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#### Statewide Partners

Heritage Ohio  
Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana  
Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance  
Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois  
Michigan Historic Preservation Network  
Missouri Preservation  
Preservation Alliance of Minnesota  
Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation

#### Main Street Statewide Coordinators

IA: Main Street Iowa/IA Downtown  
Resource Center  
IL: Illinois Main Street Program/ Office of  
Lieutenant Governor  
IN: Indiana Main Street/IN Department of  
Commerce  
MI: Michigan Main Street/MI Economic  
Development Corp.  
MO: Missouri Main Street Program/  
Dept. of Economic Development  
OH: Downtown Ohio, Inc.  
WI: Wisconsin Main Street Program/WI DOC/  
Bureau of DT Dev

#### Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

Contact Donna Williamson, Administrative  
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## Midwest Region Celebrates in Louisville

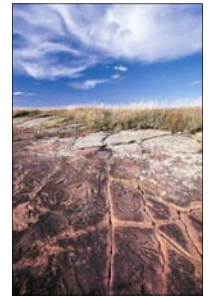
The staff of the MWO traveled to Louisville, KY in October of 2004 for the Trust's week-long annual National Preservation Conference, which was centered around the theme "Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads". In addition to providing the MWO staff with valuable opportunities to attend education sessions and meet with our advisors and statewide and local partners to discuss preservation issues in our region, the conference also gave us a chance to celebrate the successes of our friends and colleagues. Each year the National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. Of the 22 award winners announced this year, five were from the Midwest region.



IL Advisor Paula Robinson (far right) and past and present Diversity Scholarship Recipients, Ir: Valerie Leonard, Patricia Peters, and Alice Bowman. Photo: BronzevilleOnline.com

**Minnesota Historical Society (MHS)** – The MHS received a special honor when it was awarded the **National Trust Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites** for the Jeffers Petroglyphs, a 160-acre sacred site known for

its outcroppings of quartzite and more than 2000 Native American rock carvings. Several members of the Dakota Indian Community nominated the Jeffers site for this award in recognition of the efforts of MHS staff, who worked closely with the native communities to preserve this sacred place. The Minnesota Historical Society acquired the archaeological site in 1966 and it has since served as a sacred place for American Indian people and a unique educational site for visitors. Through a variety of activities and exhibits, including a 1.2-mile guided tour of the prairies and carvings and programs on American Indian culture, archaeology and geology, the dedicated Jeffers Petroglyphs' staff and volunteers provide a rare opportunity for visitors to imagine a distant past. They also have done a superb job preserving one of the places most sacred to America's native people.



### Central Library of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO



The Central Library of Kansas City was in search of a new, larger home to replace the cramped building from which it had long operated. The

*continued on page four*

## Lustron: The Website America's Been Waiting For

After World War II, the United States faced a severe housing shortage. The government had an interest in creating new housing for returning servicemen and hoped to use the growth of the housing industry to bolster the economy. Carl Strandlund, a Swedish immigrant and Vice President of the US Vitrolite Corporation, which manufactured porcelain enamel steel panels often used in gas stations and other utilitarian buildings, came up with the innovative idea to use the panels to create a prefabricated house. Strandlund founded the

Lustron Corporation and obtained a government loan to produce steel framed homes with porcelain coated exterior and interior panels. From 1948-1950 the Lustron Corporation built approximately 2,498 Lustron homes in a former aircraft plant in Columbus, Ohio.

There has been a recent resurgence of interest in the Lustron, thanks in large part to the film by Bill Kubota and Ed Moore entitled *Lustron: The House America's Been Waiting For* (see their website at [www.lustron.org](http://www.lustron.org)).

*continued on page two*

**Lustron** *continued from page one*

Unfortunately, these enameled panel homes are still disappearing at an alarming rate, and hundreds already have been lost to demolition or dramatic alteration. There is a clear need to improve the quality, content and consistency of information available on Lustron preservation by creating a comprehensive website to disseminate information to those interested in understanding, identifying, evaluating and preserving them. The MWO, led by Jeanne Lambin in the Wisconsin Field Office and Susan De Vries in the MWO, decided to pursue grant funding from the **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCTPP)** for just this purpose. The hard work and grant-writing savvy of Jeanne and Susan paid off, and they were awarded a grant for \$25,000 in September to develop and launch the first comprehensive technical Lustron Website that will:

- increase awareness of the significance of the remaining Lustrons across the country

- assist in the identification and documentation of Lustrons by establishing a standardized survey form, and



Top: A remaining Lustron in OH.  
Bottom: Original Lustron promotional photo:  
[www.lustron.org](http://www.lustron.org)

- provide specific and consistent technical preservation information to owners, aficionados, and interested parties to ensure that the remaining Lustrons are properly preserved for future generations.

The first step in this project is to hire a research consultant who will scour the Lustron archives and work with our Advisory Committee to develop technical briefs, which will be posted on the Lustron website to be launched in 2005. With Susan's departure (see article below) Chris Morris will be stepping into the Lustron project and will be working with Jeanne. They are currently seeking applications for this position until December 17, 2004, and you can get more information on the application requirements at a number of websites, including PreserveNet [www.preservenet.cornell.edu/](http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu/)

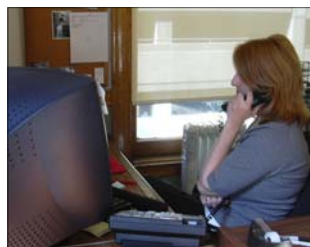
If you would like to learn more about the NCPIT or their 2005 Grant round, please see their website at [www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov)

## Susan De Vries off to the Big Apple

Please join the MWO in wishing Field Representative Susan De Vries a fond farewell. After working for three years to build the preservation capacity and ethos in the Midwest, she has decided to return to New York City where she worked as a preservation consultant before joining the Trust. She has accepted a job with the Historic House Trust and the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation as the new Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse in Upper Manhattan. The house has been closed for restoration for the last two years, so she will have the challenge of getting the house up and running as well as reinventing how the museum and its educational programs will relate to its diverse community. She will also have some responsibilities for the Little Red Lighthouse, featured in the 1942 children's book, *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge*.

In addition to her contributions to the preservation efforts in Ohio and Michigan, Susan has also assisted in spearheading the MWO Lustron project and has harassed all of her co-workers to submit their articles so she could produce the MWO newsletter and other graphic pieces.

Her colleagues throughout the region will miss her preservation savvy, wit and commitment to the movement. We wish her well on her next endeavor. For more information on Susan's new responsibilities, visit [www.historichousetrust.org](http://www.historichousetrust.org)



On the phone, as usual

## On the Road with MWO Staff

### From the Pages of a Magazine

Jeanne Lambin, the Wisconsin Field Services Coordinator, is well-known among her colleagues for her dedication, her sense of humor, her passion for 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture, and her enthusiasm for all things preservation. Now the rest of the world has the chance to get to know her as well – the **Fall/Winter issue of Volkswagen's Driver** (Vol. 42, no. 2) features a two-page spread on our own Miss Lambin at the site of Orchard Lawn in Mineral Point, WI. Discussing her childhood in Chicago, Jeanne explains how she came to value historic things and places as special repositories of history, and the growing awareness of the need to save these places that led her to work for the National Trust. The spotlight on Jeanne is a result of a recent partnership between the National Trust and Volkswagen of America, Inc. Through March 2005, Volkswagen is giving each owner of its new luxury sedan, the Phaeton, the gift of membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Photo: David Nevala

### Conferences and Meetings

**Financing Historic Theatre Rehabilitation Projects, Indianapolis, IN** Genell Scheurell represented the MWO at a two-day professional development seminar hosted by the League of Historic American Theatres.

With close to 50 people in attendance, the first day focused on the process of rehabilitating historic theatres. The presenters discussed organizational assessment and planning, marketing, fundraising, and business/financial planning needed for successful theatre rehabilitation projects. The second day provided detailed information on using historic rehabilitation tax credits, and New Markets Tax Credits. For more information, visit [www.lhat.org](http://www.lhat.org)



**Awards** *continued from page one*

Library found a perfect fit in the vacant First National Bank building – although the historic building needed extensive renovation before it could be re-used. The Downtown Council and Greater Kansas City Community Foundation formed a partnership with the Kansas City Public Library to facilitate the renovation.

The renovated 190,000-square-foot building includes an art gallery, a café, a rooftop garden and a theater located in the original bank vault.

**Chicago Architecture Foundation, (CAF), Chicago, IL** — CAF, dedicated to advancing the public's awareness and appreciation of Chicago's architectural heritage, published its innovative teaching resource, *Schoolyards to Skylines: Teaching with Chicago's Amazing Architecture*, in November 2002.

Authors Jennifer Masengarb and Jean Linsner worked with educators from more than 20 Illinois schools to conduct field tests of the resource guide. The result is an incredible collection of 47 teaching units that weave architectural heritage and historic preservation core academic curriculum by incorporating Chicago buildings, sites, people and events. More than 650 copies of *Schoolyards to Skylines* are being used in schools in 25 states and 5 foreign countries.

**Mill City Museum, Minneapolis, MN**— The 1878 Washburn A Mill, once the world's largest and most technologically advanced flour mill, served as the home of General Mills and Betty Crocker. When General Mills closed its doors in 1965, the mill sat vacant until the City of Minneapolis purchased the building to redevelop the abandoned, historic industrial district. In 1991 the mill was gutted by fire, leaving an eight-story, block-long, debris-filled shell. In an effort to save the site from demolition, the Minnesota Historical Society joined forces with architect Meyer, Scherer



& Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R), state agencies and the City of Minneapolis to preserve what

remained and gave the mill a second chance.

Twelve years and \$32 million later, the Museum opened in September 2003 with an innovative new design that combines modern elements with remnants of the original structure, such as flour bins, milling machinery, and the rail corridor. The museum's piece de resistance, the Flour Tower, is a 12-minute ride on a freight elevator that captures the sights and sounds of milling through the voices of former employees.

**Schroder Saddletree Factory Museum, Madison, IN** — John Benedict "Ben" Schroeder, a German immigrant, began producing wooden saddletrees - the internal frames of saddles - in 1878 in a small brick workshop in Madison. In its 94-years of operation, this flourishing business crafted tens of thousands of wooden frames for saddle



makers throughout the United States and Latin America. It was the nation's longest lasting, continually operated, family owned saddletree company when it closed its doors in 1972.

Historic Madison, Inc. received the property as a gift in 1975 and volunteers and staff cleaned, moved and inventoried 40 tons of loose artifacts from the factory. Craftsmen repaired and restored the buildings and the collection of unique vintage woodworking machinery.

After a three-year museum-quality restoration of the site, it is now an operable museum where machinery demonstrations illustrate aspects of the little known craft of the American saddletree maker. Today, the Schroeder Saddletree Factory is America's last intact 19th century saddletree manufacturing complex, recognized by historians as one of America's premier industrial heritage museums.

**Calendar****January**

19th -Deadline for 2005 11 Most Endangered Places Nominations.

**February**

1st — Johanna Favrot and Cynthia Woods Mitchell grant applications due

1st—Save America's Treasures Federal Grant Program Deadline. For more information visit [www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/application.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/application.htm).

11th—Deadline for nominations for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Awards Program. For more information, visit [www.mhpn.org/](http://www.mhpn.org/)

23rd, Jefferson City, MO. Missouri Annual Honor Awards Ceremony at the State Capitol. For more information, call 573.443.5946

26th-March 1, Washington, DC.— Preservation Action's Lobby Day (see article on page 3)

**11 Most Nomination Deadline**

It's that time of year again... The application deadline for the **2004 National Trust 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** is fast approaching!

Since 1988, the *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

The list has now brought national attention to more than 140 significant buildings, sites and landscapes. Information on prior listings, including their current situation, is available online through the 11 Most database —[www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/statemap.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/statemap.html)

In 2004, two sites in the Midwest were placed on the 11 Most list, the Madison-Lenox Hotel in Detroit, Michigan and Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Nominations for the 2005 list are now open, with a **deadline of Wednesday, January 19, 2005**. Guidelines and the nomination form can be downloaded at [www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/nomination.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/nomination.html) While nominations are accepted from any source; it is strongly recommended that a community advocate or preservationist very familiar with the resource and the issues surrounding its preservation participate in the preparation of the nomination. Contact the MWO for further information.