



NRHP E-Blasts

Electronic blasts from the National Register of Historic Places, sharing news and information with the Historic Preservation Community
August 2024

PastForward 2024 Rolls into the Big Easy this Fall

PastForward 2024 will take place from October 28 through October 30 at the Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal Street in New Orleans, where speakers and attendees will address three of our nation's biggest preservation challenges: creating climate resilience through historic preservation; ensuring a representative preservation movement; and encouraging historic preservation-based community development. Additionally, several anniversaries will be celebrated: the 75th anniversary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the 50th anniversary of Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans; the 40th anniversary of Main Street Louisiana; and the 30th anniversary of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.



Mardi Gras Parade, New Orleans, Louisiana. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, Carol M. Highsmith, photographer, March 7, 2011, available at <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011646920/>.

Sherry Frear, Chief of the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks

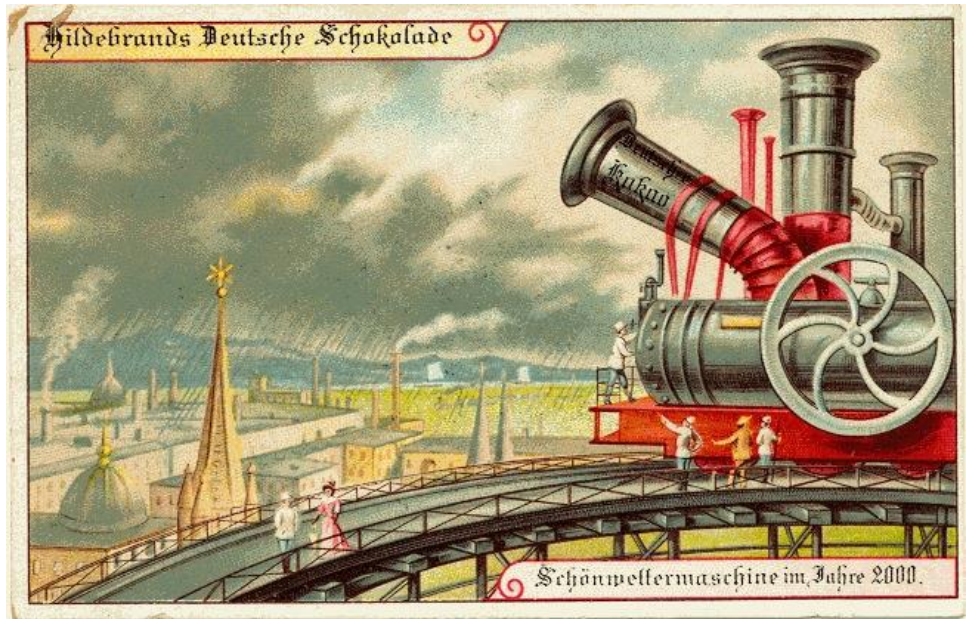
Program, will be part of an interactive session on *Evaluating Integrity to Better Support a Representative Preservation Movement* on Monday, October 28, 2024, at the Sheraton. National Register historians James Gabbert and Michelle Diedrich will be conducting a *National Register District Nominations Workshop* on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at The Cabildo, a museum in the French District at 701 Chartres Street. Speakers at this workshop will include Nicole Hobson-Morris and Bailey Hall of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

The National Park Service will also be represented by Megan Brown, Chief of the State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division. Ms. Brown will be hosting the session *Wanted: Grant Applicants Seeking African American Historic Preservation Funding* on Tuesday, October 29, 2024.

Find out more at [PastForward National Preservation Conference \(savingplaces.org\)](https://savingplaces.org)

The Joy of *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Form*

Remember the sheer joy of finding that one thing that makes everything better? Have you explored antique stores and found that one thing that made you smile for days? Are you old enough to remember the delight of finding that one resource that brings a paper together while flipping a few cards ahead or a few cards behind in a library card catalogue? That's what it's like reading *National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Form*, (also known as "Bulletin 16A" or "the Form Bulletin.") Page four of the Bulletin includes guidance that may answer a question that's often asked: how do I get started on a nomination?



The wonders of the National Register Bulletin 16A have captured the imagination of preservationists and artists alike. Image "Germany in 2000 year (XXI century)," artist unknown, reproduction of early 20th century postcard, courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

When gathering information, keep in mind how it will fit into the final form. The form, first of all, is a record of the property at the time of listing: giving its location, defining its boundaries, identifying its historic characteristics, and describing its current condition.

These two sentences help ensure the regulatory requirements at 36 C.F.R. Part 60 for a nomination are met, namely, that (1) the nomination is adequately documented and (2) the nomination is technically and professionally correct and sufficient.



Barkeep at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing, Minnesota. Image by Myotus, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license, available at Wikipedia Commons.

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Conference, September 18-20, 2024

PreserveMN 2024, hosted by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, will be held from September 18 to 20 at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing, at 240 Harrison Street in Red Wing, Minnesota. The National Register of Historic Places will be represented by **Rachel Leibowitz**, the National Register historian who reviews nominations from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. Rachel will be speaking on *Diversifying the National Register of Historic Places: Current Practices* on Thursday, September 19, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. in the Red Wing Public Library.

Before joining the NPS in 2023, Rachel was an assistant professor of landscape architecture and a co-director of the Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. She also has served as a National Register historian and regulatory programs reviewer at the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO), and then as the Preservation Programs Chief and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (SHPO).

More information on the conference, including a list of speakers, may be found at [Preserve Minnesota Annual Conference / Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office \(mn.gov\)](#).

Iowa Mutual Insurance Company Office Building: Thorough yet Succinct



The Iowa Mutual Insurance Company Home Office Building in Clinton County, Iowa is counted as two buildings (the 1974 building being visually autonomous from the earlier portions of the building) and one structure (parking structure). Photo by Alexa McDowell, courtesy of the Iowa State

A good example of a recent National Register nomination with a thorough description of the property and a strong discussion of significance is the Iowa Mutual Insurance Company (100010667) in Dewitt, Clinton County, Iowa. The property consists of two contributing buildings (one, a 1924 home office and additions made in 1940 and 1950; the second, a 1974 Brutalist building with connecting walkway addition) and one structure (1971 parking canopy), with a period of significance of 1924 to 1974. It is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of commerce.

The Iowa Mutual Insurance Company Home Office Building represents the evolution of the mutual insurance industry in Iowa during the 20th century, and its additions reflect design responses both to the company's growth and to changing technology and operations. The company was established

cooperatively by DeWitt area farmers in 1900 and remained in business through 2019. For much of that time, Iowa Mutual Insurance Company was one of DeWitt's largest employers. At 27 pages, the nomination is thorough yet succinct, addressing the development of mutual insurance companies from their beginnings in the Grange movement, and the growth of this specific company in DeWitt. It includes a discussion of the introduction of computers to this industry and how the 1974 pebble-dash concrete building was designed around this new technology, with spaces dedicated to its new data center. The nomination may be found at <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/707452>.

Remember, the National Register shares examples of successful nominations, on a variety of topics, on the National Register's sample nominations webpage at [Sample Nominations - National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). The nominations are organized into several categories, including single property nominations, additional documentation/boundary and increase/boundary decrease actions, areas of significance, traditional cultural places, and criteria and criteria considerations. While this webpage has been available for several years, many new examples were recently added, and it is an ongoing work-in-progress as additional examples are uploaded.

