

2024 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation



Historic resources and archaeological sites tell us about the past and help us celebrate Michigan's unique identity.

Their preservation is vital to Michigan's present and future as they contribute to vibrant communities and our understanding of the past.

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historic Preservation Review Board identify worthy recipients to receive the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation, which are presented during

National Historic Preservation Month in May. The awards recognize homeowners who rehabilitate their homes; developers who transform underutilized historic structures into vital economic assets; and academic institutions, archaeologists, nonprofits, and units of government—among other partners—who strive to preserve Michigan's important historic and cultural resources.

2024 Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation

- *Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe; Wayne State University, Department of Anthropology; for the rehabilitation and archaeological documentation of the Malcolm X House (Inkster)*
- *Hiawatha National Forest, Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Bay Mills Indian Community, Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, HistoriCorps, and YouthWork, for the long-term collaborative stewardship of Hiawatha National Forest lighthouses (Upper Peninsula)*
- *Raymond Madsen for his championship of the East Ludington Avenue Historic District project (Ludington)*
- *Michigan Technological University, Department of Social Sciences and Geospatial Research Facility; Michigan Technological University, University Archives and Historical Collections; Monte Consulting; Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw; Keweenaw County Historical Society; and Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission; for the collaborative effort to develop the Keweenaw Time Traveler project (Keweenaw Peninsula)*



2024 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



Hiawatha Lighthouses

Awardees: Hiawatha National Forest, Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Bay Mills Indian Community, Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, HistoriCorps, and YouthWork

Long-term collaborative stewardship of Hiawatha National Forest lighthouses

Hiawatha National Forest covers nearly one million acres of Michigan's upper peninsula, stretching from Lake Superior to Lakes Michigan and Huron. It is the only national forest to contain historic lighthouses, six in total.

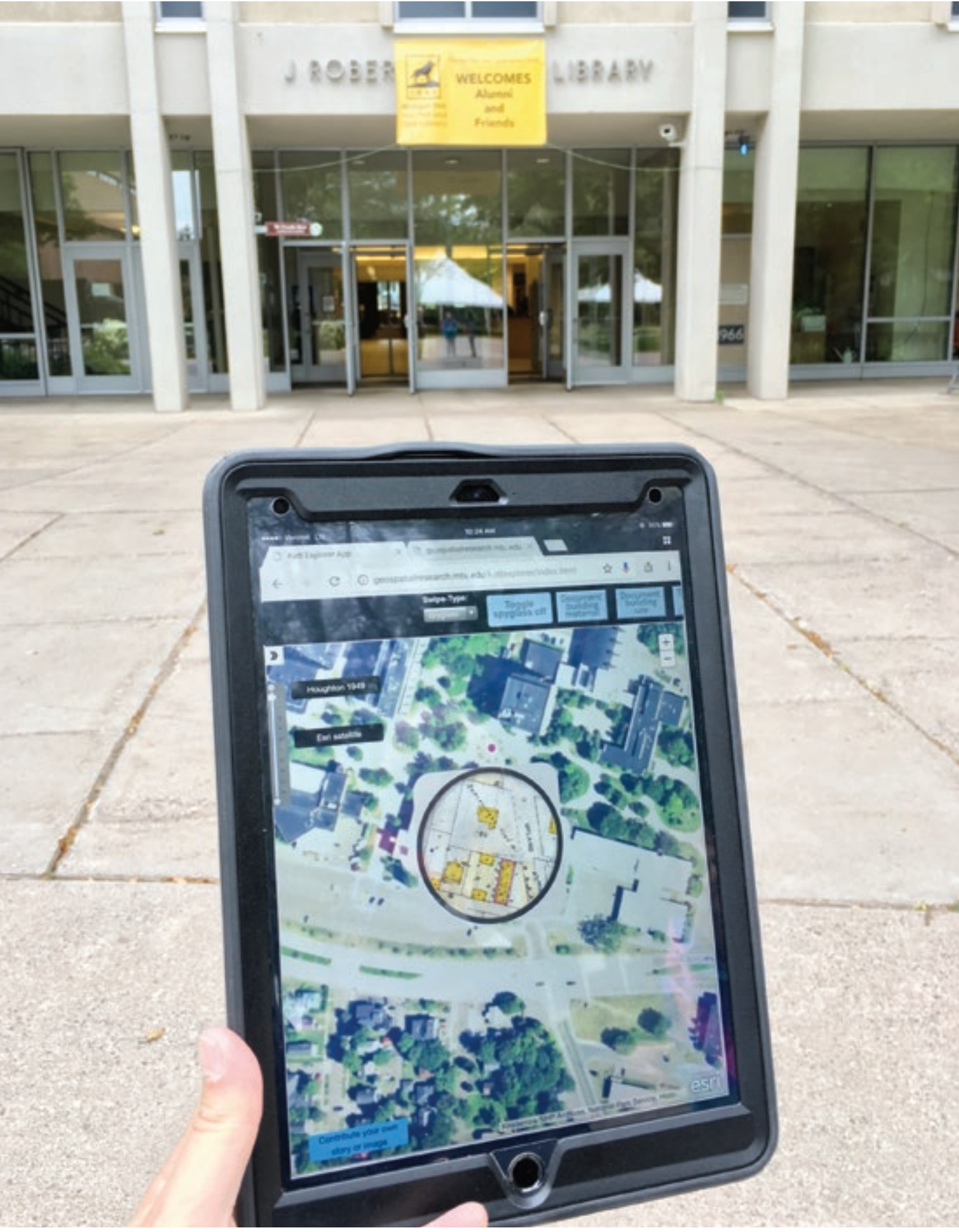
Hiawatha has partnered with nearby stakeholders to help care for these important cultural resources. The Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society has assisted with the preservation of this landmark lighthouse near Mackinac Island, repairing metal doors and outbuildings, and installing rip-rap to protect it from rising lake levels. A new partnership with the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society will help implement public interpretation of the Grand Island North Light near Munising.

A creative partnership resulted in the recent rehabilitation of the Point Iroquois Light near Brimley. Working with HistoriCorps and YouthWork, adult volunteers and at-risk youth were able to get their hands dirty, learning valuable construction and preservation skills and forging new friendships over three summers while repairing damaged brick, reconstructing stone walls, and restoring the circular interior stairs at this lighthouse built in 1870. A new agreement with the Bay Mills Indian Community will soon open an Indigenous history museum at Point Iroquois, sharing important tribal history with lighthouse visitors.

With partnerships established, the Hiawatha National Forest historic lighthouses are poised to be illuminating destinations for years to come.



2024 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



Keweenaw Time Traveler

Awardees: Michigan Technological University, Department of Social Sciences and Geospatial Research Facility; Michigan Technological University Archives; Monte Consulting; Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw; Keweenaw County Historical Society; and Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission

Collaborative effort to develop the Keweenaw Time Traveler project

Fingerprints of the past extend up and down the Keweenaw Peninsula, illustrating the region's past productivity in mining and lumbering. But how can this history connect the past to the present?

The Keweenaw Time Traveler launched in 2017 as a digital online atlas of Michigan's Copper Country to forge these connections. The project digitally connects over 2,000 archival maps with historical data sets including building data, censuses, city directories, and school and mining company employment records. Led by Michigan Technological University researchers and students, the effort brings together the efforts of local residents and several local and regional heritage organizations. "Citizen Historians" helped to develop the look and feel of the online digital atlas.

The project has mapped and linked the homes and schools for every resident of the region from 1870–1940, connecting these with oral histories and building inventory records for every structure from this period.

Since its inception, the project has included a deeply integrated public engagement program, which includes in-person programming at local festivals, schools, senior living facilities, public libraries, and with many of the heritage sites throughout the region. The online version of the atlas brings Keweenaw history to curious minds around the world.

The Keweenaw Time Traveler is leading the way in fostering conversations about how this region's industrial past continues to affect lives and identities today.



2024 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



East Ludington Avenue

Awardee: Raymond Madsen

For his championship of the East Ludington Avenue Historic District project

East Ludington Avenue has served as the gateway into Ludington since before the era of the automobile. In the late 1800s, it was home to ship captains and lumbering families who built impressive Queen Anne and Classical Revival mansions. In the 20th century, the street became part of highway US-10, welcoming visitors heading toward Lake Michigan or to the nearby carferries to Wisconsin. After World War II, small motorlodges and tourist cabins infilled between some of the grand older homes. Today it is a mix of residential and bed-and-breakfast properties.

Ludington native Raymond Madsen returned to the city of his youth after he retired and wanted to do something good for his hometown. He discovered that despite the celebrated architecture, East Ludington Avenue was not a National Register Historic District. Ray

engaged with the community, offering a feedback survey and hosting several public meetings, inviting preservation experts to meet with homeowners to address their concerns and discuss the benefits of designation. With support from homeowners and the city government, the district was surveyed and a National Register nomination quickly followed, highlighting the local architecture and tourism industry.

The National Register effort led to the creation of a new walking tour of the district. Homeowners in the district now have access to preservation tools, including the State Historic Tax Credit program. Ray's energy changed the conversation about preservation in Ludington, culminating in community enthusiasm ahead of celebrating the city's sesquicentennial in 2023.



2024 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



Malcolm X House

Awardees: Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe; Wayne State University, Department of Anthropology

The rehabilitation and archaeological documentation of the Malcolm X House

Civil Rights leader Malcolm X lived in this house with his brother's family from 1952 to 1953. It was during this time that Malcolm Little first met Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Nation of Islam, and was conferred with the "X," rising to become one of the leaders of the Black social justice movement of the 1950s and '60s. Over the decades, the house fell on hard times, leading it to be marked for demolition. After a multi-year effort, the house was removed from the demolition list, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a substantial rehabilitation project is now underway.

Led by the non-profit Project We Hope, Dream, and Believe, the house is being transformed into a museum that will focus on the life and significance

of Malcolm X, advocacy, and as a youth learning center. A partnership with the Wayne State University Anthropology Program was established to conduct archaeological studies on the Inkster property, yielding hundreds of 20th century artifacts. The project has been embraced by the community who support the effort and have been getting involved every step of the way.

Despite his transient life, few of the places Malcolm resided remain standing today. Although vacant for several years, the form and structure of the modest house are largely intact as it was when the Littles lived here. The rehabilitation project is expected to be completed in 2024 as an important Inkster destination and place of learning in the community.

