



# network news

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

March 2013

## The Value of MHPN Membership

“We advocate for Michigan’s historic places to contribute to our economic vitality, sense of place and connection to the past.” For over thirty years, this has been the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s mission: advocacy for historic preservation in our state. We’ve had some incredible successes: creating and maintaining a thriving network of members and partners across the state, influencing public policy to establish programs and incentives to further preservation in the state, and educating our citizens on the value of Michigan’s cultural heritage.

But beyond the networking and lobbying and educating (all valuable tools in the preservationist’s arsenal), MHPN has also been “walking the walk”: taking direct action to preserve our state’s historic resources. For example, did you know that MHPN protects 21 properties in Michigan through preservation and conservation easements? With these easements (and we are adding more every year), historic properties are protected in perpetuity from inappropriate alterations or even demolition.

Through our tax credit investment program, MHPN has enabled developers to invest over \$65 million in Michigan’s communities, rehabilitating 12 buildings and returning them to productive use. This program also makes possible MHPN’s new Preservation Fund, which will provide loans and incentives to directly support the preservation and rehabilitation of historic properties in Michigan.

MHPN doesn’t just invest in projects; it invests in people. We’ve trained 75 contractors to rehabilitate historic windows, adding 12 more to those ranks in 2012. We have trained innumerable home



*MHPN’s newly rehabilitated office at  
313 East Grand River Avenue in Lansing  
(photo courtesy of Mike Kirk).*

owners in basic practical preservation skills, such as masonry, plaster and painting, wood window rehabilitation, and preservation carpentry. We have coordinated preservation trainings at two career and technical high schools in Detroit and Battle Creek for the past seven academic years. Several of these students have gone on to pursue careers in the preservation field. For over 20 years, we’ve been training local historic district commissioners to protect the irreplaceable sense of place in their own communities.

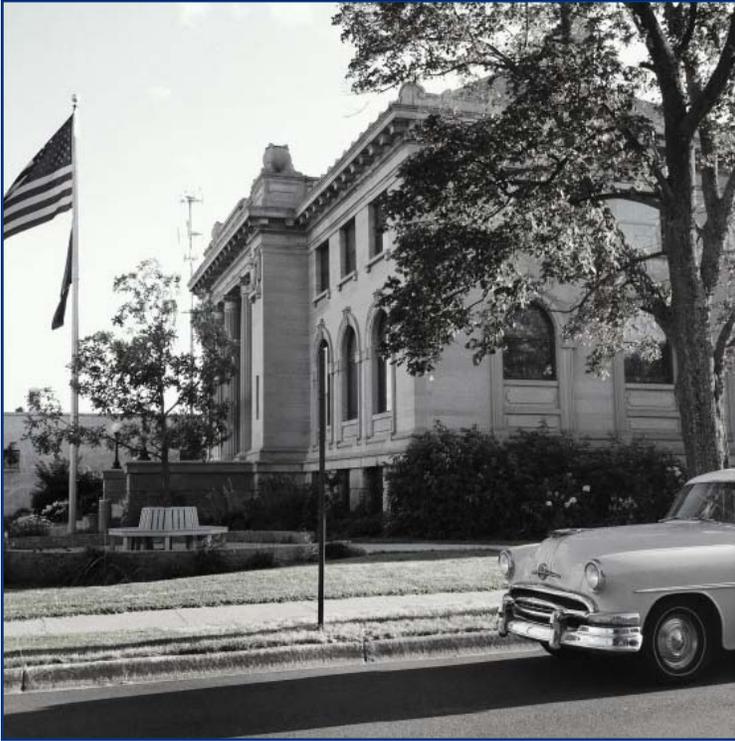
MHPN also provides Michigan’s citizens and communities with practical tools for their preservation toolkits. These include a guide for dealing with lead paint, a case study for right-sizing, and basic and advanced manuals for Historic District Commissions, not to mention the incredible wealth of information shared at our annual conferences. And, in the last year, MHPN developed a community assessment tool that helps communities establish baseline data, evaluate progress, and set goals for preservation efforts.

Finally, this month MHPN checked off one of our long-cherished goals: rehabilitating our own building! We are now the proud owner and occupant of the Thelma Joyce Osteen Comfort Station in Lansing’s Old Town. The rehabilitation serves as a model for historic preservation projects, from the community collaboration that secured the building to holding a window restoration workshop to restore our own historic windows!

These are just a few of the ways that MHPN has been proud to provide a growing return on your investment as our members and supporters. We thank you for your support!

**MHPN’s New Address: 313 East Grand River Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48906**

## Why Not Make it a Marquette Weekend!



*The Peter White Library, Marquette (courtesy of Emily Lanctot).*

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference in Marquette (May 8-11, 2013) is a great reason to visit the area. The conference will provide plenty of things for you to do while in town—from educational sessions, to tours, and a spectacular awards program. Please consider staying a day or two extra to take part in the local activities. Although this doesn't begin to cover the variety of activities, among those that could (and should) be considered are:

- The Marquette Convention and Visitors Bureau offers their "Anatomy of a Murder" Tour on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Visit some of the sites made famous by the book and movie of the same name. Space is limited so contact Alison Silk (publicrelations@travelmarquettemichigan.com or 906-228-7749) to reserve your spot! For more information, please visit: <http://www.travelmarquettemichigan.com/make-it-a-marquette-weekend/>
- Visit the Marquette Regional History Center where they will be "Celebrating 80 Years at Bay Cliff Health Camp."
- Tour the current exhibit at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center (in the Peter White Library, 217 N. Front Street). Visit <http://www.mqtcty.org/arts.html> for details and hours.
- Looking for a good beer? Check out Blackrocks, Marquette's Nano Brewery (424 N. 3rd St., Marquette, <http://www.blackrocksbrewery.com/>), which operates out of a Foursquare house and serves up great beer in an entertaining environment.
- Check out The Vierling Restaurant & Marquette Harbor Brewery, a focal point in downtown Marquette since 1883 at 119 South Front Street, Marquette.
- Are you bringing the kids—or are just young at heart? Visit the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum located at 123 W. Baraga

Avenue, Marquette. Go to the UPCM website at <http://www.upchildrensmuseum.com/> for hours and details.

- Take in the TV6 Mother's Day Craft Show at the Superior Dome on May 10 – 12, 2013.
- Rent a bike (or two) at Marquette Bike Rentals, 321 South Lakeshore Boulevard, Marquette. Get the details here: <http://www.mqtbikerentals.com/bikesrates/>
- Before heading out of town on Sunday morning, join other conference attendees at a special early opening of the Marquette Harbor Lighthouse. Although the Maritime Museum and Lighthouse doesn't technically open till Memorial Day, they were kind enough to offer a special tour. The tour starts at 10:00 just outside the Maritime Museum on Lakeshore Blvd. Space is limited so contact Alison Silk (publicrelations@travelmarquettemichigan.com or 906-228-7749) at the Convention and Visitors Bureau to reserve your spot.
- Need more ideas? Watch the MHPN website for additional suggestions—or check out some of our favorite websites: Downtown Marquette, <http://www.downtownmarquette.org/>; City of Marquette, [www.mqtcty.org](http://www.mqtcty.org); Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau, [www.travelmarquettemichigan.com](http://www.travelmarquettemichigan.com); Marquette Regional History Center, [www.marquettelibrary.org](http://www.marquettelibrary.org); Northern Michigan University, [www.nmu.edu](http://www.nmu.edu); or the Marquette Monthly calendar of free or inexpensive fun things to do, [http://www.mmmnow.com/z\\_current\\_a/b/c/calendar.html](http://www.mmmnow.com/z_current_a/b/c/calendar.html)

We bet you can't wait to Make it a Marquette Weekend too!

## MHPN Volunteers

Month to month, MHPN's dedicated volunteers contribute their time and skills to drive our mission forward. In the last quarter (October to December 2012), our volunteers donated just over 1100 service hours. That's worth more than \$23,000 of benefit to the organization. We are so proud of the incredible work our volunteers do in support of historic preservation in Michigan.



*MHPN Volunteer Ron Campbell (now a Board Member) works with a student at the Randolph School in Detroit.*

# 2013 Slate of Nominees to the MHPN Board of Directors

As part of the upcoming Annual Meeting, several changes will occur to the MHPN board. The first is the pending departure from the board by four current board members. Departing the board will be Janet Kreger who is completing her tenth consecutive year (three three-year terms plus a year as the Immediate Past President) and David Schon who is also term-limited off the board having completed three three-year terms. Kathy Holtz will be leaving at the end of her first three-year term on the MHPN board. Finally, departing part way through her second three-year term is Meredith Long. Each of these board members has served with great dedication and we wish to thank them for their service.

The proposed slate of incoming officers includes: Melissa Milton-Pung, for her second term as President; Grace Smith, for her second term as Vice-President; Ruth Mills for her third term as Secretary; and Elaine Robinson for her first term as Treasurer.

The nominating committee is pleased to announce that four board members have agreed to stand for election for a second three-year term. These individuals are Ken Czapski (Marquette), Michael Kirk (Dearborn), Tom Roberts (Wyandotte), and James Schmiechen (Saugatuck).

There are five new incoming board members on the slate of nominees. Each prospective board member has provided a statement regarding their experience and what they would bring to their service. Excerpts from each of these are provided below.

### **Réna Bradley, Detroit**

My interest in historic preservation in general was piqued when, as the Community Development Project Manager of the Detroit Land Bank Authority, I witnessed first-hand the potential of historic properties to be used as tools to contribute to community development, spurring economic growth and job creation. As a member of the MHPN board, I would strive to build upon and further that legacy as a member of the Public Policy and/or Education and Outreach committees.

### **Rob Dwortz, Grand Rapids**

It took more than 10 years working in banking to find a business with which I truly connected. When I took over as head of the Community Development Corporation for a major bank, I began to view working in a different light. Each week, I had the opportunity to walk through vacant and decaying structures

that once were places of activity and vibrancy. My tour guides had passion and vision and described the next phase of place for each unique structure. Supporting and investing in these projects to preserve and see them come back to productive use in the community was gratifying. In fact, it was so gratifying that I formed my own company to consult and invest in community development projects full-time.

### **Emily Jarvi, Lansing**

For as long as I can remember, I have been a supporter of historic preservation. As an intern for MHPN I participated in the Development Committee and co-chaired the Annual Fall Benefit. I am currently employed by the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History in Jackson, Michigan. I really understand the challenges that non-profit arts and culture organizations are faced with. I am the Education Coordinator for the Museum, and I am responsible for all art and history educational programming at the Museum. In addition to educational programming, I also coordinate docents, volunteers, and interns.

### **Aaron Jonker, Grand Rapids**

Aaron is the Vice-President of Wolverine Building Group. As such, he is in charge of oversight of all phases of the project, from programming to final closeout. To carry out his work, Aaron works closely with the project manager, estimator, and site superintendent through all phases of the project to closely align the project team with the client's goals. Aaron hopes to bring unique perspective as a contractor who works with large scale developers on historic renovation projects, both straight renovation and adaptive re-use, during his service on the MHPN Board.

### **Dave Varney, South Haven**

My area of expertise is construction and architectural preservation. As the owner of several businesses, I have found great satisfaction in working with a variety of individuals and personalities. My work as a member of the South Haven Planning Commission brought me into close contact with the citizens of my community, working through a wide variety of complex and emotional issues. I have served on the board of the Historical Association of South Haven and I am currently chair of the South Haven Light House Preservation Committee. I am currently serving on the MHPN Historic Resource Council committee.

*Don't forget! MHPN is sponsoring the  
FUND IT RIGHT, PROTECT IT FOREVER Workshop,  
JUNE 20-22, 2013 at First Presbyterian Church in Flint.  
For more information or to register, go to [www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org)*

*Please  
Join us!  
  
Complete  
and return  
the attached  
membership  
form today.*

*For Individuals and Households:*  
\_\_\_\_ \$40 Basic Membership  
\_\_\_\_ \$20 Student (enclose copy of student ID)  
\_\_\_\_ \$20 Senior (age 60 and older)

*For other entities:*  
\_\_\_\_ \$75 Organization/ Institution/  
Government  
\_\_\_\_ \$120 Historic Resource Council  
\_\_\_\_ \$150 Historic District Commission or  
Committee (up to 10 members)

*Add an optional extra gift to your membership:*  
\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining                      \_\_\_\_ \$250 Sponsor  
\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron                              \_\_\_\_ \$500 Benefactor

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MHPN, 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing MI 48906 517-371-8080 fax 517-371-9090 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***



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