

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

Meetings and Workshops

Feb. 10-March 24

Midwest Preservation Institute's Historic Stained Glass Series: workshops on stained glass construction and installation; standards for restoration; conservation issues; and protective glazing. Tuition: \$69 per workshop. To register call 763-433-1200 or go to www.AnokaRamsey.edu.

March 20

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.

CLG Grants

Approximately \$70,000 in matching grants will be awarded this spring through the Certified Local Government program. See the Fall 2006 Preservation Planner for details (www.mnhs.org/publications/planner.html).

Jan. 12: Pre-application due by 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 16: Grant application due by 4:30 p.m.
April 5: Grants Review Committee meets.

What's in store for 2007?

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Last fall marked several events of note for historic preservationists around the country. In September we observed the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the landmark legislation that shaped our nation's historic preservation program. Here at home, Minnesota's preservation community gathered in Red Wing to celebrate our many accomplishments at the largest-ever gathering for a statewide historic preservation conference. Then in November the elections brought sweeping changes to the political landscape. As this new year dawns, the time is right to assess the challenges that lie ahead and prepare for what's in store in 2007.

Meeting goals

In the months to come, the State Historic Preservation Office will focus its work on implementing the measures outlined in "Gaining Ground: A Preservation Plan for Minnesota's Historic Properties 2006-2010," the statewide historic preservation plan issued last year. The plan's goals are shaped by two underlying values: a commitment to preservation education, because greater public awareness and understanding are key to addressing preservation needs today, and partnerships, because we will be successful only when we work together to advance a shared agenda.

Company is coming!

Next fall the National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its 2007 national conference in the Twin Cities. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 2-6; you won't want to miss this event. The National Trust's theme for 2007 is "Preservation Matters!" The Jan. 12 deadline for submitting session proposal ideas (see www.nthpconference.org) is fast approaching; take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to tell your community's preservation stories.

Public policy push

When preservationists from around the country arrive here in October, we want to put our best foot forward. On the public policy front, that means redoubling our efforts to accomplish a long-held goal: enacting a state rehabilitation tax credit for historic preservation.

What's in store continued on page 2



The New Ulm Commercial Historic District in Brown County is just one example of the kinds of properties that would benefit from the proposed state historic rehabilitation tax credit.

What's in store for 2007 – continued

Minnesota is among only a handful of states yet to pass such a bill. After several years of persistent effort at the State Legislature, the proposed legislation is gaining momentum. The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota has played a key role in advancing the legislation, partnering with the Minnesota Historical Society and local communities across the state. If we are successful in this next legislative session, historic properties in communities large and small across the Minnesota map will benefit.

Training opportunities

Hosting the 2007 National Trust conference here in Minnesota has prompted the SHPO to plan a different approach to its own fall events. Instead of the usual statewide conference in September, the SHPO will sponsor a day-long workshop at the Minnesota History Center on June 12 for commissioners and staff of heritage preservation commissions and other preservation professionals. On the

agenda: training in historic preservation and an exploration of current issues.

That is only some of what's in store for 2007. There are many new faces at the State Capitol and in Congress – and new alliances to form. By working together, we'll be ready to welcome the nation's preservation community in October with a resounding message: "Historic preservation matters indeed!" ■

Capital grants awarded in 15 counties

The State Historic Preservation Office's State Capital Project Grants-in-Aid program assists county and local jurisdictions with historic preservation projects of a capital nature. The program is funded by the State of Minnesota through appropriations made by the legislature and approved by the governor. During the fall grants cycle of fiscal year 2007, sixteen grants totaling \$764,499 were awarded.

Crow Wing County: City of Pequot Lakes, \$41,165, Cole Memorial Building accessibility and window restoration.

Dakota County: City of Hastings, \$40,750, Dakota County Courthouse (Hastings City Hall) window and north-side step replacement.



The Hokah City Hall, pictured ca. 1940, will be made handicapped-accessible using funds from a capital grant.

Goodhue County: City of Red Wing, \$41,100, Red Wing City Hall pediment and cornice preservation.

Hennepin County: City of Brooklyn Center, \$75,000, Earle Brown Center water tower preservation.

Houston County: City of Hokah, \$10,000, Hokah City Hall accessibility project.

Isanti County: Isanti County, \$18,652, St. John's Lutheran Church roof replacement and lead paint abatement.

Itasca County: City of Coleraine, \$15,000, Coleraine City Hall roof replacement.

Itasca County: City of Grand Rapids, \$37,950, Central School accessibility and boiler replacement.

Koochiching County: Koochiching County, \$25,000, Koochiching County Courthouse decorative painting restoration.

Marshall County: Marshall County, \$49,312, Marshall County Courthouse repointing and brick repair.

Ramsey County: Ramsey County Property Management, \$100,000, Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn roof replacement.

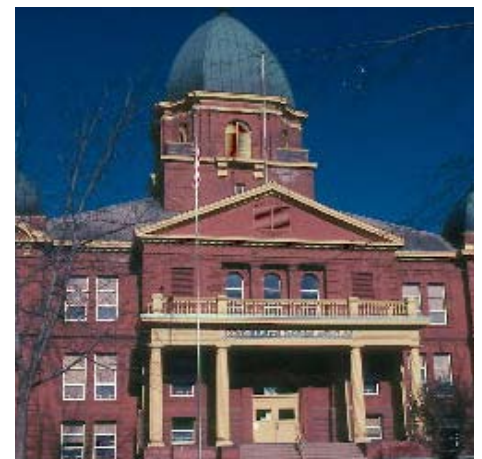
Renville County: Renville County, \$76,000, Renville County Courthouse exterior restoration, phase 2.

Rock County: City of Luverne, \$100,000, Palace Theater restoration, phase 2.

St. Louis County: St. Louis County, \$100,000, Duluth Union Depot accessibility.

Stearns County: City of Kimball, \$19,570, Kimball Prairie Village Hall repointing and window replacement, phase 2.

Washington County: Washington County, \$15,000, Washington County Courthouse Civil War monument preservation. ■



Exterior restoration of the Classical Revival-style Renville County Courthouse, built in 1902, will be completed with funds from a capital grant.

Saved

Meeker County: Universal Laboratories Building (1937), Dassel

The Universal Laboratories Building, where the medicinal fungus ergot was processed during World War II, was rehabilitated with funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program and converted into a museum for the Dassel Area Historical Society.



Universal Laboratories Building before (left) and after rehabilitation and conversion to a museum.

Ramsey County: Crane Building

(1905), St. Paul

This brick warehouse in St. Paul's Lowertown Historic District has been rehabilitated for affordable housing using federal historic preservation tax incentives. Work included cleaning exterior masonry, repointing mortar joints, replacing windows, and installing a new roof, stairway, elevator and mechanical system.



Cermak Rhoades Architects

Aaron Holberg

Crane Building before (left) and after rehabilitation for housing.

Registration

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

Big Stone County: Graceville Historical Marker (1940-41), Minn. Hwy. 28, Graceville. Prepared by Gemini Research.

Hennepin County: Sears, Roebuck and Company Mail-Order Warehouse and Retail Store (1927-28), 2929 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis. Prepared by Hess, Roise and Co.

Murray County: 4-H Club Building (1936), Murray County Fairgrounds, Slayton. Prepared by David C. Anderson.



Charles J. Hibbard, MHS Collections

The 900,000-square-foot Sears, Roebuck complex in Minneapolis (pictured in 1928) was among the last of the company's mail-order warehouses built during a 1920s expansion campaign. Housing an early retail store as well as the mail-order distribution center, the Lake Street site was a precursor to the suburban malls that later dominated retailing.



MHS Collections

The Murray County 4-H Club Building represents efforts of the federal Cooperative Extension Service to support Minnesota agriculture and farm families in the 1930s and 1940s. Comprising rectangular and octagonal segments, the building was constructed in 1936 with labor provided by the Works Progress Administration.

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www.mnhs.org

Five more Minnesota cities named Preserve America Communities

Little Falls, Minneapolis, New Ulm, Stillwater and Wabasha. Add those names to the Minnesota cities designated Preserve America Communities. A White House initiative, the program recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their cultural and natural heritage, use their historic assets for community revitalization and encourage heritage tourism.

Benefits of designation include listing in a Web-based Preserve America community directory; notification of designation sent to all Minnesota tourism offices and visitor bureaus; a Preserve America Community road sign; and authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners and promotional materials – all aimed at enhancing community visibility and pride.

For more information on the Preserve America program, go to www.preserveamerica.gov. ■



The Wabasha Commercial Historic District forms the heart of downtown Wabasha, recently named a Preserve America Community.



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