



MINNESOTA

Preservation Planner

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



The Minneapolis Brewing Company complex in northeast Minneapolis, built during the 1890s, has found new use as architectural offices. It will also soon be home to the Pierre Bottineau Branch Library.

Times of plenty, times of uncertainty

Two years ago the future looked especially bright for historic preservation. The economy was booming across the nation. And Congress had just appropriated a significant increase for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the largest gain in more than two decades. How quickly the outlook can change. Congress has yet to act on the 2003 HPF appropriation, except for resolutions to carry programs into January. And the state budget forecast is grim. Only one thing is clear: uncertainties abound.

Yet over the past year, we've seen important preservation projects reach completion. Two properties in downtown Minneapolis are particularly noteworthy because both languished for decades before seeing their

renaissance. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Depot, Freight House and Train Shed complex now houses a hotel, coffee shop and indoor skating rink. The Minneapolis Brewing Company, more commonly known as the Grain Belt Brewery, now houses architectural offices and soon will be home to the new Pierre Bottineau Branch Library. Also experiencing a rebirth is the St. Anthony Falls Historic District on the Minneapolis riverfront. In 2003 the Minnesota Historical Society's new Mill City Museum will open in the Washburn A Mill Complex, a National Historic Landmark nearly destroyed by fire in 1991.

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CALENDAR

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

March 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.

CLG GRANT DEADLINES

During the 2003 winter grants cycle, applications will be accepted for federal Certified Local Government grants. For more information call the grants office, 651-296-5478.

Jan. 17: Pre-applications due by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 21: Grant applications due by 4:30 p.m.

April 3: Grants Review Committee meets.

SHPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

Over the past decade, the State Historic Preservation Office has hosted a series of public meetings to discuss historic preservation planning as it relates to the needs of the general public, government agencies and communities throughout Minnesota. While these meetings have been very helpful in identifying various issues affecting preservation, we are now exploring alternative methods for obtaining public input. Among the vehicles we are considering to solicit public participation: a direct mailing, an insert in this newsletter, and the Internet. Your continued participation in this process is important to us. To share your ideas about what means of input would work best for you, call Michael Koop at 651-296-5451 or e-mail michael.koop@mnhs.org.

SAVED

St. Louis County: Lincoln Park Bandstand (1934), Duluth.

Built by the Public Works Administration using indigenous stone, the Lincoln Park Bandstand has long been the site of Duluth's annual Swedish-American Midsummer Day Festival. Rehabilitation of the bandstand, which included repointing the stone, replacing the roof, fascia and soffit, and replacing doors and windows, was funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program.



Lincoln Park Bandstand, before (top) and after rehabilitation.



Beltrami County: Beltrami County Courthouse (1902), Bemidji.

The east entrance of this Neoclassical building has been rehabilitated using funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program. Work included repairing the roof, cleaning paint from columns, repointing the stone, installing a drainage system and replacing the doors.



Beltrami County Courthouse, before (top) and after rehabilitation.



REGISTRATION

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Marshall County: K. J. Taralseth Company (1911), 427 N. Main St., Warren. Prepared by Barbara Kooiman and Michael Larson.

Pine County: Hinckley State Line Marker (1941-42), on Minn. Hwy. 48 near Hinckley. Prepared by Susan Granger, Scott Kelly and Kay Grossman.

St. Louis County: Lester River Bridge (Bridge No. 5772, built 1924-25), London Road (Minn. Hwy. 61) over the Lester River. Prepared by Susan Granger, Scott Kelly and Kay Grossman.

St. Louis County: Orr Roadside Parking Area (1935), Minn. Hwy. 53 at First Avenue, near Orr. Prepared by Susan Granger, Scott Kelly and Kay Grossman.



The Lester River Bridge is a 103.5-foot-long concrete arch bridge faced with random ashlar gabbro rock and trimmed with Cold Spring granite. An excellent example of Neoclassical design, it is based on the work of Minneapolis landscape architects Morell and Nichols with engineering assistance from William H. Cruikshank and John Wilson of Duluth's city engineering office. The bridge is also important for its association with the construction of Minn. Hwy. 1, an early trunk highway.



Norwegian immigrant Knud Taralseth settled in Warren in 1888 and built the city's first two-story commercial building, which housed his department store, a Masonic lodge and Warren's post office. Destroyed by fire in 1910, the building was rebuilt the following year by Taralseth's sons, Ralph and Olaf, who operated the family business until 1959. In addition to the store, the building continued to provide space for the community's fraternal organizations and professional services.

Grants awarded for six capital projects

Funded by the State of Minnesota, through appropriations made by the Legislature and approved by the governor, the State Historic Preservation Office's State Capital Project Grants-in-Aid program assists county and local jurisdictions with historic preservation projects of a capital nature.

Because the capital grant program appropriation was among Gov. Jesse Ventura's vetoes in the 2002 bonding bill, available funds for the fall grant cycle were very limited. Therefore, additional restrictions were used to determine eligibility. Among them: grants requests were limited to \$20,000 and properties involved had to be listed on or officially determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In all, six grants totaling \$99,072 were awarded throughout the state.

Blue Earth County: City of Mankato, \$20,000. Rensselaer D. Hubbard Carriage House restoration.

Hennepin County: City of Rockford, \$13,495. Ames-Florida House restoration.

Itasca County: City of Grand Rapids, \$20,000. Central School repointing.



Central School in Grand Rapids, built in 1895, will be repointed with funds from a capital grant.

Martin County: Martin County Preservation Association, \$17,000. First Church of Christ Scientist restoration.

McLeod County: City of Hutchinson, \$16,000. Hutchinson Carnegie Library restoration.

Waseca County: City of Waseca, \$12,577. Minneapolis and St. Louis Depot restoration.

There is a possibility that vetoed appropriations will be reconsidered in the 2003 legislative session. Stay tuned.

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These projects are all of a scale that takes years to complete and would not have been possible without the favorable development climate of the 1990s. I find myself wondering, however, whether the properties would have survived long enough to find these creative new uses if development had reached the riverfront sooner. On one hand, a thriving development scene in times of plenty makes exciting preservation projects possible. On the other hand, the rush to development in flush times poses its own threat to historic properties when

developers favor new-construction projects that promise larger and faster returns. Leaner times with limited financial resources can work in historic preservation's favor; many a historic building has survived for lack of redevelopment funds.

As we preservationists struggle with economic uncertainty and a changed political landscape, I'm reminded of something I heard from a focus group in rural Minnesota following the 1993 floods. Assessing the impact of the disaster on the region's historic

resources, one citizen remarked that our historic buildings have stood the test of time – that is, they have endured through good times and hard times.

Ultimately, historic preservation is about stewardship. We must all work to ensure that our resources survive through these difficult times. By working together, I believe we can continue to accomplish great things. The historic fabric of our communities tells us as much.

—Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

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New web site aids in rehab planning

What is the historic character of a building? That's the question you always need to ask – and answer – before starting to rehabilitate a historic building. If you can identify the building's visually distinctive spaces, features and materials, you are much more likely to preserve them.

That's the premise of a creative new web site launched by Technical Preservation Services of the National Park Service: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/walkthrough. Designed especially for new members of heritage preservation commissions as well as property owners, architects and developers, it's a quick and easy way to educate yourself about what factors to consider when undertaking a building rehab project.

Titled "Walk Through Historic Buildings," the web site demonstrates how to weigh the visual impact of

proposed changes to a building. Using a three-step approach – evaluating a historic building from a distance, up close and inside – "Walk Through"

serves to guide decisions about where alterations might reasonably take place and which visual aspects need to be preserved.

Each of the steps includes a visual-character checklist and a series of links that provide more detailed information. At the end of the exercise is an eight-part quiz where you can test your visual skills using a variety of historic buildings.



National Park Service



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