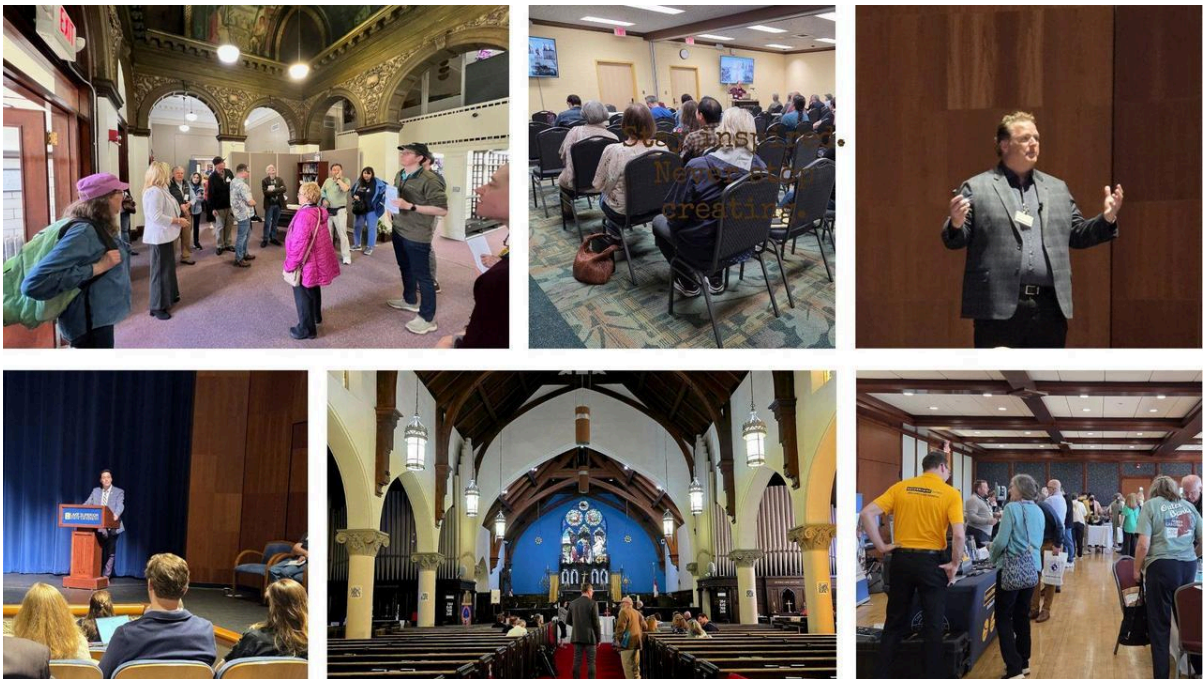




MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

June 2025 Newsletter

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



Conference photos. Upper left: Sault Ste. Marie's Residential Gems + More Tour (Tiffany Dziurman). Upper middle: Saturday workshop on underwater archaeology (Stacy Tchorzynski). Upper right: Dan Gilmartin presents the keynote address (Janet Kreger) Lower left: Austin Lowes presents the conference blessing (Janet Kreger). Middle: Sacred Spaces, Special Places tour (Melissa Milton-Pung). Lower right: Vendor's Showcase (Janet Kreger).

Thank you for attending the 45th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference!

Less than three weeks ago in Sault Ste. Marie, we held our 45th annual statewide preservation conference – “Bringing Stories to Light.” Over the course of three days, there was a solid turn-out of highly engaged participants, all ready to explore The Soo. We thank the local planning group with its indispensable members coming from the Chippewa County Historical Society, Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society/Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, The Soo Theatre, and the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

The result was noteworthy with 275 registrants making their way to the Upper Peninsula. They participated in four-tracks of programs featuring over 75 session speakers and tour leaders presenting 24 in-seat programs and four tours – all tours selling out! Our popular annual events included the Conference Welcome with the Blessing presented by Austin Lowes, Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; the All-Conference Opening Reception and Vendors' Showcase; the Keynote Address, featuring Dan Gilmartin, Executive Director and CEO of the Michigan Municipal League; and the 34th Annual Awards Reception and Ceremony. For over 125 guests, a very special add-on was the Sunset Boat Trip through the Soo Locks during which guests had the rare experience of being locked both upbound and downbound with a freighter!

There was an abundant amount of knowledge shared, a generous helping of fun, and a lively amount of networking! We thank everyone who attended!

Reminder: Please upload your conference photos using the Whova app and help us with conference evaluations by submitting your survey answers using the app or, for those who are not using the app, you can complete the conference survey using this link: <https://bit.ly/3Sp83Hr>

Please help us learn what went well and what could be improved from our event by taking our survey. It only takes a few minutes! You can fill it out easily through the Whova app; on the event main menu, just go to the "Surveys" section to view the survey.

If you haven't installed Whova, [download it here!](#)

Thank you!

2025 Sponsors – Our Special Thanks

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

\$10,000 or more

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KraemerDesignGroup



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Melinda A. Hill



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Park Smith, AIA

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

\$500 - \$999

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



Dean L. Anderson
&
Laura Rose Ashlee



Architecture + design Inc.



Ruth Mills



Gary R. Rentrop



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\$250 - \$499

Addison, Need, Allen & Rentrop PLLC, Bloomfield Hills
Arbre Croche Cultural Resources LLC, Leslie
Docomomo US/Michigan, Michigan
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First Martin Corporation, Ann Arbor
Hamilton Anderson Associates, Detroit
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Rod Kreger and Betsy LaVier, Satellite Beach, FL
Morgan Stanley, Patrick J. Bruntjens, Financial Advisor, East
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U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., Houghton, Iron Mountain,
Ishpeming, Marinette (WI), Sault Ste. Marie
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., Bingham Farms



Addison, Need, Allen, & Rentrop, PLLC



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Helen & Ralph Kreger
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Pamela Hall O'Connor &
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Richard Gage Design Studio, LLC,
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Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, Ann Arbor
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Ellen Ramsburgh, Ann Arbor

Thomas Trombley, Saginaw
Frank and Judy Wilhelme, Ann Arbor
Susan C. Wineberg, Ann Arbor

SPECIAL SPONSORSHIPS TO BE RECOGNIZED

EXPENSE FUND FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOLARS

Tish Colett; Richard Gage Design Studio, LLC; Janet Kreger; Rod Kreger & Betsy LaVier; MHPN; U.P. Engineers
& Architects, Inc.

PROGRAMMING

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



The 46th Annual Statewide Conference is headed back to the Detroit Area after a decade!



Photo Caption: Looking eastward to Detroit, Belle Isle, out Jefferson Avenue, the Grosse Pointes, Lake St. Clair.
Photo: Open Source

We were pleased to announce in the Soo that we are returning to the Detroit Area on May 5-7, 2026, for the MHPN's 46th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference! We will be at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, headquartered in its beautifully designed Visitor Center. Our working theme is "Enduring Distinction."

The last time the conference was held in Detroit was May 2016, right on the heels of being named UNESCO's first "City of Design" from the United States. That year, we also were celebrating landmark events including the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, and the 35th anniversary of the MHPN.

A decade has sped by! We will again be studying Detroit's preservation activities in our sessions and tours. However, we will also explore the stunning architecture of those neighborhoods and communities located outside the heart of the city. They feel the gravitational pull of Detroit's design prominence but have developed their own aesthetic and sense of place that ensures their distinction shall endure just like Detroit's.

This placemaking conversation can be shared throughout the entire state because it applies to traditional downtowns and neighborhoods, archaeological resources, architectural treasures of the recent past, large Legacy Cities as well as small towns, our fragile shoreline and agricultural communities, and more. The point of this coming year's conference is to recognize that in preserving our historic places, we establish something distinctive that can indeed endure.

The Call for Abstracts goes out early in July with deadlines in September. Abstracts are welcomed from Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas as well as from neighboring states and Canada and may come from individuals and panels. Check the MHPN website next month!



A check on tuck-pointing at the first Trades Symposium.

Happy 44th Anniversary to the MHPN!

The founding of the MHPN is a familiar story. On May 30, 1981, members of the Detroit Historic District Commission convened a meeting of fellow commissioners from around Michigan. Seeing that they had much to learn from each other, the more than 50 people who gathered that day at historic Fort Wayne decided to continue meeting.

When we celebrate anniversaries, we sometimes pick events that mark our history. We've chosen 1998-1999 – a time-period marked by establishment of the Construction Trades Council (CTC). CTC members came together to provide traditional training for both professionals and those working on their own properties. Their first major outreach effort was to compile a directory of crafts- and trades-people, the first issue printed in 1998. In 1999, the CTC presented its first Construction Trades Symposium at the MHPN's 19th Annual Conference held in Monroe on the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters campus. Sessions covered brick masonry cleaning and tuckpointing, plaster repair and replacement, stone carving and setting, and decorative finishes. When a Symposium sponsor drove its rigging into the Motherhouse courtyard and began hoisting up participants, there were faces looking out from every window!

A quarter-century has passed. The CTC, now the Historic Resource Council (HRC), still contributes programs to the annual conference and holds hands-on workshops during the year. The HRC Directory is now in its 27th annual edition and about to be transformed into an on-line resource. We've just kicked off our 45th anniversary year with our conference in Sault Ste. Marie.

We're proud that our work has continued uninterrupted all these years. Let's celebrate!



Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation. Photo: Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Governor's Historic Preservation Award Winners

On May 8, 2025, The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Historic Preservation Review Board awarded seven Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation. The winning projects exemplified the collaboration and deep impact preservation can have across Michigan. Additionally, the awards recognized homeowners who rehabilitated their homes; developers who transformed underutilized historic structures into vital economic assets; and several other preservation partners who helped preserve Michigan's historic and cultural resources.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer attended the 22nd annual event at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, MI.

"It's an honor to celebrate the 2025 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation," said Governor Whitmer. "These awardees are helping us build a stronger Michigan by preserving the places and stories that define who we are. Their work honors our shared past while creating vibrant spaces where people want to live, work, and invest. Historic preservation is key to our 'Make it in Michigan' strategy of supporting jobs, growing local businesses, and fostering pride across our communities."

Photos of award winners are courtesy of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. All other photos are courtesy of SHPO.

Long-term stewardship of Charlevoix Historical Society Resources Charlevoix, Charlevoix County

Awardees: Charlevoix Historical Society; Freshwater Charch: a Design Build Firm; Smay Trombley Architecture; Richard Neumann Architect; Steven C. Seebohm Historic Paint Consultation; and the City of Charlevoix (Region 2)

The collaborative Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Niles, Berrien County

Awardees: Western Michigan University; the City of Niles; Niles History Center; and Support the Fort, Inc. (Region 8)

Rehabilitation of the Chapin Mansion Niles, Berrien County

Awardees: City of Niles; Niles History Center; and Mihm Enterprises, Inc. (Region 8)

Long-term stewardship of the Rogers Theater Rogers City, Presque Isle County

Awardees: Presque Isle District Library; Mr. Neon Lighting; Karl W. and Mary Ann Heidemann; Rachel Goodstein; and Richard and Janet Vogelheim (Region 3)

Rehabilitation of the Harry and Lucy Gordon House Detroit, Wayne County

Awardees: John and Victoria Lange; Terry Swafford, Inc.; McCarver Mechanical Heating and Cooling; and Koala Insulation of East Metro Detroit (Region 10)

Rehabilitation of the Book Tower Detroit, Wayne County

Awardees: Bedrock; ODA; Kraemer Design Group; and Brinker-Christman Joint Venture (Region 10)

Rehabilitation of the Michigan Central Station Detroit, Wayne County

Awardees: Ford Motor Company – Michigan Central; Quinn Evans; and Christman-Brinker Corktown Transformation Joint Venture (Region 10)

To learn more about the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation program and explore prior year awards by region or by year on an interactive map, [visit here](#).

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Upcoming Events

Webinar: The Grand Rapids Public Museum High School

Where: Online using your phone or computer

When: June 12, 1 p.m.

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

[Register](#)

MHPN's monthly webinars are free and open to everyone. Registration is open! Click below to register. Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again or share it? Past webinar recordings are available on the MHPN's YouTube Channel! [Workshop Recordings – Michigan Historic Preservation Network \(mhpn.org\)](#). Do you have a great webinar idea you'd like to explore with us? Contact info@mhpn.org.

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



Workshop: Hands-on Masonry Workshop

Where: Richmond Park Pavilion, 963 Richmond NW Grand Rapids

When: October 18, 2025, 8 AM – 4:30 PM ET

This event is mostly hands-on with secondary element of lecture, teaching the basics of tuckpointing, mortar and plaster.

\$100 Registration Fee

CONTACT: RHONDA BAKER (CITY OF GR) – RBAKER@GRCITY.US – 456-3451

Register

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Save nearly 60% off the cover price with a subscription to Michigan History Magazine, the flagship publication of the Historical Society of Michigan! Visit hsm.pub/subscribe to renew or subscribe today!

The advertisement features a dark brown background with the text "Explore Michigan's rich history and culture with Michigan History magazine" in white. Below this, it says "Save nearly 60% off the cover price with a subscription at www.hsm.pub/subscribe." Three covers of Michigan History Magazine are displayed: the top cover shows a diver underwater, the middle cover shows a woman's face, and the bottom cover shows a stone sculpture. A green circular badge with white text says "SAVE NEARLY 60%".

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PRESERVATION NEWS YOU CAN USE



SHPO Public Survey

SHPO would like your help! What do you think about historic preservation opportunities in Michigan? What threats do historic places face, and where can historic preservation champions focus their attention and resources? The State of Michigan is gathering public input ahead of the creation of the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, which will span the years 2027-2034. Through June 30, we invite you to take this brief (10-12 minute) survey to share your thoughts about the future of historic preservation in our state. Citizens from all backgrounds and knowledge levels of preservation are encouraged to take the survey.

The public will have other opportunities to offer input on the priorities for this Statewide Plan, including a series of regional public meetings held across the state. The first regional meeting will take place on Thursday, June 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the historic St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids. Additional meetings will be held throughout this summer in Detroit, central Michigan, northern lower Michigan, and in the Upper Peninsula, along with two virtual meetings. Get the latest information about the statewide plan and upcoming meeting opportunities on the [Statewide Preservation Plan](https://www.shpo.state.mi.us/statewide-preservation-plan) webpage.

Access the survey here: <https://bit.ly/4mv8BZY>.



Mail Pouch Tobacco signs in Hillsdale County. Photo: Hillsdale County Historical Society

Hillsdale Historical Society Receives \$5,000 Grant from Barn Believers Fund to Preserve Mail Pouch Tobacco Siding

The Hillsdale County Historical Society (HCHS) has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Barn Believers Project Fund, administered by the Battle Creek Community Foundation, to support the preservation and public display of one of the last known Mail Pouch Tobacco signs in Hillsdale County. The iconic Mail

Pouch Tobacco siding—originally painted on a barn along M-99 between Hillsdale and Jonesville—was carefully salvaged when the barn was dismantled to make way for a new Meijer store. Meijer generously donated the hand-painted boards to HCHS, preserving a one-of-a-kind piece of Americana that has long dotted rural areas.

The grant has enabled the Historical Society to reinstall the siding inside the historic Will Carleton Poorhouse barn, located near the corner of State and Wolcott Streets in Hillsdale. The funding will also support the installation of new electrical wiring and museum-quality lighting, as well as the creation of a historical interpretive display highlighting the legacy of Mail Pouch barns throughout Hillsdale County and beyond. The public is invited to view the restored siding during the **HCHS Motor Car Exposition on June 7**, with additional restorations, interpretive elements and lighting installations to follow in the months ahead.



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