

Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2026

Minutes of the State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

*Lake Michigan Room, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 North Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan 48913*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Devan Anderson, Matthew Daley (arrived 10:12), Lane Demas, Sharon Ferraro, Krysta Ryzewski, Ann Scott, Ronald Staley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Daniel Bollman, Lakota Hobia (both pre-excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Nathan Nietering, Haley Schriber, Ryan Schumaker, Sarah Surface-Evans, Todd Walsh, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Jon Stuckey and Austin Wright, Michigan Office of the Attorney General (AG)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

From list.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Ryzewski called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of the March 6, 2026 regular board meeting.

Motion: Scott

Second: Staley

Vote: 6-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2025

Board Comments: None

Motion to approve the minutes as proposed.

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Staley

Vote: 6-0

4. SHPO STAFF REPORTS & BUSINESS

a. SHPO Report – Ryan Schumaker

- i. Schumaker acknowledged he had just returned from Historic Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington DC, representing the Michigan SHPO along with Deputy SHPO Martha MacFarlane-Faes and SHPO's compliance manager Scott Slagor. He reported that this also included attending the annual meeting of the National Council of SHPOs (NCSHPO), a meeting that was both informative and complicated. The Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (ACHP) also met with SHPO's to discuss potential changes to Section 106 regulations, but no firm details were shared. Future meetings are planned between NCSHPO and ACHP. A NCSHPO working group is preparing to participate in these discussions, which includes both Martha and Scott from our office along with representatives from ten or eleven other SHPO offices with the goal to identify potential ways to streamline the consultation process. The timeline for meeting with ACHP was unclear.
- ii. ACHP also planned to undertake a GIS project, which has pivoted to instead develop a master portal where all SHPO data can be consolidated for federal agencies to access to do pre-project planning. There are many concerns across the country, mainly focused on archaeology data access. It would require a data agreement between all SHPOs and the ACHP, which seems unlikely.
- iii. There was some discussion about a funding ask for fiscal year 2027 for the Historic Preservation Fund. One proposal is to request "\$250 million for 250 years" to acknowledge the 1776 250th anniversary in 2026, which would be a substantial increase from the typical amount of the past many years. For FY2026, the appropriation is \$181 million. So far, no Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFI) has yet been announced for this funding.
- iv. Schumaker reminded everyone that SHPO staff cannot advocate as a unit of government, but a team of five individuals did attend congressional meetings to advocate and raise awareness for preservation activities and funding. Board member Scott stated she was one of the attendees in a personal capacity and attended nine congressional meetings with staffers representing both sides of the aisle. She felt the meetings were well received and productive, with support and preparation provided by Preservation Action.
- v. Schumaker also noted that the National Park Service's State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division unit has been moved from NPS to the Department of the Interior as part of the restructuring of DOI units. Operationally, there may be no changes for us.
- vi. Schumaker continued that one of his personal goals is to try to get out to communities to better engage with communities and discussion. In the past few months he has met with Henry Ford Museum, been to the city of Flint, and a wider discussion with Genesee County about preservation issues.

- vii. In grant project updates, SHPO's project to study sites listed in the African American Green Book for Negro Motorists is moving along with survey work complete on the approximately 36 sites which remain out of approximately 230 which were listed through the thirty years the book was published. The consultant continues to make progress on the deliverables.
- viii. SHPO recently issued a request for proposals for our grant project to study the architecture of Detroit architect Nathan Johnson. The non-profit group Noir Design Parti will be a partner on this project. The deadline to apply is March 27.
- ix. In an update on the Michigan Rural Heritage subgrant program, the guidelines are almost finalized and we hope to announce this program and opportunity to the public in early April.
- x. Schumaker highlighted SHPOs use of Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) funding to hire four limited term, full time positions. Database archaeologist Lilly Ebarra and archaeology reviewer Nicole Raslich have already started, and Elizabeth Longcore, another database archaeologist, will start later this month. We have had a hard time filling the historian reviewer position, and just reposted the opportunity for a short two-week window, which will close on March 16. This team will be introduced at a future review board meeting.
- xi. 2026 is the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP). SHPO staff are working with MEDC communications colleagues to highlight this anniversary and share some of the positive results that have come out of this quarter-century old program.
- xii. The FY2026 MLAP grant awards should be announced soon.
- xiii. The Certified Local Government (CLG) FY2026 grant opportunity closed in early February and applications are presently being reviewed.
- xiv. SHPO is planning to present four sessions at the 2026 Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) conference in metro Detroit, two discussing grant opportunities (CLG and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP – with MDOT)), historic tax credits, and an update on the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan process. Both SHPO and MEDC are top level sponsors of the conference. The SHPO Officer will also participate in the Plenary Session this year.
- xv. Through some process improvements, federal tax credit review times are near their 30 day goals. We are also having a strategy session with MHPN leadership to discuss outreach to consultants and developers and how to navigate some roadblocks.
- xvi. The Statewide Historic Preservation Plan has firmly moved into the writing phase after months of collecting and synthesizing community and stakeholder input. A draft of the plan will be available for public review and comment starting at the end of March.
- b. Archaeology – Sarah Surface-Evans
 - i. Surface-Evans summarized that since October 1, 109 new archaeological sites have been identified over 162,000 acres of

- surveyed land – a substantial increase over a normal year largely due to large multi-phase projects on U.S. Forest Service properties.
- ii. For Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance, SHPO recently concluded consultation on associated funerary objects from site 20ON84. The Notification of Inventory Completion was published in the Federal Register December 19th. SHPO filed a Repatriation Statement with National NAGPRA on February 2nd. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Tribe has requested transfer of the objects later this spring.
 - iii. Relating to database and GIS improvements, the archaeology team is excited to welcome our new staff Lilly and Nicole, previously introduced. The third archaeology specialist will start work later in March.
 - iv. Public outreach has been especially busy through the fall and winter, with SHPO participating in a large number of events, engaging with an estimated 2,000 members of the public via Michigan Archaeology Day, the Society for Historical Archaeological (SHA) Conference, public inquiries to our office, and our web presence.
 - v. SHPO was a sponsor of the international SHA conference held in Detroit in January, and several staff members attended and participated in events, tours, sessions, and panels throughout. SHPO archaeologist Amy Krull was on the conference planning committee as was review board chair Ryzewski, who co-chaired the conference.
 - vi. SHPO archaeologists will also be participating in a panel at the upcoming MHPN conference alongside MDOT, the Gun Lake Tribe, and the City of Kalamazoo in a session about archaeological discovery.

Ryzewski acknowledged and thanked the SHPO for their participation and support of the SHA conference, which was a huge success.

- c. National Register Report – Todd Walsh
 - i. Walsh noted that a number of Michigan properties have recently been listed.
 - ii. Each year SHPO releases a National Register year in review” press release to highlight properties listed in the previous year. The 2025 year in review release had particularly good media response and exposure on social media. Some individual listings also received media attention, including the Bagley-West Vernor district in Detroit and Washington Square district in Holland.
 - iii. Since 2022, the NPS has been releasing periodic best practice review documents which serve as elaborations on existing NRHP guidance. The most recent of these came out in January and deals with landscapes and how they are considered in nominations.
 - iv. Walsh acknowledged that he and some fellow SHPO staff members are working to develop a program to reintroduce old designations to

communities. This came about through the observation that some districts were listed long ago, staff have come and gone, and communities and business owners may not realize that they are part of an official historic district and the tools afforded to them. Initially, we will engage with three-to-five communities to reconnect with our office.

- v. National Register staff have been working with an MEDC staff member to create a digital NRHP preliminary questionnaire portal. This is meant to be a temporary portal for members of the public and consultants to complete the first step of the National Register process online, replacing the paper process and sending things through the mail. When something new is submitted, staff members will be notified to speed up review, and this will eliminate some physical paper from stacking up. This is expected to launch this coming spring.

5. NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

a. Froebel School, Muskegon, Muskegon County

Presented by Matt Dixon

Board comments: Anderson commented that it feels like anytime he encounters an interesting building in Detroit, Malcomson and Higginbotham were involved in the design, and then there's this great building in Muskegon, and what do you know, Malcomson and Higginbotham were involved in this design, too. All agreed.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Demas

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 7-0

b. Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (Additional Documentation), Mount Pleasant, Isabella County

Presented by Sharon Ferraro and Marcella Hadden

Ferraro recused herself after the initial presentation and excused herself from the room for the discussion and vote.

Board comments: None.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A, national

Motion: Scott

Second: Anderson

Vote: 6-0

(Recused: Ferraro)

c. National Register Removals

- i. **9622nd Army Air Corps Reserve Recovery Unit/Civil Air Patrol Quonset Huts, Lansing, Clinton County**
- ii. **Richard and Deborah (Brough) Glaister House, Lansing, Ingham County**
- iii. **East Ward School, St. Johns, Clinton County**
- iv. **Union School, St. Johns, Clinton County**
- v. **Frank and Dorothy (Feinauer) Ward House, Battle Creek, Calhoun County**

Presented by Todd Walsh

Board comments: None.

Motion to recommend the five nominations for removal as presented.

Motion: Anderson

Second: Staley

Vote: 7-0

6. LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presented by Haley Schriber

Ryzewski provided an overview of the role of the board in reviewing local historic district study committee reports.

a. City Greenhouses Local Historic District Elimination, Holland, Ottawa County

Board comments: Ferraro shared that her first contract as a professional included the documentation of this greenhouse and six other historic properties in Holland. It's understandable why it needed to be removed but is encouraging that the one portion has been saved for reconstruction.

b. Congregation Shaarey Zedek Local Historic District, Southfield, Oakland County

Board comments: Staley shared some construction background about architect O.W. Burke and how this was one of the last building designs he would have personally been involved with in his career.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Summary of Public Comment: No public comments were offered.

NOTE: Comments offered by the public are limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

a. May 29, 2026, September 25, 2026, February 12, 2027

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Staley

Second: Anderson

Vote: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Nietering