



## MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

March 2025 Newsletter

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*MHPN supports the sustainability and economic viability of Michigan's historic places through advocacy, education, and direct action.*

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### **MHPN Secures its Sixth Endowed Conference Scholarship**

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is celebrating the completion of a sixth endowed scholarship to underwrite recipients' attendance at the upcoming annual historic preservation conference. Not everyone knows we have an endowed scholarship program, but it has been in place for years! Established ten years after MHPN's founding in 1981, the Endowment Fund was a step toward ensuring MHPN's future with a dependable income source that was wisely invested. The first endowed scholarship was created within the fund in 1999. From the start, MHPN scholarships reflected its donors' acknowledgement that people entered the preservation field from many starting points. A recipient could be a student, teacher, young professional, or adult practitioner, and could be studying, practicing, or just exploring an interest in preservation or a related field. Thirty-four years later, the program remains broadly focused, having enabled scholarship recipients to attend the statewide preservation conference every year.



#### **Family & Friends of David Evans Endowed Scholarship**

The first MHPN endowed scholarship was named for David S. Evans III (1948-1998). An architect who, with his friend Michael L. Quinn (1947-2018), founded the Ann Arbor firm Quinn Evans Architects in 1984. David gave shape to the MHPN for two decades. He served on the Board starting in 1989, was Treasurer from 1996-

1997, and was Vice Chair from 1998 until his death in August of that year. Family and friends completed his endowed scholarship in 1999.



### **Louisa Pieper Endowed Scholarship**

The endowed scholarship for Louisa Pieper (1938-2018) was completed in August 2021. Louisa was one of the leaders who founded MHPN in 1981. In the early years, MHPN could easily have faltered. But Louisa could see that unless there was a forum in which preservationists could speak with one voice, we would not be able to advance. Always the pragmatist, she rolled up her sleeves and simply said, "I think we need a budget."



### **Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship**

After the death of Sylvia Tillman (1963-2015), memorial gifts were designated for an endowed MHPN scholarship. Her husband, David, completed it with a personal gift in December 2021. Sylvia was a lifelong Dearborn resident and steadfastly advocated for preservation of the historic Ford homes. She worked to have Dearborn host the 2008 MHPN annual conference as a means to draw attention to Dearborn, putting her master's degree in Historic Preservation from EMU to good use in shaping the program.



### **Pamela Hall O'Connor & Terry A. O'Connor Endowed Scholarship**

In the 1980s, Pam O'Connor's interests turned to preservation from a corporate career. She spent the 1990s co-authoring an award-winning book on Kalamazoo architecture and led creation of the city's first preservation plan. A 30-year MHPN veteran, Pam chaired the Public Policy Committee and, after her election

to the MHPN board in 2001, served on the Executive Committee with two terms as President. Her husband, Terry, has supported her work and the MHPN. They completed their endowed scholarship in March 2022.



### **Helen and Ralph Kreger Endowed Scholarship**

Both Helen Kreger (1920-2013) and her husband, Ralph, (1912-2003) were longtime MHPN advocates. From the time the organization was founded, they provided financial assistance and supported every special initiative that expanded the scope of MHPN services. Their daughter Janet, one of the MHPN's founding members, and their son, Rod, completed the endowment in July 2024.



### **Elaine H. Robinson Endowed Scholarship**

MHPN's most recently completed endowment is named for Elaine Robinson (1959-2023), who focused her education, professional life, and volunteer work on historic preservation. She was a champion of the archaeological record of historic and pre-historic populations in Michigan, recognized the significance of both high-style and vernacular architecture, and was a vocal proponent of protecting Mid-Century buildings. Regularly a member of the MHPN's Executive Committee, Elaine served two terms as President. Her family and friends completed the scholarship endowment in January 2025.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss endowing an MHPN scholarship, please contact Janet Kreger, Fund Development Committee Chair at [kregerj1981@att.net](mailto:kregerj1981@att.net) or call 734-546-9991.

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**THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK** presents  
the FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE  
at the Walker Cisler Student and Conference Center  
Lake Superior State University

# BRINGING STORIES TO LIGHT

**THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 15-17, 2025**  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan





MHPN's 45th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference brochure cover. Photo: Chippewa County Courthouse. Credit: Justin Knepper.

## Registration for MHPN's 45th Annual Statewide Conference is now open!

The conference, titled "Bringing Stories to Light," is Thursday, May 15 to Saturday, May 17 at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

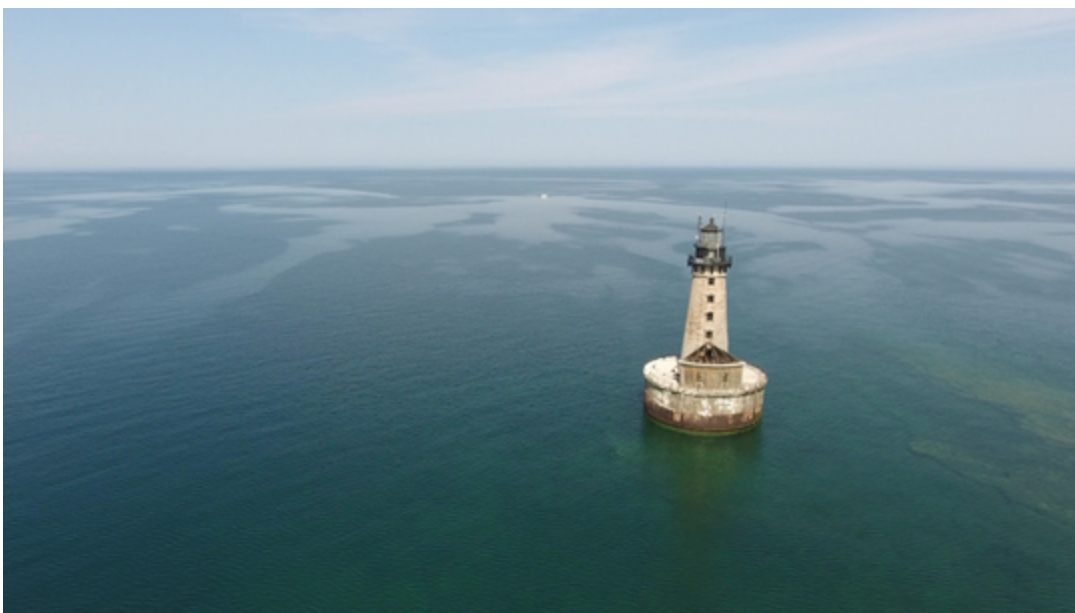
- "Early Bird" Registration deadline is April 2.
- Conference Registration closes April 23.
- Earn AIA, AICP, and MCP credits!
- Check out volunteer and scholarship opportunities!
- For more information, go to [mhpn.org/conference/](http://mhpn.org/conference/)

*Thank you to our conference underwriters!*





1929 Guardian Building, renovation complete. From the session, "Restoring a National Landmark – Detroit's Guardian Building," presented Friday, May 16, 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM. CREDIT: SmithGroup



**1878 Stannard Rock Lighthouse 42-miles north of Marquette in Lake Superior. From the session, "Not-So-Standard Stannard Rock Lighthouse," presented on Thursday, May 15, 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM. CREDIT: Quinn Evans**



**Circa 1890 St. Marys Club Resort Hotel, Lime Island. From the session, "Historic Insights and Future Directions: A Study of Recreation and Industry on Lime Island," presented on Friday, May 16, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.**

## **Attending MHPN's 45th Annual Conference? Track 3 sessions may interest you!**

One of the best ways to begin thinking about attending is to take a look at the presentations and tours, all of which are organized into tracks. This month, we're looking at Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills –

Getting to Work! The speakers present the kind of information needed by property owners, professionals doing design and hands-on work, and community officials. These are just a few of the people who need to know about the design needs of historic buildings, traditional trades and crafts, and current building and development practices—the tools that effectively spotlight at this year’s conference the new stories “brought to light” during preservation efforts.

Here’s what’s being presented in Track 3:

Thursday, May 15:

**Reviving the American Train Depot: Four Success Stories** – Across America, monumental structures built to serve a once-vital rail transportation industry are being rehabilitated and reimagined for 21st century use. Preservation and engineering converged to find unique solutions for rehabilitation of New York’s Grand Central Terminal, Cincinnati Union Terminal, Buffalo Central Terminal, and our very own Michigan Central Terminal.

**Illuminating the Story: Façade Lighting’s History, Tips, and Lessons Learned** – Façade lighting has an array of technologies and products available, but when it comes to lighting historic buildings, restraint is needed to assure the “story” of its character is revealed rather than overwhelmed. Historical archive and current examples will inform this story and how collaboration is usually best.

**Not-So-Standard Stannard Rock Lighthouse** – Located 42 miles north of Marquette, with only the horizon in sight, Stannard Rock is a solitary monument, patiently waiting to tell its story of detailed planning and construction; isolation and ghosts; and its desire to survive. Join us as we dive into this lighthouse’s historic construction techniques and material performance.

**From Classrooms to Communities: Transforming Historic Schools into Sustainable Housing Solutions** – As smaller family size contributes to declining student populations, many historic schools face closure. In Fremont, Eaton Rapids, and Lansing, such architectural gems have been adaptively reused, preserving community heritage while addressing housing shortages. Renovating these historic schools exemplifies a model that balances environmental stewardship while maintaining vibrant communities.

Friday, May 16:

**Historic Insights and Future Directions: A Study of Recreation and Industry on Lime Island** – Nestled in the St. Marys River, Lime Island has a varied history serving a vital role in the Great Lakes Maritime shipping industry. This cultural resource management plan helps interpret the island’s chronicle of Native Americans’ use, lime production, a summer resort, and a refueling station company town.

**Restoring a National Landmark: Detroit’s Guardian Building** – Known as the Cathedral of Finance, Detroit’s 43-story Guardian Building was designed by Wirt C. Rowland and completed in 1929 as the world’s tallest masonry building. By shining a light on assessment and restoration of this Art Deco masterpiece, the vast complexities of physical review, material procurement, and restoration are understood.

**Restoration Safeguards the Story of the 1876 U.S. Life-Saving Station at Vermilion Point** – The U.S. Life-Saving Service began in 1848 to aid mariners in distress. The agency built stations in the lower Great Lakes but constructed the first on Lake Superior in 1876. Closed in 1944, the Vermilion Point Life-Saving Station fell into disrepair. Since 2016, dedicated individuals have been restoring this maritime treasure.

Next month, we will take a look at Track 4: Tours, and a special series of sessions presented by staff members of Michigan’s State Historic Preservation Office. For the complete abstracts describing these presentations and the names and bios of presenters, visit the MHPN’s conference landing page at [mhpnp.org/conference](http://mhpnp.org/conference). Please know you do not need to declare your interest in any sessions or a track. You can mix and match your activities!

*Thank you to our Track 3 sponsor, Grand River Builders, Inc., Grand Rapids*



*Grand River Builders*  
INCORPORATED

HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION



Thank you to our conference sponsors! See them in the conference brochure available on MHPN's website at [mhpn.org/conference](http://mhpn.org/conference).

**2025 Sponsors – Our Special Thanks**

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to those who are sponsors of the Forty-Fifth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference. Many donors have been supporting the MHPN for years; others are new. We thank you all!

**\$10,000 or more**

Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing



**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Bay View Handworks, Michigan  
BRINKER, Detroit



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BlackBerry Window & Door Systems, Kalamazoo  
The Christman Company Historic Preservation Group - Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids  
Grand River Builders, Inc., Grand Rapids  
Kideroff Preservation Consulting, Detroit  
Kraemer Design Group, Detroit  
Janet L. Kregar, Ann Arbor  
Michigan History Center, Michigan  
Quinn Evans, Ann Arbor



**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board, Emeriti, Committees, and Staff, Michigan/U.S.  
Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs, Waterford  
Barry J. Polzin Architects Inc., Marquette  
RAM Construction Services, Michigan  
Scheuren & Associates, LLC, East Lansing  
Park Smith, AIA, Flint  
SmithGroup, Detroit



Every effort has been made to ensure listings are correct. If there are omissions or errors, we sincerely apologize and will make corrections on conference signage and when we list our conference donors in the 2024 or 2025 Annual Reports.

**\$500 - \$999**

Dean L. Anderson, State Archaeologist (Retired), and Laura Rose Ashlee, State Historic Preservation Office (Retired), Okemos  
Architecture + design Inc., Battle Creek  
Conference on Michigan Archaeology, Michigan  
GBX Group LLC, Cleveland, OH  
Kingscott Associates, Michigan  
The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., Maumee, OH  
Ruth Mills, Ypsilanti  
Preservation Ladies & Gents, Michigan/U.S.  
Gary R. Rentrop, Cross Village  
Kathleen H. Wendler, Detroit



**\$250 - \$499**

Adkins, Need, Allen & Rentrop PLLC, Bloomfield Hills  
Arbre Croche Cultural Resources LLC, Leslie  
Docomomo US/Michigan, Michigan  
Family & Friends of David Evans Endowed Scholarship Fund, Michigan/U.S.  
First Martin Corporation, Ann Arbor  
Hamilton Anderson Associates, Detroit  
HopkinsBurns Design Studio, Ann Arbor  
Helen & Ralph Kregar Endowed Scholarship Fund, Ann Arbor  
Rod Kregar and Betsy LaVier, Satellite Beach, FL  
Morgan Stanley, Patrick J. Bruntjens, Financial Advisor, East Lansing  
Pamela Hall O'Connor & Terry A. O'Connor Endowed Scholarship Fund, Kalamazoo  
Past Perfect, Inc., East Grand Rapids  
Louisa Pieper Endowed Scholarship Fund, Ann Arbor  
Plante Moran, Michigan  
Purkis Cemetery Preservation, Charlotte  
Thomas Roberts Architect, LLC, Wyandotte  
Elaine H. Robinson Endowed Scholarship Fund, Clinton Township  
Rueter Associates Architects, Ann Arbor  
Sanders & Czapski Associates, Marquette  
Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship Fund, Dearborn  
U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., Houghton, Iron Mountain, Ishpeming, Marinette (WI), Sault Ste. Marie  
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., Bingham Farms



**Up To \$249**

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Tish Colet, Grosse Pointe  
Cusack's Masonry Restoration Inc., Hubbardston  
Richard Gage Design Studio, LLC, Hazel Park  
Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, Ann Arbor  
Steven Jones, Ann Arbor  
Pamela Hall O'Connor & Terry O'Connor, Kalamazoo  
Ellen Ramsburgh, Ann Arbor  
Thomas Trombley, Saginaw  
Frank and Judy Wilhelm, Ann Arbor  
Susan C. Wineberg, Ann Arbor

**SPECIAL SPONSORSHIPS TO BE RECOGNIZED**

EXPENSE FUND FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOLARS  
Tish Colet; Richard Gage Design Studio, LLC; Janet Kregar; Rod Kregar & Betsy LaVier; MHPN; U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc.

PROGRAMMING  
MHPN programs are supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.



**REMINDER:** MHPN's Historic Resource Council Directory registrations opens in April.

Please go to [Historic Resource Council Directory – Michigan Historic Preservation Network](http://Historic Resource Council Directory – Michigan Historic Preservation Network) for additional information.

**Preservation Advocates are Needed**

National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week is March 3-6. Sponsored by Preservation Action, the annual event draws much-needed attention to preservation legislation and information. While registration for this year's advocacy week event in Washington D.C. is full, you can still be an active participant in advocating for preservation! From the Preservation Action website:

*We need your voice more than ever!*

*Lawmakers need to hear from preservation advocates. The November elections have brought significant changes to Washington. Educating members on key historic preservation programs and policies remains vital. We must work hard to ensure that historic preservation retains bipartisan interest.*

Historic preservation is facing several challenges. The voice of preservation advocates will be absolutely essential. Learn more here: [preservationaction.org/actioncenter/callyourrepresentative](https://preservationaction.org/actioncenter/callyourrepresentative)

Be sure to check out MHPN's Advocacy information at [mhpn.org/advocacy](https://mhpn.org/advocacy) and please contact your representatives!

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## Upcoming Webinar

**What:** Historic Union Church Building: How A Small Community came Together to Save a Historically Significant Church Building Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

**Where:** Online using your phone or computer

**When:** March 20, 1 p.m.

MHPN's monthly webinars are free and open to everyone. Registration is open! Click below to register.

Register

Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again or share it? Past webinar recordings are available on the MHPN's YouTube Channel! [Workshop Recordings – Michigan Historic Preservation Network \(mhpn.org\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). Do you have a great webinar idea you'd like to explore with us? Contact [info@mhpn.org](mailto:info@mhpn.org).

The MHPN's Webinar Series is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and National Endowment for the Arts.



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## Preservation News You Can Use

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#### **John and Susan Collins Historic Preservation Scholarship: Established to Support Outstanding Students in the Field of Historic Preservation**

For the 2025-2026 academic year, it is anticipated that scholarships will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. Funding could be implemented for academic expenses in the summer of 2025, if applicable. For more information and to apply, visit [marshallcf.org/receive/scholarships/adult-non-traditional/john-and-susan-collins-historic-preservation-scholarship](https://marshallcf.org/receive/scholarships/adult-non-traditional/john-and-susan-collins-historic-preservation-scholarship).

#### **National Trust for Historic Preservation Announcements:**

#### **PastForward Conference Scholarships**

Applications are being accepted for the Diversity Scholarship Program, which provides conference registration for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's PastForward conference, September 16-18 in Milwaukee, WI.



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