

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD MEETING
APRIL 13, 2001

Richard Harms, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Richard Harms, Jennifer Radcliff, Lynn Evans, Bill Cremin, Elisabeth Knibbe, Janese Chapman.

Board Members Absent:

Kathryn Eckert.

Staff Members Present:

Brian Conway, John Halsey, Amy Arnold, Heather Harrison, Robert Christensen, Elizabeth Szufnar, Brian Grennell, Squire Jaros, Frank Quinn.

Members of the Public Present:

Bruce Jones and Robert Spillar, of the St. Joseph County Road Commission, concerning the Marantette Bridge nomination.

Lew and Lynne Secory and Kevin and Amy Banker, concerning the Olde Town Historic District study committee report, Port Huron.

Lauren Dolkowski, New Center Development Corporation, concerning the New Amsterdam Historic District nomination.

Kathy Carpenter, Larry Schulte, Raymond Schulte, and Diane Schulte concerning the Scottville School nomination.

Donna Palmer, concerning the Roosevelt Community House nomination.

Agenda

Cremin moved to approve the agenda and Chapman seconded. Motion to approve agenda was carried, 5-0 (Knibbe was not present at this point).

Minutes of January 26, 2001 Meeting

Cremin moved that the minutes be approved, Chapman seconded. Motion to approve minutes was carried, 5-0.

Staff Reports

Brian Conway

Brian Conway welcomed Dr. Lynn L. M. Evans to the review board. Dr. Evans accepted the vacant position for a review board member in March. Evans has been the Curator of Archaeology at Mackinac State Historic Parks since 1996. She holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization/Historical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Conway reported that Kathryn Eckert was absent due to other scheduled conferences.

Conway announced that the State Historic Preservation Office, along with the Michigan Historical Center, will be moving out of the Department of State at the end of fiscal year 2001 (October 2001). Governor Engler announced the creation of a new department focusing on history/culture, to be called the Department of History, Arts, and Culture. Those involved in the move will be the Michigan Historical Center, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Film Office, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the State of Michigan Library. The new department director is as yet unknown.

Conway informed the board of how the extra Historic Preservation Fund monies in this year's budget were applied toward preservation projects. Out of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the following Certified Local Government (CLG) grants were awarded:

- City of Detroit, survey of South Cass Corridor Neighborhood: \$21,000
- City of Detroit, restoration of Engine House #11 (exterior work): \$40,000
- City of Allegan, Community Center adaptive reuse study: \$15,000
- Canton Township, National Register nominations: \$7,000
- City of Jackson, roof work on the Michigan Theater: \$60,000 (+/-)
- Washtenaw County/Milan, Hack House restoration (exterior wood repair and repainting): \$28,000

Special projects:

Two limited term positions: one Environmental Review Assistant, one CLG position.

Economic impact and historic preservation benefit study for the State of Michigan to focus on property values, heritage tourism, jobs, economic development, and tax credits.

Workshop/conference support for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) to include four workshops/conferences. One has already taken place--the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Donovan Rypkema and Charleston, SC, Mayor Joe Riley spoke in Monroe about the economic benefits of preservation in February. Three other regional workshops will be held between now and the end of the fiscal year in conjunction with SHPO staff. The first of these is scheduled for Saturday, June 30 in Marquette. Two more will follow, dates to be decided upon, one each on the western and eastern sides of the Lower Peninsula.

A Knapps Building study/context development will be undertaken to provide the current owner, with alternatives to "re-skinning" the Knapps Building, Michigan's premiere example of Art Modern architecture.

From the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Fund, the following Restoration Grants were awarded:

St. Helena Island Lighthouse, Lake Michigan straits area: \$5,500.

DeTour Reef Lighthouse, Lake Huron at St. Mary's River: \$20,000 for window repair and replacement.

Crisp Point Lighthouse, Lake Superior, Chippewa County: \$10,000 for window repair and replacement.

Point Betsie Lighthouse, Lake Michigan, Benzie County: \$10,000 for a reuse study.

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Lake Huron, Mackinaw City: \$20,000 for a new roof.

\$20,000 was awarded to DNR to undertake a study prioritizing the work to be done at Tawas Point Lighthouse, Lake Huron, Iosco County.

Grand Traverse Lighthouse Foundation and Museum, Lelanau County: \$14, 500 for masonry repair and exterior painting.

Old Presque Isle Lighthouse, Lake Huron, Presque Isle County: \$15, 000 for masonry repair and exterior painting.

Special projects:

Continued support to assist the MHPN in hiring a new Michigan Lighthouse Project Manager.

Support for the upcoming Michigan Lighthouse Project conference, May 31-June 2, to be held in Mackinaw City.

In addition, Governor Engler assured approximately \$1.5 million in awards to the Lighthouse Project from the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) fund. The SHPO and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will jointly administer these lighthouse assistance grants. Previously, \$3 million had been set aside, but there were not enough projects to use all of the money. This partnering with DEQ will ensure that the money stays in place for work on lighthouse issues, with a second round of applications expected next spring.

Conway attended the NCSHPO and Preservation Action conference in Washington, DC at the end of March, and much discussion revolved around the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). President Bush's new budget reduced the amount of preservation funding, rolling back the funding level to that of fiscal year 2000. On a better note, CARA (Conservation And Reinvestment Act) legislation was reintroduced, and has strong bi-partisan support across the nation. Last year, it was supported by 50 governors and also had strong bi-partisan support, but was nixed at the appropriations level. The act introduces funding for conservation initiatives, including historic preservation, and this year's reintroduction calls for full funding of the HPF at \$150 million.

Conway reported on preservation issues and challenges on the forefront for Michigan. The Knapps Building is a top priority, as well as the Allen Park VA Hospital. The Veterans Administration plans to demolish the Allen Park complex with a \$14 million federal appropriation coupled with \$7 million from Ford Motor Land Development Corporation.

Gordon Hall, possibly Michigan's best example of a Greek Revival residence, is threatened with development. The house is currently owned by the University of Michigan and rented out as faculty housing, but U of M now wants to get out of the landlord business. They do wish to preserve the home, donated to them, but do not take into consideration the scenic approaches and historic landscape surrounding the house in Dexter; they would rather sell the land for top dollar to development interests. The SHPO staff gave an opinion through review of the Historic District Study Committee report that a two-acre, "arbitrary" rectangle around the house does not recognize and protect the historic setting, context and integrity of the resource.

Conway also noted that we are still dealing with problems over historical archaeological sites in the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Conway announced that the poster contest for saving neighborhood schools has been dropped. The SHPO is still developing a poster using the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2001 theme, "Restore, Renew, Rediscover Your Historic Neighborhood Schools!" with photos of Central High School in Grand Rapids.

Conway also displayed an image of the new lighthouse license plate unveiled by Secretary Miller in April. Each purchase of this specialty plate will give \$25 to the Michigan Lighthouse Project.

The MHPN annual conference will be held in Detroit this year, April 26-28, and Historic Preservation Field School will be in session once more from June 15-29 at Fayette.

John Halsey

John Halsey reported on Hancock's sponsorship of the building of an industrial park that will border on the Quincy National Historic Landmark and explained the need for review and compliance. The park would affect the neighborhood connected to the Franklin Mine, which presently has an undisturbed archaeological surface. There are no clients for the proposed park as of yet; Halsey met with the funding agency and the superintendent of the Keweenaw National Historical Park to discuss Hancock's need to justify constructing the industrial park.

State lands: Halsey recently gave presentations and attended meetings on archaeological sites on state lands and outlined preservation strategies to dissuade

development, which may affect archaeological properties. He met with DNR and other agencies in February.

Michigan Technological University's field school will continue work on the archaeological remains of the Pittsburgh and Boston Company's activities in Fort Wilkins State Park. MTU will also conduct excavation inside the East Wing of the Hotel at Fayette.

Underwater archaeology: Halsey attended a meeting with representatives of NOAA and other interested parties on shipwreck documentation in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Upper Peninsula. Documentation is to be undertaken by the Institute for Exploration, run by Bob Ballard. Ballard himself will be at Thunder Bay in June, but his crew will be there for a longer period of time.

Local archaeological efforts: the Cater Site Report, by the Oxbow Chapter of the Society of Michigan Archaeologists and the Chippewa Nature Center, has been published. It is a full-color, professional-grade publication.

At the April 12, 2001 meeting of the Michigan Historical Commission, two winners were chosen for the Governor John B. Swainson Award. The Governor Swainson award is given to government employees who take on historic preservation projects beyond the scope of their regular duties. Ms. Jeannette Dusseljee, Deputy Clerk of Almena Township, Van Buren County, and Ms. Margaret Janose, a clerical assistant in Cannon Township, Kent County, were this year's recipients.

Bill Cremin announced that Western Michigan University students will be working on/near Fort St. Joseph in Niles from April 20 through June 30. They will also be seeking out information involving the fort from historic native communities.

National Register Nominations

Site: Scottville School, Scottville, Mason County

Presenter: Grennell

Moved for approval: Knibbe

Second: Radcliff

Vote: 6-0

Level of significance: Local

Criteria: A, C

Radcliff asked what had been done to the building since 2000. Kathleen Carpenter, owner, responded that they have been working to stabilize portions of the building and keep the grounds cleaned up. Raymond Schulte, resident of Scottville, commented on the school's importance to the community as well.

Site: Roosevelt Community House, Springfield, Calhoun County
Presenter: Harrison
Moved for approval: Chapman
Second: Evans
Vote: 6-0
Level of significance: State
Criteria: A, B

Site: New Amsterdam Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County
Presenter: Harrison
Moved for approval: Evans
Second: Radcliff
Vote: 4-0 (Knibbe, Chapman recused themselves)
Level of significance: Local
Criteria: A, C

One letter of objection was received from Detroit Edison, owner of a building in the district, and CLG approval from the City of Detroit was received.

Site: Jackson Branch Bridge No. 15, Raisin Township, Lenawee County
Presenter: Szufnar
Moved for approval: Knibbe
Second: Chapman
Vote: 6-0
Level of significance: Local
Criterion: C

The board approved with request that national register staff look into whether the entire line that the Southern Michigan Railroad Society owns could not be nominated. The board also inquired as to what sort of rolling stock the museum runs on the line and whether it might not also possess historic significance.

Site: Marantette Bridge, Mendon Township/Village of Mendon, St. Joseph County
Presenter: Christensen
Moved for approval: Cremin
Second: Knibbe
Vote: 6-0
Level of significance: Local
Criterion: C

Members of the St. Joseph County Road Commission voiced their support for the nomination. Two letters of support were presented, one from the Road Commission,

and one from the owners of the Marantette House, located on property adjacent to bridge.

Site: Roethke Houses, Saginaw, Saginaw County

Presenter: Christensen

Moved for approval: Radcliff

Second: Cremin

Vote: 6-0

Level of significance: State

Criteria: A, B, C

Study Committee Reports

400-406 Bridge Street Historic District, Grand Rapids

Arnold presented staff comments to the Board. The Board had no additional comments.

Elijah Willits House Historic District, Birmingham

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. Radcliff would like staff to recommend taking a broader area into consideration.

Woodville Schoolhouse Historic District, Norwich Township, Newaygo County

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. The board had no additional comments.

Hubbard Farms Historic District Addition, Detroit

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. The board had no additional comments.

Peterboro-Charlotte Historic District Addition, Detroit

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. The board had no additional comments.

Milton Greer House Historic District, Superior Township, Washtenaw County

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. Radcliff questioned the application's mention of the district as part of the Esek Pray Historic District; Arnold replied they are two separate districts.

Gordon Hall Historic District, Dexter, Washtenaw County

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. The board stated its view that preservation of only the house is not enough, and that the University of Michigan needs to consider the historic landscape and scenic vistas in planning for sale of the property.

Olde Town Historic District, Port Huron

Arnold presented staff comments to the board. The report's author and his wife, Kevin and Amy Banker, were present to comment on district, as well as were Lynne and Lew Secory. All agreed this part of Port Huron has been seeing a turn-around in terms of interest in historic properties.

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled Review Board meeting will be held in the Lake Superior Room on Friday, July 13, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Harms adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather R. Harrison