

Bald Mountain Site Named in National Register of Historic Places



The interior of one of the bathhouses.

History abounds in many places, but not all are in the National Register of Historic Places.

That designation is reserved for sites "worthy of preservation."

One of those such sites – in Oakland County – has recently been honored by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

The SHPO has listed seven Michigan sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

The one in Oakland County is the Lower Trout Lake Bathhouse Complex and Contact Station in the Bald Mountain Recreation Area Entrance. The site is in Orion Township, just down the road from Auburn Hills.

"The listing of sites in the national register represents interest and hard work by individuals throughout the state who see the value of their historic buildings – what these structures contribute to the community – and have taken the initiative to obtain listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's list of historic sites worthy of preservation," said State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway.

"These historic structures are irreplaceable and we hope this recognition will assist in their preservation."

SHPO officials said the Lower Trout Lake Bathhouse Complex and Contact Station are significant under national register criteria as "Modernist structures unique within the Michigan state park system" and inspired by the modern architecture of the National Park Service's nationwide Mission 66 program.

The buildings were designed by architect Gunnar Birkerts, who is known for his high-style modern structures.

Tyson Brown, president of the Auburn Hills Historical Society, said that his group was not involved in helping pick the site.

"Having seen the building they chose, I understood why they placed it in the National Register of Historical Places," Brown said. "The complex consists of five structures that serve as an excellent example of mid-century modernist architectural design."

And because the site is not privately owned, a lot of problems are eliminated.

"If a site is someone's home,



The Lower Trout Lake Bathhouse Complex and Contact Station in the Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

you always run the risk of someone remodeling it or doing extensive changes to building down the road," Brown said.

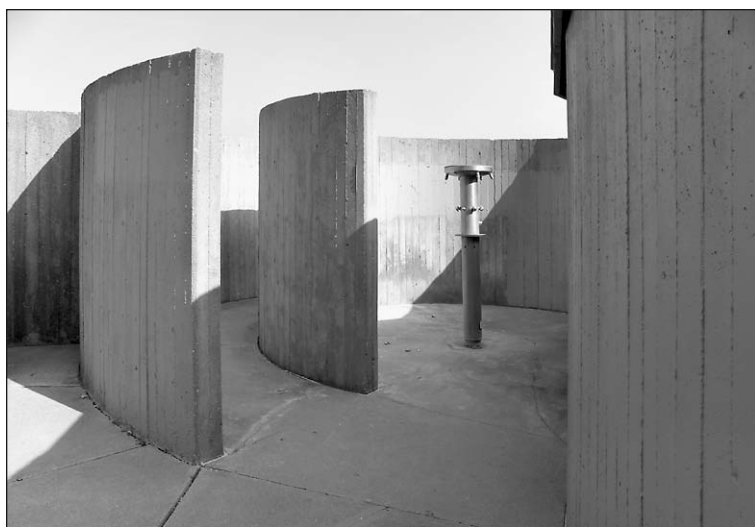
He added, "I will say that this area has a lot of historic buildings."

In its announcement, the SHPO stated that 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, 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 1,600 listings in the National Register of Historic Places, including some 250 districts comprising more than 20,000 properties.

The other sites in Michigan include Henry's Evangelical Luther-



The complex includes showers – an example of mid-century design.

an Church in Houghton County, Eastern Avenue School in Grand Rapids, the Park Hotel and Cabins complex in Marquette County, Fre-

mont High School in Newago County and the Henry Ford Hospital Building at 2799 West Grand Blvd. in Detroit.

Auburn Hills Working to Develop Its Downtown Area, Says City Manager

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A major portion of this story appeared in the Oct. 7, 2013, issue of this newspaper. Unfortunately, a good part of it was omitted. That part is reproduced here.)

The first part of the story dealt with the fact that Auburn Hills has been a leader in attracting businesses to its city, with several points of interest brought up by City Manager Pete Auger, who spoke at an Oct. 3 Chamber of Commerce-sponsored economic round table discussion.

Here are a few excerpts from last week's story to set up Part Two that was missing.)

Auger said, "We are the third-largest city in the state in terms of manufacturing. Grand Rapids is first and Detroit is second."

Auburn Hills is within 500 miles of 40 percent of the U.S. population and 50 percent of the Canadian population. It's near Detroit's port and there are several airports in the area that can handle cargo.

But what makes Auburn Hills different from other communities, Auger said, is "we recognize that time is a valuable commodity."

And now... the rest of the story.

Right now, Auger said, the city is working on projects to develop the downtown area.

"By having a place where people can walk and shop, the city becomes that much more attractive to potential homeowners and businesses."

Auger said there have been a number of suggestions from the public on what the city could do. Things like perhaps building some sort of convention center. He's not against that, but he said it's important that the

city doesn't overextend itself.

He added, "I don't want to bring in a business that will shut down another business. There are some nice convention centers nearby the city and many of the people who attend events there come to this city, either to shop or to stay in one of our hotels. So we benefit from that."

"But if Auburn Hills opens a convention center, it might create too much direct competition. I'm not against any idea, but it's important to consider the cost and consequences of any proposal before going forward."

In discussing the Pontiac school district problem, Auger said Auburn Hills is leading the fight to break up the district, but it's a hard fight because the political will to do so just isn't there right now.

He said Auburn Hills sends only about 250 students to the school district, yet because of the way the district operates, Auburn Hills residents and businesses would be on the hook for about half of \$8 million in medical expenses the district has incurred but failed to pay.

Auger said the city was able to use state law to split its payments of that debt over a 10-year period, but that doesn't solve the problem.

The Pontiac school district once had about 25,000 students, Auger said. Now it has, "if you trust the numbers," about 5,000.

The issue isn't going to go away, Auger said. The school district claims to be \$35 million in debt, but he figures that number is closer to \$100 million.

"The current situation just can't go on," he said. "Eventually, something will have to be done."

Ford Spends \$6.9 Billion with Minorities

Ford Motor Company has been named Corporation of the Year by the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC).

Ford was honored for its excellence and commitment to working with and helping to develop and mentor minority business enterprises. This is the fourth year in a row Ford has received the honor.

Additionally, Carla Traci Preston, director of Ford's Supplier Diversity Development program, was honored for individual achievements in supplier diversity, said Kristina Adamski, Manufacturing and Purchasing Communications manager.

In 2012, Ford exceeded its sourcing goals by purchasing \$5.7 billion in goods and services from minority-owned suppliers and \$1.2 billion in goods and

services from women-owned suppliers, Adamski said. Last year, Ford's Tier I suppliers sourced \$2.1 billion with Tier II minority- and women-owned companies.

"This win clearly underscores the company's ongoing commitment to develop and grow its minority- and women-owned suppliers," said Hau Thai-Tang, group vice president, Ford Global Purchasing.

Preston, honored for her individual achievements to supplier diversity, received the Jethro Joseph Advocate of the Year award. This award is presented annually to an individual who is not a buyer, but still symbolizes through his or her actions the spirit and intent of supplier diversity in minority economic development.


"Ford Motor Company contin-

ues to be a leader when it comes to minority- and women-owned businesses," said Louis Green, CEO, MMSDC.

"Ford's dedication and commitment to develop and maintain a diverse supplier base was established decades ago and will continue for decades to come," he added.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Ford's Supplier Diversity Development program, Adamski said. Since 1978, Ford has spent \$67 billion with more than 400 minority suppliers.

"Our diverse supplier base allows us to deliver great and innovative products and services that our customers around the world want and deserve," said Burt Jordan, vice president, Ford Global Vehicle and Powertrain Purchasing and Supplier Diversity.



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