

Transcending Time

Carver County Historical Society

30/3 : Summer 2009



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Historic Preservation: What does it mean to me?

If you tell two different people that their property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places you may get two totally different reactions. The first person may be thrilled. The second person cringes and immediately assumes they have been saddled with a white elephant.

Many assumptions are made about the designation, National Register of Historic Places, NRHP. Some assumptions are correct, others are way off base. The Carver County Historical Society literally fields dozens of calls each month by home owners, realtors and business people who are looking for answers to the question, “what constitutes a historic property and how does the designation affect me?” It is the goal of the CCHS to bring answers to the questions and concerns voiced by county residents.

This issue of *Transcending Time* discusses what the NRHP is and attempts to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about historic properties.

We would also like to introduce you to the CCHS summer interns who are a wonderful addition to the staff. Cassie McCullum and Lindsay Marshall have been working diligently to pull the strategic planning and historic preservation pieces together. Alli Becker has been working with Erin Anderson on the summer programming. Curator Larry Hutching has been getting help for the Veteran’s Gallery from Kevin Hampton, Adam Smith, Tim Krueger and Kelsey Shurson.

Thank you interns for all your help this summer. You are greatly appreciated.



*Wendelin Grimm property
photo courtesy of the Three Rivers Parks District*

SNIPPETS

Wendy Biorn
Executive Director

Saying, “See you later” to an Educator



An educator is someone special. Saying goodbye a person who has the special talent to teach is never easy. This is especially be true when the person leaving has been a solid asset to an organization and has even been fun to be around. Erin Anderson, the CCHS Education Coordinator, will be leaving the end of August to pursue her Master’s in Museum Education. It will be a sad day when she leaves.

Erin is an educator. She does not just present by reading off a written page, she educates. For those of you who have met her, and there are thousands of you who have, I know you would agree, Erin has that something special that makes you want to learn. She makes learning fun and makes you want to come back for more. History can also be a sensitive issue with many accounts of the same event. It is with great pride that I can confidently say that Erin has also gone out of her way to give as complete account of an event as possible. She has allowed others to makeup their mind with the facts available. This is the difference between just a person who recites facts and true professional educator. Erin is a professional.

Success can be determined in many ways. Erin has increased student visitation numbers from 1033 in 2006 to 4364 in 2008. These numbers do not count the students seen at the museum! There will big shoes to fill.

I make it a point of never saying goodbye to those I care about because goodbye gives the illusion of being forever. So to Erin, I say, see you later. Until then, you will be sorely missed for many reasons. For those who would like to join us in saying goodbye– please watch our web site for details of a going away party the end of August.

We at the CCHS wish you all the best where ever life may take you.

Your family at the CCHS,

CCHS Seeks Funding for Veterans’ Gallery

Although renovations are already underway in the Veterans’ Gallery at the Carver County Historical Society, we are still in need of funds to complete the project. It is estimated that gallery construction will cost approximately \$15,000. CCHS is looking for donors to sponsor portions of the display. Donors may choose which section they wish to sponsor and a plaque denoting sponsorship will be placed in the gallery upon its completion. Any amount you feel you can give will be appreciated. Please help us create a memorial to those who have served. If you would like to donate by credit card, please visit www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on the “Donate” link on the front page. This will allow you to make a secure online donation through the Paypal service. We cannot take credit card donations at the museum.

Welcome Interns!!



Ali Becker graduated from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato in 2009 with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Spanish. Ali has always enjoyed working with children so it was a natural fit that she work with Education Coordinator Erin Anderson this summer. She is currently working on a girl scout program, which will allow the girls to finish their Local Lore badges. She is also working with Erin on the various summer camps. Her goal after the internships ends on August 14th, is to find a job in human resources. In her free time she enjoys listening to music, reading historical fiction and watching movies.



Adam Smith- A native of Buffalo, Adam recently completed his junior year at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri. His major focus of study at school is history with a minor in economics. While at school Adam is involved in several campus organizations, including Lutheran Student Fellowship, Show-Me Solar House Team, History Club, and Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society. He has served as treasurer in the last three of these organizations and secretary in the first. This is his first experience in a museum setting and hopes to learn the process of designing an exhibit.



Lindsay Marshall is a repeat intern at the CCHS. In 2007, she researched the Borchardt granary that now stands at the Carver County fair grounds. She is now a second year graduate student at St. Cloud State studying Cultural Resource Management. This summer she is working with the CCHS on the historic preservation piece of the CCHS strategic planning. With her help, it is hoped that historic preservation education can be expanded to better educate the public as to what is a historic property is and how it affects the property owner.



Kevin Hampton is a Senior at the University of St. Thomas with majors in History and Secondary Education. He has been a Civil War re-enactor since 8 and has always had a love of history. He looks forward to sharing that passion with other people in through teaching. Kevin is a native of Wisconsin and states his hero is Brett Favre. Kevin is working on the Veteran's Gallery this summer.

Interns continued on page 6

What is the National Register of Historic Places? By Lindsay Marshall

I want you to go back in time. Back to your childhood. Back to the dusty field where you spent hours pretending you were the next great baseball star, back to the church your parents brought you, without fail, every week, back to your high school where you had some of the best and most embarrassing moments of your life. Now, think of all of the hard work you put into your house, your garden or the time spent in your workshop. Think of the smells which filled the quaint movie theater which has only two screens, or the candy store where you stopped everyday on your way home from school. Think of the parks and beaches where you went as a child and now bring your children. Is that place still standing? Does that place have the same feeling now as it did in your past?

Chances are many of these places are long gone. Perhaps the building simply deteriorated following years of disuse, perhaps the baseball field now has a big box store sitting right on home plate. Though you may not be able to identify with the same memories as your neighbor, you will likely have strong memories or feelings associated with what may be considered a historic property. By now, I am sure you are asking yourself, what is your point? Everyday our nation loses treasures of our past. Yes, treasures.

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed in response to Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program. Section 1 (b) (1-4) states, "The congress finds and declares that the spirit and direction of the Nation is founded upon and reflected in history. The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people. Historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency. The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans."

In other words, our cultural resources help shape our nation and seeing as they are an important part of our past (think back to those memories you recalled earlier), preserving them is an important way to keep them a part of our future.

Another part of the National Historic Preservation Act was the chartering of the National Register of Historic Places; the official list of our Nations' historic properties. The term, historic property, is defined as any building, structure, site, district, or object which is on, or eligible, for the National Register of Historic Places.

By now, you might have an idea of something which could be listed on the National Register. But what qualifies a property to be listed on the Register? There are three main categories in which a property is evaluated; age, significance and integrity. The first category is age. Generally the property must be at least 50 years old. However, if the property reached its significance within the last 50 years, it may be considered eligible. For example, The Monroe School, now known as the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, was listed after only 40 years due to its level of significance in history.

In addition to the property being at least 50 years old, it also needs to be able to meet at least one of the four significance criteria. Significance is basically the reason why the property is being listed; why it is important. The significance can be at the national, state or local level. Next, it needs to be determined under which significance category the property is eligible to be listed. Criteria A describes significance due to association with events which have helped shape patterns of history in that area. Criteria B describes association with an important person. Criteria C is used if the property is the work of a master, or is a prime example of a certain architectural style. Criteria D is used if the property has the potential to yield data. Let's use the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead as an example. The farmstead is listed under criteria A for its association with the first winter-hardy alfalfa the country, as well as criteria B for the association with Wendelin Grimm, and it is significant at the national level because of the agricultural advancements made by Grimm.

The third category is integrity. In a nutshell, a property retains its integrity if it still expresses the reason it was placed on the National Register.

Historic properties do not have to stay frozen in time, permitting us only to look at them. Churches, schools and even old breweries have been changed into apartment buildings, and people continue to live in historic homes. As with most things in life, there are always exceptions to the rules. If you have any questions regarding the National Register of Historic Places or questions regarding the process of nominating a property to the Register, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, located at the Minnesota Historical Society, is an excellent source of information.

I am sure many of you are saying, who cares, or what does this all mean to me? Historic preservation is one of those things in life which can only help, not hurt. ***Having your property listed on the National Register is not something to be afraid of.*** Below are some of the most common questions asked about a property and the National Register of Historic Places.

What is considered a historic property?

Historic properties include buildings, structures, districts, sites and objects, which are on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

How old does the property need to be?

Only 50 years. However, if the property has reached its historical significance before 50 years, it may be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Can I renovate, fix up or paint my historic property?

Yes, but if the property is altered in a way that causes it to lose too much of its integrity and historical significance, it will be removed from the National Register. Also, if the property is moved from its original location, it will also be eliminated from the listing.

Does having my historic property on the National Register automatically imply that I have to live in it as if it is a museum?

St. Hubert's Chanhassen No, just because the property is listed does not mean that it is open to the public. Only places such as museums, or businesses that are operated out of the building are for the public to visit.

Can I sell my property?

Yes.

What are the benefits of Historic Preservation?

The benefits are cultural as well as economical. By preserving a historic property, the community may have a greater sense of pride in their history. Memories are preserved in these buildings and sites. Economically, the community can benefit by reusing a historic train station and turning it into a restaurant, for example. By basically recycling the old building, it will save money by not having to tear down a building and completely rebuild another one.



Main Dwelling at Coney Island Hotel– Waconia



Coney Island– Lake Waconia

Summer Interns



Cassie McCullum-I am serving as the Administrative Intern to Wendy Biorn this summer. I'll be a Senior at Bethel University this fall, majoring in Business Marketing and International Business with a minor in Leadership Studies. Currently, I am working on a Strategic Business plan for the next 10 years for the Historical Society; I am creating a fundraiser that will take place during the Carver County Fair and I'm playing a part in the hiring process for a new Education Coordinator. I've greatly enjoyed my internship so far and feel that it will be a beneficial experience for my future in Business.



Tim Krueger-I was born and raised in the Philippines where my parents served as missionaries until returning home to the Twin Cities several years ago. I am now a senior at Bethel University, majoring in history and minoring in biblical and theological studies. This summer at the Carver County Historical Society, I am helping to develop the Veterans Gallery, specifically focusing on the Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War, and World War I. I hope to go on to pursue a doctorate in history and ultimately return to teach in a post-secondary setting.



Kelsey Shurson-I am a Senior at the University of Saint Thomas and I expect to graduate in the Spring of 2010 with a double major and a Latin minor. My primary focus is on my first major: English with a Non-Fiction Writing Emphasis, but I also find my subsequent major: Classical Civilizations to be an adequate parallel to my Latin minor. I was raised in Woodbury, MN, and I currently commute from St. Paul to Waconia to volunteer at the Carver County Historical Society on a weekly basis. I am researching and writing on topics pertaining to the Veteran's Gallery and I plan to further utilize my writing skills and knowledge of the foundation of America (born and influenced by the Greek democracy and Roman republic) to the necessary tasks at hand.

Annual Fund Drive Donation

Gene Krey \$ 10.00

Veterans' Gallery Donations

Loren & Kari Schwinghammer	\$ 50.00
Robert & Carolyn Durbin	\$ 2.00
Sue Wherley	\$ 20.00
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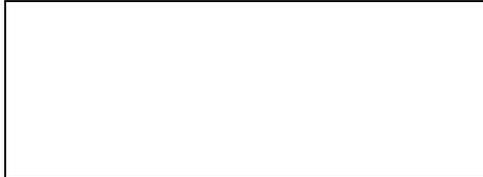
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The Carver County Historical Society is a non-profit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.

