
B. Foreword

Chaska's Preservation design Manual was developed in cooperation with the Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and the City of Chaska Community Development Department. The purpose of this guide is to promote interest in Chaska's rich architectural heritage and to spark enthusiasm toward facade improvements in the downtown area.

Information in this booklet is designed to serve as a resource guide and a starting point for restoration projects. Many procedures described in this manual should be performed only by a licensed contractor who is experienced in historic building maintenance and restoration. Persons attempting restoration projects on their own may unknowingly destroy a vital part of a building's architecture as well as any chances for recognition as a local landmark. If you are considering a restoration project, contact the HPC or Chaska Community Development Department to help you get started.

Conceptual photo reconstructions in this guide merely suggest renovation potential, and are intended to give an idea of finished appearance rather than showing a level of detail suitable for the renovation work. An actual project should first take into consideration the project budget. Plans can be developed that blend existing architectural features with improvements that are economically feasible and sympathetic to neighboring properties or that implement ideal renovation/restoration processes phased over a period of time.

In addition to the printed copies of this study, a digital "pdf-file" version is being retained by the City Development Department, to illustrate "after renovation" views in color, emphasizing potential accent color schematics.

The authors of this study sincerely hope that this manual will serve as a first step to sparking interest in facade improvement for downtown Chaska. It has been designed to be expandable as the downtown area faces new challenges and makes future decisions. Chaska has already lost several significant buildings

but much more of your community's history waits to be rediscovered. Next time you walk along Walnut Street or Second Street, take time to consider the beauty and potential in the downtown area.

Chaska is an architectural "gem" and a community with great potential in the quality of its downtown buildings. Generations of Chaska residents have done a remarkable job of preserving and caring for this "resource".

Programs and financial assistance as well as tax credits may be available for building improvements. For more information contact your financial adviser, your accountant, or the State Historic Preservation Office at 345 Kellogg Boulevard W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. (phone: 651 / 296-5434)

Another helpful and worthwhile source of more information is the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Main Street Center"; a resource that can be accessed on-line through the internet or by contacting the Trust at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW; Washington, DC 20036. (phone: 202 / 673-4219)

Internet links

Several useful sources of information are available from internet web links:

- *City of Chaska Community Development Department*
www.chaskamn.com/cityhall/comdev.htm
- *Chaska Historical Society*
www.chaska-chamber.org/historical_society.htm
- *Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office*
www.mnhs.org/preserve/shpo/
www.mnhs.org/preserve/shpo/technical.html
- *Preservation Alliance of Minnesota*
www.mnpreservation.org
- *National Trust for Historic Preservation*
www.nationaltrust.org/
- *National Trust's Main Street Center*
www.mainstreet.org/
- *Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives*
www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/
- *National Parks Service Preservation Briefs*
www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm

NOTE: 42 technical publications are available on-line, without cost, from the current *Preservation Briefs* series.