The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is pleased to bring its 35th annual statewide preservation conference to the City of Midland. Anticipating over 400 participants for the four days of conference programming, MHPN leaders are enthusiastic about having people from around the state and the Midwest gather in Midland at Northwood University on Wednesday through Saturday, May 13-16, 2015. We are especially delighted to be coming to the city that was home to Alden B. Dow and today is the location of one of the most impressive concentrations of Modern design in the nation. Appropriately, our conference title is “Always Seeking Modern.”

The conference again presents five tracks for our Basic Program on Thursday and Friday. “Track One–Theme” showcases inspirational projects from the host community and around the state that reflect the conference theme. “Track Two–Information” looks at what you need to know to make preservation work. “Track Three–Applied Skills” presents the techniques used when working with historic properties. “Track Four–Partners” showcases the efforts of our many partners such as the Michigan State Housing Development Authority’s State Historic Preservation Office, State Archaeologist, Sense of Place Council, and Michigan Main Street Program; the Michigan Barn Preservation Network; those conserving cultural landscapes; and those working with Mid-Century Modern properties. “Track Five–Tours” includes the tours that introduce attendees to the history, cultural resources, and preservation activities of the host community.

There are many special events. Wednesday’s all-day, pre-conference tours—our “Great Michigan Road Trips”—include one to Gladwin, Clare, and Isabella Counties to study rural preservation, and another into the Bay Region counties of Midland, Bay, and Saginaw to view an array of local preservation activities. Mid-day on Thursday, we have the Mayor’s Welcome at which we introduce the year’s Scholarship Recipients. Thursday evening features the All-Conference Reception that is open to the public. Attendees can visit the Vendors’ Showcase and sit in on the 3rd Annual Preservation Film Festival. The reception is followed by a walking tour of the West Main Street Historic District. Friday includes the keynote address after lunch, this year presented by Alan Hess, architect and architecture critic for the San Jose Mercury News; the event is free and open to the public. Friday closes with the always-inspirational Annual Preservation Awards Evening. Finally, Saturday includes two special programs. First is a morning workshop custom-made for those active with their local historic district commissions. Second, the MHPN is delighted to present a full-day Saturday symposium devoted to Michigan Modern, a statewide initiative since 2008 to bring national and international attention to Michigan’s modern architectural and design heritage.

The conference brochure can be viewed on the MHPN website early in February and will arrive in mailboxes later in that month. Our programming is accredited for continuing education credits by the American Institute of Architecture, the American Institute of Certified Planners, and Michigan State University’s Master Citizen Planners Program.
For the past twenty years, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network has gathered friends, members, and colleagues for an evening of fun at our fall fundraiser. Each year, we seek a historic venue to serve as the backdrop, and for our 20th Annual Fall Benefit we were thrilled to travel to Southwest Michigan to enjoy the exquisite splendor of the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater. Built in 1882 and designed by Detroit architect, Mortimer Smith, the Tibbits Opera House is the second oldest operating theatre in Michigan. The restoration story of the Tibbits Opera House is not only passionate and moving, but also a superb example of the power of preservation to anchor a community’s sense of place and positively impact the local economy.

The beautiful Second Empire façade was destroyed in the 1930s during an Art Deco modernization of the theater. In the 1960s, the Art Deco façade was removed and the original brick was covered to conserve it until funds could be secured for restoration. In 1999, the Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc. proposed to have the theatre restored, and through the use of grants, clever fundraising, and engaging the local community, the façade work was completed in 2013. As our guests approached the Tibbits Opera House on Saturday, October 11 with beautiful, picture-perfect weather, they were awe-struck at the magnificence and grandeur of the intricate craftsmanship. Prior to the onset of the Fall Benefit, many guests and members of the Coldwater community were also treated to an exclusive Hard Hat Tour of the neighboring historic Kerr Building block, an active construction site currently being adapted as a mixed use space for apartments and restaurants. The restoration of the Tibbits Opera House has brought a renewed sense of pride to the Coldwater community and a new appreciation and understanding of the value of preservation. The Community of Coldwater played a pivotal role in the support and success of the restoration, and contributed over one million dollars toward the project. It was with great pleasure that the MHPN recognized the Community of Coldwater with the 2014 Community Award.

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The 2014 Leadership Award was presented to the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance to celebrate and honor the determination, dedication, and leadership of the SCDA in its monumental effort to advocate for and preserve one of Michigan’s unique historic places. The SCDA formed as a non-profit in 2007 to help advocate, protect and preserve the natural geography, historic heritage and rural character of the Saugatuck Dunes. Their fight to prevent the dune lands from being redeveloped into luxury homes, condos, and golf courses has been epic. Most significantly the SCDA successfully transferred 171 acres of the property to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and the City of Saugatuck and received national attention in securing the Dunes a place on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 2011 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Places.

In addition to the awards ceremony, guests of the 20th annual Fall Benefit enjoyed guided top-to-bottom tours of the Tibbits Opera House, led by docents, volunteers, and staff members of the Tibbits Opera House. A spirited live auction included bidding wars over travel packages and football extravaganzas, and generous support of our hard-working field representatives. Our eclectic silent auction included unique artwork, B&B packages, gift certificates, and vintage treasures that kept our guests scurrying back to the auction tables to make sure they were the top bidder on their coveted item. Wayne Babcock and the staff of Olivia’s Chop House in Jonesville provided savory and satisfying carnivore and vegetarian selections for strolling dinner fare, and impossible to resist desserts and coffee to top off the evening. Craft beer connoisseurs had their choice of three different brews from Jolly Pumpkin, and Esperance provided a lovely variety of rose, red, and white wines.

The evening was an unqualified success, and raised nearly $17,000 to support the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s advocacy, programs, and services. This success would not be possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors and donors, staff, board and committee members, volunteers, and guests. We are on the lookout for the next noteworthy historic venue to be our host for the 21st Annual Fall Benefit in October 2015. We welcome your ideas, and look forward to seeing you at another MHPN event in the near future!

Two special awards were given during the evening’s program: A Leadership Award to the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance for their critical leadership in saving the Dunes (left), and a Community Award to Coldwater for their effort to restore the Tibbits Opera House (right).

Applications for MHPN 2015 Awards now available!

Did you just complete a building or landscape restoration? Do you know a worthy preservationist or organization in your community who deserves some recognition? Then nominate! The annual awards ceremony is the highlight of the annual conference and brings well-deserved recognition for Michigan’s best preservation projects and people.

The application for the 2015 MHPN Awards is now available...find it attached to this newsletter, or download it from our website. We can’t wait to see YOUR application!
In addition, in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, we conducted outreach through our Community Assessment program and completed an in-depth Community Assessment in Adrian. We also offered intensive, hands-on Wood Window Repair training workshops for the South Fox Island Lighthouse Association and the Village of Vermontville.

What a year this has been for preservation in Detroit. The 2014 calendar kicked off with the start of the Detroit Historic Resource Survey, a precedent-setting project that surveyed nearly 18,000 properties in just two weeks using volunteers and smartphones. The results have helped inform demolition decisions at the Detroit Land Bank Authority. In spring of this year, we launched the Preservation Demonstration Project in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood of Detroit—a three-phase project that aims to demonstrate the impact preservation can have in catalyzing neighborhood revitalization. Phase I, which launched in March, included three neighborhood workshops aimed at building skills and knowledge around older building maintenance while Phase II engaged youth in the community around the history and architecture of the built environment through the lens of photography and culminated in a pop-up week of exhibitions and events. Next up, we’re seeking support for Phase III that will involve acquisition and rehab of key structures to support the revitalization and redevelopment of the neighborhood. ✪
MHPN Dues Will Increase in 2015

Starting in January, 2015, MHPN’s membership dues will increase. MHPN’s board of directors evaluates the dues structure every five years, and the time has come for a modest adjustment to our annual rates. Our new rates as approved by the membership at our May 2014 annual meeting will be:

Students & Seniors: $25 (increased from $20)
Individuals: $45 (increased from $40)
Organizations: $80 (increased from $75)
Historic District Commissions: $150 (no change)
Historic Resource Council: $140 (increased from $120)

There's still time to take advantage of the current rate for another year!

Renew or extend your current membership before December 31st to lock in current rates.

Looking for holiday gifts for a family member or colleague who supports the preservation of historic communities, sites, and landscapes in Michigan? Consider furthering MHPN's reach and impact by giving them a gift membership. Visit our website to join, renew, or purchase a gift membership now: http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=166

Thank you for your continued support. We would not be the network without you!

Don’t wait to act, RENEW with MHPN now!
At its meeting on July 8, 2008, MHPN’s Executive Committee, the Ann A. Thompson, President, Secretary, and Treasurer, were elected respectively to the offices of V. C. Leach, and Ken Gold retired from MHPN’s board this year -- and we will miss them all!

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MHPN, 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48906  517.371.8080  info@mhpn.org

To join MHPN, get more information about our organization and its activities, and to see a list of upcoming events, please go to our website at
www.MHPN.org

**For Individuals and Households:**

- $40 Basic Membership
- $20 Student (enclose copy of student ID)
- $20 Senior (age 60 and older)

Add an optional extra gift to your membership:

- $50 Sustaining
- $100 Patron
- $200 Sponsor

**For other entities:**

- $75 Organization/Institution/Government
- $120 Historic Resource Council
- $150 Historic District Commission or Committee (up to 10 members)

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed (payable to ‘MHPN’)
- Charge my: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Discover

Name on Card __________________________ Member’s Name __________________________

Phone __________________________ Street Address __________________________

Credit Card Number __________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________

Expiration Date M/Y __________________________ Email Address __________________________

CVV (3 digit verification code on back of card) ___________ (required to process card)

Card Holder’s Signature __________________________

MHPN, 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing MI 48906  517-371-8080  fax 517-371-9090  info@mhpn.org
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
2015 Preservation Awards

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Preservation Awards. The Awards Program will be held during the MHPN Annual Michigan Preservation Conference in Midland, May 15, 2015.

Submission deadline: 5 PM, Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

You are invited to submit nominations for awards in the following categories:

**Building Award**
Awarded to an outstanding building preservation project completed within the past three years. The project may be restoration or rehabilitation, must include exterior rehabilitation work and may also involve interior work.

**Tax Credit Project Award**
Awarded to an outstanding building preservation project completed within the past three years that included qualified use of federal and/or state tax credit programs. The project may be restoration or rehabilitation, must include exterior rehabilitation work and may also involve interior work.

**Cultural Landscape Award**
Awarded to an outstanding cultural landscape preservation project completed in the last three years. Cultural landscapes can include a wide range of places ranging from gardens, parks, heritage areas or corridors, scenic byways and thousand-acre rural landscapes, to quaint homesteads and front yards. The nominated project should be a restoration of an existing historic landscape or the preservation of a landscape of historical or cultural significance.

**Preservation Gem Award**
Awarded to an outstanding preservation project completed within the last three years that includes restoration or rehabilitation of an element of a building, or of a structure or an object: for example, a front porch, major window rehabilitation, single interior room, commercial facade, theater marquee or similar building element, or of a structure or object, or other project that does not include a complete building or landscape rehabilitation.

**Citizen Award**
Awarded to an outstanding individual who, through personal effort and/or involvement in historic preservation projects, has made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's heritage.

**Community Award**
Awarded to a community; i.e. neighborhood association, business preservation group, historical society, etc., that has engaged in a comprehensive plan for historic preservation related projects.

**Government/Institution Award**
Awarded to agencies, cities and/or institutions who by their actions have accomplished significant positive changes in the historic preservation climate and activity in the State of Michigan.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

These awards are evaluated by the Awards Committee, made up of members of the current Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board and emeriti members, which will review the nominations for the degree to which the building, citizen, community, tax credit project, cultural landscape, or government/institution has:

1) adhered to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, where applicable (the Standards are available at http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/); and
2) made a positive impact on historic preservation in their/its community or the State as a whole; and
3) affected other communities, projects or individuals; and
4) been deemed a success locally and/or statewide.

The jury will evaluate each nomination on its individual merit. In the case of rehabilitation of existing structures, awards will be given for outstanding examples in which the integrity of the historic structures is retained or restored and in which alterations or additions are appropriate and the historic context is respected. The jury reserves the right to make multiple awards, or no award, in each category, and to nominate projects it deems worthy of awards.
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
2015 Preservation Awards

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Please read the judging criteria, above, and follow the directions below carefully, as they have recently changed.

All award submissions must be in digital format. Do not send paper copies of submission materials. If you are submitting multiple nominations, please submit a separate nomination and supporting documentation for each nomination. Multiple nominations may be submitted in separate folders. Nominations may be submitted on a flash drive or CD/DVD sent to the MHPN office at the address below. Submissions may also be in the form of a link to an online file sharing site (such as Dropbox); however, submitters assume the risk if the files are unable to be downloaded or if access to the file sharing system is unavailable (see submission instructions below).

Required Documentation for all Submissions

Nominee Data and Contact Information

Building, Tax Credit, Cultural Landscape, or Preservation Gem Award
Please provide the following information in Word format:

1. The award category for which the project is being nominated. Building and Tax Credit Award nominations must indicate if the project was residential or non-residential (commercial, institutional, etc).
2. The official name of the building, landscape or project (i.e. “Borden Creamery Building” or “Michigan Theatre Cupola Restoration”), and its address/location.
3. Contact information (address, phone, email) for the official representative of the building or project (typically building owner or developer). This should be the official contact person to be notified in the event the project is selected for an award.
4. The person submitting the nomination, including full contact information (organization, address, phone, email).
5. Names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two reference contacts who may be contacted for additional information.
6. Contact persons, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses for major project partners including, where applicable, owner, developer, architect(s), general contractor, specialty contractors or consultants, and/or others who contributed to the success of the project.

Citizen, Community, or Government/Institution Award
Please provide the following information in Word format:

1. The award category in which the person or organization is being nominated.
2. The name of the person or organization being nominated
3. The project or achievement for which the person or organization is being nominated (e.g. “Implementing a Preservation Plan” or “Her Preservation Activism in Ann Arbor, Michigan”). The phrase should be no more than 10-12 words in length.
4. The name of the community or communities in which the project or achievement took place.
5. Contact information (address, phone, email) for the person or organization being nominated. For an organization, this should include the name of an official contact person who will be notified in the event the organization is selected for an award.
6. The person or organization submitting the nomination, including full contact information (organization, address, phone, email). A submission by an organization should include the name of an official contact person.
7. Names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two reference contacts who may be called for additional information.

Nomination Narrative, Photographs, and Supporting Documentation

1. A minimum 500 word, maximum 1500 word narrative describing the project, or the achievement for which the person or organization is being nominated, in Word format. See specific category requirements for narrative below.
2. A minimum of 8-10 good quality (300 dpi) photographs in TIFF or JPEG format. Photographs must be submitted as individual TIFF or JPEG files. See specific category requirements below.
3. A maximum of ten supporting documents may be submitted to support the nomination narrative, but may not replace the narrative. Supporting documents may include letters of support, news articles, brochures, etc.
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
2015 Preservation Awards

Specific Category Requirements

**Building, Tax Credit, Cultural Landscape, or Preservation Gem Award:** The narrative should include the building or landscape size, age, style and history of use, the building/landscape owner and tenants, the work done, financing (information on financing is **required** for Tax Credit Award nominations), local or state assistance received, and any other special design considerations. **Describe how the project met the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.** Photographs **MUST** show both before and after conditions; historic images are **strongly** encouraged.

**Citizen Award:** The narrative should note organizations of which the nominee is a member, tenure or leadership positions held, and a list of accomplishments in historic preservation that were directly attributable to the nominee. Supporting documentation such as media articles or support letters are very helpful in this category. Photographs should include a closeup (head and shoulders) shot of the nominee and other relevant images related to the person’s achievements.

**Community Award:** The narrative should include the goals of the community or association, etc. and how these goals were accomplished. Supporting documentation may include listings of public hearings or other informational meetings held, lists of publications distributed with copies attached, and before and after photographs of community rehabilitation projects, as applicable.

**Government/Institution Award:** The narrative should include detailed documentation showing the government or institution’s accomplishments and/or involvement in historic preservation-related activities, including photographs of relevant projects.

**OPTIONAL:** If desired, applicants may, in addition, submit a single PDF file that includes the nomination data, narrative, and photographs. However, this PDF **does not replace** the submission requirements to provide all data/narrative in Word format, and all photos as individual files in either TIFF or JPEG format.

If you are unsure of what category your nomination might fall under, or if you have any other questions regarding the nomination procedure, please contact the Awards committee chair, Ruth Mills, at ruthmills@gmail.com.

Supporting materials/media are not returnable. Submission of photographs and all other material authorizes the Michigan Historic Preservation Network to use them for judging and award presentation, and to publish such material in the course of its activities.

**Mailing and Delivery**

All nominations should be mailed/delivered to:
Michigan Historic Preservation Network, 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906
If you wish to check that your submission was received on time, please contact the MHPN office directly at 517-371-8080.

Electronic submissions: Please send link and download instructions to ruthmills@gmail.com. DO NOT EMAIL SUBMISSION MATERIALS DIRECTLY TO THIS ADDRESS. Ms. Mills will confirm download of the documents as soon as possible.

**Deadline**

Nominations are due by 5 PM, Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

Incomplete or late nominations will not be considered. Nominations may be resubmitted in the following year.