

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network announces its
45th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

“BRINGING STORIES TO LIGHT”

(Working Title)

Thursday, May 15 - Saturday, May 17, 2025
Headquartered on the campus of Lake Superior State University
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

You are invited to submit a session abstract to be considered for presentation. Thursday and Friday are our major program days. Approximately 24 in-seat sessions are needed.

Deadline: Sunday, September 22, 2024, 11:59 PM

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.

In-Person. Sessions will not live-streamed.

About Our Theme: “Bringing Stories to Light”

Michiganders involved in historic preservation are used to hearing variations of “you want to do *what* with that old place?” or “that eyesore is too far gone to be saved.” Fortunately, we have decades of successes that prove otherwise. Interested individuals are now joined by trained practitioners in the field – historians and preservationists, architects and engineers, anthropologists and archaeologists. Craftspeople and tradespeople with traditional skills make the work possible. Adjacent expertise has grown up among attorneys, accountants, realtors, and others. There’s hardly a community in Michigan that doesn’t have a preservation success story to support what we know is true – that preservation is a powerful revitalization engine that simultaneously highlights what’s unique about Michigan.

But is it enough to restore and preserve the historic fabric of culturally significant properties? To assure what we reclaim has a future, that future can be safeguarded if people understand why we made the effort in the first place. You may be an archaeologist finding a shard during a dig, an owner working with an architect to bring an historic theater back to life, a developer adaptively reusing a long-abandoned factory for housing, or a homeowner taking paint and wallpaper samples before you begin work. No matter what the specifics, there is a story being brought to light that has been hidden. As our placemaking efforts return the physical evidence of what makes our communities distinctive, we have the responsibility to find out and talk about the importance of what’s been preserved.

You've got a story. Tell it!

Three Conference Tracks and Their Audiences:

Our host community of Sault Ste. Marie has created a lively traditional downtown that is a Michigan Main Street Community; welcoming historic neighborhoods with noteworthy homes, churches, and public buildings; and robust citizen involvement. Against this backdrop, we seek a wide array of abstracts for three program tracks. The basic conference program is organized into tracks so that participants have a better idea of each session's content. (No abstracts are sought for the tours that familiarize attendees with the host community. They are developed by the 2025 Conference Planning Group.)

Track One: "Theme" – This track focuses on the conference theme of "Bringing Stories to Light." The track is for individual property owners, people in business and manufacturing, preservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespeople, elected and appointed officials, and government staff - anyone who is reclaiming cultural resources with histories that highlight their importance to the community. For example:

- Present on a project in which economic revitalization, the reclamation of traditional downtowns or neighborhoods, or a successful tourism campaign, etc. got a boost out of revealing the historic importance of the property.

Track Two: "Information - What You Need to Know to Make Preservation Work" – This track is for those who need to know more about the laws, policies, and designations; the programs of assistance, tax incentives, and economic benefits; and the best practices and educational programs that provide support for cultural resource management. An idea might be:

- Discuss an instance where a good working knowledge of tax credits and loans, or laws and policies, gave people the tools they needed to stand up for an archaeological site or significant building with an important history.

Track Three: "Case Studies and Applied Skills" – This track is for individual property owners, professionals doing design and hands-on work, and community officials who need to know more about the special design needs of historic buildings, traditional trades, and current building and development practices. An example might be:

- Present a case study for an historic building that was saved from demolition and returned to an inventive new use because a group of people, organizations, and funders successfully raised an outcry because of its historical significance.

Conference Abstract Submission Form:

An abstract includes the following component parts. Find the Conference Abstract Submission Form on the conference page of the MHPN's website, complete it, and submit it via the email address provided on the Form's last page.

NOTE: *It is common for speakers to be included in more than one session. While open to this, the Selection Committee asks speakers to limit themselves to two sessions.*

- **Session Title for the Brochure:** Provide a title that will capture the participant's attention.
- **Topic Statement:** A topic statement of 50 words or less becomes the description in the conference brochure – if your abstract is selected – meant to engage the participant's interest so they attend your session.
- **Summary for Accreditation and Promotional Use:** In 300 words or less, describe the session. This summary allows the Selection Committee to understand what you propose to achieve. NOTE: The MHPN endorses the *U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and, if appropriate to your topic, asks that you describe your adherence to them in this summary.
- **Learning Objectives:** Provide at least four (4) brief learning objectives fulfilled by your proposed session. These objectives help secure continuing education credits from the American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Certified Planners, etc. Format each objective so that in response to "After attending this session, participants will be able to _____", you can start each objective using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," or other words that reflect your attendees will have gained new abilities through your presentation.

SAMPLE: After attending this session, participants will be able to *describe* the key differences between historic and modern mortars.

- **Program Track:** Tell us which of the three Program Tracks might be best for your session (see above). Do know that if chosen, however, your session may be assigned to a different track based on how it fits into the overall program.
- **Time Needed:** Tell us how much time might be best for your session: 1 hour, 1.25 hours, or 1.5 hours. If chosen, you may be asked to adjust your time based on other submissions and timeslot availability.
- **Level of Difficulty of Session Content:** Basic – no prior knowledge of the topic is needed. Intermediate – some prior knowledge of the topic is useful. Advanced – background in the topic is preferred.
- **Type of Presentation:** Help us anticipate your tech and AV needs.
- **Sharing your Power Point:** Let us know if, after the conference, you are willing to send your power point to the MHPH to share with conference attendees.
- **Moderator:** Is there someone in your session who would like to serve as Moderator? If not, an MHPN Board Member will be assigned to you.
- **OPTIONAL: Photos or Illustrations:** If there are visuals that can help the Selection Committee review your session, please upload them with credits and an indication of whether you have permission to use them.

- **Speaker's Contact Information:** For *each* speaker provide:
 - Name as it would appear in the conference brochure if the session is chosen. (For a panel, the first speaker on the Session Abstract Submission Form should be the best one to contact with questions.)
 - Any suffixes to the name – i.e. Ph.D., AIA, Esq., CPA, etc. We do not use prefixes in the brochure.
 - Work Title
 - Work Affiliation
 - Mailing address including address, city, state, and zip code
 - Phone
 - Cell phone for calls and texts
 - E-mail address
 - If you are unavailable on Thursday, May 15, or Friday, May 16, 2025, please note that.

- **Biography:** 150 words or less for *each* speaker, covering such things as education, relevant experience, role in a project, role in the session, etc.

Deadline:

Your Session Abstract Submission Form is due on or before Sunday, September 22, 2024, by 11:59 PM. Submit it using the email address on the last page of the Form found on the conference page of the MHPN's website – www.mhpn.org. Receipt of the Form will be acknowledged. Conference Manager Janet Kreger, can respond to e-mailed questions about preparing your abstract – kregerj1981@att.net. *Sample abstracts for each Track are available on request.*

Acceptance/Decline and MHPN Terms of Participation:

The Selection Committee will notify selected speakers on or before Sunday, November 3, 2024. Declines will also be acknowledged and those abstracts archived.

If a speaker is selected, the MHPN hosts them on the day he or she speaks, including registration fee, food and beverages, tours, and evening activities. In return, the speaker agrees to present during the assigned time slot without compensation, reimbursement for travel or overnight costs, or an honorarium. If a speaker remains at the conference beyond the day on which they present, the MHPN offers registration fees reduced by 50% as a small means by which we can say thank you.

Speaker Recognition:

Although speakers are not paid, their names and affiliations are included in a conference brochure with a distribution of 8,000 copies in Michigan, the Midwest, and around the country. Their participation is noted on preservation-related websites, social media sites, and in e-blasts. They are featured at a well-respected conference that draws 375-400 participants.

Thank you for submitting your abstract for a great session!