



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

September 2026 Newsletter

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



Over a decade ago, the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) renovated Detroit's 1929 Bell Telephone phone exchange building. Designed by Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it provides one-bedroom apartments for formerly unhoused individuals and NSO's headquarters. Photo: Christopher Lark Inc.

Third & final call for MHPN annual conference abstracts

Submission deadline is Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

"The Roof Over Our Head: Preservation's Role in Solving Michigan's Housing Crisis"

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Join fellow preservation professionals, educators, and students for MHPN's annual conference on Thursday, May 13 – Saturday, May 15, 2027, at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. If you're thinking about submitting a presentation topic, now is the time to send us abstracts.

The Theme Track welcomes presentations that explore housing possibilities, such as the NSO building pictured above, in communities of all sizes, for different housing markets, at varied price points, for rental or purchase. While not expected to be workshops, successful abstracts will look into specifics such as finance structuring, project teams, challenges, and more.

[Submit Your Abstract Here](#)

The theme provides a range of topics to dive into. Consider the following if you need inspiration!

Adaptive recycling of non-traditional buildings into housing

The pros and cons of increasing density in historic neighborhoods with "Accessory Dwelling Units" (ADUs)

"Lights on Downtown" initiatives to add housing in the upper stories of downtown buildings

"Missing Middle" programs that provide new, multi-unit, residential-scale homes compatible with historic districts of single-family homes

"Pattern Book Homes" that create new infill housing evocative of the last century

Thursday and Friday at the conference are major program days. Approximately 24 sessions are needed for three program tracks. Theme Track abstracts should focus on housing topics. Information Track and Applied Skills Track abstracts don't necessarily have to.

Would a session idea of yours be a good fit? Contact Janet Kreger at kregerj1981@att.net.

Abstracts are welcomed from Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas as well as from other states and Canada and may come from individuals and panels.



The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm in Rochester Hills is the location of this year's Fall Benefit on October 3. There will be an optional tour exclusively for Fall Benefit guests that will include the main farmhouse, pictured here. Photo: DIMA Media.

Remember to register for MHPN's 32nd annual Fall Benefit

The Fall Benefit is a great fundraiser for MHPN! This year, we are in southeastern Michigan at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm on Saturday, October 3. Enjoy a complimentary guided tour from 3:30 to 5 p.m. From 5 to 8:30 p.m. guests will enjoy a buffet dinner, beer and wine, an awards ceremony, live auction, networking, and more!

There's still time to be an event sponsor and receive sponsor benefits!

[RSVP by Tuesday, September 22, 2026](#)



L to R: 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award honorees Dr. Richard B. Stamps (ret) professor of anthropology and archaeology, and Patrick J. McKay, Manager, Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

Two Lifetime Achievement Award honorees announced for the Fall Benefit

Richard B. Stamps taught anthropology and archaeology at Oakland University (OU) from 1974 to 2012. He led fieldwork and cultural resource surveys at Fort Michilimackinac, Fort Gratiot, Thomas Edison's Port Huron boyhood home, and other Michigan sites, and conducted a pilot archaeological survey of Oakland County. Richard's analysis of the Scotford-Soper-Savage Michigan Relics remains a reference point in the state's archaeology. He extended this work into K-12 education through the Waterford School District and organized OU's 50th anniversary archaeology celebration in 2024. Richard's honors include OU's Teaching Excellence Award, the OU Alumni Association's Honorary Alumnus Award, and the Earl Borden Historical Preservation Award from Rochester Hills's Historic District Commission.

Patrick McKay has served as museum manager of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm for 40 years, guiding restoration of the Nationally Registered complex, including a \$3.5 million barn roof and rebuild completed during the pandemic. Under his leadership the museum draws over 60,000 visitors annually through programs blending history, education, and community life. Patrick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in park administration from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Oakland University. He has mentored other communities including Holly's Heritage Farmstead restoration and serves as a 30-year part-time firefighter/EMT with Rochester Hills Fire Department—reflecting deep, sustained community engagement alongside his preservation work.

Congratulations to Dr. Stamps and Patrick McKay for the lifetime commitments to history and preservation!



Overnight stays at Camp Tosebo (left) and the Dearborn Inn (right) are a sneak peek at some of the live auction items you can bid on at this year's Fall Benefit!

Here's your chance to bid high and bid often at the MHPN Fall Benefit live auction

MHPN has historically featured both silent and live auctions at its Spring Conference and Fall Benefit. While we don't have new cars, trips to the Caribbean, or costly works of art, you'll find awesome Michigan-focused items and experiences that yield lively bidding!

For a time, the auctions at the Fall Benefit were discontinued during the pandemic and have been slow to bounce back while the staff is still reduced in size. However, we will again have a small live auction at this year's event and the packages are great! Here are the highlights:

- An overnight stay at the 1929 Foundation Hotel, once Detroit's firehouse headquarters, and a gift certificate for dining at the 1894 Gordon Lloyd-designed stone mansion of David and Sara Whitney.
 - An overnight stay at the 1910 Terrace Inn in the center of the Bay View Association near Petoskey along with a book about this Methodist Chautauqua, a gift certificate for Three Pines Gallery in Cross Village, and a \$50 gift certificate for fudge from Kilwin's!
 - A two-night stay at Camp Tosebo on Portage Lake near Manistee, a National Register-listed property founded as a private summer camp for boys 1912 with its original buildings now a popular resort.
 - An overnight stay at The Dearborn Inn, designed by Albert Kahn for Henry Ford and built in 1931, and two tickets to visit Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford.
 - Your chance to be the first to register for the MHPN's 2027 Conference being held in the Capital City Area on May 13-15, including invitations for two for the VIP Reception and the Annual Awards evening.
-

Advocacy Alert



MHPN continues to work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups across the country on a national effort to oppose the proposed changes to Section 106 of the NHPA. The Network has been arranging in-district meetings with Michigan's Congressional delegation, and is drafting a public comment statement for when the public comment period is open (as of 9/3/26 the public comment period has not been initiated).

If you want to know more about how to get involved with efforts to protect Section 106, or if you have a story of how Section 106 Review saved an important site in your community, please contact info@mhpn.org!

Upcoming Webinars

Tried by Fire
Thursday, September 24, 1-2 p.m.
Credits: AIA: 1 LU | AICP: CM 1 #9333643

Speakers: Ron Campbell, Principal Planner/Architect, Oakland County, Michigan
Alexandria Huff McFarland-Stankovich, AICP, Principal Planner, Oakland County, Michigan

A timely and relevant topic that all communities, local government, HDC's, DDA's, property and business owners can benefit. This is the story of three businesses, three historic buildings and three individual owners putting the pieces back together after a devastating fire. Told from the perspective of a Main Street Coordinating Program, the session will provide detailed awareness of what to expect, insight into the many different needs required, and lessons learned during the recovery process. We will analyze the process beginning with a brief history of the district and the importance of understanding how history helped resolve a legal dispute, to the day of the fire and the Coordinating Program's response that followed. Analysis will also include the measures you can take to reduce fire risks and the steps you can do to help in the crisis recovery efforts.

[Register for Free](#)

Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again? [View past webinar recordings](#). Do you have a great webinar idea you would like to explore with us? Let us know by emailing us at contact info@mhpn.org.

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



Preservation news you can use!

Michigan Archaeology Day is October 4

The annual Michigan Archaeology Day is October 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Michigan History Center in Lansing. Experience demonstrations, scavenger hunts, artifact displays, and more – guaranteed fun for all ages! Admission is free! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Need Project Funding? National Trust Preservation Funds Are Open

[National Trust Preservation Funds](#) help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for preservation projects, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, and encourage financial participation by the private sector. Small grant programs like these provide critical early support-- helping organizations like yours take the first step, build momentum, and lay the groundwork for what comes next.

Applications are now open to projects in Michigan for the October 1 grant round! [Apply here.](#)

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is hosting a [National Preservation Summit](#) online, for free September 22-23.

For more than 75 years, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has led the movement to save the places where America's history happened—protecting iconic sites, amplifying the full American story, and building stronger communities rooted in our history. As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, this mission has never been more urgent.

Livestream keynotes and access mainstage sessions live. Virtual admission is free, but registration is required. Register now to reserve your spot.

[Learn more about agenda and speakers](#)

[REGISTER](#)

MHPN Historic Resource Directory

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Search by Category / View Directory](#)



[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.