



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



The Carleton Airport, developed in 1942 by Carleton College to provide flight training for its students entering military service, was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project spotlights recent past

Earlier this year the Minnesota Historical Society launched a major new initiative, the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project. With childhoods shaped by the Depression, members of the Greatest Generation came of age during WWII and led the nation through a period of unprecedented post-war prosperity. Those times of strife and transformation, from the 1930s through the 1950s, gave rise to life stories both heroic and ordinary. It is the goal of the Society's multiyear, institution-wide Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project to preserve the stories and artifacts of that generation before they are lost.

What does this project mean for the

State Historic Preservation Office?

It is our challenge, and that of our preservation partners, to make sure that efforts to document the contributions of the Greatest Generation include the places where those contributions were made. The stories now being recorded, the books being written and the exhibits being developed will enhance our understanding of the era and help us evaluate the built environment that also tells the story.

The early years of this era - the Depression years - are already well represented on Minnesota's National

Greatest Generation *continued on page 3*

CALENDAR

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Sept. 14-16: 26th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, Duluth. Register online by Sept. 2 at www.mnhs.org/presconf.

Sept. 27-Oct. 2: 58th National Preservation Conference, Portland, Ore. For more information call 800-944-6847 or go to www.nthpconference.org.

Oct. 20-21: "Historic Landscapes: Planning, Management and Cultural Landscape Reports," St. Paul. Sponsored by the National Preservation Institute. Covers designed, cultural, rural, agricultural and urban landscapes as well as applicable laws and regulations. Cost: \$375 (\$175 for students). For details call NPI, 703-765-0100, or register online at www.npi.org.

Oct. 25: State Review Board meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information call Michele Decker, 651-296-5434.

Nov. 11-12: 18th Annual Gales of November Shipwreck and Diving Program, Duluth. For prices and tickets call 218-727-2497 or go to www.lsmma.com.

CLG GRANTS

About \$70,000 in matching grants is 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. See page 4 for details.

Jan. 13, 2006: Pre-application due.

Feb. 17: Grant application due.

March 30: Grants Review Committee meets.

SAVED

Goodhue County: Cogel/Betcher and Phelps Buildings (1874), Red Wing. Located in the Red Wing Mall Historic District, these buildings were rehabilitated into offices, apartments and a condominium using federal preservation tax incentives. Work included repairing and repointing the brick and stone, rebuilding the storefronts, replacing windows and installing a new roof and mechanical systems.



The Cogel/Betcher and Phelps Buildings before (left) and after rehabilitation for offices and housing.

Sibley County: J. Gerkan Building (1893), Henderson. Built originally as a general store, the Gerkan Building was converted into retail space and a U.S. Post Office using federal preservation tax incentives. Work included cleaning and repointing exterior masonry, installing new windows, restoring a storefront and installing a new roof and mechanical systems.



The J. Gerkan Building before (left) and after rehabilitation for retail and commercial use.

REGISTRATION

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Goodhue County: Carleton Airport (1942), 1235 Minn. Hwy. 19, Stanton.
Prepared by Elizabeth Gales.



The Carleton Airport was developed in 1942 for Carleton College students seeking flight training to prepare for military enlistment. The site of one of Minnesota's 25 War Training Service programs, it also served as a facility for secondary and instructor flight training. This airport is the only program facility in the state to maintain its turf airfield; all others have been paved.

Koochiching County: Alexander Baker School and E.W. Backus Junior High School (1914, 1937), 900 5th St., International Falls. Prepared by Daniel Hoisington.

St. Louis County: Virginia City Hall (1923), 327 1st St. S., Virginia.
Prepared by Carmen Tschofen.



Built in 1923, the Colonial Revival-style Virginia City Hall was part of Virginia's then-largest municipal building project. The multifunction building housed city government offices and other civic operations such as the chamber of commerce and police department. The building also included jail cells to accommodate up to 18 prisoners.

Minnesota gets its first *Preserve America* Communities

Red Wing and St. Cloud earn designation

In June Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton joined with the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives to announce the designation of Red Wing and St. Cloud as Minnesota's first *Preserve America* Communities.

The *Preserve America* Communities program, part of the White House's *Preserve America* initiative, recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for community revitalization and encourage heritage tourism. Since the program

began, First Lady Laura Bush has designated 247 cities across the country as *Preserve America* Communities.

In addition to receiving national recognition, Red Wing and St. Cloud are now listed in a web-based *Preserve America* community directory. All Minnesota tourism offices and visitor bureaus have been notified of the designation. And each community receives a *Preserve America* road sign as well as authorization to use the *Preserve America* logo on signs, flags, banners and



Barn Bluff provides a dramatic background for downtown Red Wing, one of the newest *Preserve America* Communities.

promotional materials – all aimed at enhancing community visibility and pride.

For more information on the *Preserve America* program, go to www.preserveamerica.gov.

Greatest Generation *continued from page 1*

Register of Historic Places. Among the listings are WPA-era properties in 22 state parks and dozens of city halls, bridges, waysides, schools, dams and other properties constructed across the state – all public-works projects built with assistance from myriad federal programs that generated temporary employment during the Depression. These properties were documented in the late 1980s and early 1990s as they reached 50 years of age, the age generally required for evaluating a property's historical significance.

Today, the spotlight shines on resources of the recent past – properties associated with the war years and the post-war boom – that are just now coming of age. One of those properties is the Carleton Airport in Goodhue County (pictured on pages 1 and 2), listed on the National Register in 2004 for its association with this period. The airfield was developed in 1942 by Carleton College to provide its students with flight training as they prepared for military enlistment.

To date, only a handful of Minnesota properties from the war years have been surveyed and evaluated for their

historical significance. Even fewer from the post-war boom are under study. Too often, it seems, communities perceive those properties as ordinary and therefore not worthy of designation. Think, for example, of the ubiquitous suburban housing developments that cropped up just after the war.

What is needed is an effort to identify and evaluate properties from this time period. As preservationists across the nation begin that work, we in Minnesota's SHPO invite you to take part in assessing and preserving the built environment shaped by the Greatest Generation. Let us know about the buildings, sites, structures or

districts in your communities that represent their contributions. What places come to mind? We want to hear about them. Your input will help jump-start our efforts.

The Great Depression, World War II, the post-war boom – all are forces that continue to engage the public. Become part of the Minnesota's Greatest Generation Project and help ensure the preservation of their legacy.

For more information as the project unfolds, watch the Society's web site at www.mnhs.org/people/mngg/about.htm.

– *Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*



Introducing...

Mark Buechel, AIA, has joined the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office as historical architect. A graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Architecture, Buechel also holds a master's degree in architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a certificate in preservation. For 15 years he was project architect at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where he oversaw restoration of WPA- and CCC-era park buildings. Welcome, Mark!

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For address corrections call Michele Decker at 651-296-5434 or e-mail michele.decker@mnhs.org.

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CLG grant pre-applications due Jan. 13

With deadlines only a few months away, it's time to begin planning for a 2006 grant from the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. You are encouraged to submit a draft of your application by Jan. 13 so that Grants Office staff can offer comments and suggestions. Final applications are due Feb. 17.

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 2006 federal budget).

The 2006 CLG grants manual containing grant guidelines, procedures and application forms will be mailed to eligible cities in early December. For information before then, call the Grants Office, 651-296-5478.

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