



Deadwood NHL, Deadwood, South Dakota



Exceptional Places

At the Forefront of Storefronts: Frank, Ben, and George Mesker

Hallie Fieser

Although Mesker storefronts and adornments have become embedded in the fabric of Midwestern downtowns and commercial districts, many do not realize their history, identifying features, or importance. Found throughout the Midwest Region and within several of our National Historic Landmark Districts, the Meskers that remain offer insight into the industrial age of progress and expansion throughout the country.

What is a Mesker? A Mesker is any building that displays the pressed metal, steel, cast and wrought iron architectural details created by either of two Mesker companies around the turn of the last century. From the 1880s through the 1910s the two manufacturing giants, Mesker Brothers Iron Works and George L. Mesker & Company, provided the source of these ornate and often colorful storefronts that can still be found today.



The William G. Preston building, included in the Mackinac Island NHL District, in Mackinac Island, Michigan, serves as an example of the testimonials used by both companies to boost catalog sales. Although altered, today it still resembles a drawing featured in the 1904 catalog of George L. Mesker & Co. Catalog image courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Sons of a metal worker, three competitive Mesker brothers gained skills in the field that quickly allowed them to become the leaders of the metal storefront industry in America. Frank and Bernard “Ben” Mesker together formed Mesker Brothers Iron Works in 1879, based in St.

Louis, Missouri. By gaining patents on new processes, Frank and Ben were able to improve their techniques to produce galvanized sheet-metal cornices, columns, and details that were much lighter and easier to ship by rail than the cast iron elements of their competitors. Their catalog business thrived allowing them to distribute over 500,000 catalogs annually during the height of their popularity between 1890 and 1910. Independently, George Mesker created George L. Mesker & Company in Evansville, Indiana, in 1885. He too sold thousands of façade and storefront components to locations across the United States.

How can Meskers be identified?

There are several key characteristics that distinguish Meskers from other similar metal storefront façades. These include cast-iron nameplates, stamped cast-iron columns, upper story columns, cornice-bracket ornaments, window hoods, and ornamental sheet metal panels. Cast-iron nameplates allow for an easy identification, although these often are missing. George L. Mesker & Co.’s distinctive cornice design motifs include the morning glory, while Mesker Bros. Iron Works preferred the *fleur-de-lis*. Since many foundries in the St. Louis area used the *fleur-de-lis* motif to reflect French heritage, this is not a sure-sign of a Mesker façade. Sheet metal panels often featured stone or brick patterns. In addition both Mesker companies extensively used the recessed entrance as a part of their designs, not only allowing a sheltered entry for customers, but also providing more valuable window space for the showcase of goods. Although less identifiable, the Mesker companies also created cast-iron railings, fences, doors, and many other products. Mesker Brothers Iron Works and George L. Mesker & Co. catalogs can still be found today and serve as a great reference for identifying their work.



The *fleur-de-lis* motif of Mesker Bros. and the morning glory motif of George L. Mesker & Co. appear in these images courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

(Continued on page 7)

Exceptional Places

Volume 3

Fall 2008

The History and National Register Programs at the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service offer this newsletter as a forum of information for NHL owners and the public we serve. We hope you find our articles helpful and informative, and we welcome your suggestions for future issues.

Donald L. Stevens, Jr.
Chief, History and National Register Program
(402) 661-1946
Don_Stevens@nps.gov

Geoffrey Burt
Historical Landscape Architect
NHL Coordinator for OH
(402) 661-1918
Geoffrey_Burt@nps.gov

Mark Chavez
Historical Architect
(402) 661-1920
Mark_Chavez@nps.gov

Michele Curran
Architectural Historian
NHL Coordinator for IN and WI
(402) 661-1954
Michele_Curran@nps.gov

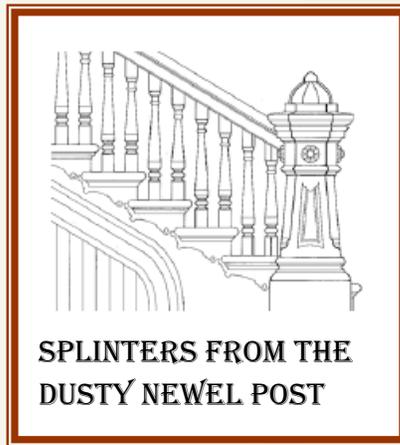
Hallie Fieser
NCPE Intern
Southeast Missouri State University

Rachel Franklin-Weekley
Architectural Historian
NHL Coordinator for AR, IA, and MO
(402) 661-1928
Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov

Rebecca Kumar
Historian
(402) 661-1932
Rebecca_Kumar@nps.gov

Steve Rogers
Architectural Historian
NHL Coordinator for IL, ND, and SD
(402) 661-1912
Stephen_Rogers@nps.gov

Dena Sanford
Architectural Historian
NHL Coordinator for KS, MI, MN, NE
(402) 661-1944
Dena_Sanford@nps.gov



Common Problems with Brick Masonry

Mark Chavez

This issue of “Splinters” addresses several issues with visible cracks observed in brick masonry.

Monitoring

Exposed masonry should be inspected periodically for cracking, spalling, bowing (vertical bulges), sweeping (horizontal bulges), leaning, and mortar deterioration. Before beginning a detailed masonry inspection, determine which walls are load-bearing and which are not. Usually this can be done by examining the beams and joists in the buildings basement or crawl space or attic. Note also whether the walls are solid masonry or masonry cavity, or whether they are non-structural brick or stone veneer.

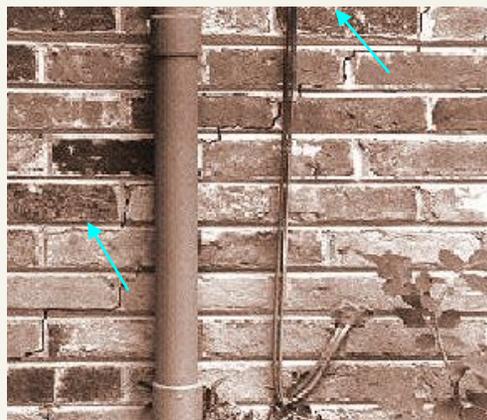


Figure 1 - Example of a common wall crack which follows the brick in a stair-step pattern. This type of movement was probably caused by thermal or moisture expansion.

Thermal Cracking

Although masonry can deform elastically over long periods of time to accommodate small amounts of movement, large movements

normally cause cracking. Cracks may appear along the mortar joints or through the masonry units. Cracking can result from a variety of problems: differential settlement of foundations, drying shrinkage, expansion and contraction due to ambient thermal and moisture variations, improper support over openings, the effects of freeze-thaw cycles, the corrosion of iron and steel wall reinforcement, differential movement between building materials, expansion of salts, and the bulging or leaning of walls.

Above-ground brick walls expand in warm weather (particularly if facing south or west) and contract in cool weather. This builds up stresses in the walls that may cause a variety of cracking patterns, depending on the configuration of the wall and the number and location of windows and doors.

Such cracks (Figure 1) are normally cyclical and will open and close with the season. They will grow wider in cold weather and narrower in hot weather. If possible, monitor such cracks over a period of time to see if they're active. Active cracks should be sealed with a flexible sealant; inactive cracks may be pointed.

Wall Cracking or Displacement Associated with the Structural Failure of Building Elements

Structure-related problems, aside from those caused by differential settlement or earthquakes, are usually found over openings and (less commonly) under roof eaves or in areas of structural overloading. In these instances, the masonry units will show cracks through the units themselves rather than along the weaker mortar joint. Typical displacement issues include:

- Cracking or displacement of masonry around openings, resulting from the deflection or failure of the lintels or arches that span the openings, or displacement due to overstressed masonry units. In older masonry walls with wood lintels, cracking will occur as the wood sags or decays. Iron and steel lintels also cause cracking as they deflect or rust over time. Correcting such problems usually means replacing failed components and rebuilding the area around the opening with additional reinforcing.
- Cracking or outward displacement under the eaves of a pitched roof due to failure in (or lack of) the horizontal roof ties that results in the roof spreading outward (Figure 2). The lateral thrust of the roof on the masonry wall may cause it to crack horizontally just below the eaves or to move outward with the roof.

(Continued on page 10)

The National Historic Landmark Condition Report: Why All the Inquiries?

Rebecca Kumar

Preservation. Restoration. Maintenance. These three words are very familiar to most, if not all, of us. Like you, the National Park Service (NPS) values these words and many others that encompass the care of our nation's treasured National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). As Stewards of these historically significant sites, buildings, and structures, you provide the critical care necessary to preserve your NHL long into the future. It is such care, and other challenges or successes related to the protection of your NHL, that is important to the NPS.

Every even-numbered year the NPS Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska, sends out a call for information regarding your NHL. As we cannot visit every NHL in our region each year, we depend upon you to provide us with the most accurate, up-to-date information possible. In the past, this call has been sent out in paper form under a variety of names. The form is now known as the National Historic Landmark Condition Report.

In June 2008, we offered the option to use an electronic survey database located on the World Wide Web, which reduced paper and mailing costs, thus protecting the environment. An updated condition report of each NHL in our region enables our office of historic preservation professionals to provide technical assistance and guidance for preservation of your NHL. For some properties, the reports often lead to site visits which can be beneficial to both NPS staff and NHL stewards. In other instances, we notice a specific preservation need that can be addressed more completely by production of an architectural or engineering technical report, preservation plan, or as the topic of a conference or workshop focused on that particular issue. For example, possible future workshops sponsored by our office might focus on stone conservation, window repair, landscape preservation, or even monument restoration.



NHL Stewards Conference at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 2005.

Once our office reviews the status of each NHL, a document is prepared for the NHL Program office in Washington, D.C., reflecting the condition of each individual property. The Washington office posts the update of each NHL and its current condition on our website dedicated to NHLs across the nation. Please visit the website at www.nps.gov/history/nhl. This website provides valuable information on the nation's NHLs and includes documentation guidance, searchable resources, common questions and answers, and electronic copies of completed NHL nominations, along with instructions for submitting an NHL nomination.

What does all this mean to you as a steward of a National Historic Landmark? Assurance that the NPS is here to help by providing guidance, support, and on some occasions, funding; but this can only be based on information you submit during our call for the biennial NHL Condition Reports. With your help we can assure the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of our nation's exceptional places.

An Update from the Chief

By Donald L. Stevens, Jr.

Your Midwest National Historic Landmark (NHL) program returned to full force with new faces and with progress on a variety of fronts. In this edition, we reintroduce ourselves with a new group photograph. Our summer intern, Hallie Fieser, deserves special mention for her skill in designing and organizing this newsletter. She is the third in a succession of talented interns we have enjoyed in recent summers.

Congress reauthorized the Secretary of the Interior's National Park System Advisory Board, and the board resumed reviewing new National Historic Landmark nominations and revisions to existing landmarks. In the October meeting, the board's landmarks committee reviewed three new nominations from the Midwest: the Aldo Leopold Shack and Farm (Wisconsin), Christ Church Lutheran (Minnesota), and New Philadelphia (Illinois).

We recently forwarded four National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers nominations and documentation for a boundary revision of the Harry S Truman Historic District NHL to Washington for final review by the National Park Service headquarters before their submittal to the Advisory Board.

This summer Brian Joyner, of our Washington NHL Survey program, visited our regional office in Omaha. In discussing the new database used in the biennial survey of NHLs with Brian, we learned the Midwest region has the highest response rate by NHLs among the administrative regions of the National Park Service. We thank the NHL owners, State Historic Preservation Officers, and our Park Service State Coordinators for your good work in helping with the survey.

During Brian's stay in Omaha, Tom Lynch, Director of the Hall of History at Boys Town spent much of an afternoon leading us in a tour of his museum and Father Flanagan's Boy's Home NHL. Thank you Tom for sharing your time and extensive knowledge of the history of Boys Town.

Dry Stone Wall Restoration at Stan Hywet Hall, Ohio

Geoff Burt

Stone has been used throughout the world as a construction material in cultural landscapes, dating to prehistoric times. Examples of ancient dry stone construction traditions and craftsmanship include terraces in China and Peru, walls and shelters throughout the United Kingdom, and vast numbers of walls and fences here in the United States. The term dry stone refers to the technique of assembling stone structures without the use of mortar and relying on the forces of gravity and frictional resistance to create long-term durability. Although dry stone walls and buildings are perhaps the most common types of this ancient craft, other examples include mills, dams, canals, kilns, bridge abutments, railway piers and embankments.



Original wall construction at Stan Hywet Hall, 1920s. (Historic photo courtesy of Stan Hywet Hall archives)

In the United States, dry stone construction dates to the colonial period and was a common feature of agricultural, industrial and residential landscapes. Over time, these stone walls and structures, especially ubiquitous throughout New England and the Kentucky Bluegrass Region, started to disappear. Those that remained deteriorated through a combination of neglect, lack of maintenance or outright destruction. Development, road widening projects, abandonment of farms fields, theft, and disassembling of the walls for various purposes all have led to a startling loss of stone walls and fences throughout the nation.

The Dry Stone Conservancy (DSC), based in Lexington, Kentucky, formed in 1996, preserves dry stone structures and promotes this venerable craft. A serious shortage of skilled dry stone masons, compounded by a scarcity of technical information, construction specifications, and engineering data led to the incorporation of the DSC as the national training center for training and expertise. The DSC provides six program areas that are not mutually exclusive: training and certification of dry

stone masons; restoration and construction/training projects; local, state, and federal government and non-government agency collaboration; public education; research, publication, collections, and archives; and development (fundraising, financing, and grants). Of these six areas, the first two are specifically related to on-site construction and restoration of dry stone walls. DSC-led construction projects have occurred throughout the United States.

In 2007, the DSC supervised the restoration of a dry stone retaining wall along the “Pleasure Drive” extension at Stan Hywet Hall National Historic Landmark, in Akron, Ohio. F.A. Seiberling, founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, built this country estate between 1912-1915 and named it “Stan Hywet” (which is old English for stone quarry.) Seiberling hired architect Charles S. Schneider to design the manor house, using large country estates in England as inspiration. Hired to work with Schneider was Warren H. Manning, renowned Boston landscape architect. Manning began his illustrious career working for Frederick Law Olmsted, America’s premier landscape architect during the latter 19th century. Manning soon established his own office and became known for his expertise in horticulture, resource-based planning, designs employing native plant material, and the interplay of naturalistic and formal traditions.

At Stan Hywet, Manning recognized and made use of the existing unique characteristics of the site in his design, which ultimately included open meadows, a lagoon, planned vistas, a birch allee, and formal gardens. The design for the Stan Hywet landscape was a collaborative, artful blending of architecture and nature, formal and informal. On Manning’s recommendation, Seiberling hired Ellen Biddle Shipman, known as “the dean of women landscape architects,” to design the Walled English Garden. To construct the manor house, extensive wall system, and the “pleasure drive” network throughout the estate, stone cut from an on-site quarry in addition to imported stone was utilized. Manning designed a service drive extension to the rear of the house that was cut into a hillside and stabilized with a dry stone retaining wall. Over time, large trees that had



Original wall in deteriorated condition, April 2007. (Photo courtesy of Dry Stone Conservancy [http://www.drystone.org/gallery /album22](http://www.drystone.org/gallery/album22))

been incorporated into the fabric of the wall died and collapsed, leading to severe deterioration and loss of structural integrity.

A team of DSC dry stone craftsmen, led by Master Stonemason and project supervisor Neil Rippingale, successfully restored a 300-foot section of this wall in July/August of 2007. Fortunately, the team salvaged approximately two thirds of the historic rock from the downhill slope, where it had gradually slid over time. In addition, the team made use of broken and fragmented stone as packing in the core of the wall. Additional stone was cut and brought in from an off-site location. For the critical top structural layer of the wall (cover course), DSC used all new cut stone. Castellation or parapet stone—which is stone placed in a vertical position along the wall at the edge of the road—was restored as well. This particular dry stone feature is frequently found in Olmsted/Manning designs.



Retaining wall after restoration, July/ August 2007. (Photo courtesy of Dry Stone Conservancy: <http://www.drystone.org/gallery/album22>)

Following the completion of the wall restoration, workers cleared much of the accumulated brush, windfall, and expired vegetation along the lower slope, exposing much of the glacial-deposited stone slabs that Manning incorporated into his design for the wild garden setting. The contrast of the natural exposed stone and naturalistic plantings with the constructed dry stone feature is striking. This project, in concert with several others, has allowed Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens to reopen almost eight acres that had previously been inaccessible for public interpretation and enjoyment.

Many thanks to Mark Gilles, architect at Stan Hywet Hall, for contributing information about the restoration project.

For additional information regarding Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, go to: <http://www.stanhywet.org/>.

For additional information about the Dry Stone Conservancy, go to: <http://www.drystone.org/>.

Madison, Indiana Historic District NHL Milton—Madison Bridge Replacement

Michele Curran

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Design study is underway for the replacement of the U.S. Highway 421 Bridge on the Ohio River between Madison, Indiana and Milton, Kentucky. The study includes the preliminary engineering, EA, and public involvement that will result in a preferred alignment, grade and roadway geometrics, and a conceptual bridge type. Because the state of Kentucky owns the bridge, the Kentucky Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will take the lead on the project. Wilbur Smith and Associates have been awarded the contract to complete the study within the next three years.

An EA is a study of the land surrounding the proposed site of construction to determine any unique environmental attributes, considering everything from endangered species to existing hazardous waste to historical significance. The finding of the EA determines whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. An EIS is a document that must be filed when the federal government takes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, which in this case includes the historic integrity of the Madison Historic District National Historic Landmark. If the EA indicates that no significant impact is likely, then the agency can release a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and carry on with the proposed action. Otherwise, the agency must conduct a full-scale EIS.

Designated an NHL on March 20, 2006, the Madison Historic District's integrity may be compromised by the location of the Milton—Madison Bridge replacement. The approaches to the new bridge and the ramp leading to and from the bridge will consume a great deal of land. If the bridge is located to enter into the historic district, there will be a loss of historic structures. The current Milton-Madison Bridge is not located within the NHL.

Initially constructed in 1928/29, the cantilevered through truss bridge is one of the oldest remaining bridges over the Ohio River. Along with the age and condition of the bridge, increased traffic necessitates the replacement of the bridge. The current two-lane bridge



Milton-Madison Bridge, U.S. Highway 421, Ohio River. Photo courtesy of John Stacier, HMI, Inc.

will be replaced with a structure that will accommodate four-to six lanes.

Because the bridge connects the states of Kentucky and Indiana, the list of interested parties is lengthy and involves the FHWA Kentucky and Indiana Divisions; the Kentucky Cabinet of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Transportation; the communities of Madison, Indiana, and Milton, Kentucky; the Boards of Trimble County, Kentucky and Jefferson County, Indiana; and the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) of Kentucky and Indiana. Indiana is located in the Midwest Region of the National Park Service; and Kentucky is located in the Southeast Region of the National Park Service. Numerous other historical agencies and organizations in the State of Indiana have expressed their interest and concern for the preservation of the integrity of the Madison Historic District NHL.

The National Park Service sent a letter to the FHWA Kentucky Division noting its concern that the location of the proposed bridge may create an adverse impact on the nationally significant resources within the Madison Historic District. Michele Curran is the NPS Midwest Region contact person for NHLs in Indiana. ◇

Friendly Faces of the History and National Register Program of the NPS Midwest Regional Office



From Left to Right:

Front Row: Rebecca Kumar, Rachel Franklin-Weekley, and Hallie Fieser

Back Row: Steve Rogers, Geoff Burt, Michele Curran, Dena Sanford, and Mark Chavez

Meskers in the Midwest Region's NHL Districts

While these Meskers have all been identified and verified, there could be additional examples in your National Historic Landmark. If you think you have a Mesker in your community, please let us know.

Calumet NHL District
Calumet, MI



Mackinac Island NHL District
Mackinac Island, MI



Illinois and Michigan Canal Locks and Towpath NHL District
Lockport, IL



Deadwood NHL District
Deadwood, SD



Ste. Genevieve NHL District
Ste. Genevieve, MO

Top left three color photos in Calumet and both Deadwood photos courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Lockport, IL and Ste. Genevieve, MO, photos courtesy of Hallie Fieser.

(Continued from Page 1)

Both Mesker companies issued mail-order catalogs that offered complete storefronts, design services, and individual components for store owners eager to create their own unique storefronts. These pieces allowed storeowners, not educated in the architectural styles and trends of the time, to quickly and inexpensively alter existing buildings, or create inexpensive new frame or brick structures with elaborately detailed façades.

Mesker storefronts have been identified throughout the United States, especially in the Midwest, where the two foundries were located. An ever-expanding database of identified Mesker storefronts is being maintained by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Several of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) Districts of our region feature Mesker façades on contributing structures, including Deadwood, South Dakota; Calumet, Michigan; Mackinac Island, Michigan; and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Lockport, Illinois, a community along the Illinois and Michigan Canal NHL, also includes a positively identified Mesker. Often brightly painted to both appeal to customers as well as to protect the cast-iron and metal beneath, these Mesker elements remain in commercial districts due to proper care and maintenance over time.

Why are Meskers important? As the form of the American storefront began to develop and take its place in commercial districts, Mesker Brothers Iron Works and George L. Mesker & Co. were at the forefront of design and distribution. The use of their various components and façades allowed a quickly-built frame structure to become a beautiful store simply by encasing it in pressed metal sheets and components, thereby saving time and money as Midwestern America continued to grow. While many other companies created such decorative elements, they are not as easy to identify as their catalogs and records are not as complete and their designs lack the distinctive characteristics that the Mesker companies created. The remaining Mesker storefronts not only serve as an example of what we can retain from our past with proper maintenance and care, but they also provide a glimpse into the vernacular architecture and building techniques used as Americans spread westward and established new communities at the turn of the last century. ♦



Nameplates like these help to easily identify a Mesker storefront. Images courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.



GEO. T. ARNOLD'S BUILDING,
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH.

The Chippewa Hotel, in the Mackinac Island NHL District, is still in use today. It is a great example of a Mesker storefront featuring recessed entryways, ornate pressed metal cornices, and pressed sheet metal siding resembling stone. A drawing of this building also appeared in the 1904 George L. Mesker Catalog. Catalog image courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation

Many thanks to Darius Bryjka, of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, for his help in the identification of Meskers within our region's NHLs. If you spot a Mesker, please contact the IHPA at www.gotmesker.com. This site provides links to catalogs of the two companies, guides for identifying Mesker, additional information and images, and a database of Meskers across the country.

Additional information regarding care of historic storefronts is discussed in the NPS "Preservation Brief 11: Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts" which can be accessed online or ordered in print at www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief11.htm.

A Case of Mistaken Identity Corrected

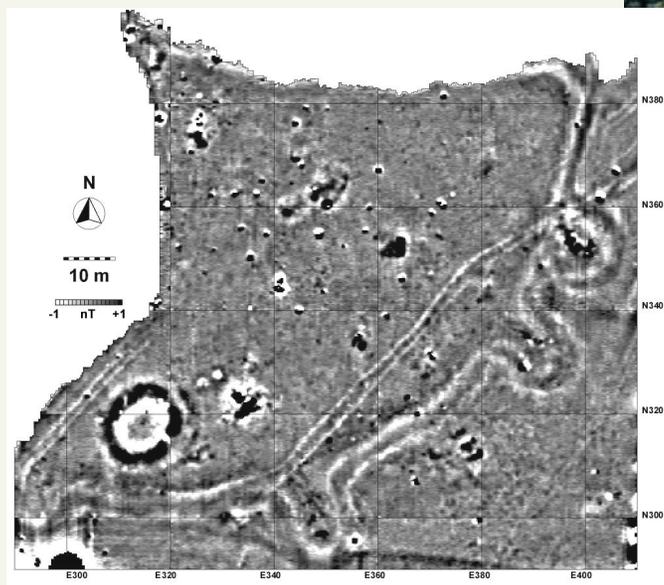
Vergil E. Noble

The Menoken Indian Village Site, a short drive east of Bismarck in Burleigh County, North Dakota, has been a National Historic Landmark (NHL) since 1964. At the time of designation, it was thought to be the site of a native village mentioned as a stopping place in the journals of French explorer Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, sieur de La Vérendrye (1685-1749).

Largely for that long-held belief, North Dakota acquired the property in 1937 to preserve it as a state historic site. In recent years, however, intensive archeological research has shown that the village was abandoned hundreds of years before La Vérendrye passed through the region in 1738.



Aerial View of Menoken Indian Village Site, North Dakota.



Magnetic gradiometry map of Menoken Indian Village Site NHL.

As shown in the new nomination, archeological data derived from Menoken have the power to inform us about processes involved in the development of village-dwelling, farming-based cultures in the Northern Plains during the period A.D. 1000-1300. Indeed, the site is critical to understanding the profound cultural change taking place at roughly the same time across much of North America east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Menoken Indian Village Site offers an object lesson in how local lore—and even the work of early scholars—can lead us astray and be disproved through further study. This is especially true of archeological sites that are restudied with newly available techniques and in light of cumulative research carried out at related sites. Even ideas about what is significant may change in response to advances in archeological theory. Accordingly, documentation improvement projects for existing NHLs are often worthy undertakings. ◇

Such a revelation could well have provided justification for withdrawal of the NHL designation, as it is now established that Menoken is not what its statement of significance initially claimed it to be. Nevertheless, consultation with authorities on prehistory of the region and the State Historic Preservation Office garnered consensus that the site is probably more important for what it can reveal about life in the past.

Therefore, the National Park Service contracted with Paleo Cultural Research Group of Flagstaff, Arizona, to initiate a new study of Menoken's significance. When the merits of the Menoken Indian Village Site were reconsidered in 2004, its status as an NHL was upheld—but for different reasons. Menoken is now recognized as a nationally significant site, not for a spurious association with exploration of the continent, but for the unique scientific information it has produced and still contains.



Excavation of a prehistoric house feature at Menoken.

Rabideau's Renaissance Update

Dena Sanford

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service staff at the Chippewa National Forest, the future of the Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp NHL in north central Minnesota will be more certain with the pending completion of a Historic Preservation Plan. The CCC camp, remarkably unchanged since its occupation by the New Deal era enrollees, had suffered from years of neglect before the Chippewa National Forest focused its attention on this remote complex. With the stabilization project complete (described in volume 2 of *Exceptional Places*), the Forest Service is turning its attention to establishing the groundwork for sensitive day-to-day management and long-term preservation for the entire camp.

The U.S. Forest Service's Historic Preservation Plan will establish specific design guidance to be used by the Chippewa National Forest and permitted users of the camp. It will address

acceptable rehabilitation and preservation treatment for all of Rabideau's nationally significant buildings, structures and landscape, following the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Preservation of Historic Properties*. It will also accommodate modern program needs under the U.S. Forest Service Special Use permit. Under these permits, the U.S. Forest Service will provide basic historic preservation treatment and overall long term maintenance, while the permittees provide enhancements to meet their program needs and ongoing facilities maintenance. Development of this plan involved a team of staff from the Chippewa National Forest, the National Park Service, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties.



Officer's Quarters at Rabideau CCC Camp, Minnesota.

The Chippewa National Forest understands that the plan needs to be complete before the camp may become the dynamic resource it is expected to be. In keeping with its original intent and historic use, the vision is for a natural resource educational and training center for young people. To this end, the Chippewa National Forest has been actively seeking mechanisms and partners to help accomplish needed work at the NHL. The estimated total for full restoration is over one million dollars. ♦

Save America's Treasures

Mark Chavez

To focus public attention on the importance of our national heritage and the need to save our treasures at risk, the White House Millennium Council teamed with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1998 to establish *Save America's Treasures*.

Save America's Treasures (SAT) is a national effort to protect "America's threatened cultural treasures, including historic structures, collections, works of art, maps and journals that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States."

Established by Executive Order in February 1998, *Save America's Treasures* was originally founded as the centerpiece of President Clinton's White House National Millennium Commemoration and as a public-private partnership that included the White House, the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Dedicated to the preservation and celebration of America's priceless historic legacy, *Save America's Treasures* works to recognize and rescue the enduring symbols of American tradition that define us as a nation.

Through *Save America's Treasures*, the National Park Service works closely with a group of partnering organiza-

tions, including the National Endowment for the Arts, Heritage Preservation and the National Park Foundation, that are active in determining goals and developing public awareness and educational activities for the program.

Save America's Treasures grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Intellectual and cultural artifacts include artifacts, collections, documents, statues and works of art (the program recognizes these items as *collections*). Historic structures and sites include historic districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects (the program recognizes these items as *historic properties*).

WHO MAY APPLY

- Federal agencies funded by the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
- Other federal agencies collaborating with a nonprofit partner to preserve the historic properties or collections owned by the federal agency, may submit applications through the nonprofit partner
- Non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c), U.S. organizations
- Units of state or local government
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 2)

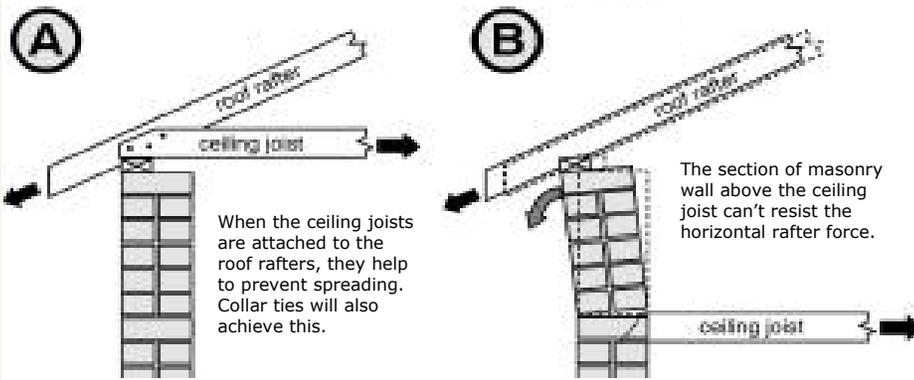


Figure 2 – Example of masonry failure due to unrestrained roof rafters. Image: Housing & Urban Development, *Residential Rehabilitation Inspection Guide*.

The roof may be leaking as well. When this occurs, examine the roof structure carefully to ascertain whether there has been a failure due to the incorrect placement of ceiling rafters and/or the lack of rafter ties. If so, additional horizontal ties or tension members will have to be added and, if possible, the roof pulled back into place. The damaged masonry can then be repaired.

The weight also can be transferred to interior walls. Jacking of the ridge (if one exists) and rafters is possible too.



Figure 3 – Ridge rafter (also, ridge beam, or ridge board). Image: www.lowes.com. Accessed June 30, 2008.

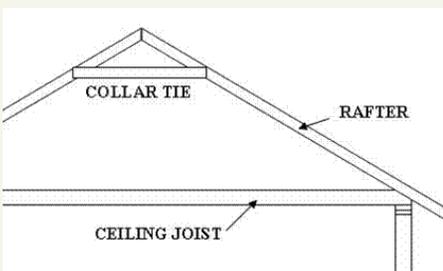


Figure 4 – Typical roof framing. Image: www.diychatroom.com. Accessed June 30,

An examination of the attic over the main portion of a building should disclose the presence (or absence) of a ridge rafter (Figure 3) and collar ties (Figure 4). It is likely that snow loads might overstress the roof causing the masonry walls to start to buckle outward, causing structural cracking.

- Cracking due to overloading (or interior movement), which is fairly uncommon, may be caused by a point load (often added during an alteration) bearing on a wall of insufficient thickness.

If the member has been concealed, such a problem will be difficult to investigate. The addition of interior wall supports or bracing, however, may correct the source of the problem by relieving the load.

Pointing

Once the nature and source of cracks has been determined, the next step is repair. Structural repairs precede minor or cosmetic repairs. Repointing mortar joints is often required, however, this action requires care and is best done with professionals familiar with historic masonry techniques. All too often, more damage is done to historic brick buildings with improper pointing than most any other treatments. And the damage is not only cosmetic. Care must be taken to match the properties (color, hardness, permeability) of the existing mortar. Hard mortars (those with high concentrations of portland cement) are less permeable than surrounding brick, and with both differential movement and differences in moisture permeability, will often cause the surrounding masonry to deteriorate or deteriorate faster. The application must also be carefully controlled. Width of joints and tooling should match the historic appearance, and care must be taken in application and cleanup to ensure that mortar does not extend past the joints of individual units and onto the surface of bricks. From a distance this latter action is most bothersome – the wall changes from a uniform to a mottled appearance. National Park Service (NPS) *Preservation Brief No. 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings* is an excellent guide for this work: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/TPS/briefs/brief02.htm>

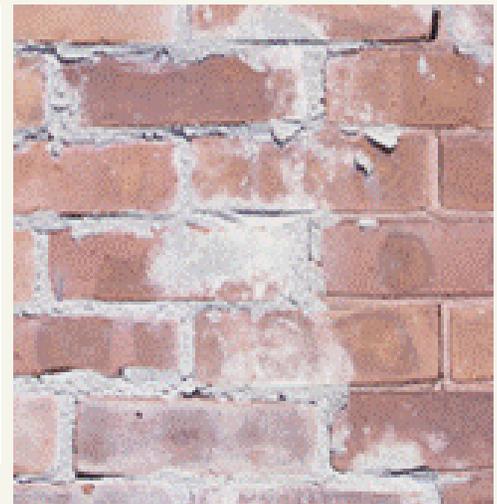


Figure 5 – Example of poor pointing technique. Not only was a portland cement used (the dark grey color is its giveaway), but the preparation and application were poor. The color, width, and tooling of the original mortar was not matched. Further, cleanup is absent: the mortar was allowed to run over the brick surfaces and dry.

Coatings

A severely deteriorated brick wall will often cause an owner to consider coating the wall with a waterproofing substance or paint in an attempt to improve its appearance and/or arrest deterioration. A brick wall that has deteriorated to the point that it has become unsightly has probably received a treatment that caused the loss of the wearing surface of the brick. Often that treatment was an abrasive cleaning method (such as sandblasting). The blasting operation causes the loss of the outer, hard surface of the brick, exposing the softer core. Water, the most destructive force on historic masonry surfaces, can then wick into the brick cores, and if in a northern climate where winter freezes are prevalent, will cause the brick to deteriorate from freeze-thaw action.

Waterproofing the brick either with chemicals sold for this purpose, or by painting with non-permeable paint or other coatings will accelerate the decay by trapping moisture behind the new coating.

If it is absolutely necessary to coat a brick wall, a water-permeable coating will work best, but if a wall is this deteriorated and has not been abrasively cleaned, a closer assessment of its deterioration is warranted. NPS *Preservation Brief No. 1: Assessing Cleaning and Water-Repellent Treatments for Historic Masonry Buildings*; and *No. 6: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings* are excellent sources of information. ◇

(Continued from page 9)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The collections and historic properties must be nationally significant. This is a threshold criterion; applications not meeting this criterion are not eligible for funding and will not receive further consideration.
- The collections or historic properties must be threatened, endangered or otherwise demonstrate an urgent preservation and/or conservation need.
- Projects must address the threat and must have educational, interpretive, or training value and a clear public benefit (for example, historic places open for visitation or collections available for public viewing or scholarly research).
- Projects must be feasible (for example, they must be able to be accomplished within the proposed activities, schedule and budget described in the application), and
- The applicant must demonstrate ability to complete the project and match the federal funds.

A *Save America's Treasures* grant requires a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match. The minimum grant request for collections projects is \$50,000 Federal share; the minimum grant request for historic property projects is \$125,000 Federal share. The maximum grant request for all projects is \$1 million Federal share. By law, no individual project may receive more than one Federal *Save America's Treasures* grant.

Since the program's inception in fiscal year 1999, the Midwest Region has fared well, having received over \$14.4 million in awards for "historic properties" projects. This amounted to a total of 48 projects, or a rough average of about \$300,000 per project. The largest grant awarded was \$1,146,700 in 1999 for the emergency stabilization of Frank Lloyd Wright's summer home, Taliesin, in south-central Wisconsin.

Showcased here are two Midwest Region NHLs that received SAT grants:

In 2004, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, received a grant for the stabilization



The *William M. Black*, part of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

and preservation of the steamboat *William M. Black*. Built in 1934 and operating until 1973 the *Black* is 277 feet long and 85 feet wide. The *Save America's Treasures* grant is being used for preservation and in-kind replacement of the canvas decking, repairs to steel smokestacks, and repairs to the pilot house.

The *William M. Black* is one of four almost identical sister ships built by Martin Marietta Manufacturing Co., Point Pleasant, WV. The others are *William S. Mitchell*, which operated until 1986, now used as the U.S.S. *Nightmare* at Cincinnati, OH; *Captain William Clark* and *Captain Meriwether Lewis*. The *Lewis* is another of our region's NHLs and operated until 1969. It is now used as a museum in Brownville, NE.



Centennial Baptist Church, façade (north wall), in Helena, Arkansas.

Centennial Baptist Church in Helena, Arkansas, was the home base for Reverend Dr. Elias Camp Morris from the dedication of the church in 1905 until his death in 1922. While serving as pastor, Dr. Morris was president (1895-1922) of the National Baptist Convention, the largest African-American organization in the United States at the end of the 19th century. Morris brought attention to the right of African Americans to establish independent religious associations. The E.C. Morris Foundation received a grant for stabilization of the church's very elaborate but dangerously under-engineered roof system in 2006.

Other "historic properties" grants awarded to NHL properties in our region beginning in 1999 include: one in Arkansas, five in Illinois, three in Indiana, five in Iowa, one in Kansas, one in Michigan, four in Minnesota, two in Nebraska, six in Ohio, and four in Wisconsin.

Although this grant program provides for large sums of money, it is very competitive. Annually about 300 projects are evaluated based on the above criteria. Applications are reviewed by Park Service staff in Washington, DC.; an average of 75 proposals are accepted. Another 75 or so receive direct funding through the SAT Program via Congressional earmarks.

Detailed information, grant application forms and instructions, a schedule of the grant application/review process, and a full history of awards can be found at the *Save America's Treasures* website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/>.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
601 RIVERFRONT DRIVE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4226

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



READ ALL ABOUT IT: KUDOS TO YOU!

Congratulations to Wells Fargo Bank, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Louis Sullivan-designed **National Farmer's Bank NHL** in Owatonna, Minnesota. The celebration festivities took place on July 14.◇

Much needed new roofing now covers the house of the **Warkentin Farm NHL** in Halstead, Kansas. The owners and occupants of this private property have invested much time, energy, and funds towards the care of their home. Other recent work includes repainting decorative elements on the home, and electrical upgrades. German Russian Mennonite Immigrant Bernhard Warkentin developed the farm in 1847, and introduced and improved various Central European wheat varieties to the region. ◇

New roofs have also been installed on the **Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr. House NHL** in Little Falls, Minnesota, and at the house at the **Marais des Cygnes Massacre Site NHL** in Linn County, Kansas (in addition to other structural repairs).◇

At the **Fort Leavenworth NHL**, in Kansas, the Army has undertaken the rehabilitation of five buildings within the NHL district, with an additional seven or eight projects either in process or under consideration.◇

Fort Michilimackinac NHL, in Michigan and the Mackinac State Historic Parks were recently re-accredited by the American Association of Museums.◇

People's Federal Savings and Loan Association NHL, Sidney, Ohio, completed an overall exterior cleaning, water sealing, and mortar replacement.

A new roof was installed on a portion of building.◇

The **William H. McGuffey House NHL**, in Oxford, Ohio, completed an Architectural Conservation Assessment awarded by Heritage Preservation. Based on recommendations made in that report, scraping and repainting of the house and shutters was completed, as well as repair of damaged eaves.◇

William McKinley Tomb NHL, Canton, Ohio, stabilized and restored the support structures under the extensive exterior staircase, a primary feature of the NHL, with high density polyurethane foam.◇

The **Little White Schoolhouse NHL**, Ripon, Wisconsin has undergone a two-year total interior and exterior restoration and is once again open to the public.◇

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and stewardship. You make the difference.