



MINNESOTA

Preservation Planner

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

SHPO to launch web site of National Register properties



Preview of a page from Minnesota's new National Register web site.

In underground offices of the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota History Center sit 150 file drawers stuffed with information about Minnesota's 1,503 listings on the National Register of Historic Places — the result of 30 years' work identifying, evaluating and designating the state's most important historical resources. Researchers call those files "one of the best-kept secrets at the Historical Society." Together, the records document more than 6,000 individual buildings, districts, structures, objects and sites throughout the state whose significance has earned them a spot on the National Register, the nation's official list of historic properties worth preserving.

This summer the SHPO will begin providing wide public access to these

records with the launch of a new web site designed to bring Minnesota's historic properties to light. The web site culminates a two-year project, "Using National Register Properties to Interpret Minnesota History," that grew out of our long-held commitment to public education about historic preservation. Funding for the project was approved by the Minnesota Legislature [1999 Laws, Ch. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 5 (a)] as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Trust Fund.

Experience has shown that the best way to ensure the protection of historical resources is to foster a strong sense of stewardship in the people who

Web site continued on page 3

CALENDAR

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Aug. 14: Nominations due for 2001 Preservation Honor Awards, to be presented by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota at its annual meeting in November. Categories include brick-and-mortar projects, individual contributions and community efforts. For details call the Alliance at 612-341-8140.

CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

At least \$200,000 remains to be awarded from the Minnesota Legislature's \$500,000 appropriation for the State Capital Grants program in the 2000-01 biennium.

Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, the program provides matching grants to county and local jurisdictions for historic preservation projects of a capital nature.

Eligibility requirements: Grant applicants must be public entities, the property in questions must be publicly owned, and grant recipients must match state funds on at least an equal basis. All seekers of a capital grant must submit a pre-application.

For application materials, write the MHS Grants Office, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; call 651-296-5478; or fax 651-282-2374.

Aug. 3: Pre-application due.

Sept. 7: Grant application due.

Oct. 11: Grants Review Committee meets.

MEETINGS

Sept. 20-21: Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, Glenwood (see page 4 for details).

New guide unravels complexities of Section 106 review

Quick — can you define Section 106 review? It's that part of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act that requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties. It also provides the public with opportunities to comment on those projects before implementation.

If you've ever grappled with the Section 106 review process, you'll appreciate a new brochure prepared by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the agency charged with historic preservation leadership within the federal government. Titled "Protecting Historic Properties: A Citizen's Guide to Section 106 Review," the user-friendly guide explains what a Section 106 review entails, how to work with federal agencies, how to influence project outcomes, and what to do when agencies don't follow the rules.

To see the brochure online or to learn more about the Advisory Council, visit its web site, www.achp.gov.

SAVED

Goodhue County: Goodhue County Cooperative Company Store (1916-17), Red Wing.

This two-story company store originally sold "everything from toothpicks to threshing machines." The building has been rehabilitated using federal preservation tax incentives. Work included removing the 1960s-era steel canopy and metal panels, installing new windows, cleaning and repointing brick, reconstructing a new cornice, repairing historic plaster and pressed metal ceilings, and updating the plumbing, HVAC and wiring. The building now houses an antiques store.



Before (top): The brick façade of the Goodhue County Cooperative Company Store had been completely obscured by 1960s-era metal panels. After (bottom): Extensive rehabilitation work restored the building to its original appearance.

REGISTRATION

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Hennepin County: Linden Hills Branch Library (1931), 2900 W. 43rd St., Minneapolis. Prepared by Sue Granger and Kay Grossman.

Hennepin County: Roosevelt Branch Library (1927), 4026 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Prepared by Sue Granger and Kay Grossman.

Hennepin County: 36th Street Branch (Hosmer) Library (1916), 347 E. 36th St., Minneapolis. Prepared by Sue Granger and Kay Grossman.

Hennepin County: Walker Branch Library (1911), 2901 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis. Prepared by Sue Granger and Kay Grossman.

Nicollet County: Emily and Stephen Schumacher House (1887-88),



The Tudor Revival-style Linden Hills Branch Library (1931) is part of the Minneapolis Public Library system, which had a significant impact on the educational and cultural development of the city and its neighborhoods.

202 Third St. N., St. Peter. Prepared by Beth Wielde and Amy Squitieri.



Designed by Mankato architect Henry Gerlach, the Schumacher House (1887-88) was built for the family of Stephen Schumacher, owner of a St. Peter dry goods store. An excellent example of the Queen Anne style, the residence has multiple roof lines, a turret with an onion dome roof, stained glass windows and an elaborate wraparound porch with spindlework and tapered posts.

Minneapolis strengthens preservation ordinance

In March the Minneapolis City Council adopted a new historic preservation ordinance that promises to strengthen the work of the city's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The 21-page ordinance replaces a five-page policy written in 1972 that marked Minneapolis as the first Minnesota city to pass a local preservation law.

The new ordinance retains fundamental provisions of the earlier policy, such as designation of historic properties and review of proposed alterations to historic buildings. But it clarifies numerous vague and confusing regulations. The revised ordinance:

- Clarifies the powers and duties of the HPC.
- Identifies seven specific criteria to consider in determining whether a property has historical, cultural,

architectural, archaeological or engineering significance.

- Expands the types of alterations reviewed by the HPC to include changes in paint color, landscaping and architectural details.
- Establishes a "historic variance" that allows a landmark or building in a historic district to be used in a way not ordinarily permitted by zoning regulations.
- Provides interim protection for properties that are being considered for landmark status but have not yet been officially designated.
- Establishes a "duty to maintain" requirement to ensure that historic properties or buildings in historic districts are properly maintained and protected against deterioration.



Despite its historic designation, the vacant Ivy Tower (Second Church of Christ, Scientist Administration Building, 1930) in downtown Minneapolis has deteriorated after years of neglect. Under the city's new historic preservation ordinance, city officials have the legal authority to require owners of historic properties to maintain them.

Web site *continued from page 1*

own them and in the communities where they're located. To that end, we sought to package information about Minnesota's National Register properties in an engaging, stimulating format and to distribute it to a statewide audience via the Internet.

Simply put, this new web site is about telling stories and making connections. Located in every corner of the state, Minnesota's National Register properties provide tangible links to the past, each revealing much about how Minnesota grew and evolved. The initial phase of the site showcases 80 National Register properties through four broad themes:

- "Iron Range Region" takes a regional approach to illustrate the story of the state's iron mining industry, drawing from a rich assortment of resources that includes not only an underground mine and huge ore carrier but also worker housing and

a hotel trolley stop.

- "A Minnesota Sampler" offers a selection of the best of Minnesota's architecture, from grand county courthouses and distinguished residences to a grain elevator, gas station and downtown diner.
- "Getaways through the Years" looks at recreation and leisure entertainment over time. From northern resorts to county fairgrounds, from a small-town opera house to a city library, these were the places central to Minnesotans' social life.
- "Minnesota from the Railroad" follows the Great Northern Railway corridor from St. Paul to northwestern Minnesota, providing a lens through which to read the landscape and telling stories of the state's settlement, town planning, transportation and agriculture.

This is just a beginning, a work in progress. More themes will be added over time to demonstrate the variety of approaches that can be taken in exploring Minnesota's National Register properties. Next to come: a searchable database with basic information about all 1,503 properties.

As this issue of the *Planner* goes to press, the new site is in final testing. It is scheduled to go live on the Minnesota Historical Society's web site in mid-June. You'll find it at www.mnhs.org/nrhp. Check it out and let us know what you think.

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

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Preservation conference set for Sept. 20-21

Mark your calendars now for Minnesota's 22nd Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, to be held Sept. 20-21 in the historic resort community of Glenwood. Sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office, the conference will be hosted by the City of Glenwood and the Pope County Historical Society.

Dual themes anchor two days of lectures, working sessions and field trips: the history and evolution of Minnesota's tourism and recreation industries, and the preservation of historic community schools.

Keynote speakers include noted author/photographer John Margolies, who has documented roadside attractions across the country, and Rob Nieweg of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who spearheads that organization's efforts to preserve



Lakeside Ballroom, Glenwood, ca. 1953.

historic neighborhood schools.

Also on the program: tours to local historic places, including an early 20th-century fish hatchery and the spot where the Kensington Runestone was uncovered. An evening banquet at the historic Lakeside Ballroom on Lake Minnewaska caps the conference.

Continuing education credit is available for AIA members. For registration information, call 651-296-5434 or see the Minnesota Historical Society's web site at www.mnhs.org.

Minnesota Historical Society collectors



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