



**COTTAGE GROVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH  
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - 6:00 PM**

April 14, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
  - A October 14, 2025, ACHP Minutes
5. Open Forum
6. Action Items
  - A Establishing New Chair for the ACHP
  - B Nomination for Historic Preservationist of the Year
7. Discussion Items
  - A Development of Historic Preservation Page on City's Website
8. Project Updates
  - A Old Town Hall
  - B Cedarhurst
  - C Ross Property
9. Historic, Inquiries, Articles, and Research Information
10. Committee Comments
11. Council Comments
12. Adjournment



**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
**October 14, 2025**

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Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation was duly held at the Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the 14th day of October 2025.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Grundhauser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Herb Reckinger (Chair), Tony Brinkman, Cindy Yff, Tony Brinkman, Linda Johnston

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jacob Grundhauser, Marie Sumstine

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Max Erickson, Planner; Emily Schmitz, Community Development Director; Council Member Dave Theide

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Cindy Yff to approve the agenda with no changes. Brinkman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-to-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Cindy Yff to approve the agenda with no changes. Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-to-0.

**OPEN FORUM**

No one spoke.

**ACTION ITEMS**

***Cardenio Severance (Cedarhurst) Mansion and Gardener's Cottage Listed on the City's Historic Register as the Cedarhurst Historic District***

Max Erickson (Planner) presented the Mansions' History and its listed status for the Federal and Local Historic Register. It was explained that because the Mansion was listed on the National Register, the City has always treated it with the same status as being locally registered. Because of

the new project for the Mansion, it is appropriate to include the originally identified property listed in the Findings of Significance document which was written in 2000 on the City's Historic Register. Erickson Explained that the Gardners Cottage was included on the original "Findings of Significance" document and that the outbuildings would also include into the "District" if listed. Erickson further explained This would provide further protections which would be based on the New History Report of the resources of the site.

Questions were asked for post presentation:

Tony Brinkman wanted clarification of the outbuildings being included on the local register. Mr. Erickson explained that the Guidelines of the site indicate that some of these buildings will be protected based on the significance identified in the New History report.

Herb Reckinger asked whether they would propose putting buildings within the front yard of the structure. Mr. Erickson clarified that they would not be putting anything in the front.

Tony Brinkman wanted on the record that Jake Jones with Medicinewood Inc was interested in the wood of the collapsed barn onsite.

Tony Brinkman made a motion to add the Cedarhurst Site to the local register. Linda Johnston seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

### ***Furber House Rehabilitation***

Max Erickson (Planner) presented a brief introduction for this item. He explained the proposal from the Madisons to rehabilitate the Nationally and Locally registered Furber House to include replacement of the asbestos siding and repair outside windows to preserve the original look of the structure. Erickson explained that this item needs ACHP approval for modifications to a registered building.

The Madisons gave a more in-depth presentation. They explained that they would like to maintain the original look of the building by replacing the asbestos siding with either a repaired existing siding underneath or full wood clapboard replacement with original color. This would include keeping the windows as is to preserve the glass and shape of the windows.

The Madisons indicated that they would be doing some interior renovations as well including upgrading the electrical and insulation. Repairs would be made to the structure where there are holes and other damage. The Madisons explained that they would upgrade bathrooms to be up to a modern standard. They would keep key features which include historical designs of fixtures in the interior. They would be pursuing a facade grant with the City and would utilize the structure as an Airbnb.

Questions following the presentations included the following:

Tony Brinkman asked how the plumbing and electricity would be done. The Madisons explained that the work will require some of the interior will need to be changed to the original design. This will be required to make these items up to code. They further explained that they will preserve as much as possible to maintain as much originality as possible.

Tony Brinkman asked if they plan to keep the structure red which was a color at one point. The Madisons indicated that the color would remain white which is the current color.

Linda Johnston asked how the insulation would be added to the building in the ceiling. The Madisons explained that they would do what is called a "Hot Roof" which would seal the attic with insulation. Ms. Johnston asked if they would do the same for the walls. The Madisons indicated that it would be slightly different and they wouldn't be touching the clapboards off at this time.

Herb Reckinger asked how old the asbestos was. Max Erickon explained that the national register indicated that it was placed in 1943.

Tony Brinkman made a motion to approve the recommendation to improve the Furber House. Cindy Yff seconded. The vote passed 5-0.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were None.

## **PROJECT UPDATES – VERBAL UPDATES**

### ***Historical Markers – MNHS Grant Submittal***

Erickson stated that staff have installed 6 out of the 7 signs. Photos were shown of the installed signs. Erickson explained that further research was needed to install the Hill Gibson sign as there are heavy underground utilities prohibiting the installation of this last sign.

### ***Old Town Hall Agreement***

Erickson explained Jake Jones with Medicine Wood Inc. has taken an interest in attempting to repair and restore sections of the building. He has proposed providing the labor required to repair the building while utilizing the structure to store his woodworking equipment. Mr. Jones' rent for utilizing the structure will be his labor for repairing the structure. The agreement stipulates that the City of Cottage Grove will cover the cost of materials and that the proposed repairs maintain the historical integrity of the building.

Mr. Jones has agreed to conduct a complete evaluation of the building, outline aspects of the structure that contribute to the historic integrity, and provide a plan for repairing the structure. Most importantly, the professional services agreement will require Mr. Jones to repair the roof first and then provide a plan for review of next repair plans. Additional improvements/repairs will require ACHP review prior to commencement.

## **HISTORIC INQUIRIES, ARTICLES, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION**

There were none.

## **COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS**

Theide made a comment regarding Cedarhurst improvements and the rose garden.

## **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

There were none.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

There were none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

**TO:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

**FROM:** Max Erickson, Planner

**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**RE:** New Chair Designation for the ACHP

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## **Introduction**

The Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation members hold limited terms of two years. These terms may be taken up to four times in succession before a required vacation of a seat is required.

The ACHP had two seats open at the end of 2025 with one being the active Chair.

## **Discussion**

With Herb Reckinger's term limit being reached, the Chair position for the ACHP is open. Committees operate under a chair to ensure efficient operation of the committee by managing the flow of meetings and agendas. Additionally, the chair maintains that all members of a committee or commission have an equal opportunity to participate in decision-making.

## **Recommendation**

That the ACHP shall discuss and assign the next chair position to an active member of the ACHP.



**TO:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

**FROM:** Max Erickson, Planner

**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**RE:** 2026 Historic Preservationist of the Year – Online Public Submission

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## **Introduction**

The Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation annually nominates a person or organization who goes above and beyond to promote an aspect of Cottage Grove's history that helps to share our understanding and general knowledge of the people and places of Cottage Grove's past.

## **Discussion**

Last year's recipient of the award was the South Washington County Bulletin in recognition for years of service to the South Washington County Community in capturing and documenting events from the mid to late 20th and early 21st centuries for the area. This award was given to Gary Spooner on behalf of the South Washington County Bulletin as the service has since discontinued.

During the month of January, City staff opened and advertised the Historic Preservationist of the Year nomination webpage. The form accepted nominations from the public until Thursday, April 9, 2026. As of the final day the form was open, there were no nominations made for the year 2026.

As there were no nominations, staff have suggested a nomination for Jake Jones with Medicine Wood Inc. Jake Jones is currently active in the community and his business in restoring historic properties within the city. Some of the recent projects he is working on is restoring part of the Furber House, as well as working to repair the Cottage Grove Old Town Hall. The ACHP may acknowledge this suggestion or nominate others of their choosing.

## **Recommendation**

That the ACHP shall discuss, and make a recommendation for the nomination of the 2025 Historic Preservationist of the Year.



**TO:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

**FROM:** Max Erickson, Planner

**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**RE:** City of Cottage Grove Historic Preservation Web Page

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## **Background**

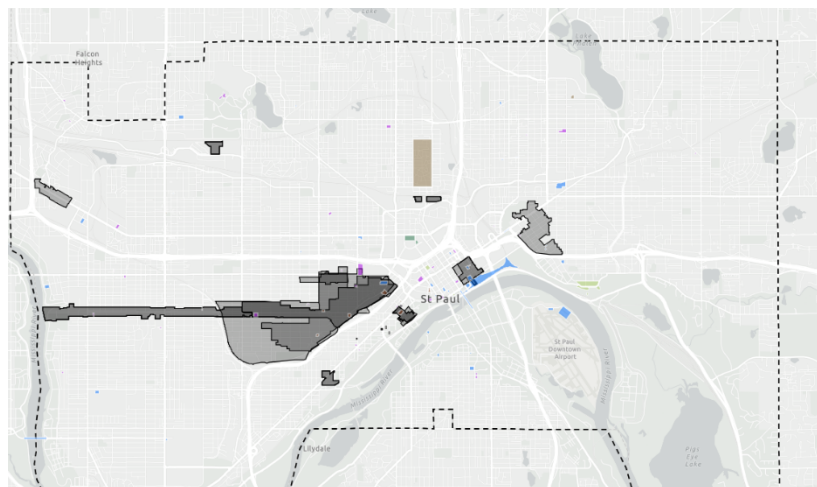
In conjunction with the Historic Signs that were installed around the City, now is the time to evaluate additional details that could be added to the City's website to be easily accessible by the public identifying historic resources in Cottage Grove.

## **Discussion**

The historic plaques included a QR code that directs the user to the City's Historic Preservation web page, which were installed in the Summer of 2025. The intent of the QR codes is to direct the public to more information about the specific landmark it is identifying. In conjunction with the additional details being provided for the landmarks identified on the plaques, staff have found it appropriate to incorporate additional information for all items listed in the City's Local Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks as well as the "Top Ten Prioritized Properties" previously identified by the ACHP on the website.

Ideally, staff would dedicate a link and webpage for each significant resource to provide additional historical information, photos, and other information which may be of interest to the public. These individual pages would provide more in-depth information such as architecture, important figures, or projects that have occurred for each site/landmark. Additionally, a mapping resource could be created displaying the areas of these landmarks around the city. Any information that has been documented by the city can be added to relevant sites and any additional research conducted would also be included in the future.

Other cities have been used as inspiration for how Cottage Grove's website might be structured. These cities include Stillwater, of St Paul, Minneapolis, and White Bear Lake.



St Paul Historic Resource Map

## Landmarks

We describe all landmarks in Minneapolis. Find a landmark in our alphabetical list.

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#)

### A

- [Adath Jeshurun Synagogue](#)
- [Advance Thresher-Emerson Newton Co. Building](#)
- [Architects and Engineers Building](#)
- [Augsburg Old Main](#)
- [Avalon Theater](#)

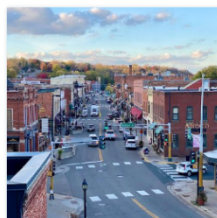
## Minneapolis Alphabetical Listing Search



### HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND JAIL

📍 Co.Washington.mn.us  
📞 651.275.7075  
📍 101 Pine St W.  
👁️ 360 View

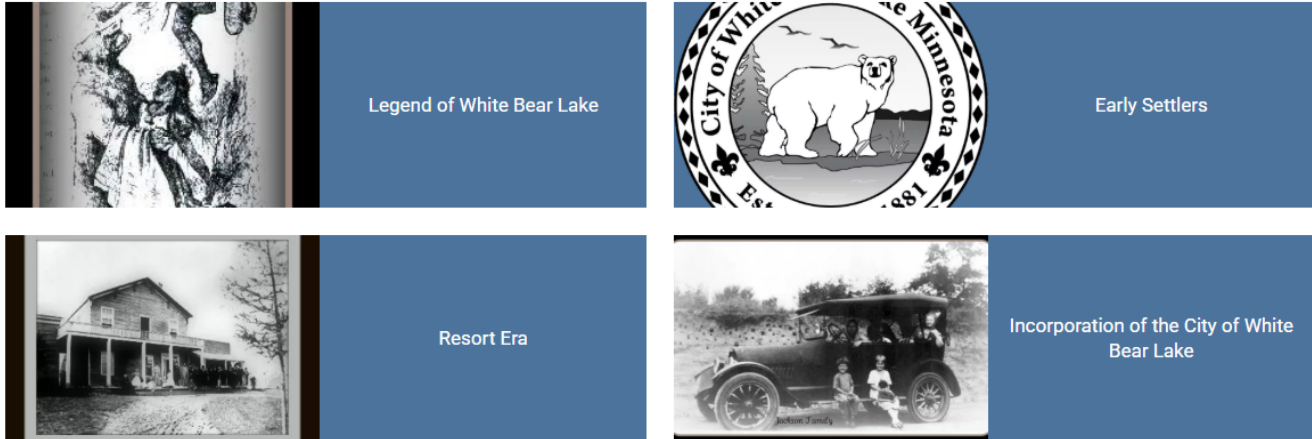
Minnesota's oldest standing courthouse, built in 1870, offering guided tours April-September. Self Guided tours year round.



### HISTORIC MAIN STREET

Stillwater's Main Street river front area is on the National Historic Register and is home to over 100 locally owned shops and restaurants. Open year-round. Art galleries, fashion boutiques, home decor, and unique gift shops line the streets along with tons of dining and outdoor patios.

## Stillwater Quick Facts Page



### White Bear Lake Story Telling Tabs

Ideally the site would focus on getting additional information on the historic plaques uploaded first. This would make use of the QR codes on the signs. Coordination with the communications team will occur for a final design for the site. Additional research is also required for some of the sign information. An ideal goal for an initial launch for the new page with at least the additional plaque information would be mid-summer 2026. Additional information regarding the registered properties or priority properties can be added quickly once there is a working site. The ultimate timeline would be to have full working site with all desired parameters by the end of September.

### Recommendation

That the ACHP discuss and provide direction to update the City's Historic Preservation Web Page on the City's website.



**TO:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

**FROM:** Max Erickson, Planner

**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**RE:** Old Town Hall Project Update

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## **Introduction/Background**

The Cottage Grove Old Town Hall located at 9550 Islay Avenue, adjacent to the current Public Works Facility, was constructed in 1881 and used for various meetings until 1961. The structure is listed on the City's Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks and is currently owned and utilized by the City for material storage.

Jake Jones with Medicine Wood Inc. has taken an interest in attempting to repair and restore sections of the building. The City has entered into an agreement with Medicine Wood Inc. that allows for the business to store equipment and supplies inside the Old Town Hall rent free with the stipulation that repairs be made to stabilize the structure's damage. The agreement provides that updates be provided to the city on a regular basis on the progress of the project.

Currently the stage of this project is in the assessment phase for repairing the roof. Mr. Jones has indicated that he will have an assessment completed within a couple of weeks to repair the roof.

Some parts of the building have been maintained in good condition while other parts are dilapidated. Most notably, there are several holes in the roof that allow moisture to impact the structure. This has been noted as a high priority repair to try to preserve the rest of the building.

Mr. Jones has made some discoveries, including upon inspection of the mismatched floor joists, that indicated that there was originally an access to the crawlspace. Upon further investigation, charred floor joists were also identified, indicating the likely original location of the heating stove may have had fallen sparks that caused a small fire at some point.



Mr. Jones has also indicated some names and dates were written on the original layer of paint on the wall. More delicate exploration may be needed to uncover the rest of the writing.





The first requirement of the agreement ensures that a full assessment of the structure shall be submitted as a report to Community Development prior to any work completed. Mr. Jones has indicated that he is close to providing a full assessment and any future updates will be provided to the ACHP.

### **Recommendation**

That the ACHP receive information related to the repairs to the Old Town Hall.



**To:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation  
**From:** Max Erickson, Planner  
**Date:** April 14, 2026  
**Re:** Cedarhurst Mansion Update

## **Background**

On August 13, 2025, the City Council passed Resolution 2025-113 to approve a Site Plan Review for improvements to the site and the Mansion and an addition to the Mansion for use as a wedding and event center. Council also approved a second Resolution (2025-114) to approve a Historical Conditional Use Permit to use the Gardener's Cottage property in conjunction with the commercial event/wedding venue on the adjacent Mansion parcel.

## **Update**

Bellagala held a small groundbreaking ceremony to begin the project. They have started clearing some trees to work on the parking area. Old debris and items have been removed from the yard and within the mansion to clean up the structure. Asbestos removal has also been completed. They have started the footings for the new Atrium. More activity will begin in the coming weeks as the temperature warms up. An official opening ceremony will be held once all work is completed and they are officially open for business.

Additional updates will be provided to the ACHP at future meetings.

## **Recommendation**

That the ACHP receive an update on the improvements to the Cedarhurst Mansion and related site work.



**To:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation  
**From:** Max Erickson, Planner  
**Date:** April 14, 2026  
**Re:** Ross Property Update

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## **Background**

The City of Cottage Grove has purchased the property located at 9430 East Point Douglas Road South, informally known as the Ross Property. This is in conjunction with potential future development to occur within this area of the city. The ACHP has requested that documentation be taken of the condition of the house and any historical significance it may have.

## **Update**

The property owner has vacated the property and staff have investigated the exterior and interior of the site. Photos have been taken prior to and after the property owner had vacated the property. The house was used by the Cottage Grove Police Department for training purposes. Evaluations have been completed to assess asbestos, which was confirmed inside. The owner took many features with them that were unique to the structure, including wooden trim and a door that was supposedly from a WW1-era ship. The structure has been disconnected from public utilities and is awaiting safe demolition. Documentation photos have been taken and are on file with the City.

## **Recommendation**

That the ACHP receive an update for the historic documentation at property located at 9430 East Point Douglas Road South.



**To:** Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation  
**From:** Max Erickson, Planner  
**Date:** April 14, 2026  
**Re:** Cedarhurst Mansion Update

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Additional updates will be provided to the ACHP at future meetings.

## **Recommendation**

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