



**Department of Community Planning & Economic Development
Planning Division**

250 South 4th Street, Room 200
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1385

MEMORANDUM

TO: Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission
FROM: Molly McCartney
DATE: January 27, 2009
RE: Historic Resource Surveys

This is an update to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) about Historic Resource Surveys that are being conducted by CPED with the assistance of Certified Local Government (CLG) grants from the Minnesota Historic Society (MHS). As a Certified Local Government (CLG), Minneapolis is eligible to apply for annual federal grants administered through MHS and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Since 2001, there has been an effort to complete a reconnaissance level survey of the entire city with approximately 75 percent of the city-re-surveyed with CLG grants. CPED has also received CLG grants for other types of preservation projects since the mid 1980's.

Background of previous and future survey work in Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis was originally surveyed for historic properties in the 1970's and 1980's with a concentration on architectural styles. Updating the historic resource survey began with the Minneapolis Preservation Study Group (1999-2001) that provided funds from the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA)¹ to the Minneapolis Planning Department for revision of the City's Historic Resources Inventory. This fund has been used since fiscal year 2000-2001 to match the CLG grants for the historic resources survey revision.

The re-survey of the City was undertaken after a number of significant preservation policy documents were drafted in the 1990s that were supported in part by CLG grants. The Minneapolis Preservation Plan was completed in 1990, which laid out a number of historic contexts, or themes, important in the history of Minneapolis. The Plan identified the following local contexts – eight broad contexts and thirty-two sub-contexts:

- Architecture
- Business and Industry
- Civic
- Culture, Fine and Applied Arts
- Education
- Residential Development
- Religion and Social Organizations, and
- Transportation.

¹ The MCDA merged with the Planning Department in 2003 to create the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department.

As an element of the City's preservation policy, the Preservation Plan establishes a framework for staff and the HPC and emphasizes the importance of historic preservation within other elements of the comprehensive plan.

From 1997 to 2000, four area-wide context studies of city development were completed. The context studies outlined the general development history of Minneapolis and connected the City's development with the eight broad contexts outlined in the Preservation Plan for the following geographic areas:

- 1997-1998: North Minneapolis
- 1997-1998: Northeast Minneapolis
- 1999-2000: Downtown
- 1999-2000: South Minneapolis.

Since the four area-wide historic context studies were completed, the re-survey has been carried out by geographic area, typically a group of neighborhoods. The first priority of the survey plan was to capture areas of Minneapolis that were targets for redevelopment and demolition. Previous surveys include the following areas:

- 2001: Powderhorn, Whittier, Phillips, Central
- 2001-2002: North Minneapolis (Bryn Mawr, Glenwood, Willard Hay, Near North, Jordan, Hawthorne, Cleveland, Folwell, McKinley)
- 2002-2003: Cedar Riverside
- 2003-2004: Northeast Minneapolis
- 2004-2005: Southwest Minneapolis
- 2005-2006: Calhoun Isles area
- 2007-2008: Lowry Hill East, Loring Park, Elliot Park
- 2008-2009: Seward, Longfellow, Cooper, Howe, Hiawatha

(Please see attached map #1 for the surveyed areas.)

CLG Grant 2008-2009

For the current fiscal year (2008-2009), the survey area includes the neighborhoods of Seward, Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha in South Minneapolis (please see attached map #1). CPED has contracted with local historians Will Stark and John Lauber to complete the reconnaissance-level survey of these neighborhoods. The survey will culminated with a report that incorporates existing research and historic contexts and recommendations for intensive surveys as well as potential landmarks and districts.

As part of the survey project, CPED and the project consultants are hosting three community meetings to discuss the survey and preservation activities in the survey area. Heritage Preservation Commissioners are welcome at these meetings! The first two meetings in February and March, while the third will be this spring in May.

February 3rd, 2009

6:00pm to 7:30 pm

Matthews Park recreation center

2318 29th Ave. S

The first meeting is intended to introduce the survey project and preservation activities to the community.

March 24th, 2009

6:30pm to 8:00 pm

Becketwood Chapel
4300 West River Parkway

The second meeting will be to gather information about historic resources from community members.

CLG Grant 2009-2010

Applications for CLG grants for fiscal year 2009-2010 are due to the SHPO office by February 20, 2009 with grant awards announced in spring, 2009. The CPED proposal for 2009-2010 is the completion of the citywide historic resource study.

The completion of the resurvey of Minneapolis by the end of 2010 is consistent with the 10-year goal set by the Minneapolis Preservation Study Group in 2001 as well as policy from the Comprehensive Plan. The survey area includes portions of North, Southeast, Southwest and South Minneapolis (please see attached map #2). There are non-contiguous areas in the proposed survey; however, there are similarities in the development pattern of these areas. Many of these areas were lands last annexed to the City of Minneapolis, were located outside of the streetcar network, and developed after the proliferation of the automobile.

In order to complete the survey for the proposed areas during the 2009-2010 CLG grant period, CPED-staff proposes to contribute in-kind resources to the survey, specifically creating a Historic Resource Geographic Information System (GIS) – a spatial mapping program that can help to prioritize properties in the survey areas prior to and during field review of properties. The use of GIS and mapping will focus survey efforts and eliminate some areas or properties from review. Staff would be able to consolidate information from previous context studies and Heritage Preservation files into the GIS prior to work performed by a consultant.

Inference mapping and the use of GIS in heritage preservation is a new concept for Minneapolis, however, spatial data analysis is a routine analytical tool used in the planning, geography, and history fields. The use of spatial data as a predictive methodology can advance qualitative and quantitative skills in the discipline of preservation. Minneapolis is in a unique position to have staff and resources to support an innovative survey research design that incorporates GIS and mapping. In addition to the research assistance, maps and other visual resources contribute to the quality of the public outreach and education that is vital to the survey program. Maps can communicate to community residents as well as elected and appointed officials the project impacts and benefits.

CPED staff is also presenting the 2009-2010 CLG grant request to the City Council at the Zoning and Planning Committee on January 29, 2009, and the Ways and Means Committee on February 2, 2009. Comments from this meeting will be forwarded to the City Council.

Attachments:

- Map of 2008-2009 survey area
- Map of 2009-2010 survey area