



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

August 2025 Newsletter

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



*MHPN's 2025 Fall Benefit will take place at The Four Star Theatre, pictured here in 1946, in Grand Rapids.
Photo: Grand Rapids Historical Society*

Registration is open for MHPN's 31st annual Fall Benefit

Saturday, October 4, 2025
Four Star Theatre, Grand Rapids, MI

5-8:30 p.m. -- Strolling dinner, complimentary beer & wine, auction, awards ceremony!

Tickets are \$110 per person, \$80 for government employees/officials & seniors (60+), and \$60 for students. Please RSVP by Sunday, September 21, 2025. Business informal dress is suggested. This is a barrier free venue. Free street parking.

Proceeds from the benefit help to support the ongoing operations of our organization and to facilitate preservation in Michigan.

Interested in sponsoring the Benefit or would like to learn more? Visit mhpn.org/fall-benefit for details.



Rep. Mike Hoadley (R), House of Economic Competitiveness Committee Chair. The bills introduced to enhance the Michigan investment tax credits have been assigned to Rep. Hoadley's committee. Photo: State of Michigan.

Michigan House Bills 4503 and 4504 introduced

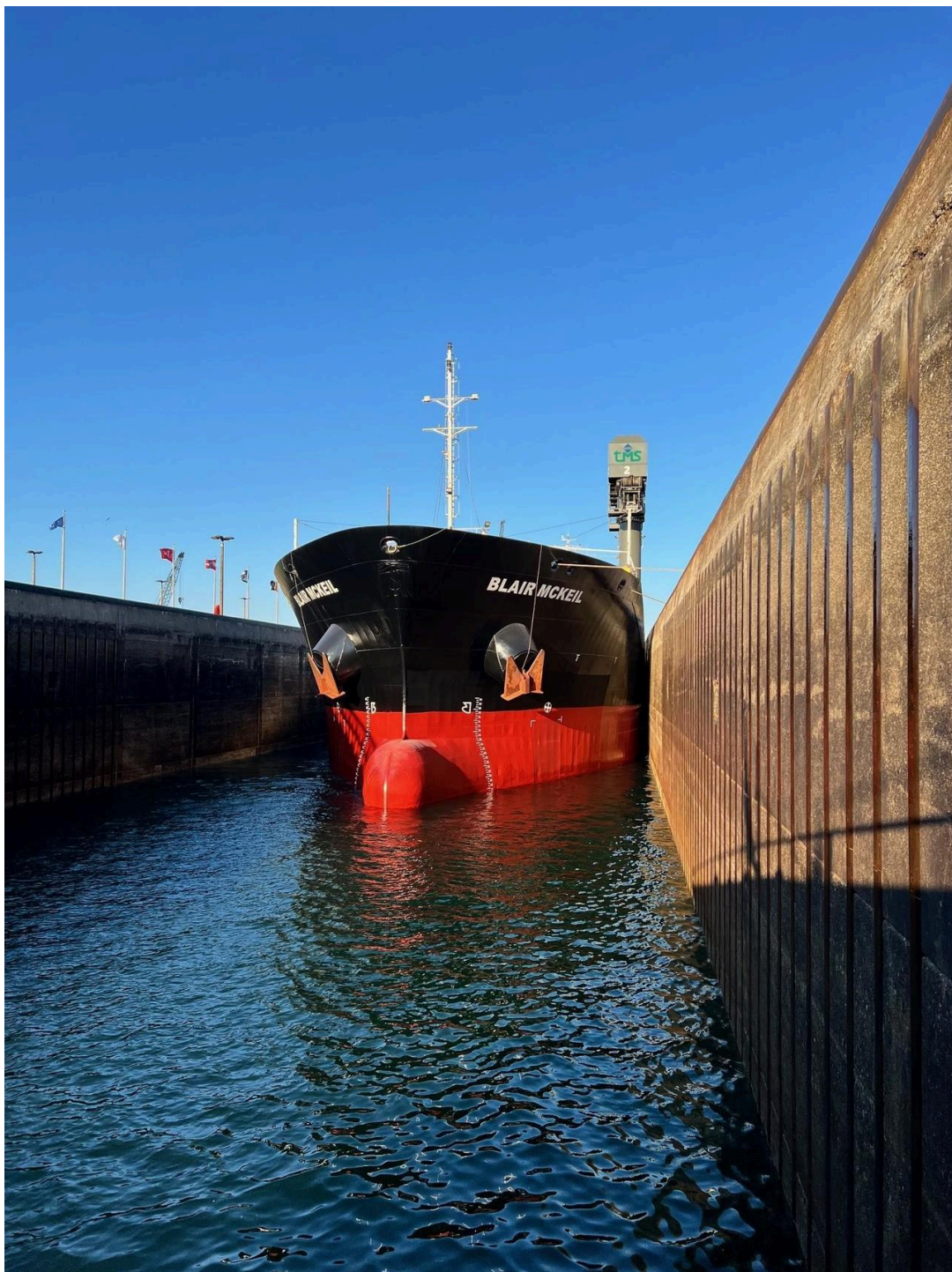
On May 20, two bills were enrolled that once again propose enhancement of the Michigan Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit (ITC). One is for corporate income tax, HB 4503, sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews (D) who represents the 38th House District that includes Saugatuck, Douglas, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, and New Buffalo. It is tie-barred to the second bill for individual income tax, HB 4504, sponsored by Rep. Steve Frisbie (R) who represents the 44th House District that includes Battle Creek and Albion. Their co-sponsorship promotes bi-partisan support.

MHPN was pleased to learn our bills have been assigned to the House Economic Competitiveness Committee chaired by Rep. Mike Hoadley (R). He represents the 99th House District that includes Standish, Tawas, West Branch, and other historic communities around the western shoreline of Saginaw Bay.

Links to the bills' full texts are on the MHPN's Advocacy page at www.mhpn.org/state/. Using language proposed during the last Legislative Session, the bills again make game-changing updates to the ITC, most significantly raising the current \$5M annual credit cap to \$100M to better reflect demand.

Consider talking with your state legislators to let them know of your support of the bills. Summer Recess is a great time to reach out. Here's how:

1. Make an appointment to meet in their district offices
 2. Attend your legislators' coffee hours to introduce yourself and meet their staff
 3. Ask your city council to approve a resolution in support of the bills
-



We loved being in the Soo for our conference in May. How about heading back for a long weekend to see the things you missed! Photo: Tiffany Dziurman

Your financial assistance in the summer is important!

We may be biased, but we feel that Michiganders involved in historic preservation simply have the best summer road trips! It's during our leisurely summertime travels that we admire our state's vast array of cultural resources. And we should! As friends of the MHPN, we've worked together all year to keep them vital.

August is the perfect month for those last weekend road trips. Before you head out, however, won't you consider contributing to the MHPN whose work continues year-round? Go to www.mhpn.org to donate on-line; call 517-371-

8080; or send a check to "MHPN" at 313 East Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing MI 48906.

Please join me in donating yet this summer!

M. Milton-Pung

Melissa Milton-Pung
MHPN President

PS – Last month, we asked if you were seeking "new" historic towns to visit? We recommended exploring the communities involved in the [Michigan Main Street Program](#). Just last week, however, a Network News reader said they look at past conference brochures to get ideas. You can, too! Visit our [conference web page](#) and scroll down for previous brochures.



Scholarship recipient Carrie Malas (second from the right) at her graduation ceremony on April 2.



Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship Fund

A note of thanks from conference scholarship recipient Carrie Malas

We shared one conference scholarship recipient's words in the last issue of NetworkNews, and here's another for you to read! We appreciate Carrie's letter to the Sylvia and Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship fund. Would you like to sponsor a future scholarship? Let us know!

June 24, 2025

Dear Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship,

As someone who is still "green" within the preservation field, opportunities to learn from and meet seasoned professionals is a top priority. I am so grateful to those who provided me the opportunity to continue this learning and networking. Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to afford the trip this year – thank you!

One of the best parts of the conference this year was the time spend in the hallways, at lunch, and during the evenings talking with SHPO staff, conference presenters, preservation planners, and others. As I write this, I am preparing to begin my career as the Preservation Planner for the City of Ypsilanti, starting tomorrow! It is much less intimidating as I have already been able to lay the groundwork for many of my professional relationships.

A sincere thanks for your support!

All the best,

Carrie Malas

NOTE: Carrie just completed the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Dave Tillman established the Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2021 in honor of his wife "Sylv" (1964-2015), an EMU program graduate. Following receipt of Carrie's letter, Dave wrote: "This letter makes me smile. Ms. Malas echoes a familiar outlook and attitude. Sylv returned from her first conference buoyed with optimism and a strong sense of comradery. Thank you for sharing – Dave."

Upcoming Workshops



MHPN and the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute present historic preservation trades workshops

A groundbreaking partnership between MHPN and Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute (SBWI) aims to revitalize historic preservation trades education in Michigan. This collaborative initiative offers a series of specialized hands-on workshops, covering essential preservation skills such as historic sash window construction, wood bending techniques, and timber frame engineering. Funded in part by a generous grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, this initiative brings together MHPN's extensive preservation advocacy and SBWI's nationally recognized expertise in woodworking education to meet the growing need for skilled tradespeople proficient in traditional building methods. Upcoming workshops include:

Wood Bending: Bend and Form

August 4-8

Participants will learn multiple wood bending methods such as steam bending and vacuum forming, enabling them to produce historically accurate curved components.

19th-Century Windows & Doors – Construction & Repair

August 11-15

Part of the acclaimed Thoreau's Cabin Series, students will build historically accurate sash windows and doors using traditional joinery and glazing techniques.

Introduction to Timber Frame Engineering

September 19-21

This course combines theory with hands-on practice, focusing on timber frame structures, joint design, and structural testing methods.

Courses are open to the public. For more details and to register, visit mhpn.org.

Advanced Cemetery Preservation Workshop

Glenwood Historical Cemetery and Arboretum, Flint, MI

September 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$95 per participant (includes all materials and safety gear)

[Register by Sept. 5.](#)

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network invites you to an advanced, full-day training in cemetery preservation on the historic grounds of Glenwood Historical Cemetery and Arboretum in Flint. Designed for caretakers, advanced volunteers, and preservation professionals, this workshop offers in-depth instruction on the ethical, material, and technical aspects of gravestone conservation in Michigan.

Led by Dr. Thomas Henthorn (University of Michigan-Flint), Suzy Ferguson (A Loving Legacy), and Melanie Purkis (historic masonry specialist, Purkis Cemetery Preservation), the workshop features a mix of expert presentations, live demonstrations, and supervised hands-on cleaning practice.

The MHPN's workshops are supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and National Endowment for the Arts.



Preservation News You Can Use



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

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 in the years ahead? The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office is hosting a series of regional public workshops that will take place across Michigan during summer 2025 to allow citizens an opportunity to offer their ideas and input.

Regional Workshops

Thursday, August 7: Southeast Michigan (Detroit)

Monday, September 8: Upper Peninsula (Marquette)

Wednesday, September 10: Northern Lower Michigan (Petoskey)

Virtual Workshops

In order to accommodate individuals who couldn't attend one of the five regional meetings or prefer to participate from the convenience of home or work, two virtual meeting opportunities are also being planned. Registration is required to participate in the virtual meetings.

Wednesday, August 27: 6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 25: 11:30 am-1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Shakespeare Stroll at Ford House

Thursday, August 7, 6–8 p.m.

Stroll the grounds at twilight and experience live pop-up scenes from Shakespeare's most iconic works—performed outdoors in intimate, natural settings by the Grosse Pointe Theatre. It's a fresh, engaging way to enjoy live theatre by the lake. Cash bars are available throughout the event.

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind night of performance on the historic grounds of the Ford House on the waterfront.

[Purchase tickets online](#)



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma[®]