

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

Meetings and Workshops

March 25

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.

Grants

CLG grants: Approximately \$73,000 in matching grants will be awarded this spring through the Certified Local Government program. See the Fall 2007 Preservation Planner for details (www.mnhs.org/about/publications/planner.html).

Transportation grants: Matching grants for counties and state-aid municipalities for projects that interpret the role of transportation in Minnesota history. See www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants/transportation for details or contact Mandy Skypala at 651-259-3458 or mandy.skypala@mnhs.org.

Deadlines for both grant programs:

Jan. 11: Pre-application due.

Feb. 22: Grant application due.

April 3: Grants Review Committee meets.

Preserve America Deadlines

The Preserve America Communities program recognizes communities that protect their historic assets. To apply for designation as a Preserve America community, submit an application by one of this year's quarterly deadlines: March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1. For more information, go to www.preserveamerica.gov.

Spotlight on the Minneapolis park system

by Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Long recognized as a masterpiece of design and a unique heritage asset, Minneapolis's Grand Rounds, with its chain of lakes and miles of trails and parkways, was designated a Minnesota State Scenic Byway in 1997 and a National Scenic Byway the following year. Many of its component parts, all inspired by renowned landscape architect H. W. S. Cleveland, have been studied by numerous cultural resource professionals and graduate students. But a comprehensive historic survey and inventory of the 53-mile-long parkway system has never been completed.

Now, thanks to a federal Preserve America grant awarded last fall, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is initiating a project to complete that work. The timing for this project couldn't be better: the Minneapolis park system celebrates its centennial in 2008.

The purpose of the project is threefold. First, a full inventory of all the parkway's landscape elements and other character-defining features will be done to help protect the cultural resources within the Grand Rounds. While the parkway is largely in good condition and the Minneapolis Park Board values it for the treasure it is, the historic qualities of the Grand Rounds – widely used for recreation by residents and visitor alike – are at risk from overuse.

Second, the project will serve to bring to public attention the historical significance of the resource. The many thousands who already enjoy the park system each year are a ready audience for learning about this other aspect of the parkway's value. Under the grant, historians will assess and document the significance of the Grand Rounds within a national context of parkways of the period. While the Minneapolis park system is recognized at a local and regional level, it has never been fully explored within the larger national context.

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Part of Minneapolis's Grand Rounds, Victory Memorial Drive (shown here in 1945) accommodates cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

Norton & Peck

Spotlight on park system – continued

Third, the project will enable preparation of the Grand Rounds documentation for a National Register Historic District nomination. NR documentation will guide efforts by Minneapolis park planners and others to interpret and protect this designed historic landscape.

Parts of the district – the Minnehaha Historic District and the Theodore Wirth House/Administration Building – are already listed on the National Register (1969 and 2002, respectively).

One segment, Victory Memorial Drive, is listed on Minnesota’s State Register of Historic Places. A legislative task force of representatives from public agencies and the Minnesota Historical Society is currently working on strategies to preserve and restore that section.

The Grand Rounds project made a good candidate for the Preserve America grant program, a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve the country’s cultural and natural heritage. State and

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Preserve America communities (see calendar) are eligible to apply for these matching grants, available on a competitive basis and administered by the National Park Service.

A project of this scale and complexity would not be possible without a wide range of community and professional partners. The opportunity to forge a stronger partnership with the Minneapolis Park Board is particularly welcome in this year of the parks’ centennial celebration. ■

Capital grants awarded in 10 counties

Funded by the State of Minnesota through appropriations made by the legislature and approved by the governor, 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. During the fall grants cycle of fiscal year 2008, 11 grants totaling \$330,501 were awarded.

Big Stone County: City of Clinton, \$16,960, Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul and Pacific Depot foundation repair.

Blue Earth County: City of Mankato, \$50,000, Rensselaer D. Hubbard House porch restoration.

Chippewa County: Chippewa County, \$41,129, Olof Swensson House roof replacement.

Dakota County: City of Hastings, \$26,250, William G. Le Duc House HVAC replacement.

Goodhue County: City of Pine Island, \$20,500, Pine Island City Hall rehabilitation.

Lyon County: City of Minneota, \$16,563, O. G. Anderson and Company Store restoration.

Norman County: City of Ada, \$25,000, Ada Village Hall rehabilitation.

Norman County: Norman County, \$50,000, Norman County Courthouse tower restoration.

Stearns County: City of Kimball, \$17,970, Kimball Prairie Village Hall rehabilitation, phase III.

Waseca County: City of New Richland, \$41,129, Strangers Refuge Lodge No. 74 (IOOF) restoration.

Wright County: City of Cokato, \$25,000, Akerlund Photographic Studio foundation replacement. ■



Exterior restoration of the Classical Revival-style Ada Village Hall, built in 1904, will be completed with funds from a capital grant.



New Richland’s Strangers Refuge Lodge No. 74 (IOOF), built in 1902, will be rehabilitated using funds from a capital grant.

Saved

Hennepin County: Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank (1942, 1963), Minneapolis. Using federal preservation tax incentives, the owners transformed this abandoned building in the heart of Minneapolis's financial district into a Westin Hotel with a restaurant in the teak-paneled banking hall. Work included cleaning limestone and bas relief sculptures; repairing blue-tinted, porcelain-enameled steel panels and windows; and remodeling the banking hall.



The Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank before (left) and after rehabilitation as a hotel and restaurant.

George Heinrich

Fillmore County: Milwaukee Elevator (1902), Preston. The Milwaukee Elevator, a wood structure built by the Hickok Construction Company, was rehabilitated with funds from the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program and converted into a visitor center for the Root River State Trail. Work included removing metal siding, repairing and replacing lap siding, repairing windows and doors, and painting new signage.



The Milwaukee Elevator before (left) and after rehabilitation as a visitor center.

Registration

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

Kandiyohi County: Willmar Tribune Building (1920), 311 Fourth St. S.W., Willmar. Prepared by Susan Granger and Scott Kelly.



Ramsey County: Payne Avenue State Bank (1923), 965 Payne Ave., St. Paul. Prepared by Carole Zellie.

Todd County: Dr. George R. Christie House (1901), 15 1st St. S., Long Prairie. Prepared by Daniel Hoisington.

Built by Swedish-American State Bank vice president and contractor Charles Skooglun, the Payne Avenue State Bank served the predominantly Swedish-American community of St. Paul's East Side. The upper floor of the building provided space for neighborhood newspapers, insurance agencies, offices of the area's Swedish-American physicians and dentists, and community meeting space.



The home and office of the first licensed physician in Todd County, the Dr. George R. Christie House illustrates the high social status given to a doctor in a rural community, as well as the economic benefits of the profession. The Classical Revival house is owned and operated by the Christie Home Historical Society.

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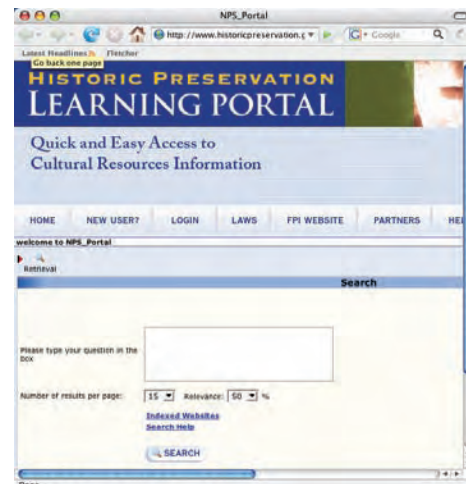
Historic Preservation Learning Portal

New web site provides quick and easy access to cultural resources information

Are you new to preservation and searching for answers but aren't sure where to begin? The new Historic Preservation Learning Portal web site can help you. It provides links to historic preservation information and training on more than 1,000 federal, state, tribal, educational and nonprofit web sites. Log on to www.historicpreservation.gov and ask questions to find information on specific topics such as:

- Laws and regulations
- Policies
- Case studies and best practices
- Training and education opportunities
- Colleagues with specific expertise
- News, articles and literature

The web portal, a multi-agency project of the National Park Service, is housed by the Federal Preservation Institute. Visit www.historicpreservation.gov for more information. ■



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