

Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation

Historic structures and archaeological sites tell us about the past and help us maintain Michigan's identity. The preservation of these sites is vital to Michigan being a place where people want to work, live, and spend their leisure time. Each year the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historic Preservation Review Board identify worthy recipients of 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, academic institutions, archaeologists, nonprofits, and local governments, among others, who strive to preserve Michigan's important historic and cultural resources.

2011 Recipients of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

- **Chris and Abbey Green**
The rehabilitation of 811 Portland, Calumet
- **The Traverse City Community, the City of Traverse City, the Charter Township of Garfield, Grand Traverse County and the Minervini Group**
The preservation of the Northern Michigan Asylum (Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital), Traverse City
- **Dixie and Charley Riley and the Museum of Paleontology—University of Michigan**
The excavation and study of the Riley Mammoth Site
- **Christman Capital Development Company, Accident Fund Holdings, Inc., City of Lansing and the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, Lansing Board of Water and Light, HOK and Quinn Evans Architects**
The rehabilitation of the Ottawa Street Power Station
- **The Woda Group, LLC, PCI Design Group, Inc. and Cornerstone Architects**
The rehabilitation of Durand High School, Durand
- **Richard Karp, Kevin Prater, and Kraemer Design Group, PLC**
The rehabilitation of the Durant Hotel, Flint

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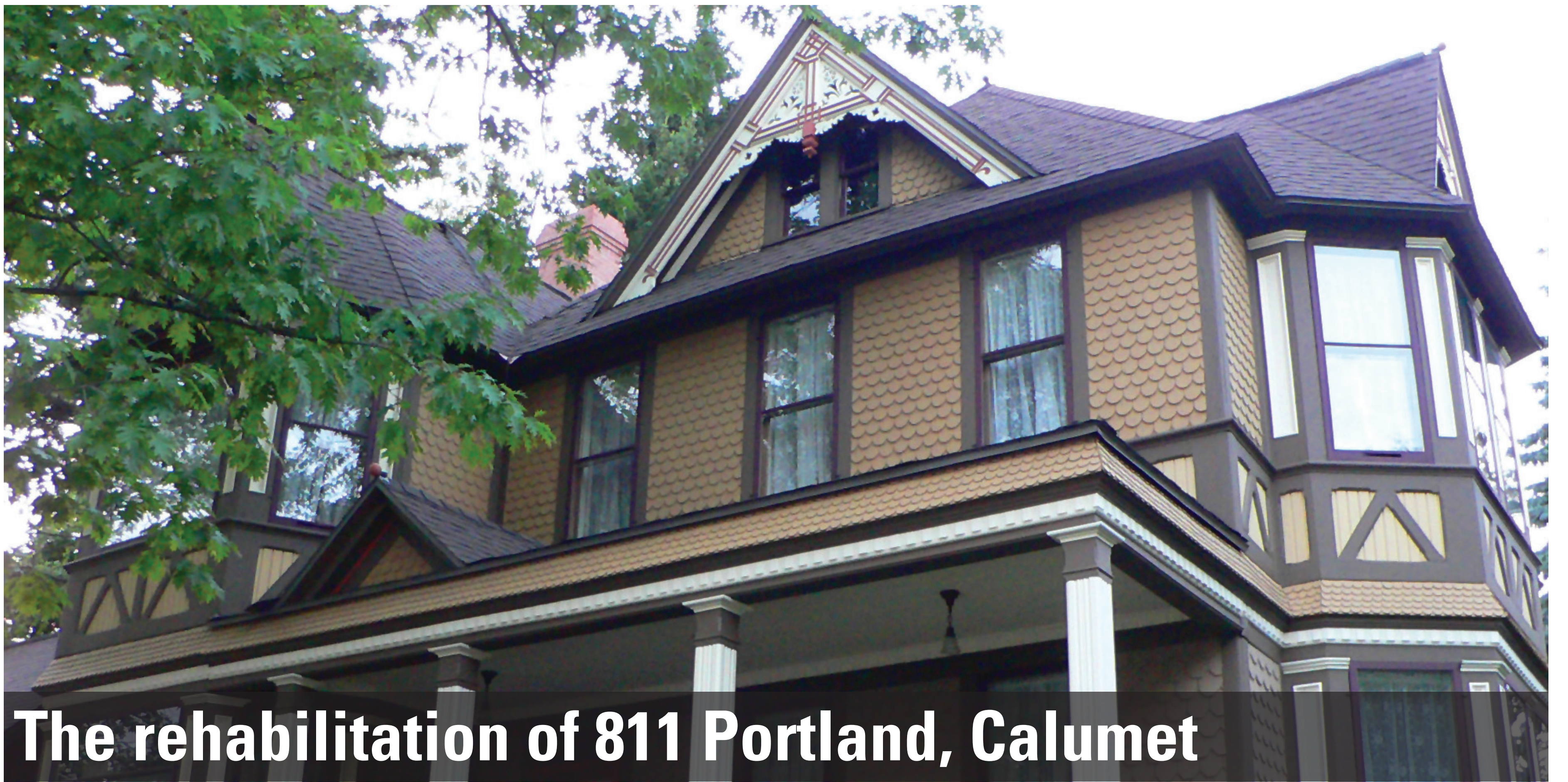
Excavation and study of the Riley Mammoth Site



Dixie and Charley Riley and the Museum of Paleontology—University of Michigan

In August 2009 Patrick Walker, an employee of the Morrison Lake Country Club, discovered the tooth of an Ice Age mammoth along the streambed of the club's golf course. He informed club owners Dixie and Charley Riley and they in turn notified the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Michigan. The Rileys allowed paleontologist Dr. Daniel Fisher, archaeologist Dr. Scott Beld, paleontologist Dr. Adam Rountrey, and a crew to excavate the site. From April 24 to June 23, 2010, the crew worked, all the while explaining their findings to a curious public. School groups visited and people returned time and again to see the progress. The site has proven to be significant to both paleontology and Michigan archaeology.

The most important scientific findings at the site stem from its age—more than 14,000 years before present—and 'forensic' details gleaned from the bones themselves. Bones at this site were broken in a characteristically human fashion relating to tool-production and extraction of marrow for consumption. This marks the first time we have seen evidence of human-mammoth interaction in the eastern Great Lakes region, and it pushes the beginning of human history in this region to an earlier time than had previously been documented. Ongoing research will likely yield more surprises on interactions between Michigan's human and large-mammal inhabitants near the close of our last Ice Age.



Chris and Abbey Green

The owners of 811 Portland, Chris and Abbey Green, recently celebrated the 10 year-long rehabilitation of a house that had been boarded up and unoccupied for 25 years. Through six State Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects they made the Queen Anne house their primary residence. They rebuilt the double hung windows; fabricated custom shingles and trim for the exterior; scraped, sanded, primed, and painted the exterior; repaired plaster; upgraded the electrical system; and put heat in rooms that did not have it before. The rehabilitation of 811 Portland, which is located within the boundaries of the Keweenaw National Historic Park, reflects the preservation ethic the park seeks to establish in communities within the park boundaries. The Greens have shared what they know with others in Calumet and hired local youth to assist them in their work. The house at 811 Portland has gone from being known as 'the scary house,' to a model for others to follow.

Historic Preservation in Michigan



The preservation of the Northern Michigan Asylum (Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital), Traverse City



The Traverse City Community, the City of Traverse City, the Charter Township of Garfield, Grand Traverse County, and the Minervini Group

The preservation of the Northern Michigan Asylum, known today as Grand Traverse Commons, has been ongoing since the complex was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. In 1980, when the state of Michigan threatened to demolish the hospital buildings, the city of Traverse City, under the leadership of then-mayor pro-tem Carol Hale, passed local initiatives to impede demolition. Under pressure from organized citizens and the local governing bodies, the state transferred the property to the Grand Traverse Commons Redevelopment Corporation, the local stewards for the property. During this time, a number of citizen groups came and went, each one playing a role in mustering the city, township, and county to do what they could to protect the property and to find a developer who would redevelop the site and preserve the historic character of the buildings. In 1999, the Traverse City Commission approved the appointment of local builder/developer Ray Minervini to the board of Grand Traverse Commons. Ray Minervini and his company, the Minervini Group, eventually took on the project, committing to the rehabilitation of the historic buildings, including the one quarter-mile long Building 50, the centerpiece of the complex. Work began in 2002 and more than 200,000 square feet of space has been rehabilitated as office, residential, retail and restaurant space.

The rehabilitation of the Northern Michigan Asylum is ongoing and will be for years to come, but the fact that this complex remains is due to the collaboration, the commitment, and the vision of volunteer citizens, public officials, and a local developer who believes in preserving the buildings for all to enjoy.





The Woda Group, LLC, PCI Design Group, Inc. and Cornerstone Architects

Built in 1920, the former Durand High School served as the center of education and a community gathering place from 1920 through 1965. The Woda Group, LLC, became aware of the site in 2005 and set about adapting the building for a new use. Prior to the rehabilitation the building had become an eyesore in the community. With support from surrounding neighbors, business owners, the city of Durand, and Shiawassee County, and using Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits, Woda Group transformed the decaying school into a community for senior citizens known today as Sycamore House.

Located on a parcel called 'the Hub,' where diagonal streets converge and sidewalks ring the site, the rehabilitated building has revitalized the surrounding neighborhood. The residents of Sycamore House are within walking distance from downtown Durand and reside in a vibrant community. Additional investment and revitalization activities are now taking place in the neighborhood and downtown. The Woda Group and its partners implemented the best preservation practices. The project represents \$16.3 million in direct investment resulting in a total economic impact of \$34.8 million.

Historic Preservation in Michigan



The rehabilitation of the Durant Hotel, Flint



Richard Karp, Kevin Prater and Kraemer Design Group, PLC

Built in 1920, the once-luxurious Durant Hotel represented Flint's prosperous past as a center of the automotive industry. The decline of the automotive industry in Flint caused the local economy to do the same. The hotel closed in 1972 and sat vacant for nearly 30 years. Karp and Associates and the Genesee County Land Bank collaborated to assemble a complex financing package, including Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits, to pay for the rehabilitation, which created 93 market-rate apartments. The hotel's prominent location downtown has made it an anchor in Flint's revitalization strategy. Since the rehabilitation began, several new businesses have opened that will serve the Durant's new residents: students and staff at the University of Michigan—Flint.



The rehabilitation of the Ottawa Street Power Station



Christman Capital Development Company, Accident Fund Holdings, Inc., City of Lansing and the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, Lansing Board of Water and Light, HOK and Quinn Evans Architects

After Lansing's Ottawa Street Power Station stopped generating power in 1984, the building sat inactive for nearly two decades. Considered a unique example of a utilitarian building designed to complement the downtown environment, the Art Deco building faced an uncertain future. Multiple uses, including conversion to theaters or condos, were proposed over the years—as well as demolition—but nothing materialized. Finally in 2008 the Christman Company and the Accident Fund (and its parent company Blue Cross Blue Shield) partnered to rehabilitate the building as the Accident Fund's national corporate headquarters using Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits and other incentives. Collaboration between Christman, the Accident Fund, the city of Lansing and the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, as well as the Lansing Board of Water and Light were critical to the project's success.

The rehabilitation involved environmental remediation, detailed stone and brick work, plaster replication, conservation of stainless steel and bronze doors, replication of historic steel sash window details with new energy efficient thermally broken sash units, and the conversion of vast open space to office space. The project also involved the construction of a contemporary addition north of the power plant. The rehabilitation and new construction represents millions of dollars of investment in Lansing. The project sparked additional investment and development downtown, and it has energized the riverfront. In addition, the Accident Fund will remain an anchor business and major employer in downtown Lansing.

