



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Escanaba Downtown Added to the National Register of Historic Places

A Downtown Historic District in Escanaba is among the most recent listings to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announced late last month.

"The recognition of Downtown Historic Districts is an important step in preserving a sense of place in our communities," said State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway. "Listing in the National Register – the nation's list of historic sites worthy of preservation – enables the owners of income-producing properties to apply for Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits for the rehabilitation of their building, thereby encouraging investment in vacant and underused buildings."

The SHPO, part of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), hired consultants to prepare nominations for the central business districts of three communities to support statewide downtown revitalization programs, including Escanaba, Owosso and Alma. The SHPO selected Escanaba because of the local interest generated in historic rehabilitation by the successful conversion of the Richter Brewery into apartments known as the Lofts on Ludington.

The Escanaba Central Historic District stretches for more than a mile along Ludington Street, roughly including its 200-1800 blocks from the House of Ludington near the foot of the street all the way to the former Stegath Lumber and Richter Brewery complexes. It encompasses the City's historic central business district and parts of adjacent blocks containing the County Courthouse Complex, historic Junior High School, the former City Hall and Public Library, and church buildings. The district's 185 buildings date mostly from the early 1880's to the mid-1960's and include four churches, three theater buildings, the former post office, fraternal and social hall buildings, as well as commercial building that housed hotels, banks, department stores, restaurants, saloons, stores and offices. The district has more than a dozen buildings employing Lake Superior red sandstone, Neoclassical former bank buildings, late Victorian commercial blocks and Period Revival and Modern movie theaters, and later representatives of International and Mid-Century Modern influences.

Historic sites are nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Review Board, which considers nominations to the register three times per year. On behalf of the Review Board, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) forwards nominations to the keeper of the National Register, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, for listing. Michigan has more than 1600 listings in the National Register of Historic Places, including some 250 districts comprising more than 20,000 properties.

The SHPO coordinates the National Register Program in Michigan. For more information on the National Register of Historic Places and other programs of the State Historic Preservation Office, visit www.michigan.gov/shpo or call (517) 373-1630.