge as a scenic amenity that deserves the highest protection in the riverway. Instead, the NPS's strict application of a policy on non-proliferation of new river crossings has resulted in their recommendation to

remove the historic structure when the new bridge is built.

This position is particularly puzzling, since the NPS's own planning process has identified this section of the river as a "River Town Management" area. This designation emphasizes the historical and cultural cityscape of Stillwater, of which the lift bridge is an integral part. In areas such as this, the historical features deserve primary attention and the natural features are scattered and limited.

In a Dec. 8 letter, the Federal Highway Administration requested that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation take an active role in the new Section 106 process. In particular, the council is requested to address the apparent conflicts between, on the one hand, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1966, and on the other, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 4(f) of the Transportation Act of 1966.

Mark Your Calendar! May 14-15, 1999

The Annual Historic Preservation Conference and Workshop for HPCs and CLGs will be held at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center. Using the community of St. Peter as a case study, the conference will help preservationists plan for and react to natural disasters including tornadoes, floods and fires.

Sessions will focus on post-disaster identification and assessment of historic buildings, conducting design review under duress, and strategies for avoiding damage to historic properties, and other issues. Walking tours will feature recent and ongoing rehabilitation projects in St. Peter. Watch for a mailing and the next issue of the *Planner* for further program details.

SAVED

The Paramount Theatre (1921), located in the St. Cloud Commercial Historic District, was restored with funds provided in part through the state bond-funded County and Local Preservation Project Grants-in-Aid program. The St. Cloud Housing and

Redevelopment Authority, which owns the Paramount, used the funds to restore interior architectural and decorative features. The theater and several adjacent buildings are part of the Paramount Arts District, a facility that houses visual arts studios, classrooms, a gallery and the Paramount.

(Note: St. Cloud's art district was not damaged in the recent explosion.)



SHPO file photo

The interior of the Paramount Theatre, as it looked prior to restoration.



SHPO file photo

The interior of the Paramount Theatre, as it looked after restoration.



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CLG GRANTS: Draft Applications due in February

The deadline for grant applications in the next cycle of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program is March 4, 1999. Applications must be received in the Grants Office, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Minnesota History Center by 4:30 p.m. on that date.

We encourage you to submit a draft of your grant application by Feb. 4, 1999, so that the Grants Office can offer comments and suggestions for your final application.

Only cities with local historic preservation ordinances, commissions and programs certified by SHPO 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, MHS historic preservation program specialist, 651/296-5451.

Special priority will be 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; or

- involve properties associated with the history of under-documented groups or communities.

The Grants Review Committee will meet on April 15, 1999, to make recommendations. Work on the projects that are recommended for funding can begin between July 1 and Oct. 1. In special circumstances earlier starting dates may be possible.

Funds for the CLG program are provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. The Service is expected to approve the 1999 Historic Preservation Fund Program for Minnesota in the near future. Federal regulations stipulate that at least 10 percent of that allocation be awarded as pass-through funds to cities with CLG status. We anticipate that at least \$62,000 will be awarded in Minnesota.

Grant guidelines, procedures and application forms will be provided in the 1999 *Certified Local Government Grants Manual for Heritage Preservation Commissions*, which was mailed to eligible cities in late November 1998. For further information, call the Grants Office, 651/296-5478.



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