

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE

Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

AGENDA

October 10, 2023, 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 August 8, 2023, ACHP Meeting Minutes
Staff Recommendation:
5. Open Forum
6. Action Items
 - 6.1 Historical Display Case Concept Design Review
Staff Recommendation:
7. Discussions Items
 - 7.1 Historical Display Case Future Topics
Staff Recommendation:
8. Project Updates
 - 8.1 Certified Local Government Grant Application
 - 8.2 Preserve MN 2023 Conference Report
 - 8.3 Social Media Postings Bi-Weekly
9. Historic Inquiries, Articles, and Research Information
10. Committee Comments
11. Council Liaison Comments
12. Adjournment



MINUTES
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
August 8, 2023

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 8th day of August, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER

Staff Liaison Mrosla called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Corinne Marz, Tony Brinkman, Linda Johnston, Jacob Grundhauser, Marie Sumstine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Herb Reckinger, Joseph Gall

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Dave Thiede; David Olson, Parks & Recreation Commission; Mike Mrosla, Senior Planner; Conner Jakes, Associate Planner; Cindy Yff, Resident; Kathy DeMarre, Resident

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Grundhauser to approve the Agenda with no changes. Johnston seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

OPEN FORUM

No one spoke.

ACTION ITEMS

There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were none.

PROJECT UPDATES

William Crockett Plaque Ceremony

Jakes summarized the William Crockett Plaque Ceremony that occurred on April 22, 2023 at Hamlet Park. He explained the ceremony consisted of a brief history of Mr. Crockett's life followed by the reveal of the plaque and a presentation of items to the Crockett Family. Following the presentation of items, Crockett's sister, Gail Crockett Stanghelle, said a few words to those gathered. There was a great turnout of both residents and non-residents to honor Mr. Crockett and to support the Crockett Family.

Crockett Fields at Hamlet Park Entrance Sign

Jakes informed the Committee that the City recently installed the entrance sign at Hamlet Park which honors William Crockett and provides the name of the ball fields at Hamlet Park. He stated the sign reads, "Welcome to Crockett Fields at Hamlet Park" and that the sign contains various images that relate to Crockett's life. Among those images are the POW/MIA flag logo, William Crockett rubbing/etching, a fighter jet, and Mr. Crockett's life dates.

Historical Display Case

Jakes provided an update of the historical display case progress staff has made. He stated staff is working with the Washington County Historical Society to compile information on schools of the past, and staff is also working with ISD 833 to compile information on schools of the present. He also stated at the next meeting staff will present the compiled information for the Committee to review, including both photos and text.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brinkman made a comment that his last name was spelt incorrectly in both the March 14, 2023 and April 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion made by Grundhauser to approve the March 14, 2023 and April 11, 2023 meeting minutes pursuant to the change stated by Brinkman. Brinkman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

HISTORIC INQUIRIES, ARTICLES, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION

Old People's Home & Cemetery

Mroska stated staff was contacted by a resident, Cindy Yff, inquiring about information relating to the Old People's Home & Cemetery located in Cottage Grove. He explained that staff met with Cindy on April 27, 2023, but could only find limited information and history on the cemetery specifically. Therefore, staff and Cindy wanted to ask the Committee for any additional information/ideas on where to research the cemetery with the intent of better documenting the site's history.

Cindy spoke to the Committee summarizing her findings and ideas, photos were shared with the Committee. David Olson, Parks & Recreation Commission Liaison, stated he visited the site and spoke with other residents in order to gather information relating to the site. The Committee discussed knowledge of the site further. Sumstine stated the Southern Washington County Historical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month in St. Paul Park and would be a good place to also request information relating to the site.

COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS

There were none.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Grundhauser inquired as to whether there are any updates relating to the Cedarhurst property. Staff stated there is no update.

Grundhauser inquired as to whether there are any updates relating to the historic Furber Barn and homestead. Staff stated there was a recent planning case that went to Council.

Brinkman inquired as to whether there are any updates relating to the Mississippi Landing project. Staff stated the City now owns land adjacent to the river and that the DNR is looking to purchase additional acres.

STAFF COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Grundhauser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marz seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Conner Jakes, Associate Planner
Mike Mrosla, Senior Planner

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: Historic Display Case Concept Design Review

Background

Staff was tasked with the design and implementation of a historic preservation display case at City Hall. The display case to be utilized is located in the Training Room hallway as shown in the image below.



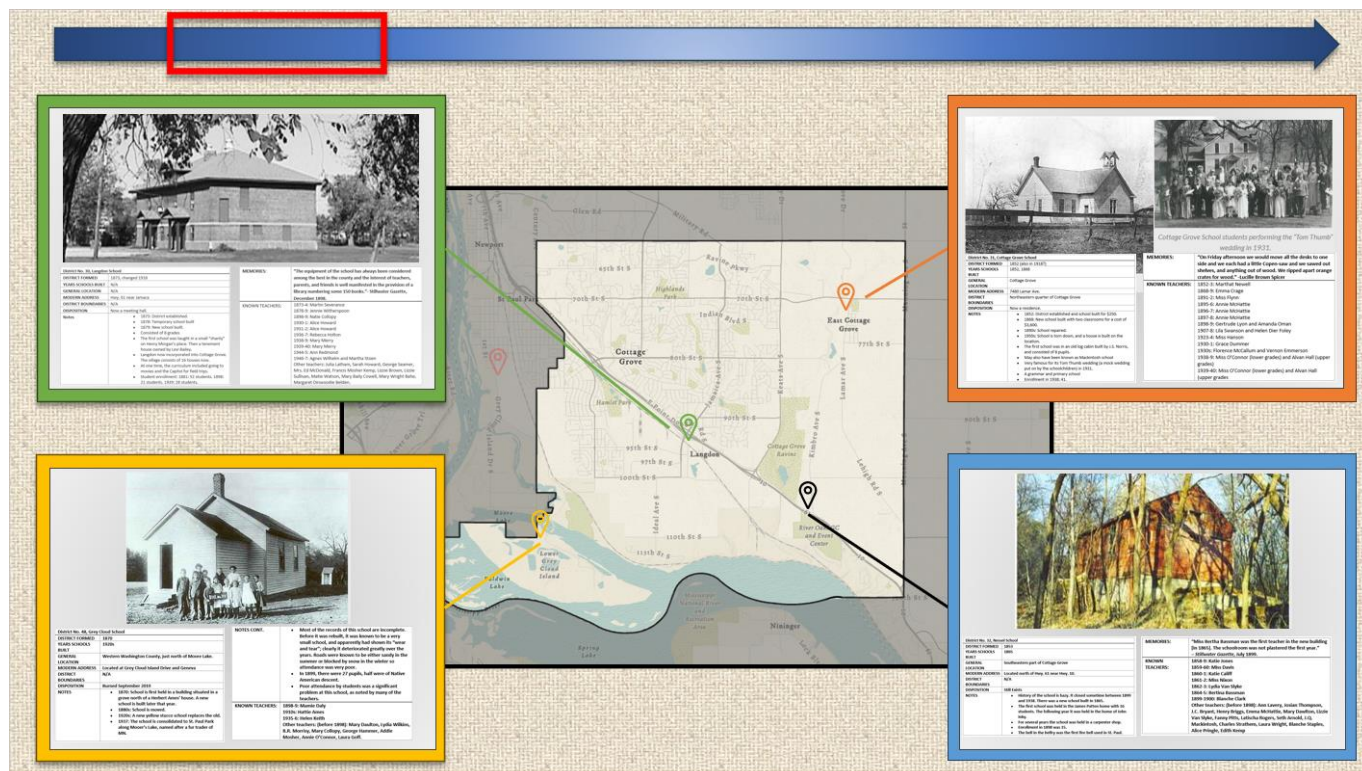
Training Room Display Case

At its March 14, 2023, meeting, the ACHP recommended staff to proceed with the design of the display case with a portion of the case remaining static, while another portion would rotate every six months. The ACHP recommended the static portion provide an outline of the history of Cottage Grove, and the first rotational display be schools of the past and present.

At the April 11, 2023, meeting the ACHP provided staff with additional resources through the Washington County Historical Society that have been valuable in obtaining information on schools of the past. In addition, staff has been in contact with the South Washington School District for information on schools of the present.

Discussion

Staff has produced a concept design for the historic display case that the ACHP should review. The concept design highlights the major schools of the past that were located within the community. A marker is placed on the map where the school was located and connects to a photo(s) of the school and brief information about the school. The concept design is not to scale.



Recommendation

That the ACHP shall review, discuss, and provide input on the concept design for the display case, and review the photo(s) and information on each school.

Attachments

- Langdon School Photo and Information
- Cottage Grove School Photo(s) and Information
- Grey Cloud School Photo and Information
- Nessel School Photo and Information

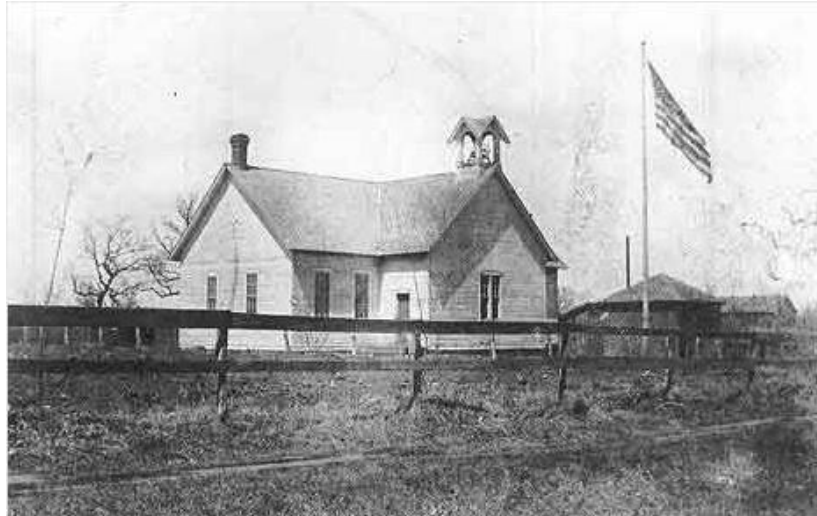
Attachment A: Langdon School Photo and Information



District No. 30, Langdon School	
DISTRICT FORMED	1873, changed 1918
YEARS SCHOOLS BUILT	N/A
GENERAL LOCATION	N/A
MODERN ADDRESS	Hwy. 61 near Jamaca
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	N/A
DISPOSITION	Now a meeting hall.
Notes	• 1873: District established. • 1878: Temporary school built • 1879: New school built. • Consisted of 8 grades • The first school was taught in a small “shanty” on Henry Morgan’s place. Then a tenement house owned by Levi Bailey. • Langdon now incorporated into Cottage Grove. The village consists of 16 houses now. • At one time, the curriculum included going to movies and the Capitol for field trips. • Student enrollment: 1881: 52 students. 1898: 21 students. 1939: 28 students.
MEMORIES:	“The equipment of the school has always been considered among the best in the county and the interest of teachers, parents, and friends is well manifested in the provision of a library numbering some 150 books.” - Stillwater Gazette, December 1898.
KNOWN TEACHERS:	1873-4: Martin Severance 1878-9: Jennie Witherspoon 1898-9: Natie Collopy 1930-1: Alice Howard 1931-2: Alice Howard

	1936-7: Rebecca Holton 1938-9: Mary Merry 1939-40: Mary Merry 1944-5: Ann Redmond 1946-7: Agnes Wilhelm and Martha Stoen Other teachers: Julia Latham, Sarah Howard, George Seamer, Mrs. Ed McDonald, Francis Mosher Kemp, Lizzie Brown, Lizzie Sullivan, Matie Watson, Mary Baily Cowell, Mary Wright Bahe, Margaret Dinwoodie Belden.
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Attachment B: Cottage Grove School Photo(s) and Information



Cottage Grove School.



Cottage Grove School students performing the "Tom Thumb" wedding in 1931.

District No. 31, Cottage Grove School	
DISTRICT FORMED	1852 (also in 1918?)
YEARS SCHOOLS BUILT	1852, 1868
GENERAL LOCATION	Cottage Grove
MODERN ADDRESS	7480 Lamar Ave.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	Northeastern quarter of Cottage Grove
DISPOSITION	Now a residence.
NOTES	• 1852: District established and school built for \$250. • 1868: New school built with two classrooms for a cost of \$3,600. • 1890s: School repaired. • 1950s: School is torn down, and a house is built on the location. • The first school was in an old log cabin built by J.S. Norris, and consisted of 8 pupils. • May also have been known as Mackintosh school • Very famous for its Tom Thumb wedding (a mock wedding put on by the schoolchildren) in 1931. • A grammar and primary school • Enrollment in 1938: 41.
MEMORIES:	"On Friday afternoon we would move all the desks to one side and we each had a little Copen-saw and we sawed out shelves, and anything out of wood. We ripped apart orange crates for wood." -Lucille Brown Spicer
KNOWN TEACHERS:	1852-3: Marthat Newell 1868-9: Emma Crage 1891-2: Miss Flynn 1895-6: Annie McHattie 1896-7: Annie McHattie 1897-8: Annie McHattie 1898-9: Gertrude Lyon and Amanda Oman 1907-8: Lila Swanson and Helen Dier Foley 1923-4: Miss Hanson 1930-1: Grace Dummer 1930s: Florence McCallum and Vernon Emmerson 1938-9: Miss O'Connor (lower grades) and Alvan Hall (upper grades) 1939-40: Miss O'Connor (lower grades) and Alvan Hall (upper grades)

Attachment C: Grey Cloud School Photo and Information



District No. 48, Grey Cloud School	
DISTRICT FORMED	1870
YEARS SCHOOLS BUILT	1920s
GENERAL LOCATION	Western Washington County, just north of Moore Lake.
MODERN ADDRESS	Located at Grey Cloud Island Drive and Geneva
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	N/A
DISPOSITION	Burned September 2019
NOTES	• 1870: School is first held in a building situated in a grove north of a Herbert Ames' house. A new school is built later that year. • 1880s: School is moved. • 1920s: A new yellow stucco school replaces the old. • 1937: The school is consolidated to St. Paul Park along Mooer's Lake, named after a fur trader of MN. • Most of the records of this school are incomplete. Before it was rebuilt, it was known to be a very small school, and apparently had shown its "wear and tear"; clearly it deteriorated greatly over the years. Roads were known to be either sandy in the summer or blocked by snow in the winter so attendance was very poor. • In 1899, there were 27 pupils, half were of Native American descent. • Poor attendance by students was a significant problem at this school, as noted by many of the teachers.
KNOWN TEACHERS:	1898-9: Mamie Daly 1910s: Hattie Ames 1935-6: Helen Keith Other teachers: (before 1898): Mary Daulton, Lydia Wilkins, B.R. Morrissey, Mary Collopy, George Hammer, Addie Mosher, Annie O'Connor, Laura Goff.

Attachment D: Nessel School Photo and Information



Nessel School photographed in 1995.

District No. 32, Nessel School	
DISTRICT FORMED	1853
YEARS SCHOOLS BUILT	1865
GENERAL LOCATION	Southeastern part of Cottage Grove
MODERN ADDRESS	Located north of Hwy. 61 near Hwy. 10.
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	N/A
DISPOSITION	Still Exists
NOTES	- History of the school is hazy. It closed sometime between 1899 and 1938. There was a new school built in 1865. - The first school was held in the James Patten home with 16 students. The following year it was held in the home of John Inky. - For several years the school was held in a carpenter shop. - Enrollment in 1898 was 15. - The bell in the belfry was the first fire bell used in St. Paul.
MEMORIES:	"Miss Bertha Bassman was the first teacher in the new building [in 1865]. The schoolroom was not plastered the first year." – <i>Stillwater Gazette</i>, July 1899.
KNOWN TEACHERS:	1858-9: Katie Jones 1859-60: Miss Davis 1860-1: Katie Califf 1861-2: Miss Nixon 1862-3: Lydia Van Slyke 1864-5: Bertina Bassman 1899-1900: Blanche Clark Other teachers: (before 1898): Ann Lavery, Josian Thompson, J.C. Bryant, Henry Briggs, Emma McHattie, Mary Dawlton, Lizzie Van Slyke, Fanny Pitts, Latischa Rogers, Seth Arnold, J.Q. Mackintosh, Charles Strathem, Laura Wright, Blanche Staples, Alice Pringle, Edith Kemp

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Conner Jakes, Associate Planner
Mike Mrosla, Senior Planner

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: Historic Display Case Future Topics

Background

Staff was tasked with the design and implementation of a historic preservation display case at City Hall. The display case to be utilized is located in the Training Room hallway as shown in the image below.



Training Room Display Case

Discussion

At its March 14, 2023, meeting, the ACHP recommended staff to proceed with the design of the display case with the first rotational display being schools of the past. The ACHP also recommended that the display case topic change every 6 months and eventually rotate between selected topics.

In order to continue the planning, design, and creation of the display case for future topics, staff is requesting the ACHP to provide additional topics that would be of interest. A list of options staff has compiled based upon items, stories, photos, etc. found within City files are below.

- Sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places
 - o Cordenio Severance House
 - o Grey Cloud Lime Kiln
 - o John P. Furber House
 - o Schilling Archeological District
- City Register of Historic Sites & Landmarks
 - o First Congregational Church/Accacia Lodge
 - o Dr. Arthur L. Steen House
 - o Atkin Cemetery
 - o Watson Family Home
 - o Cottage Grove Town Hall
 - o Cottage Grove Cemetery
 - o Hope Glen Farm
 - o Roger Shepard House
 - o Harry Roberts House
 - o St. Matthews Evangelical and Reform Church
 - o Old People's Home & Cemetery
- Other/Miscellaneous
 - o Street Renaming
 - o Langdon Creamery
 - o Lamar Avenue Larch Trees
 - o Commercial Areas: Past to Present

Recommendation

That the ACHP should discuss and recommend future topics for the historic preservation display case.

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Conner Jakes, Associate Planner
Mike Mrosia, Senior Planner

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application

Project Update

At its April 11, 2023, meeting, the ACHP unanimously approved staff pursuing grant opportunities and submitting applications for a Historic Context Study on the Suburban Expansion Era of Cottage Grove. Staff has been in contact with the Minnesota Department of Administration – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in regard to a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant for the historic context study.

CLG Grants are awarded to cities that are designated as a Certified Local Government through the State Historic Preservation Office and are designated for projects including the below list. It is important to note that CLG grants cannot fund capital (“bricks and mortar”) projects.

- Historic context studies
- Historic resource surveys
- Preparation of local/national designation forms
- Historic preservation plans
- Building reuse studies
- Cultural landscape inventories
- Design guidelines for property owners
- Public education

Next Steps

Staff is determining the best course of action and time of making application for the grant.

Recommendation

No action is needed on this item.

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Conner Jakes, Associate Planner
Mike Mrosia, Senior Planner

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: Preserve MN 2023 Conference Report

Conference Report

Each year the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) hosts a statewide conference on preserving the history of Minnesota, including buildings, sites, structures, etc. This year the conference was held in Mankato, MN and occurred from September 27-29. The conference brings together city staff and historic preservation committee members throughout the state to learn and converse about the current state and future of historic preservation within the state.

Each Certified Local Government (CLG) must send at least one representative of their jurisdiction to participate in the Preserve MN conference. This year Associate Planner Conner Jakes attended. The learning sessions attended included the following:

- Effective Code Enforcement of Problem Properties
- People's Right to Place: Building a More Relevant and Just Preservation Movement
- Interpreting Minnesota's Oldest Roadside Markers: Opportunities and Challenges
- Downtown Revitalization through Public Art
- Applying the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehab: A Contextual Approach
- Certified Local Government Grants: Guidance for Funding Your Project

In addition to the various learning sessions provided, the Blue Earth County Historical Society hosted tours of their historic post office (pictured below). The post office opened in its current location in 1896 and underwent additions in 1932 as well as 1966. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 based on the Richardsonian Romanesque design and the 1932 addition. A developer (APX Construction Group) has purchased the property and intends to convert the building to a restaurant, hotel, and event center while keeping the historic elements of the structure.



Historic Post Office in Mankato, MN

Recommendation

No action is needed on this item.

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Conner Jakes, Associate Planner
Mike Mroska, Senior Planner

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: Social Media Postings Bi-Weekly

Background

Planning staff has been in discussion with the Communication Department in regard to establishing regular social media postings on the city's social media accounts that will occur bi-weekly. The intent of these postings is to provide residents with short and quick/easy to read posts along with photos that spread knowledge about Cottage Grove's history.

Discussion

Staff is requesting suggestions for topics and photos that can be posted on the social media page as part of the regular bi-weekly postings. Currently, staff is proposing to begin with the photos and paragraphs included on the ACHP's previously created playing cards. However, any additional topics, photos, ideas, etc. would be appreciated and used for the regular postings.

Recommendation

That the ACHP should discuss regular bi-weekly social media posts and suggest ideas for the postings.