



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 1, 2023
CONTACT: Janet Kreger, MHPN Board President
PHONE: (734) 222-9310
E-MAIL: kregerj1981@att.net

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On September 1, 2023, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network announced the appointment of Brenda Rigdon, principal of Black Raven Architects in Adrian, Michigan, as their new Executive Director.

"I'm honored to be selected by the MHPN Board of Directors. I look forward to serving our Board, staff, volunteers, and members as we work on increasing our membership, educational opportunities, hands-on trades training, and investments in historic preservation projects throughout the State of Michigan. I especially look forward to working at the State Capitol on behalf of the MHPN. Our preservation activities go far beyond saving famous buildings. We advocate for historic landscapes, archaeological sites, tribal sacred spaces, and the cultural riches of underrepresented communities."

Ms. Rigdon is a registered architect with 26 years of experience in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Her projects include multiple National Park Service Historic Structure Reports, National Register nominations, and federal historic preservation tax credit applications.

In 2017, she founded Black Raven Architects. As a preservation consultant, her first project restored Chaloner & Co., a tobacco shop in downtown Adrian dating from 1874. Chaloner's Cigar House combined the upper floors of the tobacco shop and

the adjacent building to create a luxury cigar lounge featured in Cigar Aficionado magazine. Other projects converted a historic church in Ypsilanti to a performance and event space and added residential units to commercial buildings in downtown Jackson. On the development side, Ms. Rigdon worked with local communities to prepare architectural feasibility studies and pro formas to market vacant historic buildings to developers. She worked closely with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, local economic development organizations, and local units of government.

Ms. Rigdon holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan. In addition, she is a certified Housing Development Financing Professional through the National Development Council and an affordable housing advocate. Ms. Rigdon is a member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Community and Economic Development Association for Michigan. Before moving to Adrian in 2009, she was on the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission for six years and is currently a member of the Adrian Historic District Commission. Her volunteer service includes the advisory boards of Samaritas Affordable Housing and the Lenawee Intermediate School District's Building Technology and Engineering/CAD committees.

"What impressed us was Brenda's depth of professional experience," noted MHPN Board President Janet Kreger. "She's helped developers build the financial stacks for their projects and can see how the MHPN's own programs can help fill gaps. She knows local, state, and national laws and best practices. She's run her own business and worked with clients, consultants, code officials, and contractors to provide the best design solutions for large and small projects. And importantly, she understands the challenges the preservation field faces and is thinking about how the MHPN helps meet them. We welcome her!"

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is Michigan's largest membership organization for those involved in the preservation of historic properties in the state. Founded in 1981, it has provided uninterrupted service to Michigan residents with educational programs, community assistance, and advocacy services.

313 E. César E. Chávez Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906
Phone 517-371-8080
Fax 517-371-9090
Email info@mhpn.org