



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



St. Cloud's Paramount Theater, headquarters for the 2004 preservation conference, did its part to increase public awareness about Minnesota's historic resources.

Revisions underway for Statewide Historic Preservation Plan

SHPO seeks input from preservation partners

Every three to five years, Minnesota's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) issues the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. The document serves several purposes. First, it guides the work of the SHPO, which authors the plan and plays the lead role in its implementation – a role mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act. Second, and equally important, the plan provides a framework for the ongoing work of historic preservation by all of Minnesota's preservation partners.

The current plan, "Working Together: A Preservation Plan for Minnesota's Historic Properties 2000 – 2005," was issued nearly five years ago. Now we turn our attention to revising that plan and setting new goals for the years ahead.

Three words characterized "Working Together" – education, partnerships and relevance. When the plan was released in 2000, America's political and economic climate looked

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CALENDAR

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Sept. 14-16: Minnesota's 26th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, Duluth. See page 4 for details.

Sept. 27-Oct. 2: 58th National Preservation Conference, Portland, Ore. For more information go to www.nthpconference.org.

Oct. 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.

CAPITAL GRANTS

The Minnesota Historical Society's State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program will distribute \$1 million for fiscal year 2006 in matching grants to county and local jurisdictions for historic preservation projects of a capital nature. Grant awards range in size from \$10,000 to \$150,000.

All seekers of capital grants must submit a pre-application. Priority is given to properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or have been determined eligible for listing.

For eligibility requirements and application materials go to www.mnhs.org/about/grants/capitalcontents.html; write the MHS Grants Office, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; call 651-296-5478; or fax 651-282-2374.

July 29: Pre-application due by 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 26: Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 6: Grants Review Committee meets.

SAVED

Hennepin County: Champion Building (1896), Minneapolis.

Located in the Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District, the Champion Building was converted into apartments using federal preservation tax incentives. Work included cleaning and repointing exterior masonry, installing new windows, retaining interior posts and beams, and installing new mechanical systems.

Pipestone County: Carnegie Library (1904), Pipestone.

This library of red and pink Sioux quartzite was designed by Joseph Schwartz of Sioux Falls, S. D. Rehabilitation, funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program, included stabilizing stone walls, repairing cracks, repointing mortar joints and caulking capstones. The building, owned by the City of Pipestone, now serves as a senior center.



The Champion Building, later owned by the Creamette Company, before (left) and after rehabilitation and conversion to apartments.



Pipestone's Carnegie Library during (left) and after rehabilitation.

REGISTRATION

Locally designated properties

Fifty-four Minnesota communities have local preservation ordinances that empower them to designate properties as historically or architecturally significant. Recently designated for protection locally:

Hennepin County: University of Minnesota Greek Letter Chapter House Local Historic District (1907-30) and 11 individual fraternity and sorority houses (1911-36), University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis.

Dakota County: Daniel Akin House (1885), 19185 Akin Rd., Farmington.
— **Episcopal Church of the Advent (1872), 412 Oak St., Farmington.**
— **Exchange Bank (1880), 344 3rd St., Farmington.**

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Fraternities and sororities transformed an early Minneapolis neighborhood into a community of Greek chapter houses by constructing club-like buildings or by renting or purchasing the houses of notable residents. This multiblock streetscape of University of Minnesota Greek letter chapter houses represents a distinctive type of early 20th-century residential architecture – the architect-designed, highly symbolic buildings sought by Greek letter organizations around the country.



The Akin House is associated with Daniel Akin (1828-1909). A native of New York, Akin surveyed land for the village of Farmington and, as president of the Dakota County Fair Association, was active in agricultural improvements there. During the 1880s he became the official weather recorder for the area, a tradition continued by his descendants for more than a century. The Akin property is nationally important as a site of continuous meteorological observations since 1885.

MnDOT initiates bridge management plan

Over the past 20 years, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Federal Highway Administration and the State Historic Preservation Office have worked to identify Minnesota's historic bridges. The agencies' final list of significant bridges includes more than 40 state-owned bridges and some 240 bridges owned by counties or municipalities.

To aid in the long-term management and preservation of the bridges, MnDOT and consultants Mead & Hunt and HNTB are in the process of completing individual management plans for 24 of the state-owned bridges.

Bridges selected for preservation represent important advancements in bridge engineering and design during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One example, the 3rd Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis, was selected for preservation because of its use of the

Melan reinforced concrete construction method. The Sorlie Memorial Bridge in East Grand Forks is significant for its exceptional engineering design, geared to meet specific site conditions created by the meandering, flood-prone Red River of the North.

Other bridges selected for preservation are located in Anoka, Crow Wing, Dakota, Fillmore, Houston, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Lyon, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Ramsey, Rice, Scott and Wabasha counties.

In addition, MnDOT and the consultants will prepare a general bridge maintenance plan that offers guidance to counties and municipalities seeking to extend the serviceable life



An expansion-bearing system featuring frames of wheels on pairs of track castings enabled the Sorlie Memorial Bridge (1929) to compensate for motion caused by unstable ground.

of their historic bridges. Local agencies that would like to develop individual management plans for additional bridges can contact MnDOT's Cultural Resources Unit for guidance and assistance. Call Kristen Zschomler at 651-296-3243 or e-mail kristen.zschomler@dot.state.mn.us.

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favorable for stepping up the pace of historic preservation activities. In Washington, D.C., Congress had just passed the largest Historic Preservation Fund appropriation in years. At the State Capitol, talk of budget surpluses dominated legislative debate. Minnesota's preservation community began to dream about achieving the goals of its ambitious plan.

Five years later the picture looks dramatically different. A leaner SHPO carries on its work with fewer staff and less funding for its strategic initiatives. State and federal agencies as well as our local government partners have experienced similar losses. At the same time, new voices have come to the table.

The process to revise Minnesota's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan is

already underway. The first step was a survey conducted at the statewide preservation conference in New Ulm in 2003. That exercise, in which many of you participated, assessed our progress midway through the current plan and provided valuable feedback that is helping to shape the revision.

This summer we need your help once again. We're working to complete a "report card" on the state's preservation efforts over the past five years. Our goal: to measure what's been accomplished in communities around the state and to help set priorities for the next three years. Join us later this month at one of the meetings being planned around the state. For an up-to-date list of meeting dates and locations, go to www.mnhs.org/calendar or call our office at 651-296-5434. We also will gather your feedback in meetings

with selected partners and via our web site at www.mnhs.org/preserve/shpo/index.html.

A draft of the revised plan will be ready for distribution at the statewide historic preservation conference in Duluth in September. To solicit comments from as many of you as possible, we'll also mail the draft plan to a wide range of preservation partners and post the document for review on our web site.

It is up to each of us to share in advancing the preservation agenda outlined in our statewide plan. We all have a stake in this vital task. The future of Minnesota's historic resources depends on us. So let us continue our work together.

– Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

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For address corrections call Michele Decker at 651-296-5434 or e-mail michele.decker@mnhs.org.

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Britta Bloomberg, Editor

Michael Koop, Assistant Editor

Mary Ann Nord, Assistant Editor

Kate Raver, Layout

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Duluth to host preservation conference

The 26th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held Sept. 14-16 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. Addressing the theme "Grassroots Preservation: Strengthening Community Begins Locally," the conference promises something for everyone. Among activities planned:

- Sessions on infill construction, architectural design review, historic bridge preservation and more.
- Keynote address by Donovan Rypkema, author of *The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide*.
- Presentations by Randy Wilson, former Main Street architect for the State of South Carolina.
- Reception at the historic Crosby House (1902), designed by I. Vernon Hill, and bus tours of Duluth, including downtown housing and tax



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Duluth's Morgan Park neighborhood began life as a company town, built by U.S. Steel to house its employees. Pictured here in 1942, the area is one of the conference tour stops.

credit projects.

At a reception and dinner in Gensheen, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will present its annual preservation awards.

Registration materials will be mailed soon and are available online at www.mnhs.org/presconf. For more information call the SHPO, 651-296-5434.

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345 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1906

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