



MINNESOTA

Preservation Planner

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



Administration Building, State School for Dependent and Neglected Children, Owatonna. Pictured here in 1890, the building was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Owatonna to host statewide conference

You won't want to miss the 23rd Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Owatonna Sept. 12-13. Registration materials will be on their way soon.

This year the City of Owatonna provides an especially rich laboratory in which to explore the two conference themes: history and management of historic resources at Minnesota's state-owned institutions, and the nuts and bolts of administering local preservation programs. Our setting: the former State School for Dependent and Neglected Children, now successfully rehabilitated as a city government center and home to a host of public and nonprofit community organizations.

In the late 19th century, communities competed to be chosen the site for one of Minnesota's state institutions. With their sprawling campuses, impressive buildings and large employment base, these institutions were community symbols of stability and economic vitality. Now several of the state-owned facilities in greater Minnesota are threatened with closure as the state legislature struggles with budget reductions. The resulting public outcry tells us that these institutions are still prized by their communities. Rich in history, with a diverse architectural legacy, they remain today a unique collection of historic resources.

Statewide conference continued on page 3

CALENDAR

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Sept. 30: Nominations due for 2002 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 GRANTS

Pending action by the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society will have funds available for the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program in fiscal year 2003. 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 question 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.

July 26: Pre-application due by 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 30: Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 3: Grants Review Committee meets.

Calendar continued on page 2

CALENDAR

MEETINGS

July 16-20: League of Historic American Theatres 26th Annual Conference and Theater Tour, Minneapolis. For details see www.lhat.org.

Aug. 1-4: National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Forum, San Antonio, Texas. The Forum offers interactive panel presentations, sessions for new commissioners and commission chairs, and tours of local sites. For more information call 706-542-4731 or see www.arches.uga.edu/~napc.

Sept. 12-13: Minnesota's 23rd Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, Owatonna (see cover story for details).

Sept. 18-21: "Tiles in the Twin Cities: The Quintessence of Handicraft." Annual meeting of the Tile Heritage Foundation, Minneapolis. For more information call 707-431-8453 or e-mail foundation@tileheritage.org.

SAVED

Lincoln County: Lincoln County Courthouse (1919), Ivanhoe. The Neoclassical-style courthouse, constructed of limestone from the Indiana Quarry Company of Bedford, Ind., was built 15 years after Ivanhoe became the county seat. Rehabilitation of the courthouse, which included cleaning and repointing the exterior, was funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program.



Workers repoint the Lincoln County Courthouse during its rehabilitation.

Rice County: Holland Block Building (1887), Northfield. This Italianate commercial building, located in the Northfield Historic District, has been rehabilitated using federal preservation tax incentives. Work included repairing masonry, replacing windows, rebuilding the storefront, replacing a missing cornice, excavating and restoring the basement access, installing a new



Holland Block Building, Northfield after rehabilitation.

mechanical system and rehabilitating the interior.

REGISTRATION

Locally designated properties

Fifty Minnesota communities have adopted local preservation ordinances; 32 of those cities participate in the Certified Local Government program. These municipalities are empowered to designate buildings and districts that are historically or architecturally significant. The following properties were recently designated locally for protection.

Farmington: Fletcher Building, 345 Third St.

Little Falls: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 210 W. Broadway.

Little Falls: Bethel Lutheran Church, 321 W. Broadway.

Little Falls: U. S. Post Office, 27 E. Broadway.

Minneapolis: Harmon Place Historic District, vicinity of Yale Place,



The Harmon Place Historic District is historically significant for its association with the rise of the automobile industry on the edge of downtown Minneapolis. It contains the city's earliest examples of automotive building types.

S. 11th Street, Hennepin Avenue and Harmon Place.

Minneapolis: MacPhail School of

Music, 1128 LaSalle Ave.

Newport: Red Rock (Eyah-Shah), 1596 11th Ave.

Proposed railroad project to affect 11 counties

Communities across Minnesota will be affected by a proposed project of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad to develop a rail corridor for shipping coal. The line will extend from Wyoming's Powder River Basin east to the city of Winona, traversing 11 Minnesota counties. This corridor follows the route of the old Winona and St. Peter Railroad, the state's second rail line, built between 1862 and 1872. Cities along the line include St. Charles, Rochester, Owatonna, Waseca, Janesville, Mankato, New Ulm, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Lamberton, Walnut Grove, Tracy and Tyler.

Details of the corridor's engineering and design are not yet complete, so the impact on individual historic properties is still unknown. But many such properties lie along the route. The Minnesota portion alone contains 310 bridges that retain their historical integrity; depot buildings in Waseca, New Ulm and Sleepy Eye; an early grain warehouse in Tyler; and more than 30 known archaeological sites (the archaeological survey is ongoing). Of particular concern is one of the stone arch bridges. Located between Stockton and Lewiston in

Winona County, this double-barreled 1882 structure passes over Garvin Brook. Nearby is Farmers Park, long a popular picnic and gathering spot known locally as "The Arches."

The federal Surface Transportation Board has proposed a Programmatic Agreement to outline the process whereby location of historic properties is made part of the final design, impacts are assessed, and impact avoidance and/or mitigation measures are adopted. Involved in the negotiations were the railroad, State Historic Preservation Offices, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more than 20 American Indian tribes and the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In April the Minnesota SHPO held a public meeting at Winona City Hall to discuss the project, and U.S. Senator Mark Dayton met with interested citizens at the Winona County Historical Society to hear their



This 1910 stone arch railroad bridge in Eyota, Olmsted County, is one of hundreds in the path of the proposed DM&E corridor.

concerns. In addition, written comments were solicited from all Minnesota counties on the line. The input will help the SHPO evaluate the proposed Programmatic Agreement and will guide its participation in the terms of the agreement.

Although the comment period for this phase of review has passed, the Review and Compliance Section of SHPO welcomes input on the continuing review of this proposal. Call 651-296-5462.

Statewide conference *continued from page 1*

And so at this year's preservation conference, Minnesota's preservation community will turn its collective expertise and creativity to the rehabilitation and reuse of these state-owned institutional buildings. One question at hand: how to leverage the financial resources necessary to secure their future.

The second conference theme was inspired by Minnesota's thriving local preservation movement. New programs, diverse in character, are springing up every year as more and more communities recognize the value of their

historic resources and understand the need to manage changes affecting them. Conference sessions on administering local preservation programs promise to be useful for experienced and novice commissioners alike.

Over the years the statewide historic preservation conference has taken us to Glenwood, Winona, St. Peter, Faribault and now Owatonna. The conference affords each host community an opportunity to showcase its own preservation efforts. Now communities around the state are beginning to ask how they, too, can host

the conference. All you have to do is call and make an offer. That's what Owatonna did.

This statewide conference has become an annual opportunity to gather with your fellow historians, planners, public officials, property owners, preservation commissioners and citizen advocates from across the state to celebrate accomplishments, wrestle with challenges and learn together. We hope you plan to join us.

– Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

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Fire destroys two Lanesboro buildings

An April 7 fire destroyed two buildings and badly damaged a third in the heart of historic downtown Lanesboro. All three buildings stood within the Lanesboro Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Deemed a total loss were the two-story Bank of Lanesboro and U.S. Post Office Building (1885 and ca.1890), which housed a bicycle and canoe rental business, and the two-story Ford Building (ca. 1916), which housed an ice cream store. The two-story Galligan Block (1895) suffered extensive smoke and water damage. The fire was intentionally set.

Lanesboro, a town of 800 residents nestled in the scenic Root River Valley of southeastern Minnesota, has flourished in recent years by attracting



Historic downtown Lanesboro suffered a major loss in April when two buildings were destroyed by fire.

tourists interested in the arts, history and recreation. In 1998 the city received a Great American Main Street Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center. The Lanesboro Heritage Preservation Commission will work with the State Historic Preservation Office and property owners affected by the fire to explore options for redeveloping the site.



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