



## HISTORY LESSON

With support of an MAF Evans-Graham Preservation Grant, the 1849 King House, once part of an Odawa Indian fishing village, is getting a new roof.

**Michigan Architectural Foundation Evans-Graham Award catalyzes first phase in preserving piece of Michigan's native american history.**

Architecture is one of the most important reflections of our history, society, and culture, and preserving structures perpetuates the stories architecture will help tell future generations.

In 2016, the Michigan Architectural Foundation selected the nonprofit King House Association to receive an MAF Evans-Graham Memorial Preservation Award grant. The King House, located near Good Hart, was part of Middle Village, a vibrant 19th century Odawa Indian fishing village during the 1700-1800's. The King House Association, comprised of area residents who purchased the 1849 log home from the King family, used the \$7,500 grant to towards replacing the home's cedar roof, which was the first step in stabilizing the structure.

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“The King House represents an important piece of Michigan's history. Through dedication of groups like the King House Association, these buildings are being restored and preserved, and MAF is proud to support their efforts.”

Jeanne and Ralph Graham established Michigan Architectural Foundation’s Evans-Graham Memorial Preservation Award in honor of their friend and preservation architect, David Evans. Ralph Graham was a preservation advocate and MAF’s first public trustee. The award provides vital funding to protect and restore landmark buildings throughout Michigan.

Early in Michigan’s history, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians occupied the area around Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Mackinaw, and Charlevoix, living in temporary housing during the warmer months and migrating to southern Michigan for the winter. After European settlers arrived in the area, the Odawa stayed year round, working for the settlers or establishing their own businesses, and setting up permanent housing, schools and churches. The King House is the last standing, unoccupied, original permanent house that comprised the center of the Odawa fishing community.

The King House Association is planning additional restoration and preservation phases for the building and grounds. Future phases will include informational displays for visitors wishing to learn more about the people and history of Middle Village and Good Hart, the chinking and treatment of the cabin’s hewn logs, and working with a timber craftsmen’s guild to teach others traditional hewn log techniques. The Association also has been fortunate to have access to King family photo albums and historical postcards, to reference during the preservation.

Past Evans-Graham Memorial Preservation awards have funded repairs and/or renovation work

on Detroit’s Belle Isle Aquarium, Charlevoix’s 1885 South Pier lighthouse, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Affleck House in Bloomfield Hills, Detroit’s Corktown Tenement House, and 19th-century copper mining heritage sites in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

“Every organization that has received an MAF Evans-Graham grant has been committed to projects that have played roles in Michigan’s history,” said Smith. “These are the projects that help generate pride in our local communities and history, and thanks to the efforts of groups like the King House Association, will have a significant place in our future.”

