



Historic Preservation Commission Newsletter

SHPO News

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS

By Lisa Steckler

The internet offers a constant growing arena to share information, photos, and video, it is a place to hold conversations, and join with like minded people. The key to technology is to know what is out there and how to best utilize it for your Commission. The NDSHPO has started a Facebook group as a place to encourage discussion and sharing of ideas among the seven Historic Preservation Commissions in North Dakota.

Facebook is a “social networking” website that allows a user to create a profile page and add “friends” (other users). Originally created for college students, Facebook is now the second most popular social networking site (after Myspace) and is used by not only college students, but also professionals, organizations, schools and government entities.

An advantage to Facebook is the ability to create a “group”. A group is a place where like minded individuals can discuss issues with each other without even having to be friends! A search for the term “Historic Preservation” reveals that there are over 500 different groups dedicated to this topic on Facebook, from the State Historical Society of North Dakota, to Historic Savannah Georgia, to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. All are using the platform of Facebook to further their mission. The advantage of a Facebook group vs. a traditional website is that ANY MEMBER of the group can post content to the page. If a user has a question or wishes to start a discussion, they simply write something on the “Wall” or click the “Discussion” tab and create a new discussion. All members of the group can then see and respond to what that user has posted.

To join Facebook, a user simply needs to navigate to the Facebook homepage (www.facebook.com) and create a profile. When you join a group, the other group users cannot see your personal page unless they are also your “friend”. You always have the opportunity to turn down a “Friend Request” or to “Unfriend” someone if you no longer wish them to see your profile information. Full security settings can be accessed (and changed) by clicking on “Account” and then “Privacy Settings”.

Facebook is a useful tool that can help people keep in touch, create a place to share ideas, or find people who are interested in the same topics. Businesses use Facebook to find new customers and to share information with their current ones. We can use Facebook to share ideas, plan events, and get to know each other better. Please consider giving it a try!

Grants

Heritage Training Scholarship

We still have money available for the 2009-2011 biennium. As part of the Cultural Heritage Grant Program the SHSND offers Heritage Training Scholarship Program. Heritage Training Scholarships are available for local and county historical society staff members, Historic Preservation Commission members and other staff of history related organizations to participate in training opportunities. Applications need to be turned in at least a week prior to the event. Link to the application form: www.history.nd.gov/hp/PDFinfo/HTS%20Application%202009-2011.pdf

Preservation Web Links

- **National Alliance of Preservation Commissions** - www.uga.edu/napc/index.html
- **@home from the NTHP** <http://athomenation.org/>
- **Library of Congress** Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey, 1933-Present
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/
- **Recent Past Preservation Network** - www.recentpast.org/
- **PreservationDirectory.com** - *the online resource for historic preservation, building restoration and cultural resource management*

Upcoming Events

- **Plains Anthropological Conference**, Bismarck, ND – October 6 – 9
www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth/meeting/meeting.htm
- **Northern Great Plains History Conference**, Grand Forks, ND - October 13-16
- **Midwest Archives Conference 2010 Symposium**, Dayton, OH – October 21 – 23
www.midwestarchives.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=102521&orgId=midwestarc
- **Governor's Conference on North Dakota History**, Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND – October 29 – 30
<http://history.nd.gov/conference/index.html>
- **National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference**, Austin, TX – October 27 – 30, 2010
www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/

