

**Minnesota's Preservation Plan in Action:
Celebrating Accomplishments**

This issue of the *Planner* is filled with information promoting a wide range of activities planned for National Historic Preservation Week this May. The focused attention that Preservation Week provides gives us a useful lens for assessing recent accomplishments against the goals adopted in the Statewide Preservation Plan issued in 1995. That plan will be revised, and a new plan produced, in the year 2000.

There is good reason to celebrate this year. The first goal listed in the 1995 plan addressed a very basic need for Minnesota's historic preservation efforts: to increase community awareness about the value and importance of the state's cultural resources. Another equally important goal is to expand and strengthen the historic preservation network throughout the state.

The activities such as those planned for Preservation Week increase the visibility of the historic resources themselves—as well as the issues and opportunities they present. Each year since the plan was issued, the number of partner organizations and sponsors for Preservation Week has increased, evidence of a growing preservation network in the state. For the past two years, events have swelled to cover two weeks, as Archaeology Week and Preservation Week celebrations join forces. The listed sponsors are only the tip of the iceberg, for local communities and historical organizations—across the state from



MHS Collections

The Shattuck Historic District in Faribault (Rice County) will be the location for this year's annual Historic Preservation Conference.

Duluth to Pipestone—are planning their own activities for the national occasion.

This year the preservation community has special reason to celebrate as the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM) welcomes and introduces its first executive director, George Edwards. The Alliance, founded in 1981, is the state's only statewide, nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to safeguarding Minnesota's historic resources. The partnership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, through its Statewide Initiative, has been instrumental to the Alliance in reaching this important step. Minnesota's preservation community will benefit as its statewide organization is strengthened.

The various programs planned for the Preservation Conference being held in Faribault during Preservation Week have been designed to address other goals in the plan. One session, for example, will

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**PUBLIC MEETINGS ON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

SHPO will host two public meetings to discuss planning for historic preservation as it relates to the needs of the general public, government agencies, and communities throughout Minnesota. Your views and ideas are needed to help SHPO review the goals of its statewide preservation plan, issued in 1995, and establish priorities for its 1998-99 work plan. The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM) will give an illustrated presentation of its list of the "10 Most Endangered Historic Properties in Minnesota." We encourage you to attend one of the meetings listed below. No advance registration required. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.; receptions are at 6 p.m. For more information, call Michael Koop, (612) 296-5451.

April 23: Little Falls, Little Falls City Hall

May 7: Virginia, Coates Plaza Hotel

**MEETINGS, CLASSES,
TOURS & WORKSHOPS**

Saturday, April 18: Reception, Duluth Union Depot, 5th Ave. W. and Michigan St., Duluth. The Midwest Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Northern Lights Tourism Alliance are sponsoring a reception to welcome George Edwards, the new executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and Michael Hamer, the new director of the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation. Public welcome; free.

April 23-May 14: Compleat Scholar Class. "The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright" will meet four times on Thursday evenings at the Minneapolis Institute of

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Arts. For information or to register, call (612) 624-8880.

May 2-10: Minnesota Archaeology Week. The 4th annual Minnesota Archaeology Week includes a range of events throughout the state. For more information, call (612) 725-2729.

Sunday, May 3: Mendota Landmarks Walking Tour, Sibley Historic Site, 2-3:30 p.m. Fee required. For information, call (612) 452-1596.

Sunday, May 3: Ask the Experts: Chuck Diesen and Paul Storch on Archaeological Artifacts, 1 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. Curator Chuck Diesen and conservator Paul Storch will help identify objects brought to the History Center, and offer information on the Minnesota Historical Society's archaeological collection.

Thursday, May 7: State Review Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. For agenda information, call Michele Decker, (612) 296-5434.

May 10-16: National Historic Preservation Week. "Preservation Begins at Home" is the theme of this week-long celebration. See other articles in this issue.

Wednesday, May 13: Spring Benefit, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. First St., Minneapolis. For more information, call (612) 341-8140.

Wednesday, May 13: Illustrated lecture by Larry Millett, "Continuity and Change in St. Paul: How Will Our Cityscape Be Shaped?" 7 p.m. Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth St., St. Paul. Free, open to the public; call (612) 292-3233.

Saturday, May 16: Compleat Scholar Class. "Historic Minneapolis: A Walking Tour" will meet from 1-4:30 p.m. at Nicollet Island Park. For more information or to register, call (612) 624-8880.

Preservation Plan in Action

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examine legislative issues affecting historic preservation as part of a continuing effort to develop a legislative agenda for Minnesota. Other sessions will look at tax incentives for historic properties and design-review issues at the local commission level.

How can you participate? Plan now to attend one or more of the many events being planned this spring around the state.

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy SHPO

REGISTRATION

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Hennepin County: Prospect Park Water Tower and Tower Hill Park, 55 Malcolm Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Prepared by Christine Curran and Charlene Roise.

Granger, Kay Grossman and Patricia Murphy.

Norman County: Ada Village Hall, 404 W. Main St., Ada. Prepared by Susan

Rice County: Church of the Most Holy Trinity (Catholic), 4938 N. Washington St., Veseli. Prepared by David C. Anderson.



Holy Trinity Church (1925) has been an important focus in the social and cultural life of the predominantly Czech residents of the parish and the village of Veseli.

SHPO files

The Prospect Park Water Tower was built in 1914 out of reinforced, cast-in-place concrete. Designed by Frederick W. Cappelen, a nationally prominent engineer, the tower exemplifies the waterworks industry's encouragement of architectural ornamentation of municipal waterworks structures. The water tower occupies the highest elevation in the Twin Cities and stands in the 4.7-acre Tower Hill Park, which helped shape the pattern of development in southeast Minneapolis in the early 20th century.



Photograph courtesy Hess, Roise & Co.; photograph by Christine Curran

CELEBRATE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

"Preservation Begins At Home" is the theme of this year's National Historic Preservation Week, May 10-16. The Minnesota Historical Society and communities throughout the state have organized a variety of events to recognize Preservation Week. A sampling follows.

Thursday, May 7: (Advance session for Preservation Week): "Whose House Was This?" 6-7 p.m. Find out the various ways to discover the history of your urban house and the resources at the MHS Library that can assist you. Tracey Baker, MHS reference specialist, will discuss maps, directories, photographs, manuscripts, periodicals and the State Archives. MHS Library, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. Fee: \$5 (\$3 for MHS members). Preregistration required; call (612) 296-2143.

Saturday & Sunday, May 9-10: "Subfloor Deposits in the Fort Snelling Officers' Quarters, 1820s-1830s," noon Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Historic Fort Snelling, Hwys. 5 and 55, St. Paul. A talk and slide show by archaeologists who worked on excavations under and around the Officers' Quarters in the 1970s. Fee includes admission to the historic fort. Fee: \$5 adults, \$4 senior citizens, \$3 children ages 6-15.

Sunday, May 10: "History Hijinx: Survey the Landscape," 1-4 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. Explore surveying with Gallery Guest Keith Dahl, a licensed land surveyor from BRW Inc. View Trygg survey maps from SHPO and make a site surveyor's notebook. Free admission; materials provided.

Thursday, May 14: "Divided Highways" Film Screening, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis. Tom Lewis, English professor at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., will introduce his film "Divided Highways," a documentary about the history and impact of the

Federal Interstate Highway system. Lewis is author of *Divided Highways: Building the Interstate Highways, Transforming American Life*. Free.

Thursday, May 14: "Divided Highways" Slide Lecture, 6-8 p.m., College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, 89 Church St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Professor Tom Lewis will present an illustrated

lecture on the history of the interstate highway system. Free.

Sunday, May 17: Summit Hill Neighborhood Historic House Tour, Noon-6 p.m., James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Approximately 15 homes will be open to the public on a self-paced tour of the neighborhood. \$10 for tickets in advance, and available after April 1 from Grand Avenue businesses; \$15 on day of tour.

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Friday, May 15, 1 to 7 p.m. & Saturday; May 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shattuck-St. Mary's School, off Shumway Ave., Faribault

The conference begins with a tour of the Shattuck-St. Mary's School campus, several state institutions and downtown Faribault from 1-5 p.m. A reception at the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church follows from 5-7 p.m., with special guest George Edwards, new executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. Tour buses leave from the parking lot of the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, 219 4th Ave. N.W.

Highlights of Saturday's program include a keynote address by Professor Tom Lewis (see May 14 event). Concurrent sessions will cover such topics as: local history education programs, using tax incentives to rehabilitate historic properties, legislative issues affecting historic preservation, and design review for preservation commissions. For more information, call (612) 296-5434. Registration fee: \$35.

Wednesday, May 13: "Minnesota's 10 Most Endangered Historic Properties," Noon-1 p.m., Irvine Room, Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will present an illustrated lecture describing 10 historic resources that are in danger of destruction. Attendees can bring a brown bag lunch. Free.

SAVED

Through the philanthropy of industrialist Andrew Carnegie in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, more than 1,600 Carnegie libraries were erected in small towns and big city neighborhoods all across the United States. The Redwood Falls library (1904) is one of 65 such facilities built in Minnesota. The interior was rehabilitated in 1997 for use as a law office using the federal investment tax credits. These two photographs show the front of the building and a rehabilitated office area after adaptation.



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Two Rural Historic Landscapes Ready for Study by Dennis Gimmetad SHPO Government Programs & Compliance Officer

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<http://www.mnhs.org>

Phase I of the rural landscape project has recently been completed. Working with historians Amy Squitieri and Christina Slattery of the consulting firm of Mead and Hunt, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff have identified two areas for Phase II analysis.

The first of these areas is located near the short-lived community of Nansen, in Goodhue County's Sogn Valley. It includes a wide variety of historic buildings and structures, as well as landscape features such as windrows, fences, cemeteries, agricultural fields and an early stage-road route. A preliminary evaluation of the area has concluded that the landscape retains a good degree of historic character.

The second area is in southwest Carver County. Though it, too, retains

an agricultural character, including round barns, brick and clapboard farmhouses, tile silos, and windmills, many of the farms are larger and have substantial new outbuildings. New home construction is appearing with increasing frequency.

The study will analyze the survival of the various historic landscape features in both of these areas. It will be the first time a rural district has been systematically studied in Minnesota. If a high degree of significance and integrity is found, an evaluation of the areas' potential as National Register rural historic districts will be completed.

Phase III of the project, scheduled to begin later this year, will build on the results of the surveys of the two areas. During this phase, SHPO will work with local land use planners to seek ways to preserve those areas that are determined to be significant.

Funding for this project has been approved by the Minnesota Legislature, 1997 Laws, Ch. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 5 (b) as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Trust Fund.

For further information on the project, contact SHPO at (612) 296-5462.



Courtesy Mead & Hunt, Madison, Wis.

This farm near Nanson on Hwy. 14 is in the Goodhue County rural landscape project area.



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