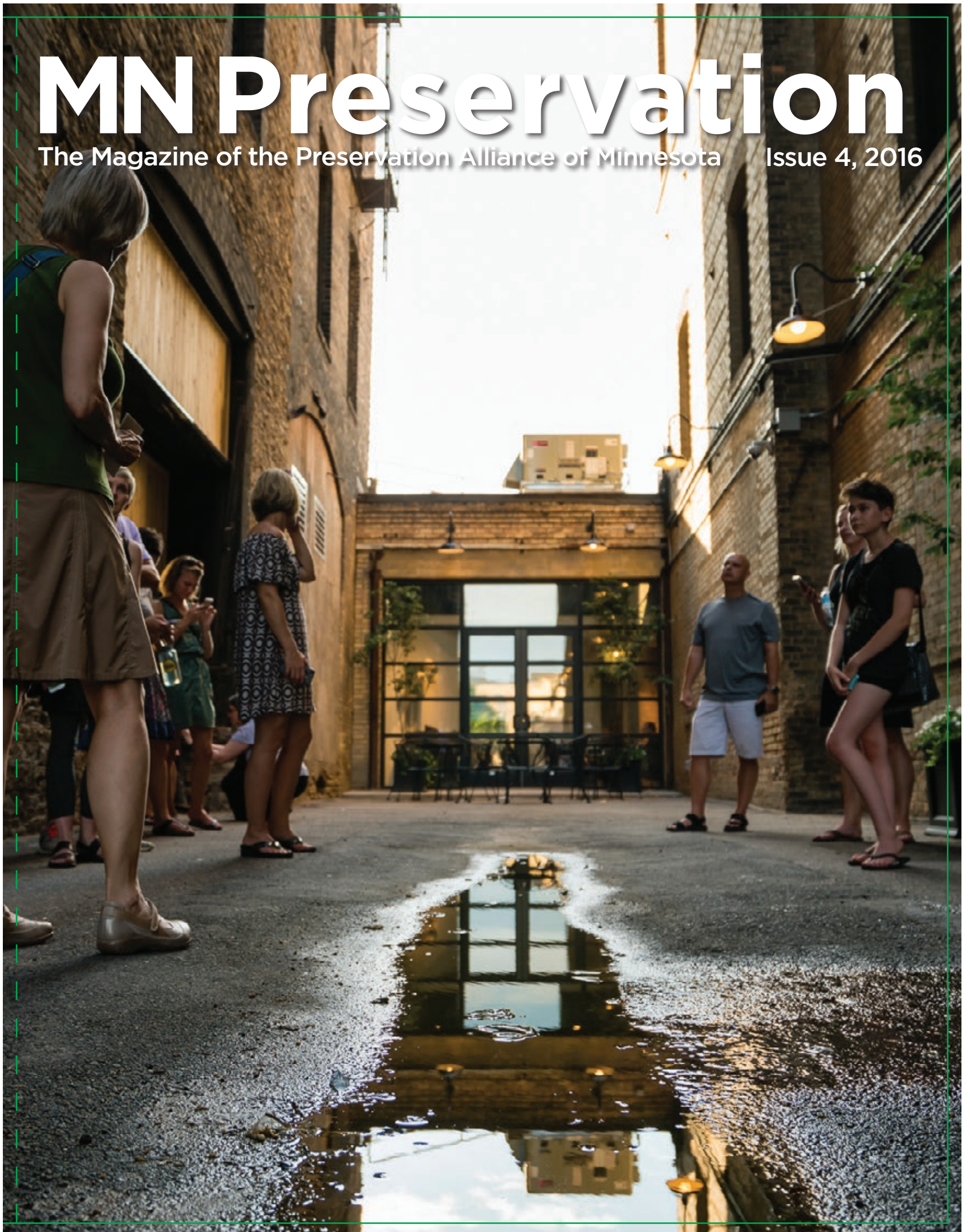


# MN Preservation

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The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting Minnesota's historic resources. PAM is a Statewide Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Views expressed in The Minnesota Preservationist do not necessarily reflect the position of the organization or its board of directors.



We must offer an apology for not crediting the cover photo on the last issue. That amazing picture was taken by the wonderful Eric Mueller, [www.ericmuellerphotography.com](http://www.ericmuellerphotography.com). Thank you Eric.



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Rochester, Minnesota

This issue's cover photo is also by Eric Mueller.

Join us as we celebrate exemplary projects from all over Minnesota!



**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Opening Reception at 5:30pm

Woman's Club of Minneapolis

410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

Honoring Ginny Sweatt with the Executive Director's Award  
and George Sherman with the President's Award

Visit **[mnpreservation.org](http://mnpreservation.org)** to purchase tickets

You don't have to attend to participate in the Gala. Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation.



The incomparable West Bank piano man Cadillac Kolstad with his traditional combination of blues, boogie woogie and rock n roll will heat-up our After Party so dust off your dancing shoes!

Live music, great food,  
preservation punch,  
live auction, and a  
fabulous after party!

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# Homeowner & Community Fall Classes

Sharpen your pencils! Our fall class schedule is bursting with workshops and tours, new and old. Prep wood windows for winter at one of our hands-on workshops. Wander through historic Irvine Park or beautiful Stillwater on our expert-led tours. And, for the first time ever, get a peek inside a Clarence Johnston gem in Cathedral Hill at the brand new “Make Your Walls Talk: Using Research to Guide Inspired Restoration.”

## Advanced Window Repair & Restoration

Want to save your old wood windows, but worried about making mistakes? This workshop is for you. Taken a windows class from us before? Still for you. Window wizard Paul Schmidt will offer individual instruction and plenty of hands-on time to practice restoring your home's windows.

Date of Class | 09/17/16  
Restoration Window Systems  
7839 Elm St., Fridley

## Irvine Park Walking Tour

Learn about the families, history and architecture that defined Irvine Park, one of St. Paul's most storied enclaves. This extraordinary walking tour also brings you inside two of the park's historic gems: the Alexander Ramsey house and the Wright-Prendergast house.

Date of Tour | 09/17/16  
Irvine Park, St. Paul

## Mill District Smartphone Photography Tour

See the legendary Mill District through a new lens: your phone. Join us for an evening of history and photography that begins at the stunning A-Mill Artist Lofts and ends on the Stone Arch Bridge.

Date of Tour | 9/28/16  
A-Mill Artist Lofts, Minneapolis

## Stillwater Smartphone Photography Tour

From Pioneer Park to historic downtown, and from the stone staircases to Lift Bridge Brewing Co., this tour puts the best of Stillwater on display. It's a two-part tour of downtown and the Lift Bridge brewery.

Registration includes a complimentary flight of beer!

Date of Tour | 09/29/16  
Pioneer Park, Stillwater

## Make Your Walls Talk: Using Research to Guide Inspired Restoration

Chances are your old house is full of stories. Learn how to uncover its secrets to compile a house history that will not only make you fall in love with your house all over again, but unearth clues to guide a restoration worthy of making your walls sing! This class will offer a never-before-look inside Clarence Johnston's magnificent 1894 commission for the Hon. Thomas and Susan Welch Family in Cathedral Hill.

Date of Class | 10/08/16  
785 Dayton Ave., St. Paul

## Mastering the Scary Stencil

Get to know “Stencil Goddess” and Arts & Crafts era expert Amy Miller. Stenciler of Craftsman homes throughout the U.S., experienced instructor, and author of the seminal book on Arts & Crafts stenciling, Amy will guide you from novice to know-it-all in this one-of-a-kind workshop.

Date of Class | 10/15/16  
Mill City Museum  
704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis

## Repairing Old Windows

Would you spend \$50 to save \$1000? In this hands-on workshop, Paul Schmidt of Restoration Window Systems shows how repairing old windows can save money, improve window operation, boost energy efficiency, and maintain architectural integrity.

Date of Class | 11/05/16  
Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum  
2151 Lindbergh Dr. S, Little Falls





The PAM Handyman and Rehab Lab education programs and Minnesota Main Street have been financed in part with funds by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



# Old Home Certified Fall Classes

In addition to the 2-day OHC course, we offer an ever-expanding lineup of Continuing Ed classes, all approved by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

You do not have to be an OHC agent to take these classes, but be aware that they're geared toward a Realtor audience.

## Inspector Insights

What does an inspector really see when examining your home? Find out in this fast-paced cellar to ceiling overview.

Date of Class | 09/16/2016  
Natural Built Home Store, Minneapolis

## House of Style: Understanding Historic Interiors

Historic preservation expert Erin Hanafin Berg gets in-depth on old houses, discussing layouts, features, materials and finishes of homes built from the 1880s to the 1960s.

Date of Class | 10/05/2016  
Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis

## HPCs, CDs and More (Oh My)!

Taught by an OHC Realtor and former HPC commissioner, this 2-hour class explaining Conservation Districts, HPCs, Historic landmarks and more is an absolute must.

Date of Class | 10/19/2016  
Keller Williams Integrity Lakes, Minneapolis

## Architecture of the 1920s

The 1920s saw a small building boom in several parts of the country, and this class covers the housing styles, cultural influences and home trends of the era.

Date of Class | 11/03/2016  
Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis

## Five Fast Facts about OHC

Old Home Certified (OHC) is the course and regional REALTOR® designation that PAM created to help Minnesota real estate agents better understand vintage properties. If you love old houses—and of course you do— here are five things you should know about this singular program:

1. OHC turned two in July!
2. You can choose an OHC Realtor in more than 15 towns and cities in and beyond the metro area, including Stillwater, Red Wing, Wayzata and Apple Valley. Find an agent at: [mnpreservation.org/resources/find-an-old-home-certified-realtor/](http://mnpreservation.org/resources/find-an-old-home-certified-realtor/)
3. There are OHC agents from nearly every area brokerage, and Keller Williams, Re/Max and Edina Realty have all hosted OHC courses.
4. OHC attracts Realtors who go above and beyond. These are often service award winners (including Mpls. St. Paul Magazine Super Real Estate Agents), and many are old-home stewards themselves, active in their neighborhood groups or home tours.
5. OHC agents speak “old house” and know the difference between a banister and a balustrade, a rambler and a bungalow, and coffered and boxed beam ceilings. Go ahead. Ask ‘em.





## Historic Terrace Theatre Fights for Its Life

For the Historic Terrace Theatre in Robbinsdale, the clock is ticking. The Robbinsdale City Council has begun approving preliminary variances that would lead to the destruction of the theater. In July, it was announced that Hy-Vee intends to build a 91,500 square foot store on the site that the Terrace currently occupies. While the total site is over 10 acres, Hy-Vee states that it would cost an extra \$2 million to site the new building in such a way that would allow for the Terrace to remain standing.

That doesn't mean that the fight is over. "Not by a long shot," states David Leonhardt, Board Chair of Save the Historic Terrace Theatre. "We will not stop fighting this until the wrecking ball swings. There is plenty of land which would allow for both the store and the theater. Hy-Vee just has to be willing to invest a little more in this community."

Save the Historic Terrace Theatre believes that it is possible for both a grocery store and the theater to coexist on the same lot, just as they did for decades. A smaller store would also allow for the Terrace to remain, but Hy-Vee representatives state that they are unwilling to modify the size or position of the store to accommodate keeping the theater. Terrace supporters envision the theater being converted into a multi-use facility which would incorporate cinema, live theater, live music, and a community space.

Save the Historic Terrace Theatre has been working at making the Terrace part of the Robbinsdale community for the past year and a half, including sponsorships for Miss Robbinsdale candidates, a free speaker series featuring architecture and history authors Larry Millett and Dave Kenney, and free movie screenings, including an outdoor screening of *Grease* planned for Saturday, September 24.

While Hy-Vee may be set in their design, it doesn't mean that the theater cannot be saved. The group is quick to point to St. Paul's Hope Engine Fire Station as proof that demolition can be stopped through a determined, grass-roots effort. The fire station, previously slated for demolition, will now be integrated into a new hotel development.

For now, however, Save the Historic Terrace Theatre is not content to just wait to see what will happen. "We still have a few cards left to play," Leonhardt states. "We are more determined than ever to help the Terrace get the second act it deserves."

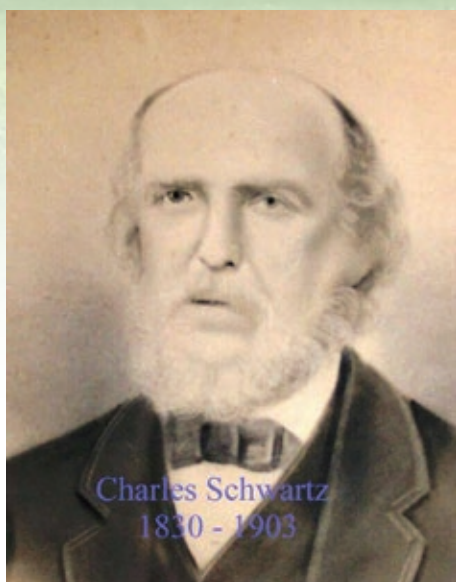
For more information, visit [www.HistoricTerraceTheatre.com](http://www.HistoricTerraceTheatre.com) or e-mail David@HistoricTerraceTheatre.com.

*This article was contributed by Save the Historic Terrace Theatre.*





## A Piece of Minnesota History, In More Ways than One



Charles Schwartz  
1830 - 1903

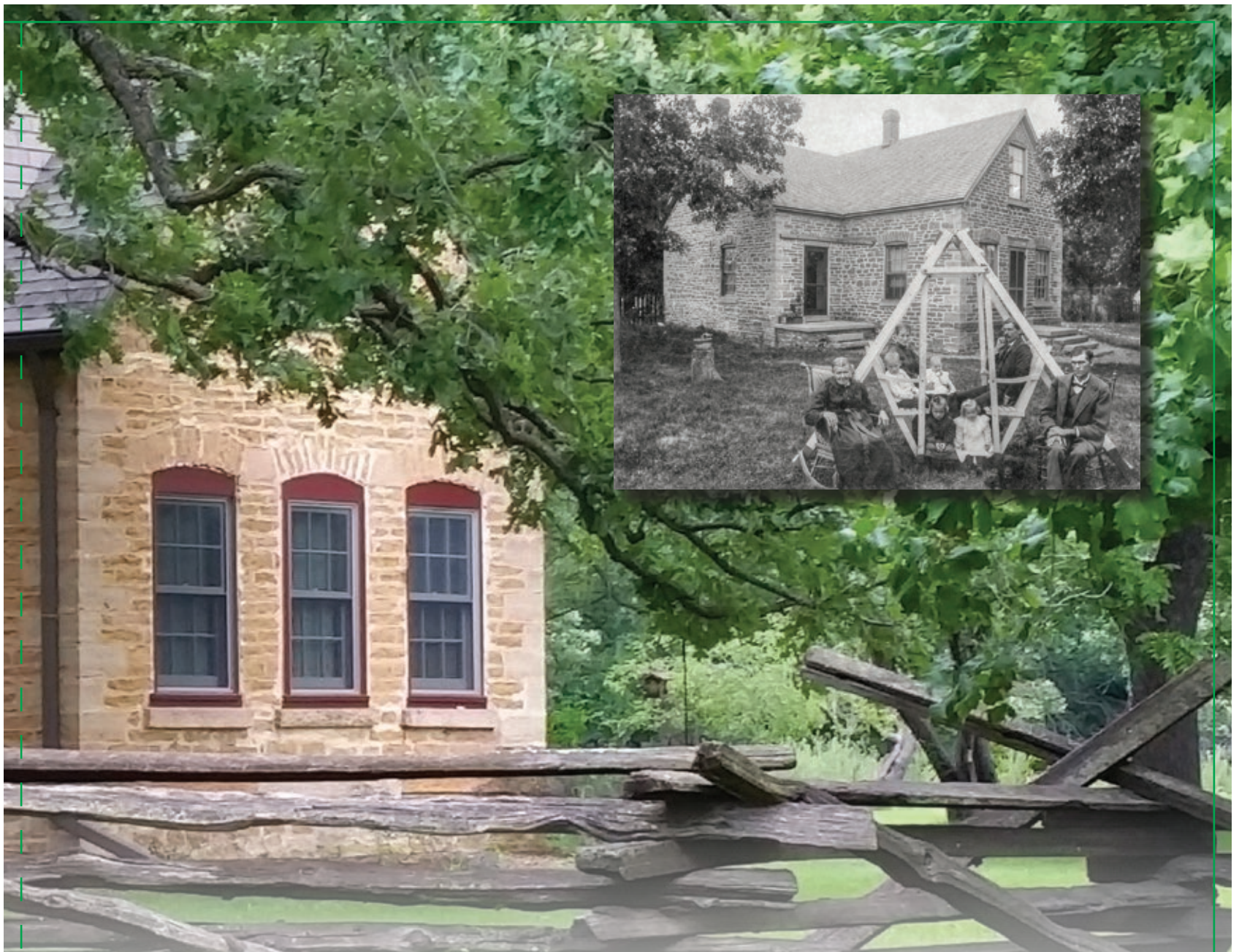
Nestled down a quiet country lane just north of Ottawa Township sits a picturesque property along the eastern bluff of the Minnesota River. Christened "Bur Oaks" by the current owners who have owned the property for 40 years, the eighty acres of land features a bur oak savanna, pasture land, and restored natural prairies. Not to be outdone by the beautiful landscape, the true highlight of the property is the restored stone house and barn. Both are listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and were built circa 1875-1877 from

limestone quarried onsite by stone mason Charles Schwartz.

Schwartz was born in 1830 in Buedingen, Germany, immigrating to America around 1833 with his parents and older brother. The family

first settled in Pennsylvania and after a few years moved to Missouri. It was from here that Charles enlisted at the age of 16 in the Mexican War serving from 1846-1848. Shortly after the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux was signed in 1851, which provided settlement rights to much of southern Minnesota, Charles made a move to Le Sueur County with his family where he took advantage of a land grant of 160 acres given to him by the government for his military service. In the beginning, the home and out buildings were made of log, but Schwartz being a stone mason, took advantage of the natural limestone found in the





ground and constructed the house and barn that still stand 140 years later. The property has remnants of the beehive lime kilns that he used to fire limestone for the production of mortar. It is said that his kilns provided the mortar for all the stone buildings constructed in Ottawa.

An interesting historical note exists for this property, discovered by the current owner in his extensive research about its history. In the journal of French-born explorer and geographer Joseph Nicollet, who chronicled his 1830's travels in the Minnesota region, he noted the location of "White Rock" as a landmark

on the Minnesota River. The sandstone and limestone bluff easily stood out along the river and was the site of exchanges between French traders, missionaries and the native Sioux (who called it Myah Skah). In his research he found the location of White Rock was apparently well-known locally, referenced on old land maps, and mentioned by a geologist from the Minnesota Geological Survey as being located "on the farm of Charles Schwartz". Today natural erosion and vegetation somewhat hide the location of White Rock but the current owner believes its location is very likely the exact spot

where a small cabin on the property is located today.

This historic property is currently listed for sale, with additional information available at the property website [38448ExchangeStreetRd.com](http://38448ExchangeStreetRd.com).

*Jennifer Kirby is Broker/ Owner of Kirby Fine Homes, writes the blog [HistoricHomesofMinnesota.com](http://HistoricHomesofMinnesota.com), and is an Old Home Certified Instructor with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.*





## Tax Credit Project Spotlight

### 2219 Lofts, La Crosse Wisconsin

A long vacant building on the southern edge of downtown La Crosse Wisconsin is currently undergoing rehab and conversion into affordable housing with the help of federal and state historic tax credits. The Preservation Alliance is involved as the state historic tax credit investor in what is PAM's first Wisconsin project. Along with PAM's work in this area in Minnesota, these regional projects are continuing to contribute to the future growth of PAM's Real Estate program while providing public education benefits to the local community the project is located in, and further spreading PAM's mission of connecting people to historic places.

MetroPlains, a Minnesota based developer, is the owner of the formerly vacant historic property located at 2219 South Avenue and is currently in the process of adaptively rehabbing the building into affordable housing, rebranded as 2219 Lofts. Originally constructed in 1903 as stables for the John Gund Brewing Company, the building was converted for use as an armory in 1921 by the Wisconsin National Guard and used as such until 1960. In 1962 Bakalars Sausage Company moved in and used the building as a manufacturing and office facility until 2011 when the building suffered significant damage in a tornado and was subsequently condemned by the City. The Sausage Company relocated in 2013

and worked with the City under a "Raise or Repair" order to find a new owner who would repair and reuse the damaged building. MetroPlains purchased the building in late 2015 and started construction soon after on their plans for 25 affordable apartments for low-income families. Six units will be reserved for homeless individuals and families and 23 of the 25 units will serve people making between 30 and 60 percent of the area median income, or up to \$42,420 for a family of four. Construction is scheduled to be complete in November 2016.

With each project that PAM is involved in as a state historic tax credit investor, additional value is added through public education events and activities, with the intention of further connecting people to historic places and benefiting the local community in which the project takes place. For this project, PAM will be coordinating with MetroPlains and a local organization to assist with providing sourcing, printing, and interpretation details for local historic photographs to be located within the building along with a possible public education tour of the building following completion of the rehab.











## Floorplan of Historic Aitkin Opera House Building Depicting Early Historical 1900s Layout

*By Sylvia Allen*

Samuel Hodgeden lived in Aitkin and found a need for a building that would serve the public through a variety of ways. Hodgeden enlisted Nels Holden, a Norwegian immigrant schooled in engineering and architecture in Oslo, to take on the task of building the new building. Holden recently had arrived in Aitkin from Duluth and was eager to establish himself as a contractor.

Hodgeden was so impressed with Holden's abilities, he also commissioned him to build a new home. The Victorian structure was one of the most elaborate and featured a classic tower with a conical roof. Intricate gingerbreading decorated the roof peaks and the porch.

The second floor contained the Aitkin Opera House bedecked in ornate oak paneling, elaborate brass chandeliers and scrolled plasterwork where roof met wall. (It was in this opera house that famous movie star Warren Williams starred and where Judy Garland, as Baby Gumm of the Gumm Sisters, started her career.) The remainder of the second floor (west half) was used as a buggy and carriage warehouse.

There was a large elevator that would bring a wagon or buggy down to the street level for the customer. Hodgedon also operated

a livery stable, so while the happy customer is settling their bill, the wagon or buggy was lowered in the elevator, and a team would be waiting at street level to be hitched. The bill settled, the customer could jump aboard and head for home with no waiting.

In the early 1900s, the main floor contained the Hodgeden-MacDonald General Merchandise store, and the Security Bank in the front half of the building. A hardware/ implement warehouse occupied the rear (west half) of the building's main floor.

The "Back Room," as it was called, was where lumberjacks



would spend their idle summers playing cards, telling stories and sampling the coffee & cookies Sam placed out for them. Hodgeden would gain a lot of business from the 'jacks as a result of his hospitality.

The original basement featured a barbershop and bath house which was accessible by a recessed stairway in the sidewalk. The heating plant boiler, coal bin and storage areas for items such as vegetables and seed comprised the remainder of the basement area.

During the ensuing years there was a Creamery located on the first floor in the back half, National Tea in the front and, since 1965 Butler's, an all-purpose discount department store where you got really good deals on clothing, fabric, sewing supplies, etc.

Fast forward to fall 2011 and Chuck Butler put the building on the market. Sylvia Allen, a long time summer resident, fell in love with it and bought it in November 2011 with the hopes of restoring it to its original historic integrity.

It has been 50% restored with five retail shops and a coffee shop on the main floor (when people walk in they say they feel like they are in Stillwater!) The Opera House has been renovated and is a spectacular space for weddings, 50th anniversary celebrations, class reunions, etc. It has an elevator and is totally ADA compliant.

Particular attention has been paid to restoring the building to its original integrity. This has included restoring the large windows on the main floor, awnings like they had in the 1900's, and refinishing all the exposed woodwork. One of the wonderful discoveries was the steel beams that were embossed and had different layers of paint of them. They were left in that condition and lit from the bottom. It further enhances the original beauty of the building.

Left to be restored is the buggy warehouse which would be the location of a kitchen, bar, additional bathrooms and party reception area and the lower level which is idea for a restaurant and brew pub. The total buildout for the balance is in the high six figures.

The joy of the building? It is a destination now in downtown Aitkin. A recent economic development survey listed it as one of the five top reasons people come to Aitkin. For further information you can contact building owner/developer Sylvia Allen, 218 678 2441 or 732 946 2711 or by e-mail at [sylvia@allenconsulting.com](mailto:sylvia@allenconsulting.com).





# The Ties That Bind

We seem to take most of our civic privileges for granted, but we are good about exercising our freedom of speech, because we sure complain a lot about various topics we aren't happy with. However, speaking freely isn't as impactful if it is not accompanied with actions. Simple actions such as voting, showing up to our community meetings and organizing a neighborhood watch-group or a taskforce are a few examples that come to mind.

When a decision we are not happy with has been made for us, we are highly vocal and even willing to act but too often it is too late by then. Have you seen an old beloved building get demolished and replaced with something that has no charm or character? Like an old theater, hospital, church, school, mansion or diner? Let me guess, it sat empty while deteriorating for a long time, and "all of a sudden," it was announced that a developer is demolishing it and building something else and the community was in an uproar? We approach public officials and preservationists at this late stage when the opportunity to prevent the building from deteriorating has passed and demolishing it doesn't seem like a horrible idea.

So what is keeping us from taking ownership of the decisions that affect us? Is not being neighborly increasing the disengagement seen and felt in many communities? It's common knowledge that when residents know everyone on their block and regularly communicate with one another, it decreases crime in the neighborhood, puts the pressure for each neighbor to maintain their home and such a neighborhood has an open line of communication with neighborhood associations and city officials. Yet, we are not as engaged as we could and should be.

Is there a charming old building with rich history or cultural heritage sitting empty in your neighborhood? Are you wondering what will become of it? Engage your neighbors on this conversation, you may be surprised to find how many others share your thoughts and feelings. Include the owner(s) of the building in the conversation and only after the owner(s) and the neighborhood come to a mutual interest, include city officials and preservationists. There are paths and resources that city officials and preservationists can offer your group at this early stage to help keep your beloved building from deteriorating and functioning so it sustains itself without losing its identity or being demolished all together.

Remember, a beautiful old building with a lot of

stories to tell unique to your neighborhood is an asset to your community, it is part of your cultural heritage, so preserve that heritage and do it in such a manner that it is economically sound. An old building doesn't have to sit empty bleeding its owner dry while deteriorating and eventually becoming worthless. Keep the history of it alive, record oral history of those that were around from its early days and gather any documented facts you can find, make this part of the building's selling point. A historic landmark or a community asset can sustain itself and give back to its community if it is loved and nurtured. Identifying our cultural heritage and community assets creates a sense of pride in our communities and increases local economic vibrancy.

We may all come from different backgrounds, have differing views and ideals but one thing is certain, we all want to live in safe and economically vibrant communities; that is something we can universally agree on and perhaps is the shared interest that binds us together.

We have all seen successful campaigns that educated the public resulting in public health and public policy changes. Think of the steep declines in cigarette smoking and fast food consumption, many, many years of active efforts, community engagements and public education resulted in improved public health and policy. Maybe Community Engagement needs that level of public awareness, the benefits of increased civic and community engagements that result in decisions and policies that benefit us the most need to be instilled in our minds just like giving up cigarettes and unhealthy foods were.

For example, at Preservation Alliance of Minnesota with funding support from the McKnight Foundation, we've embarked on a project to do some cultural asset mapping of four twin cities urban neighborhoods. The neighborhoods we are working with are rich with historic timelines that give unique cultural heritages and assets to their communities. In order to identify the cultural heritages and community assets, we've had to engage the communities we are working with so we can collect oral history and activate the neighborhoods so they organize and form committees to preserve and maintain their cultural assets long after the project is complete.

Before we can even attempt to do any actual mapping of the assets, it has become very clear that the community engagement process will



be a journey a lot longer than previously perceived. But this lengthy community engagement process is worth the investment because it is creating empowered residents that are wanting to chair environmental taskforces concerning the fate of valuable old buildings, new developments in building and land use, the creation and maintenance of green spaces, conservation districts, marking birth places of historic figures, and much more.

I would like to conclude by reemphasizing the ties that bind us together, our unique cultural heritages that all of our neighborhoods possess. These heritages are community assets we should be utilizing to unite us, to increase our levels of civic and community engagements and help us maintain a healthy local economy.

## Towards a Logan Park Conservation District

In the Logan Park neighborhood in Northeast Minneapolis, we've been working to preserve the historic character of a stretch of land along Quincy St. by establishing the city's first ever conservation district. While historic districts tend to demand tighter adherence to design guidelines—city code often requires property owners to keep buildings consistent with their original appearance as much as possible—conservation districts offer more flexibility. They seek to regulate delineated aesthetic features in a neighborhood in order to maintain them and

prevent incongruous development—but, crucially, they still allow for development.

Minneapolis' recent conservation district ordinance follows this pattern, focusing on aesthetics rather than significant historic events or people or cultural characteristics. The neighborhood, working with city planners, ultimately gets to define these aesthetic guidelines.

The aesthetic characteristic we're working to preserve on Quincy St. is one of the last stretches of cobblestones in the city. If you've ever been to Art-A-Whirl, you've probably visited Quincy St. It's home to some of the most recognizable post-industrial artist spaces in Northeast—the Q.arma Building, the 1330 Quincy Studios, and Solar Arts Building.

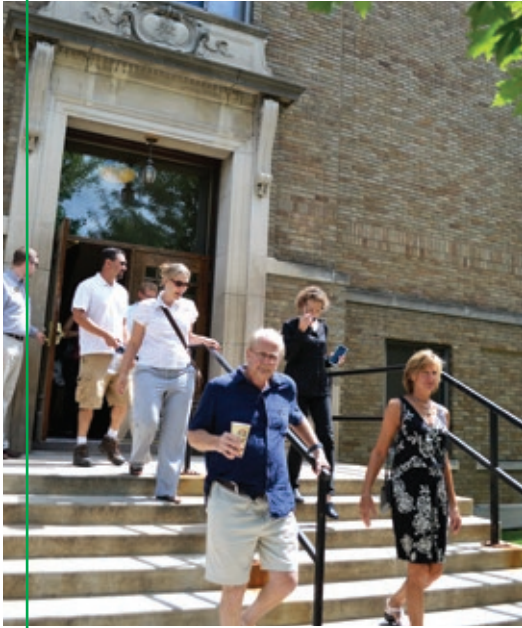
If you remember the street, you also probably remember its general state of disrepair—massive potholes litter the road, bandaged by splotches of asphalt. Maintenance is needed, but public works' standard street repair would tear out the cobblestones and replace them with asphalt. Not only would removing the cobblestones eliminate a significant part of the corridor's historic character, it would also effectively eliminate 2/3s of the street parking and potentially alter future land use and development. A conservation district would protect the cobblestones by defining them as a distinct aesthetic feature of the neighborhood which the city must preserve.

With pragmatism and preservation fully aligned, the city and neighborhood agree on conserving the Quincy cobblestones. Council Member Kevin Reich supports protecting and revitalizing the street, and has been a major proponent of establishing the city's first conservation district. Public works will hold off on standard street repair until a decision is reached about the conservation district. Meanwhile, we're working with Council Member Reich, the Logan Park Neighborhood Association, residents, and property owners to facilitate the process of establishing the district in order to preserve and restoring this historic corridor as soon as possible.





# Faces and Places









# Just Show Up

Joel Holstad, PAM Real Estate intern

We all know a place that matters to us, that enriches our lives, and helps define our community merely by its continued existence. An ancient farmstead in the middle of a trendy new neighborhood, the theater we frequented in high school, or the stately period home at the heart of the city that reminds us our generic suburb was once a distinct village with its own cherished identity. One day it happens; we notice the plywood sign that declares “COMING SOON” or see the big machine flashing its metallic fang in the direction of our heritage. How could this happen?

These scenarios all presented themselves to preservationists and PAM this year, and our struggle to preserve meaningful evidence of our past are seriously impaired by the lateness with which we all, as guardians of heritage, engaged in the very real threats to our legacy environments. Too often we arrive on the scene when the decisions regarding our collective heritage have already been made. Fate likely preordained this trauma in the form of zoning decisions made long ago. The five-acre farmstead is nestled in a grove of softwoods appears on a map as having entitlement to 16 new houses. The movie theater that played *Jaws* on the big screen is squatting in a community’s map that declares Mixed Use Commercial, inviting a variety of tax generating new uses and the stately old home is in the middle of a high density district mapped to enable dozens, or hundreds of new residents where the select few now reside. Today’s trauma is predictable years in advance, and public knowledge of these intentions compels us to take notice long before the machinery of growth devours our heritage.

City leaders didn’t conspire at midnight to obliterate our landmarks, they held numerous public meetings where reports were presented, maps were revealed and public comment was sought. While we were going about the daily business of living, others were

sacrificing their time attending public meetings, having their voices heard, and influencing the decisions we now regret. Jack Davies, noted legislator, law professor and jurist, frequently warns us that “the world is run by those that show up”.

The message is clear. We, meaning all of us that care about our connection to place and each other, need to show up. If we claim to value a site, a vista, a part of our past that in some way informs our present, we need to engage in the community process that will shape our collective future. Community leaders will welcome our involvement in the discussions that define our uniqueness, and reflect our common bonds. The generation that follows will be grateful for our efforts, and the places that define our character will have a fighting chance to be a witness to a future generation of the places that have defined who we are today.





# The Last Word

## A Note from Executive Director Doug Gasek

I love Gala season at PAM! We have this humongous honor of recognizing excellent work that people and communities do to reuse existing places that help add to the vibrancy of their towns and neighborhoods. Places and people recognized by PAM are big and small, rural and urban, residential and commercial. It is so difficult to make the decisions because so many people come together to make the projects great. People are at the center of building reuse and cultural celebration. People make the stories that make buildings important cultural touchstones.

While PAM is busy celebrating the people that make projects great, we are also considering more ways that celebrating places can become an increasingly community driven effort. Preservation is often loaded with elitism and bureaucracy. When PAM engages people around places, community members can easily identify the places that matter to their constituents. They don't need reams of primary research to justify the significance of a place and they don't need to measure the alterations made to a place to determine if it still maintains integrity. Oftentimes, this academic and bureaucratic approach does more to alienate lovers of old places.

The PAM goal is to embrace people that cherish old places; and the people that know old places best are the people that live and work in them. Minnesotans contact PAM staff when they want to celebrate or protect places that matter to them. Sometimes these places are important enough in the government's eyes to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. More often these places are simply cherished cultural assets. For years, the preservation movement has written off these assets. At PAM, we are trying to recognize these places more than ever before. This could include our work moving the small workers cottage at 41 Douglas Street in Saint Paul, or the planning work at the Red Owl in Stewart, or the attempting to locate a new owner for the Hill-Gibson House in Cottage Grove. PAM is advocating for new understanding of what it means to do preservation work.

Now that PAM is recognizing and talking about the importance of these cultural assets, we are thinking about the policies that need to be developed to ensure these places stay vibrant and active in our communities. This could be an expansion current bureaucratic definitions around preservation, it could be a whole new set of tools for places designated through community driven efforts, or new incentives to ensure that these places and businesses stay in use. Share your ideas with us so we can keep our communities vibrant and make sure to join us at the Gala on October 6th to hear about the inspiring people that are helping more people to connect to historic places.



Doug Gasek, Executive Director





# MNPreservation

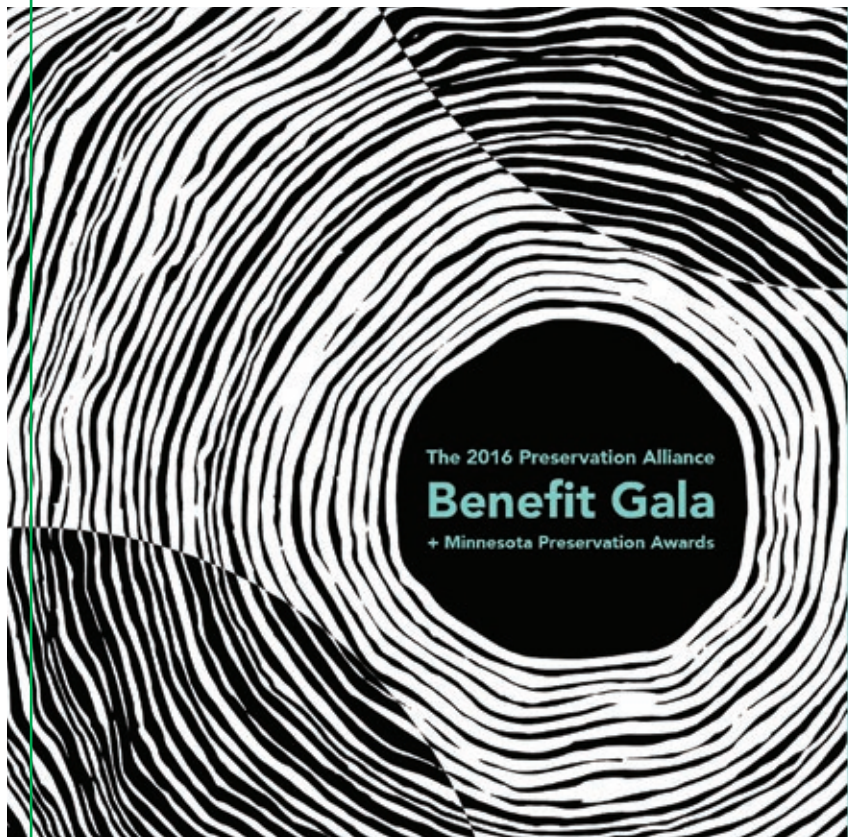
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