



Network News

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

December 2013

It's Time to Add Jackson to your 2014 Calendar

You're already adding dates to your 2014 calendar, so consider this your first invitation to the MHPN's 34th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference being presented in Jackson, May 14-17, 2014. Ink that in!

"Michigan Places Matter: Discovering How Your Community's Cultural Resources Can Make Your Placemaking Unique" showcases a timely topic. The MHPN has always advocated that "place" is best created using the historic architectural resources that already exist in your community. It's these buildings and structures and sites—oftentimes found together in striking districts—that give your community its distinctive appearance. Our speakers, experts in their fields, provide attendees with the knowledge they need to give shape to community preservation efforts. The setting for the conference is Jackson, Michigan, located at the intersection of well-traveled Native American trails. Later the junction of major railroads, Jackson became a center of industry, culture, and noteworthy architecture.

We offer five program tracks on Thursday and Friday. Track One showcases inspirational Michigan projects representing the conference theme. Track Two looks at the skills needed for preservation success. Track Three presents hands-on techniques for restoring historic properties. Track Four covers the efforts of some of our partners including Michigan State Housing Development Authority's State Historic Preservation Office, State Archaeologist, and Michigan Main Street Program; the Michigan Barn Preservation Network; and those conserving cultural landscapes. Track Five offers tours of our host community.

Saturday morning's workshop takes on the challenges faced by local preservation commissions with dwindling budgets: "Today's Historic District Commission: Doing More with Less." Saturday



Historic downtowns like Jackson draw people - demonstrating this year's theme: "Michigan Places Matter."

also features a workshop-length program for those contemplating taking on a preservation project: "Building Condition Assessment: Knowing What You're Working With Before You Start!"

As you've come to expect, there are special events. Wednesday's all-day tour is the fourth in our "Great Michigan Road Trips" initiative. Titled "History, Culture, and Kitsch: A Cruise along US-12 through the Irish Hills," the program introduces you to the first road that crossed southern

Michigan. Thursday evening features the Vendors' Showcase and Community Open House, a walking tour through downtown Jackson, and the popular Preservation Pub Crawl. Friday offers a Networking Lunch with Jackson's Mayor and our 2014 Scholars; the keynote address presented by Ronald E. Bogle, the President and CEO of the American Architectural Foundation; and the always-inspirational 23rd Annual Preservation Awards.

Throughout the conference, you have opportunities to talk with vendors, bid on auction items, vie for a great raffle prize, buy history-related items at the Preservation Marketplace, pick up must-have books at the "Half Ton Used Book Sale," and enjoy the Second Annual Preservation Film Festival.

The conference brochure will be available in January on our website at http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=154. We already can tell you that registration fees remain at their 2008 levels: \$90 - \$285 for members who register early for the 2-1/2 day basic conference with special pricing for single tickets, single days, students, and those 60+ years of age. Almost all conference programming is AIA, AICP, and MCP accredited.

See you in Jackson!

19th Annual Fall Benefit a Success

By Denise McGeen

For 19 years, the MHPN has hosted a fall benefit to celebrate the year's successes and to raise funds to support its programming. Every year, the Network searches long and hard to find the right venue—a historic building or preservation project enticing enough to attract current members and new supporters from around the state. This year, we hit the nail on the head.

On October 25th, the MHPN held its 19th Annual Fall Benefit at the NSO Bell Building in Detroit. Towering over the Lodge Freeway, the former Michigan Bell Telephone Company Building, designed by Smith, Hinchman and Grylls and completed in 1929, was vacant for many years before the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) purchased the building and began a \$52 million renovation project. Using a mix of state and federal financing, including the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit, along with various nonprofit and foundation contributions, the NSO converted the massive Art Deco building into single apartments and a service center for formerly homeless individuals.

Such a galvanizing project was the perfect venue for the Fall Benefit and for our presentation of the MHPN's Lifetime Achievement Award to Sue Mosey, a woman whose efforts to revitalize Midtown Detroit over the last 25 years have been a catalyst for that neighborhood's transformation. Her commitment to preservation and her direct support of restoration projects in Midtown are truly remarkable; we were honored to have her as our special guest for the evening.

The rest of the evening went as many do: guests toured the newly restored building, including one of the resident's new apartments, bidding wars on the live and silent auction items kept everyone hovering over the auction tables, and the food, charcuterie from Rubbed, and drinks, courtesy of Jolly Pumpkin and Esperance Wines, were simply superb. In the end, the event was an unqualified success, with proceeds topping \$24,000 to support MHPN programming.

The Benefit could not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, the attendance and contributions of our members and guests, the long hours and hard work of our staff, board, and volunteers, and of course, we are grateful to the NSO for having us and for undertaking a preservation project so pivotal to the surrounding neighborhood.

Now, onward to 2014 and our search for the perfect venue for what will be our 20th Annual Fall Benefit. Let us know if you have that perfect location!



*The Beautiful NSO Bell Building - Our Venue for the Evening
(image courtesy of Christopher Lark, Inc.).*



*MHPN Board Members Randy Case (right) and Dave Varney
(left) with Janice Varney enjoy the charcuterie and wine
(image courtesy of Amanda D. Davis).*



*Auctioneer Terry O'Connor urges bidders to bid early and often
(image courtesy of Amanda D. Davis).*

Michigan Archaeology Day Captures Imaginations

*By Stacy Tchorzynski, Archaeologist,
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office*

October 12th marked Archaeology Day at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. This annual event brought 625 visitors to explore exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities planned by nearly 70 volunteers from two dozen state agencies, universities, private firms and public non-profits. Not a bad turnout for a four-hour event!

We can't live in the past, so why do so many of us support Michigan archaeology? Learning how people have lived in our state for over 12,000 years captures our imaginations. Archaeology not only teaches us about people in the past, it also helps us understand ourselves and the times we live in. We are all part of Michigan history, and connecting with our heritage connects us with each other and to the future.



You go girl! Practicing Archaic hunting skills with Mike Mauer of the Michigan Archaeological Society (image courtesy of SHPO).



Central Michigan University archaeologists exhibiting the results of their 2013 field school excavations in Isabella and Emmet Counties (image courtesy of SHPO).



Wayne State University's exhibit on urban archaeology in Detroit (image courtesy of SHPO).

Applications for MHPN 2014 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 2014 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!

Michigan Places Matter!



*The Old Federal Building (now Kendall College of Art and Design) in Grand Rapids: a Michigan Place that Matters!
(photo courtesy of Alexandra Williams)*

We all know that the historic places in Michigan are among the most exciting in the country. The iconic Idlewild, the four square mile African American resort in Lake County; the National Landmark district of downtown Marshall; the historic churches along Woodward Avenue, Detroit; and the Tibbitts Opera House of Coldwater are among the places that tell the story of Michigan.

To celebrate these places, MHPN has developed a program that allows everyone to share their Michigan Places that Matter. The basic program asks participants to take a photo of their place (it can be a site, object, structure, building, or district) that matters—use our sign and be sure to include some people in the photo too! Then, tell us a little about the place—give the address, including city and county so we can map it, and tell us why it is important. If there is information on your place online don't forget to include a link to that page too.

MHPN will then create a form for each entry and add them to our website! Help us share with everyone where your place that matters

is located and just why it is special. For a full set of guidelines on the program, including a copy of the sign, please visit us online at www.mhpn.org/?page_id=144. You can also see a few of the places that matter already submitted.

And, for those of you planning to attend the MHPN 2014 Conference watch for an exciting opportunity to submit your place that matters to be part of a contest held at the conference—with a great prize for the winning entry.

Consider a Place on Your Gift List for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network

What kind of holiday shopper are you? Organized? Budget-conscious? Are you a caffeinated 4am Black Friday shopper or that adventuresome (i.e. last minute) thrill-seeker?

No matter how you get to everyone on your gift list, we hope that the Michigan Historic Preservation Network is on your list too. Size, color, and fit don't matter and, best of all, you can help the MHPN in a variety of ways as you shop for everyone else.

First and foremost, the MHPN has advocated for years that you "Jingle Your Change Downtown," an effort that now dovetails nicely with the national "Shop Small" initiative celebrated this year on Saturday, November 30. Spend your dollars in the traditional shopping districts that support economic vitality in Michigan's rural crossroads, small villages, the commercial centers of mid-sized towns, and the resurgent downtown and neighborhood retail

areas of large cities. Discover the one-of-a-kind retailers that keep your shopping dollars circulating in their communities.

Next, if you're planning to shop on-line, join "iGive" at www.igive.com before you start. Designate the MHPN to receive the percentage offered for each purchase you make. The choice of participating retailers is huge. Travelling this holiday? Choose from Hilton, Best Western, Red Roof Inn, and scores of others (in fact, a surprising number of B&Bs participate). Working on your house? Check out Ace Hardware, Home Depot, and Lowes. If you're looking for clothes and accessories, visit Lands' End, Eddie Bauer, and LL Bean, or go to Macy's, Bloomingdale's, and Lord & Taylor. Putting on finishing touches before guests arrive? Try Bed Bath & Beyond, Pottery Barn, and Crate & Barrel. And find everything in between including giftcards for the hard-to-please.

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Coming Soon: MHPN Preservation Fund–Intervention Program

Now in the final planning stages, the MHPN Preservation Fund–Intervention Program will provide limited funding assistance to stabilize historic properties threatened by one or more failing major building systems. The program, designed as a leverage tool for use in conjunction with other overall efforts to rehabilitate the affected building, will provide loans from \$1,000–\$15,000 for repairs to historic buildings 50 years of age or older and located in Michigan.

Eligible uses of the Intervention Program Funds include repair and replacement of building systems threatening the integrity of the historic building such as HVAC, roofing, foundations, plumbing and electrical systems, and structural elements. Funds may also be used to “mothball” the building until a stabilization plan is in place or for building rehabilitation as part of a larger overall rehabilitation plan.

The building’s historic significance, long-term project viability and community impact, comprehensive rehabilitation plan, and the ability of the applicant to repay the loan, are items considered when scoring applications for funding. Approved applications require the

execution of a Promissory Note and/or Loan Agreement between the successful applicant and MHPN. Terms of a Loan Agreement will be determined on an individual case-by-case basis.

All work funded by the Intervention Program must be completed by a licensed and insured contractor, comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, and be reviewed by MHPN. Execution of construction contracts are between the successful applicant and the contractor.

Initially, the program will only accept applications from non-profit organizations, municipalities, Downtown Development Authorities (DDA), and religious organizations. The property must be owned by the applicant or be relevant to the mission of the applicant to be supported by this program.

Information about how to apply for funding through the Preservation Fund–Intervention Program will be available in early 2014. Contact the MHPN Office for details.

Put MHPN on your Gift List! (continued)

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For a traditional gift, buy MHPN memberships. With a \$40 individual membership purchased at www.mhpn.org, the recipient receives the MHPN’s hardcopy newsletter; our E-Blasts that cover breaking statewide news, legislative initiatives, and training opportunities; and invitations to the annual spring conference, fall benefit, and hardhat and house parties at interesting venues. While you’re on our website, take a look at our Wish List. When making room in your office for new equipment, you might find that MHPN is the perfect home for the still-good printer, digital projector, or sound system you want to retire. The website will also let you know which of our events or workshops is coming up. Have you considered buying someone a registration for our spring conference or a window repair workshop?

Finally, the MHPN is appreciative of your gifts of cash! You can make a gift with your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover through PayPal on our website at www.mhpn.org, or send a check made payable to “MHPN” to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, 313 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906. Be sure that your check is postmarked or your charge card processed by midnight December 31.

And of course, we accept holiday cookies too!

Sincerely,
Melissa Milton-Pung
MHPN President



Beautiful and historic downtown Rochester is dressed for the season and a perfect place to “Shop Small” this year (photo courtesy of Rochester Downtown Development Authority)



Michigan Historic Preservation Network

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