

**Shaping a Vision for the New Century:
We Need Your Help**

Over the past several months, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been hard at work revising Minnesota's statewide Historic Preservation Plan, last issued in 1995. One of the challenges we face is that the success of the plan will rest in large part on SHPO's many "partners" who also have a stake in preserving Minnesota's historic resources and who will assist in its implementation. The plan we produce must be much more than a blueprint for the work of our office: It must indeed be a statewide plan. To build a network of stakeholders that will ensure a statewide perspective, SHPO took the show on the road.

In October and November, we hosted a series of eight facilitated planning meetings across the state. More than 120 stakeholders participated in the process. The range of participants was diverse: It included state legislators, city council members and staff and county commissioners; members of heritage preservation commissions, Indian tribes and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, county and local historical societies, funding organizations, tourism and economic development organizations, and state and federal agencies; owners and developers of historic properties, architects, historic preservation professionals, educators and interested citizens.

Participants were asked to respond to five questions (listed on p. 2) as a way to measure how effectively the goals of the 1995 plan have been addressed and to begin to shape a new vision for historic



The Little Falls planning meeting was held in the Cass Gilbert-designed Northern Pacific Depot, a National Register property. John Kuester, facilitator, is standing to the left.

preservation in the new millennium. After eight meetings and 24 hours of thoughtful and lively discussion, we learned a great deal and gleaned very useful and sometimes surprising insights.

Some preliminary observations are in order in this, our first newsletter of the new year. While each meeting was distinct from the others and some regional variations were evident, several compelling themes were heard time and again. The broad goals adopted in the 1995 plan continue to be relevant, but new strategies and direction are needed for more effective implementation. There was consensus that, although public awareness about preservation has increased noticeably in recent years, more work is still needed, especially in educating public decision makers. The value of visible local preservation projects as catalysts for this awareness was underscored, as was increased media attention to local preser-

Continued on page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Feb. 15, 22, 29 & March 7:**

Compleat Scholar class: "The Evolution of the Midwest Farm," 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. To register, call 612/624-8880. Minnesota farming has changed dramatically in the past two decades. Explore the evolution of farming throughout the state's history and contemporary farms and farmers through slide-illustrated lectures presented by two University of Minnesota professors with extensive knowledge of agricultural geography and economics, John Fraser Hart and Philip M. Raup. Limited class size. Fee: \$84; \$75.60 for persons age 62 and older and MHS members.

March 21: 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 11: Grants Review Committee Meeting, Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For details call Mandy Skypala, 651/296-5478.

April 15: Minnesota Barn Preservation Workshop, Historic Valley Grove Churches (located on Rice County 29, two miles northwest of Nerstrand). All day, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$30, includes lunch and bus tour. Barn owners, agricultural historians and preservationists can acquire information about the history of barns, technical issues, construction techniques and rehabilitation resources. Classroom and field sessions include keynote address by Barn Again! founder Mary Humstone; slide tour of Minnesota's Historic Barns by National Register Historian Susan Roth; a discussion of help

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

available through the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, by Mark Primoli, Internal Revenue Service; and a timber-framing demonstration by master builder Peter McKinnon. Bus tour of historic barns in the Nerstrand area with a stop at Thorstein Veblen Farmstead, one of Minnesota's 21 National Historic Landmarks. Co-sponsored by SHPO and the University of Minnesota Extension Service. For more information, call John Lauber, SHPO, 651/297-4418.

April 22: State Capitol Architecture Tour, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol. To register call 651/296-2881. One of the most spectacular buildings in the Midwest, the State Capitol is alive with stories of art, history, power, politics and public service. Marvel at architect Cass Gilbert's 1905 masterpiece, and learn about his role in selecting the decorations, artwork and even the furnishings. Learn about the details and effort that went into the construction of this Italian Renaissance style building using modern-day construction techniques. Reservations required. Fee: \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens, \$3 for children ages 6-15; \$1 discount for MHS members.

GRANTS DEADLINES WINTER 2000

Jan. 21: Pre-application deadline for CLG grants.

Feb. 25: Final deadline for CLG grant applications.

April 11: Grants Review Committee meets.

Planning: Help Needed

Continued from page 1

vation issues, both positive and negative. Common themes included the importance of connections between economics and historic preservation, and of expanding funding opportunities and other incentives to encourage preservation. One message that our office heard very clearly, especially in Greater Minnesota, was the importance of SHPO's strong field presence and its technical and financial assistance. Our challenge will be to find ways to expand this work.

The feedback we obtained is being summarized and will be incorporated in the draft plan to be circulated for comment in March; the final revised plan will be issued in September 2000.

There's still time for your input as the plan is being shaped, but remember: This is a statewide historic preservation plan in the making. Your help will be needed even more in the years ahead if we are to be successful in implementing the plan.

— Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy SHPO

Questions Used to Guide Discussion in the Statewide Plan Meetings

1. During the past five years, how has community awareness of the value and importance of historic and cultural resources changed in your region of the state? What should be done during the next five years to raise community awareness in your region of the value of these resources?
2. During the past five years, how well have community decision makers addressed local preservation concerns? What should be done during the next five years to assist local decision makers to address historic preservation issues effectively?
3. Who do you think are the players in the statewide preservation network? Who is missing? What should be done during the next five years to strengthen the historic preservation network throughout the state?
4. During the past five years, what have been the most effective incentives to encourage historic preservation? During the next five years, what should be done to develop incentives that encourage historic preservation?
5. Based on what you know about SHPO, what is the single most valuable service it provides? Why do you feel this way? What is the single most important initiative SHPO should undertake during the next five years? Why do you feel this way?

Caring for Your Historic Building?

Then be sure to check out a new web site from the National Park Service. For more than 25 years, Technical Preservation Services (TPS) has helped homeowners, preservation professionals, organizations and government agencies by publishing easy-to-read guidance on preserving, rehabilitating and restoring historic buildings. Now, TPS announces a new web site devoted to all aspects of caring for historic buildings—from choosing an appropriate treatment to actually “doing” the work in a way that meets historic preservation standards.

Use the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, read the classic Preservation Briefs, take interactive web classes, such as Electronic Rehab and The Walk Through, and enjoy other new products, such as the Boilerplate YESs and NOs! The web address is www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/care.

Successful Reuse Study for Winsted City Hall

A highly successful reuse study of the Winsted City Hall was recently completed under a cooperative agreement between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the City of Winsted in McLeod County.

Constructed in 1896, the Winsted City Hall is a two-story brick Queen Anne style building located in the heart of downtown Winsted. The building was vacated in 1998 due to structural deterioration and environmental concerns.

The study concluded that the City Hall could be rehabilitated for continued public use. Potential new uses identified during the reuse study included a community service facility

incorporating city and township government offices, a public library, and a meeting space for various social service organizations. Infrastructure recommenda-



The Winsted City Hall as it appeared when it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

tions focused on correction of structural problems, redesign of interior spaces to accommodate diverse functions, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The City of Winsted recently applied for and received funds from the Minnesota Historical Society's state bond-funded County and Local Preservation Project Grants-in-Aid program to rehabilitate the building in part for the library.

SHPO helps sponsor reuse studies that examine potential uses for threatened historic properties each year. For more information, call John Lauber at 651/297-4418 or Charles Nelson at 651/296-5475.

SHPO file photo

REGISTRATION

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Polk County: *Sorlie Memorial Bridge*, Demers Ave. over the Red River, East Grand Forks. Prepared by Mark Hufstetler.

Red Lake County: *Clearwater Evangelical Lutheran Church*, off Co. Hwy. 10 near Oklee. Prepared by David C. Anderson.

Winona County: *Winona City Hall*, 207 Lafayette St., Winona. Prepared by Christine Curran.



SHPO file photo

Constructed in 1939, the Winona City Hall (left) represents the efforts of the Public Works Administration (PWA), one of numerous Depression-era federal relief programs that helped stimulate construction activity in the public sector. The City Hall is also a good example of the Classical Moderne style, as can be seen in its rectangular, box-like form, smooth concrete and brick exterior walls, and its aluminum trim and streamlined moldings.



SHPO file photo

The Sorlie Memorial Bridge (right) was built in 1929 as a joint project between the North Dakota Highway Department and the Minnesota Department of Highways. The bridge, which was built in part with federal aid (Bureau of Public Roads funds), was among the first interurban projects in the country that used money from that source. The most noteworthy feature of the bridge is its expansion-bearing system. Frames of wheels on pairs of track castings serve as mobile expansion bearings, located under the bridge where it meets the riverbank. They enable the bridge to compensate for motion caused by unstable ground. The clay composition of the river banks at this location on the Red River meant that standard abutment design could not be used. As a result, the innovative expansion bearings were manufactured and used. The photograph above, taken in April, 1996, shows how close the Red River came to the bridge's roadbed.



State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid Awards Fiscal Year 2000 • Fall Grant Cycle

Listed by County

The **Minnesota Preservation**

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<http://www.mnhs.org>

Beltrami

Beltrami County, \$20,000 for the Beltrami County Courthouse east entrance restoration, Bemidji.

Brown

City of New Ulm, \$75,000 for the Hermann Monument restoration, phase II, New Ulm.

Goodhue

Friends of Florence Town Hall, \$11,042 for the Florence Town Hall restoration, Frontenac vicinity.

Hennepin

City of Eden Prairie, \$30,500 for replacing the roof of the Glen Lake Children's Camp dining hall and dorm, Eden Prairie.

Minneapolis Water Works, \$50,000 for the Washburn Park Water Tower restoration, Minneapolis.

Koochiching

Koochiching County, \$50,000 for the Koochiching County Courthouse roof replacement project, International Falls.

Mahnomen

City of Mahnomen, \$42,000 for the Mahomen City Hall heating installation, roof restoration and tuckpointing project, Mahnomen.

McLeod

City of Winsted, \$50,000 for the Winsted City Hall restoration, Winsted.

Meeker

City of Dassel, \$39,273 for the Universal Laboratories Building restoration, phase VI, Dassel.

Mille Lacs

City of Milaca, \$12,125 for the Milaca City Hall window replacement and stone repair project, Milaca.

Nobles

Adrian Housing and Redevelopment Authority, \$19,044 for the Slade Hotel window replacement project, Adrian.

Pipestone

Pipestone County, \$17,522 for the L.H. Soldier Memorial Monument restoration, Pipestone.

Redwood

City of Belview, \$14,370 for the Odeon Theater interior restoration, Belview.

St. Louis

University of Minnesota-Glensheen, \$42,500 for the Chester and Clara Congdon Estate ceiling restoration, Duluth.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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