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Survey of Saint Paul's Oldest Neighborhoods Seeks Public Input

Researchers want to know what historic sites, people and events are important to the community

Saint Paul, MN (April 25, 2011) - Saint Paul residents are asked for their insights to help complete research on historic resources in three neighborhoods: Frogtown, Payne-Phalen and Uppertown. Survey work is underway that will allow neighborhood residents and the city to better understand what buildings and sites should be considered for preservation and planning in the years ahead.

Community members are asked to share input over the next two weeks by attending one of three community meetings or posting information online at www.historicsaintpaul.org/saintpaulsurveystory.

"These are three of Saint Paul's oldest communities and their histories may be at risk if we don't take time now to collect good data. Without this research, we cannot make thoughtful planning and preservation decisions," said John Manning, Chair of the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

The Saint Paul Survey project is a partnership of Historic Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and the Ramsey County Historical Society; it is made possible with funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund and the City of Saint Paul. The research focuses on the history, visual character, defining features and historic resources of the neighborhoods, with the results to be used in planning and community development efforts. The areas chosen for the research overlap three of the City of Saint Paul's Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods.

GATHERING INPUT

Neighbors and others interested in the city's history are invited to share their ideas and comments by May 5.

Community meetings

- **Payne-Phalen:** Thursday, April 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, 115 Greenbrier Street
- **Frogtown:** Monday, May 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. | West Minnehaha Rec. Center, 685 Minnehaha Ave
- **Uppertown:** Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Mississippi Market Co-op, 1500 West 7th Street

Online

- Visit www.historicsaintpaul.org/saintpaulsurveystory to share information, stories and photos.

Other

- If you have questions or information to provide you may email ccarey@historicsaintpaul.org or call 651-222-3049

Researchers are especially interested in receiving public responses to the following questions:

- What neighborhood sites are important to you?
- What places have historic significance?
- Who are the important people in history who lived and/or worked in these communities?

To see how the boundaries of these neighborhoods have been defined, see attached map.

BACKGROUND

The 2010 Saint Paul Survey project will be the most ambitious survey work completed in Saint Paul in over 27 years. The last extensive survey of Saint Paul neighborhoods was completed in 1983. An immediate and tangible use for the information garnered through these renewed survey efforts will be to aid the City of Saint Paul, Heritage Preservation Commission, and community development organizations, with determinations related to the acquisition, rehabilitation and/or demolition of properties funded with \$18 million from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a federally funded program to combat the negative impacts of the foreclosure and vacant housing crisis facing many urban areas.