



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.

2019 Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation

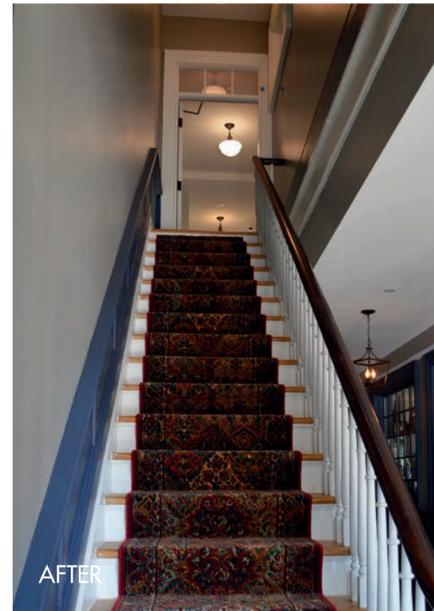
- Roxbury Group, Artisan Contracting LLC, Infuz Ltd. Architects and Kidorf Preservation Consulting for the rehabilitation of the Cadillac House, Lexington
- Friends of the Capitol Theatre LLC, The Christman Company and DLR Group for the rehabilitation of the Capitol Theatre, Flint
- Mitchell Cobbs Building LLC and the City of Cadillac for the rehabilitation of the Cobbs and Mitchell Building, Cadillac
- New GAR LLC, Integrity Building Group and Sachse Construction for the rehabilitation of the G.A.R. Building, Detroit
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network for the Preservation Trades Programs, statewide
- Tim and Kerry Bennett for the restoration of the Warner Historic Homestead and associated archaeological education program near Brighton

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION in Michigan



2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Roxbury Group, Artisan Contracting LLC,
Infuz Ltd. Architects and
Kidorf Preservation Consulting**

Rehabilitation of the Cadillac House, Lexington

The Cadillac House has been a prominent landmark in the center of Lexington for more than 150 years. The building became less utilized over time until the restaurant that remained on the first floor closed in 2016. Soon after, Detroit-based developer Roxbury Group stepped in to return the building to its original use as a lodging and dining establishment. The Roxbury Group diligently reconstructed many character-defining features from Cadillac House's early resort days, including the historic front porch and rooftop cupola.

Where physical remains no longer existed, historic images were referenced to recreate missing or altered features including chimneys, balconies, a tavern bar and signage and lettering. The rehabilitation was an impressive collaborative effort, with state and local governments working in concert with the owners and contractors to get the job done.

A \$1 million MEDC Community Development Block Grant was an important catalyst for financing this project. With a total investment of \$4.8 million, Cadillac House reopened in 2018 as a vibrant local and regional destination.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION in Michigan



BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Friends of the Capitol Theatre LLC, The Christman Company and DLR Group

Rehabilitation of the Capitol Theatre, Flint

The Capitol Theatre opened in 1928 at the height of the roaring '20s in downtown Flint. As the auto industry decentralized and retail and entertainment destinations moved to the suburbs, the Capitol Theatre fell on hard times. After years as an occasional rock concert venue, it closed in 1996 and stood vacant for twenty years.

In 2015, nonprofit group Uptown Reinvestment Corporation joined the Flint Cultural Center Corporation to rehabilitate and reopen the Capitol Theatre with the common goal of bringing expanded education and entertainment back to downtown Flint. Significant repairs were made including a new roof, windows and mechanical systems, along with a replicated marquee. Local artisan painters and plasterers recreated interior finishes based on extensive paint analysis and historical photographs. The \$32 million rehabilitation utilized Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits and received support from the Michigan Community Revitalization Program, among other financing.

The reopened Capitol Theatre now houses a 1,600-seat theatre, 25,000 square feet of office and retail space and is back to work introducing audiences to a wide variety of stage shows, films and cultural programming.





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Mitchell Cobbs Building LLC and the City of Cadillac

Rehabilitation of the Cobbs and Mitchell Building, Cadillac

The Cobbs and Mitchell Building, completed in 1907, was designed by George D. Mason as the showplace and office for nationally-known lumber company Cobbs and Mitchell, Incorporated. In 1939 the building was acquired by the State Highway Department and used as a regional office for more than seventy years. When the State Highway Department's successor, MDOT, moved to new facilities, this important building in downtown Cadillac sat vacant.

Developer Robb Munger purchased the building from the city in 2017 with the intent to breathe new life into this part of downtown. With strong support from the city of Cadillac and other community organizations, Munger set out to rehabilitate the space in part with financial support from Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Special attention was given to the building's unique interior features, including the preservation of wallpaper, decorative plaster and tile floors. Nine species of native Michigan woodwork, original to the Cobbs and Mitchell era, were carefully refinished. The materials used in the rehabilitation work were locally sourced and local contractors were used as much as possible.

Today, the Cobbs and Mitchell building is once again a point of pride in downtown Cadillac, offering revitalized space for offices and economic activity in northern Michigan.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION in Michigan



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New GAR LLC, Integrity Building Group and Sachse Construction

Rehabilitation of the G.A.R. Building, Detroit

The Grand Army of the Republic was a Union soldiers' fraternal organization started after the Civil War. In 1898, the local G.A.R. post partnered with the city to build a new home in downtown Detroit. This distinctive Richardsonian Romanesque "castle" held an auditorium and meeting space for veterans along with offices and more than a dozen shops.

After the G.A.R. post disbanded in 1942, the building was used for other purposes before neighborhood decline in the 1980s left it empty. As downtown Detroit experienced a surge of new interest and revitalization, the building was acquired in 2011 by creative studio Mindfield to serve as its new headquarters.

Rehabilitation work was significant as the structure sustained much water damage in the thirty years it was empty. Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits were utilized to help restore the castle as a renewed destination. It is now a vibrant creative space which also includes two popular restaurants and an event venue, contributing to the reactivation of this part of downtown Detroit.





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2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Preservation Trades Programs, statewide

Historic Preservation is about utilizing places from our past as part of our future. Historic buildings come with their own challenges, and special skills are often needed in order to maintain and repair these places. At the same time, Michigan homeowners and craftspeople are looking to do some of the work themselves and grow their skillset.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network recognized that a shortage of trades people and lack of training opportunities were available to learn these specialized skills. What began in 2006 as a preservation trades-based program in partnership with a Detroit high school has grown into a full-fledged series of diverse training workshops covering topics such as woodworking, window rehabilitation and plaster and stucco repair. The program has been enhanced with community-centered trainings where locals get hands-on experience in their own neighborhood, demonstrating the impact and value of historic preservation close to home.

Hundreds of students have attended MHPN training workshops and helped to expand the knowledge base of this unique work. Some have started new businesses. The impact of these learning opportunities will reach far into the future.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION in Michigan



2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Tim and Kerry Bennett

Restoration of the Warner Historic Homestead and associated archaeological education program near Brighton

Generations of the Warner Family have lived on a fertile plot of land east of Brighton since Timothy and Lucretia Warner arrived from New York state in 1841. The traditional Greek Revival style farmhouse was built by the family in 1855. Once several hundred acres in size, twelve acres of land surrounding the house are still farmed for agricultural purposes today.

Present-day owners Tim and Kerry Bennett are the sixth generation of the Warner family to own the land. Recognizing how few farm structures of this era remain intact, they began restoration work on the house in 2015, tackling many structural, exterior and interior projects piece by piece. Investing their own money, the family funded the work and contributed labor to the project.

The farmstead is also significant for its archaeological finds. Numerous excavations have been completed on the property yielding hundreds of artifacts dating as far back as the 1840s. The Bennetts share these discoveries by hosting school field trips on the property and showcasing artifacts to the public at special events. Thanks to their commitment to preserve the history of the Warner homestead, we have a better understanding and appreciation for pioneer life in Michigan.

