

HPC to Propose New Historic District

Dear Editor:

First, the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) would like to thank all of the property owners in the East Avenue area, and the general public, who have participated in several educational events over the past year regarding a proposal to create a new historic district in the East Avenue residential neighborhood. The HPC held a neighborhood meeting in March and hosted a walk in October for residents to learn more about the proposed East Avenue historic district. In addition, several property owners on East Avenue have graciously presented their personal preservation success stories at the HPC's regular monthly meetings. The City of Red Wing has long been considered a leader in the heritage preservation movement in Minnesota. The City of Red Wing, its residents, and local business leaders are proud of the community's heritage and have a very strong preservation ethic which is easily recognized throughout our community by the existence of so many preserved, and utilized, historic structures. This effort continues to this day and encompasses the work of public entities, private individuals, civic organizations, private businesses, and others who strive to preserve and restore the historic qualities of Red Wing and to sustain a vibrant and desirable community in which to live, work, visit, and play.

The City of Red Wing created policy and regulations that demonstrate its commitment to historic preservation. On December 20, 1975, City Ordinance No. 62 went into effect creating the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission. The Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is charged with identifying and preserving buildings, lands, areas, and districts within the corporate limits of the City which are determined to possess particular cultural or educational value. Since the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission was created, one of its most important tasks has been to survey and inventory Red Wing's historic areas and properties. The results of these surveys have included: nearly two dozen listings in the National Register of Historic Places, three locally designated historic districts (the St. James Hotel Historic District, the Downtown Historic District, the Red Wing Civic Mall Historic District) and one locally designated conservation district (the West Residential Conservation District). The intent of local historic and conservation districts is to recognize historically and architecturally significant areas in Red Wing, that have a concentration of thematically related resources, and to preserve these community assets by establishing design standards and review for various exterior construction projects within the designated districts.

Second, the Red Wing HPC will soon be recommending to the Red Wing City Council that a new historic district be created in the East Avenue neighborhood from approximately W. 7th Street to 13th Street, based on the recently completed South End Historic Properties Survey (2009). The South End Historic Properties Survey Report recommended the creation of a historic district in the East Avenue neighborhood as well as several other recommendations for local historic designations and National Register of Historic Places nominations for properties within the survey's boundaries.

Finally, in December 2011, the HPC's recommendation will be sent to the Red Wing Planning Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota Historical Society for comments. Once the comments are received and reviewed, the HPC will conduct a public hearing to gather input from concerned citizens. The public hearing will be noticed in the Red Wing Republican Eagle and property owners in the proposed district and within 350 feet of the proposed district will be notified by mail of the date and time of the public hearing. It is anticipated that the public hearing will be conducted in January or February of 2012. Once the Public Hearing is conducted and citizen input reviewed, the HPC may send its recommendation to the City Council for consideration of adoption.

The Red Wing HPC encourages property owners in the proposed historic district, and other interested citizens, to attend the upcoming public meetings and to learn more about historic districts and what the implications are for properties located within a historic district. A good place to start on the local level is to review Chapter 16 – *Heritage Preservation* of the Red Wing City Code. Copies of Chapter 16, the South End Historic Properties Survey Report, the proposed historic district boundaries, and individual property inventory forms from the South End Historic Properties Survey are available by contacting Steve Kohn, Assistant Planning Director for the City of Red Wing, at steve.kohn@ci.red-wing.mn.us or by calling (651)385-3622. A copy of Chapter 16, the survey report, and the proposed historic district boundaries are also available at <http://www.red-wing.org/heritagepreservationcommission.html> on the City of Red Wing's web-site.

Doug Fryer, Chairperson
Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission