



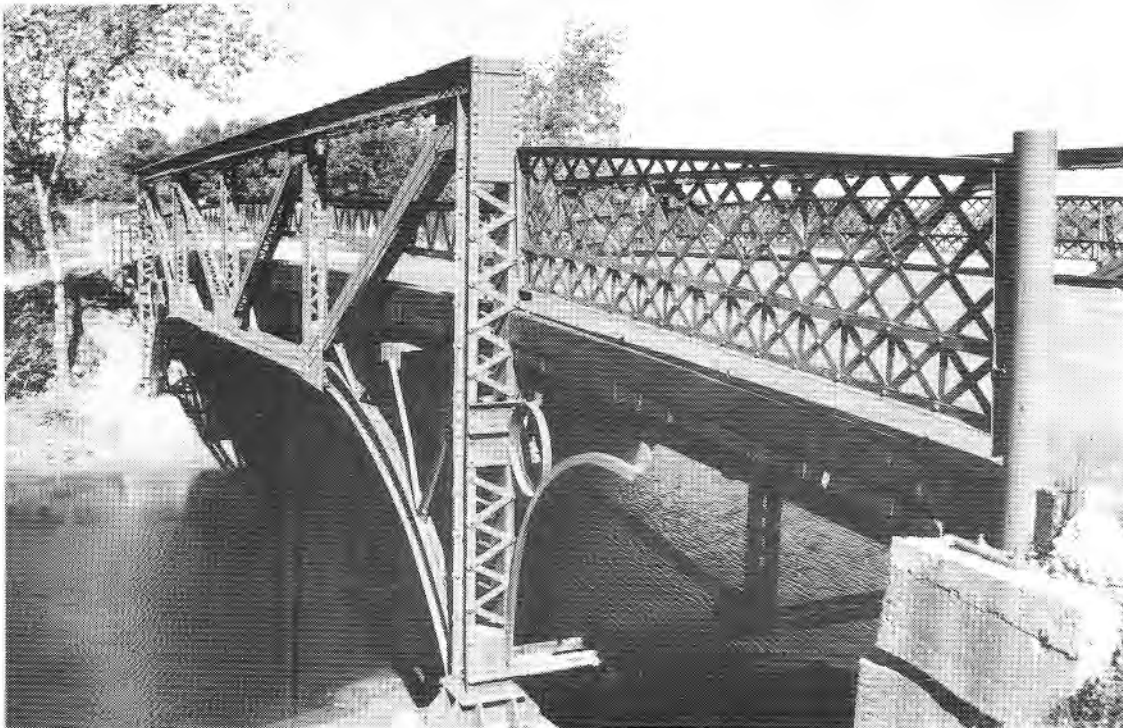
PRESERVATION MATTERS

October 1991

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PHALEN PARK REVIVAL



The Phalen Park Bridge, St. Paul
Preservation Matters Photo

Earlier this year, it looked like a rickety-looking metal bridge in St. Paul's Phalen Park was history. Built in 1906, the bridge had definitely seen better days. Years of vehicular traffic, with loads beyond those anticipated by the original design, had led to significant deterioration and, eventually, closure. But even for anyone not a student of bridges, this one was clearly unique: although a through truss, the structure wasn't high enough to have typical overhead bracing, and, not the traditional Warren or Pratt truss, the Phalen Park Bridge was an odd amalgam of arch and leg bedstead.

At first, though, functionalism won out over aesthetics, and plans began for a new structure. While a jazzed-up culvert would have served adequately and inexpensively, the St. Paul Park Board decided that the picturesque site demanded an equally picturesque bridge. Fortunately, when Art Werthausen of the St. Paul engineering department heard this, he figured that it would be cheaper to renovate the historic bridge than to build a new one. As a result, plans are now underway to renovate, rather than demolish, the Phalen Park Bridge. The engineering firm Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff is now preparing plans and

Continued on Page 2, Column 2



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Rolf T. Anderson

The Alliance was recently contacted by the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners regarding the historic county courthouse. Legal action by the Alliance has prevented demolition of the building since January 1989. It was hoped that a developer would purchase and restore the courthouse to a productive use, however, a buyer has not yet been found and the building remains vacant.

The county stated that they have had no success in trying to market the courthouse and the adjacent administration building. Because they feel the deteriorating condition of the courthouse makes the entire property less marketable, the following proposal has been made.

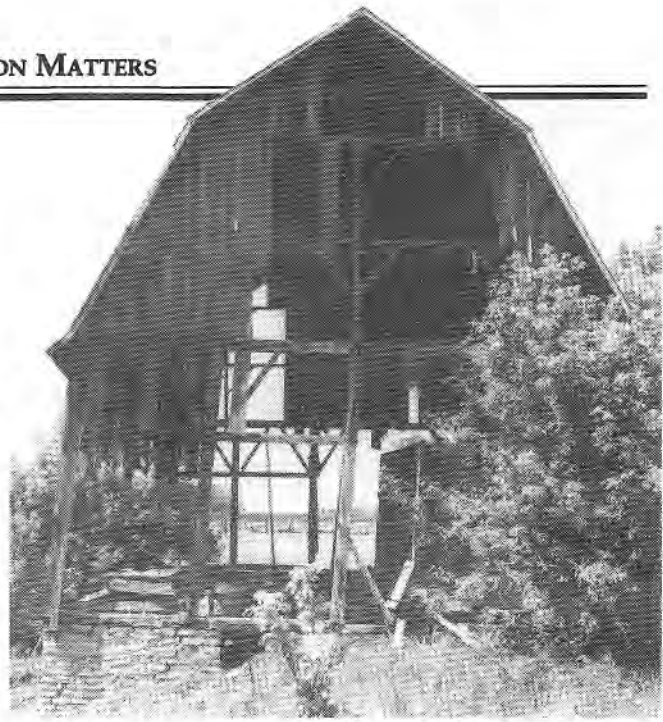
The county has now offered to give the building to the Alliance at no cost. We would be responsible for acquiring a new site and moving the building to another location. A grant of \$16,000 would also be given to the Alliance to assist in the removal. The county's proposal clearly states that no further funds would be contributed to any recipient of the building, including the Sherburne County Historical Society.

This development gives us an opportunity to review the events of the last three years and decide what our response shall be. I'm naturally pleased that the building is still standing as a result of our litigation, particularly since it has become the only first generation frame courthouse building in Minnesota on its original site. However, I also recognize the practical problem of continuing legal action indefinitely.

It has been very disappointing that the citizens of Sherburne County have shown such little interest in the building. It clearly possesses state-wide significance and is one of only three National Register properties in the entire county. A study concluded that reuse is feasible and a more recent market analysis suggested several alternative uses such as a restaurant.

I am particularly concerned about the adequacy of the methods used by Sherburne County to market the building. I don't believe an occasional listing in the State Register is sufficient. The Alliance has offered to assist the county in their efforts but our offer has not yet been accepted.

Our course of action will be a matter of serious consideration by our Board of Directors. If any Alliance member has any suggestions or recommendations, we would be very pleased to hear from you.



BARN AGAIN!

A drive through Minnesota's rural areas can be beautiful, but the many abandoned and deteriorating farm buildings scattered across the countryside are a rather depressing sight for preservationists. Many farmers have given up on their old barns and utility buildings, electing to erect functional — but ugly — steel pole barns. Now farmers who want to maintain a link to the past by recycling older structures have help. **BARN AGAIN!** — A Guide to Rehabilitation of Older Farm Buildings is designed as an aid to farmers and others who are interested in converting their historic farm buildings to contemporary farming uses. This 18-page booklet features nine examples of successfully updated barns, as well as a "Barn Rehabilitation Checklist" containing tips about structural repair and information on the National Register and renovation tax credits. The guide has been prepared by the National Trust for Historic Places and *Successful Farming* magazine, and is available for \$5.00, including postage and handling, from the Trust's Mountains/Plains Regional Office at 511 - 16th Street, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Phalen Park continued from page 1

specifications for the work, which it estimates will cost about a quarter of a million dollars. Werthauser hopes that the city can save some money by doing as much of the repair as possible in house. In fact, a city crew has already begun basic stabilization. Major reconstruction will begin later this year. Maybe the bridge, now to be used only for pedestrian traffic, will last another 85 years!

CKR

1991 PAM AWARDS CEREMONY



The
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE
of Minnesota

On Saturday, October 5, 1991, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota recognized 11 individuals and/or groups at its annual meeting for their special contributions towards preserving the historic resources of the state of Minnesota. This is the seventh year for P.A.M.'s Awards Program, which was started in order to recognize grassroots preservation efforts throughout the state. Awards can be given for "bricks and mortar" restoration, the work of community groups, or the efforts of individuals. This year's recipients reflect the diversity that has been typical of the awards and include:



**THE BLUE MOUND
AREA THEATER**

for the rehabilitation of the Palace
Theater in Luverne, Minnesota.

*Minnesota
Historical
Society
Photo*



**THE CONSULATE OF
THE GRAND DUCHY
OF LUXEMBOURG**

for its assistance in preserving the
Marnach House in Whitewater,
Minnesota, a rare example of early
Luxembourgish architecture.

*Minnesota
Historical
Society
Photo*



MARK ANFINSON

for his legal efforts on behalf of historic preservation in Minnesota.

The
Androy
Hotel
in
Hibbing
MHS Photo

CHARLES NELSON AND DAVE NYSTUEN

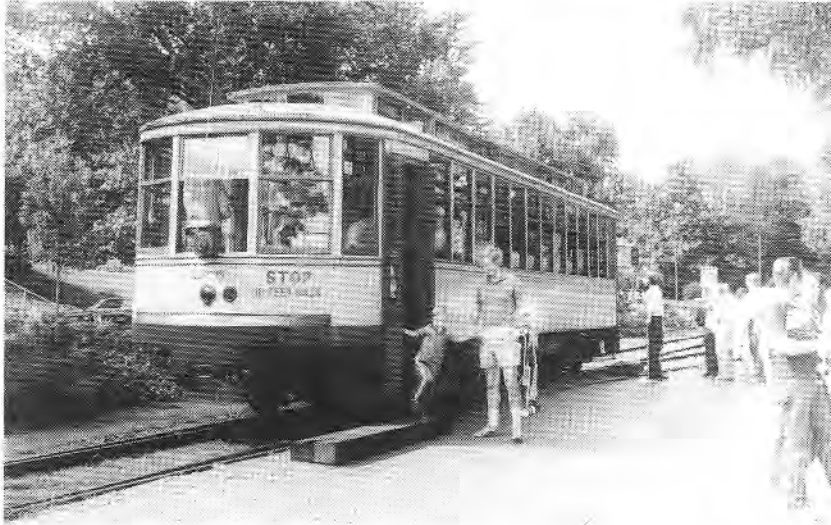
of the Minnesota Historical Society for their development and presentation of the "Time and Taste" workshops throughout the state.



**THE CITY
OF GRAND RAPIDS**

for its effort to reuse and rehabilitate the Central School in Grand Rapids.

MHS Photo



THE MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, INC.

for their efforts in locating, acquiring, restoring, interpreting, and operating selected elements of Minnesota's transportation history.

The
Como-
Harriet
Streetcar
Line
*Preservation
Matters
Photo*



CLEM KACHELMYER OF MNDOT

for his efforts in developing and implementing the Highway Archaeology Program, the Historic Bridge Survey, and the preservation of historic transportation system related structures.

The Kern
Bridge in
Blue Earth
County.
*Preservation
Matters Photo*



LAKEWOOD CEMETERY, MINNEAPOLIS

for their restoration of the mosaics in the chapel building.

Mosaic
"hope" in
Lakewood
Chapel
*MHS Photo
by Jewel
Thorpe*



**THE COLLEGE
OF ST. BENEDICT,
ST. JOSEPH, MN**

for the renovation of St. Teresa Hall
for reuse as the administration
building.

*Photo
by
Dean
Nagel
Studios*



DENNIS GIMMESTAD

former deputy SHPO officer, for
his efforts in preserving the historic
resources of Minnesota.

*Preservation
Matters
Photo*

We congratulate all of the award winners for their efforts! Please note that anyone wishing to make a nomination for the 1992 P.A.M. Awards can do so at any time by contacting the Awards Committee chair:

Chuck Liddy
241 South Cleveland
St. Paul, MN 55105
612-698-0808

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation is the major policy advisor to the President and Congress. The Council has recently published its 1990 annual report, which focuses on the Council's work with the unique preservation needs of historic rural America. The report first details major issues of rural preservation, such as the variety of resources covered by this rubric, problems of identifying significant features, and ways to develop comprehensive preservation policy initiatives. The report then describes nine case studies involving Council action in rural initiatives. The discussion is illustrated by photographs from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).

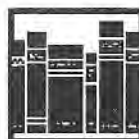
One of the Council's most controversial functions is reviewing Federal projects to ensure that such projects do not needlessly harm historic properties, a process known as "Section 106 review." The report claims that, for the first time since 1986, the Council's incoming cases leveled off. This is due, in part, to the Council's efforts to negotiate programmatic agreements, which provide a more tailored approach for agency programs.

In order to enforce Section 106 provisions, the Council must sometimes resort to litigation. Cases in the past

year involved a number of properties, ranging from a lighthouse in Wisconsin to a farm in Pennsylvania. The good news is that, in general, the courts have upheld the provisions of Section 106.

To receive a free copy of the report, contact the Office of Communications and Publications, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809, Washington DC 20004.

CKR



FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF: PLANNING PRESERVATION

The American Planning Association has published a series of "Planning Advisory Service Reports" which are practical sources of information for preservationists. Titles include:

Preparing a Preservation Ordinance

Aesthetics and Land-Use Controls

Transferable Development Rights Programs

The Aesthetics of Parking, An Illustrated Guide

Responding to the Takings Challenge

Designing Urban Corridors

The reports, costing from \$16 to \$20, are available from the APA, 131 E. 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota Membership Application

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is a membership organization. Your contributions make our work possible. And they are tax deductible. Join today! Fill out the coupon and mail it with your contribution to:

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
P.O. Box 582804
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55458-2804

Name _____

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Phone: home _____ work _____

Membership Categories

Individual	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-profit and Government Organizations	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business/Professional	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preservation Supporter	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preservation Benefactor	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

In addition to my membership, I am enclosing an additional gift of \$ _____ to help the PA.





Where Is It?

*Minnesota properties listed on the National Register,
with photographs supplied by
the Minnesota Historical Society*

Last month's photo showed St. Agatha's Conservatory of Music and Arts, which is tucked between modern high-rise buildings at 26 East Exchange Street in downtown St. Paul. The conservatory was established in 1884, one of a number of cultural organizations founded during an explosive surge of settlement in the Twin Cities. It was organized by the St. Paul Province of the Sister of St. Joseph, and initially served as a residence for twenty sisters from that order who taught art and music classes in parochial schools in the area. Their programs broadened to include dance and drama classes, and enrollment expanded steadily.

After outgrowing several facilities, the sisters hired architect John H. Wheeler to design the six-story, Beaux Arts structure and connecting chapel wing at Exchange and Cedar Streets, which was completed in 1910. By 1920, the conservatory served 1,100 students. That number began to decrease in subsequent decades, however, as parochial schools began developing their own art and music programs. In 1962, the sisters decided to close the conservatory and sell the building.

Make an educated guess: **Where is it?**

Preservation Matters is a monthly publication of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, a non-profit membership organization. Editors are Robert Roscoe and Charlene Roise; Writers are Rolf Anderson, Charlene Roise, Robert Roscoe, Robert Vogel and Jody Keppers; Layout and artwork by Jody Keppers; Distribution by Tom Holman.



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