

# THOMAS LOWRY MEMORIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

2330 Hennepin Avenue



Prepared for the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

City of Minneapolis  
Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED)

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# 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

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# 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 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.