

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

FILE NAME: 754 Randolph Avenue, Fire Station #10
HISTORIC NAME(S): Chemical House #5, Engine House #10, Hook & Ladder #11
CURRENT NAME: Fire Station #10
INVENTORY #: RA-SPC-3110
OWNER: Saint Paul Fire Department
LOCATION/ADDRESS: 754 Randolph Avenue
DATE OF HPC PUBLIC HEARING: June 14, 2018
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 2, 3, and Lot 4, Block 1, Clarke's Addition
WARD: 2 PLANNING DISTRICT: 9—West Seventh Street/Fort Road
STAFF INVESTIGATION AND REPORT: George Gause

A. PURPOSE: To consider local designation of the property as Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

B. CODE CITATIONS:

1. Section 73.05 (a) of the City's Legislative Code states, in considering the designation of any area, place, building, structure or similar object in the City of Saint Paul as a heritage preservation site; the commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such designation:

- (1) Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, or the United States.
- (2) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.
- (3) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City of Saint Paul.
- (4) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural or engineering type or specimen.
- (5) Its identification as the work of an architect, engineer, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of Saint Paul.
- (6) Its embodiment of elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural or engineering innovation.
- (7) Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City of Saint Paul.

2. Section 73.05 (e) states for *Finding and recommendations*, the heritage preservation commission shall determine if the proposed heritage preservation site(s) is eligible for designation as determined by the criteria specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and if the heritage preservation commission recommends to the city council that the site(s) be designated as a heritage preservation site, the commission shall transmit to the city council with its recommendation its proposed program for the preservation of the site.

C. BACKGROUND:

The first comprehensive Historic Sites Survey in St. Paul was completed in 1983. Fire Station #10 at 754 Randolph was assigned an inventory number and an inventory form was completed.

The Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan goal 1.13 states that the City should “*designate City-Owned properties that include historic resources as a heritage preservation site or historic district prior to sale.*” The plan goes on to state in goal 3.11, “*Make the designation of significant historic resources as preservation sites a priority for the City Council*”

Prior to the sale of Fire Station #10 by the Saint Paul Fire Department a consultant was contracted to complete a designation nomination for the property.

The structure is not ornate or highly stylized, its significance lies in the social history of the site, the most important aspects of its design integrity are the configuration of its spaces for use as a fire station. Although the building has been altered several times throughout the years, the character-defining features have largely been retained. The major character-defining features of the building include the overhead doors and openings towards Randolph Avenue, the large garage spaces for the fire apparatuses, and the hose tower. These features greatly contribute to the identity of this building as a fire station.

Fire Station No. 10 is locally significant for its association with the early years of racially integrated firehouses in St. Paul. It is one of the few extant fire houses that played a role in the integration of the African American fire company after it was disbanded in 1942. The construction of the station also represents a pivotal period of growth of the SPFD, which was spurred by a prominent period of both geographic and population growth for the city (1885-1890). Its location is significant, because it provided service to the new residential areas on the southwest corner of St. Paul before they were reached by city water mains.

D. FINDINGS:

1. The Planning Commission committee has recommended support of the designation to the Planning Commission. Planning commission will meet on June 15 to decide if the proposal is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §471.193, subd. 6, and Section 73.05 (c) of Saint Paul’s Legislative Code, staff submitted the proposed nomination form and draft preservation program to the State Historic Preservation Office and received a reply on April 27, 2018 which stated that they agreed with Fire Station #10 being “*historically significant at the local level*”.
3. The Fire Station #10 Nomination is significant under criteria (1) of Section 73.05 (a) of the Legislative Code.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the above findings, staff recommends that the Fire Station #10 at 754 Randolph Street be accepted by the HPC and the HPC recommend the property for designation as Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Sites along with the Preservation Program (design guidelines) for City Council consideration.

F. SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move to recommend to City Council that the Fire Station #10 at 754 Randolph Street be accepted for designation as Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Sites along with the Preservation Program (design guidelines).