



**To the Mackinac Island Planning Commission & Historic District Commissions:**

We would like to make a presentation for this next month of October to the Historic District Commission and the Planning Commission, an overview of the Expansion of the building housing the Trading Post, May's Fudge and Baxter's 'Somewhere in Time' Shops to create restaurant dining on the lake, expanding our trade to restaurants, geared toward both the daytime public for cuisine representing the culture and heritage of Mackinac Island but also at night to include fine dining upon the harbor, of the best cuisine Mackinac Island has to offer – representative of the deep historic French & Native American cultural treasure of food dishes which are unique to the Great Lakes and especially our region.

Presenting will be Devan Anderson of Quinn Evans, of Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Washington D.C., which specializes in historic renovations and architecture, has experience specifically with historic districts, preserving the cultural heritage of communities across Michigan and the Nation.

The talk is to invite comment from the commissioners and the community, and will be followed up with more presentations, to each commission in the coming months.

We welcome the public to attend if it can be brought to their attention, we hope the project will excite the community that the harbor is being brought in a big way to the center of downtown, and especially that the culture unique to us will be the central theme of the project, the bridging to life our culture traditions and cuisine and opening up the harbor to everyone.

Our building being expanded is a contributing historic structure built circa 1900 and housing the original Murdick's Famous Fudge which moved after selling to Harold May in the 1930s to Charlevoix. That business still exists and has expanded to Mackinaw City. This building also became the first store owned by our family, in 1948 the Trading Post was built by Anthony Trayser and his partner and was built by local carpenters of Native American ancestry who cut the bark off trees harvested on Bois Blanc Island in the winter when the sap ran low, so the bark would stay on, and lasted for over 50 years, the original bark. The totems on the face were hand carved by someone they knew from Cedarville. The wood was carried across the ice in winter by horses. The back of the building facing the lake was expanded first in 1969 with a seawall being built in 1968. The apartment Richard Trayser, Anthony C. Trayser's son moved into was built in the expansion approximately 25 feet into the harbor, the original structure facing the lake has been entirely modified, nothing remains of that original structure, all has been expanded and modified, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor structurally modified to correct the buildings weaknesses in 1995.

We have commissioned the firm of Quincy Evans to conduct also a thorough historic review of the property using the historians they employ in Ann Arbor and in other parts of the nation, to do as thorough a history of the building as they can, and we hope to bring this historic story investigated by professional historians to add depth and color to our local community's story and will preserve and honor the past, including the deepest part of our island's and community's story, the Native American history along this beach.

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