



# Michigan Historical Commission

Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Lloyd Conner, Jr.  
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John Dempsey  
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James McConnell  
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Michael Ranville  
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Edward Surovell  
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Thomas Truscott  
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## Ex-Officio

Dan Wyant  
Acting Director

Sandra Sageser Clark  
Executive Secretary

February 9, 2011

Governor Rick Snyder  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Romney Building  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

Enclosed please find the 2010 annual report of the Michigan Historical Commission, submitted to you as required by Act 271 of 1913 (MCL 399.9). It comprises the work of the commission itself and of the Michigan Historical Center, the main agency with which the commission works.

We are pleased that despite a year of extensive administrative change and severe fiscal restraint, we have made progress in building programs and alliances that preserve and interpret Michigan's past and in helping state residents and visitors discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. In particular we call your attention to the commission's work on the renewal of Capitol Park (page 4) and the last-second preservation of the records of Minoru Yamasaki, architect of the World Trade Center, by the Archives of Michigan (page 9).

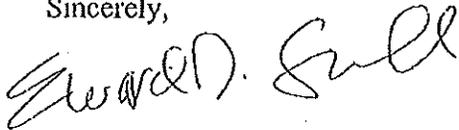
To continue to build on our past success, we clearly need to do things differently. As our report indicates, the center has already reorganized in a manner that takes down the old silos of academic expertise in favor of cross-disciplinary work and team participation. In an effort to develop new funding sources, the center has launched an on-line store and will begin charging admission to adults this spring. The commission is concerned that legislative restrictions limit the center's ability to change and will continue to advocate for authority to charge museum admission to all visitors (page 4).

The Michigan Historical Commission believes that Michigan needs its history (page 6). Our history can play a vital role in creating the sense of place that allows us to make wise decisions about the future, and it can inspire that positive, forward-looking, inclusive attitude that we need in Michigan today. We also support the conclusions of the 2010 MCIR Board that the Michigan Library and Historical Center is fulfilling a role important to our continued quality of life (page 3) and have taken the liberty of adding that board's report to ours.

Page 2  
Governor Rick Snyder  
February 9, 2011

We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in telling Michigan's stories that comes with service on the Michigan Historical Commission. We hope you will call on us and the Michigan Historical Center to find creative ways to support your quality of life, sense of place, tourism and education initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Surovell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Edward Surovell  
President

cc: Bill Rustem  
Dennis Muchmore



**2010**  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**HERITAGE REPORT**

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MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
AND  
MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER

JANUARY 2011

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## PREFACE

The Michigan Historical Commission has been the public arm of state history programs since 1913. Comprised of volunteer appointments made by the Governor and legislative leadership, it receives no appropriations. (MCL 399.1)

The Michigan Historical Center is the principal state program that preserves and interprets Michigan's past and helps people discover, enjoy, and find inspiration in their heritage. Its current fiscal year general fund appropriation is \$3,561,500 after adjustment for the savings from the early-out retirements. (2010 PA 189) In the current fiscal year, it is authorized 53.0 FTE classified positions, a reduction of 9.0 FTE positions from fiscal year 2009-2010.

Act 271 provides that the Commission "shall make annual reports on the first day of January of each year to the governor of the state, setting forth the character and extent of the work done under its supervision during the preceding year, and the amounts of money expended by it for the various purposes authorized by this act." (MCL 399.9)

At its April 23, 2008 meeting, acting in concert with the Center, the Commission adopted a strategic work plan that includes issuance of a "State of Michigan Heritage" report, seeking both to fulfill its statutory responsibility and to advance the cause of Michigan history.

## I. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*It is time for us to stand up as Michiganders and say here is a vision for the future, here is a plan, here is an attitude of action in a positive, forward-looking, inclusive fashion.*

– Governor Rick Snyder

Our past year reflected the impacts of the continuing decline in the State's fortunes. Formerly the flagship of a department dedicated to Michigan's history, arts, and libraries, by year-end the Michigan Historical Center was a program housed within the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Four of its original six agencies were placed in other departments and a private organization.<sup>1</sup>

Governor Granholm's Executive Order 2009-36 created the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board to determine alternate uses for the Michigan Library and Historical Center building in Lansing. Press accounts indicated the Governor had in mind a charter school centered on science, technology, engineering, and math.

Public input resulted in Executive Order 2009-43 that re-scoped the purposes of the MCIR Board. Now, it was to "consider potential ideas to preserve and maximize the benefits to the public of the existing Michigan Library and Historical Center, including public input and scrutiny regarding the most effective delivery of state library and historical services and facilities including, but not limited to, collections, buildings, and skilled personnel. The Board shall recognize the importance of preserving unique historical assets and collections, including, but not limited to, Michigan's Civil War and other military flags, the Michigan Collection, the Rare Books Collection, and the Genealogy Collection of the Library of Michigan."

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission was on record on behalf of maintaining the importance and integrity of the Center. In March 2009, it took the stand that elimination of HAL should not result in the dissolution of the Center. Later in 2009 the Senate passed a package of bills, which the Commission endorsed, in keeping with that stand.

The Board's June 25, 2010, report to the Governor recommended:

That the Michigan Library and Historical Center remain what it was created to be—the people's building. It should remain a place where the public is welcomed and given access to resources. It shelters and protects the heritage of our state—from rare books to Civil War flags, from our first constitution to twenty-first century legislative committee hearings. Its collections and programs do more than honor our past; they give us the base on which to build our collective future. Its programs and exhibits give our children and our citizens' access to our collective knowledge, information and wisdom.

No further action on the matter transpired in 2010.

Executive Order 2009-45 combined the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environmental Quality. In 2010 the Center began the reorganization work that prepared it to deal with the loss of 25% of its remaining staff due to retirements, layoffs and the subsequent early-out retirements. The new organization abolished the museum/archives silos and established cross-disciplinary units and management.

Notwithstanding all of the difficulties and uncertainties inherent in these changes, both the Center and the Commission continued to build on the Michigan Historical Center's strengths: its unequalled collections of Michigan documents, artifacts, photographs, maps and records; its creative, dedicated staff; and its partnerships inside and outside of state government.

## II. THE COMMISSION ACTION PLAN

*"I think what we are is not historians interested in the dry dates and facts of the past but emotional archaeologists. . . . In the end, it's always about feeling."*

– Ken Burns

Passionate about Michigan's history and the critical need to preserve and promote it for the benefit of current and future generations of Michiganders, the Commission since 2008 has been implementing a five-fold strategic plan.

### I HERITAGE POLICY ADVOCACY

The Commission is the voice for our heritage within and to state government. It advocates for the general importance of history to Michigan and for measures to make that history a valued contributor to building 21<sup>st</sup> century Michigan.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission and the Commission planned and sponsored the spring 2010 launch of the Michigan Heritage Caucus within the 94th legislature. Low attendance by members indicated the amount of work still to be done.

Aware that the state's current financial situation requires new business models, the Commission continues to pursue legislative authority to charge admission to all Michigan Historical Museum visitors. It is confident that working with the Michigan History Foundation, it can raise private funds to ensure that no child misses the chance to explore the museum due to lack of funding.

### II SPEAKING FOR HISTORY

The Commission works to increase awareness by Michigan's citizens and communities of their heritage, making it more likely they will act to preserve that heritage. This "speaking" takes the form of public remarks and concrete actions.

In their daily work and community lives, Commission members identify history related opportunities and challenges. The Commission follows identification with action, including resolutions of support, bringing people together,

and collaboration. Commission members also seek opportunities, such as Michigan Historical Marker dedications, to speak about the importance of Michigan's history and the programs that support it.

Because the Ulysses S. Grant House is on the State Fairgrounds site, a commissioner attended meetings of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority where it considered making the site part of its portfolio. The Authority decided not to undertake this initiative, and the site remains closed and inaccessible to the public.

The Commission determines the annual recipient of the Governor John B. Swainson Award, which recognizes state and local government employees who do not work in the field of history, but make exceptional contributions to preserving and interpreting the stories of Michigan's past. No nominations were proffered to it in 2010.

During 2010, commissioners continued to dedicate new Michigan Historic Markers at locations across the state. They gave media interviews resulting in major news stories on Michigan history projects and issues.

**CAPITOL PARK:** A key 2010 initiative involved partnering with the City of Detroit on the renewal of Capitol Park. The site of our only territorial capitol, which became the first State Capitol in 1835, the park had suffered major deterioration. On October 27, the park was rededicated in a ceremony reinterring Michigan's first ("boy") Governor, Stevens T. Mason, led by Center director Sandra S. Clark. The event benefitted from donations of equipment by the Detroit Historical Society.

The Commission was gratified during the year to reach the \$100,000 donation mark in support of

the park project, halfway to achieving an endowment to maintain historic features in the park. Some of the funds were used to launch a dedicated website, <http://www.boyguy.com/>.

### III PLANNING

The Commission's counsel helps shape and add value to Center programs and operations.

This year it worked with the Michigan History Foundation and Eastern Michigan University to implement the Executive Order requirement to find an alternative means to execute the Michigan Historical Marker program. The Commission's insistence that the historical accuracy and significance of the markers not be diminished was essential to implementing the use of Eastern Michigan graduate students to write the marker texts and work with marker sponsors. The students gained real world experience in public history, and the first texts were completed. The Commission plans to move on to planning for better promotion of Michigan Historical Markers as a heritage tourism initiative.

### IV HISTORY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Michigan history community can gain strength by speaking with one voice and collaborating to strengthen the state's history organizations.

The Commission convened a meeting in spring 2010 of representatives from the Michigan History Foundation, the Friends of Michigan History, and the Michigan Historical Museum Docents. The purpose was to discuss future promotion and sustainability of the history of the State of Michigan through cooperative efforts and arrangements. Following the meeting, participants were to go back to their organizations and seek support for the process. The Commission invited each organization to appoint two members to a work group to move things forward.

During 2010, the Commission continued to collaborate with the Foundation, the Friends, the

Historical Society of Michigan, and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network to strengthen mutual ties and goals. Its members provided liaison with other statewide history organizations, including the Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Commission members sit on the Foundation board and the Friends board, and serve in the Docent Guild. The Commission also has representation on the boards of the Historical Society of Michigan, the 1812 Commission, the Michigan Council for History Education, the Black Historic Sites Committee of the Detroit Historical Society, and the Detroit River Project.

### V CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Executive Order 2007-52 gave the Commission responsibility for Michigan's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. At its September 17, 2008 meeting, the Commission approved a plan that focuses on grassroots involvement, education, events, heritage tourism, and marketing. Following public hearings during summer 2009, the Commission, at its November 19 meeting, revised and extended the plan based on public input and further discussions. The plan is at: [www.michigan.gov/mhcommission](http://www.michigan.gov/mhcommission).

In October 2010, the Commission partnered with Grand Valley State for its second Sesquicentennial conference. In November, it participated in the convening of the full complement of its "Civil War Partners." At that meeting, it unveiled Michigan's Civil War website <http://micivilwar.org/> and a logo designed by a Center for Creative Studies student. In a joint effort, the Michigan Council of History Educators, Edward Surovell Realtors, and the Commission are jointly sponsoring an essay contest for grades 3-12.

All in all, despite a very difficult year, the Committee continued to work and build the foundation for an authentic, grassroots based Michigan Civil War Commemoration.

### III. THE CENTER AND THE FUTURE

*"We don't want people to lower their expectations of government. We think they should be high. We embrace the idea that people expect this administration to make a difference. We insist on making a difference."*

– Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley

Despite a year that brought hardship to Michigan history programs, both the Commission and the Center retain their determination to preserve and promote our State's heritage.

Michigan needs to demonstrate a passion for its history. It should set ambitious goals for the preservation and advancement of its heritage assets. Michiganders from both peninsulas and from all walks of life share a common past; recounting the stories of Michigan's proud past can help build community.

We need to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to experience the wonder and appreciation we feel for the state we love. We need to be faithful stewards of our heritage.

We can be proud of the legacy we will pass on to later generations. We must take the initiative now to secure the sites, the artifacts, the documents and the stories if we want our children and grandchildren to know and treasure this amazing place.

The best evidence of this continuing commitment to Michigan's history during these difficult days is found in a new vision crafted by the Center – under the self-evident title "Michigan Needs Its History" – to keep energizing all those volunteers and State employees who love and treasure our heritage. That vision follows:

#### MICHIGAN NEEDS ITS HISTORY

History provides the sense of place that individuals, communities, states and nations need to thrive. It may be a sense of place within time, or a sense of place within space, but without it, people and communities lose their direction. Only with a clear understanding of our values, our assets, our character, our strengths – in other words, our history – can we hope to craft a viable future for Michigan.

People who have a sense of their place within the continuum of humankind, who know they stand on the shoulders of those who came before them, also understand their potential to shape their future. They acknowledge their responsibility for the world that future generations will inherit. They think beyond today and seek solutions that will benefit their communities for years to come.

Communities use a shared understanding of their history as the starting point for conversations about their future. Without a sense of place that is both understood and valued, there is no reason to negotiate, compromise, and do the hard work needed to meld diverse interests into a common purpose. Regions, such as the Upper Peninsula, where a sense of place dominates, have far less trouble collaborating across political boundaries than areas that self-define as being, above all, different from their neighbors.

Democracy depends on history. Access to historic documents ensures long-term governmental accountability. An authentic sense of place creates the civic mindedness that leads to citizen participation and sound decisions. It is

no surprise that totalitarian regimes so often destroy cultural institutions and rewrite the history books.

How important is a sense of place to Michigan's future? Travel guru Arthur Frommer told us decades ago that a sense of place is the ingredient that draws tourists who stay longer, spend more and return. Surveys of recent graduates identify a consistent desire to live in authentic, vibrant places with character.

In the global economy, nurturing Michigan's sense of place has increased importance. As new people come to our state, we need to make sure they can develop the personal investment in our place that leads to civic engagement and neighborhood involvement. We all want our children to succeed in the global economy. Knowing who they are and where they come from – their sense of place – will help them appreciate and thrive in the diverse cultures they will experience.

The Michigan Historical Center preserves and shares the stories that feed the souls and shelter the hearts of the people of Michigan by helping them find their sense of place. Such work cannot be left to the chance of the marketplace – benefiting those with the resources to preserve and celebrate their past and leaving out those who may most need to connect to history, people such as the citizens of Hamtramck who picked a museum as the project that would best demonstrate that they are a city with a future.

### THE CENTER'S HISTORY

The State of Michigan has been collecting its history for more than 135 years. In 1873, the legislature directed the state librarian to begin collecting Michigan's history. The next year, Quartermaster General of Michigan William Thorp asked Civil War "officers and soldiers possessed of any trophy, relic, curiosity, or memento, or any article which is connected in any manner with the history of the war, or of his personal military history to contribute the same to the State Military Museum." In 1874, the

legislature made its first appropriation for state history (\$1,000), and in 1913 it created the Michigan Historical Commission to oversee the state's historical efforts. Over time more and more people entrusted the objects, letters, photographs and documents of their lives to the stewardship of the state.

Today the state's collections include 130,000 artifacts, 50,000 maps, 4,000 manuscripts, 550,000 photographs, 11 historic sites and museums, and the archival records that document state and local government. However, it is not enough to simply care for these treasures; they must be shared to help Michigan and its people discover their sense of place.

### TODAY

The core functions of the state's history programs – collecting and caring for those things that document Michigan's stories, educating children, creating exhibits and other forms of sharing Michigan's stories, helping communities discover their heritage – remain constant, but methods of preservation, education, sharing, working with communities and funding have changed dramatically in recent years. From state budget cuts and reorganization efforts to the internet, the world of the Michigan Historical Center is far different than it was 21 years ago when Michigan proudly opened the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing.

The change is not a surprise. The Center's 2002 strategic plan emphasized:

- Implementing a new management structure to ensure efficient and effective operations in the face of limited resources.
- Expanding philanthropic financial resources through collaborative efforts with the Michigan History Foundation, the Friends of Michigan History and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board.
- Becoming a market-driven entrepreneurial organization that is self-sufficient, risk-taking and opportunistic.

- Aggressive marketing and communications that establish the Center as one of the nation's premier state history organizations.
- Strengthening existing services to Michigan communities and creating new ones.

Since the adoption of the plan, staff members have experimented with new programs, new ways of creating programs, on-line services and entrepreneurial ventures. In 2010, we took some giant steps, but our challenge remains to greatly accelerate our rate of change.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### MANAGEMENT

A reorganization implemented in October 2010 blurred the lines of academic expertise in favor of cross disciplinary work on collections, exhibits and education. The management team is focused on clear objectives, timelines, setting priorities, measuring success and driving the cycle of improvement.

In 2010, the former agencies of the Center that remained in state government and their new parent agencies agreed to maintain their shared services, including management of the storage facility that houses state records, archival materials, museum artifacts and archaeology collections. Archaeologists continued to work on museum education programs, and MSHDA provided funding for archives programs that supported the work of the SHPO.

In 2010, our focus on what we can do better than anyone else – use objects and documents to tell the Michigan stories that help people, communities and our state find their sense of place and build their future – resulted in a workshop in partnership with Lansing Public Schools that changed how participants thought about teaching history to elementary students. In 2011, we will use the same techniques to develop a program using Michigan Civil War materials to develop language arts skills.

Giving each staff member a set of operational responsibilities, but also having them serve on one or more exhibit, education or collections teams has renewed enthusiasm for the work we do, despite the frustrations of the past year. Every staff member also takes responsibility for providing excellent service to the public, our guests and our visitors.

### ON-LINE EXPERIENCES

The [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org) website is managed in collaboration with the Library of Michigan. It gives researchers and the curious a way to explore our most frequently used collections on line. Grants and private donations have financed most of the digitization work. With all of our Civil War manuscripts, photographs and documents on-line, the next step is developing ways teachers can use the materials in their classrooms.

The special Civil War section of the website, which uses social media to facilitate statewide participation, was launched last year. This year's goal is to increase its usage.

### ON-SITE EXPERIENCES

As we reach out to new audiences and provide better service to existing audiences, we must constantly improve the visitor experience at all of our sites. In 2010, using a grant and private donations, we added outdoor trails to the Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee, near Marquette. In 2011 we will add interpretation to the trails and link them to the regional Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

At Fort Wilkins, on the Keweenaw Peninsula, we opened the Suttler's Store, financed in part by sales of reproduction artifacts that match the objects sold at the original store and in part by grants and donations. In 2011 we will stabilize the Hewitt House at Walker Tavern so that it can better serve as a visitor center not only for the site, but also for the US-12 heritage route.

The special exhibit at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in 2010, "Batteries Not Included," celebrated toys made or played with in Michigan. The 2011 special exhibit, "Plowshares into Swords," will examine Michigan's entry into the Civil War, including its role prior to the war in the Underground Railroad and the formation of the Republican Party.

Two portable carts, one featuring the Civil War and one focused on immigration, will add variety and interactive experiences led by volunteer Docents to the Lansing museum in 2011. They will be used for visiting classes, weekend family visits and special programs—sometimes in a gallery and sometimes in an education space or the lobby.

#### COLLECTIONS

The major improvement in collections care in 2010 was the creation of a new space for Michigan's Civil War flags that improved both their storage conditions and public access.

The importance of being flexible and offering professional care of collections was demonstrated in 2010 when the Archives of Michigan learned that the records of architect Minoru Yamasaki were to be destroyed within the next 24 hours. With assistance from the Michigan History Foundation, the archives rented a truck, and with the expertise of the SHPO staff selected and removed the historical materials of the architect whose buildings included the World Trade Center. With financial assistance from MSHDA, the archives is preparing the materials for public use.

In 2011, museum and archival materials from the Michigan School for the Deaf, which as been sold to a private developer, will become part of the state's collections. In an innovative partnership, the museum will inventory and catalogue the artifacts then place them on loan so that the schools alumni and teachers can continue to use them on site.

#### EDUCATION

As the Center develops education programs for students of all ages, it will use three touchstones:

- Using authentic artifacts and documents;
- Reinforcing the State Board of Education's content expectations;
- Creating opportunities to practice the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills identified by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including information, communications and technology literacy; critical thinking; problem solving; creativity; civic literacy; and global awareness.

Renovations to the Center's education space, funded by a generous gift from David and Betty Morris, will accommodate "The Governor's Decision Room," a program developed for older students by three area high school teachers and the Archives. The topic is the 1967 Detroit Riots, and the program places students in the roles of Governor, advisors and cabinet as they receive information (historic documents) and make decisions leading to a press conference where they announce their proposed course of action.

#### EARNED INCOME

If the Michigan Historical Center is to continue to serve Michigan communities and students, it must significantly expand resources from sectors other than state government. Museum admission is one such source of revenue. Adults will begin to pay admission fees in 2011 in accordance with legislative action taken in late September 2010.

In 2010, building on its successful museum store system, the Center joined the Michigan History Foundation in creating the Seeking Michigan On-line Store. The products are based on our unique and sometimes unusual collections, and include lighthouse architectural drawings and T-shirts featuring Michigan beer labels.

## IV. THE COMMISSION

The Michigan Historical Commission came into existence in 1913 as the state agency responsible for preservation and protection of Michigan's historical resources and storied heritage. For a half-century, it acted autonomously to fulfill this mandate. Appointed to six-year terms, the Commissioners employed a small professional staff, issued reports and publications, and conducted conferences on various aspects of Michigan history. The membership of the Commission included the Governor *ex officio*, who frequently participated in meetings.

In 1963, approval of a new constitution changed the landscape of state government and altered the Commission's operations. One main purpose of the Constitution of 1963 was to make state government more efficient and rationalize the bureaucracy by eliminating the plethora of independent boards, agencies, and commissions created over the years. All such entities were to be located within a principal department and the number of departments limited to 20.

In the post-constitutional reorganization, the Commission was housed under the Department of State. Its staff became employees of that department, while its members continued to be appointed by the Governor. For nearly four decades, this reorganization prevailed. The Commission gave up its autonomy and staff, and the Secretary of State's role in Michigan history matters became ascendant.

In 2000, Governor John Engler issued an executive order reorganizing Michigan's cultural programs. He transferred the Michigan Historical Commission from the Department of State into a new department. The Legislature responded with legislation supported by the Governor that created the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. The package of bills, passed with bipartisan support, provided two additional Commission seats to be appointed by the leader

of each legislative house. It also added a seventh gubernatorial appointment based on nomination by the Historical Society of Michigan.

In the few years since, the Michigan Historical Commission has faced some uncertainty while the new department came together, including the length of service for gubernatorial appointments. This question was answered by Attorney General Cox in a 2005 opinion. Because of the confluence of the 2001 legislation and the 1963 Constitution, all gubernatorial appointees now serve four-year terms; those appointed by the legislature serve two-year terms. The director of the Department in which the Commission is housed serves as an *ex officio* member.

By law, the Commission advises the Michigan Historical Center on its programs, approves Michigan Historical Markers, reviews Local Historic District Study Committee reports, and is responsible for the State's commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The Commission receives no legislative appropriations.

The Commission's greatest potential lies in its ability to inspire a greater awareness of Michigan's heritage. Such awareness can help build a sense of community, educate and elevate Michigan's citizenry, increase economic development, and properly commemorate and preserve the past.

Members, and the year their terms expire, are:

L. William Conner, Jr., Monroe	2012
Lamont Corbin, Detroit	2010
John M. Dempsey, Plymouth	2014
Thomas M. Farrell, Lansing	2013
Samuel Logan, Jr., Detroit	2012
James A. McConnell, Livonia	2011
Michael Ranville, Charlotte	2013
Edward D. Surovell, Ann Arbor	2012
Thomas Truscott, Lansing	2012

## POSTSCRIPT

The Michigan Historical Commission believes that with concerted collaboration and action, we can create a future Michigan that finds in its past the inspiration that allows it to build the as-yet-unimagined place where people from around the world come to work, live, and play. We continue to be inspired by the words of Gwen Frostic:

*One could live a lifetime in Michigan  
and still have wonder to explore.*