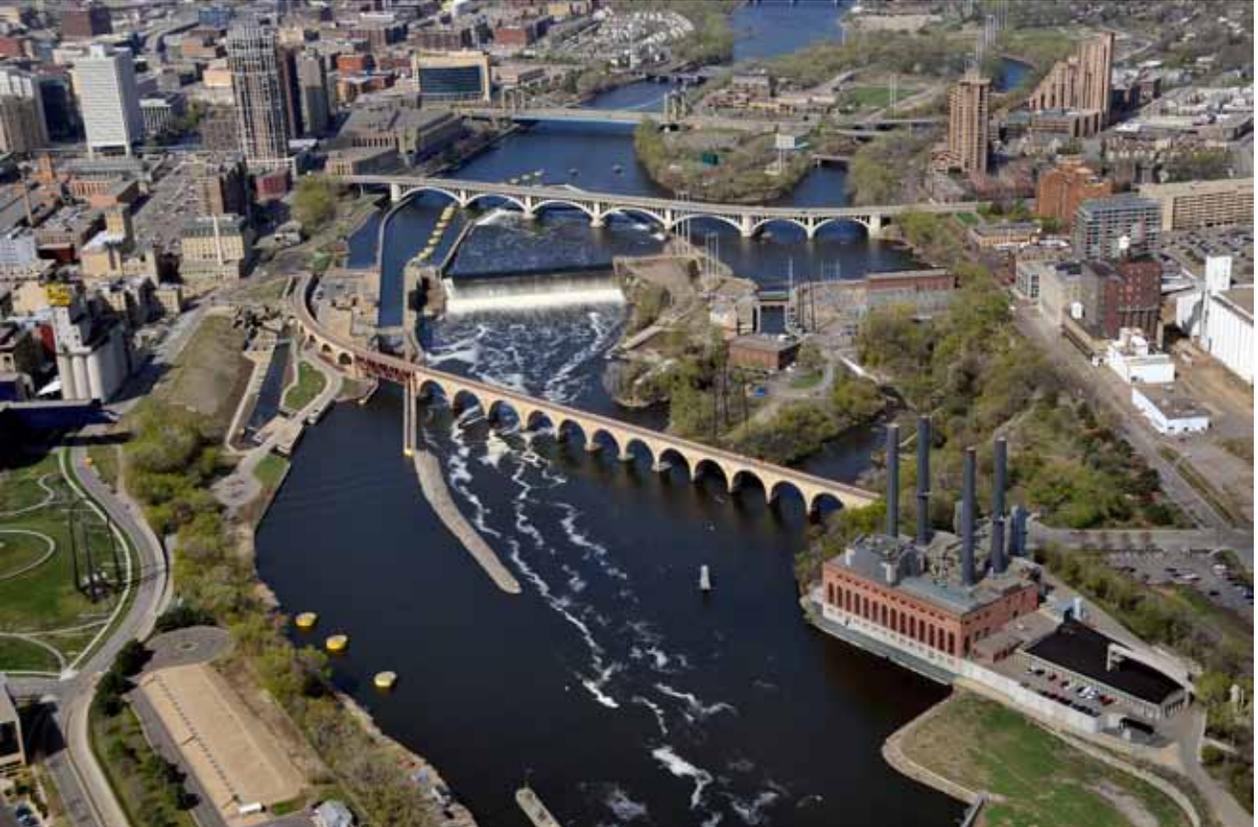


St. Anthony Falls Historic District Design Guidelines



Adopted by the Heritage
Preservation Commission
October 23, 2012

Credits

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Minneapolis Community

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Character Areas

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View looking from the East Bank to the West Bank (Minneapolis skyline) of the Mississippi River in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District

Winter & Company

CLOSE Landscape Architecture

SA + R (SHEARS ADKINS ROCKMORE)

Introduction

The St. Anthony Falls Historic District is the heart of the city of Minneapolis and the center of its founding. It is nationally recognized as a place of cultural and historical importance and is officially designated as such. Its historic resources are enjoyed by residents, business owners and visitors alike and contribute to a “sense of place” that contributes to the distinct identity of the city. Preserving these assets is therefore essential to the city’s well being.

These design guidelines establish standards for determining the appropriateness of work that is planned in the district. This includes alterations to historic buildings, the design of new structures, improvements to landscapes and public spaces. The guidelines also promote good stewardship of archaeological resources and elements of historic infrastructure that remain. These help to convey the history of the area.

The intent is to protect the integrity and character of the district and to ensure that new development occurs in a manner that is sensitive to the historic character of this unique place.

While applying best practices in historic preservation is the focus, the guidelines also draw upon urban design principles that address how streets are designed to be active and pedestrian-friendly and to establish a sense of relatedness among properties.

The design guidelines are written to serve a wide audience. This includes property owners, residents, architects, engineers, contractors and City staff. Basic information about preservation also is provided for all who are interested in understanding design in the district and the interconnectedness of its features.



View from the East Bank to the West Bank of the Saint Anthony Falls Historic District.

I have a project in mind. What steps should I take to use this document?

Step 1

Develop an understanding of the importance of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. See Chapter 3.

Step 2

Plan the project approach; if it is a historic property, begin with Chapter 1. For all projects, see the chart on the following page to determine which chapters will apply.

Step 3

Understand the context of the project. Locate the relevant character area on page 6 and also see Chapter 10.

Step 4

Understand the structure of the design guidelines and how to apply them. See Chapter 2 for an explanation.

Start planning the project!

With this understanding of the context, and a basic approach for the project, work with the relevant design guidelines to craft a successful project.



It is important to understand the context to craft a successful project. These images show buildings that define a street wall. This is an important design feature in this context.

How to determine which chapters apply

Use the following chart to determine which chapters apply to your project. City staff can assist with identifying the appropriate chapters for the project.

| | Chapter to Use: | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|------------|
| | 1 Planning a Preservation Project | 2 Understanding the content of a Design Guideline | 3 The Design Traditions of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District | 4 Guidelines for Treatment and Identification of Archaeological Resources | 5 Historic Infrastructure | 6 Landscape, Streetscape & Open Space | 7 General Guidelines | 8 Building Rehabilitation Guidelines | 9 New Infill Building Guidelines | 10 Character Areas | Appendices |
| Rehabilitate a Contributing or Historic Resource | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Restore a Non-Contributing Resource ¹ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Improve a Non-Contributing Resource | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Construct a New Building | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Landscape, Streetscape & Open Space | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Archaeological Resource | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Historic Infrastructure | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |

1) Some older properties have lost integrity as a historic resource, and may usually be improved following guidelines for new construction. However, if it is determined that restoration is the preferred treatment, then the rehabilitation chapter would apply.

Note: A blank box indicates that the chapter does not usually apply.

A brief description of each chapter is provided here.

Chapter 1
Planning a Preservation Project

Approved approaches for treatment of a historic resource are defined, and steps are outlined to follow in developing an overall plan. This is an essential part of developing an improvement concept.

Chapter 2
Understanding the Content of a Design Guideline

The structure of an individual guideline is described, as well as the organizational system that is employed in this document. All users should understand this material.

Chapter 3
The Design Traditions of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District

The history of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District, focusing on its physical development patterns is outlined. Also an understanding of its existing character and the types of resources located within the district are discussed.

Chapter 4
Guidelines for Identification and Treatment of Archaeological Resources

The approach one should take when addressing archeological resources throughout the district is discussed.

Chapter 5
Historic Infrastructure

The approach one should take when addressing historic infrastructure resources including rail lines, streets and sidewalks is provided.

Chapter 6
Landscape, Streetscape and Open Space

The treatment of historic landscapes as well as new designs throughout the district are addressed.

Chapter 7

General Guidelines

A variety of topics, including the treatment of views, site design, services areas, lighting and awnings are addressed. These may occur in a preservation project and a new building project as well.

Chapter 8

Building Rehabilitation Guidelines

More detailed guidelines for treatment of specific building details, materials and other essential components related to historic properties in the district are provided.

Chapter 9

New Infill Building Guidelines

Design guidelines for new buildings are provided. The first section addresses general guidance for any type of new structure, throughout the area, and of all building types. Then, guidelines for some specific building types are provided, including commercial, industrial and warehouse structures.

Chapter 10

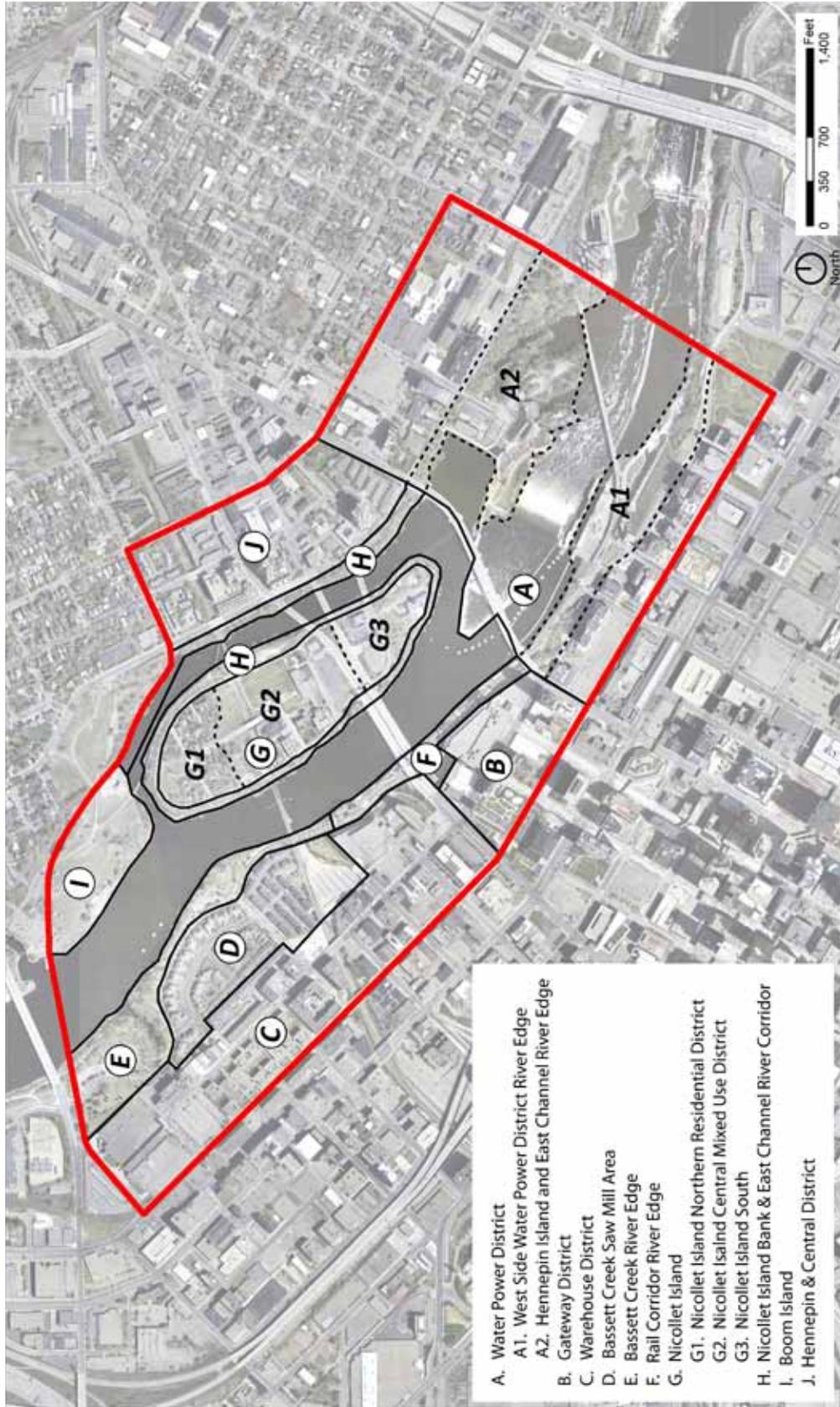
Character Areas

Design contexts that exist in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District, and goals for each area are provided. This material indicates how the guidelines presented in the preceding chapters should be interpreted to apply to each context. It also includes some additional guidelines that are tailored to each area. The relevant character area should be consulted in this chapter for preservation and infill projects.



View of the Water Power Character Area from the Guthrie Theater

St. Anthony Falls Historic District Character Areas



Chapter 1

Planning a Preservation Project

When planning a preservation project, it is important to determine historic significance, assess integrity and determine program requirements prior to outlining an appropriate treatment strategy that will inform the overall project scope. The following list describes appropriate and inappropriate treatments for historic resources and the steps to take for planning a preservation project.

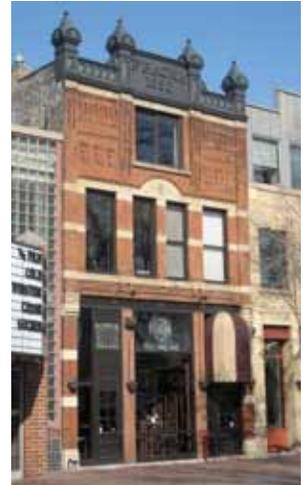
Accepted Treatments for Historic Resources

The following list describes appropriate treatments for historic resources that may be considered when planning a preservation project. Much of the language addresses buildings; however, sites and structures are also relevant.

These approaches are appropriate for contributing properties:

Preservation

“Preservation” is the act of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity and material of a building. Work focuses on keeping a property in good working condition with proactive maintenance. While the term “preservation” is used broadly to mean keeping a historic property’s significant features, it is also used in this more specific, technical form in this document.



Successful preservation projects exist throughout the district.



These buildings are successful rehabilitation projects within the district. However, the one-story building to the left could be enhanced further by providing a door and sign that are more appropriate to the building style.

Restoration

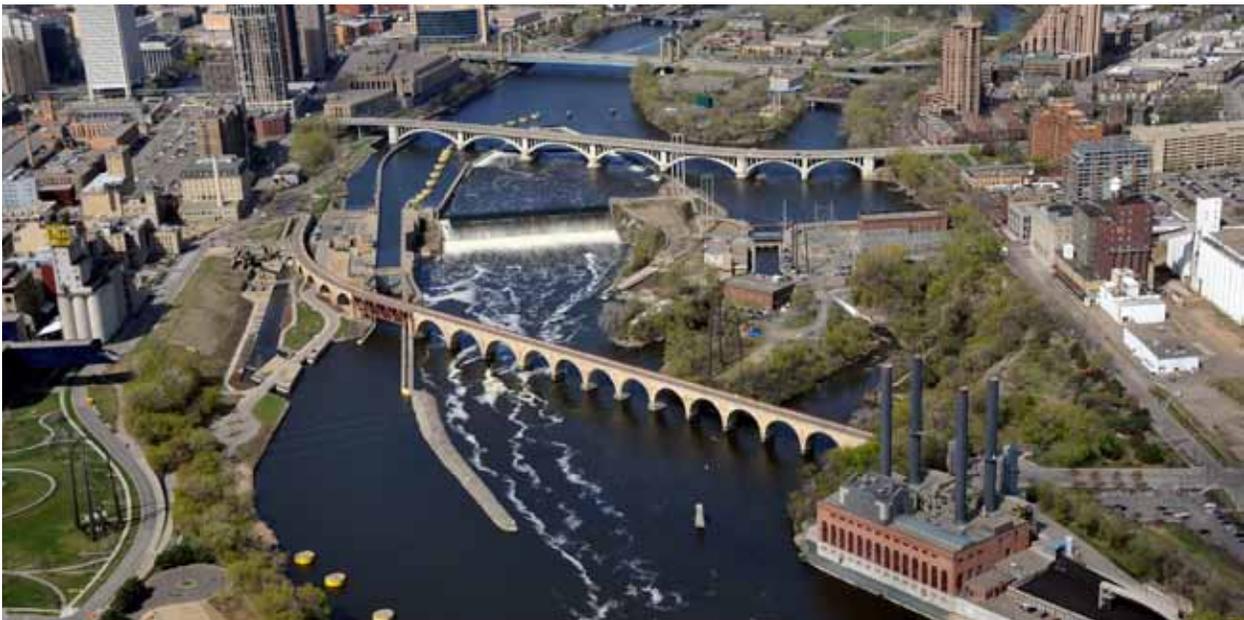
The act or process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared in a particular time period. It may require the removal of features from outside the restoration period. This may apply to an entire building front, or to restoring a particular missing feature.

- ➔ For information regarding the restoration of a historic resource please visit the National Park Service web site. <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/index.htm>

Reconstruction

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific time and in its historic location. This has limited application, in terms of an entire building, but may apply to a missing feature on a building.

- ➔ For information regarding the reconstruction of a historic resource please visit the National Park Service web site. <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/index.htm>



When planning a preservation project within the nationally recognized St. Anthony Falls Historic District, it is important to determine historic significance, assess integrity and determine program requirements prior to outlining an appropriate treatment strategy that will inform the overall project scope. Photo Credit: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Rehabilitation

“Rehabilitation” is the process of returning a property to a state that makes a contemporary use possible while still preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural and cultural values. Rehabilitation may include a change in use of the building or additions. This term is the broadest of the appropriate treatments and applies to most work in the district.

Combining Treatments

For many improvement projects in the district a “rehabilitation” approach will be the overall strategy, because this term reflects the broadest, most flexible of the approaches. Within that, however, there may be a combination of treatments used as they relate to specific building components. For example, a surviving cornice may be preserved, a storefront base that has been altered may be restored, and a missing kickplate may be reconstructed.

Inappropriate Treatments

The following approaches are not appropriate for historically significant properties.

Remodeling

This is the process of changing the historic design of a building. The appearance is altered by removing original details and by adding new features that are out of character with the original. Remodeling of a historic structure is inappropriate.

Deconstruction

Deconstruction is a process of dismantling a building such that the individual material components and architectural details remain intact. This is typically employed when a building is to be relocated or when the materials are to be reused in other building projects. Deconstruction may be a more environmentally responsible alternative to conventional demolition. However, it is still an inappropriate treatment for a building of historic significance.

Demolition

Any act or process that destroys, in part or whole, a structure, building or site is considered “demolition.” This is inappropriate for any “contributing” resource.

Planning Steps for a Preservation Project

Follow the steps below when planning a preservation project.

Step 1. Review reasons for significance.



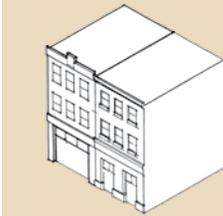
Significance. The reasons for significance will influence the degree of rigor with which the guidelines are applied, because it affects which features will be determined to be key to preserve. Identifying the building's key features and its period of significance are important first steps.

Step 2. Identify key features.



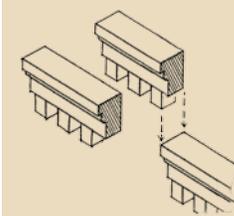
Key Features. A contributing building has historic integrity. It has a sufficient percentage of key character-defining features and characteristics from its period of significance which remain intact.

Step 3. What is the desired project?

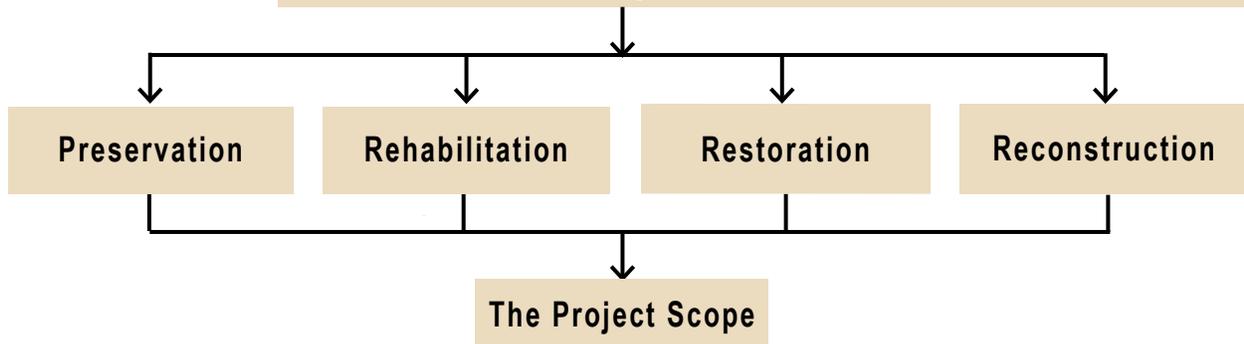


Program Requirements. The functional requirements for the property drive the work to be considered. If continuing the existing use is the strategy, then preservation will be the focus. If changes in use are planned, then some degree of compatible alterations may occur, and rehabilitation will be the emphasis.

Step 4. What is the treatment strategy?



Strategy. An appropriate treatment strategy may be devised once historic significance, integrity and program requirements have been determined. A preservation project may include a range of activities, such as maintenance of existing historic elements, repair of deteriorated materials, the replacement of missing features and construction of a new addition.



Steps in Developing a Preservation Strategy

When planning a preservation project, it is important to consider the significance of the resource and its context, as well as to evaluate the degree of integrity that they exhibit. Then, one should determine the “program requirements,” the functional improvements or repairs that are needed. With these factors in mind, a preservation strategy can be developed. The strategy is noted below:

Step 1: Review reasons for significance.

Understanding the history of a resource is important to any preservation project. The St. Anthony Falls Historic District was designated in 1971 as a local and state historic district and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The designation of the district recognizes the area for its birthplace in Minneapolis and its evolving urbanization. Industry and transportation are key areas of significance for the district. The period of significance for the district is 1848-1941.

Prior to and since its designation, the district has been the focus of research efforts to understand how it functioned and evolved. Information on historic resources within the district continues to grow with additional research. Consult with City Planning staff and the State Historic Preservation Office to learn more about the historic resources within the district.

Properties in the district are either considered contributing properties or non-contributing properties. This status determines the appropriate approach to a preservation project.

Contributing Property

Contributing properties form the foundation of the historic district. A property reflects the significance of the district due to historic associations, historic architectural details, or archaeological features. These properties were constructed or significantly altered during the district's period of significance.

Non-Contributing Property

There are properties that exist within the boundary of the historic district that do not reflect its significance. These properties have a status of non-contributing. Some of them were constructed during the period of significance, but have been so substantially altered that they no longer convey the historic significance of the district, and later alterations have no significance in themselves. Other non-contributing properties are ones that are more recently constructed, and therefore have not taken on historic significance. Many of these are still “compatible” with the character of the district, but do not contribute to the identified era of the history of the area. Therefore, two types of non-contributing properties exist in the district: (1) Older structures that have lost their integrity (ability to convey significance), and (2) newer buildings that are not within the period of significance.

For a non-contributing property, the guidelines for New Infill shall apply, because preservation of remaining features is not required. Instead, the primary objective is to assure that any alterations will be compatible with the district, just as any new construction should be. However, for a property that has lost its integrity, an owner is encouraged to explore methods to reestablish the property’s integrity.

Step 2: Identify key features.

Key character-defining features of a property vary from property to property. They relate, in part, to the property’s association with the significance of the historic district. They include, but are not limited to, design features and architectural details (both ornate and functional), site orientations, building massing, and materials.

Step 3: What is the Desired Project?

The functional requirements for the property drive the work to be considered. If continuing the existing use with little change is the focus, then preservation will be the emphasis. If changes in use are planned, with some degree of compatible alterations, then rehabilitation will be the emphasis. In many cases, simply repairing building components, and performing preventive maintenance will be major parts of the scope of work. In some cases the proposed use will not be appropriate for the building. Other buildings or sites should be examined for the proposed use.

Step 4: Develop the Appropriate Treatment Strategy.

An appropriate treatment strategy should be devised once the property's historic significance, degree of integrity and program requirements have been understood. Note, that while an overall treatment for the property may be devised, different treatments may be applied to individual building elements. Decorative trim may be preserved, by proper painting, for example, while a damaged cornice may be repaired, and a missing porch may be reconstructed, all within one project.

Chapter 2

Understanding the Content of a Design Guideline

This chapter assists the user in understanding terms used within a design guideline and defines the components of a design guideline.

Terms Related to Compliance

When applying design guidelines, the City balances a combination of objectives and intent statements that appear throughout the document, in the interest of helping to achieve the most appropriate design for each project. Because of this, and the fact that the design guidelines are also written to serve an educational role as well as a regulatory one, the language sometimes appears more conversational than that in zoning and development standards. To clarify how some terms are used, these definitions shall apply:

Guideline

In this document the term “guideline” is a criterion with which the City will require compliance when it is found applicable to the specific improvement project. In this sense it is a standard, albeit one that is subject to some interpretation when determining compliance.

Shall

Where the term “shall” is used, compliance is specifically required, when the statement is applicable to the proposed work.

Should

The term “should” is frequently used in the guidelines. This indicates that compliance is expected, except in conditions in which the City finds that the guideline is not applicable, or that an alternative means of meeting the intent of the guideline is acceptable.

Will Be Considered

The phrase “will be considered” appears in some guidelines text. This indicates that the City has the discretion to determine if the action being discussed is appropriate. This decision is made on a case-by-case basis, using the information specifically related to the project and its context.

Feasible

“Feasible” means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors. This term is used in some guidelines in this document to indicate that, while meeting the particular guideline in full is usually required, there may be instances in a specific application in which it may not be possible to do so. For example, there may be some extremely deteriorated conditions where repairing a feature may not be a reasonable approach. In all cases, the City shall make the determination of what is feasible.

Components of a Design Guideline

Each design guideline typically contains a series of components, all of which are used by the City in determining appropriateness. A typical guideline format follows.

A → Parapets

Most flat roofed historic commercial buildings have parapets. These features block views to roof apparatus, are critical elements to a roofing system and provide scale to the building. In some cases a cornice is integrated into this system.

B → Intent

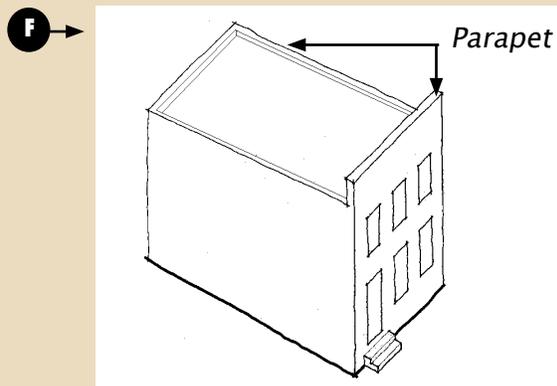
To retain building character and roof functionality, a parapet should be preserved.

Requirements

C → 4.1 A parapet wall should not be altered on a highly visible facade.

- D** → a. The profile of the parapet is often important to the style of the building and should be preserved in its historic configuration.
- b. The height of a parapet wall contributes to the scale of the building and the function of a roof, and should not be altered.

- E** → → Inspect parapets on a regular basis. They are exposed to the weather more than other parts of the building, so watch for deterioration such as missing mortar or excessive moisture retention.



In some cases, to better understand which images convey appropriate solutions and those that do not, they are marked with a ✓ or an ✗. Those marked with a ✓ are appropriate solutions, whereas illustrations marked with an ✗ are not appropriate.

Key

A Design Topic Heading

Topics relate to different types of improvements and components of buildings. A short explanation of the topic is provided.

B Intent Statement

A policy statement explains the desired outcome for the specific design element. This typically includes the term “should” and provides a basis for the design guidelines that follow. If a guideline does not specifically address a particular design issue, then the City will use the policy statement to determine appropriateness.

C Design Guideline

The design guideline describes a desired outcome.

D Additional Information

This lettered bullet may include examples of how, or how not to, comply with the guideline.

E Supplementary Information

This provides information relevant to the design guideline. This does not require compliance (not typical to all guidelines.)

F Illustration

Many images are examples of some possible approaches, but not all.

Chapter 3

The Design Traditions of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District

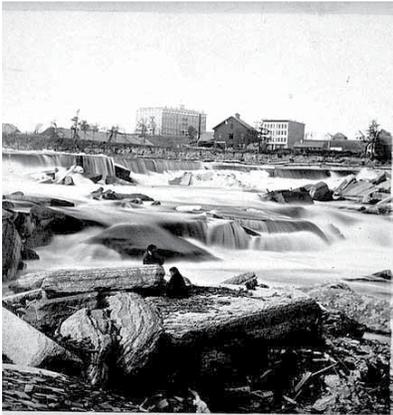
This section presents an overview of the Design Traditions of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. It includes a brief historic overview and summarizes the types of cultural resources to be encountered in the district.

Historic Overview

St. Anthony Falls is the only major cataract on the Mississippi River. In his book *River of History*, John Anfinson calls the Falls a “geologic marvel and geographic landmark.” The Falls’ geologic and geographic significance spawned its cultural significance to indigenous populations and inspired western explorers and tourists with tales of unrivaled beauty. The Falls also established its modern historic significance as the birthplace of Minneapolis and the epicenters of saw and flour milling industries that became leading producers of their commodities in the United States and the world. The Falls and their industries fed unparalleled technical innovations and a web of railroads connected the industries to the region and nation. This location also offered a shorter river crossing that eventually became the location for the first bridge across the Mississippi River. The Falls of St. Anthony is significant to the history of indigenous populations, Minneapolitans and Minnesotans as well as the entire nation.



Early image of General Mills. Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society



Early image of St. Anthony Falls. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society



Early image of Spirit Island in the foreground. Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

Geology and Geography

The geology of the Falls contributed to its significance as a historic site. The Falls evolved and receded over thousands of years and once was located near the bluffs of St. Paul. The underlying geology consists of a layer of limestone and shale that sits over sandstone. The strong limestone does not wear easily from the flow of the river; however, the sandstone is weaker and is more vulnerable to erosion. As a result, water going over the Falls erodes the softer sandstone below the limestone. This undercuts the base of the Falls, causing the tough limestone to collapse under its own weight and thus the Falls recede. Since Father Hennepin first viewed the Falls in 1680, it has moved approximately 1500 feet upstream to the current location.

At the time the Falls was first “discovered” by Father Hennepin several islands existed in the area. Two of the larger ones remain today: Nicollet Island and Hennepin Island. These divide the Mississippi River into two channels. Nicollet Island stands above the Falls, while Hennepin Island bisects it. Other islands once scattered above and below the Falls were consumed by industrialization and are no longer evident. They include Spirit, Cataract, Upton and Boom Island (Boom Island exists, but is now connected to the mainland.)

Indigenous Populations

The Falls was and is a culturally significant site for the Ojibwa and Dakota populations. The natural beauty and power of the Falls held spiritual significance. Spirit Island, which was destroyed for the construction of the upper lock and dam, was one of these special places. Chalybeate Springs, another significant place, remains. The Dakota took advantage of the sheltered location of Nicollet Island as a safe location for giving birth.

Tourism

A landmark for later expeditions into this uncharted territory, the Falls of St. Anthony were praised for their wild beauty by explorers Jonathan Carver in 1766, Zebulon Pike in 1805 and Stephen Long in 1817. Travelers soon delighted in viewing the scenery along “fashionable tours” up the Mississippi in the 1820s – 1850s. Local residents

predicted that “in a few years this place will become as great a resort as Niagara.”

The Winslow House, a large resort hotel, was later built to accommodate tourists. It was located on the east bank of the river and overlooked the Falls, Nicollet Island, and the west bank of the river that would become Minneapolis.

Transforming the Falls

Starting in 1821, the Falls took on the role that initiated their industrial evolution and resulted in the first manipulation of St. Anthony Falls for human use: a saw and grist mill for the Fort Snelling garrison opened.

The east and west banks developed at different times due to various government treaties with the Dakota and Ojibwa and the resulting sale of land to settlers. Pioneers saw the industrial potential for saw mills that would process the lumber harvested from bountiful forests to the north. In 1838 Franklin Steele gained claim to the land along the east bank of the Falls. In 1848 he platted the town of St. Anthony and built a mill and dam along the east side of the river.

The west bank was first settled by squatters on the Fort Snelling military reservation beginning in 1850. This settlement was made legal by the official reduction of the reservation. Following the first bridge across the Mississippi in 1855, the new town of Minneapolis was founded. The name was a combination of words. Meaning “waterfall” in Dakota and “city” in Greek. By 1854, sixteen sawmills lined the Falls area.



Early image looking across the Falls to Hennepin Island. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

During this early period of development, the general model for the modern configuration of the Falls emerged. On the east bank, Steele constructed a saw mill platform. This spanned the east channel of the Falls connecting the east bank with Hennepin Island. Above the platform a mill pond was created by building a dam to hold back the river to better maximize the power that could be harnessed by the falling water.

In 1856, The Minneapolis Mill Company coordinated with Steele's St. Anthony Falls Water Power Company to develop the west bank milling operations. The result was a west side milling platform with a new dam angled upstream to meet up with the east bank dam. The result was an inverted 'V' in the river that directed water to the milling contingents on either side and reduced the water that flowed over the Falls.

As noted earlier, the geology of the Falls included a thin, but strong, limestone layer on top of soft sandstone layer. This bedrock made it easy to create tunnels and blast canals to create the necessary subterranean waterways that would allow the milling operations to grow and thrive. On the west bank of the river, the Minneapolis Mill Company constructed the West Side Water Power Canal. That provided an organized water power delivery system that fueled the development of mills. Several years later, Charles Alfred Pillsbury and John Sargent built the East Side Waterpower Canal to power the Pillsbury A Mill. Prior to the construction of the canals, mills were located on mill platforms that jutted out into the river and water flowed beneath the platforms, creating the power. With the creation of canal systems, more mills could access the waterpower. The canals were one of several engineering and management efforts that led to increasing the energy harnessed at the Falls from 13,000 horsepower in the 1880s to 55,068 in 1908.

The relatively easy excavation, combined with the competition and prosperity of harnessing the waterpower for industrial uses, fostered construction of a tunnel that undermined the Falls and forever changed its appearance. The Eastman Tunnel was being excavated underneath the Falls and was planned to stretch from Nicollet Island

Flour Milling

While commercial flour milling began at St. Anthony Falls in 1851, it didn't flourish until the 1870s. The western expansion of the railroads after the Civil War brought immigrants to farm land in the area and to build the transportation infrastructure to connect the fields to the mills. As a result, the wheat production in Minnesota climbed from 1,400 bushels in 1850 to 2.2 million bushels in 1860 and soared to 18.9 million by 1870.

Innovations such as the consolidated West Side Water Power Canal, new milling techniques and shrewd business decisions of the milling operators at St. Anthony Falls stimulated exponential growth of the flour milling industry. In 1880, Minneapolis became the nation's top milling city and retained that title until 1930. By 1882, the 22 mills located at the Falls produced over two million barrels of flour annually. Between 1870 and 1880, the value of the flour miller's products rose from \$1.25 million to \$20.5 million. At its peak, in 1916, the mills produced 18,541,650 barrels of flour.

The flourishing flour milling industry increased the demand for and intensity of development adjacent to the Falls and shaped the surrounding areas. Elevators towered next to mill buildings to hold grain. Warehouses were built to store completed products. Railroads weaved throughout the milling areas, around the Mississippi River waterfront and across the river to fill the transportation needs of the industry.

The most significant monuments of this period of development include two National Historic Landmarks, the Pillsbury A Mill and the Washburn A Mill, as well as the Stone Arch Bridge (Great Northern Railway Bridge), which is a National Engineering Landmark.

Hydroelectric Power

The use of the river for power continued to evolve from direct drive waterpower to steam and then to hydroelectric power. In 1882, the Minnesota Brush Electric Company opened a hydroelectric plant on Upton Island (no longer extant), located between the Upper Lock and the tail races at Mill Ruins Park. This was the first commercial hydro-

electric power station in the United States. In 1885, the Minneapolis General Electric Company opened its Main Street Station, to provide power for street lighting, on the former location of the east bank sawmilling platform.

Soon after, in 1887, the Lower St. Anthony Falls Dam was completed to direct water below the Upper Falls to the east bank power station (destroyed in 1887). This plant combined with a coal-fired generating plant above it (now the University of Minnesota Minneapolis Steam Plant) provided power to Twin City Rapid Transit, the streetcar company. Between 1906 and 1908, the Hennepin Island Electric Plant was constructed on Hennepin Island.



Power plant facility. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

Transportation and Commercial Growth

Transportation infrastructure facilitated the growth not only of industry but also commercial and residential development. Before urbanization, the Mississippi River was a canoe transportation corridor for the indigenous population and the fur trade. A portage route developed on the east bank of the river. During the area's early urbanization period, Main Street was a westward expansion ox-cart route. A ferry crossing of the Mississippi River developed at Nicollet Island. Prior to 1850 the crossing was operated by a Dakota woman with a canoe. This ferry crossing later became the location of the first bridge over the Mississippi River. In 1855, a suspension bridge connecting Nicollet Island to the west bank of the river opened. It joined the two cities of St. Anthony and Minneapolis. On the Minneapolis side, Bridge Square developed at the foot of the bridge and became the commercial center of the city. The Union Depot and later, the Great Northern Depot, were located at the foot of this bridge. The area truly became the Gateway to Minneapolis.

The growth of the milling industry in Minneapolis would not have occurred if not for the railroads. They first provided a way to ship finished lumber across the region and then became the conduit to the flour milling industry. Rail lines connected the mills with the grain fields of the Midwest and thence back out to the rest of the nation as finished flour.

Recent Past

The mid-Twentieth Century brought new industrial uses, such as gravel storage, to the central riverfront and the Falls. During that period, the city turned away from the Falls and toward downtown. Attention only returned to the Central Minneapolis Riverfront in the late 1970s through the middle 1980s, with improvement efforts concentrated along Main Street on the river's east bank. Riverplace and St. Anthony Main created a festival, retail and business center. Residential towers such as the Falls, Pinnacle, and LaRive housed new population to support these renewed commerce activities.

In the 1980s the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board began constructing the West River Parkway in the Central Riverfront, creating a link in the Grand Rounds system and reintroducing scenic and recreational uses to St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

The 1990s and early 2000s saw increased efforts to revitalize the West Side of the central riverfront. Projects such as the Mill City Museum, the adjacent residential projects, the Guthrie Theater and Mill Ruins Park are products of this period.

Significance of the Historic District

The historic designation of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District focuses on the urbanization of the Falls with a period of significance between 1858 and 1941. This time frame celebrates the role of the Falls in the development of Minneapolis, Minnesota's largest city, in all its stages of growth. The natural beauty of the Falls was a wilderness landmark, attractive to both tourists and settlers. The Falls furnished direct power to the lumber and flour industries which stimulated the development of the new city. Finally, the Falls provided electrical power for industrial and residential use.

Other sites, including the Falls itself and many other sites in the area which are associated with other time periods outside of the span from 1858 to 1941, also are culturally significant. Among these are cultural and spiritual sites significant to the Dakota and Ojibwa people, which pre-date 1858. On the other end of the period of significance, the development of West River Road in the 1980s marks a significant addition to the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway. Thus, the use and interaction with the Falls has evolved over the past centuries of human interaction and will continue to evolve over the centuries to come.

The Boundary of the Historic District

The boundary of the historic district encompasses a collection of resources and development patterns all intrinsically linked to the power of the Falls and the riverfront. It embodies the commercial and business activities that developed on both the east and west edges of the river, the saw and flour milling industries and the other businesses that were developed to support them. It includes residences that housed workers and business owners within the district as well as ancillary development that supported the population as a whole.

The southern, northern, and down-river boundaries of the district follow the platting and alignment of the original roadways and a river crossing. The up-river boundary reflects the right-of-way of a formerly proposed highway, I-335, that was met with opposition and was never built. This up-river boundary serves as a memorial to the era of highway planning of the 1970s in Minneapolis and the subsequent national movement to resist the impacts on existing neighborhoods that such projects were perceived to create.

Evolution and Change

To say that the district is dynamic is perhaps an understatement. While it retains many framework elements from its early history, other features have changed, some substantially. The fact that it has remained dynamic is a part of its heritage. For this reason, resources that remain which help to interpret that span of human occupation and use are valued. These include buildings, industrial structures, components of early infrastructure and archaeology.

While a row of historic buildings may be easily understood as defining a particular span of time, other features are more subtle but still continue to influence patterns of development. These include remnants of railroad beds, water diversion structures and building foundations.

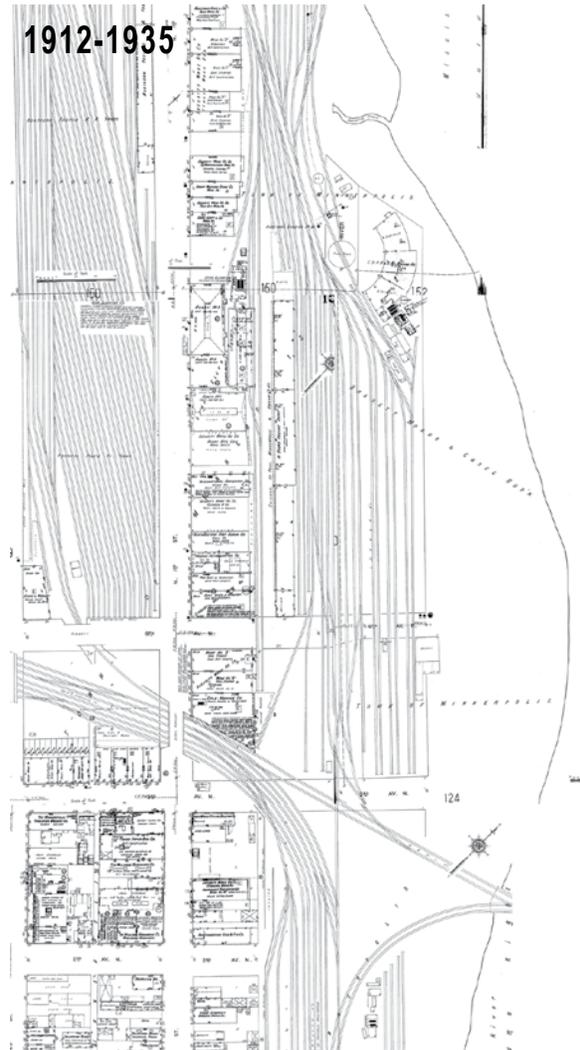
An Example of Changing Patterns

The portion of land, once industrial but now primarily developed as residential, is an interesting case study in evolving patterns. Early fire insurance documents, and later, aerial photographs document the area north of 4th Avenue North and east of 1st Street North as industrial, with extensive rail lines flanking a row of commercial and warehouse structures in the center (facing 1st Street North).

In contrast, an aerial photograph from 2010 shows the multifamily residential development that replaced the earlier rail yards. The relatively flat land accommodated a curvilinear street plan, and the fact that the parcel could be assembled as a whole enabled a planned development approach that was popular in suburban locations at the time.



Photo credit for the maps above: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



A detail of an early fire insurance map captures the industrial character of the west bank of the Mississippi River, north of Second Avenue. A row of commercial and warehouse buildings lies on a north-south axis in the center of the map. Map credit: Sanborn Insurance Map



1934



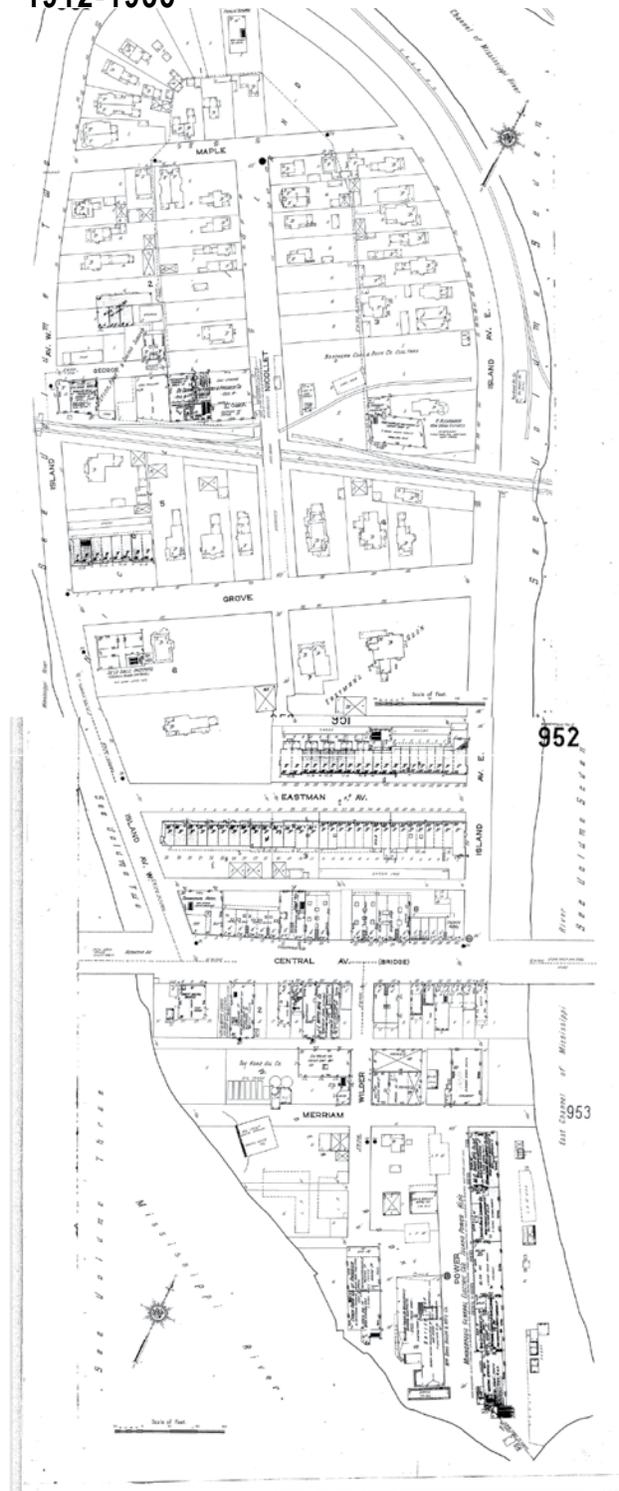
1964

Photo credit for the maps above: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



2010

1912-1935



Map credit: Sanborn Insurance Map

A second example, from Nicollet Island, also is revealing. An early fire insurance map and 1934 aerial photo show a single family residential neighborhood at the northern end, which remains relatively intact in 2011. The mid-section of the island contained a higher density of development, with row houses and commercial buildings. The southern tip contained a concentration of industrial structures. By 1964, much of the improvements in the center of the island had been removed, but a few of the early structures remained. A more recent aerial, from 2010, illustrates extensive change to the mid-section, and even to the southern tip. This type of analysis underscores the value of those structures that still survive because they provide a hint to the early character. It also indicates how other infrastructure features may be important in understanding the history of the area.

HINTS OF THE PAST

The many different neighborhoods within the district reflect their historic development patterns. These include the arrangement of streets and rail lines, the placement of buildings, the use of open space and building materials. Even in areas that now appear as very new, there are hints of the past in terms of buildings and other improvements that can be seen. This may be in the pattern of streets that reflect earlier development, or a layout of new buildings that made use of land forms that were shaped for previous uses.

General Design Characteristics

In order to plan for improvements that will be compatible with the historic district, it is essential to understand the nature of some very fundamental features that are typical of many cultural resources found there. And, while character of the district varies widely from east side to west side and from block to block, some fundamental characteristics are universal. These are some of those “design traditions” of the SAF Historic District that should be respected:

Authenticity

Early buildings were authentic, reflecting their own time and their association with the specific cultures of the area, including the use of materials and ways of building.

Simplicity

Buildings and other structures were generally simple in their design.

Durability

Many structures were constructed to last. This is certainly true of the historic mill buildings and related structures.

Functionality

Buildings and other structures expressed their functions clearly.

Integrity of design

Many buildings had bold, simple, industrial like design concepts. This was reflected in the use of simple geometrical building forms, milled, machined and/or cast detailing, and monochromatic masonry materials.

Innovation

Many improvements in the area were innovative, in terms of the technologies used.

Connectivity

There is a fundamental relationship to the transportation infrastructure exhibited on most industrial buildings. Within the complex of buildings of the district the flows of water, grain and other goods were intentionally designed.

Designing In Context

A fundamental principle of the design guidelines is that improvement projects should be planned to be compatible with their context. In some areas, that context remains strongly anchored by historic buildings, landscapes and other early structures. In other parts of the district, the context is more contemporary, with individual historic buildings sometimes appearing as accents; in still other areas, no historic structures exist, although some archeological resources and historic development patterns remain.

Designing in context means:

Relating to the setting at a broad, “experiential” level rather than literally copying the features of adjacent historic buildings is an essential part of designing in context. (However, it is very important that the key features of this “higher level” of the context be clearly articulated.) Designing in context also means being respectful of the cultural resources in the vicinity.

What is the purpose of “designing in context?”

It is not the intent to pretend that the historic district is frozen in time, but rather to express evolution and change while retaining one’s ability to interpret the historic character where it still exists.

Levels of Context Consideration

In the case of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District, context should be considered at these levels:

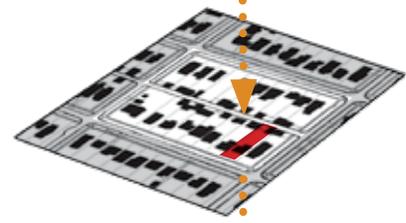
- District-wide – in terms of the qualitative features described earlier
- Subarea – which focuses on the collection of buildings, sites and structures within the boundaries of the specific character area
- Immediate surroundings – properties adjacent to, facing or overlooking a specific site

LEVELS OF CONTEXT CONSIDERATION

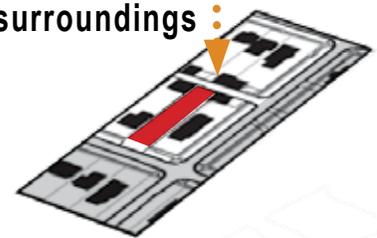
District-wide



Subarea



Immediate surroundings



THE CHARACTER AREAS

The St. Anthony Falls Historic District is divided into a series of subareas that reflect different historic and contemporary development patterns. These are termed “Character Areas,” and serve to:

- Identify distinct areas with different characteristics
- Define key existing features that make up the context
- Help understand historic development patterns and the locations of potential archeological sites
- Identify different contexts in which new designs should be considered
- Establish context appropriate design standards for each area
- Set urban design principles (tailored to context) that also should apply

Defining Context

To a great extent, the physical context is the summation of the visual characteristics that give a distinct identity to a district or neighborhood. It is important to understand both the historic context of a district as well as its existing features. The difference in these will determine the degree of historic integrity in a district, and therefore, the amount of flexibility appropriate for new projects in the area.

In order to define context for a specific site, consider the following questions for both current and historic conditions:

- Which features are most distinctive in contributing to the character of the area?
- What building styles are represented?
- What are the typical building components seen?
- What is the scale, or range of scales, of historic buildings?
- How are materials finished?
- How are buildings sited?
- How is the landscape treated?
- How are sites and buildings accessed?
- What are typical building uses?
- What is the degree of visual continuity found in the area?
- What is the degree of diversity found in the area?
- To what degree do newer structures complement the historic context?

In developing answers to these questions visit the site and view the site from various vantage points in other nearby areas. Also, consult any historic plats, fire insurance maps and aerial photos for the area.

Differing Assumptions About Infill Design in Context

In the course of discussions that occur about compatibility in the historic district, a reoccurring question is: “To which period are we designing?” The answer is: “We are designing for today, not in any earlier period.” But these new designs still must be compatible with the context.

Intent

New projects should reflect design styles of today while maintaining compatibility with the character of the district.

Chapter 4

Guidelines for Identification and Treatment of Archaeological Resources

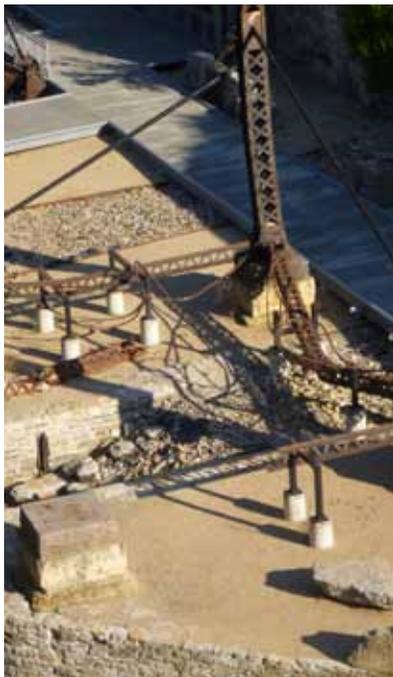


Archaeological resources are found throughout the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Many are known and some are even visible.

Archaeological resources are found throughout the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Many are known and some are even visible. These include remnants of buildings, transportation features and other artifacts of past human activity. Many archaeological resources exist that are unseen and others remain undiscovered. These may include artifacts from occupancy periods of indigenous peoples as well as early urban settlement activity related to commerce, industry, transportation and recreation.

Archaeological resources include the artifacts, human remains and sites associated with past human activities, which may be:

- Prehistoric Native American archaeological sites
- Historic archaeological sites



Protect resources and plan projects to make best use of them.

A key objective for the historic district is to preserve archaeological resources to the extent feasible. This requires consideration of the potential for archaeological resources, identifying them, evaluating their significance and determining appropriate treatment. Archaeological resource preservation should start during the early stages of project planning and design. Property owners, developers, builders, design professionals and others involved in public or private improvements should use these guidelines to anticipate City concerns about archaeological resources.

While a substantial amount of information is available that indicates the potential for archaeological resources throughout the district, more research is needed. Any improvement project should be undertaken with the awareness that such resources may be encountered and steps to address this should be incorporated into the project.

Site conditions vary widely throughout the district, and the significance of individual archaeological resources and their appropriate treatment must be considered on a case-by-case basis. The City's Planning and Preservation staff should be consulted at the outset of project planning to determine the most appropriate approach.

Key steps that may be required for addressing archaeological resources are these:

1. Conduct a literature search.

A literature search examines standard references in order to summarize what has been written or what is known about a given area or topic. It will indicate the potential for archaeological resources in the area. Standard references include historic maps, historic photographs, and publications such as Kane (1987) and Anfinson (1989).

2. Conduct a Phase 1 Survey.

This is an Archaeological Resource Inventory (ARI), which is an investigation to see if an archaeological site is present within a given parcel. It can involve a check of maps, records and other historical literature, as well as a field survey by a qualified archaeologist.

An Archaeological Resource Inventory may be needed when the project is likely to disturb subsurface materials.

3. Conduct a Phase 2 Evaluation.

The purpose is to identify significant (with respect to National Register eligibility) archaeological resources. The outcome of this work determines which resources should be protected or evaluated further. It also forms the basis for mitigating project impacts and, where appropriate, planning for data excavation and recovery.

This level of investigation may be needed when the Phase 1 ARI indicates the presence of, or the probable presence of, archaeological resources, and development near those resources cannot be avoided.

4. Develop a Plan for Treatment.

If significant archaeological resources are identified, then a plan for treatment should be developed if the site is significant and the need for a plan has been determined by appropriate public officials. This may include strategies to avoid any impacts and, if not, to mitigate them. It may also include plans for recording, recovering, curating or interpreting resources.

Potential Mitigation Treatments include:

Avoidance of Archaeological Resources

For archaeological resources found to be significant, the preferred mitigation is often protection in place through preservation, avoidance or capping.

Archaeological Data Recovery - Excavation

The purpose of an Archaeological Data Recovery Excavation is to collect important archaeological resources from a site to mitigate project-related adverse impacts.

Curation of Archaeological Artifacts

In this treatment, important archaeological resources are removed from a project and curated at a qualified facility.



Site conditions vary widely throughout the district, and the significance of individual archaeological resources, and their appropriate treatment must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Interpretation

As a part of a mitigation plan, materials may be prepared that interpret the information gained from the archaeological resources. These may be displays, publications, exhibits and other media. In some cases, resources may be incorporated into site improvements, to facilitate their interpretation on site.

With those steps in mind, these are basic guidelines that apply to the treatment of archaeological resources:

- 4.1 Avoid negative impacts to significant archaeological resources.**
- 4.2 Minimize negative impacts to significant archaeological resources.**
- 4.3 Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigate them, using best practices.**
- 4.4 If unexpected archaeological resources are encountered during site work, cease work and notify Planning and Preservation staff.**
 - a. If the project is on public land, the State Archaeologist should also be notified.



Avoid negative impacts to significant archaeological resources. Significant resources are shown in this series of images.



Chapter 5

Historic Infrastructure

This section provides guidance for work that involves historically significant elements of the early infrastructure of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Infrastructure is the term used to describe the basic physical structures that supported the functional operations of the various uses in the district. These systems conveyed goods and people and provided power and water for living, commerce and industry. They include improvements which may exist on the surface or below grade. Key components in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District are the circulation systems of streets, rail lines and bridges. Water supply and conveyance mechanisms, sewers and electrical service structures are also important.

Historically, these systems were created to meet the needs of the activities in the area. Streets and railroads were shaped to make best use of the topography. Some were also influenced by constraints of engineering design. The arc of a rail line as it makes a turn, is an example of a form that was dictated by the turning radius capabilities of trains.

Later, as different areas of the district saw new development, remnants of earlier infrastructure influenced the form of those improvements. Their influences can still be interpreted. For example, the layout of The Landings, a residential neighborhood at River Street and North 4th Avenue, was in part a response to a clear and relatively flat site left from earlier rail yards.

In some situations, historically significant infrastructure components survive intact, but in many cases, remnants, or only traces exist. Nonetheless, all of these features are important in the understanding of the history of the district. Former rail corridors are important in understanding historic development patterns and the relationship of historic buildings within the district. Older rail beds also provide view corridors that are important.

TYPICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES

- Waterpower infrastructure
- Rail lines & corridors
- Streets
- Bridges
- Bridge abutments
- Retaining walls



Retaining references to historic resources is expected, and should be incorporated in new development in a manner that respects the value of the resource and aids in interpretation of the history of the district. Credit: Heather Sanders



Existing railroad corridors, spurs and tracks should be preserved in place.



Incorporate a feature into a project.

Treatment of Historic Infrastructure Features

While preserving a historically significant feature of early infrastructure as it exists is usually preferred, this may not always be feasible. Even so, retaining references of each feature is expected, and should be incorporated in new development in a manner that respects the value of the resource and aids in interpretation of the history of the district. These alternative actions will be considered:

Retain the feature as it exists.

In this approach, the element is preserved. Continuing the use of an early sidewalk and repairing it as needed, is an example.

Incorporate the feature into a project.

Using remnants of an early bridge abutment in a new plaza is an example.

Incorporate a new interpretation of the feature in a project.

Retaining a plaza, or even an atrium, between two buildings where a rail line once was is an example.

With these alternative approaches in mind, the following design guidelines apply to Historic Infrastructure Features:

Intent

Historically significant features of early infrastructure should be preserved. Sensitive reinterpretations should be employed where new development occurs. (See Character Areas in Chapter 10 for historic infrastructure guidelines specific to each character area.)

Requirements

5.1 Preserve historically significant bridges.

- a. Bridges from the period of significance are prominent features and should be kept intact.

5.2 Preserve in place existing bridge abutments, bulkheads and retaining walls.

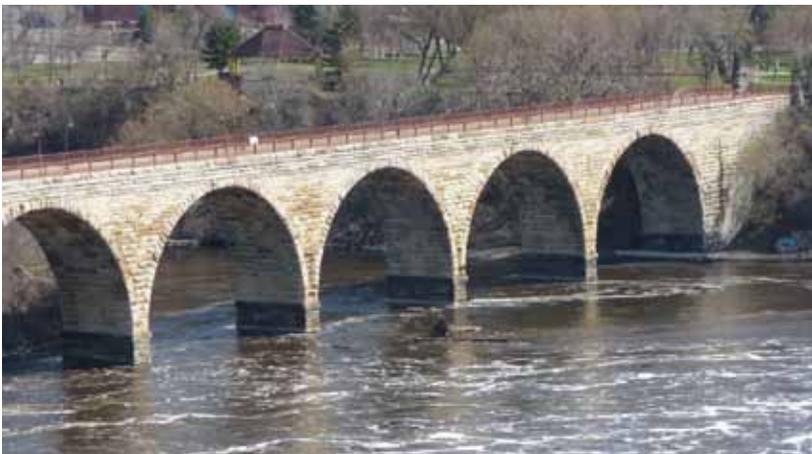
- a. Intact and recoverable bridgeheads, bulkheads, retaining walls and other grade changes from the period of significance should be sensitively incorporated into new development.
- b. They should be kept intact and used as interpretive features.

5.3 Preserve railroad corridors and spurs.

- a. Existing non-active railroad corridors, spurs and tracks should be preserved in place.
- b. The adaptive reuse of railroad corridors and spurs to provide green space, view corridors or other amenity for use and enjoyment is the preferred treatment.
- c. The enclosure of rail corridors and spurs in a building is generally inappropriate. However, it will be considered if the design clearly interprets the historic function of the space and it can be demonstrated that site constraints make the reuse of the site not feasible.
- d. Where they exist, incorporate railroad tracks into a design.



The Stone Arch Bridge is a key feature in the district. It is also a great example of a successful adaptation of a RR bridge to a multimodal path.



Preserve historically significant bridges.



Preserve the waterpower infrastructure and other historic infrastructure associated with St. Anthony Falls including the horseshoe dam, St. Anthony Falls apron, wasteways and waterpower tunnels.

5.4 Preserve the location and width of existing street and alley rights-of-way.

- a. Maintain an alley as a functional connection between properties.
- b. Where an alley is not in use for the conveyance of freight or property access to and from buildings, it may be adapted to provide green space and amenities.
- c. Reconfiguring the public right-of-way to make infrastructure more multi-modal friendly is appropriate as long as the visual corridor is not interrupted.

5.5 Preserve historic paving materials; otherwise, provide new compatible materials.

- a. Preserve intact and recoverable historic materials.
- b. Replace historic materials if they are too deteriorated to repair. Provide a compatible substitute material. For example, standard bituminous and concrete street materials are appropriate in most places if they are not removing original brick or stone paving.
- c. New or replacement paving materials that help with storm water management will be considered.

5.6 Preserve historic loading docks and their association with transportation infrastructure.

- a. The heights and widths of loading docks should be preserved.
- b. Accessible public paths adjacent to loading docks are appropriate.

5.7 Preserve the waterpower infrastructure and other historic infrastructure associated with St. Anthony Falls including the horseshoe dam, St. Anthony Falls apron, wasteways and waterpower tunnels.

- a. The adaptive reuse of waterpower infrastructure for interpretive purposes is encouraged.

Chapter 6

Landscape, Streetscape & Open Space

This chapter addresses those topics that relate to the landscape of the district. This includes the streetscapes and public and private open space

The general character of the historic landscape of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District varied and was dependent upon the uses within it. The Waterpower and Warehouse areas of the district developed around industrial uses; the Gateway and East Hennepin Areas developed around commercial and civic uses; the Northern portion of Nicollet Island developed around residential uses. Still other areas, due to topography and development patterns, did not have a defined use and remained natural riparian or bluff areas. These uses of the district shaped the landscape. The following guidelines were developed recognizing the historic development of the area, but with the understanding that, just like many of the buildings of the district that have been adaptively reused to accommodate the evolving uses of the district, so must the landscape. Vegetation is a key element of the evolving adaptive reuse of the landscape. The intent is to introduce and promote vegetation in the district in a manner that accentuates and interprets the various historic function and contexts of the district. Additional guidance on the landscape, streetscape and open spaces is offered in the character areas section of this document.

Historic Industrial Areas

The most significant change in the uses within the district has been in the former industrial areas: the Waterpower and Warehouse areas. Former milling and warehouse buildings have been rehabilitated for residential and commercial uses; parks have been created around ruins of historic mills in locations once dominated by rail lines. These areas historically did not have a planned vegetated landscape or streetscape; they were utilitarian. Despite not being planned, vegetation did exist in many of these industrial areas. Vegetation grew along the fringes of areas of activity, adjacent to and in between buildings, structures, and transportation routes. Vegetation did not block the functional uses of the district; it grew adjacent to it and in most cases subordinate to it.

This historic relationship of vegetation being unplanned, volunteer and accentuating the surrounding industrial and transportation uses of these areas is the foundation of the guidance offered in this chapter regarding former industrial areas. In this document this aesthetic of planting locations and character of vegetation is described as volunteer. Volunteer does not refer to plant species, nor does it suggest an unkempt or unmaintained landscape is appropriate. Native plant species are encouraged in new vegetation.

Historic Commercial & Residential Areas

In these areas of the district the landscape and streetscape evolved and grew with the desire to create inviting places to do business and live in. Streetscape, landscapes, and open spaces in these areas reflect this. The streetscape had trees and the parks, such as the Gateway Park, were formal, planned parks. The landscapes in these areas should evolve and continue to serve the residential and commercial needs of businesses, residents and visitors with a design focus of meeting contemporary needs.

There should remain a distinct difference in the landscape between the former industrial areas and commercial and residential areas of the district. This can be made through the order and location of vegetation as well as the type and intensity of vegetation.

Natural Riparian Areas

Vegetation in industrial areas grew up along the fringe of activity areas where there was less or no activity. The retention, continued existence, and more recent proliferations of natural riparian areas within the district have similar explanation. These areas, frequently on the steep bluffs along the river's edge, often were not needed for a commercial or industrial use. Vegetation proliferated in these areas as it was undisturbed land. In many locations, the undisturbed vegetation pattern has not changed. In areas along the river's edge that no longer have the activity that once existed there, this natural vegetative pattern has returned. These riparian edges are important ecologically, as well as historically, providing an understanding of how an area was used and how areas fit into the larger framework within the historic district.



Where a streetscape palette has been established, the furnishings in the public right-of-way should provide some continuity in design.

Landscape Design

Intent

Landscape designs should be reflective of the historic character or natural setting of the individual areas. The landscape should help enhance the understanding of the history of the area while allowing new contemporary design interpretations and adaptive reuse of sites. Landscape designs should not convey a false sense of history. (See also the Character Areas in Chapter 10 for landscape design guidelines specific to each character area.)

Requirements

6.1 Retain existing features of historic landscapes including but not limited to plant materials, waterways and grade changes.

- a. Where historic features are damaged beyond repair, incorporate concepts from the historic design into the new features.

6.2 Design new landscapes to be in harmony with the overall historic character of the district.

- a. A new landscape design should not impede one's ability to understand the historical function and character of the context.
- b. A new landscape design should not convey a false sense of history. Designs that reflect their own time, while helping to convey the history of a site, are appropriate.
- c. A new landscape design that helps interpret the history of a site is encouraged. This does not have to be a literal interpretation.

6.3 Use landscape designs to promote energy efficiency and water conservation.

- a. Retain existing mature landscape features that provide shade and protection from wind.
- b. In residential settings, group deciduous trees and plants to provide summer shade and allow solar access in winter.
- c. In some settings, plantings can be oriented to provide wind protection of plazas and entries in wintertime.

Streetscape Design

As the landscape in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District varied based on the use of the area, so did the streetscape. The streetscape reflected the use of the buildings and purpose of the public rights-of-way. Historically, streetscapes were rather utilitarian. Simple concrete sidewalks and curbs had few embellishments, in terms of decorative paving, street trees or furnishings. This reflected the functional requirements of the time. Today, as the streetscape adapts to a new mix of uses and more intensive pedestrian activity and the resulting demand for a more pedestrian-friendly environment, additional amenities will be needed. The guidelines provide direction as to how to reflect the historic use and character of the areas while meeting new needs.

Intent

Streetscape improvements should be reflective of the historic character or natural setting of the individual character areas. The streetscape should help enhance the understanding of the history of the area while allowing new contemporary design interpretations and adaptive reuse of sites. Streetscape designs should not convey a false sense of history. (See Character Areas in Chapter 10 for streetscape guidelines specific to each character area.)

Requirements

6.4 New or replacement street furnishings, such as street lights and street furniture, shall be compatible with the context of the individual character areas.

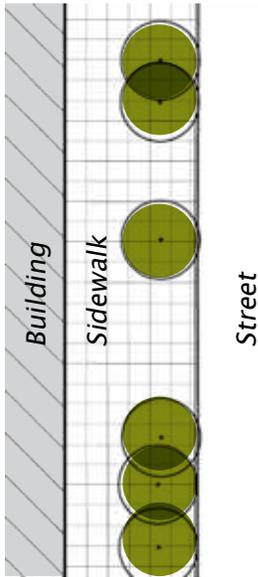
- a. In historic industrial areas, simple contemporary utilitarian designs are appropriate for street furnishings.
- b. In historic residential and commercial areas, contemporary styles, such as metal with a painted finish, are appropriate for designs for street furnishings.
- c. Designs that create a false sense of history, such as highly ornate historic styles, are not appropriate.

6.5 Consider integrating interpretive materials into street furnishings.

- a. Designs that interpret the history of the area are appropriate.



In the High Line park in New York, historic rail lines are incorporated in the new streetscape design. The plant palette is a manicured version of the volunteer plants that once grew along the rail line.



In historic industrial areas, street trees should be clustered and have irregular spacing to evoke a sense of the volunteer nature of vegetation of these industrial settings. Note: a sidewalk paving pattern (small grid) is not encouraged.

6.6 Streetscape plantings should be compatible with the context of the individual character areas.

- In historic industrial areas, street trees should be clustered and have irregular spacing to evoke a sense of the volunteer nature of vegetation of these industrial settings.
- Boulevard plantings will be considered in historic industrial areas.
- In historic commercial and residential areas, traditional regular spacing and placement of trees is appropriate.
- Boulevard plantings are appropriate in historic commercial and residential areas
- Street trees shall not be located directly in front of entrances.

Open Space & Parks

Historically there were few parks in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Today, nearly all the land adjacent to the Mississippi River is dedicated to parks and open space. The reuse of these former industrial and railroad transportation areas as recreational and scenic attractions is reflective of the evolving use and importance of the central riverfront within Minneapolis. This evolving use as a recreation and scenic attraction is paramount to initiatives to increase activity along the riverfront.

Intent

The historic development patterns and use of these areas is often evident in the orientation of and access to the sites, remnants of historic infrastructure buildings, and their vegetation. New designs for open spaces and parks should reflect the historic use of the site through design interpretation while allowing for designs that meet the needs for the current and proposed use of the site. (Also see the Character Areas in Chapter 10 for guidelines specific to each character area.)

Requirements

6.7 New designs for open spaces and parks should be compatible and reflective of the historic context of the individual character areas.

- a. Incorporate the remnants of historic infrastructure and buildings into new designs for open spaces and parks.
- b. Retain the historic orientation and access patterns of sites.
- c. Interpret the historic use of the site through new design elements.
- d. The volunteer pattern of historic landscapes should be reflected in industrial settings.
- e. In historic commercial and residential areas, traditional and contemporary vegetation plans for open spaces and parks are appropriate.



This series of images on this page show ways in which remnants of historic infrastructure can be incorporated into new designs for open spaces and parks.

Chapter 7

General Guidelines

This chapter contains a variety of special guidelines topics, including the treatment of views, site design, services areas, lighting and awnings. These can apply to a preservation project or a new building, and to a variety of building types throughout the entire district.

The general guidelines work in conjunction with the character area guidelines that follow this chapter. Please note the guidelines in the character area chapter supersede the guidelines in this chapter where a divergence or conflict exists.

Views

Key views from the public way are important considerations in the district, and they cover a wide range of types. Many views are from points along the river edge, where future improvements to parks and trails may provide opportunities for enhancing key vantage points. The understanding of views in the historic district is evolving. What is identified in the following map should be considered as baseline of key views. Check with Planning staff to determine if additional resources on views in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District exist.

Intent

The most valued views should be identified at the outset of a project, such that it is clear that they will be considered. This is part of the process of designing in context, which is outlined in Chapter 3 pages 32 and 33 of this document. The intent is not that no view can ever change, but the key elements of a view from public way should be retained.

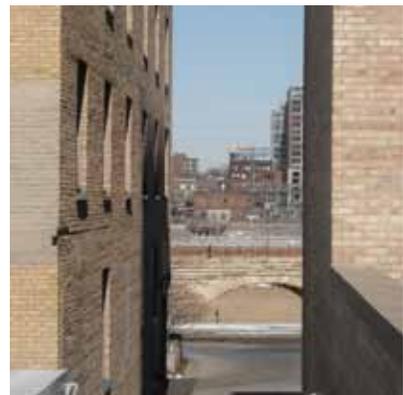
Requirements

7.1 Incorporate key view opportunities into a design.

- a. At the outset of a project, identify views that are most valued, then incorporate them into the design.

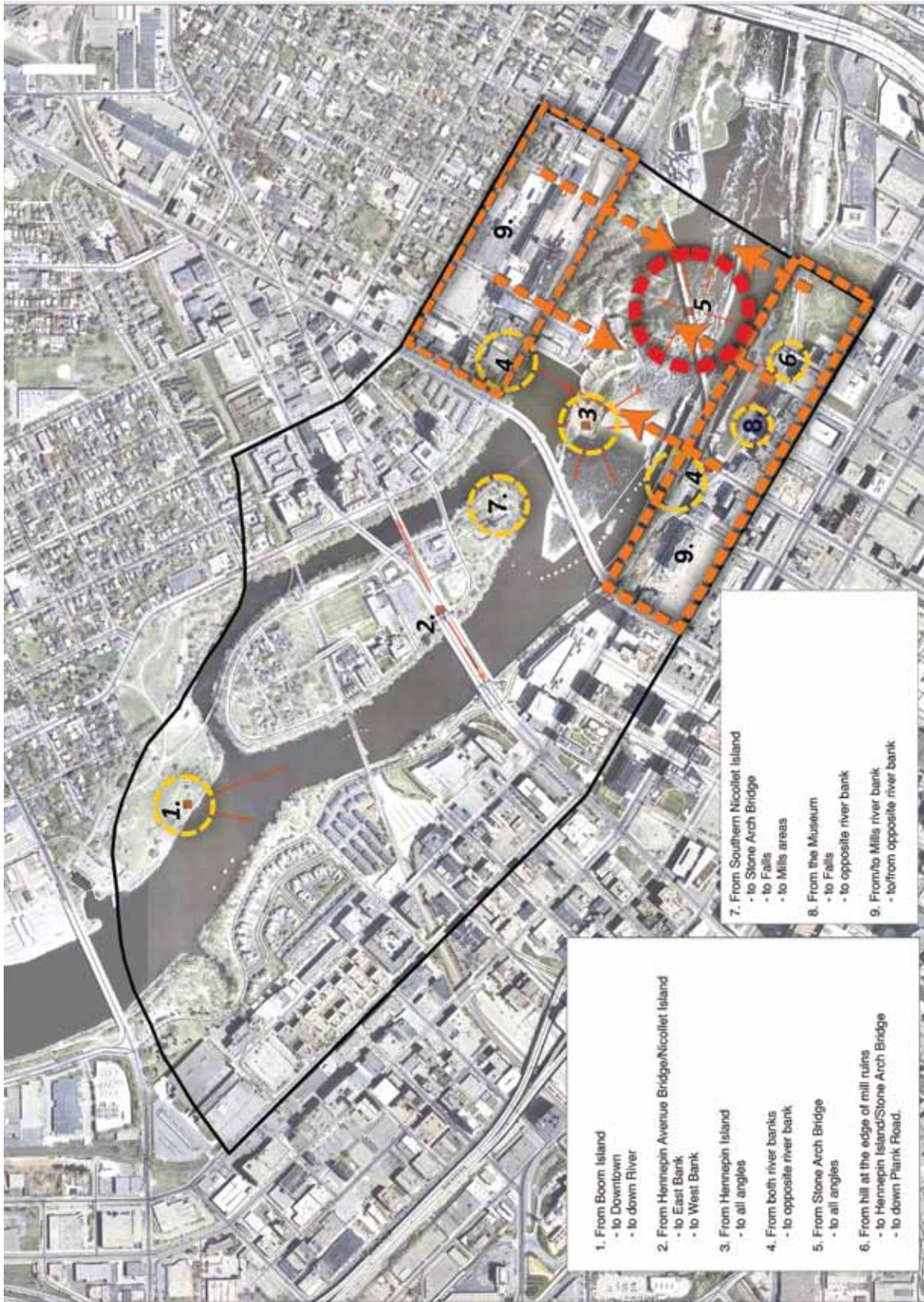
7.2 Minimize the impacts to key views from public ways.

- a. Locate improvements to maintain key views to the extent feasible.



A “key view” is one that is from the public way and looks to a built or natural feature that is widely recognized by the public to be of importance.

Key view opportunities to consider from within the district



- ➔ Consider keeping a portion of a new structure low or using a compact footprint to maintain views through the site.

Connectivity

The district contains a variety of circulation systems, including the river, rails, streets, alleys, bridges and sidewalks that were defined by early development patterns. They are products of defunct rail corridors, industrial infrastructure and milling and manufacturing industries that date from the period of significance, in whole or in part. They are key features of the district.

Today, the area has transitioned in use, placing higher demand on pedestrian and vehicular connections. Many of the features that define early development patterns have the potential to lend themselves as contemporary pedestrian connections desired today.

Intent

Existing historic circulation systems should be preserved. New development should continue to look at opportunities to enhance the existing circulation system. Internal circulation should also be provided within a project on larger parcels to encourage a pedestrian-friendly environment.

Requirements

7.3 Use historic routes, including rail corridors and roadways rather than create a new one.

- When considering a new connection, preserve the underlying historic development patterns.

7.4 Preserve the historic network of streets and alleys.

- Streets and alleys that reflect historic development patterns should not be enclosed or closed to public access. Adapting them as new ways of circulation is appropriate.
- Link walkways and alleys to existing public rights-of-way.

7.5 Vehicular access to a site shall be obtained using existing alleys.

- New curb cuts will be considered.



Use historic routes, including rail corridors and roadways rather than create a new one.

Building Equipment

Externally mounted equipment, including junction boxes, fire connections, telecommunication devices, cables, conduits, satellite dishes, solar equipment, HVAC equipment and fans, can negatively impact the character of a property. Historically, building equipment was subordinate to most commercial and residential building types. By contrast, mechanical systems were more exposed in many industrial operations and may be less of a concern.

Intent

Minimize the visual impacts of building equipment on the character of the district in residential and commercial contexts. Greater flexibility is appropriate in historic industrial contexts.

Requirements

7.6 Minimize the visual impacts of building equipment as seen from the public way.

- a. Do not locate equipment on a primary facade. Primary wall penetrations for HVAC equipment are not permitted.
- b. Prioritize use of low-profile or recessed mechanical units on rooftops.
- c. Rooftop equipment on residential and commercial buildings shall be set back from the primary building facade by a minimum of one structural bay or 15' whichever is greater.

7.7 Minimize the visual impacts of utility lines, junction boxes and similar equipment.

- a. Locate utility lines and junction boxes on secondary walls and group them.
- b. Locate utility pedestals (ground mounted) to the rear of the building.
- c. Enclose lines in conduit.
- d. Paint these elements to match the existing background color.

Balconies and Roof Decks

Balconies and roof decks enhance livability and outdoor uses. They frequently appear in new residential and mixed-use projects. They also facilitate the adaptive reuse of some historic building types.

Balconies and roof decks were not a part of most historic building types in the district. Although there are examples of their use, they generally were unusual, and served as accents. Where they are proposed they should have as little impact on a historic structure and/or context as possible and be a simple design that does not draw undue attention away from the character of the building.

Intent

The use of balconies and roof decks on historic buildings should not negatively impact the character of the building.

The use of balconies and roof decks is appropriate on new buildings, however, they should remain subordinate to the overall historic context.

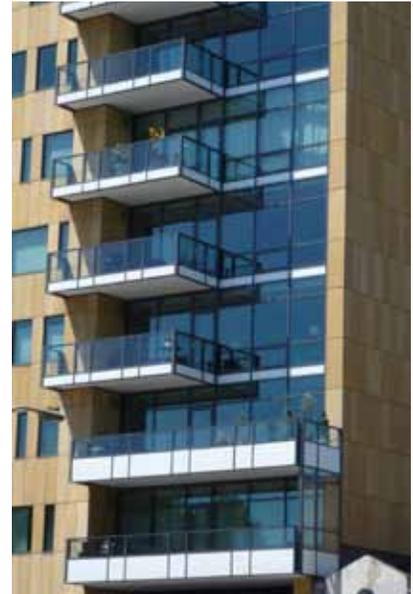
Requirements

7.8 A balcony or roof deck should be visually subordinate on a historic building, as seen from public vantage points.

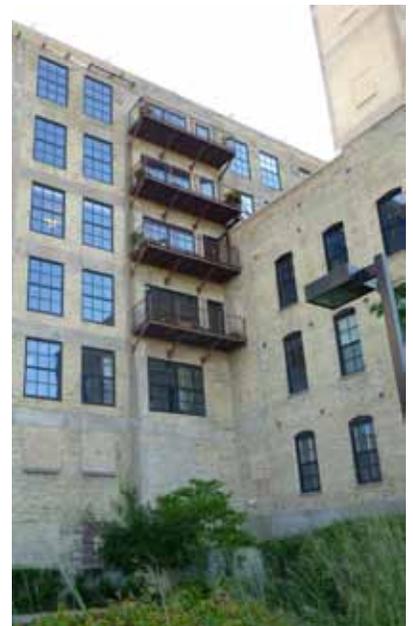
- a. Installing a balcony is not allowed on a historic building's primary facade(s).
- b. Balcony additions will be considered on secondary or tertiary facades. If allowed, they should be set back a minimum one structural bay or 15' whichever is greater from the primary facade(s).

7.9 Minimize the impacts of a new balcony on a historic building.

- a. Limit the number of balconies to be installed on an individual wall such that the traditional character of the wall can still be perceived.
- b. Mount a balcony to accentuate historic defining features. The balcony should fit within an existing opening and should not exceed one structural bay in width.
- c. A new opening should not be cut into the facade to accommodate a balcony.



The balcony should appear mostly transparent. Simple metal work is most appropriate on mixed-use and residential mid- and high-rise buildings.



Minimize the impacts of a new balcony on a historic building.

7.10 On a new building, locate balconies such that the traditional character of the block, as perceived at the street level, is maintained.

- a. When a building wall is positioned near the sidewalk edge, locating a balcony at the third floor or above is preferred.
- b. Consider providing a balcony that is inset instead of one that projects from the front facade. This can reinforce the concept of a simple rectangular form.

7.11 A new balcony should be simple in design so as not to detract from the historic character.

- a. The balcony should appear mostly transparent.
- b. Simple metal work is most appropriate on commercial/mixed-use buildings.
- c. Simple wood and metal designs are appropriate for single-family residential buildings.
- d. Heavy timber and plastics are inappropriate materials.
- e. Use colors that are compatible with the overall color scheme of the building. In most cases, dark metal matte finishes are appropriate.

7.12 Minimize the visual impact of a roof deck as seen from the street.

- a. On a commercial or industrial building, set any guard rails and other supporting elements back one structural bay or 15', whichever is greater from the facade so they are not visible from the sidewalk below.
- b. A roof deck on a single family residential building should be located to the rear.

Historic Building Fabric

The City recognizes reuse and recycling efforts to support environmental sustainability. However, this does not mean it is appropriate to dismantle a historic resource to use it for salvage or parts for another project.

Intent

Use best preservation practices when treating historic resources.

Requirement

7.13 Do not demolish a building to provide building features or fabric for new or rehabilitation projects.

Environmental Concerns

The City acknowledges there may be cases where the mitigation of environmental concerns may impact historic resources.

Intent

When addressing environmental concerns, use the treatment that has the least impact on the resource without compromising the mitigation effort.

Requirement

7.14 Consider an environmental mitigation strategy that has the least impact on a historic resource, when feasible.

Signs

Historic signs within the historic district have become character defining elements of the district's and city's identity.

Intent

Preserve historic signs. Efficiently use signage for identification and way finding that do not create false sense of security or sign clutter.

7.15 Historic signs should be maintained and preserved.

- ➔ Includes freestanding signs, roof top signs, painted wall signs, signs integrated into buildings.

7.16 Fake historic signs are not appropriate.

7.17 New rooftop signage is not appropriate.

7.18 Identification, interpretive and wayfinding signage are encouraged.

7.19 Contemporary designs that do not create sense a false sense of history are appropriate.



Historic signs should be maintained and preserved.

Chapter 8

Building Rehabilitation Guidelines

This chapter provides guidelines for the rehabilitation of properties defined as “contributing resources” in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. For each of the features discussed, individual guidelines follow that indicate the preferred sequence of treatment. That is: first, one should maintain a feature in good condition. Next, it should be repaired if deteriorated; and only if that is not feasible, to replace it in kind. Finally, a compatible alteration will be considered.

Specific Building Types

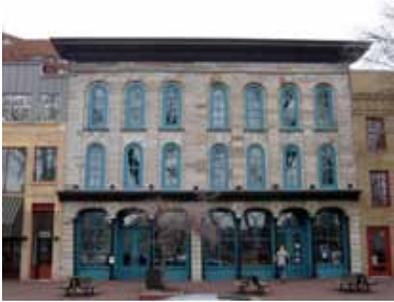
The St. Anthony Falls Historic District contains a diverse collection of historic building types and architectural designs. These historic buildings generally fall into three categories of buildings: Industrial, Commercial, and Residential. I AM ADDING TEXT

Historic Industrial Buildings

Most of the historic industrial buildings in the district are related to the lumber, milling, manufacturing, power and transportation industries of the 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings were primarily used for product processing, storage, sales and operations.

Buildings were designed to address these uses and operated “in-the-round,” in the sense that the front and back sides both served important access functions. For example, manufacturing and warehouse buildings were often oriented to railroad tracks on one side to facilitate the loading and unloading of goods, while the front would orient to the street to allow for the sales of goods. Because the mill and power buildings were dependent on the river for their operation, the design and function of these facilities were even more complex. Their operations addressed above and below ground functions.

As a result, buildings are oriented to provide two kinds of access: pedestrian access from the street and sidewalk and freight access from side streets, alleys or rail spurs.



Most historic commercial buildings in the district are variations on the traditional American storefront. These were designed for retail-related functions on the ground-level, and therefore relatively large openings were used to maximize visibility and access to goods and services offered inside.

Historic industrial buildings vary in form, materials and fenestration. Some resemble typical warehouse buildings made of brick while others were built of concrete with little fenestration. This variety in building form and materials enriches the district and these building types are key elements of its fabric.

Historic Commercial Buildings

Most historic commercial buildings in the district are variations on the traditional American storefront. These were designed for retail-related functions on the ground-level; therefore, relatively large openings were used to maximize visibility and access to goods and services offered inside. The primary facade is built to the sidewalk edge. Upper-story windows are smaller, with vertically oriented openings. The upper floors appear more solid than transparent.

Historic Residential Buildings

Most of the historic residential buildings in the district exist on Nicollet Island. They are simple in form and built with local materials, many of lap siding. Several are embellished with details associated with formally recognized styles. Most of these historic residential buildings share some fundamental similarities in building form, mass, scale, materials and siting patterns.



Most of the historic residential buildings in the district exist on Nicollet Island. They are simple in form and built with local materials, many of lap siding.

General Rehabilitation Guidelines

Adaptive Reuse

Continuing to keep historic buildings in active use is a key objective for preservation in Minneapolis, especially in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Doing so retains a link to our heritage and also is sound environmental policy. Re-using a building preserves the energy and resources invested in its construction, and avoids the need for producing new materials that would be required to construct a replacement.

While the best use for a historic resource is that for which it was designed, there are cases where adapting to a new use will be necessary. Many adaptations can occur relatively easily, but some unique resources, such as the large, circular concrete elevator buildings found in the district, will require creative solutions. Additional flexibility will be considered for new uses in those circumstances.

Intent

Provide a compatible use for a historic structure, one that will require minimal alteration to it and its site.

Requirement

- 8.1 Seek uses that are compatible with the historic character of a historic building.**
- a. The use should not adversely affect the historic integrity of the structure.
 - b. The use should not alter significant stylistic and architectural features of the structure.
 - c. A use that helps to interpret how the resource was used historically is encouraged.

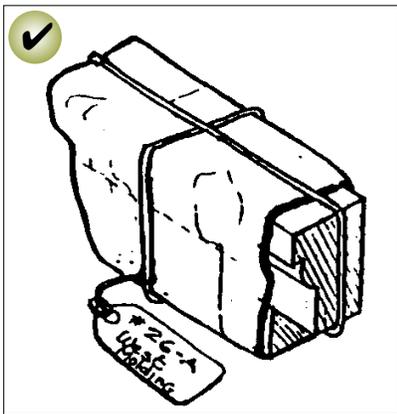
WEB LINK: TOPIC SPECIFIC TECHNICAL PRESERVATION GUIDANCE

There are various publications on the National Park Service's web site that provide recommended rehabilitation treatments and practices for historic buildings. These publications should be reviewed when undertaking improvements to historic buildings.

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/education/free-pubs.htm>



Preserve significant stylistic and architectural features, including roof-top elements.



When disassembly of a historic feature is required in a rehabilitation procedure, document its location so that it may be repositioned accurately.

Architectural Details

Architectural details provide visual interest and help to establish a sense of scale. They are often associated with specific architectural styles, building types and include ornamental detailing, moldings, corbeling, pilasters and belt courses. They may also include water towers, chimneys, painted signs (ghost signs) and other attachments associated with the history of the property.

Intent

Architectural details should be preserved in place. The treatment that requires the least intervention is preferred.

Requirements

8.2 Preserve significant stylistic and architectural features.

- a. Preserve significant stylistic and architectural features, including storefronts, cornices, moldings, porches, brackets, loading docks, canopies, and ornaments, for example. Industrial bridges and conveyance systems between buildings are also significant features.

8.3 Repair deteriorated architectural features.

- a. Patch, piece-in, splice, consolidate or otherwise repair a feature, using accepted preservation procedures.
- b. Do not remove or alter architectural details that are in good condition or that can be repaired.
- c. Protect significant features that are adjacent to an area being worked on.

8.4 When disassembly of a historic element is necessary for its repair, use methods that minimize damage to it.

- a. When removing a historic feature for repair, document its location so it may be repositioned accurately.

8.5 Use technical procedures for cleaning that will maintain the original finish.

- a. Use the gentlest means possible that will achieve the appropriate results.
- b. Chemical cleaning will be considered only in consultation with CPED. Consultation includes an agreement on the area to test the treatment, reviewing the results, and developing an agreed upon process to complete the cleaning.

8.6 Replace an architectural feature accurately.

- a. The design should be substantiated by physical or pictorial evidence to avoid creating a misrepresentation of the building's history.
- b. Use the same kind of material as the original.
- c. An alternative material will be considered if its size, shape, texture, profile and finish convey the visual appearance of the original. These are usually more acceptable in locations that are not highly visible from the street or river such as on a secondary facade.

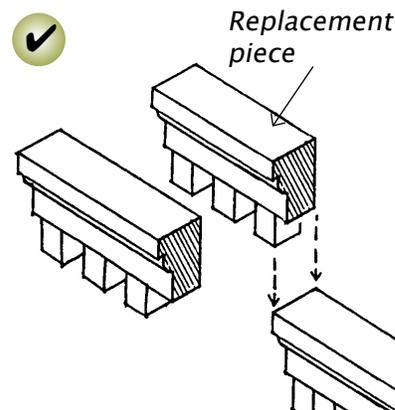
8.7 When reconstructing a missing element is infeasible, develop a new design that is a compatible interpretation.

- a. The new element should be similar to comparable features in general size, shape, texture, material and finish. (See page 78 for an illustration of a simplified cornice design as an example.)

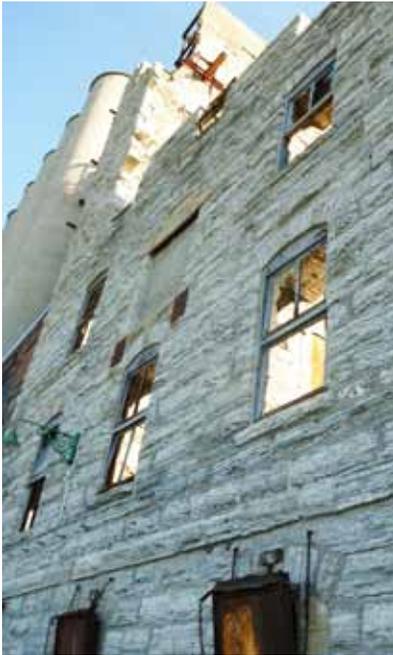
8.8 Restore altered or blocked openings on primary facades to their original configuration when consistent with the intended use of the structure.

8.9 Avoid adding details that were not part of the original building.

- a. Do not convey a false history or an inaccurate building style. For example, decorative millwork should not be added to a building if it was not an original feature.



Where replacement of an element is required, remove only those portions that are deteriorated beyond repair.



Preserve original building materials.

Materials

Original building materials also are key features of historic buildings. They are important to the significance of the district as a whole, and also contribute to a sense of visual continuity in many places. They also convey the technology of the time in their construction methods.

Intent

Historic building materials should be preserved in place. The treatment that requires the least intervention is preferred.

Requirements

8.10 Preserve original building materials.

- a. Do not remove or alter original building materials that are in good condition or that can be repaired.
- b. Remove only those materials which are deteriorated beyond repair and must be replaced.

8.11 Repair deteriorated primary building materials.

- a. Patch, piece-in, splice, consolidate or otherwise upgrade existing materials, using recognized preservation methods.

8.12 When replacing materials on primary surfaces, match the original material in composition, scale and finish.

- a. Replace only the amount required.

8.13 Do not use imitation materials as replacements in primary locations.

- a. Primary building materials, such as wood siding and masonry, should not be replaced with fabricated materials that are designed to look like wood or masonry siding, such as synthetic vinyl or panelized brick.
- b. Alternative materials that convey a character similar to the historic material will be considered in some secondary locations when replacement with the original is not feasible. They must have a similar finish and be proven durable in similar installations in Minneapolis.
- c. "Green" building materials, such as those made with renewable and local resources, will be considered for replacement materials where they will not impact the integrity of a building or its key features.

8.14 Covering original building material with a new one is inappropriate.

- a. If a property already has a non-historic building material covering the original, it is not appropriate to add another layer of new material, which would further obscure the original.
- b. Consider removing later covering materials that have not achieved historic significance. Once the non-historic siding is removed, repair the original, underlying material.
 - ➔ If a structure has a stucco finish, removing the covering may be difficult, and may not be desirable. Test the stucco to assure that the original material underneath will not be damaged.



Consider removing later covering materials that have not achieved historic significance. Once the non-historic siding is removed, repair the original, underlying material.

Wood

Wood was used historically for framing and cladding, especially on residential buildings found on Nicollet Island; it was also used for trim and ornamental details. When properly maintained, original wood material has a long lifespan. To preserve original wood, maintain its painted finish. These guidelines apply in addition to the more general guidelines for materials on page 62.

Intent

Original wood materials should be preserved.

Requirements

8.15 Protect wood materials from deterioration.

- a. Provide proper drainage and ventilation to minimize rot.
- b. Maintain protective coatings, when appropriate, to retard drying and ultraviolet damage.

8.16 When replacing wood materials on primary surfaces, match the original material in composition, scale and finish, and replace only those that are deteriorated.

- a. If an original wood siding needs replacement, then the replacement material should be wood as well. The boards should be milled to match the original in size, installed to match the amount of exposed lap and finished to reflect the original.
- b. If a secondary surface such as a wood porch or deck floor needs replacement because of significant deterioration, a substitute material will be considered. Recycled materials (reclaimed wood) may be an appropriate replacement material. However, these materials should reflect the size and texture of the historic boards.

Metal

Metals were used for a variety of applications including storefront columns, roofs and decorative features. Cast iron, steel and copper are the most common. These guidelines apply in addition to the more general guidelines on page 62.

Intent

Original metals should be preserved.

Requirement

8.17 Protect metal materials from deterioration.

- a. Provide proper drainage on metal surfaces to minimize water retention.
- b. Provide protective coatings, when appropriate, on exposed metals.



Preserve significant masonry features.



Brick or stone that was not painted historically should not be painted.

Masonry

Masonry employed historically in the district includes stone, brick, terracotta, stucco and concrete masonry units. Poured in place concrete materials also exist and are addressed as masonry in this section. These materials occur in building walls, foundations, elevators, moldings, lintels, landings, site walls and steps. These guidelines apply in addition to the preceding, more general guidelines related to building materials on page 62.

Intent

Original masonry materials should be preserved.

Requirements

8.18 Preserve significant masonry features.

- a. Avoid rebuilding a major portion of an exterior masonry wall or other building component when it could be repaired instead.
- b. Preserve significant masonry features, including walls, cornices, pediments, moldings, lintels, steps and exposed foundations.

8.19 When replacing masonry materials on primary surfaces, match the original material in composition, scale and finish, and replace only those features that are deteriorated.

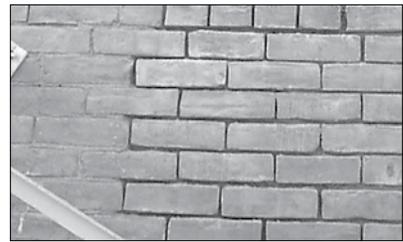
- a. When replacing an architectural stone detail, using stone again is preferred.
- b. Some cast concrete or stone composite alternatives will be considered when a compatible or matching stone is not available.

8.20 Brick or stone that was not painted historically should not be painted.

- ➔ Most masonry units have a water-protective layer, or patina, or a glaze to protect them from the elements. Painting a masonry wall can seal in moisture already in the material, thereby not allowing it to breathe and causing extensive damage over the years. It also alters the character.

8.21 Repoint mortar joints only where there is evidence of deterioration.

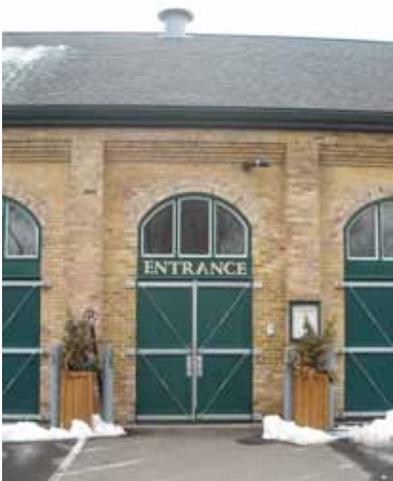
- a. Duplicate the original mortar in strength, composition, color and texture, and the mortar joints in width and profile.
- b. Avoid using mortar with a high portland cement content, which will be substantially harder than the original.



Tool and repoint mortar joints where there is evidence of deterioration.



Doors are important character-defining features of historic buildings in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. They celebrate the entrance experience, contribute to the building proportions, and are important in understanding the overall design and function of each structure.



When replacing a door, use a design that has an appearance similar to the original, or one associated with similar structures.

Doors

Doors are important character-defining features of historic buildings in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. They celebrate the entrance experience, contribute to the building proportions, and are important in understanding the overall design and function of each structure.

The individual components of a door are important in understanding the technology of the period and of the craftsmen who constructed it. Features important to the character of a door include its frame, heads, jambs and moldings. Original doors can often be repaired instead of being replaced. Simple modifications that are sensitive to the original fabric also can improve thermal performance.

Intent

The character-defining features of a historic door, its distinct materials and its location should be preserved. In addition, a new door should be in character with the historic building.

Requirements

8.22 Preserve the decorative and functional features of a primary entrance.

- a. Avoid changing the position and detailing of the original door.
- b. Preserve decorative and functional elements, including, the door, door frame, screen door, threshold, glass panes, paneling, hardware, detailing, transoms and flanking sidelights.

8.23 Preserve the decorative and functional features of a loading door opening.

- a. Avoid changing the position and detailing of the original loading door.
- b. Preserve decorative and functional elements, including the door, door frame, tracks, threshold, glass panes, paneling, hardware, bumper guards, corner-guards, detailing and transoms.

8.24 Maintain the original proportions of a historically significant door.

- a. Altering the original size and shape of an original door opening is inappropriate.

8.25 When a historic door is damaged, repair it and maintain its general historic appearance.

8.26 When replacing a door, use materials that appear similar to that of the original.

- a. A replacement door will be considered if evidence is provided that the original cannot be reasonably repaired or it is missing.

8.27 When replacing a door, use a design that has appearance similar to the original, or one associated with structures of a similar style and age.



Preserve decorative and functional elements, including, doors, transom windows, display windows, moldings, trim, sills and kickplates.

Storefronts

Many storefronts in the district have components seen traditionally on commercial buildings. The repetition of these standard elements creates a visual unity at the street. Preserving a historic storefront maintains interest to pedestrians by providing views to goods and activities inside.

Intent

The character-defining features of a storefront, its distinct materials and its location should be preserved.

Requirements

8.28 Preserve the decorative and functional features of a storefront system.

- a. Preserve decorative and functional elements, including, doors, transom windows, display windows, moldings, trim, sills and kickplates.

8.29 Restore an altered storefront to its original design.

- a. Use historic photographs when determining the original character of a storefront design unless the current storefront has gained significance of its own.

8.30 Alternative designs that are contemporary interpretations of traditional storefronts will be considered where the historic one is missing.

- a. The new design should continue to convey the character of typical storefronts. The storefront system should be in proportion to the building.
- b. When the original design is not available through historic plans or photos for the replacement of a storefront, a contemporary profile will be considered, but existing original storefronts in the district should be used as a reference for materials, scale, size of members and proportion.

8.31 Retain the bulkhead as a decorative panel.

- a. The bulkhead, located below the display window, provides interesting detail and should be preserved.
- b. If the original bulkhead is covered with another material, consider exposing the original design.

8.32 If the original bulkhead is missing, develop a sympathetic replacement design.

- a. Wood is an appropriate material for a replacement on most styles; however, alternative materials may also be considered when appropriately used with the building style.

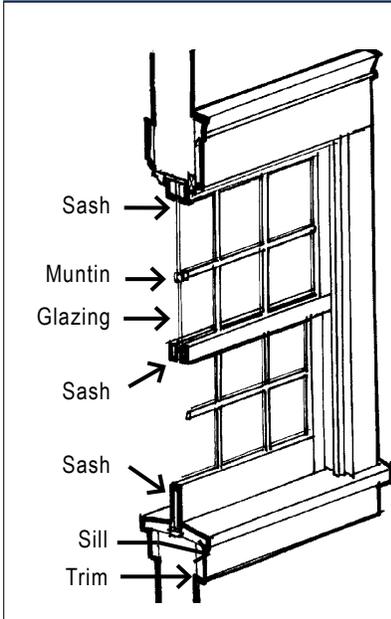
8.33 Preserve an original transom.

- a. A transom, the upper glass band of traditional storefronts, provides natural daylighting into the depths of a commercial building. These bands should not be removed or enclosed.
- b. The shape of the transom is important to the proportion and character of the storefront, and it should be preserved in its historic configuration.
- c. If the original glass is missing, installing new glass is preferred. However, if the transom must be blocked out, be certain to retain the original proportion and transom divisions.
- d. Restoring an operable transom is encouraged, to facilitate energy conservation.
- e. In order to maintain the transom, any dropped ceiling in the interior of the building shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from exterior entryways or windows to minimize visual impact from the street.



The shape of the transom is important to the proportion and character of the storefront, and it should be preserved in its historic configuration.

Double-hung Window



The appearance of any replacement window components should match those of the original in dimension, profile and finish.

Windows

Windows are important character-defining features of historic buildings throughout the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. They contribute to the sense of scale of each building, convey specific design characteristics and provide light and air to interior spaces. The individual components that make up a window are important in understanding the technology of the period and of the craftsmen who constructed them. These include the frame, sash, muntins, mullions, glazing, sills, heads, jambs and moldings associated with each window. The position of a window and its relationship to others in the wall are also important features. Original windows can often be repaired instead of being replaced and simple modifications that are sensitive to the original fabric can often be made to improve their thermal efficiency.

Intent

The character-defining features of a historic window, its distinct materials as well as its location should be preserved. When it is needed, a new window should be in character with the historic building.

Requirements

8.34 Preserve the functional and decorative features of a historic window.

- a. Original and historically significant windows should be preserved.
- b. All decorative trim around a window should be retained, including lintels, pediments, moldings and hoods.

Original and historically significant windows should be preserved.





Preserve the size and proportion of a historic window opening.

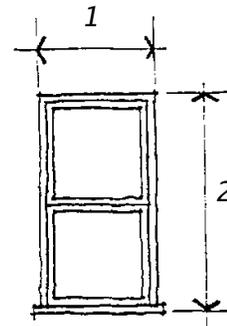
8.35 Preserve the position, number and arrangement of historic windows in a primary building wall.

- a. On a primary facade, enclosing a historic window opening is inappropriate, as is adding a new window opening.
- b. A window on a primary facade should not be removed or blocked to install an air conditioner, mechanical equipment, louvers, or for any other reason.
- c. Installing a new window or changing the size of an existing window opening on a primary facade is not allowed, unless it is to restore a historic window opening and evidence is provided to support its location and size.
- d. More flexibility in altering a window will be considered on a secondary wall in a location that is not key to the significance of the property.

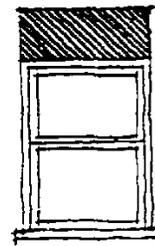
8.36 Preserve the size and proportion of a historic window opening.

- a. Reducing an original opening to accommodate a smaller window or increasing it to receive a larger one is not appropriate.

Original Window Opening

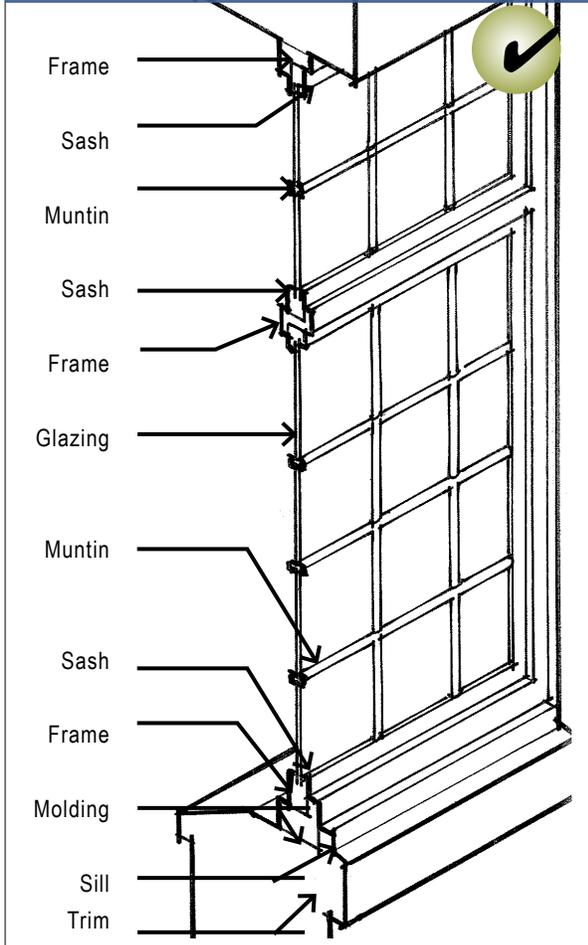


Altered Window Opening

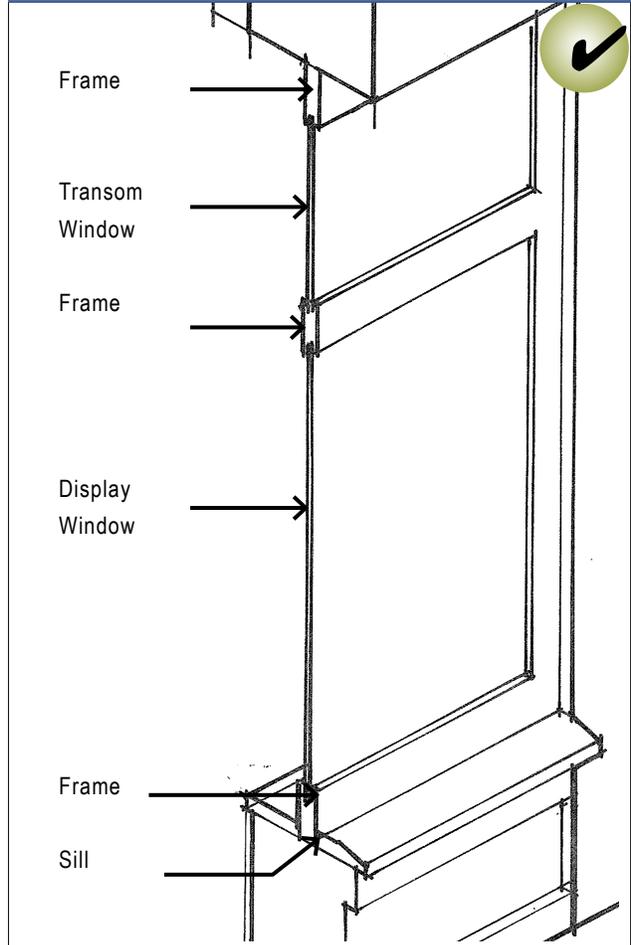


Preserve the size and proportion of a historic window opening.

Warehouse Window



Storefront Window



The appearance of the window components should match those of the original in dimension, profile and finish.

8.37 Repair a historic window that has deteriorated, rather than replace it.

- a. Clear transparent glass should be used to replace missing panes and in any full window replacement, unless historical documentation shows other glass types. Low emission coatings will be considered if they are not reflective or tinted.

8.38 Replace a historic window only when it cannot be repaired.

- a. A replacement window will be considered if evidence is provided that original or historically significant windows cannot be reasonably repaired. A survey of the existing window is required to document its condition and type.
- b. When considering the replacement of historically significant windows, new windows should be compatible in material, type, style, operation, sashes, size of lights and number of panes of the existing windows in that location.
- c. True divided lights are required when replacing a divided light window.
- d. Where true divisions are not possible, applied muntins with an interstitial spacer will be considered. Applied muntins shall be installed on both sides of the glass.



All decorative trim around a window shall be retained, including lintels, pediments, moldings or hoods.



Original and historically significant windows shall be retained.

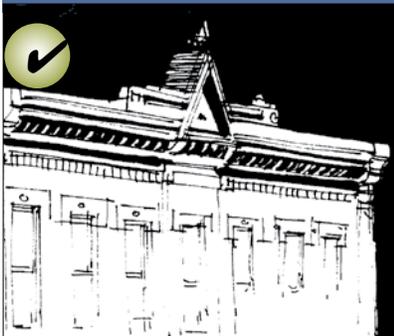
TREATMENT OF AN ALTERED CORNICE

Existing Building



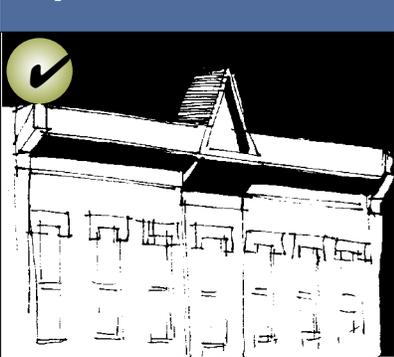
Existing building with missing cornice.

Reconstructed Cornice



Reconstruct a missing cornice when historic evidence is available.

Replacement Cornice



A simplified interpretation is appropriate if evidence of the original is missing.

Cornices

Most historic commercial buildings have cornices to cap facades. Their repetition and general alignment along a street contribute to the visual continuity on a block in many locations.

Intent

Preserve a building cornice. It provides visual continuity by strengthening the horizontal alignment along a block and it also reinforces a building's mass and scale by capping the building.

Requirements

8.39 Preserve an original cornice.

- a. Most historic commercial buildings have cornices to cap their facades and these are important features that should be preserved.

8.40 Reconstruct a missing cornice when historic evidence is available.

- a. Use historic photographs to determine design details of the original cornice.
- b. Replacement elements should match the original, especially in overall size and profile.
- c. Historic parapet caps, such as metal, stone and terra cotta, should be retained.

8.41 A simplified interpretation for a missing cornice is also appropriate for a replacement if evidence of the original is missing.

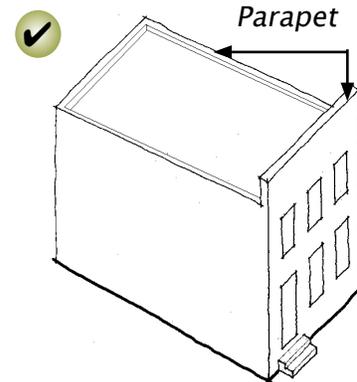
- a. Appropriate replacement materials include brick, stamped metal, wood and some durable synthetics, for example.
- b. Replacement materials should convey a character, general profile and finish similar to the original.



Preserve an original cornice.



The profile of the parapet is often important to the style of the building, and should be preserved in its historic configuration.



A parapet wall should not be altered on a highly visible facade.

Parapets

Most flat roofed historic commercial buildings have parapets. These features block views to roof apparatus, are critical elements to roofing system and provide scale to the building. In some cases, a cornice is integrated into this system.

Intent

To retain building character and roof functionality, a parapet should be preserved.

Requirements

8.42 A parapet wall should not be altered on a highly visible facade.

- a. The profile of the parapet is often important to the style of the building, and should be preserved in its historic configuration.
- b. The height of a parapet wall contributes to the scale of the building and the function of a roof, and should not be altered.
 - ➔ Inspect parapets on a regular basis. They are exposed to the weather more than other parts of the building, so watch for deterioration such as missing mortar or excessive moisture retention.
- c. Historic parapet caps, such as metal, stone, and terra cotta should be retained.



The character of a historic roof should be preserved, including its form, roof pitch, orientation, overhang and materials.



Preserve the original eave depth of a roof.

Roofs

The roof is a major feature for most historic structures in the district. This contributes to the significance of the individual property and, when similar roof forms are repeated along the street, contributes to a sense of visual continuity.

A roof protects a building from the elements and should be maintained in good condition. While many flat roofs are concealed from street view, they frequently have distinctive parapets that give character to a building. Other roof forms, such as gable and hip, are also key features.

Intent

The character of a historic roof should be preserved, including its form, roof pitch, orientation, overhang and materials.

Requirements

8.43 Preserve the original roof form of a historic structure.

- a. Avoid altering the angle of a historic roof.
- b. Maintain the perceived line and orientation of a roof as it is seen from the street.
- c. Retain the original parapet walls and copings.

8.44 Preserve the original eave depth of a roof.

- a. Where a roof overhangs, the shadows created by it contribute to one's perception of the building's historic scale and character. Therefore, these overhangs should be preserved.
- b. Cutting back roof rafters and soffits, or in other ways altering the traditional roof overhang, is inappropriate.

8.45 Preserve original roof materials.

- a. Avoid removing historic roofing material that is in good condition.
- b. Preserve decorative and functional elements, including crests, towers, gutters and chimneys, for example.
- c. Retain and repair roof detailing, including gutters and downspouts.

8.46 New roof materials should convey a scale and texture similar to those used traditionally.

- a. When choosing a roof replacement material, the architectural style of the structure should be considered.
- b. Historic materials and specialty materials such as tiles, metals and wood should be replaced with a matching material.

8.47 Avoid using conjectural features on a roof.

- a. Adding a widow's walk (an ornate railing around the roof ridge) on a house where there is no evidence one existed creates a false impression of the original appearance and is inappropriate, for example.

8.48 Minimize the visual impacts of skylights and other rooftop devices.

- a. A skylight that is flush with the roof plane will be considered where it remains visually subordinate.
- b. A skylight should not interrupt the plane of the historic roof, and should be located below the ridgeline.
- c. Locate electronic data transmission and receiving devices to be visually subordinate and minimize impacts to the historic character of the building and site.

8.49 Minimize the visual impacts of rooftop mechanical equipment on the public way.

- a. Set equipment back a significant distance from building walls so it is not visible.
- b. Use low-profile or recessed mechanical units.
- c. Paint the equipment a dark muted color.



Preserve the integrity of the character-defining features of buildings and sites, while also addressing accessibility issues.

Accessibility

Where it applies, owners of historic properties should comply to the fullest extent possible with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions.

Intent

Preserve the integrity of the character-defining features of buildings and sites, while also addressing accessibility issues.

Requirement

8.50 Creating an accessibility solution that does not alter the historic characteristics of a building is best.

- a. Identify a historic building's character-defining spaces, features and finishes so accessibility code-required work will not result in their damage or loss.
- b. Alterations to historic properties that are designed to improve access for persons with disabilities should minimize negative effects on the historic character or materials of a building and site.
- c. Provide barrier-free access that promotes independence for the disabled to the highest degree practicable, while preserving significant historic features.
- d. Alterations to the slope of the loading docks will be considered.

Handrails

In some circumstances it may be necessary to add a handrail at the entrance to a historic structure in order to address accessibility and life-safety issues. These changes should not detract from the historic character of the property.

Intent

A handrail should have as little impact on the structure as possible and be of a simple design to avoid conveying a false sense of history.

Requirements

8.51 A railing should be simple in design.

- Simple metal work is most appropriate on commercial and industrial buildings.
- Wood handrails are appropriate on most single family residential buildings.
- The railing should appear primarily transparent in its design to minimize its visual impact.

8.52 Minimize the visual impact of alterations to historic railings, when taller railings are required by the code.

- When the current building code requires a taller railing height, consider providing a second railing above the historic one to achieve a greater overall height without changing the appearance of the original.
- Keep the new railing visually subordinate to the original.



In some circumstances it may be necessary to add a handrail at the entrance to a historic structure in order to address accessibility and life-safety issues. These changes should not detract from the historic character of the property.



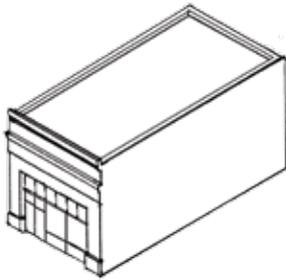
Railings should appear primarily transparent in its design to minimize its visual impact.

Simple metal work is most appropriate on commercial and industrial buildings.

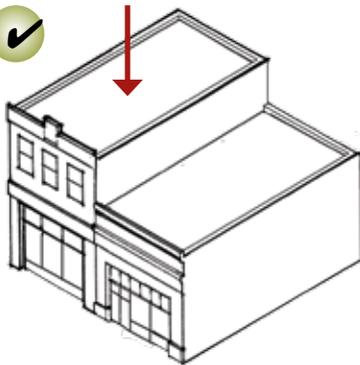
LOCATING A COMMERCIAL ADDITION

Original Building

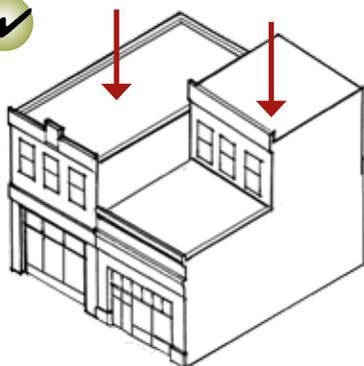
An original one-story building, before an addition. Compare with sketches below.



New Addition to the Side



New Addition to the Side and Roof



Additions to Buildings

Two distinct types of additions to historic buildings will be considered. First, a ground-level addition that involves expanding the footprint of a structure. Such an addition should be to the rear or side of a building and not obscure character-defining facades. Second, an addition to the roof will be considered. Rooftop additions should be set back from the character-defining facade(s) to minimize visual impacts. In addition, the materials, window sizes and alignment of trim elements on the addition should be compatible with those of the existing structure.

Intent

Design an addition to have the least impact on the character of the building and the district. It should be subordinate to and compatible with the existing building. The addition should also be clearly distinguishable from the historic building in a way that does not detract from the character of the historic building or the district.

Requirements

8.53 An addition to the front of a building or a character-defining facade is inappropriate.

8.54 Design an addition to appear subordinate to the historic structure.

- An addition should also relate to the building in mass, scale, character and form.
- The roof form should be compatible as well.

8.55 An addition should not damage or obscure significant stylistic, functional and architectural features.

- Preserve significant stylistic, functional, and architectural features, including storefronts, windows, doors, cornices, moldings, porches, brackets, loading docks, canopies, and ornaments.
- Greater flexibility on secondary facades will be considered.

8.56 An addition to the roof of a building will be considered if it does the following:

- a. It is set back from primary and secondary character-defining walls.
- b. The maximum height of an addition should not exceed 14 feet as measured from the structural roof deck to the existing building.
- c. It preserves the perception of the historic scale of the building.
- d. It is not visible from the street as evidenced by a site line study.
- e. Its design does not detract attention from the historic facade.
- f. The addition is distinguishable as new and is compatible in material and shape.
- g. The existing structural supports can support the proposed addition; a green roof will be considered, for example.

8.57 On residential buildings, a rooftop dormer will be considered.

- a. A dormer should be visually subordinate to the overall roof mass and should be in scale with those on similar historic structures.
- b. The dormer should be located below the ridge line of the primary roof.
- c. A dormer should be similar in character to the primary roof form.
- d. The number and size of any new dormers should not visually overwhelm the scale of the primary structure.
 - ➔ A dormer is typically added to increase the amount of headroom in an upper floor. Traditionally, dormers are designed as smaller elements. If significant increases in space is desired, do not consider oversized dormers. Rather, develop an addition to the rear of the structure.

Residential Accessory Structures

Accessory structures are integral parts of historic residential properties in the district. This includes garages, storage units and carriage houses. These buildings are relatively simple in character.

Intent

An accessory structure is an important character-defining feature and should be preserved.

Requirement

8.58 Preserve an intact or recoverable historic accessory structure.

- a. Preserve the original building form and its materials.
- b. New accessory structures will be considered.

Energy Efficiency

This section provides solutions for maintaining and improving resource and energy efficiency in a historic building as well as methods for approaching energy generation technologies. Other sustainability guidelines throughout this document will also apply. It is important to note that energy efficiency features will be considered; however, they are not a by-right feature in the district.

Planning a Rehabilitation Project for Energy Efficiency

Follow these basic steps when considering a rehabilitation project for energy efficiency:

Step 1: Establish Project Goals.

Develop an overall strategy and project goals to maximize the effectiveness of a project. This will establish a broad view that places individual actions into context. Project goals should focus on minimizing use of resources and energy, minimizing negative environmental impacts, and retaining the historic integrity of a property. Strategies should maximize the inherent value of the historic resource prior to considering alterations or energy generation technology retrofits.

To inform a project strategy, also consider conducting an energy audit. An energy audit gives a comprehensive view of how energy is currently used in the daily and seasonal cycles of use, and can also provide perspective on the payback of investment for potential work on the building. This may demonstrate that priorities should be placed on increasing insulation in walls, ceilings and foundations, rather than replacing or installing photovoltaics.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

Follow these basic steps when considering an energy efficiency rehabilitation project:

Step 1:
Establish Project Goals.

Step 2:
Maintain Building Components in Sound Condition.

Step 3:
Maximize Inherent Sustainable Qualities.

Step 4:
Enhance Building Performance.

Step 5:
Add Energy-Generating Technologies Sensitive.

Step 2:
Maintain Building Components in Sound Condition.

Maintaining existing building fabric reduces negative environmental impacts of replacing components. Re-using a building also preserves the energy and resources invested in its construction, and removes the need for producing new construction materials. See the Introduction for more information on the environmental benefits of historic preservation.

Step 3:
Maximize Inherent Sustainable Qualities.

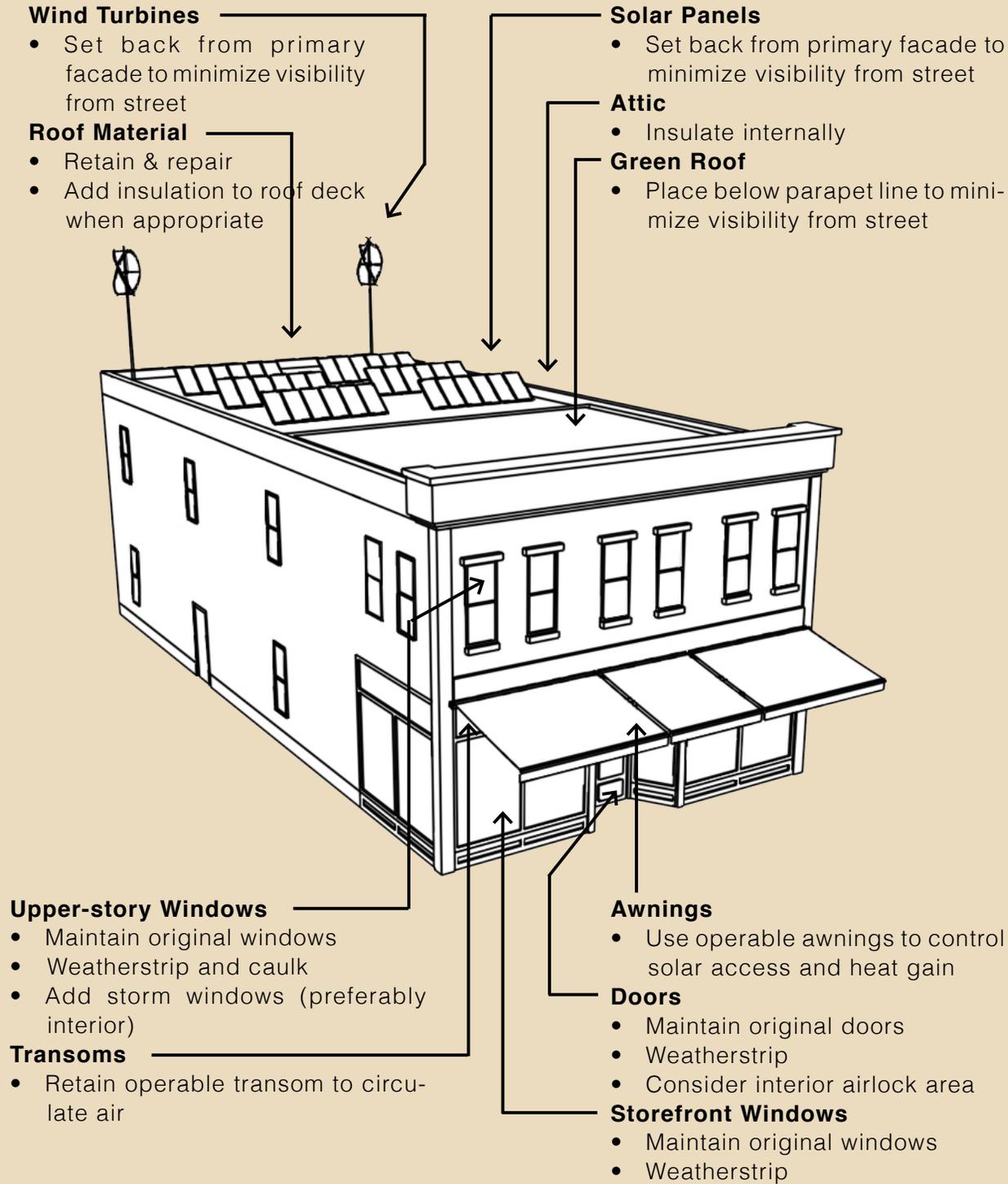
Many historic buildings were built with resource and energy efficiency in mind. Construction methods focused on durability and maintenance, resulting in individual building features that can be repaired if damaged, thus minimizing the use of materials throughout the building's lifecycle. Buildings were also built to respond to local climate conditions, integrating passive and active strategies for year-round interior climate control, which increase energy efficiency. Passive strategies typically include building orientation and features such as roof overhangs and windows to provide both natural daylighting as well as management of solar heat gain. Active strategies typically include operable building features such as awnings and double-hung and transom windows. It is therefore important to identify a building's inherent sustainable features and operating systems and maintain them in good operating condition. In some cases these features may be covered, damaged or missing; they should be repaired or restored when necessary.

Step 4:
Enhance Building Performance.

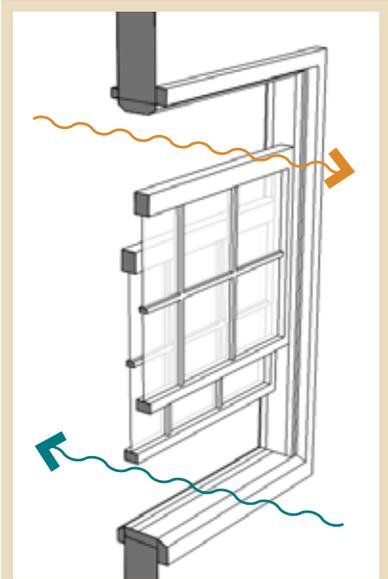
A historic building's inherent energy efficiency can be augmented using techniques which improve energy efficiency without negatively impacting character-defining features. Non-invasive strategies such as increased insulation, weatherization improvements and landscaping should be considered.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY DIAGRAM

This diagram summarizes some of the guidelines for an energy efficiency project on a commercial building. These measures can enhance energy efficiency while retaining the integrity of the historic structure.



DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW VENTILATION



Double hung windows simultaneously allow for cool air in and warm air out.

Step 5: Add Energy-Generating Technologies Sensitively.

The flexibility of many historic structures allows respectful integration of energy efficiency technologies. Energy-generation is the most commonly assumed to be needed, but the inherent efficiency of a historic structure when appropriately managed will often be great enough that installing new systems is not needed. For this reason it is important to utilize strategies to reduce energy consumption prior to undertaking an energy generation project.

When it is indicated that installing new technologies would be beneficial, it is important to maintain the resource's historic integrity and the ability to interpret its historic significance. As such, it may not be appropriate to install some or all technologies on resources within the historic district. As technology and society's understanding of the meaning of sustainability continue to develop, so too will the methods for integrating these technologies into a historic building. It is also important to recognize that energy generation technologies continue to evolve and therefore, as new technologies are tried and tested, it is important that they be installed in a reversible manner such that they leave no permanent negative impacts to a historic structure.

Maintaining the Inherent Energy Efficiency of a Historic Building

Intent

Original sustainable building features and systems should be maintained in good operating condition in an energy efficiency rehabilitation project.

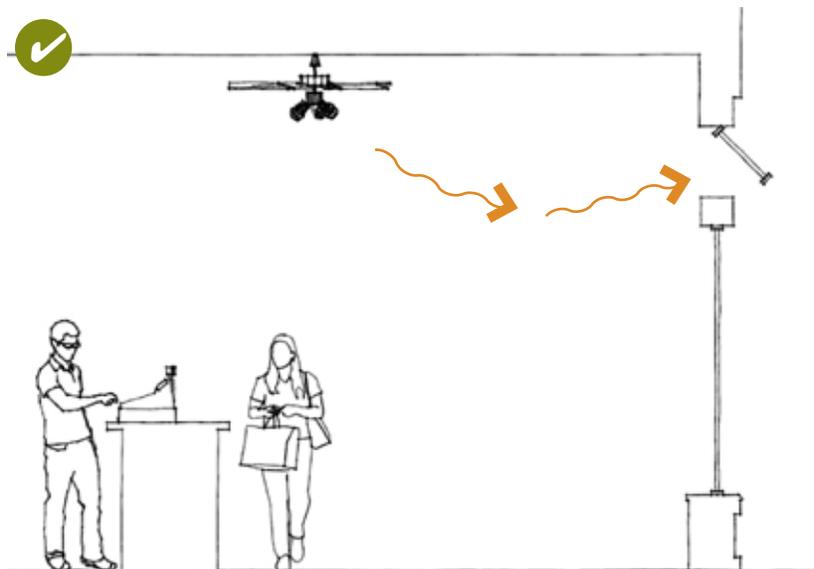
Requirements

8.59 Preserve the inherent energy efficiency of the original building.

- Identify a building's inherent sustainable features and operating systems and maintain them in good condition.
- Repair or restore covered, damaged or missing features where appropriate.

8.60 Maintain a building's sustainability features in operable condition.

- Retain original shutters, awnings and transoms. Operable features such as these will increase the range of conditions in which a building is comfortable without mechanical climate controls.
- Repair or restore covered, damaged or missing features where necessary.



Maintaining operable transom windows on a historic commercial building preserves historic character and makes use of its inherent energy-efficient features.

Options for Enhancing Energy Performance in Historic Structures

Intent

Improvements to enhance energy efficiency should be planned to complement the original building. The structure, form and materials should be sensitively improved in energy efficiency terms to preserve the building's character.

Requirement

8.61 Use non-invasive strategies when applying weatherization improvements.

- a. Install weatherization strategies in a way that avoids altering or damaging significant materials and their finishes.
- b. Weatherstrip original framework on windows and doors.
- c. Install additional insulation in an attic, basement or crawlspace as a simple method to improve a building's energy efficiency. Where applicable, install draft stoppers in a chimney.
 - ➔ Installing insulation in all cavities also may be beneficial. Provide sufficient ventilation to avoid moisture build-up in the wall cavity when doing so.
- d. Use materials which are environmentally friendly and that will not interact negatively with historic building materials.
 - ➔ Weatherstripping, insulation and storm windows are energy efficient, cost effective, and historically sensitive approaches.

8.62 Enhance the energy efficiency of original windows and doors.

- a. Make best use of original windows; keep them in good repair and seal all leaks.
- b. Safeguard, retain and reuse early glass, taking special care in putty replacement only when it is deteriorated.
- c. Replace deteriorated glazing compound. Remove deteriorated putty with care.
- d. On buildings that historically did not have storm windows, place storm windows internally to avoid altering the external appearance.
- e. Where it is necessary to place a storm window externally, such as where there is not sufficient room in an interior frame, use storm window inserts designed to match the original frame.
 - ➔ Double pane glazing may be acceptable where original glazing has been lost and the frame can support the weight and profile. A storm window will typically be more efficient however.
 - ➔ Use operable systems to enhance performance of original windows. This includes storm windows, insulated coverings, curtains and awnings.



Design site and landscape improvements to promote energy efficiency where appropriate. In this example deciduous trees provide summer shading.

8.63 Design site and landscape improvements to promote energy efficiency where appropriate.

- a. Where a site includes landscaping, use drought-tolerant plants to reduce the need for irrigation.
- b. Plant trees and shrubbery to serve as windbreaks and provide seasonal shading.

8.64 Avoid adverse impacts to a historic commercial building when installing a green roof.

- a. A green roof is acceptable when it is not visible from the street.
- b. Green roof material should not damage or replace historically significant roofing materials.
- c. The weight of the green roof should not threaten the structural integrity of the building. If additional structural support is needed for installation of the roof, it should only be considered where any adverse impact to the building's historic significance can be avoided.
 - ➔ A green roof provides thermal mass to help regulate internal temperature, as well as helps to reduce the urban heat island effect.



Attach solar collectors to a historic roof in a minimally invasive and reversible manner. In this example the panels are mounted such that the original shingles are saved.

Solutions for Energy Generating Technologies

Intent

When integrating modern energy technology into a historic structure, maintain the resource's integrity and the ability to interpret its historic significance. Use of energy-generating technologies should be the final option considered in an energy efficiency improvement project. Utilize strategies to reduce energy consumption prior to undertaking an energy generation project. Consider the overall project goals and energy strategies when determining if a specific technology is appropriate for the project.

As new technologies are tried and tested, it is important that they leave no permanent negative impacts to historic structures. The reversibility of their application will be a key consideration when determining appropriateness.

Requirement

8.65 Locate technology to minimize impacts to the historic character of the building.

- a. Locate technology where it will not damage, obscure or cause removal of significant features or materials.
- b. Maintain the ability to interpret the historic character of the building.

8.66 Install new technology in a reversible manner.

- a. Install technology in such a way that it can be readily removed at a later date.
- b. Use materials which are environmentally friendly and that will not interact negatively with historic building materials.

Solar Collectors

Intent

Solar collectors should be designed, sized and located to minimize their effect on the character of a historic building. They should not be highly visible from the street or the river.

Requirement

8.67 Minimize adverse effects from solar collectors on the character of a historic building.

- a. Place collectors to avoid obscuring significant features or adversely affecting the perception of the overall character of the property.
- b. Where it will be visible, size a collector array to remain subordinate to the historic structure.
- c. Minimize visual impacts by locating collectors back from the front so they are not highly visible from the street. Use a site line study to help determine best placement.
- d. Mount collectors flush below the ridgeline on a sloping roof.
- e. Consider installing collectors on an addition or secondary structure where feasible.
- f. Exposed hardware, frames and piping should have a matte finish, and be consistent with the color scheme of the primary structure.



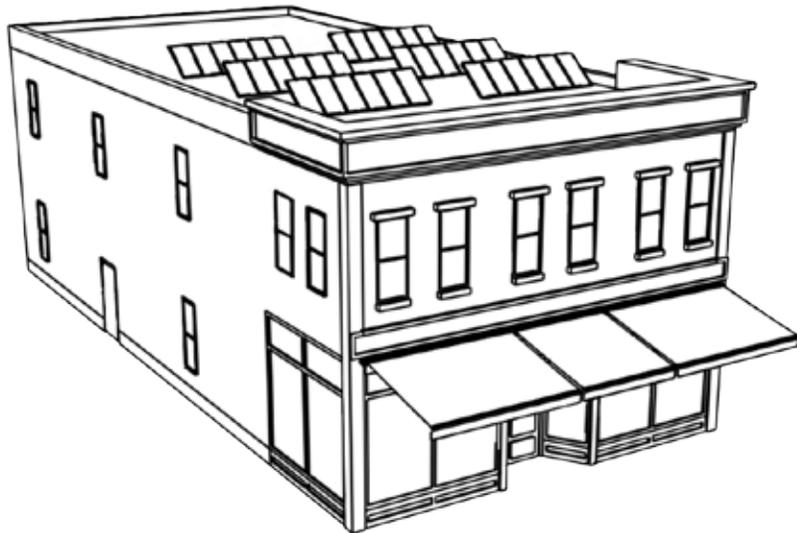
Mount collectors flush below the ridgeline on a sloping roof.

8.68 Use a non- or minimally-invasive method to attach solar collectors to a historic roof.

- a. Avoid damage to significant features.
- b. Install a collector in such a way that it can be removed and the original character easily restored.
- c. Collector arrays should not threaten the structural integrity of the building.

8.69 Consider using building-integrated photovoltaic technology where the use of new building material is appropriate.

- a. Installing integrated photovoltaic systems should be planned where they will not hinder the ability to interpret the historic significance of the structure. For example, solar shingles on a rear or secondary roof facade where the original roof material is missing or significantly damaged would be appropriate.



Place collectors to avoid obscuring significant features or adversely affecting the perception of the overall character of the property.

Solutions for Wind Power

Intent

Small-scale wind generators can provide supplementary energy supply in some areas. The siting of wind turbine equipment should take advantage of screening provided by vegetation and mature tree cover as well as the grouping of existing buildings. Minimizing impacts to the historic character of a building as well as to the downtown district should be the primary consideration.

Requirement

8.70 Minimize the visual impacts of a wind turbine as seen from primary public view locations.

- a. Turbines should not obscure significant features or impair the ability to interpret the building's historic significance.
- b. The turbine and any exposed hardware should have a matte finish, and be consistent with the color scheme of the primary structure.
- c. Design the scale and location of the turbine to remain subordinate to the historic structure.
- d. Turbines should not be mounted on the front of a building.

8.71 Install turbines in such a way that they can be readily removed.

- a. Attach turbines in a manner that avoids damage to significant features.
- b. The original condition of the building should be easily restored.

8.72 Minimize structural impacts when installing turbines.

- a. Install turbines as freestanding structures in unobtrusive locations.
- b. Where site and wind conditions do not allow for detached turbines, attached turbines should not overload structural systems, or threaten the integrity of roof protection systems.



Design the scale and location of a turbine to remain subordinate to the historic structure.

Passive Energy Collection Systems

Intent

Passive systems typically include designs to capture and retain heat from the sun in the mass of the building to minimize indoor temperature swings. A “solar wall,” in which a glass layer is installed outside of a masonry wall to collect heat is an example. For historic buildings, these are difficult to construct as a part of the original building without significantly changing the character of an exterior wall. However, they may work successfully in an addition when placed in a position that is less visible. Minimize the impacts of solar collection systems on the historic fabric of a building.

Requirement

8.73 Locating a passive system in an unobtrusive location.

- a. Installation on a new wing or addition is preferred.

8.74 Minimize adverse effects from a passive collection system on the character of a historic building.

- a. Avoid damaging or obscuring significant features or materials.
- b. Minimize structural impacts to the building.
- c. Use finish materials in character with those seen traditionally in the area.

Chapter 9

New Infill Building Guidelines

This chapter provides design guidelines for improvements to non-contributing buildings and new infill construction in the historic district. The first section addresses principles for site design, architectural character and energy efficiency that apply to all new construction. The sections that follow provide general guidelines applicable to a variety of specific building types. Please note that not all of the following guidance is appropriate for all subareas.

The following guidelines create a framework for designing in context. Designing in Context is discussed on pages 32 and 33. Use the Designing in Context section to inform the approach to developing and evaluating a project. The intent of this guidance is to promote designs that reflect contemporary styles while maintaining core compatibility with the character of the district. The guidance in this chapter is further refined and applied in Chapter 10: Character Areas. The intent is that these two chapters should be used together.

Building Placement and Orientation

Traditionally, buildings were arranged in consistent development patterns, in terms of their site plan and orientation. Many commercial and industrial buildings aligned uniformly along streets or rail lines. This created a consistent “street wall” that is now a key feature of many character areas in the district.

In residential settings, buildings often were set back from the street, providing front yards of a similar depth. In lower density areas, houses also had similar side yard setbacks, which established a rhythm of building fronts along the block.

Reinforcing these historical development patterns and traditional ways of building orientation is paramount in designing a new building to fit with the district as a whole and specifically within each character area.

Intent

New infill should reflect traditional development patterns in the specific character area, including facade alignment and uniform building orientation, where such features occur. (See Character Areas in Chapter 10 for building placement and orientation guidelines specific to each character area.)



The design effect of recessed openings, projecting moldings and material change promotes a composition of light and shadow along the historic building facade that can be recognized along the street.

Requirements

9.1 Maintain the alignment of building fronts along the street.

- a. Locate a new building to reflect established setback patterns along the block. For example, if existing buildings are positioned at the sidewalk edge, creating a uniform street wall, then a new building should conform to this alignment. However, alternative placements are encouraged for upper floors when the building is required to be set back from the sidewalk edge. (See Building Mass and Height requirements also.)
- b. Maintain the established sequence of public-to-private spaces in residential neighborhoods.
- c. Provide a walkway that leads from the sidewalk to a porch or portico, and then to the residential entry.

9.2 Respect alignment patterns associated with historic infrastructure.

- a. Locate a new building to retain historic rail corridors.

9.3 Maintain the traditional orientation pattern of buildings facing the street.

- a. Locate the primary entrance to face the street and design it to be clearly identifiable.



A contemporary interpretation of traditional designs is appropriate.

Architectural Character and Detail

In order to assure that historic resources are appreciated as authentic contributors in the district, it is important that a new building be distinguishable from them while also remaining compatible with the context.

Intent

New construction should appear as a product of its own time while also being compatible with the historically significant resources of the area.

Requirements

9.4 Design a new building to reflect its time while respecting key features of its context.

- a. In those character areas with a high concentration of historic structures, relating to the context is especially important. In other areas where new construction is more predominant, respecting broader traditional development patterns that shaped the area historically is important.
- b. See the individual character areas for more guidance.

9.5 A contemporary interpretation of traditional designs is appropriate.

- a. The design should be compatible with the relevant character area.
- b. Contemporary interpretations of architectural details are appropriate.
- c. Incorporate contemporary details to create interest while expressing a new, compatible design.
- d. Use designs for window moldings and door surrounds to provide visual interest while helping to convey that a building is new.

9.6 An interpretation of a historic style that is authentic to the district will be considered if it is subtly distinguishable as being new.

- a. Avoid an exact imitation of a historic style that would blur the distinction between old and new buildings and make it more difficult to understand the architectural evolution of the district.



Incorporate contemporary details to create interest while expressing a new, compatible design.



Contemporary interpretations of architectural details are appropriate.

9.7 Incorporate traditional facade articulation techniques in a new design.

- a. Use these methods:
 - A tall first floor
 - Vertically proportioned upper story windows
 - Window sills and frames that provide detail
 - Horizontal expression elements, such as canopies, moldings and cornices
 - Vertical expression features, such as columns and pilasters
 - A similar ratio of solid wall to window area



Incorporate traditional facade articulation techniques in a new design.

Building Mass, Scale and Height

Each historic building in the district exhibits distinct characteristics of mass, height and a degree of wall articulation that contributes to its sense of scale. As groupings, these structures establish a definitive sense of scale. This is especially well perceived in those character areas with the greater concentrations of contributing properties. In most cases, these features contribute to a sense of human scale. A new building should express these traditions of mass and scale as well.

A building conveys a sense of human scale when one can reasonably interpret the size of the structure by comparing its features to comparable elements in one's experience.

While the perceived scale along the street is a key consideration, the overall height is an important factor in terms of compatibility. This is because a building is experienced at a distance within its character area, and it also is a part of the skyline of the district as a whole.

Mass, Scale and Height at Different Levels

Therefore, building mass, scale and height should be considered in these ways:

(1) As experienced at the street level immediately adjacent to the building.

At this level, the actual height of the building wall at the street edge is a key factor. The scale of windows and doors, the modular characteristics of building materials, and the expression of floor heights also contribute to perceived scale.

(2) As viewed along a block, in perspective with others in the immediate area.

The degree of similarity of building heights along a block, and the repetition of similar features, including openings, materials and horizontal expression lines, combine to establish an overall sense of scale at this level of experiencing context.



A building conveys a sense of human scale when one can reasonably interpret the size of the structure by comparing its features to comparable elements in one's experience.

(3) As seen from key public viewpoints inside and outside of the historic district.

In groups, historic buildings and compatible newer structures establish a sense of scale for the entire district, defining the skyline. At this level, key landmark structures set the frame of reference.

In general, a new building should fit within the range of structures seen historically in the specific character area. However, some additional height may be considered, when it is demonstrated that the design would be compatible with the context at each of the three levels indicated above. Therefore, maximum height is determined by the appropriateness to context.

Building Height Classifications

To assist in defining building height for particular character areas, a basic set of categories is defined here. Each is based on the number of floors and height. For the purposes of these design guidelines, height classifications are defined in relation to typical building construction technology, with an understanding that specific methods may change over time. These classifications are provided to help clarify the discussion about height with respect to compatibility in the individual character areas.

The heights are taken from the ground level and relate to a range of traditional residential, industrial, commercial and mixed-use buildings types. Note that some rooftop appurtenances, including stair towers and mechanical equipment, will extend above these height classifications. For general purposes, the following dimensions are assumed:

- First floor: 14 - 16 feet
- Upper floors: 11 - 12 feet

Very Low-Rise Building

These buildings range from one to three stories in height. Many buildings of this scale will continue to appear in all of the character areas. Traditional single-family, detached structures fit into this category, as do two-family and row houses. Commercial and mixed-use buildings of this scale also may occur, sometimes as a “wrap” to taller forms.

Low-Rise Building

This building category includes structures that range from four to six stories. This represents the maximum height of “stick built” construction, which often consists of one or two levels masonry, with upper levels of frame construction above. Multifamily apartments are typical of this form. Other mixed use, commercial and industrial buildings may fit into this category as well.

Mid-Rise Building

This category includes buildings that range from seven to nine stories. With the typical floor-to-floor heights that are assumed, they are in a range of 90 to 100 feet or more.

High-Rise Building

The high-rise building type is primarily defined by the height constraints that building codes and related construction types bring into play. For the purpose of this document a high-rise building is greater than 105 feet.



Very Low-Rise Building



Low-Rise Building



Mid-Rise Building



High-Rise Building



Floor-to-floor heights should appear similar to those of traditional buildings.



Recessed articulations should reflect the depth of traditional openings.

Intent

A new building should be compatible in height, mass and scale with its context, including the specific block, the character area, and the historic district as a whole. This should be a primary consideration for the design of a new building. Each new building also should convey a human scale, reflect similar building massing and facade articulation features of the context, and be compatible with the district skyline. (See Character Areas in Chapter 10 for building mass, scale and height guidelines specific to each character area.)

Requirements

9.8 Maintain the traditional size of buildings as perceived at the street level.

- a. The height of a new building should be within the height range established in the context, especially at the street frontage.
- b. Floor-to-floor heights should appear similar to those of traditional buildings.

9.9 The overall height of a new building shall be compatible with the character area.

- a. A building height that exceeds the height range established in the context will be considered when:
 - It is demonstrated that the additional height will be compatible with adjacent properties, within the character area as a whole, and for the historic district at large.
 - Taller portions are set back significantly from the street.
 - Access to light and air of surrounding properties is respected.
 - Key views are maintained. (See page 51 for more information on key views.)

9.10 Position taller portions of a structure away from neighboring buildings of lower scale.

- a. Locate the taller portion of a new structure to minimize looming effects and shading of lower scaled neighbors, especially when adjacent to smaller historic structures.
- b. Taller portions of a building should be compatible and not loom over adjacent buildings at any time.

9.11 Provide variation in building height in a large development.

- a. In order to reduce the perceived mass of a larger building, divide it into subordinate modules that reflect traditional building sizes in the context. Too much variation in building height is inappropriate.
- b. Vary the height of building modules in a large structure, and include portions that are similar in height to historic structures in the context. However, avoid excessive modulation of a building mass, when that would be out of character with simpler historic building forms in the area. Too much variation in building massing is inappropriate.

9.12 Maintain the scale of traditional building widths in the context.

- a. Design a new building to reflect the established range of the traditional building widths in the character area.
- b. Where a building must exceed this width, use changes in design features so the building reads as separate building modules reflecting traditional building widths and massing. Changes in the expression and details of materials, changes in window design, facade height or materials are examples of techniques that should be considered.
- c. Where these articulation techniques are used, they shall be expressed consistently throughout the structure, such that the composition appears as several building modules. Attention to the designs of transitions between modules is important. Too much variation, which results in an overly busy design, is inappropriate.



A block-long building width will be considered if the facade reads as separate building modules. Please note that this may be appropriate in some areas and not in others.



Consider dividing a block long facade into sub-components that read as several discrete modules that are consistent with traditional building widths in the context.

9.13 A block-long building facade is inappropriate.

- a. A block-long building width will be considered if the facade reads as separate building modules.

9.14 A new commercial or mixed-use building should incorporate a base, middle and cap.

- a. Traditionally, buildings were composed of these three basic elements. Interpreting this tradition in new buildings will help reinforce the visual continuity of the area.



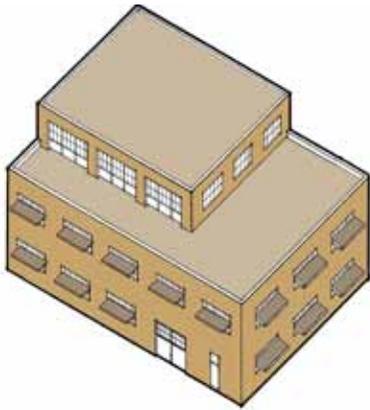
Express the position of each floor in the external skin of a building to establish a scale similar to historic buildings in the district.

9.15 Establish a sense of human scale in the building design.

- a. Use vertical and horizontal articulation techniques to reduce the apparent mass of a larger building and to create visual interest.
- b. Express the position of each floor in the external skin of a building to establish a scale similar to historic buildings in the district.
- c. Use materials that convey scale in their proportion, detail and form.
- d. Generally, the facade in most contexts should appear as a relatively flat surface, with any projecting or recessed “articulations” appearing to be subordinate to the dominant form. Exceptions are in lower scale single-family settings.
- e. Design architectural details and other features to be in scale with the building. Using windows, doors, storefronts (in commercial buildings) and porches (in lower scale residential buildings) that are similar in scale to those seen traditionally is appropriate.



Use vertical and horizontal articulation techniques to reduce the apparent mass of a larger building and to create visual interest.



Use simple, rectangular roof forms in commercial, warehouse and industrial contexts.

Building and Roof Form

An important, unifying element in several of the character areas is the similarity in building forms that exists among structures located there. Simple, rectangular solids with flat roofs are dominant in the district, especially for commercial, warehouse and industrial building types. In contrast, single-family structures generally have pitched roofs. Even these, however, are relatively simple in composition. These traditional roof forms are key features of the individual character areas.

Intent

The simplicity of traditional roof forms should continue to predominate throughout the district.

Requirements

9.16 Use simple, rectangular roof forms in commercial, warehouse and industrial contexts.

- a. Flat roofs are appropriate on the majority of the buildings in the district.

9.17 Design a roof to be similar in form to those used traditionally in the character area.

- a. "Exotic" roof forms, such as A-frames and steep shed roofs, are inappropriate. However, exotic forms may be appropriate for "signature" civic facilities.
- b. Some variation in roof form is appropriate for a larger building mass, but avoid overly complex forms that would be out of character with the context.
- c. Use gable and hip roofs in the lower-scaled residential neighborhoods.

Primary Entrances

Traditionally, most primary entrances were oriented to the street. They provided visual interest and a sense of scale to the building. Porches were located on residential buildings and storefronts were found on commercial buildings. In both these examples, the primary entrance was a key element within the framework of the design feature. Warehouses and many industrial buildings had a diversity of entrance types, some of which resembled a simplified version of a commercial storefront and others that were utilitarian, with punched openings and modest trim elements. These features are important to the character of the district.

Intent

A primary entrance should be clearly identifiable in a new building and it should be in character with the building and its context. The entrance should include features to signify it as such, and convey a sense of scale to the passer-by.

Requirements

9.18 Locate a primary building entrance to face the street.

- a. Position a primary entrance to be at the street level in an urban setting.
- b. Recessed entries are encouraged to avoid door swing conflicts with the sidewalk and to provide shelter.

9.19 Design a building entrance to appear similar in character to those used traditionally.

- a. Clearly define the primary entrance.
- b. Use a contemporary interpretation of a traditional building entry, which is similar in scale and overall character to those seen historically.



Traditionally, most primary entrances were oriented to the street. They provided visual interest and a sense of scale to the building.



Position a primary entrance to be at the street level in an urban setting.



The degree to which alternative materials may be used on a building may also be influenced by the degree of “consistency” that exists in the context and the percentage of new material that has been introduced into the setting.



The degree to which alternative materials may be used successfully on a new building also will be influenced by the degree of consistency or variety in materials that already exists in the particular context.

Materials

Traditional building materials in the district include various types of masonry, primarily brick, stone and concrete. Industrial metals also were prevalent. Today, these materials are key to the character of the district.

Historically, the primary street-facing facade consisted of a single masonry material of uniform color, with only one or two accent materials for banding, cornices and other decorative work. For some commercial and residential buildings, a higher degree of finish materials was used on the front.

However, it is important to note most milling-related buildings and other industrial buildings in the Waterpower Character Area and other areas operated “in-the-round” in the sense that the front and backsides served important access functions and were experienced by various users. This also related to materials, as many buildings had the same material on all sides.

Compatibility with these historic materials can be achieved without purely replicating their traditional use. Understanding the character of these materials and the patterns they create is essential to developing new interpretations. Because brick and stone were laid in modules, they created a sense of scale and cast shadow lines on facades, adding to a sense of texture.

New building materials that convey the essence of modularity and the texture and finish of historic masonry, and that have proven durability in the local climate, will be compatible. In other cases, architectural details and their finishes can help in capturing and expressing the character of the context.

The degree to which alternative materials may be used successfully on a new building also will be influenced by the degree of consistency or variety in materials that already exists in the particular context.

Intent

Building materials should reflect the range of textures, modularity and finish of those employed traditionally. They also should contribute to the visual continuity of the specific context. They should be of high quality and proven durability in similar applications.

Requirements

9.20 Building materials shall be similar in scale, color, texture and finish to those seen historically in the context.

- a. Masonry (i.e., brick and stone) that has a modular dimension similar to those used traditionally is appropriate.
- b. A facade that faces a public street should have one principal material, excluding door and window openings, and may have one to two additional materials for trim and details. Permitted materials include, but are not limited to, brick, stone, terracotta, painted metal, exposed metal, poured concrete and precast concrete.
- c. The material also should be appropriate to the context.



Building materials should reflect the range of textures, modularity and finish of those employed traditionally.



Building materials shall be similar in scale, color, texture and finish to those seen historically in the context.

Contemporary materials that are similar in character to traditional ones will be considered.



Generally, one primary material should be used for a building with one or two accent materials. Accent materials should be used with restraint.

9.21 Contemporary materials that are similar in character to traditional ones will be considered.

- a. Generally, one primary material should be used for a building with one or two accent materials. Accent materials should be used with restraint.
- b. A second material may be used on side or rear walls in a context in which such a tradition is demonstrated historically. It is inappropriate in the Water Power Area.
- c. A glass curtain wall will be considered as a principal material.
- d. Contemporary, alternative materials should appear similar in scale, durability and proportion to those used traditionally.
- e. Cementitious-fiber board, with exemplary detailing, will be considered in lower scaled residential settings. Other imitation or synthetic siding materials, such as plastic, aluminum or vinyl, are inappropriate in the lower scale residential contexts.



Contemporary, alternative materials should appear similar in scale, durability and proportion to those used traditionally.

9.22 Use high quality, durable materials.

- a. Materials should be proven to be durable in the local Minneapolis climate.
- b. The material should maintain an intended finish over time, or acquire a patina, which is understood to be a likely outcome.
- c. Materials at the ground level should withstand on-going contact with the public, sustaining impacts without compromising the appearance.

The material should maintain an intended finish over time, or acquire a patina, which is understood to be a likely outcome.



Materials at the ground level should withstand on-going contact with the public, sustaining impacts without compromising the appearance.



Materials should be proven to be durable in the local Minneapolis climate.

Windows

The manner in which windows are used to articulate a building wall is an important consideration in establishing a sense of scale and visual continuity. In traditional commercial building settings, such as those in a portion of Main Street and Hennepin Avenue NE, a storefront system was installed on the ground floor and upper story windows most often appeared as punched openings. This is also common in other historic building types, such as warehouses in the Warehouse Character area.

A sense of visual continuity is provided by a building's solid to void ratio (the percentage of glass to solid wall that is used on a building facade).

These features often align with others in the block, and establish a rhythm or pattern of solid and void that visually links buildings along the street. These traditional arrangements may also be interpreted in contemporary designs that complement the established patterns within the specific context.

Intent

Window design and placement should help to establish a sense of scale and provide pedestrian interest. Where solid to void patterns are clearly established, this should be maintained. Contemporary and creative design interpretations of window rhythms and patterns that reference, but do not duplicate historic designs, are also encouraged.

9.23 The use of a contemporary storefront design is encouraged in commercial settings.

- a. Design a building to incorporate ground floor storefronts in commercial settings, whenever possible.
- b. Incorporate the basic design features found in traditional storefronts, such as a kickplate, display window, transom and a primary entrance.
- c. In storefront details, use elements similar in profile and depth of detailing seen historically.
- d. Where a storefront is not feasible, incorporate a high level of transparency in ground floor office, lobby or residential uses while providing sufficient privacy for occupants.



Use durable window materials.

9.24 Arrange windows to reflect the traditional rhythm and general alignment of windows in the area.

- a. Use appropriate window rhythms and alignments, such as:
 - Vertically proportioned, single or sets of windows, “punched” into a more solid wall surface, and evenly spaced along upper floors
 - Window sills or headers that align
 - Rows of windows or storefront systems of similar dimensions, aligned horizontally along a wall surface
- b. Creative interpretations of traditional window arrangement will be considered.

9.25 Use durable window materials.

- a. Appropriate window materials include metal and wood frame.
- b. Inappropriate window materials include plastic snap-in muntins and synthetic vinyl.



Arrange windows to reflect the traditional rhythm and general alignment of windows in the area.

Canopies/Awnings

In this context, a canopy is a fixed structure attached to a building with a rigid roof material, usually metal. It may be flat (horizontal), or sloped. Awnings are typically fabric attached to sloped, light metal frames. They may be operable or fixed. Canopies and awnings are noteworthy features on some commercial and industrial buildings in the district, and their continued use is encouraged. Traditionally, these features were simple in detail, and reflected the character of the building to which they were attached.

Intent

Continue the use of canopies and awnings within the district. They should be compatible with the building type and style, and be located appropriately on the building.

Requirements

9.26 A canopy/awning should be in character with the building.

- a. Mount a canopy/awning to accentuate character-defining features.
- b. A canopy/awning should remain a subordinate feature on the building.

New Residential Accessory Structures

Accessory structures are traditionally subordinate in scale and character to the primary structure and are typically located to the rear of the lot. They are primarily used for parking garages and storage.

Intent

Locate new accessory structures to the rear of the lot and keep them subordinate to the primary structure to convey typical character in the residential area.

Requirement

9.27 A new accessory structure should be subordinate in height, mass and scale to the primary building on the lot.

9.28 A new accessory structure should be located to the rear of the lot.



Continue the use of canopies and awnings within the district. They should be compatible with the building type and style, and be located appropriately on the building.



Mount a canopy/awning to accentuate character-defining features.

Energy Efficiency in New Designs

The conservation of energy is an objective for all building in the city, and it also applies to infill in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. This should be accomplished while respecting the historic character of the district. Creative, compatible solutions related to site design, building design, orientation and landscapes play key roles in achieving energy efficiency for new construction in the historic district.

Intent

A building may be oriented to maximize the potential for natural daylighting as well as solar energy collection, while also relating to design characteristics of the historic district. Relating to the context, design characteristics and historic development patterns of the subject should be considered first, then the energy efficiency of the design.

A design may also take into account the potential effect on an adjoining property, in terms of maintaining its solar access opportunities and ability to employ the same environmental design principles. Landscape improvements also should be planned to promote efficiencies in energy use. (See the landscape section.)

Advisory

9.29 Locate a new building to take advantage of microclimatic opportunities for energy conservation.

- a. First orient a building to be compatible with historic development patterns.
- b. Also locate a building to take advantage of seasonal solar and wind exposure patterns when positioning a new building on its site.

9.30 Design a building, or an addition, to take advantage of energy saving and generating opportunities.

- a. Design windows to maximize daylighting into interior spaces.
- b. Use exterior shading devices to manage solar gain in summer months.
- c. Energy-producing devices, including solar collectors and wind turbines, are encouraged where they also respect the character of the district.
- d. Orient roofs to accommodate solar collectors.
- e. Use thermal storage walls on a portion of the south facing building exposure, where appropriate.

9.31 Maximize solar access for all properties.

- a. Minimize impacts to solar access on adjoining properties.
- b. Minimize shading of south facing facades on adjoining properties; this is especially important when abutting residential sites.

9.32 Orient a building to maximize green principles while ensuring compatibility with adjacent, lower-scale structures. Appropriate strategies include:

- a. Positioning the taller portion of a building to minimize shading on lower scale structures to the north.
- b. Design a building mass to minimize shading south-facing facades of adjacent buildings during winter months.

Environmental Performance in Building Elements

The elements that make up a building, including its windows, mechanical systems and materials, influence its environmental performance. New building elements that improve environmental performance can be employed if they have been proven effective in this climate.

Intent

Building elements can be designed to maximize the building's performance, while promoting compatibility with surrounding sites and structures.

Advisory

9.33 Use green building materials whenever possible.

Such materials are:

- a. Locally manufactured
- b. Low maintenance
- c. Materials with long life spans
- d. Recycled materials

9.34 Incorporate building elements that allow for natural environmental control.

Consider the following:

- a. Operable windows for natural ventilation
- b. Low infiltration fenestration products
- c. Interior or exterior light shelves/solar screens above south facing windows

9.35 Minimize the visual impacts of energy devices on the character of the district.

- a. Mount equipment where it has the least visual impact on historic buildings, important view corridors and the river.
- b. Exposed hardware, frames and piping should have a matte finish, and be consistent with the color scheme of the primary structure.

Chapter 10

Character Areas

While all properties in the district are linked by history, they really are perceived as a complex of neighborhoods with distinctive characteristics. For purposes of design review, these are termed “character areas.” This chapter introduces those character areas in order to place the guidelines that follow into context. A detailed description of the key features of each of these areas, along with specific guidance related to them, is presented here.

The character areas capture the evolving development patterns of the district from western culture’s first visits to the Falls to the present. Each of these contains distinctive development patterns, such as the mill buildings and related infrastructure of the West Side Milling Area, to the subtle traces of past development patterns that may only be evident through grade changes and other landscape features. It is this relationship of what meets the eye and what does not, that is crucial to understanding and relating to the context of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

In several locations, the features and resources that tell the story of the district lie beneath the ground. In some cases these features actually shape the ground in a legacy of development patterns visible through variations in grade and the shape of new developments and property lines.

The district has continued to evolve in more modern times, since the end of the period of focus, 1848 to 1941. Plans for revitalization were developed, implemented and discarded; some succeeding and others not. The district reveals the traces of this evolution in city planning and riverfront revitalization in Minneapolis.

These traces define distinct legacies of the eras in national and local planning movements and serve as monuments to the time in which they were implemented. These developments of the more recent past, while not the focus of the historic district’s designation, are important to recognize as reminders of how the Falls and the riverfront have continued to evolve with the maturing city.

CHAPTER FORMAT

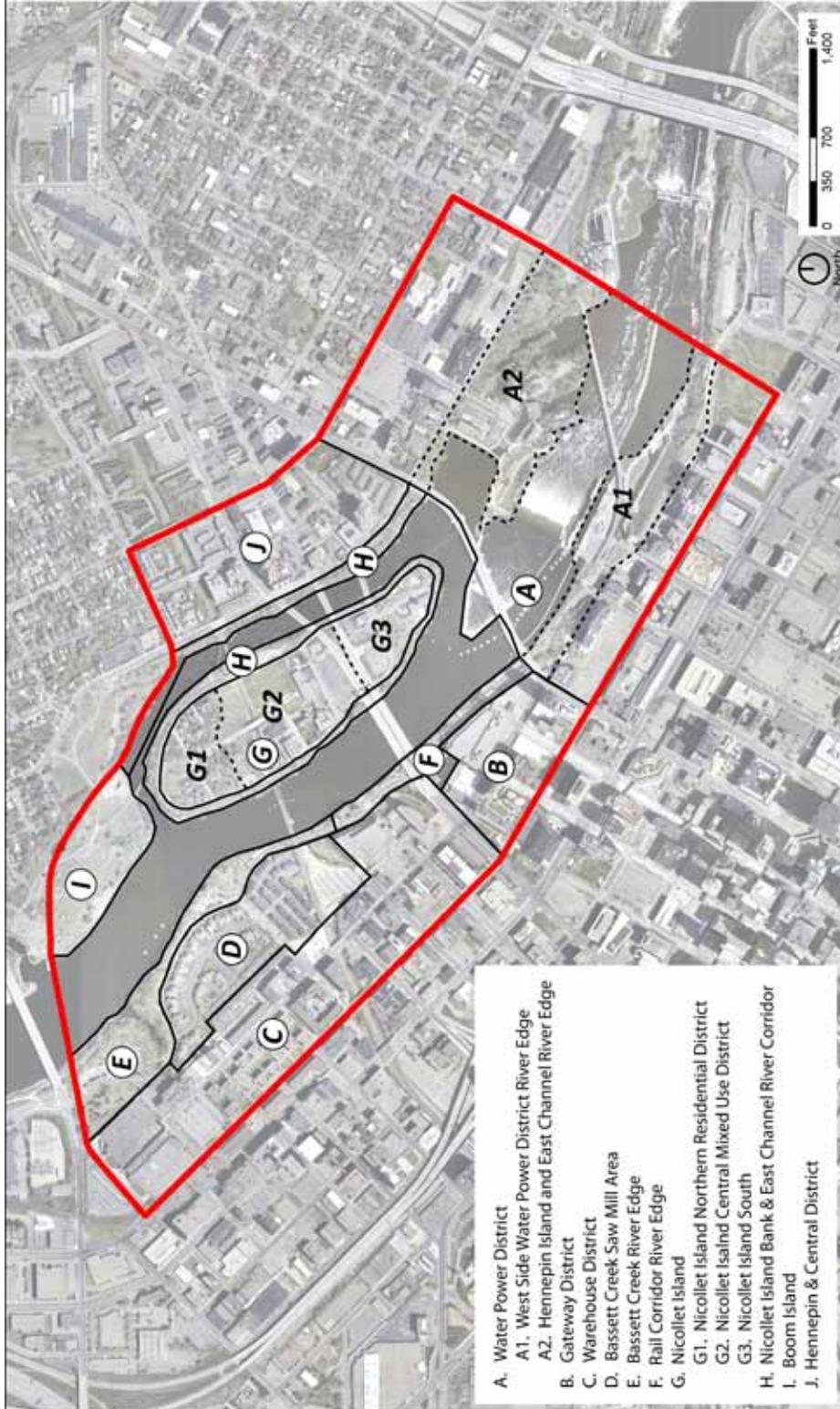
The format for this chapter differs slightly from the previous chapters. The following hierarchy should be noted: the description of the character area begins each section followed by an intent statement for all of the guidelines that follow for that character area. The guidelines are organized under a general topic heading.

Design guidelines from other chapters may also be applicable; see the table on page 8.

The combination and interaction of the development patterns identified within the district's period of significance and the recent past development patterns form the basis of the definition of the individual character areas within the district. In some cases the construction from the recent past makes it difficult to identify the historic development patterns or to experience any real connection of these areas to the history and story of St. Anthony Falls.

The following character area descriptions and definitions highlight the historic connections and development patterns as well as the alterations from the more recent past. This allows for the essence of historic character to be more tangibly applied and preserved within these distinct areas.

St. Anthony Falls Historic District Character Areas





The Water Power Character Area contains a dense concentration of buildings focused on utilizing the power of the Falls. Many of these date from the early milling period.

A. The Water Power Character Area

Minneapolis was founded and developed around St. Anthony Falls which is at the heart of this character area. It contains the resources that illustrate the direct human manipulation of the Falls to harness water power for industrial uses. At the time of its development, the communities of Minneapolis and St. Anthony were relatively undeveloped and land was readily available for building.

The Water Power Character Area contains a dense concentration of buildings focused on utilizing the power of the Falls. While a few commercial buildings exist, most buildings are industrial in nature and their designs reflect their functions and era of construction. A web of canals and tailraces that powered the mill buildings remain intact. Railroad corridors wind through the area; these allowed raw grain to be imported to the mills and flour to be exported. On the West Side the rail line wound through the buildings and created an island of dense structures that was surrounded by an expanse of rail yards.

Cultural & Archaeological Characteristics

Prior to the urbanization and industrialization of the Falls, this area of the historic district was significant to indigenous populations as a spiritual and cultural site. The original configurations of these sites have been lost due to the industrialization that has occurred, but the area still holds significant cultural meaning and this should be recognized as the area continues to evolve.



Character Area A Detail – 2010 Aerial



*Character Area A Detail – 1964 Aerial.
Photo credit: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota*

The industrialization of the Falls has also changed the appearance of the Falls themselves. An apron was placed over the Falls. However, the area retains exposed limestone escarpments that once were part of the Falls. They were separated from the water flow when development occurred at the east side milling platform and subsequent hydropower stations. Several site infrastructure features that related to lumber, flour milling and rail transportation industries remain.

The area is also rich in more contemporary archaeological features, such as remnants of mill and railroad foundations found in the west side milling area. These provide visual evidence of the rich industrial history of the area. In addition, significant potential for archaeology exists, outside of the known building footprints and infrastructure resources presently identified. This archaeology may provide for a better understanding of the use of the area.

The Water Power Character Area is a large section of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District and it should be considered in its entirety. At the same time, there are specific “subareas” that define the more immediate context which also should be respected.

This Character Area contains four relatively distinct concentrations of buildings and related development patterns:

West Side Milling Area Complex

The highest concentration of milling-related development exists here—all oriented off the West Side Waterpower Canal, now the alignment of Plank Road on West River Road. Access to the waterpower canal was a premium and thus shaped the massing and locations of the buildings. Building widths were relatively narrow in order to promote access to the water for as many as possible. The heights of the remaining buildings vary. The resulting character is a diversity of building heights with simple rectangular massing.

The West Side Milling Area is bounded by Second Street South, Third Avenue South, West River Parkway and the former right-of-way of Tenth Avenue South.



While the Water Power Area was historically industrial, void of any designed landscapes, as the area adapts new landscape will occur.

Map of Water Power Infrastructure.

The area contains layers of infrastructure: the tail races (dark purple lines), where water exited the mills; the waterpower canal and head-races, where water entered the mills; and the street and rail infrastructure that provided a means to receiving and shipping materials. Diagram credit: MS & R



The area contains layers of infrastructure: the tail races, where water exited the mills; the waterpower canal and head-races, where water entered the mills; and the street and rail infrastructure that provided a means to receiving and shipping materials.

Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

East Side Milling Area

This subarea is anchored by the Pillsbury A Mill and its supporting buildings. Unlike the west side, the buildings are not as concentrated or as strongly linked to the water. The Pillsbury A Mill is the only remaining building connected to the water power system. Other buildings in the complex cluster around the Pillsbury A Mill, and reflect their supporting relationship to it.

The East Side Milling Area is bounded by Main Street Southeast, Third Avenue Southeast, Second Street Southeast and Sixth Avenue Southeast.

Main Street Area

This subarea transitions from industrial buildings to traditional storefront commercial structures. The architecture of Main Street represents the evolution of the district from a collection of lumber mills and small residential structures, to commercial buildings, to the rise of milling and therefore manufacturing.

This area also illustrates later planning efforts in the early 1980s to transform Main Street into a festival market place. Riverplace and St. Anthony Main represent the commercial portion of these efforts, while the high-rise residential buildings of the La Rive, Winslow House and The Falls and Pinnacle represent the residential components.

The Main Street Area is bounded by Main Street Southeast, Central Avenue Northeast, Second Street Southeast and Third Avenue Southeast.

University Avenue Transition Area

This subarea transitions from industrial and commercial development along Main Street to a former eclectic mix of single- and two-family dwellings, apartments, factories, laboratories and other industrial uses that faced University Avenue Southeast. The buildings ranged in height from three stories to one and a half stories, which provided a transition from the height of the milling and industrial buildings along Main Street.

This area has experienced significant changes and most of its historic fabric has been lost. Buildings along the Sixth and Fifth Avenues Southeast and University Avenue Southeast is indicative of some of the development types of this subarea.

The University Avenue Transition Area is bounded by Second Street South, Central Avenue Northeast, University Avenue Southeast and Sixth Avenue Southeast.

Intent

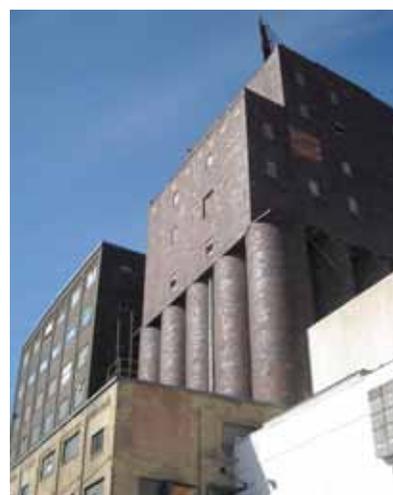
New buildings should be contemporary in character, while respecting the fundamental characteristics of the historic subarea context. They should draw upon the simple forms, materials and massing of historic buildings, especially as experienced at the street level. New buildings should reflect the massing of other historic buildings within the subarea and not that of the grain elevators.

Grain elevators stand out as possessing a larger massing due to their industrial needs and should not be used as a precedent for new construction. The grain elevators should also continue their visual prominence over the rest of the district.

Portions of buildings that would be taller than those seen historically should be set back from the street edge. In areas where there is a strong industrial context, a variety of heights may be appropriate. Historically, many industrial buildings had exposed mechanical systems and other rooftop devices, and contemporary designs that make use of such roofscape elements are appropriate.



The massing of buildings within the Water Power Area reflects the needs for which the buildings were designed.



The Water Power Area contains a diversity of building heights that reflect the functional needs of the buildings. The grain elevators extended upward out of the mid-level height of the milling, warehousing, and industrial buildings.

A new building should be sited to respect the historic orientation and alignment patterns created by the infrastructure and existing historic buildings. A continuous street wall should be established along urban streets, generally with building fronts at the street edge. Some variations in facade alignment may occur, but an overall sense of continuity should be maintained.

Enhanced landscapes and streetscapes in this character area are encouraged. They should not impede one's ability to understand the historical function and character of the context. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes, and open spaces in historic industrial areas should be applied in the West Side and East Side Milling Areas and the Main Street Area. The University Avenue Transition Area was a historic commercial mixed use area; traditional landscapes and streetscapes are more appropriate in this location.

Site and Landscape Design

Requirements

- 10.1 In the West Side Area, historic buildings orient toward the waterpower canal and former rail corridors. These development patterns should continue to be expressed.**
- 10.2 In the East Side Area, buildings should orient toward the rail lines and the street grid.**
- 10.3 In Main Street and University Avenue Transition Areas, buildings should be oriented toward the street grid.**
- 10.4 Integrate landscape features with industrial infrastructure and other interpretive opportunities to tell the story of the district.**

Building Design

Requirements

- 10.5 In the West Side Area, the maximum building height should not exceed the height of the Washburn Crosby Grain Elevator.**
 - a. Mid-rise and low-rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)

10.6 In the East Side Area, the maximum building height should not exceed the Red Tile Elevator.

- a. Building types of mid-rise and low-rise buildings are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classification.)

10.7 In the Main Street Area, the maximum building height should not exceed eight stories.

- a. Mid-rise, low-rise, and very-low rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)

10.8 In University Avenue Transition Area, the maximum building height should not exceed eight stories.

- a. Mid-rise, low-rise, and very-low rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)

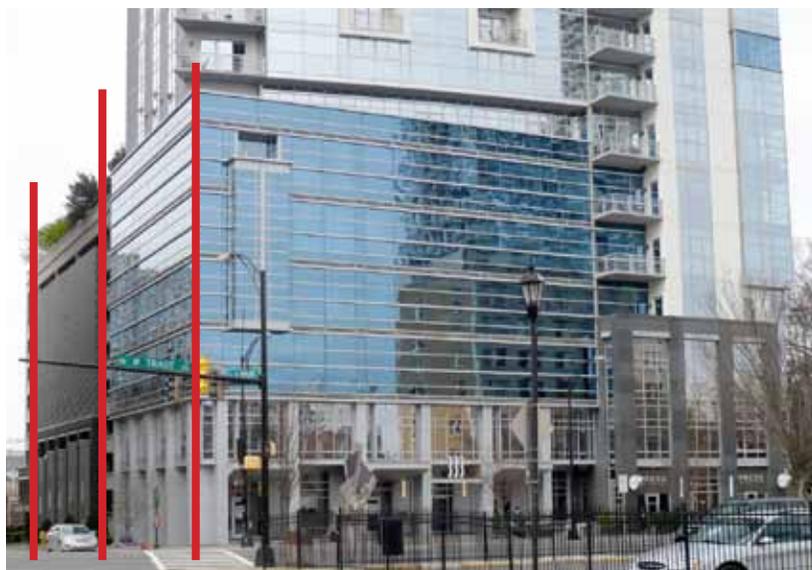
10.9 A new facade should reflect the established range of building widths.

- a. A block-long facade building massing is not appropriate.

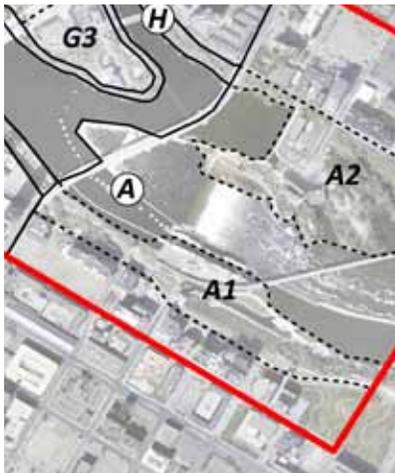
10.10 Arrange tall building masses to allow views and access through to the river and views to the mills



Mid-rise, low-rise, and very-low rise building heights are most appropriate.



A new facade should reflect the established range of building widths.



Character Area A1 Detail – 2010 Aerial

A1. West Side Water Power District River Edge

The West Side Water Power District River Edge encompasses contemporary and historic infrastructure, archaeology and park land. Historically, it was the heart of the west side milling district and included structures to move water from the river to the mills and to get railroad cars to and from milling and industrial buildings. The area was a gateway to railroad connections in and out of Minneapolis. The remnants of this infrastructure remain in various forms: the west side water power canal lies below West River Road; foundations of mills, former rail trestles and other infrastructure are exposed; the former rail corridors and their grade separation remain, but are less evident due to vegetation; and the West River Parkway and the accompanying bicycle and pedestrian trails have developed.

Due to the intensity of development at the river's edge, the area did not retain a natural river edge as in other portions of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. However, the area did retain two significant stands of vegetation. One was approximate to the northeast corner of the intersection of Third Avenue and First Streets South. The other was along the river bluff between the downriver edge of the West Side Waterpower Canal and the Tenth Avenue South Bridge. Likely due to the significant grades on the site, the areas were never developed and remain undeveloped. This undeveloped area reflects the historic pattern of development of the district.

Cultural & Archaeological Characteristics

This area is rich in archaeology and structural remnants of industrial activity. Most of the features are below the surface of the ground and only their inlets and outlets are exposed. The foundations and some other structural elements of earlier mills survive. Traces of rail corridors also remain and are demarcated by stone retaining walls, grade changes and building foundations.

Intent

The area should remain an open space, absent of major new building development. Any new building should support the interpretative goals of heritage preservation and park programming. Interpretation of archaeology and other infrastructure remnants should continue to tell the story of the Falls.

Enhancements to the landscape, streetscape and open space are encouraged. Landscaping improvements should be provided in a manner that recognizes the historic use and development patterns of the area. Creative interpretations that capture and amplify the historic function and use of the area are encouraged in new designs.

Site and Landscape Design

Requirements

- 10.11 Retain a sense of open space.
- 10.12 Utilize existing/historic connection points such as rail corridors or other features when maintaining and improving connections to the river.
- 10.13 Provide landscape designs that promote native species in a volunteer pattern.
- 10.14 Retain the existing natural riparian areas.
- 10.15 Reveal and integrate more historic foundations and infrastructure in a manner that supports long term stabilization.

Building Design

Generally this area is not appropriate for new buildings; however, an interpretive building design concept for this area that enhances educational and preservation goals will be considered. Use former development patterns and historic maps for reference in site design and orientation of new structures and buildings.

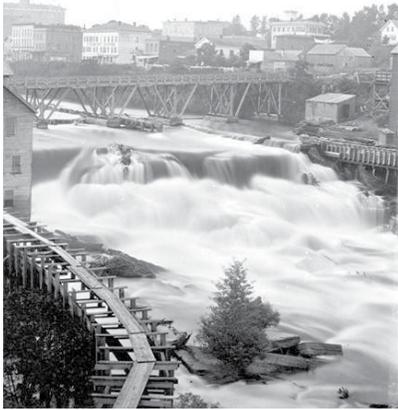


Provide landscape designs that promote native species in a volunteer pattern.



Reveal and integrate more historic foundations and infrastructure in a manner that supports long term stabilization.

A2. Hennepin Island and East Channel River Edge



The manipulation of the Falls is evident on Hennepin Island where wasteways and channels were carved into the island to help control the flow of the Falls. The deep gorge created by the Falls in the former East Channel is a distinctive feature. Photo credit: Minneapolis Historical Society



Character Area A2 Detail – 2010 Aerial

The area contains Hennepin Island and the entire hydroelectric and waterpower infrastructure that once stood along the east channel of the Falls. In 1848, Hennepin Island stood in the middle of the St. Anthony Falls. It was the second largest of five islands that once sat along the cataract. The East Channel of the Falls flowed between Hennepin Island and the east bank of the Mississippi River. The construction of the East Side Saw Mill platforms and subsequent electric stations changed the natural character of the area and directed water away from the east side channel of the Falls.

The area is now a mix of buildings related to utilizing and studying the waterpower and parkland in a more formal park plan. An informal, volunteer landscape evolved below Hennepin Island and Father Hennepin Bluffs during the period of significance for the historic district. This informal landscape remains today.

Cultural & Archaeological Features

This area is known to have significant cultural meaning to the Dakota.

Intent

The natural shoreline should remain an open space, absent of major new building development. Any new building or park improvements should support the interpretative goals of heritage preservation. Interpretation of archaeology and other infrastructure remnants should continue to tell the story of the Falls.

Enhancements to the landscape, streetscape and open space are encouraged. Landscaping improvements should be provided in a manner that recognizes the historic use and development patterns of the area. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes, and open spaces in historic industrial areas and natural riparian areas should be applied.

Site and Landscape Design

Requirements

10.16 Provide a naturalized riparian landscape along the riverbank.

- a. This should not compromise the integrity of historic resources that exist.

10.17 Park designs should interpret history, but not attempt to recreate history.

10.18 Preserve the open, informal character of the flat bluff above the riverbanks.

- a. Retain the open understory to allow more flexible use of the bluff top and optimize views to downtown and the river.
- b. Retain the volunteer species that have established a strong informal canopy along the bluff edges.
- c. If new trees are planted retain the informal character and consider ecologically appropriate trees.

10.19 Maintain the legibility of historic infrastructure in the area.

Building Design

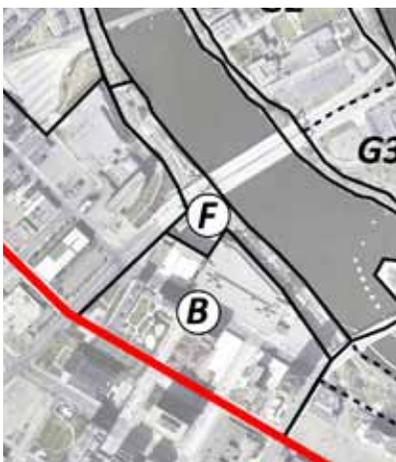
Generally this area is not appropriate for new buildings; however, an interpretive building design concept for this area that enhances educational and preservation goals will be considered. Use former development patterns and historic maps for reference in site design and orientation of new structures and buildings.



Maintain the legibility of historic infrastructure in the area.



Character Area B Detail – 1964 Aerial. Photo credit: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



Character Area B Detail – 2010 Aerial

The area has been substantially altered from earlier historic periods, but some vestiges of its heritage are expressed in the street plan.

B. Gateway District

This area, which is located at the foot of the city's first bridge over the Mississippi River, first developed as the commercial center of Minneapolis. It became home to Bridge Square, the city center of Minneapolis, and the first City Hall. The Union Depot was constructed here and was eventually replaced by the Great Northern Depot. This area served as the Gateway to Minneapolis since the construction of the first bridge in 1854.

The Gateway's vitality forced railroads to find a path around and not through the area. Rail lines diverted their course to a centralized corridor along the riverfront only to emerge from that trench a few blocks north to access the warehouse area and the railroad mainlines.

By 1909, the area had degraded and the City set forth to renew the area, creating a Gateway Park. Later renewal efforts led to the construction of the Post Office, the only surviving architectural resource in this subarea from the historic district's period of significance.

Intent

The Gateway Area was historically a commercial center and therefore does not have the industrial affiliations of other portions of the Historic District. New development in the Gateway area should reflect high quality, contemporary design. Architecturally, the emphasis should be on signature buildings, both civic and private in nature. Continuity with the heritage of the area should occur at a fundamental level by adhering to the General Principles of Design outlined in Chapter 1. Other more recent buildings in the area should not serve as reference points for new development. New development should preserve and enhance historic development patterns and resources that exist.

Enhancements to the landscape, streetscape and open space are encouraged. Landscapes should reinforce the quality of the public realm. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes, and open spaces in historic commercial areas should be applied.



The Gateway Area contains one key building from the period of significance; however, its streets and other infrastructure resources remain intact.



New development in the Gateway area should reflect high quality, contemporary design. Architecturally, the emphasis should be on signature buildings, both civic and private in nature



For high-rise buildings, a low-rise podium is encouraged along the street.

Site and Streetscape Design

Requirement

- 10.20** Orient buildings to Hennepin Avenue and other streets.
- 10.21** Incorporate historic road alignments and railroad corridor grades into new development.
- 10.22** Retain the view corridors created by the rights of way of streets. (Historically, 2nd Ave North ROW corridor was interrupted by rail lines but retained a view corridor to the river.)
- 10.23** Encourage enhancements to the streetscape with landscaping and connected civic/public spaces.

Building Design

Requirement

- 10.24** The maximum building height should not exceed the height of 30 stories.
 - a. High-rise, mid-rise and low-rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)
 - b. Taller buildings and portions of buildings should be set back from the river corridor edges and historic buildings.
 - c. For high-rise buildings, a low-rise podium is encouraged along the street.
- 10.25** Arrange tall building masses to allow key views and pedestrian access through to the river.

C. Warehouse District

This character area is centered on 1st Street. It began as a commercial and industrial area, but evolved into a rich mix of business, retail and residential uses. Portions have sets of historic warehouse and commercial buildings, aligned at the sidewalk edge. First floors are generally of similar heights, and brick is the predominate material. Many of the historic warehouse buildings have at least one entry onto a local street, with service and delivery located in a rear alley. There is a general consistency to the commercial facades, in their fenestration, cornice lines and materials, while variety occurs in details associated with individual architectural styles. The result is a relatively cohesive street wall.

New residential infill in the North Loop on the former rail yard between North 1st and North 2nd Streets has a strong orientation to the street, with front doors and patios fronting on the sidewalks. These establish a distinctive rhythm of buildings and entrances. Buildings are generally set back a short distance from the street, with small yards in front.

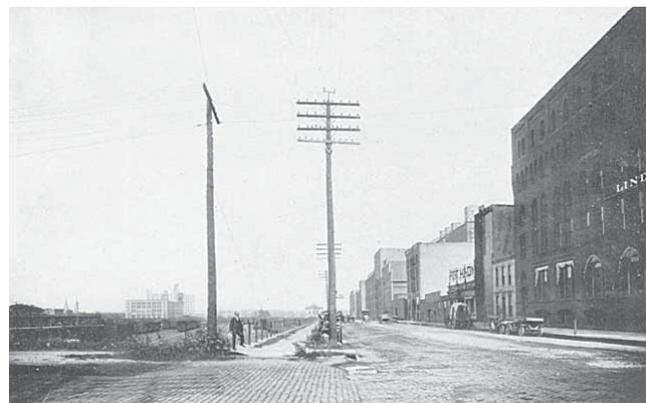
This character area is overlapped by the Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District. In areas that overlap the Warehouse Historic District, the adopted Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District Design Guidelines apply.



Character Area C Detail – 1964 Aerial. Photo credit: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota

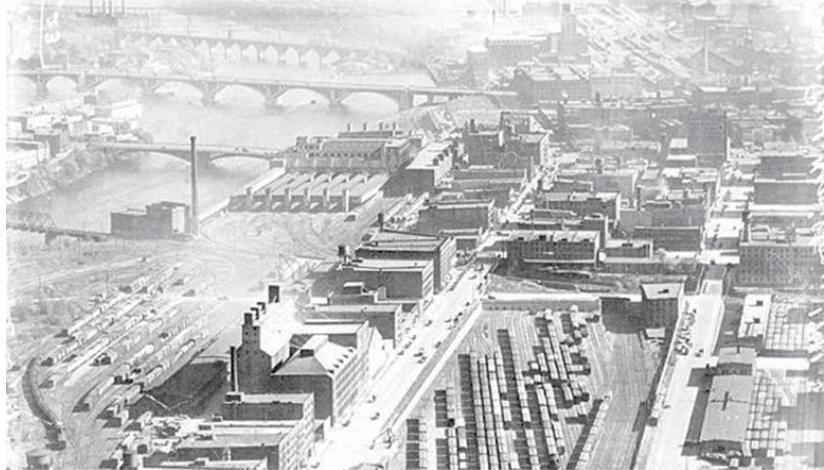


Character Area C Detail – 2010 Aerial



Historically, warehouse and commercial buildings aligned at the sidewalk edge. First floors are generally of similar heights and brick is the predominate material. This development pattern is also apparent today. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

The area between First and Second Streets North is a former Northern Pacific Railroad railyard that was accessed off of the Fourth Avenue rail corridor. To work with the existing rail grades of the Fourth Avenue North rail corridor, the whole site sat below the adjacent street level grades of First and Second Street North. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society



New infill shall be within the range of heights seen historically in the area with a maximum height of ten stories.

Intent

The historic character should be retained. New development should draw upon the basic features of the historic commercial and warehouse buildings in contemporary ways that will express the evolution and change of the area, while reinforcing its more fundamental development patterns. This includes continuing the traditional building massing, alignment at the street edge, and similarity of building materials.

Landscaping and the location of parks and open spaces should reinforce the development pattern of the area. Planting strategies should be opportunistic and more organic rather than in a linear street tree pattern. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes and open space in historic industrial areas should be applied.

Site and Streetscape Design

Requirement

10.26 Provide historic platting and the continuation of First Street North in future redevelopment opportunities, when feasible.

10.27 Maintain the alignment of buildings at the sidewalk edge.

10.28 Sidewalks and streets should be simple and functional, with an authentic use of materials.

- a. The use of faux materials (e.g., stamped concrete) is inappropriate.

10.29 Provide views and access through to the river.

10.30 Preserve the double-fronted orientation of historic buildings.

- a. Warehouses were typically oriented to the street and rail yards resulting in a double-fronted building. Preserve platforms and entrances that occur on both sides of these building types.

10.31 Provide edges to reinforce the historic pattern of the street wall in the older section and to better define the public/private interface in the newer residential neighborhood.

- a. Informal hedges and fences of simple, industrial materials are appropriate for defining edges.

10.32 Integrate interpretative features for former Northern Pacific rail yard between 1st and 2nd Streets North, when feasible.



Mid-rise and low-rise building heights are most appropriate

Building Design

Requirement

10.33 New infill shall be within the range of heights seen historically in the area with a maximum height of six stories.

- a. Mid-rise and low-rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)



Warehouses were typically oriented to the street and rail yards resulting in a double-fronted building. Preserve platforms and entrances that occur on both sides of these building types.



The west end of this character area, along First Street North, is anchored by warehouse buildings that were dedicated to agricultural implements. The buildings were located and designed to take advantage of direct access to the adjacent rail yards.



Character Area D Detail –1934 Aerial. Photo credit: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



Character Area D Detail –2010 Aerial

The area started out as a residential settlement in the 1840s and transitioned to industrial use with several steam powered sawmills, in the 1860s. The sawmills were developed here as they relocated from their original location adjacent to the Falls. The rise of steam to power sawmills made their locations more flexible and the increased demand for the waterpower to fuel the flour mills led to the relocation of many sawmills and lumber related industries to this area of the riverfront.

D. Bassett Creek Sawmill Area

The Bassett Creek Sawmill area had a highly industrial past during the timber milling era and contained railroad spurs and a freight house well into the 20th century. Its transformation from a working waterfront into a park-like recreational corridor was set in motion with the construction of West River Parkway and the conversion of the historic Itasca Building into residential lofts. Rows of townhomes, located on landscaped streets, now characterize the district.

Cultural and Archeological Features

This area has evolved over time and as a result there may be several layers or areas of potential archaeological remains present. Structural remnants of mills and other industrial buildings are likely to remain below the riverfront parkland and other sites within this area. The area gave way to railroad yards during the period of significance, and as a result there is potential archaeology related to the rail industry and rail yards in this area.

Intent

The historic context of this area is most evidenced in its current property configuration and the known and potential archaeological resources that may exist below ground. New development has resulted in its own building and landscape character that does not directly relate to historic development themes. However, this new development does not have significant impacts on the surrounding historic character of the historic district. New development should respect the historic developments, preserve and interpret archaeological resources and avoid negative impacts on the larger context of the historic district.

Enhancements to the landscape, streetscape and open space are encouraged. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes and open space in historic commercial and residential districts should be applied.

Site Design

Requirement

10.34 Improved pedestrian connections between the residential community and the Bassett Creek River Edge area are appropriate.

10.35 Retain the existing informal park-like character of the landscape.

10.36 Retain the view corridors created by the rights of way of streets. (Historically, 2nd Ave North ROW corridor was interrupted by rail lines but retained a view corridor to the river.)

Building Design

Requirement

10.37 New infill shall be within the range of heights that currently exist in the area with a maximum height of six stories.

- a. Very low-rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)



New infill shall be within the range of heights that currently exist in the area with a maximum height of six stories.



Character Area E Detail – 1964 Aerial. Photo credit: Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota



Character Area E Detail – 2010 Aerial



Retain and promote informal parklike landscape character.

E. Bassett Creek River Edge

The Bassett Creek River Edge includes the historic creek outlet and ravine at the Mississippi. The ravine and riverbanks contain volunteer trees and understory plants. Above the slope to the river is the West River Parkway and multiple trails for bicycles and pedestrians. The West River Parkway was designed as part of the Grand Rounds in the 1980s and 1990s. Surface traces of the industrial saw milling and railroad past of this section of the riverfront have been eliminated and a traditional parklike quality remains as a result of the West River Parkway project. Throughout the historic district’s period of significance, the river’s edge evolved and grew. A volunteer landscape evolved along the river’s edge within this character area.

Cultural and Archaeological Features

This area experienced significant infill as part of the sawmilling and lumber yard growth in this area in the late 1800s. Foundations and industrial remnants related to sawmill, mill and masonry industries likely remain.

Intent

This area has evolved over time. Its current state as parkland likely precludes major development in the future. If development were to occur, it should be minimal and its impacts on the entire district evaluated. The natural and volunteer nature of the landscape should be retained. Archaeological resources should be protected and interpreted in authentic and simple manner.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.38 Retain and promote informal park-like landscape character.

Building Guidelines

Requirement

10.39 Buildings and structures that support park recreation are appropriate.

10.40 New buildings and structures should convey their own time.

- a. Draw inspiration in their siting and orientation from historic development patterns of the area

F. Rail Corridor River Edge

The Rail Corridor River Edge has transitioned from an active rail corridor into an urban promenade. Railroad tracks and rail cars have given way to a street, trails, and a formal, more urbane landscape. The linearity and connectivity of the space is retained by the West River Parkway and its adjacent pedestrian and bicycle trails. This area of the riverfront did not possess the more dense vegetation patterns of the other parts of the river's edge due to the concentration of railroad tracks. The more designed and urban feel of this space is a result of the planning efforts to better connect downtown with the riverfront.

Cultural and Archaeological Features

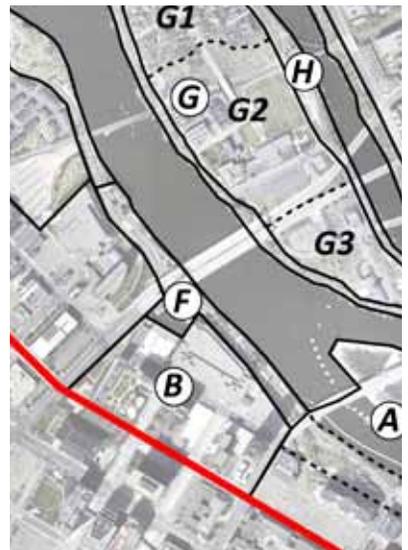
The area retains archaeology related to the first bridge and subsequent bridges across the Mississippi River. Some archaeological remains may have been disturbed with the construction of the Post Office addition and the West River Parkway. However, archaeology may still be in the area. Stone retaining walls remain intact and provide evidence of the directionality and grade change of the tiered landscape of the railroad tracks the covered this area.



The Rail Corridor River Edge has transitioned from an active rail corridor into an urban promenade.



*Character Area F Detail –
1964 Aerial*



*Character Area F Detail –
2010 Aerial*

Intent

The railroad lines shaped this area from its grade changes to its lack of natural or volunteer vegetation. The linearity and connectivity of the space is its key character-defining feature. Retaining and enhancing its various grades and connectivity is important to this area's ability to convey its significance and historic use.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.41 Retain the existing linearity of the space that was originally created by the railroad lines.

10.42 Retain historic grade changes. Work with and utilize historic grade change and uses to design enhanced pedestrian access that also can interpret historic rail use.

10.43 Retain a more planned urban or industrial landscape to set the area apart from other edges of the river.

- a. Use multiple parallel paths, paving patterns and plantings to recall the linear qualities of the rail lines and keep linear view sheds free of obstructions.

G. Nicollet Island Character Area

Nicollet Island is evidence of a much more intense development pattern that includes mixed residential with commercial and industrial uses. Nicollet Island provided a “stepping stone” across the Mississippi above the Falls, first as an anchor for ferries, and later for a suspension bridge that was built in 1855. Bridging the river at this location in 1855 had a significant influence on the orientation and growth of the city.

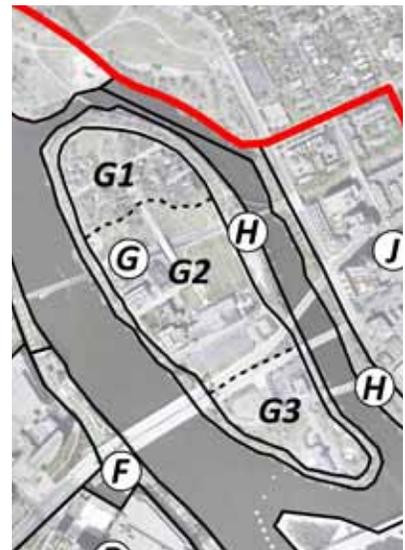
Bridging also significantly impacted development on Nicollet Island and some significant elements of this development pattern remain. The north end of the island retains an enclave of working and middle class homes from the late nineteenth century. These homes were separated from the rest of island by the Great Northern (Burlington Northern) railroad corridor. A row of industrial buildings existed immediately to the north of the railroad line. South of the tracks, the middle of the island historically contained a mix of uses including large mansions, row homes, and DeLaSalle School. An intense commercial area developed along Bridge Street, approximate location of current Hennepin Avenue. The commercial area along Bridge Street no longer exists; neither do the mansions, but a portion of the original DeLaSalle School exists as does the Grove Street Flats, a small portion of the original Eastman Row House.

South of Bridge Street, the southern portion of the island was an industrial center, and buildings such as William Bros Broiler Works (Nicollet Island Pavilion) and the Island Sash and Door Factory (Nicollet Island Inn) are evidence of this former activity.

Most of the land on Nicollet Island is now owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with building owners having a ground lease. Consult with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and CPED before considering the expansion of buildings with a ground lease. The Nicollet Island Master Plan was developed in the late 1990s and portions of the streetscape and open space reflect the guidance offered in the plan.



*Character Area G Detail -
1964 Aerial*



*Character Area G Detail -2010
Aerial*

Cultural and Archaeological Features

Nicollet Island holds cultural importance to the Dakota as a protected birthing site. At the time of western settlement, the island was covered with maple and elm trees. The sugar from the maple trees was harvested by the Dakota. The area also likely still contains archaeological remnants from the numerous buildings and structures that once existed on the island.



View of Nicollet Island reflecting a prosperous commercial district. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

G1. Nicollet Island Northern Residential District

A residential neighborhood for over 100 years, the north end of Nicollet Island is compact and colorful. It is significant as the most physically and visually coherent example of early riverfront residential development remaining in the city. The spatial arrangement of housing on the island repeats the historic placement pattern. It has always been dotted with open spaces.

Intent

Retain the integrity of the entire cultural landscape. Recognize the significance of buildings and the open space that is created by undeveloped land. The neighborhood's distinctive character is accentuated by the informal landscape treatment. While residents have gardens and lawns, the primary impact is created by the mature tree canopy, which appears random and organic, and the open space at the northern tip of the island.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.44 Retain the informal streetscape and compact character of the area.

- a. Retain the open space in the area. New buildings or structures will be considered if they preserve the historic development patterns of open space that characterize the area.

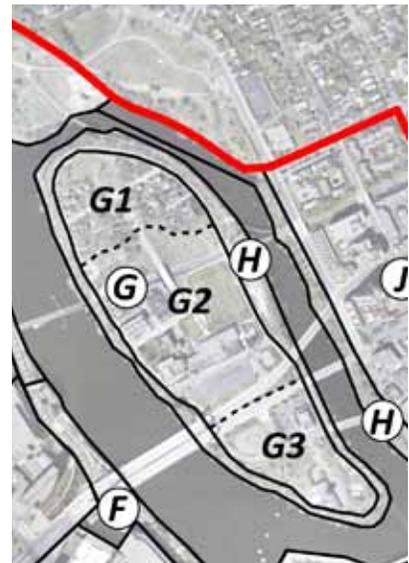
Building Guidelines

Requirement

10.45 Where new infill is deemed appropriate, it shall be in keeping with the massing and articulation of the surrounding historic buildings and structures and be within the range of height .

- a. Very low-rise building heights are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)
- b. Additions to primary buildings will be considered.
- c. New accessory structures (garages) will also be considered for existing homes.

10.46 Materials for new infill shall be in keeping with the traditional materials and applications of those materials used in the character area.



*Character Area G1 Detail
-2010 Aerial. Photo credit:
Borchert Map Library, Univer-
sity of Minnesota*



A residential neighborhood for over 100 years, the north end of Nicollet Island is compact and colorful. It is significant as the most physically and visually coherent example of early riverfront residential development remaining in the city.



*Character Area G2 Detail
-2010 Aerial.*



The Eastman Flats were previously located on Nicollet Island. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

G2. Nicollet Island Central Mixed-Use District

This district is dramatically different from the Northern Residential District. It was originally home to a variety of uses. The northern edge was characterized by industrial uses along the Great Northern (Burlington Northern) railroad corridor. Adjacent to this area was a collection of large single-family homes and row homes along Grove Street and Eastman Avenue, which also included the original DeLaSalle school. To the south was the area fronting Bridge Street, now the approximate location of Hennepin Avenue. Today, the few extant buildings provides some evidence of its historic development. However, the platting of the streets, with exception of Grove Street, remains intact and there are other physical remnants of early developments.

Intent

Retain the underlying extant historic fabric of the street and railroad platting. Encourage infill that respects and reinforces this historic fabric.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.47 Buildings should reflect original orientation of lot platting.

Building Guidelines

Requirement

10.48 New infill shall be within the range of heights and widths of historic buildings that currently exist.

- a. Low-rise building heights up to three stories are most appropriate. (See page 103 for building height classifications.)
- b. Large floor plates are inappropriate.
- c. Building widths of 25 -100 feet are appropriate.

G3. Nicollet Island South

The south end of Nicollet Island retains two extant former industrial buildings, the Williams Brothers Boiler Works (Nicollet Island Pavilion) and the Island Sash and Door Company (Nicollet Island Inn). These two buildings are reminders of the former industrial activity of the southern portion of Nicollet Island. The entire area is owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. It contains a more maintained vegetated shoreline, which allows for views of the Falls, river, the downtown skyline and the Third Avenue North Bridge. This more maintained vegetation density and accessibility to the water's edge it provides is emblematic of the area's historic industrial past use and access to the water.

Intent

Retain historic fabric and respect historic development patterns in any new development of parkland or in design of new accessory park buildings.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.49 Maintain visual and physical access to the water's edge.

Building Guidelines

Requirement

10.50 New buildings and structures should convey their own time.

- Draw inspiration in their siting and orientation from historic development patterns of the area.
- They should not convey a false sense of history.



Maintain visual and physical access to the water's edge.



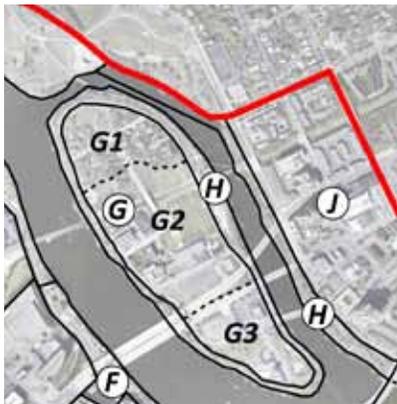
*Character Area G3 Detail
-2010 Aerial.*



Williams Brothers Boiler Works, Nicollet Island Pavilion



An early image of Nicollet Island South. Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society



*Character Area H Detail –2010
Aerial*



*Retain the natural volunteer
vegetation character of the
existing river banks.*

H. Nicollet Island Bank and East Channel River Corridor

The riverbanks of Nicollet Island vary, with a steep, sheer edge at the north end of the island and a more accessible river edge on the south end of the island. All but the southern portion of the island's river bank consists of similar volunteer vegetation. This pattern of volunteer vegetation is repeated on the other side of the east channel river corridor. This vegetation pattern provides for a more natural river edge setting than found in some other parts of the historic district.

A former Chicago & Great Western Railroad line followed the alignment of the Great Northern Railroad lines and shared a similar location for its east channel crossing. This line then separated from the Great Northern Rail corridor and followed the northeast edge of Nicollet Island and crossed over to Boom Island where the Chicago & Great Western Railroad had its railroad yards. The bridges and track alignment survive on Nicollet Island and Boom Island; they are currently used as a pedestrian path.

Intent

Retain and enhance historic infrastructure alignments, such as the railroad corridor. Retain the natural volunteer vegetation character of the existing river banks. The natural character of the steeply sloped riverbanks serves two primary functions: it retains the natural character of the riverbanks that can be found along much of the Mississippi in the Twin Cities area and it serves to stabilize the banks with extensive roots systems and natural successional processes.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.51 Maintain existing rail corridors and bridges.

- a. Adaptive reuse of rail corridors and bridges for recreational use is appropriate.

10.52 Maintain a passive natural riparian character.

10.53 Retain openings to key views.

- a. Key views include views upriver to the northern tip and across the river to downtown from the deck by the pavilion on the southwest side.

I. Boom Island

Boom Island gained its name as the principal anchor for log booming companies that sorted logs for the appropriate mills located adjacent to the Falls. By the 1880s steam powered saw mills were constructed adjacent to the island. The shift from sawmilling to flour milling along the river resulted in a change in the use of Boom Island. By the early 1900s, the island became a rail yard for the Chicago & Great Western Railroad (Wisconsin Central Railroad). BF Nelson Lumber Company had an extensive sawmilling operation located adjacent to the island.

Over time the channel between Boom Island and the east bank of the river has been infilled. In 1982, the site was purchased by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. It is a distinctive park in that it is very open to the river, comprising a marina and boat docking facility, and a much more formal, bulk-headed, urban promenade that brings visitors to the river's edge.

Cultural and Archaeological Features

The land in this area has been disturbed, graded and altered over the years for its use as a rail yard and current use as a park. Archaeology may still remain that is associated with the sawmilling and railroad industries including the foundation of a roundhouse.



*Character Area I Detail -2010
Aerial*



Boom Island is home to a distinctive park in that it is very open to the river, comprising a marina and boat docking facility, and a much more formal, bulk-headed, urban promenade that brings visitors to the river's edge.

Intent

Retain the island's ability to convey its historic uses and connections to other resources within the St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

Site Guidelines

Requirement

10.54 Retain the historic bridge structure and its connection to Nicollet Island.

- ➔ Interpretive signage and other features that convey the historic uses of the area are encouraged.

Building Guidelines

Requirement

10.55 New infill buildings should have a contemporary design and should not convey a false sense of history.

- ➔ New infill buildings and structures for park or interpretive uses are encouraged.

J. Hennepin and Central District

The current configuration of the Hennepin and Central District contains a disparate collection of historic buildings including a collection of historic storefront buildings on Hennepin and First Avenues Northeast, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and the Art Godfrey house, which was moved into Chute Square, an open space across Central Avenue from the Pillsbury Library. Interspersed among these historic buildings are more recent high-rise residential apartments, townhomes and other commercial and residential development.

This area was once the principal business center for the east side. The collection of historic buildings reflects the early development pattern of the former city of St. Anthony and current city of Minneapolis. Portions date back to St. Anthony's Upper Town. The intensity of building grew with the introduction of the street car in 1875.

Intensive redevelopment pressure began in the 1980s with the introduction of the Pinnacle and La Rive high-rise apartment buildings as part of the Main Street revival efforts around St. Anthony Main and Riverplace. These buildings added density along the riverfront at the same time that other areas one block inland developed with less dense and more auto-centric development patterns. Renewed interest in the area in the late 1990s and early 2000s brought additional residential development in the form of townhouses and mid-rise residential buildings.

Cultural and Archaeological Features

Redevelopment in the area has diminished the likelihood of archaeology. However, remains may still exist.



Character Area J Detail -2010 Aerial



The current configuration of the Hennepin and Central District contains a disparate collection of historic buildings including a collection of historic storefront buildings on Hennepin and First Avenues Northeast.

Intent

Retain the feeling created along Hennepin Avenue by the historic storefront buildings and minimize impacts on other adjacent historic resources while allowing for high-quality contemporary design in new infill buildings. Consider individual design characteristics of historic resources within the area rather than the general historic character. New buildings that exceed the height of the traditional commercial building heights need to consider the character of the adjacent buildings on the block face and the entire character area.

Enhancements to the landscape, streetscape and open space are encouraged. Landscapes should reinforce the quality of the public realm. Guidance offered in Chapter 6 for landscapes, streetscapes, and open spaces in historic commercial areas should be applied.

Site and Landscape Guidelines

Requirement

10.56 Encourage enhancements to the public realm with streetscape improvements.

- a. Landscaping, trees and street furniture are appropriate improvements.

Building Design

Requirement

10.57 Orient buildings to follow the historic orientation patterns.

- a. Buildings along Hennepin Avenue should be oriented toward Hennepin Avenue.

10.58 The maximum building height should not exceed four stories.

- a. Low-rise and very low-rise building heights are most appropriate (see page 103 for building height classifications).
 - ➔ Additional stories, up to ten, may be allowed if stepped back from the street wall in a way that does not detract from the historic development patterns. See Guideline 9.9 for more details.

10.59 The facade of an infill building along Hennepin Avenue should reflect the established range of the historic building width.

- a. A block-long facade building mass is inappropriate.

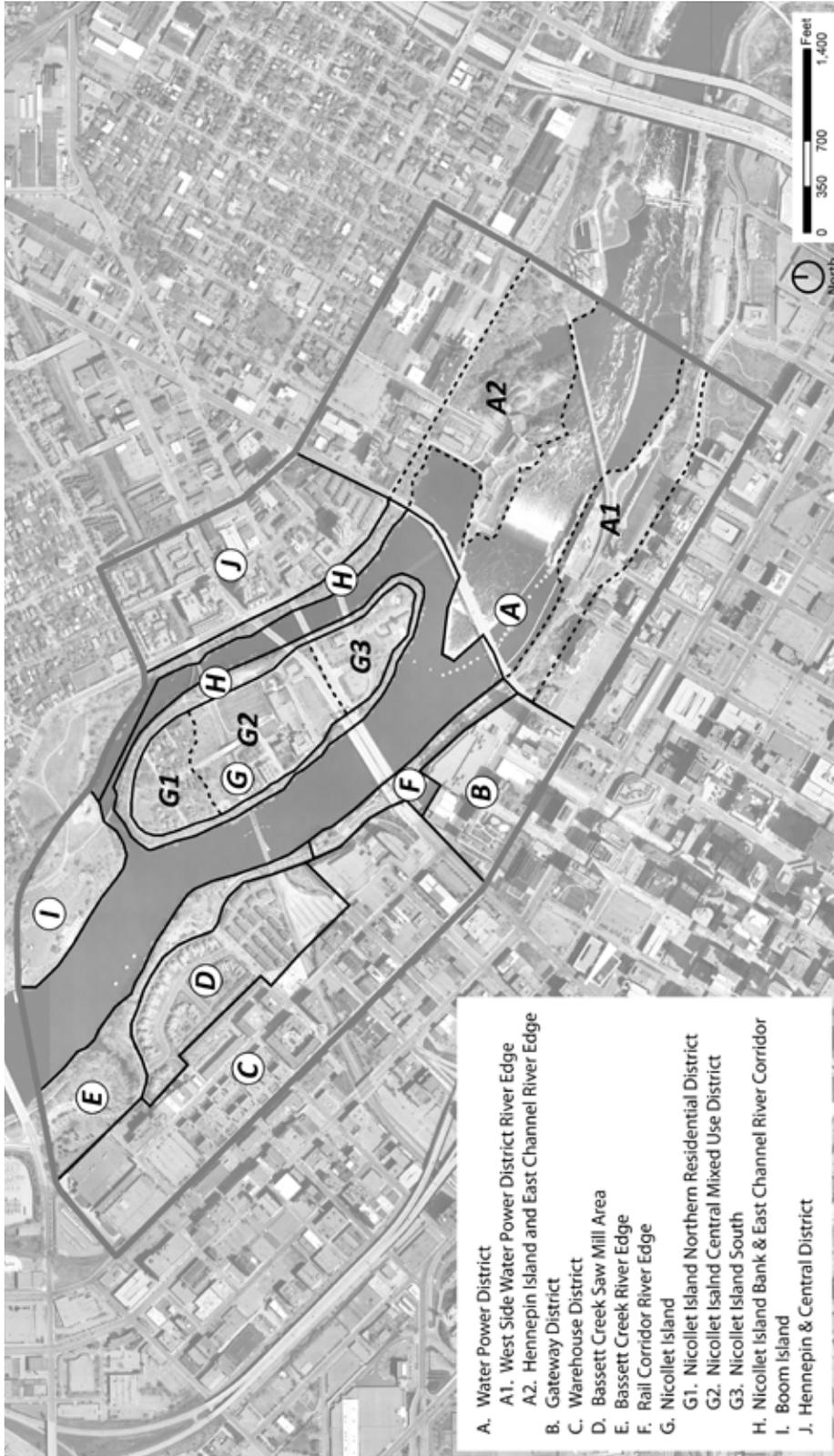


Additional stories, up to ten stories, may be allowed if stepped back from the street wall in a way that does not detract from the historic development patterns. See Guideline 9.9 for more details.



Retain the traditional height of commercial buildings along Hennepin at 2–3 stories.

St. Anthony Falls Historic District Character Areas (grayscale image)



Appendices

Appendix I: Public Process and Policy

Public Process

The City of Minneapolis created this document in an interactive process with the community at large in public workshops. The City's Heritage Preservation Commission, a Community Advisory Group and a Technical Advisory Committee also contributed to the effort.

In workshops and focus groups, participants discussed attributes of the district and identified issues associated with existing resources and future development. In addition, they identified specific subareas and refined goals for them. That work is reflected in this document.

Public Policy for the District

Support for the preservation of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District at a policy level is extensive. It appears in a wide range of important plans and regulations that have been adopted by the City and other public agencies. Some key policies are:

Historic Mills District Master Plan Update

This plan has been heralded by CPED as one of its major successes in economic development. The plan provides guidance for properties that are both in the district and outside of the district.

Key goals:

- *Preserve and celebrate the riverfront historic sites and buildings.*
- *Link new residential, cultural and recreational development to the downtown and the riverfront.*
- *Respect the historic integrity of the district.*
- *... Redevelopment in the area should address the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties when appropriate.*

Master Plan for the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood

The Marcy Holmes Neighborhood lies along the eastern edge of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The plan promotes connections to the river and preservation of historic buildings in the neighborhood.

Mill Ruins Park Master Plan

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and several stakeholder agencies developed plans over more than a decade to realize a phased implementation of Mill Ruins Park.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

A significant portion of the land in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District is owned and managed by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MRPB). In 2007, the MPRB adopted a comprehensive plan to guide the MPRB to 2020.

Key goals:

- *Be a sustainable organization.*
- *Provide urban forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate.*
- *Deliver recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community.*
- *Create dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.*
- *Maintain a safe place to play, celebrate, contemplate and recreate.*

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth

The *Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth* is the City of Minneapolis' comprehensive plan and provides the vision and framework for the city's urban renaissance and growth as a great city of the future.

Key goals:

- *Minneapolis will promote the sustainable practice of protecting and reusing our culturally significant built and natural environment, including buildings, districts, landscapes, and historic resources, while advancing growth through preservation policies.*
- *Explore and protect potential archeological resources in the city.*
- *Recognize and preserve the important influence of landscape on the cultural identity of Minneapolis.*
- *Promote building designs and heights that enhance and complement the image and form of the Downtown*

skyline, provide transition to the edges of Downtown and protect the scale and quality in areas of distinctive physical or historical character.

- *Whenever possible, restore and maintain the traditional street and sidewalk grid as part of new developments.*

Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District Design Guidelines

A portion of the warehouse historic district overlaps with the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The design guidelines provide specific guidance on preserving the character of this area.

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

The 54,000-acre Mississippi National River and Recreation Area was established by Congress in 1988. The park protects globally significant resources along the 72-mile stretch of river running through the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area.

In the National Park Service, Comprehensive Management Plans set the long-term goals for the park. They define the natural and cultural resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area's Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) stresses that the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area corridor will be "an exemplary role model for historic preservation and adaptive use of historic structures." In addition to historic and cultural resources, the CMP covers resources for which Congress established the Mississippi National River & Recreation area to help protect. These include: scenic, natural, recreational, scientific and ecological.

Key Goals:

- *Balance and integrate sustainable use and resource preservation needs*
- *Preserve and restore natural appearance of shorelines and bluffs; protect habitat; protect historic areas; preserve economic resources*
- *Provide a continuous linear open space and trail where practical; acquire sensitive areas and emphasize resource protection*
- *Balance resource protection and use; increase pollution reduction efforts; preserve biological diversity; protect cultural and economic resources; facilitate and coordinate research.*

Nicollet Island & B.F. Nelson Site Master Plan

Adopted by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in 1993 the master plan is a guiding document for improvements in these areas.

Key goals:

- *Reinforce the residential character of the upper island with improvements sensitive to the historic character of the area as well as the daily lives of residents.*
- *Preserve and enhance the island's natural landscape character.*
- *Recognize and interpret Nicollet Island's important role in the prehistory, settlement, and development of Minneapolis and the region.*
- *Provide for the conservation and appropriate rehabilitation of significant historic sites, structures, and buildings.*

North Loop Small Area Plan

The *North Loop Small Area Plan* is a policy document produced by the City of Minneapolis to guide land use and development in the North Loop neighborhood for the next 20 years.

Key goals:

- *Historic character of the private and public realm is highly valued by residents, employees and visitors of the North Loop Neighborhood.*
- *The unique uses and built form of Downtown neighborhoods require a specialized regulatory environment that supports the historic character of the area while acknowledging the need for adaptive reuse and context sensitive design in redevelopment.*

Power of the Falls: Renewing the Vision for St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone

In 2009 the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board adopted an interpretive plan for the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone that provides structure and guidance for the interpretation and preservation of historic features the convey the story of the Minneapolis riverfront.

Key goals:

- *Create a stronger identity and sense of place.*
- *Build and broaden the audience*
- *Preserve and maintain the Heritage Zone's existing assets.*

Appendix II: Historic Architectural Styles and Types

A key principle for the treatment of a historic resource is to preserve those key character-defining features that are associated with its significance. Many of these are associated with recognized architectural styles. This section highlights some of them.

Art Deco/Moderne

While there is variation between Art Deco and Art Moderne, both styles represent the technological advancements of the early twentieth century. Responding to the elaborate forms and ornamentation of many of the period revivals, both are based on geometric form which emphasizes a sleek appearance. A wide variety of theaters, homes, industrial buildings and interiors throughout Minneapolis employed Moderne and Art Deco features.

Common Characteristics:

- Geometric massing
- Flat roof
- Smooth walls
- Sleek, streamlined appearance



Preserve key architectural characteristics that are associated with the building style.

Classical Revival/Beaux-Arts

1885-1925

Combining classical architecture from ancient Greece and Rome with Renaissance features, the Classical Revival style emerged in Minnesota as a wave of architects trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris returned to the United States. Characterized by order and symmetry, Classical Revival architecture was often chosen for grandiose public buildings in the city, such as churches, theaters, and libraries.

Common Characteristics:

- Symmetrical, balanced façade
- Columns
- Cornices
- Balustrades
- Large arches
- Triangular pediments



Italianate

1840-1880

Inspired by designs of the villas of Italy, the Italianate style surpassed Greek Revival architecture as the most popular mode for homes in the United States by the 1860s and 1870s. It spread throughout the country was enabled by the development of cast-iron and press-metal technology, making the style increasingly affordable. Although most commonly seen in single-family homes, elements of the Italianate style were also applied to multi-family dwellings and storefronts. While there are few surviving pure examples of Italianate architecture in Minneapolis, they remain important evidence to a nation-wide trend in architecture during the late-nineteenth century.

Common characteristics:

- Low-pitched or flat roof
- Square cupola
- Wide, overhanging eaves with brackets and cornices
- Tall, narrow, double-paned windows
- Balanced, symmetrical rectangular shape



The Standard Mill (1879) is an example of the commercial Italianate style.





The Burnett tenement (1886) above, and the Griswold Residence (1890) below, are the two remaining examples of the Queen Anne Style on Nicollet Island.

Queen Anne/Eastlake

1880-1905

Named after Queen Anne of England, the architectural style that became popular throughout the United States between 1880 and 1905 originated with the English architect Richard Norman Shaw. Identified by steeply pitched roofs, irregular massing, and diverse building materials and colors, Queen Anne homes often included corner towers or turrets, large chimneys and bay windows. Fanciful ornament, known as Eastlake detailing, was added to some of the more elaborate homes. Increased prosperity among the growing population of Minneapolis during the 1880s coincided with the craze for intricate Queen Anne designs. Evidence of Queen Anne architecture is found concentrated in districts such as the Healy Block and Milwaukee Avenue, as well as scattered throughout the city.

Common Characteristics:

- Complicated, asymmetrical shape
- Front facing gable
- Steeply pitched roof
- Round or square towers
- Diverse materials including decorative shingles or patterned masonry
- Ornamental spindles and brackets

The Morrison and Martin Blocks (1858)

Romanesque Revival

1840-1900

Inspired by French and Spanish architecture from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the Romanesque Revival style gained popularity in the United States in the late-nineteenth century. Used in a variety of building types, from private residences to courthouses, common characteristics included rounded arches, semi-circular arched windows, and belt courses. A resurgence of Romanesque Revival architecture, as well as a variant inspired by Henry Hobson Richardson in the 1880s, inspired the designs of many of Minneapolis' most prominent landmarks.

Common Characteristics:

- Semi-circular arches for window and door openings
- Belt courses
- Gabled roofs
- Square or polygonal towers



Second Empire

1860-1890

Typically two to three stories or more, Second Empire style buildings are symmetrical with a projecting central pavilion, often extending above the primary roofline. A mansard roof is the most defining feature, and is typically covered with multi-colored slates or tinplates.

Common Characteristics:

- Arched or pedimented windows, often in pairs with moulded surrounds
- Tall first-floor windows
- Arched entry doors, often double doors, with glass upper panels
- Quoins, cornices and belt course



19th Century Vernacular Warehouse

The Nineteenth Century Warehouse Area represents the early history of commerce and industry. Widths of the buildings were narrow and the height was between two and five stories tall. The similarity of the thin and relatively tall scale of the buildings is an embodiment of the original platting of the area on narrow, deep lots.

The rhythm of the buildings in the district is created by architectural elements that provide an overall vertical directional emphasis. The composition of the building facades are arranged with a defined base, middle and top. The buildings are horizontally segmented into these three parts through the treatment of materials on the ground floors, horizontal banding and cornices.

The buildings are divided into vertical bays by the grouping of window openings and architectural details. The massing and scale along with the vertical orientation of the bays and defined base, middle and top create an overall vertical accentuation to the buildings.

Common Characteristics:

- Thin and relatively tall scale (between two- and five-stories)
- Facade composition of base, middle, cap
- Vertical emphasis in details
- Windows grouped by buildings bays
- Horizontal banding
- Detailed cornice



20th Century Vernacular Warehouse

Larger in scale than its 19th century counterpart, the Twentieth Century Vernacular Warehouse represents the later history of the industrial areas. The width of buildings grew up to a half city block and their heights were typically between four and ten stories tall.

The rhythm of the buildings in the district is created by architectural elements that provide an overall vertical directional emphasis. The composition of the building facades are arranged with a defined base, middle and top. The buildings are horizontally segmented into these three parts through the treatment of materials on the ground floors, horizontal banding and cornices.

The buildings are divided into vertical bays by the grouping of window openings and architectural details. The massing and scale along with the vertical orientation of the bays and defined base, middle and top create an overall vertical accentuation to the buildings.

Common Characteristics:

- Four to ten stories in height
- Facade composition of base, middle, cap
- Building mass divided into vertical bays
- Windows grouped by buildings bays
- Horizontal banding
- Detailed cornice



Vernacular Commercial Storefronts

1890-1920

These commercial buildings are usually between one and four stories; however, many one-story examples also exist. The vernacular commercial building is divided horizontally into two distinct bands. The first floor is commonly transparent, so goods can be displayed, while the second story is usually reserved for residential or storage space. The upper floor is typically supported by a steel beam that spans the glass opening. A kickplate is found below the display window while above it, a smaller band of glass, a transom, is seen. The main door is frequently recessed.

Stone and brick facades are typical. Ornamental detail exists, but is simple and limited to a shallow molding, such as a cornice. Some cornices are masonry, while others are stamped metal. Many carry simplified Italianate detailing. In essence, these buildings lack distinctive detail, contrasting them with the revival styles that were also popular during this period.

Common Characteristics:

- Cast-iron supported storefronts
- Large display windows
- Transom lights
- Kickplate
- Recessed entry
- Tall second story windows
- Cornice



Appendix III: Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Public law enacted in 1990 guaranteeing rights for people with disabilities to have equal access to facilities and services.

Architectural conservation – The process through which the material, historical and design integrity of the building or structure are prolonged through planned interventions

Architrave - The molding around a door or window. It also refers to the lowest part of an entablature that rests immediately on the capitals of the columns.

Articulation – Articulation of a façade accentuates visible aspects of different parts of a building, breaking it down into many distinct pieces, sometimes obscuring the sense of the whole building

Balcony - An open platform, recessed or projecting from the wall of a building and surrounded by a balustrade or railing or parapet

Balustrade – A row of repeating balusters and small posts that support the upper rail of a railing

Band/belt course - A horizontal element separating parts of a wall surface, especially in masonry construction; sometimes projecting.

Bay - A regularly repeated unit of space on the façade of a building, often formed or suggested by dimensions of the structural framework

Bridge abutment – A large masonry mass located at the base of the arch. Its purpose is to counteract the thrust of an arch.

Bulkheads – A retaining wall used to stabilize the shoreline; similar to a seawall

Casing - The flat wood trim on the surface of the wall surrounding a window or door, often with bands of molding around the perimeter

Columnar trees – Trees that usually have tightly ascending branches with narrow branch angles and short branches. Trees with this shape are valued for their narrow width that enables them to be planted in tight spaces where there is not enough room for a tree with a spreading branch structure.

Corbel - An architectural member or a series of masonry courses which progressively projects upward and or outward from a wall

Cornice - Molded projections extending across the top of a wall, or forming the top element of a door or window frame

Corridor - A designated strip of land between two locations within which rail, highway and pedestrian traffic, topography, environment and other characteristics are located for transportation purposes

Cresting - A horizontal ornamental element at the top of a parapet or roof ridge, usually made of metal or occasionally of terra cotta

Design coding – A method of drafting design guidelines by codifying and regulating fundamental architectural characteristics such as height, massing, setbacks. etc., as opposed to dictating architectural styles

Display areas – Portions of the storefront where merchandise, products and services are displayed in a manner that is visible from the street

Entablature - A series of horizontal elements at the top of a wall; in classical architecture consisting of an architrave, frieze, and cornice

Entryway – A passage or opening on a building or structure, usually along a public street, that provides access to the given building or structure

Façade - Any of the exterior faces of a building; often refers to the architectural front, which is distinguished from other walls by its degree of elaboration or the location of the principal entrance

Fascia - A flat, horizontal band on a wall surface; often a plain element with little molding at the top edge of a wall

Fanlight - A semicircular window over a door

Fenestration - Any opening in a building's envelope including windows, doors and skylights

Frieze - An architectural ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band between the architrave and the cornice

Ghost sign - Old-hand painted advertising or signage that has been preserved on a building for an extended period of time

Hip roof - A roof that slopes inward from all four exterior walls, forming a pyramid

Historic Designation - The process by which a site, structure, or area is officially recognized as having historical, architectural, or archaeological significance.

Hood - A projecting element that covers a wall opening such as a window or door; often supported by brackets at each end

Joint - The space between masonry units in a wall, usually filled with mortar to attach the units

*LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
Created by The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as a rating system for green building, which refers to the design, construction, and operation of buildings in an environmentally friendly way.*

Light - An individual pane of glass in a window or door

Lintel - A horizontal structural element in a wall that spans a window or door opening; in a masonry building, often distinguished by a contrasting material

Louvers - A set of parallel slats in a door, window or wall to admit air and keep out rain direct sunshine, and noise

Mansard - A roof with two slopes on each side, the lower slope typically being almost vertical

*Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District Design Guidelines -
Published February 23, 2010 by the City of Minneapolis | Community Planning & Economic Development, Heritage Preservation Commission*

National Register of Historic Places - The official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture

Non-metallic - A product or component that is not made of a metal material

Monitor - A raised section at the top of a roof, usually with glazing in its vertical sides to allow illumination of the center of a building

Mullion - A structural or non structural element which divides a window or other opening into two or more lights

Muntin - A secondary framing member that holds individual panes of glass within a window or glazed door

Opaque - A surface that neither reflects nor emits light

Parapet - A wall-like barrier at the edge of a roof, terrace, balcony or other structure

Pavers - Stone, brick, concrete or other materials used for sidewalks, walkways, patios, and driveways

Pediment - The triangular gable end of a building, framed by a horizontal cornice and the raking (diagonal) cornices of the roof eaves, or a similar form used above a door or window

Perimeter block -A city block development pattern, where buildings are built to line, and entrances face the street, with semi-private courtyards to the rear of the buildings

Pilaster - A vertical projection on a wall, usually rectangular in cross-section and often with a capital and base, that appears to be supporting building elements

Pitch - The slope of a building element in relation to the horizontal, especially in a roof

Pointing - The material with which joints in a masonry wall are filled. Also the process of placing mortar in a masonry joint as the units are laid up. Re-pointing refers to removing an outer portion of deteriorated mortar and re-filling the joint with new mortar.

Porch - A structure attached to the exterior of a building often forming a covered entrance

Precast - Members or components especially of concrete, cast into form before being transported to the site of installation

Public way - An area that is designated for travel by the community; typically publicly owned property.

Railing - A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports

Rake board - A diagonal trim element following the slope of a gable or roof where it meets an exterior wall. Also known as raking cornice, raking course or raking molding.

Recess - A portion of surface or facade set back from the plane of the primary surface or facade

Retaining walls - A wall that is built to hold back earth.

Sash - The perimeter frame of a window, including the horizontal rails and vertical stiles, that holds the glass panes. It may be movable or fixed

Setback - On a parcel of land, the distance between the street and the front of a building, or between a building and the side or back property lines

Side light - A narrow rectangular window to the side of a door or wider window

Soffit - The exposed undersurface of an overhead element, such as an arch or roof eave

Storefront - The front side of a nonresidential establishment, facing the street and usually containing display windows

Street furniture/furnishings - Is a collective term for objects and pieces of equipment installed on streets and roads for various purposes, including but not limited to benches, bollards, streetlamps, street lighting, traffic lights, traffic signs, bus stops, and waste receptacles

Tracery - Ornamental curved patterns in windows, doors and other openings often made of wood, stone or cast iron

Traditional - Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of, the older styles of buildings and site improvements in the district.

Transom - A window above a doorway, separated by a horizontal crossbar, or a secondary window similarly set above a larger window

True divided-light window sash - A window that is composed of individual panes of glass and held in place by steel, synthetic or wood mullions.

Appendix IV: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings are general rehabilitation guidelines established by the National Park Service. These standards are policies that serve as a basis for the design principles presented in this document. The Secretary's Standards state that:

1. A property shall be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, shall not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

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7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used.
 8. Archeological resources shall be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Design for alterations and additions to existing properties should not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material. Such design should be compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood and environment.

The following is a link to the Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation: <http://www.nps.gov/history/preservation.htm>

Appendix V: Historic Preservation and Sustainability

Preserving historic resources in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District is a key factor in promoting sustainability, which yields substantial benefits to the community. These can be described in the three basic categories of sustainability, which are: (1) Cultural/Social, (2) Environmental and (3) Economic.



Preserving historic places promotes the three basic categories of sustainability.

Cultural/Social Component of Sustainability

Historic landscapes, sites, structures, buildings and features are essential components of the city's identity. Historic properties and archeological sites provide direct links to the past. They convey information about earlier ways of life that helps current residents anchor their sense of identity with the community, which is a key ingredient in cultural sustainability.

Environmental Component of Sustainability

The environmental component of sustainability tends to be the main focus when discussing historic structures and their relationship to green building. Among other things, this component focuses on saving energy, and generating it through “clean” methods as well as minimizing the demand for water and conserving building materials.

Embodied Energy

Embodied energy is defined as the amount of energy expended to create the original building and its components. Preserving a historic structure retains this energy. If demolished, this investment in embodied energy is lost and significant new energy demands are required to replace it. Studies confirm that the loss of embodied energy associated with replacing an existing structure takes three decades or more to recoup from reduced operating energy costs in a high-efficiency replacement building.

Building Materials

Many traditional building materials used in the district have long life cycles, which contribute to their sustainability. Brick, stone and wood are examples. Newer materials may be less sustainable and require extraction of raw, non-renewable materials. High levels of energy are involved in production, and the new materials will often also have an inherently short lifespan.

Building Energy Savings

Energy savings are not usually achieved by replacing original building fabric with contemporary alternatives. For example, repairing, weather-stripping and insulating an original window is usually more energy efficient and much less expensive than new windows, as well as sound preservation practice.

Landfill Impacts

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, building debris constitutes around a third of all waste generated in the country. The amount of waste can be reduced significantly if historic structures are not demolished.

Construction Quality

As a rule, the quality of early construction was higher than most construction in the late 20th Century. Lumber used in the district came from mature trees, was properly seasoned and typically milled to “full dimensions,” providing stronger framing and construction. Buildings also were thoughtfully detailed and the finishes were generally of high quality—characteristics that owners today appreciate. The high quality of construction in earlier buildings is therefore an asset that is impossible to replace.

Adaptability

Owners also recognize that floor plans of many historic properties easily accommodate changing needs. They permit a variety of uses while retaining the overall historic character.

Economic Component of Sustainability

The economic benefits of protecting local historic districts are well documented across the nation. These include higher property values, job creation in rehabilitation industries and increased heritage tourism. Examples also exist of ways in which the quality of life is enhanced by living in historic areas, and that these in turn help to recruit desirable businesses to the community at large.

Historic Rehabilitation Projects

Direct and indirect economic benefits accrue from a rehabilitation project. Direct benefits result from the actual purchases of labor and materials, while material manufacture and transport results in indirect benefits. Preservation projects are generally more labor intensive, with up to 70% of the total project budget being spent on labor, as opposed to 50% when compared to new construction. All of these purchases of labor and materials add dollars to the local economy. Furthermore, a rehabilitation project will provide functional, distinctive, and affordable space for new and existing small businesses. This is especially relevant to the local economy where many local businesses operate in historic buildings.

Heritage Tourism

The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines cultural heritage tourism as “traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historic, and natural resources.” Heritage tourism is another benefit of investment in historic preservation, as people are attracted to the cultural heritage sites within the area. Historic resources provide visitors with a glimpse into districts heritage. Heritage tourists spend more on travel than other tourists, which generates jobs in hotels, bed and breakfasts, motels, retail stores, restaurants, and other service businesses.

In contrast, more recent alterations usually have no historic significance and may even detract from the character of the building and obscure significant features. Removing such an alteration will be considered in a rehabilitation project.

St. Anthony Falls Historic District Design Guidelines



