



HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MICHIGAN



GRAND TRAVERSE LIGHT STATION
LEELANAU COUNTY

Historic Preservation activities help protect irreplaceable archaeological sites, neighborhoods, downtowns and rural landscapes. Like extraordinary natural resources, historic resources shape and define the Great Lakes State. Michigan archaeological sites record 14,000 years of human activity, and significant historic structures date from the 18th century through the early 1970s. These places tell the distinctive stories of our people and our exceptional state.

HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
IN MICHIGAN

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TIMELINE

1800's

- **1823** Historical Society of Michigan founded
- **1853** Mount Vernon Ladies Association established
- **1895** Mackinac Island State Park Commission created

1900-1920's

- **1906** American Antiquities Act
- **1913** Michigan Historical Commission created
- **1929** Public Act 173, the Michigan Antiquities Act

1930-1940's

- **1930s** Michigan Archaeological Society
- **1931** First U.S. historic district established in Charleston, SC
- **1935** Congress passes the Historic Sites Act of 1935
- **1948** Centennial Farms Program

1950-1960's

- **1955** Public Act 10, State Register of Historic Sites and the Michigan Historical Marker Program
- **1963-1966** New York City's Penn Station demolition case
- **1965** New York Landmarks Preservation Commission established
- **1966** National Historic Preservation Act passed and the Conference on Michigan Archaeology incorporated
- **1968** First Section 106 case goes to court in Grand Rapids
- **1969** Demolition of Grand Rapids City Hall

1970-1980's

- **1970** National Environmental Protection Act
- **1970** Public Act 169 - Local Historic Districts Act
- **1979** Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- **1980** Michigan Underwater Preserve Act
- **1981** Michigan Historic District Network founded (later Michigan Historic Preservation Network)
- **1986** Twenty percent Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit enacted

1990-2000's

- **1990** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act enacted
- **1999** State Historic Preservation Tax Credit enacted
- **2007** SHPO and State Historic Preservation Review Board created in state law with E. O. 2007-53
- **2011** State Historic Preservation Tax Credit terminated



BORDEN CREAMERY BUILDING
MOUNT PLEASANT

PRESERVATION

BUILDS THE FUTURE

In Michigan, most preservation efforts focus on rehabilitating historic buildings as useful, vibrant places. Historic preservation is not only about creating museums or static landmarks, it's about building a future utilizing historic resources. Preservation in Michigan honors and celebrates history while creating places where people will live, work and play now and for many years to come. Michigan's historic buildings are rehabilitated as:

- » affordable housing
- » office space
- » event venues
- » business incubators
- » retail space
- » and more

CONNECTS US

Michigan's historic places connect us to people in the past and to each other in present time. If these irreplaceable sites are destroyed, we will lose those connections forever.

- » Stone tools found at archaeological sites tell us about Native American life.
- » More than 120 lighthouses bear witness to our maritime past.
- » The stepped gables of Holland reflect the Dutch origins of the immigrants who settled there.
- » Company towns like Fayette and Gwinn connect us to workers who made Michigan's iron industry thrive.
- » Historically African American neighborhoods like Annapolis Park remain home to descendants of original residents.

MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

Throughout Michigan, abandoned or underutilized structures are transformed into vibrant buildings that help boost the economy and revitalize neighborhoods and downtowns. Former education buildings like Fremont High School and grand structures like the Holy Family Orphanage in Marquette now serve as modern, safe affordable housing for Michiganders. Lansing's utilitarian Ottawa Street Power Plant has taken on new life as office space in the city's central business district. Historic rehabilitation puts derelict and underused buildings back on the tax rolls, which puts money into local coffers while maintaining community character.

- » The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, administered nationwide by State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service, encourages private investment and community revitalization through the rehabilitation of historic structures.
- » According to a Michigan Economic Development Corporation report on History, Arts and Culture travel, travelers who visited such sites spent \$10.26 million in 2015.
- » Since 1976, \$84 billion has been spent on historic rehabilitations nationwide.
- » In Michigan, \$2.5 billion has been invested in historic rehabilitation since 2000. Most of that money has stayed in local communities.

IS THE ULTIMATE IN RECYCLING

Every year tons of construction and demolition debris end up in landfills. Historic rehabilitation reuses materials and replaces only when necessary, thereby putting less waste in landfills



CENTRAL FURNITURE
H. E. SHAW FURNITURE COMPANY
GRAND RAPIDS

LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH HOUSE
LUDINGTON STATE PARK

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)

SHPO evaluates and protects Michigan's archaeological sites and promotes the rehabilitation and reuse of Michigan's historic built environment. This is achieved by helping property owners, developers, and local and state agencies identify and seize opportunities to rehabilitate structures that define local communities and Michigan as a whole. SHPO encourages the use – and adaptive reuse – of historic buildings so that they can be vital parts of our cities and towns. The SHPO staff includes archaeologists, architectural historians, historians, architects, grant managers and historic preservation planners. SHPO manages the:

- » National Register of Historic Places
- » Historic Preservation Tax Credits
- » Certified Local Government Program
- » Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program
- » State Archaeological Collections
- » Archaeological Site File
- » Historic Resource Inventory
- » Implementation of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Appointed by the governor, the State Historic Preservation Officer manages the programs of the State Historic Preservation Office, deals with major issues and represents Michigan at the national level. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 charged each state and territory with appointing a State Historic Preservation Officer to oversee implementation of the Federal Historic Preservation Program at the state level.

PRESERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Michigan's historic places are preserved and revitalized through collaboration at the neighborhood, community and state level. Key SHPO Partners include:

- » State Historic Preservation Review Board
- » Michigan Historic Preservation Network
- » National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior
- » Certified Local Governments
- » Local Historic District Commissions
- » Conference on Michigan Archaeology
- » Federal agencies
- » Federally recognized Indian Tribes
- » Department of Natural Resources
- » Michigan Department of Transportation
- » Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- » Other state agencies



MDOT I-75 OTTER CREEK INTERCHANGE
MONROE COUNTY

MHPN WINDOW REHABILITATION WORKSHOP
KALAMAZOO

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Be proactive. Use available programs to identify historic properties and put local protections in place now rather than waiting until they are threatened.
- » Advocate in your communities for the establishment of a historic preservation ordinance consistent with Public Act 169 of 1970, as amended, and push for the creation of local historic districts.
- » Join the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, which holds educational programs, including an annual conference, and advocates for preservation-friendly policies at the local, state and federal levels.
- » Pay attention and speak up to public officials if you think development projects or public policies will lead to the destruction of archaeological sites or compromise the character of historic sites or neighborhoods.
- » If you own a historic property, maintain its historic character by following the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- » Once removed from their original locations, artifacts will lose their research value unless the removal is properly documented. Contact the State Historic Preservation Office if you think you have discovered an archaeological site.
- » Maintain good records for any artifacts you find, including a map of their original location and notes on how they were discovered.
- » Learn more about protecting historic resources by visiting michigan.gov/shpo.



HOUSE DESIGNED BY EARL YOUNG
CHARLEVOIX

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