



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Heritage Preservation Commissioners  
**FROM:** George Gause, Heritage Preservation Supervisor  
**RE:** February 10, 2020 HPC meeting – CLG comment on nomination of Hope Engine Company #3 at 1 South Leech Street, Saint Paul, Ramsey county to the National Register of Historic Places.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Hope Engine Company No. 3 fire station, located at 1 South Leech Street in Saint Paul, Minnesota, may be considered by the State Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on March 24, 2020. Because the City of St. Paul has been granted Certified Local Government (CLG) Status under the provisions of 36 CFR 61.5 and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office's "*Procedures for Applying for and Maintaining Certified Local Government Status*," the nomination is being sent to the Heritage Preservation Commission for review.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The Hope Engine Company No. 3 building at 1 South Leech Street in Saint Paul, Minnesota is an Italianate style fire station that was constructed by the City of Saint Paul in 1872 for the Hope Engine Company No. 3, a volunteer fire department. It is the oldest extant fire station in Saint Paul and the city's last extant volunteer fire station. In 1877, the City of Saint Paul transitioned to a paid fire department and the former Hope Engine Company No. 3 fire station was occupied by Saint Paul Fire Department Engine Company No. 3. In 1923, the Fire Department completed its transition from horse-drawn apparatus to automotive apparatus. But, limited municipal funds and the onset of the Depression made it difficult for the Fire Department to update its older stations to accommodate the increasingly large automotive apparatus. Finally, in 1939 and 1940, the Fire Department received funds from the Public Works Administration and could renovate its older stations. These renovations allowed Engine Company No. 3 to use the station at 1 South Leech Street until 1965.

The Hope Engine Company No. 3 building's areas of significance are Community Planning and Development and Politics /Government and its level of significance is local. The related historic context is "Urban Centers (1870-1940)." The building's period of significance begins with its construction in 1872 and ends in 1940, when the Saint Paul Fire Department renovated "Fire Station No. at 1 South Leech Street.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move that the HPC support the National Register designation the Hope Engine Company No. 3 fire station, located at 1 South Leech Street as per presented testimony, submitted documentation and information provided in the staff report.