



## STURGEON BAY, WISCONSIN

### MICHIGAN STREET BRIDGE

Since 1998, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has been actively involved in working with local preservation advocates in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin to help protect and preserve the historic Michigan Street Bridge. The 1930 bridge is an unusual rolling-lift bascule bridge, and is an icon for this Door County town. During the summer season, the bridge carries heavy traffic loads and opens almost hourly to allow boat traffic coming through the ship canal.

For years, the Wisconsin DOT wanted to demolish and replace the Michigan Street Bridge. The Section 106 process was not successful in protecting this historic bridge. In early 1997, the Advisory Council signed a Programmatic Agreement authorizing the demolition of the bridge. As a result of Section 4(f), however, this bridge has been saved.



Using Section 4(f) as an advocacy tool, without going to court, the National Trust put pressure on the state and federal transportation agencies to preserve the bridge. We brought in a national historic bridge expert, Abba Lichtenstein, to help convince local and state officials that the bridge was in sound condition. After several years of reevaluation, the Wisconsin DOT has now changed its plans, with the support of city and county officials, and has made a commitment to maintain and rehabilitate the historic bridge, while building an additional two-lane bridge nearby. Section 4(f) was instrumental in changing the minds of the transportation agencies.