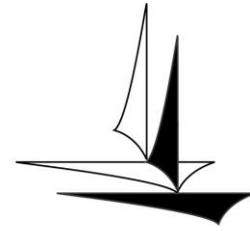


**Community Planning & Economic Development**  
**Long Range Planning Division**  
105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55401



**City of Minneapolis**  
*Department of Community Planning  
& Economic Development - CPED*

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Heritage Preservation Commission  
FROM: Brian Schaffer, 612.673.2670  
DATE: April 29, 2014  
RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination – Arthur & Edith Lee House, 4600 Columbus Avenue South

---

### **Background**

On March 10, 2014 the Minnesota Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) sent the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission a letter requesting comments on the nomination of the former Arthur & Edith Lee House to the National Register of Historic Places. The form was prepared by Laurel Fritz and Greg Donofrio (Attachment A). The property is located at 4600 Columbus Avenue South.

As a Certified Local government, the Commission is required by federal law to participate in the National Register nomination process as follows:

- Afford the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the nomination;
- Prepare a report as to whether or not the subject property is eligible for National Register listing; and
- Have the chief local elected official (the Mayor) submit this report and his/her recommendation to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer within sixty days of notice from the SHPO.<sup>1</sup>

### **Previous Reviews**

The Arthur and Edith Lee House has been included in previous survey efforts. The 2010 CLG Survey of South Minneapolis recommended that the property for intensive-level research to determine eligibility for local and/or national register designation.” See inventory sheet (Attachment B)

---

<sup>1</sup> More than a simple comment letter, this report provides the City with significant decision making power in the matter. If both the Commission and the chief local elected official recommend that the subject property not be nominated to the National Register, the SHPO shall take no further action, unless within thirty days of the receipt of such recommendation by the SHPO an appeal is filed with the State. If such an appeal is filed, the State shall follow the procedures for making nomination pursuant to established procedures. Even then, the City’s report and recommendations are included with the nomination submitted by the State to the Keeper of the National Register.

## **Nomination Review**

To be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, a property must be significant in a given context and retain its integrity, defined as its ability to communicate that significance.

### *Significance*

The nomination has identified that the Arthur and Edith Lee House meets National Register Criteria A, the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The areas of significance are ethnic heritage/black and social history for its association with the 1931 riots which took place at 4600 Columbus Avenue South, as well as broader trends of housing discrimination in Minneapolis. The nomination states that the period of significance is 1923-1933.

The nomination presents a thorough national, state and local context for the events that occurred around the property at 4600 Columbus Avenue South. The nomination documents the events that transpired after Arthur and Edith Lee purchased the house at 4600 Columbus Avenue South and the neighborhood reaction, it discusses Lena Smith's involvement in resolving the riots, and then provides a thorough analysis of civil rights in Minneapolis and Minnesota.

### *Integrity*

The nomination provides a thorough description of the property's features and demonstrates that the property retains many of its aspects of integrity.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Fritz and Donofrio have prepared a nomination that demonstrates the subject property's significance to the history of Minneapolis and Minnesota. CPED Staff applauds their investigation, and encourages continued efforts to make the public aware of the history associated with this property and the events that took place there. CPED recommends that the Commission **adopt** this CPED report, **approve** the nomination, and **direct** staff to transmit a letter summarizing the report to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

## **Attachments**

- A. National Register of Historic Places Nomination prepared by Laurel Fritz and Greg Donofrio
- B. Minneapolis HPC Building Inventory Form (2010)