



# MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

March 2026 Newsletter

---

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

---





*Aerial view eastward from Detroit to Lake St. Clair. Photo: Mike Kline, Getty Images.*

---

## **Registration to MHPN's 46th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference is open!**

---

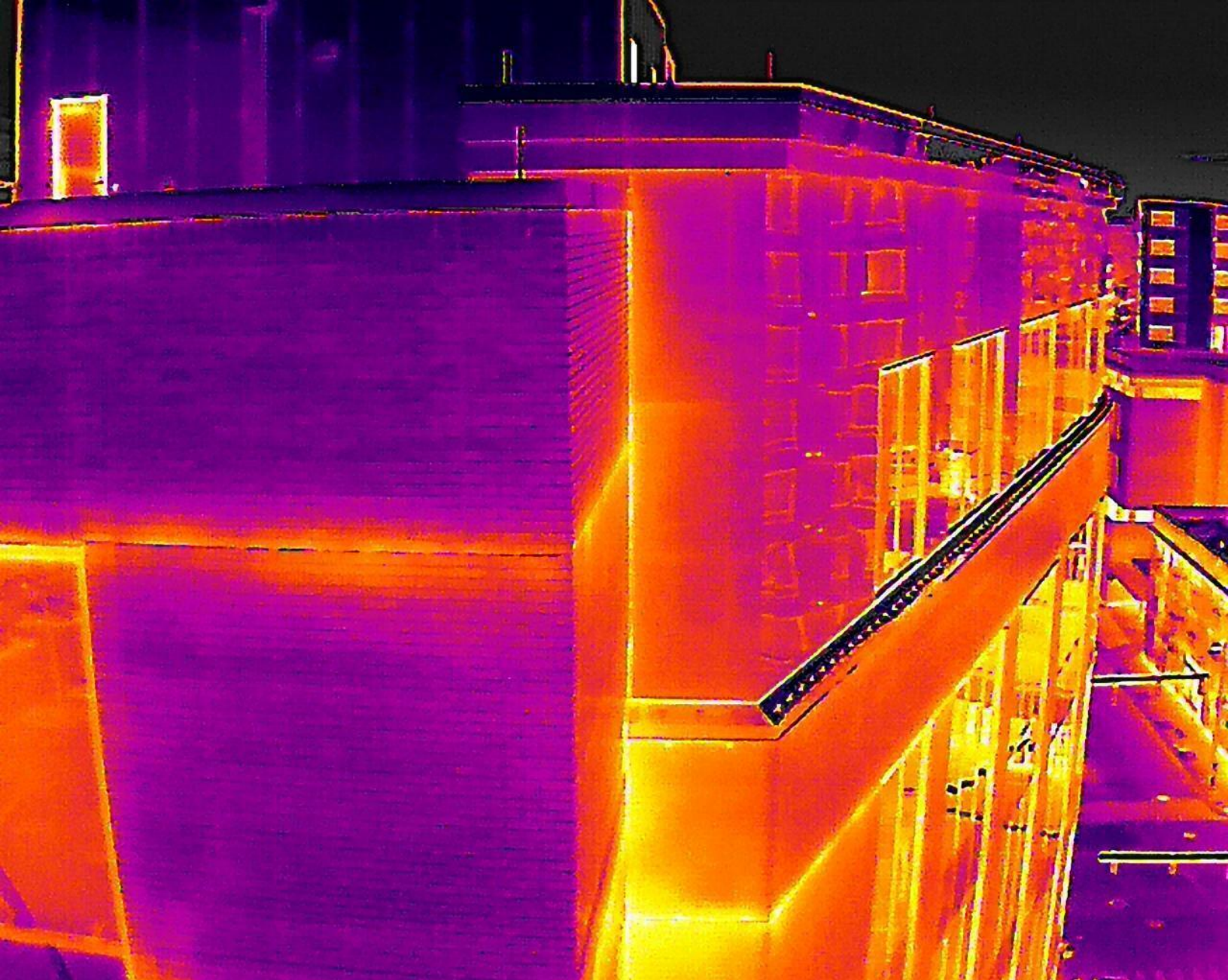
The annual conference, titled "Resilient by Design," will take place on Thursday, May 7 through Saturday, May 9, at the Ford House Visitor Center in Grosse Pointe Shores. April 22 at 5 p.m. is the registration deadline.

Save money and register during the Early Bird registration period by March 25 at 5 p.m. You may earn AIA, AICP, and MCP credits by attending. Check out our volunteer and scholarship opportunities, as well.

[REGISTER](#)

*Thank you to our conference underwriters!*





*An example of infrared imaging from the conference session titled, "Digital Meets Vintage: Tech-Driven for Historic Buildings," presented on Friday, May 8.  
Photo: SmithGroup*

---

## **Attending MHPN's 46th Annual Conference? Track 3 Sessions may interest you!**

---

One of the best ways to begin thinking about attending the annual conference is to read about the presentations and tours, all of which are organized into tracks. Last month, we introduced you to Track 2. This month, we take a look at Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills: Getting to Work! The speakers for this track will present information for property owners, professionals doing design and hands-on work, community officials, and others who want to know about the design requirements of historic buildings, traditional trades and crafts, and current building and development practices.

Here is what is being presented in Track 3:

Thursday, May 7:

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. "Marygrove Campus Building Restoration." Dating back to 1927, Detroit's Marygrove Campus is an exceptional collection of Gothic style buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Closed as a college in 2019, the 53-acre site reopened as a cradle-to-career educational center campus. A detailed condition assessment and skilled restoration have brought new life to this Detroit landmark.

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. "Building Resilience with Building Cooperatively." Building Cooperatively was founded by a group of students in MHPN's 2018 Living Trades Academy. The group is an inclusive restoration cooperative that holds itself to developing and honoring ethical practices. They believe the historic trades can lead to Detroit's sustainable and resilient future.

4 – 5 p.m. "Hidden Housing in Detroit: Creating an HGIS of Housing on Detroit's Alleys, Places, and Courts." In this session, attendees will learn about alley houses—what an alley house is, a history of their use in the United States and Detroit, how a Historic Geographic Information System (HGIS) was developed to map the historic location of alley houses, and why this example of housing is worthy of documentation and preservation.

Friday, May 8:

8 – 9 a.m. "Lessons in Resilience from the Westnedge Park Project." An inadvertent discovery of human remains at Westnedge Park in Kalamazoo could have caused massive delays and complications. However, a quick response and collaboration between city leadership and local law enforcement, SHPO, MDOT, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians resulted in a positive outcome.

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. "Between Bleach and Best Practices: The State of Cemetery Preservation." Cemetery preservation remains dominated by ad-hoc measures—volunteers and small contractors working without consistent training or long-term planning. This presentation asks: is this reliance a problem, and if so, what solutions exist? Or must the field embrace its ad-hoc character as both strength and challenge?

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. "Re-Energizing the Clara and Henry Ford Estate Powerhouse and Garage." Work on the Powerhouse and Garage at the Clara and Henry Ford Estate (Fair Lane) began a decade ago with a master plan and a vision for how the property might be preserved and re-energized as an income-producing property. The solution included a modern addition to the historic structure, complimenting, not competing with, its surroundings.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. "Digital Meets Vintage: Tech-Driven Design for Historic Buildings." Discover how innovative technology—from laser scanning to drones to hygrothermal modeling—is transforming historic preservation. Explore how adaptations to historic buildings are complimented and influenced by the use of modern tech while protecting their character and enhancing resiliency for future generations.

Attendees do not have to commit to a particular track and may mix-and-match sessions.

***Track 3 is sponsored by Grand River Builders, Inc., Grand Rapids***



*Grand River Builders*  
INCORPORATED

HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION

---



Top left: Marygrove Conservancy. Photo: RAM Construction Services. Top right: Hamtramck Stadium. Photo: SmithGroup. Bottom Left: Detroit Athletic Club. Photo: Michael G. Smith.

---

## Three meet-up tours planned for the annual conference!

---

MHPN has great Saturday morning programming planned for you at the conference! In addition to our all-morning workshops where we will visit projects around the Ford House property and meet the experts working on them, we have three meet-up tours planned. The tours are all in the city, making them easy to drive to each one yourself. After your tour, you may head home or opt to spend more time in the Detroit area. Here is what has planned for you with tickets available *a la carte* for conference attendees as well as the public:

Saturday morning, May 9:

9 – 11:30 a.m. "Behind-the-Scenes at the Detroit Athletic Club." The Detroit Athletic Club was founded in 1887 as a sporting club located north of its current site. With club leadership featuring the city's automotive and industrial leaders, the decision was made in 1913 to construct a six-story Clubhouse on Madison Street that added social facilities. Architect Albert Kahn was commissioned to design the structure, his inspiration being Rome's Borghese and Farnese Palaces. The members enriched their building with a world-class collection of art and decorative arts. The tour provides guests with a behind-the-scenes look at the historic collections as well as the purchases of new art, art restorations, and the restoration of architectural details throughout the Clubhouse.

***This tour is sponsored by Grunwell-Cashero***



9 a.m. – Noon: “A First-Hand Look at Exterior Masonry Restoration at Marygrove.” The 53-acre Marygrove Campus, located in Northwest Detroit, dates back to 1927. The Gothic-style buildings were in use as a private college until its closure in 2019 when they became home to the Marygrove Conservancy. A detailed condition assessment of the campus revealed that, among other damage, exterior masonry walls had deteriorated due to water intrusion and exposure to the elements. The tour provides participants a first-hand look at completing work that addresses deterioration and its root causes in mass masonry buildings, fulfilling the requirements of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, meeting grant requirements, and tenant safety demands, and more.

***This tour is sponsored by Bay View Handworks***



9 – 11 a.m. “Hamtramck Stadium: Rooted in Major Negro Baseball League History.” Hamtramck Stadium is one of only five ballparks of Major Negro Baseball League teams remaining. Built in 1930 for the Detroit Stars, it is a brick, steel, and concrete structure. At least 17 members of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown played there in the 1930s. From 1941 to 1997, it hosted community and youth sports. The Stadium was added to the National Register in 2012. Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium restored the field in 2020, and a \$2.6 million project led by Wayne County rehabilitated the historic grandstand in 2022. The tour will show all that has been done to bring the stadium back-to-life as a venue honoring its history and also hosting over 500 events in the past five years.

***This tour is sponsored by Kathleen H. Wendler***



Kathleen H. Wendler

---

## **Book your stay at a conference hotel**

---

Start planning now to stay in the Detroit Metro area for Saturday or the weekend! Conference rates have been arranged at two hotels for Tuesday arrival, May 5, through Sunday check-out, May 10. Consider coming before the conference starts, or staying afterwards, for a Detroit Metro area weekend! Registrations can be made by phone; ask for the “Michigan Historic Preservation Network” block of rooms.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott  
45800 Market Place Boulevard  
Chesterfield, Michigan 48051  
Located at I-94 at M-5, 16 miles north of Ford House (20 minutes)  
Phone for Reservations: 586-267-5300  
\$99 + tax and fees per night  
Cutoff Date: Monday, April 21, 2026

Holiday Inn Express GM Tech Center

11500 East Eleven Mile Road

Warren, Michigan 48089

Located on East Eleven Mile Road at Hoover, 10 miles northwest of Ford House (15 minutes)

Phone for Reservations: 586-754-0376

\$114-\$124 + tax and fees per night

Cutoff Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026

---

## Preservation News You Can Use!

---



### 2026 State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application Availability and Updates

Owner Occupied residential applicants may begin applying for the 2026 state credit. The application will be available until all credits have been reserved, up to the program cap. New applications are encouraged! Applications and supplemental information are required to be submitted via courier so that delivery date and time can be tracked. When all credits for 2026 have been committed, it will be announced [here](#), and the application window will be closed. Applications received and in process will be reviewed and awarded priority numbers for 2027 credits if found to be eligible.

### Michigan History Day call for judges

The Historical Society of Michigan needs judges for Michigan History Day, an exciting program which supports students in 3-12 grades around the state as they explore local, state, national, and world history. Also known as National History Day in Michigan, winners of the state level MHD competition in the Junior and Senior categories move on to compete in National History Day in College Park, MD.

To select students to advance through competitions, the event needs the help of volunteers like you to serve as judges. MHD judges evaluate project materials and provide feedback using a rubric. At contests, judges also speak with students about their research in a brief interview. We provide training leading up to the contest and judges work in teams. Judges do not need to be history experts, just have an interest in learning from young scholars! *Judges must have access to laptops or computers (not phones and tablets) that they feel comfortable using as evaluations are completed online.*

Judges are needed for two upcoming contests:

District 7 Regional Contest – March 14 – Oakland University - <https://mi-mhdd7.nhd.org/>

State Finals Contest – April 25 – Saginaw Valley State University - <https://mi.nhd.org/>

Judges will receive project materials for the contest electronically about a week before the contest date. Judges should plan on being onsite from about 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. the day of the contest – lunch will be provided!

To sign up, please click on the link next to the contest you are interested in above. Click on "Create Account" in the menu at the top of the screen and follow the prompts to begin registration. For more information, contact MHD at [michiganhistoryday@hsmichigan.org](mailto:michiganhistoryday@hsmichigan.org).

### The 2026 Virtual Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation, and Heritage Career Fair is March 18

Archaeology and historic preservation colleagues! Michigan Technological University and ACRA encourage you to represent your company in the 2026 Cultural Resources Management Virtual Career Fair for CRM, Historic

Preservation, and Heritage, March 18, from noon to 5 p.m. Eastern (9 a.m. to noon Pacific).

The free, virtual event is nationwide in scope and provides you access to students and alumni from at least 40 different colleges and universities, as job seekers aim for entry-level or mid-career jobs, ranging from summer/seasonal to full time and permanent positions, including archaeologists, architectural and other historians, cultural anthropologists, preservation professionals, environmental monitors, and museum and non-profit professionals.

Held on the handshake network, which is free for employers, you can set up group meetings to share information about your company or projects, and/or you can create individual meeting slots between job seekers and your rep or HR staff, which you accept after screening resumes before agreeing to the meeting.

Join 28 other companies, agencies, and organizations in the event!

Please reach out if you need help or advice ([scarlett@mtu.edu](mailto:scarlett@mtu.edu)).

[Registration is still open for students and job seekers](#). The companies have also defined their meeting times and appointments and can now accept requests for scheduling events on March 18.



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

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

View this email [online](#).

313 East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue | Lansing, MI 48906 US

This email was sent to .

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

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.