

# 10 Most Endangered Historic Places

# 2010

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ [www.mnpreservation.org](http://www.mnpreservation.org)



As the only remaining Queen Anne-style brick and stone depot built along James J. Hill's famed Great Northern Railway, the depot in Princeton is a truly landmark structure. It was built 1902 to accommodate regional railroad freight and passengers traveling along the Milaca Line, and funded with a \$50,000 commitment from the City of Princeton. Brick used in the structure was produced in nearby Brickton, Minnesota and the depot was considered one of the finest along the Great Northern Railway. It remained in service until 1981 when the railroad abandoned the Milaca Line.

Now the home of the Mille Lacs County Historical Society, the depot building contains all of the county's historical archives of photos, newspapers, microfilm, artifacts and documents. As a small non-profit, the historical society's budget is inadequate to ensure maintenance of the historic structure that houses its priceless artifacts. The building desperately needs a new roof, repointing of the masonry exterior, and renovation of its electrical, fire-suppression, and life-safety systems. A partnership with the City of Princeton and Mille Lacs County, coupled with a large infusion of cash to match available grant funds, would ensure the long-term preservation of this vital community resource and historically significant structure.

## Action Steps

1. Contact the Princeton Mayor and City Council or Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners to express your desire to see the Depot preserved. [www.princetonmn.org/](http://www.princetonmn.org/) or [www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us/](http://www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us/)
2. Volunteer your grant-writing services to the Mille Lacs County Historical Society, or make a financial contribution towards such services. [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnmlchs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnmlchs/)
3. Facilitate a discussion between the Mille Lacs County Historical Society and its local partners about the financial needs of the Depot.
4. Form or participate in a task force to develop short-term and long-range master plans for the Depot renovation and use.
5. Make a financial contribution to the Mille Lacs County Historical Society to conduct a condition assessment survey of the Depot building.



**PRINCETON**

## Great Northern Railway Depot