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Campus Historic Preservation Plan receives Minnesota Preservation Award

Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris Historic Preservation Plan has been awarded one of only 15 Minnesota Preservation Awards by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM).

(October 8, 2007)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Historic Preservation Plan has been awarded one of only 15 Minnesota Preservation Awards by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM). The award ceremony was held October 2 in conjunction with the National Preservation Conference in St. Paul. UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson, along with Roland Guyotte, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean, and Stephen Gross, associate professor of history, attended the ceremony to accept the award on behalf of UMM.

“We are so pleased and proud to accept this award,” said Johnson. “This recognition by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is further confirmation of our commitment to preserve our historic campus. UMM is fortunate to benefit from and to build upon the legacy of those who occupied this site before us. We appreciate the passion and collaborative spirit of those who partnered with us on the Historic Preservation Plan.”

UMM’s Historic Preservation Plan was honored in the Stewardship Award category along with the Bloomington Old Town Hall. In a documentation of the award, PAM noted: “The campus preservation plan for the historic campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris is one of the most comprehensive in the nation. It addresses the 18 buildings in the central campus, most designed by noted Minnesota architect Clarence H. Johnston, Sr., and also the rich landscape by the Minnesota firm of Morell and Nichols. Since the plan’s completion, the Seed House has been renovated and Imholte Hall expanded, Spooner and Camden Halls have been tuckpointed and landscape features such as the windbreaks and elm boulevards restored. In addition, campus history has been incorporated into student coursework, making the plan an integral part of the college’s famed liberal arts education.”

The documentation also cites the plan’s authors Gemini Research, Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, landscape historian Frank Edgerton Martin, landscape architect Michael Schroeder and UMM Plant Services.

The Getty Grant Program awarded $180,000 to the University of Minnesota, Morris in 2002 for the development of a preservation plan for the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District (WCSA). The district is located at the heart of the UMM campus.

Lowell Rasmussen, UMM associate vice chancellor for physical plant and master planning, assembled a team that included Gemini Research, the historic research consulting firm owned by Susan Granger ’80 and Scott Kelly ’78, and Dennis Gimmestad ’73 of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is the statewide, private, nonprofit organization advocating for the preservation of Minnesota’s historic resources.

One of the most intact examples of a residential agriculture high school still standing in the U.S., the WCSA was entered
on the National Register of Historic Places in January 2003. The historic district nomination brings with it a challenge to preserve, and, when possible, rehabilitate the historic landscapes and buildings within the district.

The Getty Grant Program is part of the J. Paul Getty Trust, an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts located at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. Further information is available by visiting www.getty.edu.

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