

2015 Michigan Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation

Historic resources and archaeological sites tell us about the past and help us maintain 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 in May during National Historic Preservation Month. The awards recognize homeowners who rehabilitate their homes; developers who transform underutilized historic structures into vital economic assets; and academic institutions, archaeologists, nonprofits, and local governments—among others—who strive to preserve Michigan's important historic and cultural resources.

2015 Recipients of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

- The Woda Group, Hooker DeJong Architects & Engineers, and the City of Menominee
Rehabilitation of Lloyd's Department Store, Menominee
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc.
US-31/M-231 Holland to Grand Haven Archaeological Data Recoveries
- Friends of the Bohm Theatre, Albion Community Foundation, the Greater Albion Community, Mitchell and Mouat Architects and Gordon Martin Builder, Inc.
Rehabilitation of the Bohm Theatre
- Eyde Company, Quinn Evans Architects, and Granger Construction
Rehabilitation of the J. W. Knapp Company Building, Lansing
- Roxbury Group; Trans Inns Management; Kraemer Design Group, PLC; and Walbridge
Rehabilitation of the David Whitney Building, Detroit



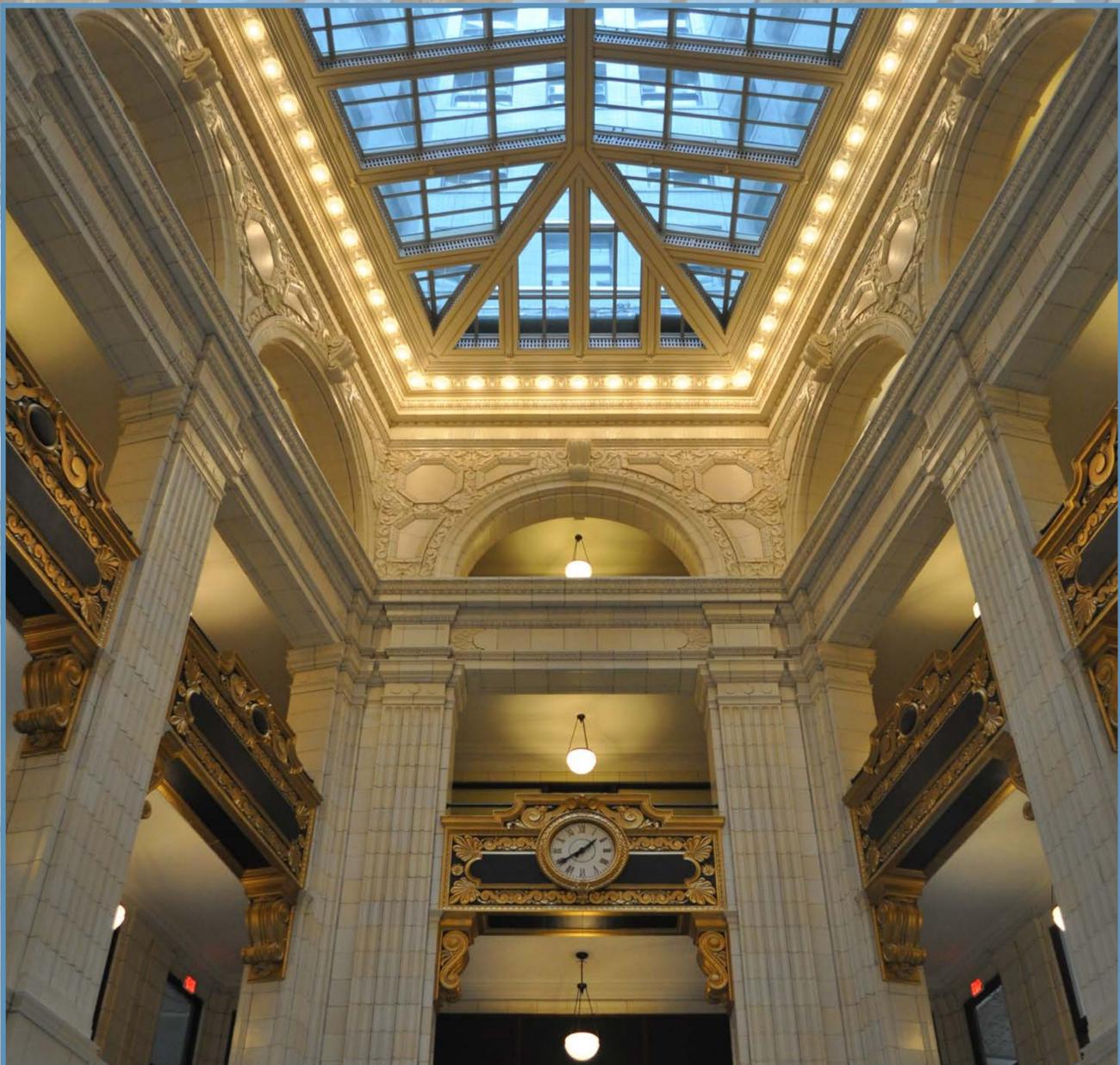
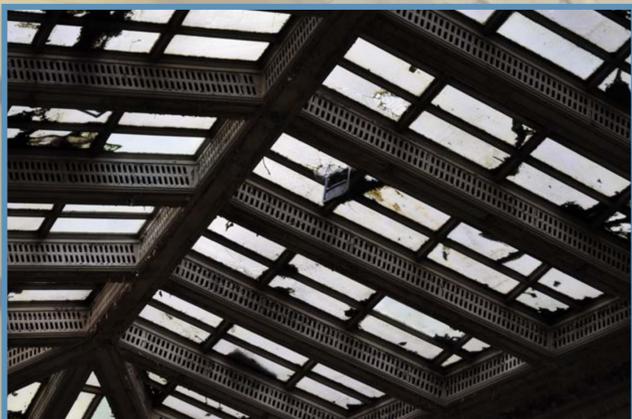
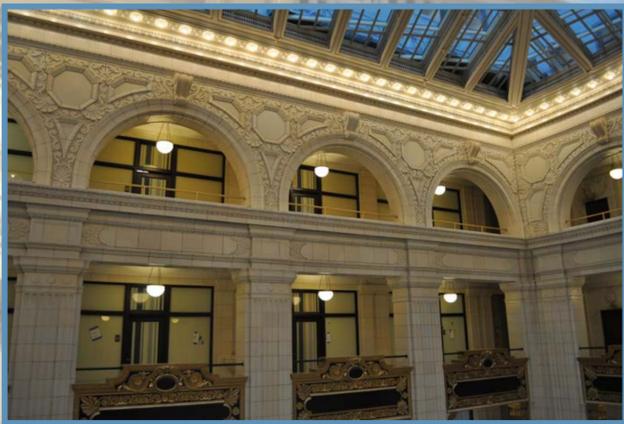
Rehabilitation of the Bohm Theatre, Albion

Friends of the Bohm Theatre, Albion Community Foundation, the Greater Albion Community, Mitchell and Mouat Architects and Gordon Martin Builder, Inc.

Hailed as glamorous by the Battle Creek Enquirer, the rehabilitated historic Bohm Theatre gives Albion residents a new reason to venture downtown. The theater opened as an 1,100-seat venue on a prominent downtown lot on Christmas Day 1929. After several closures and attempts at reopening over a 30-year period, the building reverted to the county for non-payment of taxes in 2010. The Albion Community Foundation and the Albion Downtown Development Authority, advised by the Friends of the Bohm Theatre, led the effort to acquire and rehabilitate the theater.

A 20-foot tree had taken root on the roof, and water and ice had taken their toll inside the building. The rehabilitation included stabilization of the exterior, with complete façade restoration including the marquee; mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems improvements; restoration of the plaster work, painting and glazing and lighting; and restoration of the original ticket booth and woodwork. The project, which used Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits, represents a \$3.9 million investment in the city of Albion. More than \$2.25 million in private funds were raised from foundations and local businesses for the theater's rehabilitation and the establishment of an endowment for continued support.

The rehabilitation of the Bohm Theatre preserved the historic character of Albion's Main Street, draws people downtown, and has spurred additional development in the area. According to Elizabeth Schultheiss of the Friends of the Bohm and the Albion Community Foundation, the Bohm is a "beacon of hope" for the community.



Rehabilitation of the David Whitney Building, Detroit

Roxbury Group; Trans Inns Management; Kraemer Design Group, PLC; and Walbridge

The David Whitney Building is one of the largest historic buildings to undergo rehabilitation in the city of Detroit. Fortunately many original details and materials remained. The project involved the rehabilitation of all interior common areas including the four-story Grand Rotunda, historic corridors on the upper floors, the existing mahogany interior doors and casings and the repair and preservation of nearly 80 percent of the original 1,100 mahogany exterior windows. In addition, the developer recreated cornices and other exterior details—even the penthouse sign on the nineteenth floor. The project employed local artisans and craftspeople skilled in marble, stone and terra cotta restoration, painting, and other disciplines.

Using Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits, the Roxbury Group rehabilitated the building as an Aloft hotel, luxury apartments, meeting and banquet space and a restaurant. The \$94 million investment has returned the David Whitney Building to its role as a glittering landmark on Detroit's skyline.



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Rehabilitation of the
J. W. Knapp Company Building, Lansing

Eyde Company, Quinn Evans Architects, and Granger Construction

An Icon Reborn. A One-of-a-Kind Building. A Monument to a Bright Future. These descriptions touted the rehabilitated J. W. Knapp Company Building when it reopened in 2014. With its yellow and blue, metal-paneled exterior, the Knapp's Building is among the best examples of streamline moderne commercial architecture in Michigan—some say the country. The building has anchored downtown Lansing since it opened in 1937; therefore, many people worried about its fate as it stood empty following a two-decade stint as office and restaurant space.

In 2001 the State Historic Preservation Office hired Quinn Evans Architects to write a mixed-use development plan to encourage historic rehabilitation of the building. Years went by until the Eyde Company committed to rehabilitating the structure—including re-creation of the deteriorated metal panels—implementing much of what was in the plan. Using Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits, the Eydes converted the space into apartments and office and restaurant space. The project represents a \$22 million investment. Lansing officials and the community embraced the project and celebrated its completion. Bob Tresize, CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, told the City Pulse, "Because of historic preservation, we have a future. We have a city."



Rehabilitation of Lloyd's Department Store, Menominee

The Woda Group, Hooker DeJong Architects & Engineers, and the City of Menominee Referred to as a “metamorphosis” and a “transformation,” the Woda Group’s rehabilitation of Lloyd’s Department Store in Menominee converted a dilapidated building into 44 apartments while maintaining the structure’s historic character. Built for retail in 1926 on a prominent site in downtown Menominee, the structure also served as a fishnet manufacturing company for a time. After the company left, the building stood empty for years and was known as “Menominee’s biggest eyesore” until it was rehabilitated using Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

The rehabilitation of Lloyd’s Department Store represents a direct investment of \$13.5 million in downtown Menominee, and it created needed housing space in the community. The project has been a catalyst for additional investment downtown, including another project by the Woda Group, which now plans to use the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits to rehabilitate the Odd Fellows Building next door to Lloyd’s.



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US-31/M-231 Holland to Grand Haven Archaeological Data Recoveries

Michigan Department of Transportation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc.

In 2011 and 2012 the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) investigated three archaeological sites in the path of the new state route M-231 Bridge over the Grand River. The excavations by Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. (CCRG) of Jackson, revealed evidence of several occupations of the sites dating between about A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1500. The sites discovered are among the best preserved in Michigan.

As required by the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to construction MDOT excavated the sites and consulted with federally recognized Indian tribes of Michigan. Six of twelve Sovereign Indian Nations, MDOT, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) collaborated to develop a Tribal Involvement Plan (TIP) for the project. Throughout the project representatives from MDOT, the SHPO, tribes, and FHWA met at the sites, communicated regularly, and modified the TIP as conditions changed.

In 2015 CCRG submitted its technical report, which details what was learned from the excavations. MDOT continues to work with tribes to jointly develop educational and curriculum materials that will use the archaeological data as well as information from Indian educators, environmental scientists, and historians.

Important new information was learned from the US-31/M-231 excavations and the TIP was the most detailed and comprehensive plan ever implemented by MDOT for a road construction project. The successful tribal consultation process can serve as a model for future MDOT projects.