



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



Communities such as Winona, with its vibrant local preservation program, make good candidates for the Preserve America program.

## New Year's Resolutions

Though the election is behind us, uncertainties still loom on many fronts. During this time of limited resources and soaring budget deficits, we in the field of historic preservation find ourselves, again and again, having to make the case for our work of preserving the country's heritage.

Here in Minnesota's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), we ask you to help us with that critical mission. Let me start by posing a question for each of you to ponder: As you begin the new year, how will *you* get involved? What will *you* do to promote historic preservation in your area of influence? Let me suggest a few opportunities.

### Become a Preserve America community

Urge your community to become a Preserve America community. A White House initiative developed in cooperation with several federal agencies, Preserve America recognizes efforts to preserve the country's cultural, natural and other heritage resources. The program designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

## CALENDAR

### MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

**March 22:** 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

Matching grants are available through the Certified Local Government program for qualifying cities. Approximately \$70,000 will be awarded in this round. Funding comes from the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service. For information call the Grants Office, 651-296-5478.

**Jan. 14:** Pre-application due by 4:30 p.m.

**Feb. 18:** Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

**March 31:** Grants Review Committee meets.

### SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANT DEADLINE

**Feb. 1.** Nonprofit organizations and state, local and tribal governments are eligible for these matching grants for restoration of historic buildings and sites with national significance. See p. 4 for more information.

### PRESERVE AMERICA DEADLINES

Application deadlines for designation as a Preserve America community:  
**March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1.**  
See article this page.

# SAVED

## **Hennepin County: Minneapolis Fire Department Repair Shop (1909, 1922), Minneapolis.**

Located in northeast Minneapolis, this building housed the fire department's shop for repairing equipment and building new apparatus. Federal preservation tax incentives were used to fund the rehabilitation, which included cleaning and repointing exterior brick, installing new windows and doors, repairing the roof and cleaning interior brick.



**Minneapolis Fire Department Repair Shop before (left) and after rehabilitation for use as offices.**

## **Martin County: First Church of Christ Scientist (1898), Fairmont.**

This Richardsonian Romanesque church of Sioux quartzite was designed by architect Harry Wild Jones. Rehabilitation, funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program, included making structural repairs, rebuilding stone walls, installing new windows and doors, repairing the roof and improving site drainage.



**First Church of Christ Scientist before (left) and after rehabilitation. The building is owned by the Martin County Preservation Association.**

# REGISTRATION

## **Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places**

### **Hennepin County: Frieda and Henry J. Neils House (1950), 2801 Burnham Blvd., Minneapolis.**

Prepared by Jane King Hession.

### **Nobles County: George D. Dayton House (1890, 1902), 1311 4th Ave., Worthington.**

Prepared by Jennifer Hawkinson and Garneth Peterson.

### **Sherburne County: Elkhorn Stadium (1922, 1926, 1940), Main Street and Norfolk Avenue, Elk River.**

Prepared by David Anderson.



Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the L-shaped Neils House represents the principles of his post-World War II Usonian design – “affordable, beautiful housing for a democratic America.” The house features modular planning, one-level construction, social and spatial organization into active and quiet areas, and a dominant living room. The Neils House is distinctive for its use of unusual building materials, including marble, clear Western larch and aluminum.



The Dayton House is associated with business and civic leader George Draper Dayton. As president of the Bank of Worthington and the Minnesota Loan and Investment Company, Dayton facilitated the town's commercial and cultural development. His success also allowed him to contribute to the social, educational and religious life of the community. The Colonial Revival house is now owned by Historic Worthington, Inc.

# Hand in hand

St. Paul and Duluth are proving that preservation and development can go hand in hand. The two cities are among eight communities across the country chosen for the Preservation Development Initiative (PDI), sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the program provides a comprehensive package of technical and financial assistance to incorporate historic preservation into community economic development.

In the PDI process, multidisciplinary teams assess opportunities for preservation-based development, then issue recommendations based on

interviews, site visits and collaborative work with city officials, community development organizations and representatives of the private sector.

Recommendations for St. Paul included continued conversion of underused downtown office buildings to residential use; preservation and reuse of key properties such as the Union Depot, Hamm's Brewery and Head House/Sack House; and a stronger HPC. In Duluth the PDI team recommended creating downtown historic districts to leverage the investment tax credit, empowering the HPC and developing a comprehensive heritage tourism initiative.

To view the planning reports for



Entrance to the Duluth Board of Trade.

each city, go to [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) and click Community Building.

## Resolutions *continued from page 1*

Preserve America has received considerable attention in many parts of the country but not yet in Minnesota. Every city with a local heritage preservation program has the potential to become a Preserve America community. The application process, with quarterly deadlines, is fairly simple. For more information go to [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov).

### Contact your legislators

Let your elected officials know that historic preservation matters. Decision makers at all levels of government need to hear from the preservation community.

In March preservationists from around the country will converge on Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress to discuss how national public policy affects historic preservation at home. Among issues on the agenda: the annual Historic Preservation Fund appropriation, the Historic Barn Preservation Program and rehabilitation tax credits for residential properties.

Don't forget your state senators and representatives. The 2005 legislative session begins this month and funding

for history and preservation grants will be considered. Efforts are already underway to establish a state tax credit for historic preservation. Watch the Minnesota Historical Society web site at [www.mnhs.org/about/legis/legis.html](http://www.mnhs.org/about/legis/legis.html) for regular legislative updates about issues affecting history and historic preservation.

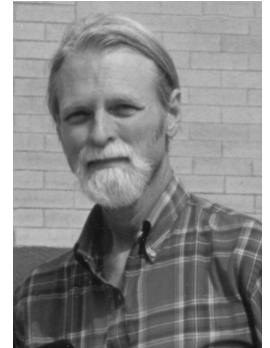
### Observe Historic Preservation Month

Plan now to recognize national Historic Preservation Month in May with events in your community. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this annual observance is an opportunity for you to promote local preservation and create visibility for projects and events you care about. Check out the NTHP web site at [www.nationaltrust.org/preservationmonth](http://www.nationaltrust.org/preservationmonth); it's filled with practical ideas for getting involved. Be sure to keep us informed about what you're doing to make the case for historic preservation in Minnesota.

### A fond farewell

As a new year begins, Charles

Nelson, longtime historical architect at the Minnesota Historical Society, retires from his post. A tireless educator, Charlie has logged countless miles across the state since he joined the SHPO staff in 1971. His contagious enthusiasm has always made the most challenging preservation project seem doable.



Charlie Nelson

To ensure continuation of the work to which he devoted his career, Charlie made a generous gift to the Minnesota Historical Society establishing a fund to benefit historic preservation. Charlie will be missed. But through his gift, the Charlie Nelson Fund for Historic Preservation will carry on his legacy. And he promises that his voice will still be heard for the cause of preservation for years to come.

– Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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# Save America's Treasures

## Federal program funds preservation of nation's cultural resources

Since 1999 an innovative partnership of federal agencies has worked to ensure preservation of the country's most significant cultural resources. The program, Save America's Treasures, awards funds in two ways - through federal grants and by congressional designation. To date, 70 percent of funds have been awarded for restoration of historic buildings and sites; 30 percent has supported conservation of documents, artworks and special collections.

Nonprofit organizations and state, local and tribal governments are eligible to apply for the matching funds. Qualifying properties must be either a National Historic Landmark or listed on the National Register of Historic Places for national significance or deemed eligible for such a listing by the SHPO.

The minimum funding level for historic property projects is \$250,000. For samples of SAT projects, see the web sites of the National Park Service at [www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/index.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/index.htm) and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities at [www.pcah.gov/SAT.htm](http://www.pcah.gov/SAT.htm).

The NPS evaluates all applications dealing with historic structures and sites. Other federal agencies - the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services - review other applications.

This program is one of the tools communities can use to address the broader goals of the Preserve America initiative (see p. 1). Complete guidelines and applications can be found at the NPS web site listed above.

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