

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

## Meetings and Workshops

### Oct. 1-2

"The Section 106 Essentials," a two-day course by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, St. Paul. Cost: \$450. For more information and online registration, go to [www.achp.gov/106essentials.html](http://www.achp.gov/106essentials.html), call Cindy Bienvenue, 202-606-8521, or e-mail [cbienvenue@achp.gov](mailto:cbienvenue@achp.gov).

### Oct. 2-6

60th National Preservation Conference, St. Paul. For more information, see page 2 or go to [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org).

### Oct. 16

State Review Board meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information, call Michele Decker, 651-259-3450.

## Capital Grants

For this second year of the state's two-year bonding cycle, the Minnesota Historical Society's State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program will distribute at least \$300,000 in matching grants to county and local jurisdictions for historic preservation projects of a capital nature.

All seekers of capital grants must submit a preapplication. 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/capitalgrants](http://www.mnhs.org/capitalgrants), call 651-259-3458 or e-mail [mandy.skypala@mnhs.org](mailto:mandy.skypala@mnhs.org).

**July 27:** Preapplication due by 4:30 p.m.

**Aug. 31:** Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

**Oct. 11:** Grants Review Committee meets.



Photo by Charlotte Bonini

*Planners for the National Preservation Conference in October try out a canoe tour to be offered to conference participants.*

## Company is coming!

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

And they're arriving soon! By the time this newsletter reaches you, registration materials for the 2007 National Preservation Conference in the Twin Cities will be out (see page 2 for details). Sessions have been finalized, and tours by bus, bike and canoe have been rehearsed to work out logistical bugs. Years in the planning, this annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, based on the theme Preservation Matters!, will showcase the wealth of historic resources Minnesota has to offer. Never before have I seen more thorough planning by a more varied group of stakeholders for any event.

All this activity has been fertile ground for reflecting on the current state of

historic preservation here in Minnesota. Yet I invite us to leap ahead and think about the days that follow the October conference. If there's one thing the preservation community has learned, it's that we must leverage such teachable moments to the greatest extent possible. In fact, that is one of the goals of our statewide historic preservation plan: Use the National Trust conference to generate increased media attention, visibility and funding opportunities for historic preservation. I hope you will join us in making sure our own preservation community is well positioned to build on the momentum created by the conference. Several opportunities to do so come to mind.

**Company** - continued on page 2

## Company – continued

Planning sessions for the conference have deepened a sense of community among Minnesota preservationists and even fostered a spirit of fun. Our work together has bolstered many of our preservation partners and forged new partnerships among us. It has strengthened the role of our statewide preservation organization, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, helping it achieve greater visibility and gain the increased confidence of the preservation community. Let's build on that energy and sense of shared purpose by continuing to gather regularly.

Conference sessions and tours also provide an opportunity to build on our efforts. Rather than shelve the conference program after everyone goes home, let's strategize on ways to broaden its impact, perhaps by planning future events that engage an even wider audience in preservation issues. What better way to influence public policy for preservation than to involve more people in the cause.

During the 2007 legislative session, Minnesota's preservation community once again worked to pass a state historic preservation tax credit. After

several tries in years past, it was our fervent hope to accomplish this before the National Trust conference came to town. Though the bill – a victim of last-minute legislative dealings – failed to pass, our determination to win its passage remains strong. Through this long effort, we have continued to hone our message: Preservation matters indeed!

Yes, company is coming. Plan to join us in October for the National Preservation Conference. Then help us explore ways to leverage all that the conference brings to Minnesota. ■

# Minnesota to host National Preservation Conference in October

Preservation Matters! That's the theme of this year's National Preservation Conference, to be held Oct. 2-6 in the Twin Cities. The conference, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the premier educational and networking event for community leaders, volunteers and staff of the country's historic preservation movement.

Sessions offer the know-how, innovative ideas and inspiration essential for people working to save America's historic places and revitalize communities. Join your preservation colleagues for workshops, discussion groups and field activities, with an emphasis on case studies and practical applications. There's something for everyone, from preservation newcomers to seasoned professionals. And you'll have plenty of time to connect with others who have faced preservation issues and organizational concerns similar to yours.

A favorite conference pastime is exploration of the host city. This year, participants can compare the preservation challenges and successes of both St. Paul and Minneapolis and the suburban and rural communities that surround them. Tours by foot, bus, bike

and canoe will feature the region's growing diversity, abundant river resources and agricultural and milling history.

For more information and to register, go to [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org). ■



*A walking tour of downtown St. Paul will feature such notable buildings as the St. Paul Women's City Club (1931), listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

# Saved

**Beltrami County:** Beltrami County Courthouse (1902), Bemidji.

The brick-and-sandstone, Beaux Arts-inspired courthouse designed by Kinney and Detweiler was rehabilitated with funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program. Work included replacing windows, repointing mortar joints and repairing the leaky dome topped by the bronze statue of Justice.



*Beltrami County Courthouse before (left) and after rehabilitation.*

**Ramsey County:** Twin City Wholesale Grocer Company Building (1910), St. Paul. This brick building in St. Paul's University-Raymond Commercial Historic District is one of three adjoining structures rehabilitated into artist lofts using federal historic preservation tax incentives. Work included cleaning masonry, repointing mortar joints, replacing steel windows and installing a new roof and mechanical system.



*Twin City Wholesale Grocer Company Building before (left) and after rehabilitation for artist lofts.*

# Registration

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

**Fillmore County:** Milwaukee Elevator (1902), Fillmore Street and Root River State Trail, Preston. Prepared by Matthew Ottinger and Susan Granger.

**Redwood County:** Walnut Grove Creamery Association (1930), 521 Main St., Walnut Grove. Prepared by Susan Granger and Scott Kelly.

**St. Louis County:** Duluth Commercial Historic District (1872-1939), Superior and 1st Streets between 4th Ave. W. and 4th Ave. E., Duluth. Prepared by Michael Koop and Chris Morris.

**Waseca County:** Strangers Refuge Lodge No. 74, IOOF (1902), 119 S. Broadway Ave., New Richland. Prepared by David C. Anderson.



*The Walnut Grove Creamery was built as a cooperative by local farmers, who purchased ownership shares and pledged their cream to the cooperative. Erected by the Saffert Cement Construction Company of New Ulm, the creamery is made of a multicolored cement called Rainbow block, with distinctive red, green and yellow pigments.*



*From the 1880s to the 1920s, Duluth was one of the nation's premier timber-processing centers and a major port for grain and ore shipping. Reflecting this industrial past is the city's Commercial Historic District, containing 107 buildings, among them the Board of Trade, that represent commercial adaptations of popular architectural styles of the day.*

## About this publication

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[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)

# Big Box Tool Kit aims to counter big-box development

Are you working to stop the sprawl of big-box development in your community? Then this new web site is for you. Big Box Tool Kit is an online guide from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance intended to help you counter mega-retailers and rebuild local business.

Big Box Tool Kit takes you through the steps of charting a new course for economic development in your community. At [www.bigboxtoolkit.com](http://www.bigboxtoolkit.com), you'll:

- Get the facts about the impact of big-box development.
- Learn how to fight, limit or stop a big box.
- Find resources for public education and public-policy change.
- Explore alternatives to big-box retail.
- See what citizen groups are doing across the country.

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is a nonprofit organization founded to advance sustainable, community-centered economic development. ■



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