

April 15, 2010

Mr. John Manning, Chair  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
1255 Goodrich Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

RE: Local designation of the Victoria Theater, 825 University Ave., MHS Referral No. 2010-1931

Dear Mr. Manning,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced designation. It has been reviewed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §471.193, subd. 6., and Section 73.05(c) of St. Paul's Legislative Code.

The Victoria Theater is an intact, two-story building sheathed with brick and terra cotta, located in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul. It was designed in the Beaux Arts style by the St. Paul architect Franklin Ellerbe of the firm Ellerbe Architects. The theater was built in 1915 to show silent movies and was later renamed the Victoria Café and used as a dance hall for cabaret-style shows. In 1927, as part of the first commercial label recording sessions held in the Upper Midwest, the Victoria Café's house orchestra recorded "Moonshiner's Dance" for Gennett Records. The jazz/polka instrumental record was included on a 1952 recording, *The Anthology of American Folk Music*, which played a significant role in the development of American folk arts. The Victoria Café was also important for its association with the political history of Prohibition in St. Paul. As such, the Victoria Theater is an appropriate candidate for local designation.

If you have any questions regarding our assessment of this property, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Amy Spong, City of St. Paul



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
*Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor*

*25 West Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102*

*Telephone: 651-266-6700  
Facsimile: 651-228-3220*

February 25, 2010

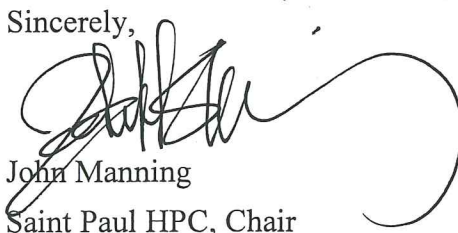
Michael Koop  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Koop:

Attached you will find a copy of the most recent proposal by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) for the local designation of the Victoria Theater at 825 University Avenue West (RA-SPC-3892). As stipulated in the Saint Paul Legislative Code Chapter 73 Section 73.05(c), we ask that you please review the commission's proposed designation and we welcome you to comment and advise on its contents.

Please feel free to contact HPC staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
John Manning  
Saint Paul HPC, Chair

Encl.

Cc: File ✓