

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

## Meetings and workshops

### Sept. 18-20

Minnesota's 28th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, Northfield. See page 2 for details.

### Sept. 22-24

36th Annual Minnesota State Planning Conference, Duluth. For information, go to [www.plannersconference.com](http://www.plannersconference.com).

### Oct. 21-26

61st National Preservation Conference, Tulsa, Okla. For information, go to [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org).

## Capital grants

The Minnesota Historical Society's State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program will distribute approximately \$700,000 in matching grants for the fall grant round to county and local jurisdictions for historic preservation projects of a capital nature. Grant awards range in size from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

All seekers of capital grants must submit a preapplication. Priority is given to properties that are listed in 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).

Deadlines for both grant programs:

**July 25:** Preapplication due by 4:30 p.m.

**Aug. 29:** Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.

**Oct. 2:** Grants Review Committee meets.

## Historic preservation helps local economies, new report shows

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

A year ago the National Park Service commissioned an independent review of the National Historic Preservation (NHP) program by the National Academy of Public Administrators (NAPA), a nonprofit coalition of top public management and organizational leaders that tackles the nation's most critical and complex challenges. The final report was issued this past winter. Its findings are encouraging.

In the 42 years since the framework for the NHP program was established through the National Historic Preservation Act, the program had never been subject to this kind of

scrutiny. In their report, NAPA reviewers, widely respected for delivering objective advice and practical solutions, conclude that the NHP program "stands as a successful example of effective federal-state partnership and is working to realize Congress's original vision to a great extent."

Garnering special note was the positive and far-reaching economic impact of the program on communities nationwide. Those interviewed

**Historic preservation helps local economies** – continued on page 2



*The Ames Mill (Malt-O-Meal) is one of many structures in the Northfield Commercial Historic District that have been rehabilitated using federal preservation tax incentives.*

## Historic preservation helps local economies – continued

for the report spoke of a “sea change” over the past decade in attitudes about historic preservation and attribute the change to growing recognition of historic preservation’s collateral benefits, especially in the area of economic development. In city after city, the report noted, historic preservation is widely recognized as the leading catalyst for downtown revitalization, generating jobs, creating housing units and building the local property tax base. In addition, the report goes on to say, elected officials increasingly recognize historic preservation as a magnet for tourism.

Reviewers reserved their highest praise for the effectiveness of the federal tax credit program, noting

“its enormous value and widespread impact,” particularly in states that had established state tax credit programs to work in concert with the federal program. For preservationists who may be disappointed that we have not yet succeeded in passing a much needed state historic preservation tax credit here in Minnesota, this report is most welcome. As we continue to advocate for the state tax credit, the findings from this report will serve to strengthen our case.

In conclusion, the panel of NAPA reviewers recommended that “a stronger federal leadership role, greater resources, and enhanced management are needed to build upon the existing successful framework to achieve the full potential of the National Historic

Preservation Act on behalf of the American people.” The complete report can be found at [www.ncshpo.org](http://www.ncshpo.org).

In September Minnesota’s preservation community will gather in Northfield to discuss these and other historic preservation issues at the state’s 28th annual historic preservation conference. This year’s theme, Main Street and Beyond, will provide a rich laboratory in which to learn how historic preservation is making a difference in communities across the country. Please join us and make your voice heard! ■

## Northfield to host preservation conference

The 28th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held Sept. 18-20 at Carleton College in Northfield. Among activities planned:

- Keynote address by Kennedy Smith, cofounder of the Community Land Use and Economics Group (CLUE) and former director of the National Main Street Center.
- Presentations on healthy communities and downtown revitalization by Thom Guzman of the Iowa Downtown Development Center and Joe Lawniczak of the Wisconsin Main Street Program.
- Reception hosted by the Northfield Historical Society in the 1868 Scriver Building in downtown Northfield.

- Tours of Carleton and St. Olaf colleges; the Thomas Veblen Farmstead, a National Historic Landmark; Northfield’s residential neighborhoods and downtown commercial historic district; archaeological sites along the Cannon River, and more.

In addition, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will present its annual preservation awards on Friday evening, Sept. 19.

Registration materials will be mailed soon. They are also available online at [www.mnhs.org/presconf](http://www.mnhs.org/presconf). For more information, call the State Historic Preservation Office, 651-259-3450. ■



*Kennedy Smith will present the keynote address, “Saving Cities: The Role of Historic Places in a Successful Economy.”*

# Saved

**Beltrami County:** Rabideau CCC Camp (1935-41), Chippewa National Forest. The camp's severely deteriorated Building 7 was rehabilitated with a grant from the Federal Highways Administration Scenic Byways program. Work included lifting the entire building, constructing a new foundation and floor system, reusing the pine flooring, strengthening the roof structure, installing new rolled roofing, and restoring doors and windows.



*Rabideau CCC Camp Building 7 before (left) and after rehabilitation.*

Chippewa National Forest

**Jackson County:** Jackson County Courthouse (1908), Jackson. This Classical Revival courthouse designed by Buechner and Orth features murals by Odin J. Oyen of LaCrosse, Wis. Conservation of the murals, funded in part with a grant from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program, included restoring the oil-on-canvas panels, reattaching the canvases to the walls and restoring plaster moldings.



*Detail of dome murals in the Jackson County Courthouse before (left) and after restoration.*

Dennis Fields

# Registration

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

**Dakota County:** Holz Family Farmstead (1902-55), 4665 Manor Dr., Eagan. Prepared by Anthony Godfrey.

**Ramsey County:** Commerce Building (1912), 10 E. Fourth St., St. Paul. Prepared by Carole Zellie and Amy Lucas.

**St. Louis County:** Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District (1884-1965), Stuntz Bay Road, Tower vicinity. Prepared by Erin Hanafin Berg and Charlene Roise.



*The 12-story Commerce Building served as headquarters for the Commercial Club of St. Paul and offices for the St. Paul Association of Commerce - among the first such organizations in the country to join forces in a modern skyscraper in a key downtown location. Both organizations were leaders in the city's efforts to support economic growth.*



*Located on Lake Vermilion within the boundaries of Soudan Underground Mine State Park, the Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District contains a row of 143 vernacular boathouses. Use of the facilities, which allowed iron ore miners to enjoy the area's natural resources, was a benefit promoted by the Oliver Mining Company to improve job satisfaction.*



## About this publication

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

# New web site covers legal issues for HPCs

Are you puzzled about laws governing historic preservation? The National Park Service has posted a new 36-page web publication to help you and your historic preservation commission colleagues.

“Law and the Historic Preservation Commission: What Every Member Needs to Know,” by James K. Reap and Melvin B. Hill Jr., demystifies the laws governing historic preservation, defines basic legal issues and concepts that commission members may encounter during their service, and gives them the information they’ll need to make sound, legally defensible decisions. An appendix of case laws gives examples of the points discussed.

Log on to [www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm) to find information on such topics as:

- Individual rights
- Takings
- Demolition by neglect
- Due process and equal protection
- Open meetings and open records
- Regulation of nonhistoric properties and vacant land in historic districts
- Protection of properties pending designation

This is the latest entry in the National Park Service’s series of Cultural Resource Partnership Notes, which provide technical assistance in historic preservation planning, land use topics and preservation strategies for federal agencies, Indian tribes, states and local governments. ■



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