

HERITAGE PRESERVATION APPLICATION SUMMARY

Location: 2330 Hennepin Avenue South
Landmark/District Name: Thomas Lowry Memorial
Prepared By: Andrew Frenz, City Planner, (612) 673-3790, with Dr. John Smoley, Senior City Planner (612) 673-2830
Ward: 7
Neighborhood: East Isles
Request: To establish design guidelines for the Thomas Lowry Memorial at 2330 Hennepin Avenue South

CLASSIFICATION

Period of Significance	1915-1967
Criteria of Significance	<p>Criterion #1: The property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic or social history.</p> <p>Criterion #2: The property is associated with the lives of significant persons or groups.</p> <p>Criterion #6: The property exemplifies the works of master builders, engineers, designers, artists, craftsmen or architects.</p>
Date of Local Designation	March 20, 2015
Date of National Register Listing	N/A

SUMMARY

On February 17, 2015, the Heritage Preservation Commission adopted the designation study for the Thomas Lowry Memorial and recommended to the City Council that the property be designated a local historic landmark. On March 20, 2015, the City Council found the property to be historically significant under criteria 1, 2, and 6 of the Heritage Preservation regulations due to its association with Minneapolis' streetcar heritage, Thomas Lowry, and New York sculptor and designer Karl Bitter.

In accordance with Heritage Preservation Regulations section 599.300, CPED has prepared the attached design guidelines for the commission's review and approval.

The attached guidelines are meant to be used in conjunction with the latest version of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. These guidelines identify the period of significance, indicate historic uses; state character-defining features; identify historic materials, features, and spaces; and note alterations, to include missing elements that, ideally, will be restored. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* provides specific treatment standards and guidelines based upon these aspects of the property in question. The attached guidelines also direct

future evaluators to additional National Park Service publications that provide guidance on the conservation of bronze sculpture.

This document also specifies additional guidelines for changes specifically suited to this property. Apart from guidelines related to the building site, these guidelines do not apply to noncontributing resources on the property. At the present time, there are no noncontributing resources on the lot beyond landscaping, paving, park benches and similar features.

This item was originally heard at the November 10, 2015, Heritage Preservation Commission meeting. The guidelines have been amended to reflect Heritage Preservation Commission requested changes, with additions underlined in color, and deletions stricken through in color. Once adopted, a final copy of the design guidelines will be posted on the Heritage Preservation Commission website.

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

The Heritage Preservation Chapter (Chapter 599) of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances requires that the designation be submitted to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and comment.

State Historic Preservation Office

The design guidelines were submitted to SHPO for comment on June 3, 2015. In a letter dated August 7, 2015, SHPO stated the following:

The proposed design guidelines for the Thomas Lowry Memorial will help establish a desired and consistent level of quality and aesthetics for the character defining features of the historic memorial. These guidelines will assist the City as the property owner, and the Heritage Preservation Commission to plan for and evaluate proposed exterior alterations, new construction and demolition adjacent to the memorial, as well as any proposed landscape elements or lighting around the structure.

Staff has sent two letters to the property owner, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, inviting them to provide input on the design guidelines. To date, no response has been received.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development recommends that the Heritage Preservation Commission adopt staff findings and adopt the Thomas Lowry Memorial design guidelines:

A. Design Guideline Adoption.

Recommended motion: **Adopt** the Thomas Lowry Memorial design guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Design Guidelines
2. Designation Study

THOMAS LOWRY MEMORIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

2330 Hennepin Avenue



Prepared for the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

City of Minneapolis
Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED)

November 10, 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

Laura Faucher, Chair

Paul Bengtson

Alex Haecker

Chris Hartnett

Susan Hunter Weir

Ginny Lackovic

Linda Mack

Dan Olson

Ian Stade

Constance Vork

Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED)

Craig Taylor, Executive Director

Steve Poor, Development Services Director

Chris Vrchota, Senior Planner, Development Services

Andrew Frenz, City Planner, Development Services

The activity that is the subject of this document has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973, the U. S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

INTRODUCTION

Scope

These Landmark guidelines are meant to be used in conjunction with the latest version of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. These Landmark guidelines identify the period of significance; indicate historic uses; state character-defining features; identify historic materials, features, and spaces; and note alterations, including missing elements of the Landmark that, ideally, will be restored. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* provides specific treatment standards and guidelines based upon these aspects of the landmark.

This document also specifies additional guidelines for exterior changes specifically suited to this property. Apart from guidelines related to the site, these guidelines do not apply to noncontributing resources on the property, including landscaping, paving, park benches and similar features.

Period of Significance

The resource's period of significance is 1915-1967. This period begins with the memorial's completion and ends when the memorial was relocated from the Virginia Triangle to its present location in Smith Triangle Park. During this fifty-two year period the memorial stood unmodified in its original location, fully exhibiting Karl Bitter's original design and its association with Minneapolis' streetcar heritage.

Historic Uses

During its period of significance this property was used as public art.

Character-Defining Features

Character-defining features are the form and detailing of those architectural materials and features that are important in defining a resource's historic character and which must be retained in order to preserve that character.

The Thomas Lowry Memorial's character-defining features are several pieces of art, made of cast bronze and carved granite, which together form a cohesive memorial to Twin City Rapid Transit Company founder Thomas Lowry. The memorial is accessible as public art for the enjoyment of all citizens.

The character-defining features are:

- the statue of Thomas Lowry;
- the carved granite screen;
- the granite block pedestal upon which the statue of Mr. Lowry stands;
- the granite block base upon which the screen and pedestal stand; and
- the four bronze lamp posts.

Historic Materials, Features, and Spaces

City building permits that require only general descriptions of work and no long-term retention of plans cannot generally be used to confirm or deny the presence of original features, but visual evidence and historical photographs indicate features dating back to the resource's period of significance.

These materials and features are the:

- cast bronze statue of Thomas Lowry (9' in height);
- cast bronze lamp posts (four);
- granite screen (15' x 30');
- granite pedestal for statue (3' in height);
- granite block base for statue and screen, to include flower beds.

Alterations

The memorial has been modified slightly since its construction in 1915 by Karl Bitter and his associates.

Work Completed Outside of the Period of Significance

- **1967:** Relocation of memorial from the Virginia Triangle to Smith Triangle Park
- **Unknown:** Replacement of glass globes on lamp posts
- **Unknown:** Installation of city survey monument in granite block base

Additional Guidance for Restoration

Because the standards and guidelines for restoration of historic bronze material in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* do not provide specific guidelines for the treatment of bronze historic building material, other publications by the National Park Service which provide more specific guidance should also be consulted, including the Copper and Copper Alloys section of *Metals in America's Historic Buildings* and *NPS Tech Notes Metals Number 1: Conserving Outdoor Bronze Sculpture*.

GUIDELINES FOR CHANGES

Beyond the standards and guidelines stated in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, changes to the Thomas Lowry Memorial must meet these standards:

- The relationship between the surviving elements of the memorial shall be maintained as originally planned by Karl Bitter.
- Any alterations to the surviving elements of the memorial shall be compatible, reversible, and subordinate.
- New programming and structures in Smith Triangle Park shall be compatible with and subordinate to the memorial.
- New programming and structures, with the exception of trees, shall not obstruct the view of the memorial from Hennepin Avenue.
- The paved plaza in front of the memorial shall not be removed or reduced to less than six hundred square feet in area.
- [The construction of an accessible ramp to allow wheelchair access to the memorial plaza is encouraged.](#)
- The pathway heading directly south from the memorial to Hennepin Avenue shall not be removed and shall be maintained as a paved walking path.

GUIDELINES FOR RELOCATION

As the memorial has already been relocated from its original site, it could conceivably be relocated again without impairing its ability to communicate its historic significance. Although the [landmark property](#) has already lost integrity of location, the effects of any future relocation on integrity of association, setting, and feeling must be considered. Any site where the memorial may be located must meet these standards:

- The site shall be located along a historic streetcar route.
- The site shall be located along a street with commercial activity.
- The front of the memorial shall be prominently visible from both the historic streetcar route and the street with commercial activity.
- A public plaza of at least six hundred square feet in area shall be located directly in front of the memorial.
- A paved walking path heading directly from the front center of the memorial to both the historic streetcar route and street with commercial activity shall be maintained.
- The site shall allow the public unrestricted access to directly approach and experience the memorial.
- All structures on the site must be compatible with and subordinate to the memorial.