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10 ENDANGERED PROPERTIES FOR '98—THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA LISTS STRUCTURES THREATENED BY STORMS, DEMOLITION OR NEGLECT

(By Linda Mack)

The entire city of St. Peter, "ma and pa" resorts up north, boarded-up buildings at Fort Snelling and a former dairy farm near Brainerd are listed among Minnesota's 10 most endangered properties of 1998.

Threatened by demolition, neglect or storm damage, the 10 buildings or groups of buildings have been selected by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, a statewide nonprofit membership group, to draw attention to the state's historic resources and the need for their preservation.

George Edwards, who moved to Minneapolis recently from Atlanta, GA, to head the Preservation Alliance, said Minnesota's endangered buildings "face the same threats that we're seeing around the country—under-appreciation of our heritage, neglect and a shift in priorities."

Apart from the tornado-ravaged buildings of St. Peter, many of which will be rebuilt, the challenge for most of the communities is finding new uses for old buildings whose original purpose has been lost, such as the old City Hall in Nashauk or the Hotel Lac qui Parle in Madison. Or, in the case of the small resorts built in the early 20th century, the key to preservation may be building a coalition of historic resorts to do joint marketing. The list, said Edwards, is just a start.

The update on last year's 10 most endangered properties is mixed.

The Stillwater Bridge may have a better chance of surviving because of a recent ruling by a federal judge that a new bridge across the St. Croix River would adversely affect the scenic riverway. Historic buildings at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus are being studied for reuse rather than slated for demolition. The Washburn Crosby "A" Mill on the Minneapolis riverfront has been stabilized and the Utility Building next to it will be redeveloped for housing. Red Wing's Washington School was demolished, but the city's Central High School is being studied for reuse and is still being used.

The future of other properties on last year's list—such as the Mannheimer-Goodkind House in St. Paul, the Handicraft Building in downtown Minneapolis and Albert Lea's downtown commercial buildings—remains uncertain.

DEPARTMENT OF THE DAKOTA BUILDINGS, FORT SNELLING, HENNEPIN COUNTY

Built between 1879 and 1905, the 28 buildings on 141 acres of land overlooking the Minnesota River form a familiar landmark near the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport, but they are now mostly empty and boarded-up. Competing interests of state and federal agencies have stalled resolution of their future. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is now sponsoring a re-use study. The buildings were on the list of endangered buildings last year as well.

ANOKA AMPHITHEATER, ANOKA, ANOKA COUNTY

This little-known but charming open air theater overlooking the Mississippi River was designed by Prairie School architects Purcell and Elmslie in 1914. Unused for many years and in need of work, the amphitheater sits in the way of a road widening planned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The road wouldn't take the whole theater, but it would lop off the back of it. Other alternatives should be pursued, say preservationists, and the amphitheater kept as part of a park.

ARMSTRONG-QUINLAN HOUSE, ST. PAUL, RAMSEY COUNTY

The 1886 red brick Romanesque house sits in literal and metaphorical limbo surrounded by parking lots on the edge of downtown St. Paul. Owned by the state of Minnesota, it is a lonely reminder of an earlier grand era of residential buildings in downtown St. Paul. It's unlikely the construction of a new hockey arena nearby will help resolve its future.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY RESORTS, CASS COUNTY AND ELSEWHERE

The small rustic resorts run by owner-operators grew up in the early automobile era and make up a charming part of the northern Minnesota landscape. But bigger, fancier resorts, often with centralized operations, are the wave of the future. And the rise in property values and taxes makes it harder and harder for "ma and pa" operators to survive.

DISTRICT NO 5 SCHOOLHOUSE, BERGEN TOWNSHIP, MCLEOD COUNTY

Rural schoolhouses are fast disappearing, and this red brick one built about 1910 is among the most endangered of a number nominated for the list. Their original use is outmoded, but they form a significant part of the rural landscape.

HOTEL LAC QUI PARLE, MADISON, LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

The city of Madison owns the small hotel on a downtown corner and says there's no reuse. Local citizens argue the building forms an important anchor to downtown's character and have persuaded the city to do a structural analysis. Madison has already lost one landmark, a tiny but ornate Prairie School bank designed by architects Purcell and Elmslie in 1913 and demolished in 1968.

NASHWAUK CITY HALL, NASHWAUK, ITASCA COUNTY

Built in 1915, this solid and graceful civic building is one of three intact city halls constructed in company towns during the boom period of the western Mesabi Iron Range. But the city moved out in 1977, and the building faces demolition because of neglect.

ECHO DAIRY FARM, BRAINERD, CROW WING COUNTY

This impressive complex of high-roofed dairy barns just south of Brainerd was built in the early 1920s as one of Minnesota's first corporate agricultural operations and operated until 1971. The city of Brainerd has bought the complex for expansion of an industrial park.

STONE BUILDINGS OF OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, LE SUEUR COUNTY

Built during the 1850s to 1870s, seven native limestone buildings—houses, churches and a town hall—form a charming remnant of a Minnesota River village that was once a center of stone quarrying. Their future may not be so charming: They stand on land that is a prime target for an advancing silica sand mining operation.

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1522, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1522, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2556) to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2556

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking "not to exceed" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "not to exceed \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001."

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 7105(h) of the Partnerships for Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3744(h)) is amended by striking "for each of fiscal years" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "not to exceed \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are voting on H.R. 2556, which authorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act is one of several programs devoted to improving wetlands protection in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It matches Federal dollars with contributions from State, local and private organizations for wetland conservation projects in the U.S., Canada and Mexico that support the North American Wildlife Management plan. The program has resulted in the protection of more than 3 million acres of wetlands in the U.S. and Canada over the past seven years.

The population of most species of migratory ducks and geese in North America have been increasing for the past several years. It is impossible to say whether or not any single program has caused this increase, but habitat conservation is certainly making an important contribution. There is widespread agreement that the North