



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 27, 2018

Michael Justin  
Chair, Saint Paul HPC  
183 Goodrich Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55102

Re Local designation of Fire Station #10, 754 Randolph Ave., SHPO File Number

Dear Mr. Justin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced designation and preservation program. It has been reviewed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §471.193, subd. 5., and 73.05 (4) of Saint Paul's Legislative Code.

Constructed in two phases in 1885 and 1911, Fire Station #10 is a rectangular, two-story brick building with a brick parapet, flat roof, and a hose tower protruding near the center of the roof. The first floor façade consists of three overhead garage doors and two pedestrian doors. The second floor façade is pierced by seven double hung sash windows. A corbeled brick cornice caps the top of the building on three sides. A small, one-story addition made of CMU was attached in 1953 to the southeast side of the building. A detached, two-story storage shed made of rough-faced concrete block and wood framing stands on the southeast corner of the lot; it was built in the 1920s and expanded in the 1940s-1950s.

Fire Station #10 is historically significant at the local level for its association with the early years of racially integrated firehouses in Saint Paul. It is one of the few extant fire stations that played a role in the integration of the African American company after it was disbanded in 1942. Fire Station #10 gains additional significance as an indicator of the growth of the Saint Paul Fire Department and by providing service to new residential areas of southwestern Saint Paul during the late nineteenth century.

The proposed preservation program for Fire Station #10 will help establish a desired and consistent level of quality and aesthetics for the character-defining features of the historic building. These guidelines will assist the current and future owners of the property as well as the Heritage Preservation Commission to plan for and evaluate proposed exterior alterations, new construction and demolition adjacent to the building, and any other changes that may impact the integrity of the building.

There are several items in the document that need to be revised/edited. The first paragraph on page 4 states that the "current structure originates from the 1920s", which contradicts the 1885 construction date listed at the top of page 3. The property location denoted on the map with a red star appears to be incorrect. It would help in the first paragraph of the Description on page 4 to clearly state that the designation consists of two separate buildings: 1) Fire Station 10 and 2) Storage Shed.

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE


50 Sherburne Avenue Administration Building 203 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 651-201-3287

[mn.gov/admin/shpo/](http://mn.gov/admin/shpo/) [mnshpo@state.mn.us](mailto:mnshpo@state.mn.us)

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If you have any questions regarding our assessment of this property, please contact me at 651.201.3291 or [michael.koop@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.koop@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Koop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Michael Koop

Historic Preservation Program Specialist and Certified Local Government Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: George Gause, City of Saint Paul