

**MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK**  
**45th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**May 15-17, 2024**  
**Lake Superior State University**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Compiled Abstracts in the order of presentation; tours in green.  
Current to: March 7, 2025

## **THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM:**

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: SHPO TRACK**  
**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**TIME: 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

**MODERATOR: Amy Krull, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office**

Title:

Cultural Resources at the Falls (Soo Locks): US Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO and Bay Mills Indian Community Perspectives

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (53 words; 50-word limit)

The Soo Locks are among the nation's most significant maritime resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' work with the National Park Service, Bay Mills Indian Community and State Historic Preservation Office balances stewardship of a millennia-old center of human occupation with the national security and trade demands on this National Historic Landmark.

Summary: (145 words; 300-word limit):

Humans have occupied the Saint Mary's River region for thousands of years. The location where Lake Superior meets the river has long been a point of importance for commerce and community. The Soo Locks are among the nation's most significant and unique maritime resources. However, this listed National Historic Landmark must be functional to ensure smooth operation. As such the US Army Corps of Engineers who operates the lock system regularly coordinate with interested Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the National Park Service, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The session will begin with an overview of the Locks and its historic resources, as well as discussion of the Cultural Resources Management Plan and agreements that are used to manage resources on site. Then a panel discussion with stakeholders from the USACE, THPO, and SHPO will talk about how they approach different aspects of cultural heritage.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Explain the historic significance of the Soo Locks historic district and its various resources - i.e. what it means to be a National Historic Landmark.
- 2) Demonstrate the importance of preservation partnerships.
- 3) Discuss cultural resource management plans and preservation agreements.
- 4) Describe the importance of indigenous knowledge of significant cultural sites.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Scott Slagor  
**TITLE:** Cultural Resource Protection Manager  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, Michigan 48913

Biographical statement: (111 words; 150-word limit)

Scott Slagor is the Cultural Resource Protection Manager for the State Historic Preservation Office. He has served in this role two years, overseeing the Environmental Review program, which includes federal agency consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Slagor has been involved with historic preservation in Michigan for over a decade through various organizations and professions. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, and as a commissioner on the Jackson Historic District Commission, in Jackson, Michigan, where he lives. Mr. Slagor holds a BA in Public History from Western Michigan University and MS in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

**NAME:** Curtis Sedlacek  
**TITLE:** Archeologist and Tribal Liaison  
**AFFIL:** United States Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Detroit, MI 48226

Biographical statement: (116 words; 150-word limit)

Curtis Sedlacek has been an archeologist and the Tribal Liaison for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District since 2012. Additionally, he has been the Regional Technical Specialist for Cultural Resources and Tribal Nations for the USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division since 2021. Mr. Sedlacek’s primary responsibilities are with USACE compliance with Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and other federal laws and regulations and the tribal consultation and coordination under the USACE Tribal Consultation Policy. Mr. Sedlacek has worked extensively on projects and actions related to the management of the Soo Locks since starting with the Detroit District.

**NAME:** Paula Carrick  
**TITLE:** Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
**AFFIL:** Bay Mills Indian Community  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Brimley Michigan 49715

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Paula Carrick of the Bay Mills Indian Community began working for the Bay Mills Indian Community's History Department in 1998. Originally, she worked with a committee developed to aid Dr. Charles Cleland of Michigan State University in his research for a book, The Place of the Pike (Gnoozhekaaning) A History of the Bay Mills Indian Community. In 2010 Paula Carrick became the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for Bay Mills Indian Community, fulfilling the National Historic Preservation Act's provision that tribes assume some or all of the State's historic preservation duties. As THPO, Carrick assumes Section 106 responsibilities, responding to requests from state and federal undertakings from around the country as to potential impacts a project may have on tribal historic properties on or off tribal lands. Additionally, Paula administers and is Lead for the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Michigan Anishinabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA).

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
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**TRACK:** TRACK 2: Information  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

**MODERATOR:** Emily Cauzillo, Treasurer, MHPN

Title:

Art Adorns the Paths of Life

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (50 words; 50-word limit)

For 80 years, Detroit's William Wright Company decorated and furnished hotels, churches, businesses, theatres, clubs, and Michigan's Capitol. In 2018 descendants of company foreman and designer Christian Weidemann gifted dozens of decorative ceiling and wall designs to our collection. Now, we want to share this unique resource with Michigan preservationists!

Summary: (296 words; 300-word limit):

For eighty years, Detroit's William Wright Company decorated and furnished the interiors of buildings and boats, from the Michigan State Capitol to Bob-lo Island ferry S.S. Columbia. Their client list included the U.S. and state government, wealthy industrialists, opulent theatres, fashionable hotels, churches, businesses, banks, private clubs, and the occasional charity-funded hospital or special event. Their scope of work ranged from basic painting to highly figured decorative artwork, custom furniture and woodwork, draperies and upholstery,

and high-end carpeting. During the latter portion of the company's tenure, they also imported European art and antiques, and managed a Detroit based gallery.

The Wright Company created many of the same beautiful interiors that preservationists have fought to save and restore. Though they worked throughout the Great Lakes region, many of their most iconic commissions—including the Michigan State Capitol, the Book Cadillac Hotel—have been beautifully restored. Others, like the S.S. Columbia, a Bob-lo boat, are badly in need of investment and care.

In 2018 descendants of Christian Weidemann, a longtime Wright employee, designer, and foreman, donated over 200 pieces of art, including dozens of Wright Company decorative ceiling and wall designs, to the Michigan State Capitol Collection. Its acquisition spurred the first attempt to document the history and scope of the Wright Company. It has also shed light on many long-forgotten interiors and bolstered the case for a recent National Register nomination.

Now, the Michigan State Capitol is on a mission to make historians and preservationists aware of this “new” old resource. We hope that it will serve as a source of information for future Wright commission restorations and provide historical inspiration for the rebirth of historical interiors. We're sure that Weidemann and Wright would appreciate their work being rediscovered—and reused—by another generation of building caretakers.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Identify William Wright Company commissions.
- 2) Demonstrate use of a new/old historical collection available for research and inspiration.
- 3) Explain the significant historical ties and design characteristics that bind many well-known Wright buildings together.
- 4) Describe the impact of a once internationally prominent Detroit based interior design firm.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Valerie Marvin  
TITLE: Director of Education and History  
AFFIL: Michigan State Capitol Commission  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Lansing, MI 48909

Biographical statement: (146 words; 150-word limit)

Valerie Marvin serves as the Director of Education and History for the Michigan State Capitol, a National Historic Landmark. She is a 2005 graduate of the University of Michigan and obtained her Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan in 2009. As the Capitol's historian and curator, Valerie spends time researching, writing about, and sharing stories about the Michigan State Capitol. She gives talks about Capitol history

statewide, and has presented at multiple MHPN, Historical Society of Michigan, and Michigan Museums Association conferences. She leads exhibit curation at the Capitol, and has developed many programs. She's a frequent contributor to Michigan History magazine, and won back-to-back state history awards for best article. She also loves a good walk, and has developed 20 tours of Lansing neighborhoods with the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. She and her husband live in a 1906 home in downtown Lansing.

**NAME:** Brian Page  
**TITLE:** Web Coordinator and Registrar  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Capitol Commission  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48909

Biographical statement: (149 words; 150-word limit)

Brian Page is the Collections Registrar and Web Coordinator at the Michigan State Capitol. Brian holds a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in Public History and Museum Studies and has worked in the museum field for ten years. In his role at the Capitol, Brian has helped to establish and run the building's artifact and archival collections, using the collections to build exhibits, public programs, and accessible databases and catalogs. In his role as Web Coordinator, Brian built and maintains the Capitol's main website at [capitol.michigan.gov](http://capitol.michigan.gov), as well as websites dedicated to the Capitol's Save the Flags program ([mscbattleflags.org](http://mscbattleflags.org)) and the Capitol's special exhibitions ([mscexhibits.org](http://mscexhibits.org)). He also created the Capitol's first smartphone tour "app." Outside of the Capitol, Brian spends his weekends traveling the state with Lansing's vintage 1864 "base ball" team, the Lansing Capitals, meeting with and playing matches against the state's 30+ vintage base ball teams.

**NAME:** Jacob McCormick  
**TITLE:** Photo Archivist and Educator  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Capitol Commission  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48909

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Jacob McCormick, Photo Archivist and Educator at the Michigan State Capitol, holds a B.A. in History from Michigan State University with a Museum Studies minor and a Master of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. He is active on the boards of the Holt-Delhi Historical Society, the Ingham County Historical Commission, and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, and he is the historian of the MSU Alumni Band and Spartan Marching Band. Jacob frequently writes for the Historical Society of Michigan's publications and is a two-time State History Award recipient. Jacob previously worked at the MSU Museum and has been with the Michigan State Capitol since 2021. His work hinges on the management and development of the collection of Capitol-focused photography, comprising tens of thousands of print photographs and born digital files. He also regularly conducts research, writes, and develops programming around Capitol, photographic, and local history topics.

**NAME:** Shayla Croteau  
**TITLE:** Art Registrar and Educator  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Capitol Commission  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48909

Biographical statement: (145 words; 150-word limit)

Shayla Croteau serves as the Art Registrar and an Educator for the Michigan State Capitol. She holds an M.A. in Art History from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, where she specialized in Renaissance and Baroque art. Prior to graduate school, she studied at Michigan State University's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, where she became passionate about museum studies and civic engagement. She has also interned at several museums around Michigan, including the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn and the Broad Art Museum in East Lansing. As the Capitol's Art Registrar, Shayla catalogs, researches, and creates programming around the building's art collection. She helped to create a website for the Capitol's art department (mscarts.com) by writing an analysis of each piece in the portrait collection. In addition to the Capitol's fine art, she is responsible for more than 500 historic postcards.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK: TRACK 3: Case Studies**  
**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**TIME: 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

**MODERATOR: Jenna Cellini Bresler, Member, MHPN**

Title:

Reviving the American Train Depot – Four Success Stories

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(51 words: 50-word limit)

Across America, monumental structures built to serve a once-vital rail transportation industry are being rehabilitated and reimagined for twenty-first 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.

Summary: (128 words; 300-word limit):

Across America, monumental structures built to serve a once-vital rail transportation industry are being rehabilitated and reimagined for twenty-first century use. While the architectural and historical value of these structures is widely accepted, their functional value is often less certain. To further complicate restoration efforts, many of the buildings were abandoned or hastily renovated during the 1970s and 1980s after the decline of passenger rail. As shown in the work completed at Grand Central Terminal Cincinnati Union Terminal, our very own Michigan Central Terminal and Buffalo Central Terminal, preservation and engineering converge to find unique solutions for the rehabilitation of these historic infrastructure hubs that both honor the engineering feats of the early twentieth century while simultaneously adapting the structures for the new demands of the twenty-first century.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Explain the rise and fall of the American Train Depot throughout the 20th century.
- 2) Identify the structural complexities associated with creating these grand buildings.
- 3) Discuss the required on-site investigations and engineering modeling required to understand the behavior and capacity of these abandoned and often deteriorated structures.
- 4) Summarize how preservation engineers blend on site assessment, historic research, and structural analysis to recommend and implement required repairs to bring these national treasures back to life.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Jenna Cellini Bresler, PE APT RP  
**TITLE:** Associate, Director of Ann Arbor Office  
**AFFIL:** TYLin  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (98 words; 150-word limit)

Jenna Cellini Bresler first joined TYLin in 2008 as the firm’s fourth Fellow for Preservation Engineering, working directly alongside the National Trust for Historic Preservation as their in-house structural engineer. After working in TYLin’s NYC office for 9 years, she opened TYLin’s Ann Arbor, Michigan office in 2018. Jenna has experience in both new and existing construction in fields ranging from educational and institutional to performing arts and parks to private residential and mixed use and development. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Michigan and a APT-Recognized Professional in the field of Historic Preservation.

**NAME:** Margaret Cowie, PE  
**TITLE:** Senior Project Engineer  
**AFFIL:** TYLin  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Washington, DC 20007

Biographical statement: (150-word limit)

Margaret Cowie, PE joined Silman in 2015 after graduating from Columbia University with a BS and MS in Structural Engineering. She has worked both in the Silman New York and DC offices, and her project work encompasses a range of building types and systems, with a focus on historic preservation and adaptive reuse. She is a member of the Association for Preservation Technology DC Chapter and the Association for Preservation Technology International. A selection of Margaret’s recently completed and ongoing projects includes the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts expansion (The REACH), the revitalization of the Smithsonian Castle, and the rehabilitation of Michigan Central Station.

**NAME:** Derek Trelstad  
**TITLE:** Associate  
**AFFIL:** TYLin  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** New York, New York 10005

Biographical statement: (151 words; 150-word limit)

Derek Trelstad joined Silman in 2006 and was promoted to Associate in 2007. His professional experience primarily includes historic preservation and renovation projects, most notably the accommodation of new systems at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York; ongoing work at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York; documentation of conditions and design of repairs at Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati; and conditions assessment and preservation plan for Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume in Uravan, CO. Active in numerous industry organizations, Derek is a former board member of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) International and is currently a member of APTI's Partnership & Outreach Committee. Derek was co-founder of the APT Preservation Engineering Technical Committee and its Chair/Co-Chair from 2003-2009. He was honored with an APT Presidential Citation for outstanding contributions to the field of preservation technology and, in 2018, was in the inaugural class of APTI Recognized Professionals.

**NAME:** Kristina Hensel, PE  
**TITLE:** Senior Project Engineer  
**AFFIL:** TYLin  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (126 words; 150-word limit)

Kristina joined TYLin as a structural engineer in 2019 with several years of prior experience at firms in Ann Arbor, MI and Charlotte, NC. Promoted to Senior Project Engineer in 2023, her experience ranges widely in both existing building and new construction types as well as structural materials across the U.S. With an accumulated 10 years in the structural engineering consulting industry, projects completed include cultural, education, commercial, government, and more. Of these, renovations, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings require an understanding of archaic construction methodology and historic material behavior. Contributing to the modern construction spectrum, Kristina helped lead structural design utilizing cutting-edge 3D print technology for a residential application in Michigan. She is a member of the Structural Engineers Association of Michigan (SEAMi).

**NAME:** Ellen Lane, SE  
**TITLE:** Senior Engineer  
**AFFIL:** TYLin  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (45 words; 150-word limit)

Ellen joined TYLin in January 2018, after completing her Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her project experience at TYLin ranges from historic preservation and adaptive reuse to new construction for educational clients, commercial and office space, and cultural institutions.



**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** Tour Track  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

**Capacity:** 25 people

**TOUR ACCOMPANIST:** Bryan Lijewski, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Title:

Getting to Know New Fort Brady, the Site of Lake Superior State University – A Walking Tour

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (116 words; 100-word limit)

In 1822, Colonel Hugh Brady and American soldiers built a stockaded Fort Brady on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie. A new Fort Brady was built between 1892-1894 on higher ground for superior protection of the Soo Locks and to free up valuable riverfront property. During World War II, the garrison’s strength was increased to protect shipping. Never drawing serious threats, however, Fort Brady was deactivated in 1944. The property was given to the Michigan College of Mining & Technology at Houghton in 1946. Buildings were adapted to serve as housing and office space. The Sault Branch was rechristened Lake Superior State College of Michigan Technical University in 1966. It became autonomous in 1970 and gained University status in 1987.

Summary for Accreditation: (259 words; 300-word limit):

In 1822, Colonel Hugh Brady and American soldiers built a stockaded fort called Fort Brady on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie. After years of citizen petitions and consideration by the Congressional Committee on Military Affairs, a new Fort Brady was started in 1892 on higher ground, both to provide superior protection of the enlarged locks and to free up valuable riverfront real estate. The new fort was completed in the fall of 1894. Officers and men quickly settled into their new responsibilities with mid-winter drills and with varied social activities and balls; both continued throughout the year. During World War II, the strength of the garrison was increased as United States leaders became apprehensive about the strategic position of the Soo Locks through which passed approximately 90% of the iron ore used in U.S. steel production. Although never actually threatened, the locks were protected by increased artillery and personnel for the duration of the war. In 1944 Fort Brady was deactivated when it became clear the fort was no longer vital as a military installation. Indeed, if protection were required in an emergency, personnel from the National Guard could be called up. The property was given to the Michigan College of Mining & Technology at Houghton, which opened the Sault Ste. Marie Residence Center of MCMT in 1946. Many buildings were renovated and adapted to serve as housing units and office space. The Sault Branch was rechristened Lake Superior State College of Michigan Technical University in 1966. Autonomy arrived for LSSC in 1970. University status was granted in 1987, making LSSU the state’s smallest public institution of higher learning.

## Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- Explain the strategic repositioning of Fort Brady from the banks of the St. Mary's River to higher ground to provide better military protection of the Soo Locks as they expanded and gained importance for the global shipping industry.
- Evaluate the quality of construction of the buildings built to house New Fort Brady's soldiers and military activities.
- Explain the challenges of stewarding historic buildings built for military purposes but now adaptively reused for the activities of a modern institution of higher education.
- Explore what the future holds for the historic buildings of Lake Superior State University as they experience the development of a growing student body and expanding curriculum, harsh winters, ever-rising costs, etc.

## Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

### HISTORY RESOURCE:

NAME: Bernard "Bernie" J. Arbic  
TITLE: Professor Emeritus of Mathematics (1967-2000) and Local Historian  
AFFIL: Lake Superior State University  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

### Biographical statement: (143 words; 150-word limit)

Bernard J. Arbic received a BS in 1962 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MA in 1967 from Bowdoin College, and a PhD in 1972 from the University of Wyoming. "Bernie" was on the mathematics faculty at Lake Superior State University from 1967-2000, receiving the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1980. He became a well-respected local historian writing books of regional significance including A Sugar Island Sampler (1992), City of the Rapids: Sault Ste. Marie's Heritage (2003), Upbound Downbound: The Story of the Soo Locks (2005), and Then and Now: The Changing Face of Sault Ste. Marie (with Deidre Stevens, 2009). In addition to history texts, Bernie has written booklets on the history of the Sault Ste. Marie Firehall and the Sault's Bayliss Library, given lectures and led tours, and served in leadership roles with the Chippewa County Historical Society for decades.

### FACILITIES RESOURCE:

NAME: Jerry Killips  
TITLE: Facilities Manager  
AFFIL: Lake Superior State University Facilities Department, Office of Physical Plant  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

### Biographical statement: (152 words; 150-word limit)

Jerry Killips started at Lake Superior State University in 2006 as temporary custodial help. Within a year, he was hired on as a building attendant. In August 2010, he was promoted to structural mechanic in LSSU's Physical Plant, where he soon became known for his craftsmanship around campus, including the fireplaces in the Walker Cisler Center Galley and Brady Hall, the custom bookshelves in the president's office, and more. His talent as a craftsman extends from the smallest details around campus to the campus buildings themselves, including the special demands of the Fort Brady legacy buildings that have been adaptively reused for university use. Jerry was named Employee of the Year in 2014-2015 for outstanding service to the campus community. "If you need something built, and built right, call Jerry. His quality handiwork is visible all around campus," said Steve Gregory, director of LSSU's Physical Plant at the time of the award.

**ARCHITECTURE/ADAPTIVE REUSE RESOURCE:**

NAME: Tom Nemitz  
TITLE: Principal Architect and President  
AFFIL: Cornerstone Architects  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Biographical statement: (155 words; 150-word limit)

Tom Nemitz serves as the President of Cornerstone Architects with offices in Grand Rapids and Traverse City. He grew up in Traverse City by way of Chicago and moved to Grand Rapids in 1982. A graduate of Lawrence Technological University in Architecture, Tom has practiced architecture since 1982, with full licensure in 1987. He is registered in several states, including Michigan. Tom started Cornerstone Architects in 1989 with a focus on preservation, historic renovation, and adaptive reuse of un-loved and underutilized existing structures. Having guided over 100 individual renovations, including Considine Hall at Lake Superior State University, he has been recognized for his role in the revitalization of Grand Rapids during the 1989 – 2018 time period, and has received preservation awards in Flint, Durand, Lansing, Traverse City, and other communities. His professional interests also include higher education, K-12, and hospitality-based projects. Tom has stated he cannot imagine another profession that is as fulfilling as architecture.

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM:**

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK: TRACK 3: Case Studies**  
**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**TIME: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

**MODERATOR: Joe Frost, Board of Directors, MHPN**

Title:

## Illuminating the Story: Façade Lighting's History, Tips, and Lessons Learned

### Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

Façade lighting has a vast 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, today, is usually best.

### Summary:

(228 words; 300-word limit)

The history of architectural lighting for building exteriors parallels advances in lighting technology. This session looks at lighting's part in illuminating facades, a story not often told.

#### Part 1: Historical Context

A brief overview is presented of early façade lighting and the technologies available at the time. Interesting examples from the very beginning of night-time lighting will be presented which trace lighting's progress through various lighting technologies, benefits, limitations, and freedoms of lighting design in these early days.

#### Part 2: Current Context

Today, in lighting restored historic building facades, there are multiple demands placed on the lighting designer. The primary goal is typically to celebrate the architecture and the amazing detail often lacking in newer architecture. The challenge can be showing restraint and striking a balance between owner wishes and best lighting design practice. Other goals and challenges include budget, installation cost, maintenance, aesthetic impact of the lighting equipment, city ordinance restrictions, and being friendly to neighboring properties and the nighttime sky.

City planners increasingly view exterior lighting as a revitalization tool. One only need remember Detroit's success in temporarily lighting select derelict buildings along the then vacant Woodward Avenue downtown corridor. The project stimulated the imaginations of developers who then visualized the nighttime excitement these buildings could create. The presenter, involved in this effort, will share several examples and the story behind this early success story in Detroit's revitalization.

"Bringing Stories to Light" for these projects was a proven path to success and will be a common thread throughout the presentation.

### Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Summarize the history of exterior architectural lighting that has led to today's unlimited array of technologies, techniques, and products.

- 2) Discuss how use of the latest in architectural lighting must be in ways that assure the architectural character of a façade is not overwhelmed, enabling the architect to work with lighting designers to include appropriate lighting systems in building rehabilitations.
- 3) Describe how different types of lighting can serve as a tool for revitalization, can signal that revitalization of a newly-purchased building is underway, and finally can introduce a touch of uniqueness and even glamour to a newly completed preservation project.
- 4) Articulate the need for energy efficiency and sustainable technologies, and work with lighting designers to strategize that appropriate lighting technology and sustainable implementation are included in building rehabilitation projects.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Robert White, IALD, LC, IES, CFL  
**TITLE:** Principal and Principal Lighting Designer  
**AFFIL:** Illuminart  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Troy, MI 48098

Biographical statement: (124 words; 150-word limit)

From his early days as an Industrial Design student at Detroit's College for Creative Studies (BFA 1989), Robert White has been creating innovative lighting designs. His range of experience informs his creative flare, technical expertise, and collaborative spirit. Robert has received several Edwin F. Guth Memorial Awards of Excellence for, among other projects, the Detroit McNamara airport terminal. He has received over 45 other individual awards of recognition and his work has been featured in a variety of industry publications. Professional affiliations include membership in the International Association of Lighting Designers and the Illuminating Engineering Society. Robert currently serves as lighting instructor for the College for Creative Studies and Lawrence Technological University. He and his team's work has recently been featured in LD+A magazine.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK:** TRACK 1: Theme  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**MODERATOR:** Lindsey Dotson, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Paper Partners: Archival Stories and Preservation

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula once was home to a world-renowned copper industry. Today, the Quincy Mine is one of its best preserved and accessible sites. Stories hidden and preserved within archival institutions guide preservation and, at Quincy, have promoted its importance, reinforced its impact, and shed light on a distinct way-of-life.

Summary: (240 words; 300-word limit):

When an object, structure, or property is preserved, it is never just the physical materials that are protected; it is the story behind it. The stories that exist in archival institutions lie waiting as one of the powerful tools for preservation. The experience of one historic copper mine illustrates this. Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula was once home to a world-renowned copper industry and while the historiography of the area contains comprehensive scholarship, the immense amount of extant records stretches beyond exhaustive coverage. The Quincy Mine, however, one of the best preserved and most accessible sites of the Keweenaw mining industry, recently sought to tap into those archival records to validate and improve their interpretation. By accessing the unconnected and still sometimes hidden details within the archives, the Quincy Mine was able to accomplish much more than validation. The organization's Chief of Interpretation scoured over 20,000 pieces of correspondence from mine officials, providing the stories behind the numbers, figures, structures, and features of the Mine. The research allowed for the immediate correction of details presented on tours and signage, but also allowed a distinct life to accompany the sometimes-stale blueprints that are necessary for preservation but don't always appeal to the public at large. As light is shed on aspects of the mine that are integral to its interpretation efforts, the public is able to connect to the subject of the preservation efforts in the most impactful manner, furthering awareness and support.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Identify the process for locating historic records associated with the preservation subject.
- 2) Demonstrate the benefits of using accurate and meaningful information that has been located to correct the historic record and provide a more impactful understanding of a preservation project going forward.
- 3) Apply archival research in project proposals, press releases, and interpretation.
- 4) Identify the types of information that cultivate meaningful connections for target audiences.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Clayton P. Gomez  
TITLE: Chief of Interpretation  
AFFIL: Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Hancock, MI, 49930

Biographical statement: (93 words; 150-word limit)

Clayton P. Gomez moved to Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula after obtaining his Master’s in History from California State University Stanislaus. Internship experience as an Archives Technician with the Lake Superior Collection Management Center spurred his interest in the historic copper mining industry. Since 2021 he has spearheaded work at one of those historic mines, the Quincy Mine, as Chief of Interpretation. The position has allowed him to conduct extensive research that serves as the basis for improvements to tours, displays, and signage that tell the story of The Copper Country to thousands of visitors.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 2: Information  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**MODERATOR: Michael Hambacher, Vice President, MHPN**

Title:

An Endless Story: Saving and Preserving Saginaw’s Castle Building

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (51 words; 50-word limit)

Since 1898, Saginaw’s Châteauesque post office has been a beloved landmark. In the 1930s and 1960s, it was saved by grassroots preservation efforts and today houses the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. We explore the story of preservation efforts, how the building was adapted, and continuing preservation and interpretation efforts.

Summary: (282 words; 300-word limit):

Saginaw’s Post office, now known as the Castle Building, has been the home of the Historical Society of Saginaw County History since 1979. The 1898 structure’s towers, richly ornamented limestone walls and steep slate roof were inspired by the architecture of French Chateaux. The design was chosen as a tribute to the early French settlers of the Saginaw Valley. The building quickly became a cherished local landmark. Twice, grassroots community efforts have saved it from demolition: In the 1930s the government proposed replacing it with a new facility. This proposal met with community-wide opposition and the government changed its plans. The building was enlarged, remodeled and in 1937 rededicated. Three decades later, it was again threatened with demolition. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was transferred to the County of Saginaw in the 1970s. Since 1979, the Castle Building has been preserved by the Historical Society of Saginaw County, now known as the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, a museum celebrating the diversity and richness of the community’s heritage through dynamic exhibits and programs. The Castle Building is not only the home of the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, but it has also become our identity - The Historical Society of Saginaw County changed its name to reflect its home. We will explore the story of the two battles to preserve the building. And look at how the 1937 preservation battle resulted in a preservation compromise – most of the 1898 building was lost, but the community gained a new landmark. Also, we will discuss the ongoing challenges of preserving and interpreting

the building and the rich rewards and challenges of operating a museum in an historic building.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Use the histories of two grassroots preservation efforts as case studies in understanding grassroots preservation organizing.
- 2) Explain the 1937 expansion of the building to discuss changing preservation standards, and why the expansion would not meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards.
- 3) Discuss the challenges of interpreting a building that incorporates two distinct periods of significance.
- 4) Explore the challenges and daily conflicts of adapting an historic building for use as a museum and yet maintain its historical integrity.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Thomas Trombley  
**TITLE:** Vice President and Chief Historian  
**AFFIL:** Castle Museum of Saginaw County History  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Saginaw, MI 48607

Biographical statement: (154 words; 150-word limit)

Thomas Trombley is the Vice President and Chief Historian of the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. He has been at the museum since 2009. From 1990 until that time he was the construction specialist at Neighborhood Renewal Services of Saginaw, Inc. Previous to that, he was Curator of Collections at the Historical Society of Saginaw County History. He has served as a historic research consultant on several restoration projects including Hoyt Public Library in Saginaw, The Saginaw Art Museum and the Theodore Roethke Childhood Home. He has been a speaker at several Michigan Historic Preservation Network conferences and was chair of the 2006 conference held in Saginaw. He has served on several boards and committees and has a B.A. in Political Science from Saginaw Valley State University. He received a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and in 2022, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK:** Tour Track  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Capacity: 25 people

**Accompanied by:** Katie Kolokithas, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office



Title:

Sacred Spaces, Special Places: Sault Ste. Marie's Houses of Worship – A Bus and Walking Tour

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (113 words; 100-word limit)

Houses of worship provide a unique look at a community. Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church reflects Catholic worship at the Sault that began in 1641. The red-brick, Gothic Revival church was completed in 1881, the work of Toronto-based architect, Joseph Connolly. Establishment of Central United Methodist Church followed an 1873 resurgence of Methodism. Bay City architect, Dillon P. Clark, designed the Richardsonian Romanesque church, completed in 1893 of native sandstone. St. James' began in 1880 as a mission. Local architect James C. Teague created the Late Gothic Revival design of St. James' Episcopal Church, built between 1902-1903 of local reddish-brown sandstone. Each church includes noteworthy examples of stained-glass windows and original woodwork.

Summary: (315 words; 300-word limit):

St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral has religious significance through its association with Catholic activity at the Sault which began in 1641, its association with prominent religious figures Father Jacques Marquette and Bishop Frederic Baraga, and as the original cathedral parish in the Diocese of the Upper Peninsula. St. Mary's also is significant as an early Gothic Revival church building found in the Upper Peninsula. An asymmetrical, red brick structure with a nave and aisles and a tall, spire-topped corner tower, the church structure was completed in 1881 and is the only Michigan church designed by Joseph Connolly of Toronto.

Methodism reached Sault Ste. Marie in 1833 but struggled, then disappeared until 1873 when a resurgence in membership allowed the Central United Methodist Church to be established. Building proposals were approved by the Detroit Conference in 1890. A notable Richardsonian Romanesque-style with auditorium interior was chosen. It was the work of architect Dillon P. Clark of Bay City who, with Alverton G. Munger, would form the highly popular firm of Clark & Munger. The church was executed in native red sandstone known locally as canal rock and completed in 1893. After several fires, a final restoration in 1904 assured the church's significance today.

St. James' began in 1880 when a mission was established in Sault Ste. Marie. The parish decided to construct a larger church after 1899, spurred by the boom generated by the Michigan Lake Superior Power Company's development, and retained local architect James C. Teague. Construction of the new St. James' Episcopal Church spanned 1902-1903 using the reddish-brown sandstone from the power canal excavation. It displays a Late Gothic Revival design with a massive, crenelated tower at its front corner. Inside, Gothic arches springing from thick columns that separate the nave from the side aisles. Wooden trusswork springing from large brackets support an open gable roof.

Each church includes noteworthy examples of stained-glass windows and original woodwork.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- Discuss the history of Sault Ste. Marie and the growth of its varied worship communities, a conversation tapping the on-site guides at each of the stops.
- Identify the very different design inspirations and iconographic vocabularies of the three churches included on the tour.
- Review the diversity of art and crafts found in each of the houses of worship, particularly the works of stained glass.
- Compare the work done over time to these houses of worship to keep them functional while maintaining their architectural integrity.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NOTE: There is a church historian at each stop.

NAME: Bruce Lynn  
TITLE/AFFIL: Executive Director, Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society/Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, and Vestry Member and Treasurer, St. James' Episcopal Church  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Biographical statement: (152 words; 150-word limit)

Bruce Lynn is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, located at Whitefish Point in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Bruce started his museum career as an Historical Interpreter at Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island in 1989, and later returned to work full-time for the Mackinac State Historic Parks. After graduating with a degree in American History from the Ohio State University, Lynn was accepted into Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation graduate program where he studied Heritage Interpretation. He has worked for the Alfred P. Sloan Museum (Flint), the Piatt Castles (West Liberty, OH) and was hired by the Ohio Historical Society to assist with the creation of an economic impact survey of historic sites for the Ohio State Legislature. In 2015 he co-authored, with award winning Great Lakes Maritime Photographer Chris Winters, the book The Legend Lives On, a richly illustrated meditation on the Edmund Fitzgerald.

NAME: Melissa Milton-Pung  
TITLE: Program Manager  
AFFIL: Michigan Municipal League  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Biographical statement: (130 words; 150-word limit)

Melissa Milton-Pung is a Policy Research Labs Program Manager at the Michigan Municipal League. She is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP), Adjunct Faculty in the Graduate Program for Historic Preservation at EMU, and current President of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Having worked a dozen years in local

government prior to joining the League in 2017, Melissa’s expertise is in place-based economic development. Melissa has been part of the Sacred Places Tour at the MHPN conferences for almost 10 years, her own religious background making her knowledgeable in iconography; her training as a preservationist allowing her to comment on church architecture, layout, and design; and her current work as an urban planner giving her an understanding of the role houses of worship play in their neighborhoods and communities.

NAME: Very Rev. Allen P. Mott  
TITLE: Pastor  
AFFIL: Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Biographical statement: (58 words; 150-word limit)

Allen P. Mott received a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Northern Michigan University in Marquette in 1998, and a Master of Divinity in Theology and Theological Studies from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, in 2003. He joined the pastoral staff at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in 2003.

NAME: Ruth Neveu  
TITLE: Clerk of the Vestry  
AFFIL: St. James’ Episcopal Church  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

Biographical Statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Ruth Neveu is a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie. She received her BA in 1977 from Lake Superior State University and her MA in Library Science in 1984 from the University of Michigan. She started working at the Kenneth J. Shouldice Library at LSSU in 1977 as a Public Services Librarian, advancing to Assistant Professor in the Library before her retirement with Emerita status in 2017. Ruth contributed to a 1995 issue of Reference Quarterly, American Library Association, titled: “Interlibrary Loan Staffing: A Survey of Michigan Academic Libraries.” She was an active member of the Government Documents Roundtable of Michigan, helping to compile its history: “150 Years of United States Government Information in Michigan Libraries - 1860-2010.” She has served as a member of the city’s Historical Development Commission, as Board Member of the Chippewa County Historical Society, and as Clerk of the Vestry for St. James’ Episcopal Church.

NAME: Jackie Willey and Tom Brown  
TITLE: Church Volunteers  
AFFIL: Central United Methodist Church  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

(PENDING)

#### SCHEDULE

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, May 15, 2025:

1:30 PM – 1:40 PM Board and Leave LSSU

1:40 PM – 2:00 PM Bus to St. James' Episcopal Church (20 minutes)  
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM Tour of St. James's Episcopal Church (45 minutes)  
2:45 PM – 2:55 PM Walk 2 blocks to Central United Methodist Church (10 minutes)  
2:55 PM – 3:50 PM Tour of Central United Methodist Church and break (55 minutes)  
3:50 PM – 4:00 PM Bus 5 blocks to Holy Name of Mary (10 minutes)  
4:00 PM – 4:45 PM Tour of Holy Name of Mary (45 minutes)  
4:45 PM – 5:05 PM Bus back to LSSU (20 minutes)

## **THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM:**

### **2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference "Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK: TRACK 1**

**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**TIME: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

**MODERATOR: Ruth Mills, President Emerita, MHPN**

Title:

Polishing Significance by Drilling into Cultural Landscapes

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(49 words; 50-word limit)

A cultural landscape approach assesses layers of human activity enduring over time. Using this approach revealed complex stories and informed National Historic Landmark nomination amendments for three very different sites: the industrial landscapes of Keweenaw National Historical Park, Detroit's Lafayette Park, and Knife River Indian Villages in North Dakota.

Summary: (299 words; 300-word limit):

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and National Historic Landmark (NHL) nominations can be much more than static documents. They can be planning tools to support decision-making in rehabilitation projects and interpretive programming, especially for government agencies and institutions. However, many nominations, especially older ones, lack critical information such as historic contexts, resource counts and classification, and relevant dates. Even newer nominations often leave untold an important component of a historic place's story: the cultural landscape.

This session will discuss how to frame new and updated nominations to support management, interpretation, and decision-making in stewarding historic resources, primarily through the lens of three very different sites. At Keweenaw National Historical Park, updated NHL nominations were recently completed for the Quincy and Calumet units of the park, originally designated in 1989. Both units outstandingly represent different aspects of the development of the copper mining industry in the nineteenth century and the founding of

communities under the practice of corporate paternalism. In Detroit, Lafayette Park was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2015 as one of the first successful urban renewal projects in the country, as well as for its Mid-Century Modern buildings and landscape. Finally, an amended National Historic Landmark nomination is being completed for Knife River Indian Villages in North Dakota, where the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes united to create a thriving agricultural and trading center on the Missouri River in the early nineteenth century.

These nominations employed a cultural landscape approach to recording and describing resources. They documented tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape missing from the original nominations, confirming that the cultural landscape is a critical framework for considering complex historic sites. We hope that this approach may serve as a useful tool for assessing other complex districts, be they NHL or National Register nominations.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Identify the basic components of the cultural landscape approach to documenting historic sites.
- 2) Describe how the cultural landscape approach can apply to different types of historic sites.
- 3) Summarize the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural landscapes.
- 4) Apply the cultural landscape approach to framing new or updated National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark nominations.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Ruth E. Mills  
**TITLE:** Senior Historian  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (98 words;150-word limit)

Ruth Mills is an architectural and landscape historian with more than 25 years of professional experience. She has outstanding research and project management skills and has successfully completed over seventy-five individual historic documentation efforts, including five National Historic Landmark nominations. Ruth works closely with clients and design teams to provide important context for properties, contributing inspiration for new uses and design concepts based upon a property’s historic narrative. Ruth holds Master’s degrees in History and Historic Preservation. She is a past president of Docomomo US/MI and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, and currently chairs the MHPN’s Awards Committee.

**NAME:** Brenda Williams  
**TITLE:** Principal  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans

CITY/ST/ZIP: Madison, WI 53703

Biographical statement: (130 words; 150-word limit)

Brenda is a landscape architect with over 30 years of professional experience. Her career has focused on the conservation of cultural landscapes through interventions that preserve historic character, enhance visitor learning and enjoyment, and provide sustainability. Her work includes planning and design for a wide range of sites, from small-scale recreational and interpretive to cultural landscape reports for properties over 3,000 acres. She facilitates a collaborative approach to planning for places of cultural significance and is highly effective in building common ground among stakeholders to develop inspirational visions. Brenda holds a Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is a past president of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. She is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

**MODERATE:** Rob Yallop, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Not-So-Standard Stannard Rock Lighthouse

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (51 words; 50-word limit)

Located forty-two 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.

Summary: (300-word limit):

Any whitefish fisherman in Lake Superior can speak of the great yields available at Stannard Rock Lighthouse. They will also tell you of the strength of the wind and sea to travel there and back.

A nearly one-mile-long reef located forty-two miles north of Marquette in Lake Superior was the culprit of many merchant shipwrecks in the 1800s. The national significance of trade along this important shipping route led to the remarkable construction of the Stannard Rock Lighthouse in 1878. At the time of horse-pulled wagons, and sail and steam powered watercraft, construction of the farthest lighthouse from shore in the country included building and operating an entire construction town on the Upper Peninsula mainland; quarrying stone from a nearby island; and constructing a massive wood crib structure atop the reef with living quarters for when travel back to shore would be too dangerous.

Alone in the greatest of the Great Lakes, the structure has withstood the extreme environmental conditions it has endured with minimal modifications. During the decommissioning and automation of the light in 1961, tragedy struck and a large explosion took the life of one Coastguardsman. Three others were severely injured and stranded at the lighthouse for three days. The damage from the blast event remains today, and again speaks to the endurance of this mighty beacon.

This session will discuss the development and findings of the Historic Structure Report prepared for Stannard Rock Lighthouse, including the original construction methodology; its history and evolution; the story of the blast event; and how the materials have behaved and performed due to the extreme exposures. The proposed new use of the lighthouse will also be explored with audience-engaged brainstorming on other future uses for offshore lights that may help save another light standing proud within our Great Lakes.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Articulate the obstacles, challenges, and dangers encountered with remote construction at sea, and understand the methods of construction.
- 2) Describe the behavior of steel, stone, and concrete when fully exposed to environmental conditions.
- 3) Explain the history of use of the lighthouse and its continuing evolution.
- 4) Discuss the design constraints, feasibility of potential continued and/or future uses of this and potentially other off-shore lighthouses.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Michelle Smay, AIA  
**TITLE:** Senior Preservation Architect  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (146 words; 150-word limit)

Michelle Smay is a licensed architect with 30 years of experience in historic preservation. Throughout her career, she has had a focus on lighthouse and maritime preservation. Michelle has been involved in 29 preservation projects at 18 lighthouses. She led the restoration of the St. Joseph Inner and Outer Lights, which, along with the City of St. Joseph, Mihm Enterprises, the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, the Lighthouse Forever Fund, and the Citizens of St. Joseph won a 2016 Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation and the 2017 MHPN Building Award. As a Senior Preservation Architect at Quinn Evans, Michelle is leading the continuing preservation of the Charlevoix Lighthouse and the restoration of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Michelle holds a BS and Master of Science in Architecture from the University of Michigan and is a proud MHPN Emeriti Leadership Council.

**NAME:** Cheryl Early, PE, APT RP

TITLE: Senior Associate  
AFFIL: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc.  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Biographical statement: (97 words; 150-word limit)

Cheryl Early has over 25 years' experience in structural engineering, structural design, and historic preservation. Leveraging her practical knowledge of vintage construction detailing with her sound understanding of engineering principles, she identifies and creatively solves complex structural issues for new buildings and preservation-driven projects. Ms. Early is experienced with both modern and historic structural materials. She has worked with structures built in the 1800s through new construction, providing services for feasibility studies through construction administration tasks. Ms. Early has provided consulting and design services for numerous building types including monuments, residential, commercial, educational, healthcare, and governmental properties.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: TRACK 1: Theme**  
**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**TIME: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

**MODERATOR: Lori Taylor-Blitz, Board of Directors, MHPN**

Title:

It All Comes Full Circle: Stories from the Field

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

What do Inkster and Kalamazoo have in common? What about Ewart and Otter Lake? The interconnections of their histories are illuminated by stories that run the gamut from laying the Flint and Pere Marquette railroad tracks through middle Michigan, to Robert Inkster's journey through the southern counties. We'll discuss others!

Summary: (189 words; 300-word limit):

All good preservation starts with a story. Why was this place built? Who lived here? What was important to them? This session embraces the storytelling side of the preservation profession as our historians dive deep into their past projects to take the audience on a spellbinding “road trip” through Michigan that weaves together the stories of small-town industry, pioneering settlers, burgeoning railroads, and “pit stops” at not one but two pickle factories along the way! Good stories and overlapping histories are everywhere but these stories will involve both the history that binds us and the stories that set us apart.

The presentation will include a brief history of each community profiled, and stories will run the gamut from the history of the Flint and Pere Marquette railroad in middle Michigan, to



Robert Inkster’s journey through southern Michigan, to the tale of absentee landlord Edgar C. Poppleton, along with many others. Each community was selected due to its connection to another community, and these stories were compiled to create a storytelling journey through Michigan. As we often say while conducting research into Michigan’s varied history: it all comes full circle!

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Review a brief history of each community profiled in this presentation including Ewart, Otter Lake, Birmingham, Kalamazoo, Inkster, and Detroit.
- 2) Gain insight into the interconnectivity and shared history spanning small towns and big cities alike.
- 3) Identify the push and pull of history: some stories will showcase how Michigan’s small towns and big cities share a symbiotic, interrelated history while other stories distinguish each community as utterly unique.
- 4) Explain how to find and apply the research and resources used to compile these stories.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Cassandra Talley  
**TITLE:** Architectural Historian  
**AFFIL:** Loggia Preservation  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Southfield, MI 48033

Biographical statement: (71 words; 150-word limit)

Cassandra Talley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in the History of Art from the University of Michigan, a Juris Doctor degree from Michigan State University, and Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Cassandra co-founded Loggia Preservation with Katie Cook after spending twelve years working in Metro Detroit in law firms and in preservation consulting at a major Detroit-based architectural firm. Cassandra primarily works on historic tax credit projects, National Register nominations, and historic resource surveys.

**NAME:** Katie Cook  
**TITLE:** Architectural Historian  
**AFFIL:** Loggia Preservation  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Southfield, MI 48033

Biographical statement: (64 words; 150-word limit)

Katie has always been interested in old buildings, especially the houses of everyday people. While working in accounting, her interest in old buildings and history prompted her to further her education in geography and historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Katie co-founded Loggia Preservation after a seven-year career spanning accounting, GIS, and

historic preservation consulting. She concentrates on National Register nominations, mapping, survey reports, and historic tax credit applications.

## **THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM:**

### **2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference “Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: TRACK 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills**

**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**TIME: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**MODERATOR: Aaron Sims, Board of Directors, MHPN**

Title:

From Classrooms to Communities: Transforming Historic Schools into Sustainable Housing Solutions

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(49 words; 50-word limit)

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.

Summary: (174 words; 300-word limit):

This abstract explores the renovation of historic schools into housing as a sustainable solution for community growth and revitalization. As smaller family sizes contribute to declining student populations, many schools face closure, leaving valuable historic structures underutilized. By repurposing these architectural gems, communities can preserve the neighborhoods' heritage and memories while addressing housing shortages. Three case studies of recently completed projects in Michigan will be used to explore these themes, illustrating how adaptive reuse of these structures can be successful. The transformations foster social cohesion by creating mixed-income neighborhoods that enhance community engagement and accessibility to essential services. Made financially successful through the use of stack funding of historic tax credits and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), these case studies demonstrate how projects like these are viable for our communities. The approach supports the dual goals of sustainability and community development, demonstrating how the past can inform a resilient and inclusive future. Ultimately, the renovation of historic schools into housing exemplifies a model that balances environmental stewardship with the cultivation of vibrant, diverse communities.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Describe adaptive reuse strategies for repurposing historic school buildings into housing.
- 2) Explain the sustainable aspects of these projects that respect the historic aspects of the building while adapting it for the 21st century.
- 3) Summarize funding mechanisms and the role of stack funding options, including historic tax credits and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), in making the renovation of historic schools financially viable.
- 4) Demonstrate how these transformations can bring communities together, tapping into a rich narrative and shared history and fulfil an essential need.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Jackie Melfi  
**TITLE:** Architect  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (63 words; 150-word limit)

Jaclyn is Senior Designer at Quinn Evans Architects, based out of the Ann Arbor office. She earned her Masters in Architecture from Tulane University and has focused her career on breathing new life into old buildings, particularly for residential uses. She believes that all spaces matter and through her holistic approach, creates modern, functional, and comfortable spaces that bring existing structures to life.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 1  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025  
**TIME:** 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**MODERATOR:** Lindsey Dotson, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Maximizing Storytelling and Audience Engagement: Immersive Strategies for Historical Organizations

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(51 words; 50-word limit)

Historical organizations, from small-budget entities to well-resourced institutions, can effectively promote their programs using social media, digital platforms, and in-person

immersive experiences. By sharing compelling stories, they can engage both local communities and tourists, tapping into the growing interest in cultural heritage and tourism. Attendees leave with ideas they can use.

Summary: (300-word limit):

This panel presentation explores strategies for historical organizations, from small-budget entities to well-resourced institutions, to promote their programs effectively using social media and other digital platforms, as well as in-person immersive experiences. As interest in cultural heritage and tourism grows, historical organizations can reach wider audiences by sharing compelling stories in ways that resonate with both local communities and tourists.

For small organizations, we will highlight cost-effective tools and creative approaches to leverage social media, build engagement, and amplify their visibility without the need for extensive resources. Case studies will demonstrate how grassroots efforts can produce significant results when coupled with well-crafted narratives and audience-focused content.

Larger institutions, with more significant resources, can enhance their storytelling efforts by integrating advanced tools, targeted advertising, and collaborations with tourism and hospitality agencies. The session will cover strategies for capitalizing on these resources while remaining authentic and maintaining historical integrity.

Across both ends of the spectrum, we will discuss the importance of capturing stories that not only preserve history but also engage tourists by offering immersive and personalized experiences. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas for curating digital content, partnering with tourism boards, and utilizing online storytelling to create memorable and impactful historical narratives.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Describe effective promotion strategies for historical organizations using social media, digital platforms, and immersive experiences.
- 2) Analyze case studies that demonstrate successful grassroots efforts through well-crafted narratives and audience-focused content.
- 3) Integrate advanced tools, targeted advertising, and collaborations with tourism and hospitality agencies to enhance storytelling for large or small institutions.
- 4) Discuss strategies for using significant resources while preserving historical integrity.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Tiffany Dziurman

**TITLE/AFFIL:** Founder and Principal Historian, Athena Research Consultants, LLC;

**TITLE/AFFIL:** President, Rochester-Avon Historical Society

**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Shelby Township, Michigan 48316

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Tiffany Dziurman is the founder and principal historian of Athena Research Consultants LLC. She holds degrees in political science and history from Michigan State University, a master's in history and archival management from Wayne State University, and a professional certification in sustainable preservation from Cornell University (2023). With over 25 years of experience, she has published articles on Michigan history, managed programming for historical societies and museums, and worked on projects requiring Section 106 reviews and historic building surveys. She is a qualified professional historian (36 CFR Part 61) and has extensive experience in publications and marketing. As president of the Rochester-Avon Historical Society, she has garnered public support for local historical sites and collaborated with community stakeholders. Tiffany is a board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (2024) and received the Historic Preservation Award from the Stoney Creek Chapter, National Society for the Daughters of the American Revolution (2022).

**NAME:** Samantha Malott Brown  
**TITLE:** Marketing Coordinator  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Detroit, Michigan 48201

Biographical statement: (105 words; 150-word limit)

Samantha Malott Brown, CPSM is the Marketing Manager for architectural firm, Quinn Evans' Detroit office. She is also a co-host of Forming Function, a design podcast geared toward everyone curious about the stories behind everyday objects and places. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Oakland University (2010) and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University (2017). She is in her second term as a board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and currently serves on the Executive Committee. She is also a member of the Society for Marketing Professional Services and is a Certified Professional Services Marketer.

**NAME:** Mallory Bower  
**TITLE:** Cultural Resource Professional  
**AFFIL:** N/A  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Taylor, Michigan 48180

Biographical statement: (135 words; 150-word limit)

Mallory Bower earned her B.A. in Chemistry and History from Albion College in 2010. She went on to conduct environmental site assessments before returning to school to complete a M.S in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University in 2015. Mallory's background includes working with cultural resources at the local, state, and federal levels, completing a Mellon Conservation internship at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016. She had the privilege to work for The Henry Ford Museum, MHPN, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and currently works for the City of Detroit. She also serves on the board of the Motorcities National Heritage Area and the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance. Mallory works to engage communities in the important work of place-making through outreach and education, often utilizing social media to connect to audiences.

**NAME:** Lindsey J. Dotson  
**TITLE:** Co-Founder and CEO

AFFIL: GD Placemaking  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Charlevoix, Michigan 49720-9711

Biographical statement: (149 words; 150-word limit)

Lindsey Dotson is Co-Founder and CEO of GD Placemaking, a Consulting Firm specializing in small business support, historic preservation, and community revitalization. She has consulted as the Housing Ready Program Coordinator covering Emmet and Kalkaska Counties for Housing North since August, 2024. Before that, Lindsey was DDA Director and Historic District Commission Coordinator for Charlevoix for over 7.5 years. Lindsey has a master's degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, a bachelor's in Health Science from Grand Valley State University, and over 11 years of experience in community and economic development. She is a certified Main Street America Revitalization Professional and a facilitator of Jon Schallert's Destination Creation Course for small businesses. Lindsey has served on the MHPN Board since 2023; is an appointed Historic District Commissioner in Norwood Township, southern Charlevoix County, where she lives; and volunteers as an advisory member of the Charlevoix Historical Society Board.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: SHPO TRACK**  
**DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**TIME: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**MODERATOR: Ryan Schumaker, State Historic Preservation Officer, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office**

Title:

Community-Focused Preservation & The Certified Local Government Program

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (51 words; 50-word limit)

Successful preservation practices are those rooted in proactive planning at the local level. This session not only re-introduces the Certified Local Government program, including its requirements and benefits, but how its framework helps communities establish long-term approaches to engaging preservation as part of their suite of options to make communities better.

Summary: (180 words; 300-word limit):

Through the Certified Local Government program (CLG), local units of government are empowered to shape the future of the historic fabric of their communities and provide an ongoing incentive to build strong preservation programs in partnership with National Park Service and SHPOs. The program advocates for long-term approaches when engaging historic preservation as part of a community's existing toolkit for planning, development, or public engagement. This session emphasizes preservation with a purpose while exploring the technical assistance and funding support available to communities from their SHPO's CLG program. The session discusses examples of communities proactively engaging with



**TRACK:** SHPO TRACK  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

**MODERATOR:** Katie Kolokithas, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Title:

Dragging SHPO's Data into the Twenty-First Century: Updates and Progress

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

Throughout the country, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) work side-by-side to document historic resources. The Michigan SHPO's Cultural Resource Information System houses our state's data. SHPO Staff and THPO Staff from the Gun Lake Tribe discuss addressing data needs and providing access for constituents.

Summary: (293 words; 300-word limit):

Throughout the county, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO's) work side by side to document and consult on historic sites, structures, objects, landscapes, and features. How to access this data can vary by state and tribe and in this session, you will learn about the Michigan SHPO's efforts towards a public facing GIS based inventory set as well as how and when to engage with a tribe regarding projects around the state.

In Michigan, SHPO has been working towards a GIS based public facing portal/database for over a decade and in 2025 anticipate that this system will be available for beta-use. During this session, attendees will learn about the system, its features, as well as timelines for various rollouts. Discussion around when to begin engaging with SHPO's data will also be covered. SHPO is not the only data repository in the state and this session seeks to demonstrate one additional data source by collaborating with the THPO office of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe). Both SHPOs and THPO's collect data and are interested in reports occurring in their territories. THPO staff will discuss when and how to conduct research with tribes as well as provide a few examples. When THPO's are aware of projects early, they can assist with planning and assist in avoiding sensitive cultural resources.

SHPO's and THPO's are tasked with not only documenting historic resources but also protecting sensitive information, and must balance the need for transparency with privacy and security concerns. This session will discuss how we can work together to put relevant information into the right hands for projects undergoing Section 106 consultation while also preserving the important relationships and the security of sensitive cultural knowledge and places.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"



- 1) Explain the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office's inventory of cultural resource records and the progress made to-date to modernize it.
- 2) Discuss Tribal cultural resource data processes with their clients.
- 3) Demonstrate how to work in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) platform to better complete their research.
- 4) Summarize how and when to interact with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices with respect to data.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Diane Tuinstra  
**TITLE:** Data Manager  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48913

Biographical statement: (103 words; 150-word limit)

Diane Tuinstra has been with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) since 2004, starting as a Section 106 reviewer and transitioning to the Historic Inventory Coordinator and in 2024 she became SHPO's Data Manager. In her current role she is responsible for the above-ground site inventory records as well as managing the office's database and GIS. She is working to bring the SHPO into the 21st century with an online database/GIS system that will allow for research and project submission electronically. She holds a master's degree in history from Minnesota State University-Mankato and a master's in Historic Preservation from Ball State University.

**NAME:** Lakota Hobia  
**TITLE:** Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
**AFFIL:** Gun Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Shelbyville, MI 49344

Biographical statement: (149 words; 150-word limit)

Lakota Pochedley is a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She was born and raised in Kent, Ohio. Lakota graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociocultural Anthropology and Ethnicity & Race Studies with a specialization in Native American Studies in 2013. Upon completing her undergraduate studies, she began working on her Master of Arts degree in Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Texas in Austin. Lakota completed an M.A. in Cultural Studies in Education and an M.Ed. in Social Studies Education with a 7-12th grade teaching certification. Additionally, she completed a graduate portfolio in Native American & Indigenous Studies. In the midst of completing her degrees, Lakota began working in Oklahoma for her Tribal Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, in 2011. Upon completing her graduate degree, she has worked at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 2: Information

**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30 AM – 9:45 PM

**MODERATOR:** Kristine Kidorf, President Emerita, MHPN

Title:

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects – 101: Introduction

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (50 words; 50-word limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. So that you can discuss actual deal structuring for your project, this Introduction provides a working knowledge of some basic incentives. Several local projects are studied to see how their financing came together. Time is available for questions.

Summary: (246 words; 300-word limit):

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can bring valuable financial incentives to real estate development projects. Such incentives are more important than ever with credit markets tightening in the current inflationary, high-interest rate environment. In the 101-Introductory portion of this two-part program, a working knowledge of basic incentives is taught, illustrated by how financing was put together for several local projects. In the 201-Intermediate portion, we provide an overview of the federal historic tax credit (HTC) and incentives frequently utilized in financing historic rehabilitations in Michigan, including the revived Michigan state historic tax credit, Community Revitalization Program (CRP) grants and loans, Brownfield tax increment financing (TIF), Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Opportunity Zones, and PACE financing. We also discuss such practical experiences as considerations related to retaining vs. syndicating federal HTCs, closing HTC syndication transactions, obtaining bridge financing, and choosing a good team of consultants. An active HTC investor will provide examples of projects where they were able to function as a “one-stop shop” for the project’s financing needs. By presenting examples of actual deal structuring for some great historic properties, this Intermediate portion shows you how these and other programs work, how they can function together, and how you can work with the government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants who can bring these incentives to your project. For both 101 and 201 presentations, a significant amount of time is made available for questions so that participants can apply what they have learned.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Identify some of the basic financial incentives available to harness significant equity investment, more favorable loan terms, and reduced property taxes for historic preservation projects.

- 2) Describe in general the Michigan state historic preservation tax credit and its use for both commercial and residential projects.
- 3) Review the parties who often work on successful financial packages to restore or adaptively reuse historic buildings; consider how to work together, and go through case studies that apply what has been discussed.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the choices to make from among financial incentives to help you apply the right ones to your project.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Emily Cauzillo  
**TITLE:** Vice President, Director of Mercantile Community Partners  
**AFFIL:** Mercantile Bank  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Biographical statement: (85 word; 150-word limit)

Emily Cauzillo has extensive experience structuring and underwriting complex real estate projects utilizing various tax credit incentives. With over 10 years of commercial banking experience, Emily has originated and managed over \$450 million of investment in tax credits. Emily works closely with development partners to find the best solutions possible for their projects. With a deep-seated passion for historic preservation and affordable housing, she currently serves as Board Treasurer of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and as a Finance Committee Member of the Dwelling Place.

**NAME:** Allan Martin  
**TITLE:** Vice President  
**AFFIL:** Community Housing Network, Inc.  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Troy MI 48098

Biographical statement: (131 words; 150-word limit)

Allan Martin is a well-respected 23-year veteran of the affordable housing industry in Michigan. He is the Vice President of Real Estate Development for Community Housing Network (CHN) whose vision is that all members of society have equal access to a safe home and a chance to succeed in life. Prior to CHN, Allan was an independent consultant, serving multiple organizations whose missions included the development of affordable housing. Allan has facilitated the development of multi-family and single-family rental and lease-to-own units throughout the state, helping to generate nearly \$325M worth of development, representing over 1,600 units of first-rate, affordable housing. His most recent projects on behalf of CHN are on display here in Sault Ste Marie and represent the repurposing of two historic structures into high-quality affordable and market-rate housing.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 1: Theme

**DATE: Friday, May 16, 2025**  
**TIME: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM**

**MODERATOR: Michael Hambacher, Vice President, MHPN**

Title:

Before There was a Lighthouse: Shining a Light on the History of Iroquois Point

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

Opened in 1870, the Point Iroquois Lighthouse stands on the site of one of the most consequential military actions in Great Lakes Native American history. But have you ever wondered why it's called "Iroquois Point" when there are no Iroquois natives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula? We have knowledge to share!

Summary: (299 words; 300-word limit):

The Point Iroquois Lighthouse stands on the site of one of the most consequential military actions in Great Lakes Native American history. In 1662, a large Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) war party was obliterated by Ojibwe warriors. Though minor raids may have continued in subsequent decades, this battle marked the last major Haudenosaunee incursion into the Lake Superior region. The early morning ambush Ojibwe defenders launched against raiders at this place blocked the northwestern expansion of Haudenosaunee power, securing Anishinaabe dominance of the eastern Upper Peninsula.

A large Haudenosaunee raiding party of nearly 1000 warriors came north from Lake Huron. Ojibwe, secretly camped at Pointe aux Pins, sent out two scouts who, slipping into spirit forms of a beaver and an otter, went ashore between Whiskey Point and Point Iroquois.

Based on information from the two scouts, the Ojibwe determined that the Haudenosaunee war dance would last for four days, and that their best hope of vanquishing this feared enemy was to assault them as they slept at the end of the ceremonies.

On the fourth day of the ceremony, the Ojibwe sent two more scouts. When they saw the Haudenosaunee go to sleep, they fell upon the invaders near dawn. The Ojibwe slaughtered all the assembled Haudenosaunee but two, who they maimed by cutting off their ears and noses, and sent away to tell others that, if they came into Ojibwe territory, they would also be destroyed. The victorious Ojibwe then cut off the heads of the Haudenosaunee dead and put them up on stakes along the beach as a warning to any other enemies who may dare approach this shore. Bones of the dead surfaced for many years after this massacre, and to this day the location is known as "the place of the Iroquois bones" or "Iroquois Point".

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Identify the key combatants in the "Iroquois wars" or "Beaver Wars" of 1640-1701.

- 2) Demonstrate a deeper understanding of the historical significance of scenic Iroquois Point.
- 3) Describe the importance of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the fur trade, frequently the source of conflict in the region.
- 4) Compare the lesser known tribal history of Point Iroquois with the popular maritime history of the location.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Rachel M. Keys  
**TITLE:** Bay Mills Tribal Citizen and Gnoozekaaning Museum Director  
**AFFIL:** Bay Mills Indian Community  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Brimley MI 49715

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Following a decade of service in the U.S. Navy, Rachel Keys returned to the Brimley area where she earned an Associate of Science from Bay Mills Community College in 2021 and a Bachelor of Science from Lake Superior State University in 2023. She is the Director of the Gnoozekaaning Museum – “The Place of the Pike” – of the Bay Mills Indian Community, housed on the property of the Point Iroquois Lighthouse. Its exhibits pay tribute to the Bay Mills people who have lived for hundreds of years on Lake Superior. The Museum’s and Rachel’s focus is to work with this entire history using oral storytellers, oral histories, the Tribe’s photographic archives, research, and the archaeological record. “It’s not a stretch to say that I’ve been a student my whole life,” says Rachel. “As Director of the Gnoozhekaaning Museum, I plan to share the fascinating history of our people with the world.”

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
 “Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TOUR TRACK  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2024  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Capacity: 25 people**

**TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Tiffany Dziurman, Board of Directors, MHPN**

Title:

Sault Ste. Marie’s Residential Gems + More

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (110 words; 100-word limit)

Sault Ste. Marie has noteworthy residential districts, one being a collection of late-19th- and early 20th- century homes located immediately east of downtown. The district’s boundaries are Bingham Avenue delineating commercial and city properties from residential on the west, Water Street on the north, and the curve of the powerhouse canal on the east and south. The district’s homes were at a walkable distance from downtown and reflected the

maritime and business wealth generated as the city grew. Queen Anne styles predominated, but Revival Styles were common as well as singular expressions of Richardsonian Romanesque, Mediterranean, and Art Deco design. Preservation efforts are on the rise. Several properties are visited.

Summary: (305 word; 300-word limit):

Sault Ste. Marie has noteworthy residential districts, one being a collection of late-19th- and early 20th- century homes located immediately east of downtown. Like all of the city, the neighborhood's development was driven by the local economy: steady increase in shipping through the locks; Ft. Brady being relocated in 1892, thus freeing up valuable real estate along the St. Marys River; arrival in 1895 of the Michigan Lake Superior Company from the Canadian side of the St. Marys to assume control of hydroelectric power development in Sault Ste. Marie; and steady expansion of the downtown commercial district anchored by Portage and Ashmun.

Indeed, in the years from 1890 until 1930, the city's population grew from 5,760 to 13,755, powered by the arrival of such companies as Union Carbide and Northern Leather as well as smaller manufacturing and commercial enterprises. Even though economic expansion anticipated by city fathers was somewhat less than hoped, the City held its own even during the Great Depression.

The boundaries of this residential district were affected by these economic influences, with Bingham Avenue delineating commercial and city properties from residential on the west, East Water Street along the north, and the curve of the powerhouse canal creating the east and south boundaries. The streets that were developed were within easy walking distance of downtown, the Chippewa County Courthouse, and important houses of worship.

Homes nearest downtown reflected the wealth being generated in Sault Ste. Marie. Queen Anne styles predominate, but Revival Styles after the turn-of-the-century are reflected in Colonial and Tudor designs, and the Neoclassical Carnegie Library. Even singular Mediterranean Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Art Deco styles are seen. Further east in the neighborhood, more modest Bungalow and Craftsman homes can be found. Preservation efforts are apparent, and several of these homes and the Neoclassical Carnegie Library Lobby will be visited.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Describe an important residential district in Sault Ste. Marie, having learned about the people who lived there, the architectural styles employed, and the building materials used.
- 2) Discuss how such things as noteworthy houses of worship, a spectacular county courthouse, a Carnegie Library and other urban architectural amenities serve to accent one's experience of the Soo's residential neighborhoods and the people who live there.
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of how a traditional downtown area establishes how an adjacent residential district will develop – i.e. how proximity to commerce,

worship, jobs creates appeal; how the construction of the homes “rolls out” from the earliest at the most walkable distance from downtown to the more recent that are further away; how walkability can bring back historic residential neighborhoods perhaps ignored for years.

- 4) Summarize how the City and its residents continue to invest in Sault Ste. Marie’s building stock and promote preservation.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Deidre Stevens  
TITLE/AFFIL: Local Historian and Author, member of the Historical Development Commission, and volunteer with the Chippewa County Historical Society  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Biographical statement: (153 words; 150-word limit)

A longtime resident of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Deidre Stevens attended Sault Schools and graduated from Sault High and Lake Superior State College (today University) with a bachelor of arts degree in English Language and Literature and minors in creative writing, journalism, French, and speech and drama. She worked for many years for the Sault Ste. Marie Evening News as a writer and editor. While at the paper, she did a weekly historical feature that enhanced her early interest in local and regional history. (The year her family moved to the Sault was the settlement’s 300th anniversary.) After time away, she became a narrator for Soo Locks Boat Tours in 2005, a job she continues to this day. She also volunteers at the Chippewa County Historical Society. Stevens has written a half-dozen books of local history and was the 2024 recipient of the Upper Peninsula History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.

DRAFT TIMED ITINERARY:

Friday, May 16, 2025:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 AM       | Board the vans at the Walker-Cisler Center, LSSU campus.  |
| 8:30 -8:45 AM | Drive to the historic residential district. Disembark at Stop 1. (15 minutes)   |
| 8:45-9:20 AM  | STOP 1/ Interior Tour (35 minutes)<br>305 East Spruce Street<br>Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783<br><br>Group tours as one group. |
| 9:20-9:25 AM  | Group walks 4 houses east.  |
| 9:25-10:05 AM | STOP 2/Interior Tour: (40 minutes)<br>315 East Spruce Street<br>Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783<br><br>Group tours as one group. |





**MODERATOR: Michelle Smay, Emeriti Leadership Council, MHPN**

Title:

Historic Insights and Future Directions: A Study of Recreation and Industry on Lime Island

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (48 words; 50-word limit)

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.

Summary: (291 words; 300-word limit):

Lime Island, or Île au Plâtre as recorded by the French, is in the St. Marys River, northwest of Drummond Island and east of Raber, Chippewa County, of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Beginning at least 6,000 - 10,000 years ago, Lime Island has fostered a myriad of uses, including by Native Americans, for quarried lime production burned in multiple lime kilns (1885 – circa 1896), as a 30-room summer resort hotel (1890 – circa 1910), and a coal and oil refueling station with a company town (1910 – 1982).

Once the refueling station closed in 1982, the island was vacant for some time and suffered from deferred maintenance and vandalism. Between 1986 and 2011, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Management Division undertook environmental clean-up efforts and multiple rehabilitation and renovation projects. In 1991 - 98, the Lime Island State Recreation area opened to the public for overnight stays on camping platforms and in cabins. Lime Island then transferred to the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in 2011. Today, most of Lime Island's extant developmental history lies within its northwestern portion. The remaining historic buildings and structures relate to lime production through six lime kiln ruins and the refueling station, which includes the coal dock, a one-room schoolhouse, seven cabins, the Victorian two-and-a-half story Superintendent's house, an industrial block building, a Quonset hut, a shop building, two 1,750,000-gallon bunker fuel-storage tanks, and two 10,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks.

To understand Lime island's history and interpret its significance, Quinn Evans, in consultation with Arbre Croche Cultural Resources, LLC and U.P. Engineers and Architects, created a Cultural Resource Management Plan of Lime Island for the DNR. Additionally, the Cultural Resource Management Plan provides options for treatment recommendations for future maintenance and programming needs of the park.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Describe the history of Lime Island related to its known Native American use, lime production, its capacity as a summer resort, and the Great Lakes Maritime shipping industry refueling station and company town.
- 2) Identify the extant buildings and structures on Lime Island.

- 3) Discuss the significance of Lime Island and its two potential historic districts.
- 4) Summarize the treatment path to preserving Lime Island in the future.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Megan Zidar  
**TITLE:** Architectural Historian  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Detroit, MI 48201

Biographical statement: (102 words; 150-word limit)

Megan Zidar is an academic historian and architectural historian who has worked in the preservation industry for the past 12 years and with Quinn Evans for the last 4 years. She has outstanding research skills and meets federal professional qualifications as a historian. While she appreciates the beauty of historic architectural features, she enjoys learning the stories behind the features even more. She has successfully completed numerous individual historic documentation efforts, including National Register nominations, Determinations of Eligibility, Historic Structures Reports and Conditions Assessment Reports, Cultural Landscape Inventories and Reports, Michigan Section 106 reviews, historic tax credit applications, and intensive level surveys.

**NAME:** Michelle Smay, AIA  
**TITLE:** Senior Preservation Architect  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Biographical statement: (147 words; 150-word limit)

Michelle Smay is a licensed architect with 30 years of experience in historic preservation. Throughout her career, she has had a focus on lighthouse and maritime preservation. Michelle has been involved in 29 preservation projects at 18 lighthouses. She led the restoration of the St. Joseph Inner and Outer Lights, which along with the City of St. Joseph, Mihm Enterprises, the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, the Lighthouse Forever Fund, and the Citizens of St. Joseph won a 2016 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation and the 2017 MHPN Building Award. As a Senior Preservation Architect at Quinn Evans, Michelle is leading the continuing preservation of the Charlevoix Lighthouse and the restoration of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Michelle holds a BS and Master of Science in Architecture from the University of Michigan and is a proud MHPN Board of Directors Emerita.

**NAME:** Misty Jackson  
**TITLE:** Owner and Principal Investigator  
**AFFIL:** Arbre Croche Cultural Resources, LLC  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Leslie, MI 49251

Biographical statement: (135 words; 150-word limit)

Misty M. Jackson received her Ph.D. from the Department of Anthropology at Michigan State University in 2005, specializing in eastern North American archaeology with a focus on

historical archaeology. Jackson is proprietor and principal investigator of Arbre Croche Cultural Resources based in Leslie, Michigan. She currently serves as president on the boards for the Center for French Colonial Studies and the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management (CMURM), and previously served on Michigan's State Historic Preservation Review Board. Jackson's work has included providing expert witness for a Native American treaty case in 2014-2015. She is co-editor for and contributor to *The History and Archaeology of Fort Ouiatenon: 300 Years in the Making* (Purdue University Press, 2024) and co-editor for and contributor to the forthcoming book *Post-contact Archaeology of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region*.

## **2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference "Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK:**           **TRACK 2: Information**  
**DATE:**           **Friday, May 16, 2025**  
**TIME:**           **10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**MODERATOR:** Kristine Kidorf, President Emerita, MHPN

Title:

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects – 201: Intermediate

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (68 words; 50-word limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. Examples of actual deal structuring show you how incentives work, how they function together, and how you can work with state and federal government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants to bring incentives to your project. Our session is meant for those with a basic knowledge of project development. Time is available for questions.

Summary: (246 words; 300-word limit):

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can bring valuable financial incentives to real estate development projects. Such incentives are more important than ever with credit markets tightening in the current inflationary, high-interest rate environment. In the 101-Introductory portion of this two-part program, a working knowledge of basic incentives is taught, illustrated by how financing was put together for several local projects. In the 201-Intermediate portion, we provide an overview of the federal historic tax credit (HTC) and incentives frequently utilized in financing historic rehabilitations in Michigan, including the revived Michigan state historic tax credit, Community Revitalization Program (CRP) grants and loans, Brownfield tax increment financing (TIF), Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Opportunity Zones, and PACE financing. We also discuss such practical experiences as considerations related to retaining vs. syndicating federal HTCs, closing HTC syndication transactions, obtaining bridge financing, and choosing a good team of consultants. An active HTC investor will provide examples of projects where they were able to function as a "one-stop shop" for the project's financing needs. By presenting examples of actual deal structuring for some great historic properties, this Intermediate portion shows you how these and other programs work, how they can function together, and how you can

work with the government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants who can bring these incentives to your project. For both 101 and 201 presentations, a significant amount of time is made available for questions so that participants can apply what they have learned.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Identify the various financial incentives available to harness significant equity investment, more favorable loan terms and reduced property taxes for historic preservation projects – e.g., federal historic tax credits, Michigan Historic Tax Credits, Opportunity Zones, Brownfield tax increment financing, Michigan’s Community Revitalization Program (CRP) and PACE financing.
- 2) Describe, in particular, the requirements of the federal historic tax credit and the historic tax credit syndication process.
- 3) Identify the parties who likely will work on successful financial packages to restore or adaptively reuse historic buildings; consider how to work together, and go through case studies that apply what has been discussed.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the choices to made from among financial incentives to help you apply the right ones to your project.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Gordon Goldie  
**TITLE:** Partner  
**AFFIL:** Plante Moran  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Biographical statement: (150-word limit)

Gordon Goldie is one of the leaders of Plante Moran’s Housing and Community Development Solutions Group. He has 37 years of experience primarily focused on providing tax consulting services to the real estate industry. He spends virtually 100% of his time assisting both profit and non-profit clients that are involved in real estate development projects involving tax incentives such as Historic Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, and Opportunity Zones. He assists clients nationwide in identifying available tax incentives and structuring transactions to optimize the net benefit of the incentives while ensuring compliance with all applicable tax law requirements. Gordon frequently lectures on Historic Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, Opportunity Zones, and other community development tax incentives for organizations such as IPED, NH&RA, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Heritage Ohio, and OZ Expo.

**NAME:** Nathan F. Ware  
**TITLE:** Partner  
**AFFIL:** Baker Hostetler  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Cleveland, OH 44114-1214

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Nathan Ware is a member of Baker Hostetler’s Business and Tax Groups, and serves as co-leader of the firm’s Tax Credit Finance and Economic Development Incentives team. He focuses his practice on tax planning and structuring tax-advantaged investments in the context of development and project finance transactions. He has significant knowledge of many of the federal general business credits (e.g., the investment credit including the rehabilitation credit, the New Markets Tax Credit and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit). He also has experience with conservation easements and opportunity zones. Notably, he has experience with various other state and local development tools including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, tax-increment financing, and tax abatements. Nathan presents and writes regularly on a variety of tax credit issues. He is also a member of the Novogradac New Markets Tax Credit working group, the Historic Tax Credit Coalition, and the Novogradac Opportunity Zone working group.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: SHPO TRACK**  
**DATE: Friday, May 16, 2025**  
**TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**MODERATOR: Kate Frederick, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office**

Title:

Non-Invasive Methods for Identifying Subsurface Resources

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit) [As provided by Sarah 2024-11-20]

Traditional methods for identifying archaeological sites or subsurface cultural resources are often invasive and require excavation. There are culturally sensitive situations where excavation is not preferred. Learn about methods and best practices for non- or minimally invasive archaeological survey and site identification, including geophysical prospection and human remains detection dogs.

Summary: (229 words; 300-word limit):

Traditional methods for identifying archaeological sites or subsurface cultural resources are often invasive and require excavation. However, there are often situations and cultural contexts where excavation is inappropriate or not the preferred course of action. Increasingly, alternatives such as geophysical prospection and K9 archaeological human remains detection are being utilized in culturally sensitive situations. In this session, we explore non-invasive alternatives for archaeological survey and consider when and where these methods are applicable. We will also discuss best practices and standards for non-invasive survey in archaeology.

Geophysical prospection is the term for a broad suite of techniques that use the physical properties of the earth to remotely sense buried cultural resources. Some commonly used geophysical techniques include ground penetrating radar (GPR), magnetometry, soil resistivity, and magnetic susceptibility. Geophysics can be useful for identifying foundations, graves, and other archaeological features. Geophysical methods have been applied to archaeological investigation for decades, but have only recently become more mainstream in Great Lakes Archaeology.

K9 Archaeological Human Remains Detection (arcHRD) is a strategy that utilizes specially trained service dogs to detect the scent of archeological human remains. K9 arcHRD is a sensing modality that can help locate abandoned cemeteries, graves, and sacred burial sites. This technique can identify both historic and pre-contact burials. Some advantages of K9 arcHRD are reduced field time to locate buried cultural resources and the ability to detect deposits without disruption or excavation.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Describe a basic understanding of geophysical prospection including common techniques such as ground penetrating radar (GPR), magnetometry, soil resistivity, and magnetic susceptibility, and of K9 Archaeological Human Remains Detection (arcHRD).
- 2) Explain the benefits and limitations of geophysical survey and K9 arcHRD survey.
- 3) Identify which non-invasive methods are best for their undertakings or projects.
- 4) Compare and contrast non-invasive methods with traditional archaeological methods.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Sarah Surface-Evans  
TITLE: Senior Archaeologist  
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Lansing, MI 48913

Biographical statement: (138 words; 150-word limit)

Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans is an archaeologist with over 25 years of experience in Midwest and Great Lakes regions. Sarah joined the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as Senior Archaeologist in 2022, where she leads the SHPO Archaeology Program. She specializes in community-based archaeological practice and investigates cultural landscapes through small material culture, geographic information science (GIS), and geophysical prospection. Her research has investigated a variety of topics, including expressions of health and wellbeing in the late 19th century, the structure of space as an expression of power in settler-colonial landscapes, and the role of memory, nostalgia, and

haunting in contested colonial histories. Her recent publications include “Blurring Timescapes, Subverting Erasure: Remembering Ghosts on the Margins of History” published by Berghahn Books and “Exploring Well-Being at Three Great Lakes Lighthouses” published in the International Journal of Historical Archaeology.

**NAME:** Jennifer Jordan Hall  
**TITLE:** Founder and Director  
**AFFIL:** KYK9 Search Dogs  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Louisville, KY 40205

Biographical statement: (93 words: 150-word limit)

Jennifer Jordan Hall is director of KYK9 Search Dogs which provides professional scent-detection search dog services to find human remains and forensic evidence. Hall and her dogs, K9 Pocket and K9 Wick, specialize in archaeological human remains detection (archHRD). They help agencies, archaeologists, and Tribal nations locate and protect historic and pre-contact burials, some of which have dated back 3,000 years. Hall consults with tribal and state historic preservation officers on best practices for using archHRD K9. Recognized as a K9 scent-detection expert witness, Hall graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

**NAME:** Duane Quates  
**TITLE:** MI-NRCS State Archaeologist  
**AFFIL:** USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** East Lansing, MI 48823-6321

Biographical statement: (150 words; 150-word limit)

Dr. E.W. Duane Quates is the State Cultural Resources Specialist/Archaeologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-Michigan, an agency with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After military service in the U.S. Navy, he obtained a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of West Florida and a master's degree and PhD in anthropology from Michigan State University. His dissertation focused on the archaeology of border smuggling and the illicit slave trade across the Spanish West Florida/Alabama territorial border in the early 19th century. Since 1999, Dr. Quates has worked as a professional archaeologist for private sector firms, academic institutions, and state and federal government agencies in the U.S. and United Kingdom. Prior to NRCS, he worked as an archaeologist for the U.S. Department of the Army, where he became proficient with geophysical technologies for archaeological investigations. He has maintained his proficiency and utilizes these technologies in his work with NRCS.

**NAME:** Kaila Akina  
**TITLE:** Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
**AFFIL:** Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Shelbyville, MI 49344

Biographical statement: (75 words; 150-word limit)

Kaila Akina (Navajo, Native Hawaiian) is the Cultural Resources Specialist for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians. She is an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. Akina has an M.A. from the University of Minnesota in anthropology and a B.A. in

history from the University of Idaho. She has focused on historical archaeology within the United States and enjoys learning more about incorporating Indigenous knowledges and practices into the fields of archaeology and historic preservation.

## **FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 – 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM:**

### **2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference “Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK: KEYNOTE**

**DATE: Friday, May 16, 2024**

**TIME: 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM**

**MODERATOR: Melissa Milton-Pung, President, MHPN**

Title:

2025 Keynote Address

Historic Preservation and Building Thriving Communities

Summary for the Brochure’s Keynote Speaker Page: (299 words: 300-word limit)

Communities thrive when people and places are connected, and the community possesses the knowledge, resources, and will necessary to support the well-being of all residents. Beyond economic strength, communities that succeed prioritize trust in neighbors, community leaders, and local governments. Building on ties between community members and the places they inhabit can help foster better access to resources and social networks. A thriving community inspires optimism among leaders, prioritizing trust and belonging in everyday municipal decisions, and helps Michigan places grow together for greater resilience.

On more than one occasion, Gilmartin has spoken about what he sees through this lens. He emphasizes his commitment to placemaking as an economic tool and the importance of historic preservation as a key component of placemaking. He sees that keeping older buildings in use helps meet the state's need for housing at all price points, is one of the easiest ways to effect climate action, keeps downtown retail alive, builds walkable living and working environments that thrive as more people work remotely in both small communities and large cities, and, along the way, crafts unique spaces that people value.

To Gilmartin, communities that take on this work are not afraid to innovate. Innovation most often occurs during times of crisis, something that has occurred in the past and will occur in the future. He believes that we innovate at the edges of our competencies, that mistakes get made, but that the outcomes are worth it because the most difficult work, perhaps the most controversial work, could ultimately be our most important work.

Through it all, Gilmartin continues seeking new strategies to build thriving communities. This approach challenges people to take ownership of the stories that define us, give meaning to place, build our futures, and help us retain a connection to the past.



Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the mission of the Michigan Municipal League to create and cultivate resources, partnerships, and opportunities that Michigan communities need to thrive.
- 2) Summarize the discipline-spanning meaning of thriving communities and how they are built.
- 3) Review how the mission of the Michigan Municipal League and its commitment to loving Michigan places where people feel connected and included is enhanced by recognizing the importance of placemaking.
- 4) Demonstrate how the speaker uses his skills as an economic development professional to establish historic preservation as a key to place-making and that its importance may best be tapped through storytelling.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio:

**NAME:** Dan Gilmartin  
**TITLE:** Executive Director and CEO  
**AFFIL:** Michigan Municipal League  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Biographical statement: (153 words; 150-word limit)

Dan Gilmartin is executive director and CEO of the Michigan Municipal League. He is recognized as a national leader in the fields of urban revitalization, placemaking, local government reform, transportation policy, and—more recently—building thriving communities. Under Dan’s leadership, the League has grown to wield increasing influence on matters of civic engagement and equity-based strategies to improve the quality of life in communities large and small. He has been invited to share his thought leadership in both international and domestic forums. In 2018, Dan testified before a U.S. Senate Committee on state and local transportation infrastructure needs. He is actively engaged in the National League of Cities; his service has included NLC’s board of directors, National Task Force on Housing, and their President Election Task Force. In partnership with NLC, Dan was instrumental in the national push for federal investment in all local units of government in the 2021 American Rescue Plan.

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 – 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM:**

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 2: Information

**DATE: Friday, May 16, 2025**  
**TIME: 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM**

**MODERATOR: Myrna Segura, Board of Directors, MHPN**

Title:

The Michigan Main Street Program –The Economic Impact of Downtown Management

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words; 50-word limit)

When discussing Placemaking, the emphasis is often on "what" defines place and "why" it's important. What goes unanswered is "how" place is made. The Michigan Main Street program offers answers with the nationally-recognized Main Street Four-Point Approach® that uses grassroots efforts and pride in historic buildings to create vibrant downtowns.

Summary: (199 words; 300-word limit):

During discussions about Placemaking, the emphasis is often on "what" defines a place and "why" it's important. However, the "how" of creating a place often remains unanswered. The Michigan Main Street (MMS) program offers a solution.

By implementing the nationally recognized Main Street Four-Point Approach®, your community can engage grassroots efforts, local leaders, and volunteers to foster economic development through historic preservation. Local MMS programs are known for transforming downtowns into vibrant areas with a strong sense of place, pride in historic buildings, and thriving businesses that make people want to stay. Let the Michigan Main Street program show your community the "how."

MMS communities prioritize building a downtown environment that supports business retention, attraction, marketing, volunteers, and historic preservation. These communities celebrate their unique culture and heritage, with preservation and design practices reflecting pride in their historic assets. Existing businesses thrive, while new ones complement the distinctive mix of shops and services. MMS programs are comprehensive, driven by local leaders, volunteers, and skilled staff who demonstrate strong public-private sector support, ensuring the vitality of their districts.

This session covers all aspects of the Michigan Main Street Program, showcasing how communities have successfully implemented the Main Street approach.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Discuss why downtowns are important places and how historic preservation is one of a community's best economic development strategies.
- 2) Outline the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to downtown revitalization including the four points and the eight principles behind the nationally-recognized and highly successful strategy.

- 3) Outline the Michigan Main Street program including the four levels of participation, services provided to participating communities, and requirements for participating in the program.
- 4) Describe how managing a downtown contributes to economic development and how downtown organizations can tell the story of the economic impact they are creating within their community.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Laura Krizov  
**TITLE:** Manager, Michigan Main Street  
**AFFIL:** Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48913

Biographical statement: (112 words; 150-word limit)

Laura Krizov is the Manager of the Michigan Main Street program and has been with the State of Michigan for 26 years. During her tenure, she served on the Michigan Economic Corporation's CATeam, where she played a key role in helping communities through the revitalization process. Her work included managing Brownfield projects, coordinating CBDG incentives, and offering technical assistance. For the past 21 years, Krizov has been an integral part of the Michigan Main Street Program, providing essential support to Main Street communities. The program is nationally recognized for its excellence. Additionally, she has served on the Leadership Council for Main Street America and is a former board member of the organization.

**NAME:** Leigh Young  
**TITLE:** Senior Main Street Specialist  
**AFFIL:** Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48913

Biographical statement: (93 words; 150-word limit)

Leigh Young, AICP, conducts trainings and provides technical assistance and essential support to Michigan Downtowns and Michigan Main Street Communities. Leigh has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan and a Bachelors in Public Policy from Michigan State University, with specializations in physical planning and design and environmental policy. She has over 10 years of experience in public sector planning and downtown management. Prior to joining the Michigan Main Street team, Leigh worked for Oakland County, MI where she primarily worked with the Main Street Oakland County Program.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK:** TRACK 1  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

**MODERATOR:** Todd Walsh, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Title:

Old Stories, New Tools: Engaging New Audiences through Digital Storytelling

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(51 words; 50-word limit)

Digital tools are for more than telling people your address and when you are open! They can be essential parts of interpretive programming, whether part of an educational curriculum, publicity strategy, or just for information. Storymapping, social media strategies, and other digital tools share stories in fresh ways with new audiences.

Summary: (241 words; 300-word limit):

Digital tools should be for more than just telling people your address and when you are open. They can be an essential part of interpretive programming, whether part of an educational curriculum, publicity strategy, or community engagement. This session explores digital storytelling from different perspectives. From the Upper Peninsula, the Keweenaw Time Traveler program uses digital and spatial tools to link stories, architectural and archaeological resources, history, geographic sites, community contributions, and more. Another focus of the panel is on storytelling when you don't own or manage a particular place but are charged with interpreting it. There's no reason why, as an individual, a member of a historical society or historic district commission, or as a government official, you can't digitally fold storytelling into your community place-making plans. Yet another focus is on storytelling when it's for as large and complex a site as the Michigan Central Station in Detroit. Its architecture and its preservation have received the attention, but there's a story to tell about the neighborhood in which it was built, the lives of those who built it, its future as a hub for high-tech activities, and so much more. To capture its story takes as sophisticated a suite of tools as was used during its restoration. Presenters discuss some of their individual initiatives and share best practices and other lessons learned. Attendees will leave with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to share stories with new audiences using digital tools.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Compare various digital storytelling opportunities and decide what is best for their own organizations/institutions/sites.
- 2) Compare digital storytelling opportunities and the technologies and human components needed to support the storytelling opportunities selected.
- 3) Integrate digital storytelling into education plans for outreach initiatives.
- 4) Articulate a newfound enthusiasm for the storytelling opportunities chosen for their own organizations/institutions/sites and identify contacts to help plan for them.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Nathan Nietering  
**TITLE:** Project and Website Coordinator  
**AFFIL:** Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48913

Biographical statement: (93 words; 150-word limit)

Nathan Nietering is the Project and Website Coordinator for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and works extensively with special projects, external outreach, social media, and the National Register program. Coming from prior experience in the museum field, Nathan believes strongly that historic places – buildings, sites, objects, structures, and districts – can foster the same experiential connections to the past as artifacts and exhibits. Nathan joined the SHPO in 2018 and has a bachelor’s degree in Public History from Western Michigan University and a master’s degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

**NAME:** Sarah Fayen Scarlett, PhD  
**TITLE:** Associate Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences  
**AFFIL:** Michigan Technological University  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Houghton, MI 49931

Biographical statement: (118 words; 150-word limit)

Sarah Fayen Scarlett is a social historian who privileges architecture, landscapes, objects, and artworks in her research, public interpretation, and teaching strategies. Sarah’s work relies on the idea that the built environment and the objects within it reflect and also shape human beliefs and attitudes. She locates herself at the intersection of three interdisciplinary subfields: vernacular architecture, material culture, and cultural landscape studies. Sarah interfaces with scholars and methodologies from fields including history, archaeology, geography, American studies, architecture, and art history. Sarah co-directs the NEH-sponsored historical Geographic Information System (GIS) of the Copper Country called the Keweenaw Time Traveler, which asks "citizen historians" to contribute their own knowledge about landscape change over time and help process historical data.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 3: Case Studies  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM / 1 hour requested; 1.25 hours provided

**MODERATOR:** Joe Frost, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Restoring a National Landmark – Detroit’s Guardian Building

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(50 words)

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.

Summary: (269 words; 300-word limit):

Downtown Detroit's 43-story Guardian Building, also known as the Cathedral of Finance, is a National Landmark and an Art Deco masterpiece. Designed by Wirt C. Rowland of Smith, Hinchman & Grills (now SmithGroup) for the Union Trust Company, the building was completed in 1929 and became the tallest masonry building in the world. It exemplifies an early high-rise structure with mass masonry over a structural frame. The Guardian's exterior walls are thinner than traditional mass masonry walls, which relied on thickness to shed water. Over decades, water infiltrated the exterior walls, resulting in deterioration of the masonry and underlying structure, necessitating restoration to stabilize and preserve the façade. Previous restoration work occurred in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s.

The most recent restoration of the Guardian Building façade began in 2013 and is currently ongoing. This phased project started over a year before the removal of the first unit of masonry, with initial planning that included "rigging" the building for safe façade access. A detailed assessment documented the physical condition of the façade, identified areas requiring work, and documented conditions for bidding by restoration experts. Invasive probes into the masonry, brick matching, and cataloging of existing terracotta units were performed concurrently with the assessment. Each unique terracotta unit was measured and sampled for molding and procurement of replacement units. Corrosion of structural elements necessitated the rebuilding of extensive masonry areas, and existing potentially unstable conditions required temporary stabilization until replacement units could be fabricated and procured.

This case study includes photos of the original construction and restoration, shining a light on the building's history, its assessment, investigation, and restoration process.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Explain the history of the Guardian Building and the technology/innovations that led to the development of early high rise masonry buildings.
- 2) Describe the nuances of restoring a mass masonry high-rise building and the process involved from beginning to end.
- 3) Describe the consequences of water infiltration into a mass masonry barrier wall.
- 4) Identify the cause of masonry deterioration, how to replicate materials, and the process to implement repair.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Zachary Rusu, AIA  
**TITLE:** Associate  
**AFFIL:** SmithGroup  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Biographical statement: (148 words; 150-word limit)

Zachary Rusu brings over 15 years of experience in architecture with a focus on exterior enclosures and many projects focused on historic preservation and restoration. He has worked with the General Services Administration, Smithsonian Institution, University of Michigan, and others while performing restoration work on buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Professional responsibilities include construction administration, investigation, documentation, and analysis of existing conditions, construction documents for remediation and restoration, and construction contract administration and field observation. Historic project experience examples include:

- Boston's JFK Federal Building designed by Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus.
- Detroit's Guardian Building, an Art Deco Landmark.
- Oakland University's Meadowbrook Hall, one of America's Castles.
- Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building.
- University of Michigan's President's Residence, the oldest building on campus.

Zachary has demonstrated the 36 CFR 61 qualifications necessary to be listed as a Historical Architect on the Michigan SHPO consultants list.

**NAME:** Jerome Misiolek  
**TITLE:** Senior Principal  
**AFFIL:** SmithGroup  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Detroit, MI 48226

Biographical statement: (124 words; 150-word limit)

With a background in restoration for more than 35 years, first as a contractor, and currently as a Senior Consultant with SmithGroup, a national architectural/engineering firm, Jerome Misiolek has been involved in projects as diverse as the Arts & Industry Building in Washington DC. to Superintendent Lodges at several of our VA National Cemeteries that date back to the Civil War. He is an active member of the Masonry Institute of Michigan, the Michigan Masonry Advisory Board (past chair), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM,) and the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants. Mr. Misiolek met the qualifications established by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and was added to their List of Consultants Meeting Federal Qualifications for Historic Architects in 2017.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**"Bringing Stories to Light"**

**TRACK:** TOUR TRACK  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 2:15 PM – 5:00 PM

**CAPACITY:** 25 Participants  
**TOUR ACCOMPANIST:** Lindsey Dotson, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Downtown Sault Ste. Marie: Great Buildings, Great Projects

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (125 words; 100-word limit)

Sault Ste. Marie initially grew due to its location on the portage route around St. Marys Falls. Construction of the first American lock in 1855 accelerated the growth. The commercial center along Water Street expanded to nearby Ashmun Street, but moved fully to Ashmun following the 1892 relocation of Fort Brady. Except for an upturn in building spurred by World War II, construction slowed and finally stopped due to the urban sprawl of the 1950s and 1960s. The Michigan Main Street Program reversed this trend. The district's buildings mostly date from the late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries. Commercial styles include Italianate, Late Victorian, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Commercial Brick. The Neoclassical Federal Building and Second Empire County Courthouse are stand-outs. Several buildings are visited during the tour.

Summary: (305 words; 300-word limit):

As settlement of Michigan's Upper Peninsula expanded in the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century, Sault Ste. Marie grew due to its strategic location on the portage route around the St. Marys Falls. Growth was accelerated by the 1840s copper boom and construction of the first American lock in 1855. By this time, the commercial center of the city along Water Street was expanded along nearby Ashmun Street. The twelve commercial enterprises in the city in 1856 grew to 70 by 1879.

More buildings were added as the city boomed in the 1880 and 1890s. The move of the commercial center from Water Street to Ashmun was accelerated by the 1892 relocation of Fort Brady, which opened up real estate, and two disastrous fires in 1886 and 1896, which destroyed many of the commercial buildings on Water Street. A hydroelectric power canal was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the commercial district expanded even more rapidly in response. After a slowing of construction in the 1910s, '20s, and '30s, followed by an upturn after World War II, downtown declined in the 1950s and 1960s as urban sprawl drew people away from the city core. More recently, the Downtown Development Authority has reinvigorated the downtown area through use of the Michigan Main Street Program.

The district contains 146 buildings, of which 104 contribute to the district's historic character. The buildings are mostly two stories in height and while constructed between 1820 and 1968, most date from the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century. Architectural styles include Italianate, Late Victorian, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Commercial Brick commercial buildings, Neoclassical Federal Building and Second Empire County Courthouse, and vernacular and Colonial Revival houses.

The district stands out as a well-preserved reflection of the city's history and architecture capturing the development of one of the oldest cities in Michigan. Several of the buildings are visited during the tour.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"



- 1) Identify and describe the downtown revitalization tools used to revitalize downtown Sault Ste. Marie.
- 2) Discuss that almost any sound downtown building can be adaptively reused.
- 3) Compare examples of buildings that are untouched (before) and those that are in transition or completed (after) and compare revitalization tactics.
- 4) Summarize the problems and challenges faced in revitalizing historic downtown buildings – i.e. creating workable designs that fit the market, meeting codes, addressing hazardous materials, working through accessibility issues, and more.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Justin Knepper  
 TITLE: Owner  
 AFFIL: Knepper Development Strategies  
 CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Biographical statement: (138 words; 150-word limit)

Justin Knepper has 20 years of experience in the areas of local and state politics, downtown development, and regional economic development. After working nearly 10 years as Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan's Downtown Development Director, Justin and his wife Caryn purchased their first historic building and recently completed restoration, utilizing the Federal Historic Tax Credit program. Justin currently works as the executive director of the Michigan Association of Timbermen, a trade association supporting Michigan's forest products industry. He also owns Knepper Development Strategies, an Upper Peninsula-based consulting firm focused on grant writing, fundraising, historic preservation consulting and support, project and construction management, and various other support across the eastern Upper Peninsula and throughout Michigan. Justin received a BA in Government in 2002 from Patrick Henry College, and an MS in Public Administration in 2010 from Grand Valley State University.

DRAFT TIMED AGENDA:

Friday, May 16, 2025 – 2:15 PM – 5:00 PM:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2:15 PM      | Vans pick-up participants from Walker-Cisler Center                          |
| 2:15-2:30 PM | Travel by van to Commercial Building 824 Ashmun Street (15 minutes)          |
| 2:30-3:00 PM | Tour of Commercial Building (30 minutes)                                     |
| 3:00-3:10 PM | Travel by van to Chippewa County Courthouse at 319 Court Street (10 minutes) |
| 3:10-3:40 PM | Tour of Chippewa County Courthouse (30 minutes)                              |

3:40-3:45 PM Travel by van to Chippewa County Historical Society Building at 115 Ashmun (5 minutes)

3:45-4:20 PM Tour of Chippewa County Historical Society Building – INCLUDES BATHROOM BREAK (AND COFFEE?) (35 minutes)

4:20-4:25 PM Walk to MAC Building at 411 West Portage Avenue (5 minutes)

4:25-4:55 PM Tour of MAC Building (30 minutes)

4:55- 5:10 PM Travel by van back to Walker-Cisler Center (15 minutes)

5:10 PM Vans drop-off participants at Walker-Cisler Center (NOTE: you can be a little late because the Awards don't start at the Art Center until 6:30 PM.)

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 – 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM:**

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 1: Theme  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

**MODERATOR:** Norm Tyler, Emeriti Leadership Council, MHPN

Title:

Creating Celebrations for Those in the Future Looking Back

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (51 words; 50-word words)

Many Michigan communities will observe special dates in upcoming years. The City of Ann Arbor celebrated its Bicentennial in 2024 with highly engaging activities: weekly history projects, smartphone-based tours, and a community-wide closing celebration. Ann Arbor’s experiences can inspire your own planning committee to recognize your local history in spectacular ways!

Summary: (292 words; 300-word limit):

Many Michigan communities will observe their bicentennial, or other special dates, in upcoming years. Ann Arbor celebrated its bicentennial in 2024 with three community-generated activities. They can inspire other communities to recognize their local history in special ways.

Ann Arbor 200 was a project undertaken by the Ann Arbor District Library (AADL), creating over two hundred digital content releases that explored the city’s history. Through articles,

documentaries, podcasts, illustrations, music recordings, and animations which were informative and sometimes whimsical and experimental, the goal was to create a series of projects that reflected the community for those in the future looking back.

The SmartTours project was created to encourage residents and visitors to become more familiar with Ann Arbor through local history tours hosted on smartphones. Through photographs and narratives, local historians developed fifteen tours that include distinctive landmarks, historic neighborhoods, iconic commercial areas, engaging Huron River hikes, plus an intriguing scavenger tour. AADL hosted the tour web sites, and the tours were promoted through local agencies, radio and television interviews, a two-minute video shown at the two downtown theaters, QR Codes posted at strategic locations, and a regularly updated SmartTours News web site. As a special challenge for local residents, they would be recognized with an official Certificate of Completion if they visited all 177 sites.

A community-wide Bicentennial Celebration took place on May 25th, the actual date of the city's founding. The successful event was the culmination of hundreds of hours of planning by members of the Bicentennial's History Committee and supported by other organizations, including the Library Green Conservancy, Destination Ann Arbor, the State Street District and the historic Kempf House Board. Seven residents shared personal stories relating to the Bicentennial, and the city's Congressional representative presented a congratulatory plaque.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- 1) Explain the steps in creating smartphone-based history tours.
- 2) Identify history-related activities that can be hosted by their local library.
- 3) Describe innovative ways to promote local history.
- 4) Discuss strategies using citizen input for bicentennial celebrations.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Norman Tyler  
TITLE: Professor Emeritus  
AFFIL: Eastern Michigan University  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104

Biographical statement: (116 words; 150-word limit)

Norman Tyler is a nationally recognized professor (emeritus) of city planning and historic preservation. For twenty years he served as Director of the Urban and Regional Planning Program at Eastern Michigan University and has been recognized nationally as a member of the College of Fellows of the American Planning Association. Norm is a community activist who has served on the board of numerous local community and professional organizations. He has authored books on city planning, historic preservation, the history of transportation, Greek Revival architecture, the Peace Corps, a biography of the nation's first female pilot, and a Tyler family history. He lives with his wife Ilene in their historic Greek Revival house in downtown Ann Arbor.

**NAME:** Eli Neiburger  
**TITLE:** Director  
**AFFIL:** Ann Arbor District Library  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104

Biographical statement: (111 words; 150-word limit)

Eli Neiburger is Director of the Ann Arbor District Library, where he first joined the staff as a Helpdesk Technician in 1997. His background includes comedy writing, puppetry, music composition, and an Architecture degree from the University of Michigan. He is a past contributor to VOYA: Voices of Youth Advocates, Library Technology Reports, BOOK: A Manifesto, The Carnegie Mellon Entertainment Technology Center's Well Played, and the author of 2007's Gamers... in the LIBRARY?! from ALA Editions. In his spare time he enjoys arranging videogame music and / or 80s hits for his family band and / or karaoke tuba. His alter ego is a sock named Herschel with a talk show.

**NAME:** Ilene R. Tyler  
**TITLE:** Retired Architect  
**AFFIL:** Quinn Evans Architects  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104

Biographical statement: (100 words; 150-word limit)

Ilene R. Tyler is an architect, author, and advocate for the built environment. In 1986, Ms. Tyler joined Quinn Evans Architects to lead the restoration of many notable projects, such as the Nashville Parthenon, the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, and the Detroit Observatory in Ann Arbor. She taught the Principles of Preservation Technology at Eastern Michigan University and co-authored Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice, 3rd Edition, 2018, W. W. Norton & Co. and Greek Revival in America, tracing the origin of this iconic style as represented in their historic house in downtown Ann Arbor.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**  
**“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 3: Case Study  
**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025  
**TIME:** 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

**MODERATOR:** Lori Taylor-Blitz, Board of Directors, MHPN

Title:

Restoration Safeguards the Story of the 1876 U.S. Life-Saving Station at Vermilion Point

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(51 words; 50-word limit)

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.

Summary: (303 words; 300-word limit)

The U.S. Life-Saving Service was a government agency that began in 1848 to aid mariners in distress along the oceans and inland lakes. This agency had already built life-saving stations in the lower Great Lakes, but constructed the first stations on Lake Superior in 1876. The Vermilion Point Life-Saving Station was one of four identical “Lake Superior Type” life-saving stations constructed in 1876 on what was called the Shipwreck Coast - a particularly dangerous and remote section of shoreline between Whitefish Point and Munising on the south shore of Lake Superior. Numerous ships then plied Lake Superior, transporting copper, iron ore, and lumber. Due to storm-tossed shifting shorelines, off-shore shoals, and few aids to navigation, many shipwrecks occurred along this stretch of shoreline.

In 1915 the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service were combined and formed the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1938, the Coast Guard added three additional buildings to the site, and the isolated Vermilion station evolved into a highly active site. With the advent of larger, safer ships and improved technology, the site was later deemed unnecessary by the Coast Guard and closed in 1944. The buildings and site were deemed surplus property and sold in 1947 to a private owner.

After changing hands several times, the property was held as a privately owned single-property land trust, and utilized by Lake Superior State University for ecology education. In 2007, that individual sold the property to the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) as a nature preserve, protecting 1.75 miles and 175 acres of undeveloped Lake Superior shoreline. In 2016, dedicated individuals formed a non-profit, 501-c-3 organization - S.O.S. (Save-Our-Station) Vermilion (SOSV) - and partnered with LTC to save the 1876 station which had fallen into disrepair. Since 2016, SOSV has made progress on protecting and saving this important maritime resource.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- 1) Summarize the difference in purpose between “light stations” and “life-saving stations,” explaining the significance of the differences.
- 2) Identify the various distinguishing types of architectural styles used at life-saving stations.
- 3) Explain the physical significance of selecting the Vermilion Point site and the type of building chosen.
- 4) Describe the importance of planning, scheduling, and logistics of working at remote sites such as Vermilion – a resource on the unprotected southern shore of Lake Superior six miles west of Whitefish Point.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Bruce Lynn  
TITLE: Executive Director  
AFFIL: Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society/Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Biographical statement: (152 words; 150-word limit)

Bruce Lynn is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, located at Whitefish Point in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Bruce started his museum career as an Historical Interpreter at Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island in 1989, and later returned to work full-time for the Mackinac State Historic Parks. After graduating with a degree in American History from the Ohio State University, Lynn was accepted into Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation graduate program where he studied Heritage Interpretation. He has worked for the Alfred P. Sloan Museum (Flint), the Piatt Castles (West Liberty, OH) and was hired by the Ohio Historical Society to assist with the creation of an economic impact survey of historic sites for the Ohio State Legislature. In 2015 he co-authored, with award winning Great Lakes Maritime Photographer Chris Winters, the book The Legend Lives On, a richly illustrated meditation on the Edmund Fitzgerald.

NAME: Rick Neumann  
TITLE: Owner and Architect  
AFFIL: Richard Neumann Architect  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Petoskey, Mi 49770

Biographical statement: (154 words;150-word limit)

Rick Neumann, AIA, received his Bachelor of Architecture from UM in 1970. He joined Johnson, Johnson and Roy and then Preservation Urban Design, both among the earliest of Michigan's architectural firms to focus on preservation, training many of the state's first preservation architects. In 1980, Rick and his family moved to Petoskey where he had established a practice in 1979 in the Little Traverse Bay area, working in the northwest region of lower Michigan. In addition to preservation, Rick works on new building design and existing building adaptation. Commissions are for residences, cottages, small institutional and commercial buildings, urban infill, and community planning. Rick is registered in Michigan and a member of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Michigan, Groundwork, and the MHPN on whose board he served and still provides expertise on small town and rural preservation. He serves on the Petoskey Planning Commission and on the Petoskey Downtown Management Board Design Committee.

NAME: Ken Czapski  
TITLE: Co-Owner and Architect  
AFFIL: Sanders & Czapski Associates, PLLC  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Marquette, Mi 49855

Biographical statement: (49 words; 154 words;150-word limit)

Ken Czapski is a licensed architect and co-owner of the firm Sanders & Czapski Associates in Marquette, Michigan. Ken has worked on a number of historic lighthouse and other maritime restoration projects throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. He currently serves as a member of the S.O.S. Vermilion Board of Directors.

**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
“Bringing Stories to Light”**

**TRACK:** TRACK 2: Information

**DATE:** Friday, May 16, 2025

**TIME:** 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

**MODERATOR:** Brenda Rigdon, Executive Director, MHPN

Title:

The State Historic Preservation Tax Credit – Introduction and Updates

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (51 words; 50-word limit)

The 25% State Historic Preservation Tax Credit was established to promote the preservation of Michigan’s historic resources. Eligible properties must be listed, either individually or as contributing to a district, in the National Register, the State Register, or locally designated. Owner-occupied residential and commercial projects may apply. Could your project benefit?

Summary: (299 words; 300-word limit):

The State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program was approved by the Michigan Legislature in December of 2020 to help support place-based projects while promoting the preservation of Michigan’s historic resources. This session will provide an overview of the program parameters and application process, and update attendees on advocacy efforts for proposed changes to the legislation.

An eligible property must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district. Applications for Credits must fall into one of three categories: Owner occupied residential projects; Small commercial projects (up to \$2 million in qualified expenses); Large commercial projects (\$2 million and above). Credit reservations equal to 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenses are awarded on a first-come, first served basis up to an aggregate cap of \$5 million per calendar year. The availability of credits will depend on the amount of credits already committed in each category.

A three-part application process is used to apply for the state credit. It is similar to the parts used for the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, but is a completely independent and separate application. It is recommended that no project work take place until your application has been reviewed and approved. All proposed work will be reviewed against the guidance contained in The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation (36CFR61); the associated interpretation and explanation found in the Preservation Briefs Series; the Interpreting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards as published by the National Park Service; and other State tax credit program guidance that may be published by the





**2025 MHPN Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference  
“BRINGING STORIES TO LIGHT”**

**TRACK: SATURDAY WORKSHOP**

**DATE: Saturday, May 17, 2025**

**TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon**

**MODERATOR: Stacy Tchorzynski, Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

Page Title:

Underwater Archaeology, Past to Present: Hidden Stories Come to Light

Page Text: (442 words; 500-word limit)

Underwater archaeology and maritime heritage research have deep roots in Michigan. Nearly half a century ago, a system of underwater preserves was established across the state to preserve and protect hundreds of shipwrecks scattered across the lake floor. Shipwrecks, though the most iconic, are not the only archaeological sites found underwater: Paleo landscapes, maritime infrastructure, and airplanes are also preserved in the fresh cold waters of the Great Lakes.

**Opening Remarks:**

**Stacy Tchorzynski – Moderator**

Director of Archaeology, Michigan History Center-Department of Natural Resources

**Ron Bloomfield**

Interim Director, Museum Studies Program and CMU Museum, Central Michigan University

***It Takes a Village to Preserve OUR Shipwrecks***

In 1980, the State of Michigan legislated what would ultimately become 13 underwater preserves to protect the vast number of shipwrecks within the state’s bottomlands and create a mechanism to help with public marketing. The precursor of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc., a non-profit “friends” group, was created in 1985 to help the state manage these public assets due to very limited resources. The results of the past 40 years of this volunteer/governmental partnership, what has been learned, and how it has changed, requires critical discussion, as does what the future might hold with fundamental changes to volunteerism affecting many similar organizations.

**Wayne R. Lusardi**

State Maritime Archaeologist, Michigan History Center-Department of Natural Resources

***The Search for a Queen***

On October 23, 1968, a Beechcraft Queen Air and its three occupants went missing over Lake Superior. Operated by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the aircraft departed Madison, Wisconsin to conduct research west of the Keweenaw Peninsula. When it failed to arrive as scheduled in Madison, the Coast Guard began

a search that resulted in discovery of two airplane seat cushions and pieces of aluminum. Miscellaneous debris has since been discovered in fishing nets and along the shore. The aircraft and the three men on board, however, were never found. In 2024, a state-of-the-art search commenced for the missing aircraft.

**Dean L. Anderson, Ph.D.**

State Archaeologist of Michigan (Retired)

***Underwater Archaeological Sites: The Challenge of Evidence***

People tend to be fascinated by archaeology including underwater archaeological discoveries. Just like terrestrial archaeology, claims about some underwater sites raise questions about their credibility and it may be a time-consuming challenge to evaluate such sites. In these cases, archaeologists ask themselves, “what is the evidence?” The issue of evidence is at the heart of archaeology; it is the task of archaeologists to carefully examine and weigh purported evidence to arrive at a reliable understanding of the archaeological past. This presentation looks at claims of discoveries of archaeological interest in Michigan waters and considers the evidence for those claims.

Learning Objectives for Accreditation: (At least 4 objectives)

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe underwater archaeology and understand the importance of submerged heritage.
- 2) Describe archaeological sites in Michigan and why the archaeological record is an important, but fragile, information source about the past.
- 3) Connect offshore heritage to land-based thinking and practice.
- 4) Understand current underwater resource survey technologies.
- 5) Explain current approaches to collaborative heritage management.

Speaker Contact Information and Bios:

**NAME:** Stacy Tchorzynski  
**TITLE:** Director of Archaeology  
**AFFIL:** Michigan History Center-Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
**CITY/ST/ZIP:** Lansing, MI 48915

Biographical statement: (92 words; 150-word limit)

Stacy Tchorzynski is Director of Archaeology for the Michigan DNR, proudly based in the Michigan History Center. Stacy began state service in 2012 as Staff Archaeologist and later Senior Archaeologist at the State Historic Preservation Office and shifted to the DNR to create their Archaeology Section in 2021. She has nearly 30 years of experience in the archaeology and architectural history of the Great Lakes Region and holds a MA in Anthropology (Archaeology) from Binghamton University, SUNY and a BS in Anthropology with a Minor in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

**NAME:** Ron Bloomfield

TITLE: Interim Director, Museum Studies Program and CMU Museum  
AFFILIATION: Central Michigan University  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

Biographical statement: (125 words; 150-word limit)

Ron Bloomfield has worked in historic preservation, public history, and museums for over 30 years. For over 20 of those years, Ron has been involved in preserving, educating about, and providing access to Michigan's shipwrecks through work with the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, as an appointed public member of the Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve (Advisory) Committee for 13 years-and-counting under three Governors, and as past president and current board member of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History. Ron is the Interim Director of Central Michigan University's Museum Studies Program and the CMU Museum (its applied learning laboratory). He holds an MA in Humanities and a Bachelor of Science with majors in History and English and a museum studies concentration from Central Michigan University.

NAME: Wayne R. Lusardi  
TITLE: State Maritime Archaeologist  
AFFILIATION: Michigan History Center, Department of Natural Resources  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Alpena, MI 49707

Biographical Statement: (129 words; 150-word limit)

Wayne Lusardi has been Michigan's State Maritime Archaeologist for over two decades. He researches, surveys, and documents hundreds of shipwrecks and dozens of aircraft wrecks located in the state. Wayne has been leading expeditions to recover a Bell P39 Airacobra flown by Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Frank Moody that crashed into Lake Huron during a World War II training mission. Before coming to Michigan, Wayne was previously employed as an archaeological conservator for the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia and excavated the USS *Monitor's* turret after its recovery in 2002. He also spent four years on the Blackbeard shipwreck project in North Carolina. Wayne received his MA degree in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology from East Carolina University in 1998, and a BS in Anthropology from Illinois State University.

NAME: Dean L. Anderson, Ph.D.  
TITLE: State Archaeologist of Michigan (retired)  
AFFIL: Consultant  
CITY/ST/ZIP: Okemos, Michigan 48864

Biographical statement: (96 words; 150-word limit)

Dean L. Anderson retired as Michigan's State Archaeologist in 2019. He holds a B.A. degree in anthropology from the University of Minnesota, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. Dean has been involved in the archaeology of the Great Lakes region for his entire career. His primary interest is in historical archaeology, particularly regarding the interaction between Indigenous people and Europeans during the fur trade era. Following his retirement Dean has been advocating for archaeology in state government. In addition he is co-author of an upcoming book entitled *The Historical Archaeology of Michigan*.