



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

December 2024 Newsletter

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



What doesn't need wrapping? Your year-end gift to MHPN!

Holy twinkle-lights, Batman! It's the holiday season already. We're sure you have cards to write, candles to light, and plenty of merry-making to do. What's something you can cross off your list in a flash? Making your year-end gift to the MHPN!

[DONATE HERE](#)

We've worked through every season on behalf of Michigan's historic places. Here are the highlights:

ONLINE: Through our popular webinars funded in-part by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, we covered place-based topics such as the Underground Railroad in Cass County, the Mushroom Houses of Charlevoix, and the 1876 Vermilion US Live-Saving Station; we learned about landmark building rehab projects like the Book Tower in Detroit and The Milton in Battle Creek; and we provided connections to several grant opportunities through state-level programs such as the Michigan Arts & Culture Council, the Michigan Main Street Program, and the Certified Local Government Program. We also participated in several programs given by partners such as the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan Downtown Association.

IN-PERSON: Attendance held strongly at our largest educational gathering, the 44th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, which brought together over 300 participants in beautiful downtown Kalamazoo. Judging by the standing-room-only Opening VIP reception at the Richardsonian Romanesque-style Ladies Library Association, we reaffirmed our reputation for throwing magnificent parties. During the year, we held four in-person programs including Commissioner Training Workshops in Pontiac and Saugatuck, a masonry workshop in Grand Rapids, and a hands-on wood window repair workshop on Saturday morning at the Kalamazoo conference. In 2025, you'll see our hands-on programs expanding!

IN YOUR INBOX: *NetworkNews* continued its monthly on-line schedule, with plans for expanded content thanks to new capacity from Board Member Tiffany Dzuirman. And due to our staff's diligent efforts, the Historic Resource Council Directory continues to be a trusted and reliable source for quality preservation trades.

CONNECTING & COLLABORATING: The MHPN accomplished all these things and more, greatly aided by the leadership of our Executive Director, Brenda Rigdon, and our Founding Board Member, Janet Kreger. Thanks to their presence, and the work of our dedicated Board and Staff, our moods this past year have grown lighter, more optimistic, and more collaborative than we have seen in a long time.

We have made substantial progress on stabilizing our finances, grounding our staff, creating operational efficiencies, and generating more innovation in the organization. As we look ahead at our work together, we are now positioning ourselves more intentionally with our evolving message that historic preservation is not only about economic vitality and preserving the past, but also about climate resiliency and sustainability.

OUR APPEAL: If you have been well-served by the MHPN this year, make a gift! It will help us leverage the grant awarded to us by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Go to <https://www.mhpn.org/product/donate/> or write a check to the "MHPN" and mail it to our Old Town office at 313 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. While you're at it, 'gift' a couple memberships to family and friends!

Whether you are near or far, we are thankful for you and for your support for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network! We are so grateful for the incredible minds, diverse perspectives, and years of experience that comprise our tremendous network. Wishing you joy and prosperity in 2025!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Milton-Pung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Milton-Pung
MHPN President



MHPN receives two grants from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC)

MHPN is honored to be the recipient of two MAAC grants for 2025! The first is a \$25,673 grant through MACC's Mission Support Program which receives National Endowment for the Arts funding. MHPN will continue to help communities and individuals preserve and revitalize the historic places that make every region of Michigan distinctive. Our webinars will reach out around the state, while our annual statewide conference will draw people together in Sault Ste. Marie in 2025. Our assistance can range from responding to a phone inquiry, to an on-site property visit, to a presentation before a community group or city council, to writing an editorial, blog, or position paper.

The second is a \$30,000 Partnership Opportunity Grant, a new MACC program that will support two kinds of in-person training. First, MHPN will offer our popular hands-on workshops in such areas as historic masonry, plasterwork, and wood window restoration. Using the trades-talent in our network, the MHPN can present its own small-group programs around the state or provide our construction industry partners modules for their workforce training programs. Second, we will expand our Commissioner Training Workshops (CTW). Michigan has 81 communities with locally-established ordinances that protect their historic districts. The CTWs train the Commissioners who oversee restoration work in these districts.

We are proud of this support and very appreciative! If you would like to help the MHPN leverage these grants, please make a year-end gift. See our year-end appeal above!

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Morning in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie – CREDIT Janet Kreger

Registration for MHPN's 45th Annual Conference Opens February 2025

Conference theme: "Bringing Stories to Light"

Dates: Thursday, May 15 – Saturday, May 17, 2025

Location: Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Benefits: Continuing Education Credits, networking, learning new things, visiting a beautiful location in Michigan's upper peninsula!

Just Added:

3 Conference Hotels are now open for reservations. Check the conference landing page noted below.

Would you like to be a Conference Sponsor?

The MHPN requests your support of its 45th annual statewide preservation conference. We invite you to invest in the conference and the continued success we share in preserving Michigan's historic assets. Please visit the conference landing page noted below to see the Giving Opportunities and the Benefits. **We must hear from you by Wednesday, January 15, 2025, to include you in the brochure.**

We welcome your sponsorship whether you're a business or an individual!

We hope to see you in the spring! For more about the conference, visit our website at:

www.mhpn.org/conference.

Thank you to our conference underwriters!



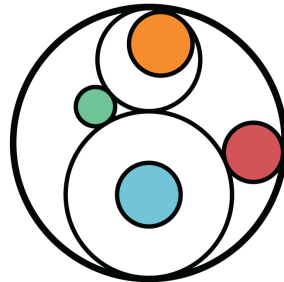
What: Castle Museum Archaeology
Where: Online using your phone or computer
When: Thursday, December 12, 1 p.m.

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

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.



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