



**2008
STATE OF
HERITAGE**

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AND
MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER

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PREFACE

The Michigan Historical Commission has been the public arm of state history programs since 1913. 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.

The Michigan Historical Center is the principal state agency that builds programs and alliances that preserve and interpret Michigan's past and help people discover, enjoy, and find inspiration in their heritage. Its six major areas of professional expertise are organized as the Michigan Historical Museum System; *Michigan History* Magazine; the Office of the State Archaeologist; Records Management Services; the Archives of Michigan; and the State Historic Preservation Office. However, staff members in each organizational unit join together as needed to give Michigan the best possible public value.

Several state commissions, in addition to the Michigan Historical Commission, advise the Center on its programs. The Michigan History Foundation, the Friends of Michigan History and the Michigan Historical Museum Docent Guild are private organizations dedicated to supporting the work of the Center. This combination of public and private resources gives Michigan one of the most effective, efficient history programs in the nation.

At its April 23, 2008, meeting, acting in concert with the Center's leadership, 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. INTRODUCTION

Michigan has never really had a present moment. It has a mysterious past and an incalculable future, attractive and terrifying by turns, but the moment when the two meet is always a time of transition.

– Bruce Catton

Michigan is a state brimming with unique historic sites, artifacts and treasures. All too often, its heritage is underappreciated. We live in a time of economic difficulties that present stiff challenges to the work of preserving the legacy handed down to today's Michiganders. But it is also a time filled with opportunities to advance the economic, cultural, educational and civic contributions that history and heritage can make to the state.

Throughout Michigan, various historical groups each champion their own worthwhile yet separate agendas. Vigorous, visionary, collaborative leadership is required to bring them together to produce sufficient power for achievement. The Michigan Historical Commission—the only statewide history body comprising both gubernatorial and legislative appointees—is positioned to be that leader. The Commission's newest statutory role, directed by Executive Order 2007-52 to organize the state's commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, powerfully demonstrates the contribution that is possible with Commission leadership.

The Commission envisions a Michigan where:

- Heritage tourism enhances the state's economy, delights its visitors and citizens, and showcases its unique natural and cultural assets;
- Plentiful educational opportunities engage children and adults in experiences that result in a shared understanding of Michigan's heritage;

- Individuals and communities strive to preserve the state's irreplaceable heritage assets;
- Michigan's multi-cultural past and the stories of its people come to life through historical markers, exhibitions, publications, web sites and public programs;
- Groups and individuals dedicated to advancing the cause of Michigan history work together to achieve their common goals; and
- Sufficient funding ensures that our heritage is preserved and accessible to all who live here or come as visitors.

To increase its contributions on behalf of Michigan's historical legacy, the Commission has adopted five goals:

- Heritage Policy Advocacy
- Speaking for History
- Planning
- History Community Leadership
- Civil War Sesquicentennial

This report sets forth an assessment of the current condition of Michigan's portfolio of history assets. It identifies the heritage organizations that are individually working on behalf of the state's history. And it describes the five-step plan of action that the Commission and the Center are taking to fulfill the mission of building community among the people of Michigan by championing the state's history in a coordinated and powerful fashion.

II. THE CURRENT STATE OF MICHIGAN'S HERITAGE ASSETS

Michigan's historic properties are among its greatest assets. Historic structures are an important component of dynamic, vibrant places where people want to be.”

– Dr. William M. Anderson, Director,
Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries

Michigan is graced with world-class history attractions. Several, such as the Mackinac State Historic Parks, are owned by the citizens of Michigan; others, such as The Henry Ford, are privately owned.

Michigan is also home to numerous prized heritage assets. These include 160 battle flags carried by its soldiers during the American Civil War, more than 100 lighthouses on four Great Lakes and some 3,500 historic sites in both peninsulas. More than 1,600 state historical markers dot the state from end to end. Many historic homes, workplaces, and community centers have been preserved.

Listing all such places would require a much longer report; an overview of key public-owned local, state, and national history assets includes:

- Four National Parks and Lakeshores:
 1. Isle Royale National Park, the largest forested island in Lake Superior, an example of primitive America
 2. Keweenaw National Historical Park, commemorating the first significant copper mining in the U.S. and the oldest metal mining heritage in the western hemisphere, dating back 7,000 years
 3. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the first national lakeshore, site of the Grand Marais Maritime Museum
 4. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, featuring forests, beaches, dunes, and ancient glacial phenomena, with a maritime museum teaching children about the Great Lakes life-saving rescue service

- The potential creation of a National Battlefield at the River Raisin site near Monroe, one of a limited number of War of 1812 sites, currently before Congress
- The Gerald R. Ford national presidential museum in Grand Rapids and presidential library in Ann Arbor
- A historic state capitol building restored to its original grandeur
- The attractions of the Mackinac State Historic Parks
- The eleven heritage sites of the Michigan historical museum system, located across the state and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- The designation of the Detroit River as both an American and Canadian Heritage River – the first international heritage river system in North America
- Local history museums ranging from the Museum of Ojibway Culture in St. Ignace to the New Buffalo Railroad Museum
- Thousands of local history attractions and assets, ranging from a one-room schoolhouse in Buchanan to the Ironwood Theatre
- More than six thousand Centennial/Sesquicentennial family farms

Thanks to the contributions of hundreds of historical societies and dedicated individuals, Michigan's heritage continues to be preserved for current and future generations.

At the same time, opportunities abound to preserve and maintain sites, artifacts, and assets that, without more care, may be lost forever.

Neglect caused by lack of adequate financial support is eroding the physical and historical attributes of these sites. Without positive action, before too long, these irreplaceable assets may be lost forever.

Saving these sites has benefits beyond history. As the *Report of the U.S. Civil War Sites Advisory Committee* stated: “Preservation brings jobs to communities; not only service sector jobs, but jobs for skilled professionals and craftsmen such as carpenters, masons, painters, artists, historians, parks and recreation specialists, architects, and more.”

A key challenge is the lack of any comprehensive assessment of Michigan’s threatened assets. Any list of vulnerable and irreplaceable assets would include Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, approximately half of the 116 lighthouses, many of the state's history museums and Native American heritage sites.

Recent work has restored and opened the Tawas Point Lighthouse, one of the sites managed by the Michigan Historical Center and the Department of Natural Resources, but many of the Center’s sites are among those in danger. Of particular concern are the three-story hotel and other smaller buildings at Fayette State Park, Walker Tavern and the Hewitt House at Cambridge Junction State Park, the Range Light at Fort Wilkins and the original park interpretive center at Hartwick Pines State Park.

Michigan needs to make a stronger strategic investment in its heritage properties to enhance their preservation for future generations and their impact on the state’s economic vitality.

III. THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMUNITY

The times require honesty, and they demand leaders who will speak candidly about our situation and boldly lead us through it to a better future . . . to the Next Michigan.

– Governor Jennifer Granholm

For some 50 years, the Michigan Historical Commission and the Historical Society of Michigan, founded in 1828 by Henry Schoolcraft and other visionaries, shared executive direction and partnered to preserve the state's heritage. The two organizations separated in the 1950s. Recently, some steps have been undertaken to build bridges between the two organizations. The 2001 legislation creating the Department of History, Arts and Libraries also changed the composition of the Commission, creating an additional member to be selected from candidates nominated by the Society. The Commission has invited the executive director of the Society to pay an annual visit, and the first visit was held recently. These and other actions bode well for greater cooperation in the future.

Other state commissions and boards that advise the Center on specific programs are:

- The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission,
- The Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board,
- The Historic Preservation Review Board and
- The State Historic Records Advisory Board.

The Michigan Library and Historical Center opened in 1989 as the home of the Michigan Historical Center, part of the Department of State since the administrative reorganization under the Constitution of 1963, and the Library of Michigan, administered by the legislature. Appropriations were insufficient to complete the Michigan Historical Museum exhibits in the new building, and a new organization, the Michigan History Foundation, was created to raise funds for this purpose. After achieving success and opening the 20th Century Exhibits in 1995, the foundation expanded its mission to "raise private

funds to support the Michigan Historical Center and foster private and public appreciation and support of the Michigan Historical Center's statewide museum, archival, archaeological, historic preservation, publication and heritage education programs." During budget shortfalls in the early 2000s, Foundation support made it possible for all of the eleven attractions to remain open to the public. The Foundation has raised nearly \$7 million to support state history programs since its inception. In recent years, those funds have often been used to match competitive federal grants. Two members of the Commission sit on the Foundation board in an *ex officio* capacity.

The Friends of Michigan History was formed in 1991. It describes itself as "a group of diverse people united by a deep interest in Michigan's past. Through members' action and support, the Friends ensure that our rich Michigan heritage will remain a vibrant source of study and enjoyment for future generations." The Friends use member dues to conserve artifacts, documents, photographs and maps, to sponsor education programs for children and adults, and to promote interpretive and living history programs at the Center.

During the summer of 2007, representatives of the Commission, the Foundation, and the Friends met to discuss common goals and visions.

The trained volunteers who make up the Docent Guild, founded when the new building opened, give their time to conducting museum tours, especially for school groups, and assisting with archival and other collections access programs.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network was founded in 1979 to recognize and preserve Michigan's rich cultural and architectural

heritage. Its founders sought to create a nonprofit organization that fostered protection of the state's irreplaceable historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, features, and open spaces. The Network helps members "maintain the neighborhoods where they live and the downtowns where they work, build new in ways that respect and reinforce local character, revitalize some of Michigan's oldest urban centers, adapt all types of buildings for current uses and use to best advantage the rich rural, agricultural and maritime heritage of Michigan."

Network representatives spoke at a Commission meeting in the Fall of 2007 to request support for one of their key initiatives, an expansion of Michigan's historic preservation tax credit program. The desired legislation is now Michigan law. The Network extended a complimentary membership during the 07-08 year to the members of the Commission.

Other statewide organizations with an interest in Michigan's heritage include:

- The Michigan Barn Preservation Network,
- The Michigan Archaeological Society,
- The Michigan Archival Association,
- The Michigan Chapter of the Society of American Architects,
- The Michigan Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators,
- The Michigan Oral History Council,
- The Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association,
- The Michigan Centennial Farm Association,
- The Michigan Photographic Historical Society, the Michigan Political History Society, and
- The Supreme Court Historical Society.

Coordination among these groups and individuals, all dedicated to advancing the cause of Michigan history, can strengthen everyone's efforts. As but one example, the Center recently turned over management of the Michigan Centennial Farm program to the Historical Society of Michigan; the Barn Preservation Network's goals dovetail with that program. As another, the Commission's Civil War Sesquicentennial Program, The Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, the Tuskegee Airmen Museum, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, and the Idlewild Centennial Commission all engage in the vital task of preserving and promoting Black history in Michigan.

Working together can create new opportunities for success. If one organization cannot quite muster the ability to achieve an objective, linking to others may very well make the difference.

In light of the constraints of both state and local government budgets, greater reliance must be placed on public-private partnerships to preserve and promote Michigan's heritage. By coming together in a united fashion, the organizations described here can bring much more clout to this daunting task.

IV. THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION PLAN

Nothing happens unless first a dream.

– Carl Sandburg

Michigan has tremendous opportunities to increase the visibility and viability of its heritage. Many Michiganders are working for the good of that cause. The Commission has adopted five goals to advance the cause of Michigan heritage over the near-term.

HERITAGE POLICY ADVOCACY

The Commission will encourage Michigan state government to demonstrate a broader understanding of and support for Michigan history.

With its connections to both the executive and the legislative branches of government, the Commission is positioned to advocate for both the general importance of history to Michigan and for specific measures that have been proposed to make that history a valued contributor to building the Michigan that will thrive in the 21st century.

It will work with the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to create a Michigan Heritage Caucus within the Legislature and develop meaningful programs, materials, and discussion topics for that caucus. Among the sources for consideration in this area are the report of the Land Use Leadership Council, research on other states' best-of-class initiatives, and the work identified in the remaining four goals.

The commission will also devote particular attention to the Historic Preservation Trust Fund and Economic Development legislation supported by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

SPEAKING FOR HISTORY

The Commission will work to increase awareness by Michigan's citizens and communities of their

heritage and more likely to act to preserve that heritage.

In their daily work and community lives, Commission members have opportunities to identify history preservation, promotion and education opportunities and challenges. The Commission will follow identification with action, including resolutions of support, bringing people together and collaboration. Commission members will also seek opportunities, including Michigan Historical Marker dedications, to speak in public about the importance of Michigan's history and the programs that support it.

The Commission will consider adding other awards to the Governor John B. Swainson Award, which recognizes state and local government employees who do not work in the field of history and make exceptional contributions to preserving and interpreting the stories of Michigan's past. Such awards may recognize contributions to Michigan history from those outside of government and honor other governors.

PLANNING

Commission advice will shape and add value to Michigan Historical Center programs.

By being more deliberate, the Commission can deepen the value of its advisory role. Using small group and individual conversations, it will help the Michigan Historical Center seek out the opinions of private citizens, business leaders, and political leaders on the role the Center can play in building the future Michigan. It will help research what other states and regions are doing to bring these best practices to Michigan.

Part of accomplishing this goal will be using the Commission's regular meetings to methodically learn about the programs of the Center and advise its leadership on ways they might be expanded and improved. The first programs reviewed will be heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation. In each case, staff presentations at a regular meeting will be followed by Commission discussion and advice in the subsequent meeting.

HISTORY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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

Commission representatives participated in a fall 2007 meeting of the three groups that directly support the work of the Michigan Historical Center: the Commission, the Michigan History Foundation, and the Friends of Michigan History. Following that initial meeting, Commission representatives have continued efforts to increase linkages among supporters of Michigan's heritage.

The Commission will help take these discussions and sharing of information to concrete planning and action that includes involving other organizations and corporations in fulfilling the Commission's vision and purpose. Such involvement may range from gifts and grants to collaborations on specific projects.

As part of the issuance of this annual report, the Commission will reach out to the broader history community to identify common threats, opportunities, and programs that can help all move forward.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Michigan's commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War will help build an inclusive sense of community, educate and elevate the citizenry, and increase economic development.

Governor Granholm's Executive Order 2007-52 gives the Commission responsibility for Michigan's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The Governor's charge can be summarized as: fostering authenticity; fostering inclusion; serving as a national/international liaison; and providing information to the public as a clearinghouse. At its meeting on September 17, 2008, the Commission approved a plan that focuses its efforts in the areas of grassroots involvement, education, events, heritage tourism, and marketing. The plan can be reviewed at www.michiganhistory.org.

V. THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

*Keep your dreams, for in them lies
Joy denied to men grown wise.*

– Edgar A. Guest

Michigan's heritage stretches back to the pre-contact era, when the earliest residents made their first appearance and began to make their mark on the land. Today, the Sanilac Petroglyphs survive as evidence of those earliest Michiganders. *Survive*—because time and the environment are taking their toll.

The arrival of Europeans in the early 17th century marked a new phase in history, with governance by French, English and American political structures. The Great Lakes have given Michigan a maritime heritage that reaches back to the *Griffon* and forward to the annual Port Huron-to-Mackinac race. From the Lost Peninsula to Ironwood, from New Buffalo to the Soo, Michigan's landscape is chock-full of amazing local, state and national history. Michigan's history resides in museums, in homes and in neighborhoods.

It must not be lost.

Michigan needs to demonstrate a passion for its history. It should set ambitious goals for preservation and advancement of its heritage assets. An icon like the Mackinac Bridge, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, unites

Michiganders from both peninsulas and from all walks of life. If a feat of 20th century engineering can achieve this purpose, imagine what recounting the stories of Michigan's proud past can do to 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. Time may be running out on our chances to rescue historic artifacts and sites from disappearing. Michigan needs to accept the challenge of acting *now*.

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 great American architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham wrote: "Make big plans, aim high in hope and work." The Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan Historical Center are doing just that.

VI. THE COMMISSION AND THE CENTER

THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL 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*.

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 such 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 house of the Legislature. It also added a seventh gubernatorial appointment to be made 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 is an *ex officio* member.

By statute, the Commission advises the Department of History, Arts and Libraries on its history programs, approves Michigan Historical Markers, and reviews Local Historic District reports.

The Commission receives no legislative appropriations.

The Commission's greatest potential lies not in its statutory roles, but 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 of the Commission, and the year their terms expire are:

Lloyd W. Conner, Jr., Monroe	2012
John M. Dempsey, Plymouth	2010
Thomas M. Farrell, Lansing	2009
Samuel Logan, Jr., Detroit	2012
James A. McConnell, Livonia	2011
Michael Ranville, Charlotte	2009
Edward D. Surovell, Ann Arbor	2012
Judith L. Tappero, Bloomfield Hills	2009
Thomas Truscott, Lansing	2009

THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER

The Michigan Historical Center unites six agencies: the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of the State Archaeologist, Records Management Services, the Archives of Michigan, the Michigan Historical Museum System and *Michigan History Magazine*. It is a partner in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The museum system includes eleven heritage sites:

- Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing
- Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, Roscommon
- Father Marquette National Memorial, St. Ignace
- Fayette Historic Townsite, Garden
- Fort Wilkins and the Copper Harbor Lighthouse, Copper Harbor
- Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, Grayling
- Mann House, Concord
- Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
- Sanilac Petroglyphs, Bad Axe
- Tawas Point Lighthouse, East Tawas
- Walker Tavern, Brooklyn

As part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, the Center's budget is funded by appropriations, including federal and state funds. Its direct General Fund appropriation is .06% of the state General Fund budget. It also receives essential support from donations to the Michigan History Foundation and volunteers.

In the past year the Center continued to work towards its strategic goals:

- Providing innovative informal education to Michigan's students
- Strengthening Michigan communities
- Expanding heritage tourism
- Serving state government
- Becoming more entrepreneurial and diversifying sources of support

PROVIDING INNOVATIVE INFORMAL EDUCATION TO MICHIGAN'S STUDENTS

As the Michigan State Board of Education strengthened its content expectations for all grade levels, the Center began to modify its programs to help teachers better meet their goals. Because the expectations introduced Michigan history to the third grade for the first time, much of the Center's 2008 efforts focused on that age group and their teachers. Accomplishments to date include:

- Working with teachers to enhance *Michigan History for Kids*, beginning with the topics teachers identified as most lacking in resources—Native Americans and government—and adding specific references to the content expectations, ideas for more teacher resources and topics and definitions;
- Creating new museum visit programs for 3rd graders—"Native American Stories and Storytelling," "The Voyageurs Canoe" and "Michigan Becomes a State;"
- Partnering with the Ingham Intermediate School District and Mackinac Historic State Parks to present a three-day professional development workshop on Michigan from pre-contact through statehood;
- Designing the first set of hands-on/minds-on kits that teachers will be able to borrow for classroom use;
- Designing the "Teach" segment of the new "Seeking Michigan" web site that will be available in March 2009
- Continuing the pre-service teacher partnership with the MSU College of Education
- Working with the Michigan Department of Education in creating a Michigan Virtual University course on early Michigan history for third grade teachers, including providing graphic materials and helping decide what to include based on the recommendations of the content experts, who include Commissioner Truscott and Commissioner McConnell.

All of these programs draw on expertise from multiple parts of the Center. The Center education coordinator, reassigned from a museum position, coordinates the cross-agency work. All program funding comes from the Michigan History Foundation and earned income.

As the Center continues these programs focused on elementary school education, it is also planning new programs for more advanced students. These programs will use primary source documents both on-line and at the center and rely on social media such as Twitter and Flickr, as well as traditional history tools.

In the winter and spring of 2008, the museum piloted a new program designed to engage community members using history as a literacy tool. “Your Story and Mine” began with two groups: transitional homeless adults working with Advent House Ministries, and male and female youth offenders who participate in the Peckham “Crossroads Program” sponsored by the Ingham County 30th Circuit Court Family Division, Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Lansing School District. The experience of researching their history clearly built the self-esteem and self-sufficiency of the participants. The program is continuing with grants from the Michigan Humanities Council and Peckham.

STRENGTHENING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

Heritage helps communities discover who they are and create a vision of what they can become. It is the basis of the sense of place essential to maintaining community pride and being an attractive place for people to live, work and play. The Center helps Michigan communities find their history every day, through publications, Michigan Historical Markers, exhibits, technical assistance, archival and museum holdings, and archaeological information. Its assistance ranges from grants to records management advice and includes the focus on heritage tourism described in the following section. In 2008 it included a conference on the Underground Railroad sponsored by the Freedom Trail Commission and Grand Valley State University.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) awarded \$90,000 in Certified Local Government Grants in 2008. Funded by the federal government and matched at the local level, these grants protected the historic Ypsilanti Freighthouse, now a community center, and allowed Detroit to inventory its pre-1960 school buildings and develop reuse models for closed schools.

The SHPO-administered state and federal historic preservation tax credit programs generated more than \$69.5 million in historic building rehabilitation projects; projects valued at \$64.4 million were in the planning stages at the close of the fiscal year. The value of these projects to community vitality and character has been recognized in 2008 legislative support to enhance the state historic tax credit provisions.

The SHPO and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) provide the Michigan Main Street program, which in 2008 provided historic preservation and economic development assistance to thirteen communities. This year Main Street added a cultural economic development option that is creating cultural economic development plans for Niles, Marshall, Boyne City and Calumet.

The SHPO continues to help communities establish historic districts through the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and local ordinances under the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act. Its intensive assistance to Idlewild, a historic African American resort community in Lake County, includes developing an NRHP district nomination, five historical markers, a cultural resources management plan and plans for the demolition of dilapidated properties. The Idlewild work is funded by competitive grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the federal Preserve America program.

EXPANDING HERITAGE TOURISM

Tourism is one of Michigan’s economic drivers, and according to national studies, heritage tourists stay longer and spend more money. Efforts to promote heritage tourism have the

added benefit of strengthening community pride and commitment to preserving those things that make a community unique.

In 2008, the SHPO and the Michigan Historical Museum continued the Center's work with Beachtowns, the association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus along the Lake Michigan shore from New Buffalo to Ludington, to establish a heritage route along US 31. Called the West Michigan Pike, the route celebrates the effort of early 20th century community leaders to connect existing paved roads in order to create a continuous route linking West Michigan to Chicago. Ernest Hemmingway's family was among those who traveled the Pike.

For the project, the SHPO has inventoried the historic and cultural resources of the area and is completing the historic story that links these resources together. It is helping communities with Local Historic Districts, historical markers, National Register nominations and Preserve America certification. The museum's assistance involves an exhibit of photographs of the area taken by *National Geographic* photographer Vince Musi in 2008. Musi presented public programs featuring his work in fall 2008, and the exhibition will travel throughout the region in 2009. Funding for this work has come from Preserve America, the Michigan Humanities Council and grants and donations to the Michigan History Foundation.

The SHPO-managed Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program awarded \$215,000 in matching grants to preserve Michigan's lighthouses as community assets and tourist attractions. The program is funded through the sale of specialty license plates.

The Michigan Historical Center partners with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in managing the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena. Thunder Bay is NOAA's only fresh water sanctuary and one of only two sanctuaries dedicated to heritage resources—shipwrecks. In June, the sanctuary took a major step in

providing access to its work and to Michigan's shipwrecks, when it opened the permanent exhibits in its visitor's center. Archaeology, museum, publications, archives and preservation staff, as well as the Library of Michigan, have been involved in the Thunder Bay partnership.

Using past earned revenues, *Michigan History* magazine and the Office of the State Archaeologist published a revised edition of *Beneath the Inland Seas: Michigan's Underwater Archaeological Heritage* in 2008. Well illustrated and in a popular format, the volume appeals to scholars, divers and visitors, drawing them to the communities connected to Michigan's underwater preserves. *Michigan History* magazine furthers this goal every two months with each story of Michigan's fascinating past and its links to the places where people can experience the state's stories.

The Center, particularly the Michigan Historical Museum, has also been a partner in launching the Iron Ore Heritage Trail in Marquette County. Center staff supported early planning and design work and continue to assist with historic research for this 48-mile trail that combines recreation (non-motorized and motorized) with history and the stunning natural resources of the county. The first paved segment of the trail opened to the public this fall—attracting 3,000 users in the week preceding the formal opening ceremonies. The Iron Industry Museum will strengthen its contribution to this project in 2009 with construction of a new road to US 41/M 28 (already underway) and a two-mile four-season interpretive trail system—both supported by grants and the Michigan History Foundation.

Other 2008 work that strengthened the tourism draw of the Michigan Historical Museum include:

- Repairing the windows and painting Walker Tavern
- Holding a farmers market and creating a Mercantile Store at Walker Tavern
- Repairing and painting the porches and exterior walls at the Mann House

- Developing new interpretive signs for Sanilac Petroglyphs in collaboration with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe
- Completing the exhibits and opening the lighthouse at Tawas State Park
- Inaugurating an income-producing program at Tawas that allows guests to rent the upper floor and serve as keepers for a week

Center collaborations with other state agencies in heritage tourism include:

- The Port Cities Initiative
- Interpretive programs and exhibits in State Parks with historic resources managed by the Department of Natural Resources
- Representation of HAL on the Citizens Committee for the State Parks

SERVING STATE GOVERNMENT

Through its Records Management Services and Archives of Michigan programs, the Center ensures that Michigan citizens can exercise one of the fundamental rights in a democracy—the right to information about the actions of their government.

With more than 100 million historical records of state and local government, the Archives of Michigan assists both the public and state agencies. In 2008, its records were used by the Attorney General in several legal disputes, and it provided the essential case law for the hearings concerning Mayor Kilpatrick.

The major 2008 accomplishment of Records Management Services was to move approximately 360,000 boxes of state government records in its care to a new facility without any drop-off in its commitment to respond to all agency requests for records within one working day. The move occurred because the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs needed the former Records Center and had federal funds for its renovation. The result is much more efficient records handling that will allow staff to keep pace with work, eliminating

the need for temporary employees to handle backlogs.

Records Management increased its training opportunities for both state and local government employees, offering free workshops that attracted 236 local government employees and 1,336 state employees. Its online course on e-mail management was used by 1,555 people. Other assistance to local governments came in the form of general records retention and disposal schedules covering county Veterans Affairs, Veterans Trust Fund offices, and elections; township clerks and city treasurers. Staff also worked with the City of Lansing and the Lansing Board of Water and Light to revise their records schedules.

The SHPO and archaeology work closely with MDOT and MSHDA and other state agencies in managing the required review of federally funded and licensed projects for their impact on cultural resources. In 2008, MDOT agreed to fund and cosponsor a joint process re-engineering effort to design a new Geographical Information System (GIS) computer model to record and manage data on historic sites used by MDOT and other state agencies, as well as local planners and developers.

The Office of the State Archaeologist helped Michigan's state forests create a cultural resource program, needed to meet standards established by the forest industry. The program, funded through DNR, includes:

- Training in every state forest management unit on how to identify archaeological sites
- Visits to more than 100 archaeological sites in state forests
- Recommendations for a continuing program
- Plotting all known sites in a GIS format
- Developing a predictive model for the location of pre-contact sites in state forests

BECOMING MORE ENTREPRENEURIAL AND DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The state general fund continues to provide the base support for the work of the Michigan Historic Center—most of its professional staff, its buildings and basic operational support such as telephones, copy machines and supplies. However, to play the strongest possible role in preserving Michigan's past and building its future, the Center must rely on grants, private donations and entrepreneurial programs. With the help of the Michigan History Foundation and an enterprising staff, it continues to be successful in identifying and expanding sources of funding.

Donors to the Michigan History Education Fund of the Michigan History Foundation are celebrated every year at the Jingle Ball, which also recognizes outstanding teachers of Michigan history. It is through their generosity that the Center has been able to not only continue its educational programs for students but also develop the new programs in response to Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations.

In addition to its annual federal Historic Preservation Fund grant of approximately \$900,000, the SHPO has secured both federal Preserve America Funds and private support. In 2008, it was awarded a \$118,000 Preserve America grant to study and document Michigan's contribution to architectural Modernism between 1930 and 1970. The goal includes a website that attracts young tourists interested in this subject. The West Michigan Pike project is supported by \$170,000 in federal grants and Michigan philanthropy, and work on the Idlewild and Mary's City of David (Benton Harbor) National Register Nominations is funded by grants totaling \$118,343.

The Office of the State Archaeologist received funding from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to catalog collections from Fort Custer and Camp Grayling.

The Michigan Historical Museum secured a grant of \$85,000 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide appropriate storage for Michigan's collections of historic art. This project builds on the major improvement in the care of Michigan's artifact collections brought about by moving them to a better storage facility. The museum is funding the road and trail improvements at the Iron Industry Museum through private donations, the Michigan Institutional Roads Program and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The Michigan Historical Museum Store continues to expand its entrepreneurial operations. It manages the Lighthouse Keeper Program at Tawas Point Lighthouse, increasing both volunteer support for the program and the purchase of lighthouse tours by 19% in 2008. At Fayette Historic Townsite, a combination of extended store hours and hand-dipped ice cream increased sales by 41%.

The Archives of Michigan has tested the market for interest in copies of historic photographs with some success; however the ability to accept online credit transactions is essential for any significant success. The lack of online credit transactions has also severely limited the Center's entrepreneurial efforts in museum store and magazine sales.

Using a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Archives has created more than 75,000 digital images of Civil War documents that are now online for free public access. With private funds, the Archives will place the remainder of its Civil War holdings on line in the coming year and make Michigan the first state to offer complete access to all of its Civil War records.

POSTSCRIPT

What is Past is Prologue.

– William Shakespeare
Inscribed on the National Archives

Michigan's recent past is marked by a difficult economy and other significant challenges. The Michigan Historical Commission believes challenges provide opportunities for people of good will to aid the state we cherish.

Here's the kind of challenge, from an expatriate, that is helping drive the Commission's members forward:

How much I enjoy no longer living in Michigan!

Now, I gave it the old college try, but as Michigan continued to short change its own history I became less and less enamored with, and loyal to, the state of my birth.

The slow and piteous death, through neglect and indifference, of historic Fort Wayne is only one of the reasons that one of the happiest sights of my life was watching Michigan grow smaller and smaller in my rear view mirror as my wife and I evacuated toward our new lives in a state that knows how to preserve, cherish, celebrate, and capitalize upon its rich history.

Michigan has a rich and glorious history from the trading posts of Madame LaFramboise, to Pontiac's rebellion, to the furniture factories of Grand Rapids supplied by the seemingly endless lumber camps of the Au Sable and points north. The bronze cannon barrels of the Civil War were the progeny of the great copper seams of the UP. Michigan has long been history rich and vision poor.

Today the great resort of Idlewild, once jumpin' to the beat of Ellington and Waller, lies in weedy ruin; the shipyards of Defoe, after passing up the opportunity to homeport the historic destroyer *Charles F. Adams*, sit idle and rusting away; the Timbertown celebration that celebrated Saginaw's rich lumbering history is only a dim memory; "Bob-Lo" is an embroidered inscription on an antique mall sailor hat.

Sure, Michigan is broke, but, sadly, Michigan is also broken.

It is my hope that you will help Michigan rediscover and revalue its storied past. But until that day, casino gambling and golf courses are a commodity that can be experienced just about anywhere else.

Keep up the good fight
TUEBOR!

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 are inspired by the words of Gwen Frostic:

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