

MINNESOTA

# Preservation Planner



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



Pilot Knob, seen from the Round Tower at Fort Snelling, has been deemed eligible for the National Register.

## Forging partnerships Tribal voices enrich preservation community

In August the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will meet at Mille Lacs, shining a national spotlight on one of Minnesota's Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO). What better time to reflect on the immeasurable value that tribal perspectives have brought to our work in historic preservation.

The seed for expanded tribal participation in historic preservation was planted in 1992 when amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act ushered in a new chapter in the nation's historic preservation program. For the first time Congress fully recognized Indian tribes as participants in the program. Four years later 12 THPOs,

including those of Minnesota's Mille Lacs and Leech Lake bands of Ojibwe, assumed a role parallel to that of state governments in administering the national preservation program on their reservations. In 2003 the White Earth band joined their ranks. Today 46 tribes across the country have established historic preservation offices under the provisions of the act, focusing on resources on tribal lands as well as archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties found elsewhere.

Creation of the THPOs tells only part of the story. The Advisory Council's Section 106 process also defines a

Partnerships continued on page 3

## CALENDAR

### MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

**Sept. 23-24:** Minnesota's 25th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, St. Cloud, features specialized training for heritage preservation commissions through the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program. See page 3 for details.

**Nov. 17-18:** "Integrating Cultural Resources in NEPA Compliance," St. Paul. Sponsored by the National Preservation Institute, this workshop provides instruction on cultural resource management, environmental assessment and historic preservation responsibilities. Cost: \$375. Registration deadline: Oct. 18. For more information call the National Preservation Institute, 703-765-0100, or register online at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

### GRANTS

For updates on funding and deadlines for the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program, see the Minnesota Historical Society's web site at [www.mnhs.org/about/grants](http://www.mnhs.org/about/grants).

### BOOK EVENTS

New from the Minnesota Historical Press, *Minnesota Treasures: Stories Behind the State's Historic Places*, by Denis P. Gardner, showcases 75 of the state's most intriguing National Register properties. Watch for appearances by author Gardner at venues near you. To order *Minnesota Treasures*, check your local bookstore or visit the online store at <http://shop.mnhs.org>.

**Itasca County: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (1908), Coleraine.** A cedar log edifice, the Church of the Good Shepherd was built under the direction of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's district superintendent, John C. Greenway. The church's 12 stained-glass windows were restored with funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program.

**Hennepin County: North East Neighborhood House (1919, 1927), Minneapolis.** The North East Neighborhood House served as both an advocate for underprivileged residents and a portal into American society for arriving immigrants. Rehabilitated using federal preservation tax incentives, the building has been converted to low- and moderate-income housing. Rehabilitation work included cleaning and repointing exterior masonry, repairing windows and installing new electrical and HVAC systems.



Left: The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd during restoration. Right: One of the restored windows back in place.



Left: Children in the North East Neighborhood House playroom, ca. 1925. Right: The building after rehabilitation and conversion to housing.

## REGISTRATION

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

**LeSueur and Rice Counties: Dodd Road (1853), vicinity of Lonsdale, Kilkenny and Cleveland.** Prepared by Anthony Godfrey.

**St. Louis County: Anna and Mikko Pyhala Farm (1895-1931), Embarrass Twp.** Prepared by Michael Koop.



Dodd Road, running 73 miles from Mendota to St. Peter, was built in 1853 by William B. Dodd through the subscription of private funds. Such roads formed the backbone of the state's overland transportation network and facilitated commercial and industrial development. They also shaped the region's cultural landscape. Shown is the Circle Lake Trail segment.



The 40-acre Pyhala Farm represents turn-of-the-century Finnish immigration to northeastern Minnesota and illustrates one family's efforts to convert a marginal cutover plot into productive agricultural land. This smoke sauna (*savusauna*), one of seven surviving historic farm buildings on the site, illustrates traditional Northern European log construction.

# St. Cloud to host statewide preservation conference

Addressing the theme “Improving Community Life with Historic Preservation,” the 25th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held Sept. 23 -24 in St. Cloud’s historic Paramount Theatre. The conference promises something for everyone:

- Sessions on smart-growth efforts in Minnesota and Wisconsin, preservation of St. Paul’s historic resources through neighborhood planning, downtown revitalization efforts in St. Cloud, and an archaeology project in Elk River.
- A keynote address by Pratt Cassity, director of public service and outreach at the University of Georgia’s School of Environmental Design.
- Specialized training for members of heritage preservation commissions through the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The curriculum covers commission roles and responsibilities, standards and guidelines for

identifying and protecting historic resources, legal issues, and public support and outreach. All CAMP participants will receive a comprehensive training-and-resource manual.

- Bus tours to a granite quarry, St. Cloud’s commercial and residential historic districts, and the campuses of St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict.

At a reception in the historic Stearns County Courthouse, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will present its annual awards for recent preservation and restoration projects that exemplify its mission.

Registration materials will be mailed soon. For more information call the SHPO, 651-296-5434, or e-mail [mnshpo@mnhs.org](mailto:mnshpo@mnhs.org).



**St. John's Abbey (1961), designed by Marcel Breuer, is one of the tour stops for conference participants.**

## Partnerships *continued from page 1*

consultation role for Indian tribes in the cultural resource work carried out by federal agencies. In Minnesota, the Federal Highway Administration has consulted extensively with each of the state’s reservations to formulate a new programmatic agreement that will improve the way historic properties are considered in planning transportation projects. Following this lead, the Minnesota Department of Transportation consults with tribes on individual project reviews. In St. Paul, where the Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service are working with the city to develop the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Dakota people have taken an active role in the process regarding sites along the Mississippi

River bluffs.

Two recent nominations to the National Register of Historic Places serve as further illustrations. In 2003 our office worked closely with the Shakopee Dakota Community in preparing Minnesota’s first nomination for a traditional cultural property. Members of that community helped us articulate the cultural meaning of the place known as Boiling Springs, or *Maka Yusota*, a site long important to the Dakota people. It is hoped that the listing will aid in the site’s protection.

Earlier this year *Obehawabi*, or Pilot Knob, was determined eligible for listing by the Keeper of the National Register. Pilot Knob, a historic landscape feature at the junction of the Mississippi

and Minnesota Rivers, is significant as both a place that factors prominently in the state’s history and a place with meaning to Indian people. Again, tribal voices were among those advocating for its nomination. Although owner objections blocked the listing, the eligibility determination may serve to help protect it.

Such collaborations with our tribal partners have greatly strengthened Minnesota’s preservation community. I look forward to the continued dialogue and our shared stewardship as we work together to protect the state’s historic resources.

– Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer

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# 'Incentives!'

## Web site explains tax credits

Ever been daunted by the complexity of federal tax credits for rehabbing historic buildings? Then this new web-

based tool is for you. "Incentives!" is an online guide from the National Park Service that explores the ins and outs of federal tax incentives for income-producing properties. Intended for owners of historic buildings, preservation consultants, community officials, architects and developers, the guide can be found at [www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/incentives](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/incentives). Covering all the angles, the site:

- answers basic questions about the 20-percent tax credit;



**The Graystone Hotel (1916 -17) in Detroit Lakes was rehabilitated with federal preservation tax incentives for commercial and residential use.**

- provides general guidance on the preparation and submission of application forms;
- outlines the review process;
- explains how the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation apply; and
- offers examples of rehabilitation projects that illustrate compatible and incompatible approaches.

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