



Historic Chaska, Minnesota "Minnesota's Brick City" Downtown Preservation Design Manual

prepared for the
Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission

Credits:

No project that focuses on local history is ever undertaken without drawing upon the insights, generosity, and creative energy of other scholars. The authors of this study are especially indebted to architectural firms Miller-Dunwiddie, Architects and Thomas R. Zahn & Associates who have used their knowledge and expertise to prepare numerous studies in other Minnesota communities. Each firm has developed its own methodologies, and each new study must “stand on the shoulders” of prior scholarship. Preservation manuals prepared for other communities by the firms credited above were the models that set a standard which the City of Chaska expected for this latest in a series of community preservation design manuals. While there is a healthy sense of rivalry among architectural consultants who engage in this type of consultative work, the authors of this study feel especially privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from prior studies and to offer independent comment related to the Chaska context that has fascinated us for more than thirty years. The authors extend their appreciation, in particular, to Foster Dunwiddie, FAIA who unselfishly taught the methodology of preservation to several generations of preservation researchers in Minnesota.

Historic photos and descriptions of historic buildings incorporated into this manual are verbatim citations from a walking tour developed by Shirley Bruers, Jim Faber, and others. Photographs from collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, Chaska Historical Society, and staff of the City of Chaska are all credited here, and individual property owners were also especially generous in sharing insights and images from their personal collections. We thank Mick and Punky Borka, Bob Siegel and Luke Melchert for taking the time to be so courteous to us. Mark Olson with the *Chaska Herald* has shown an active and sustained interest in matters of community heritage and preservation.

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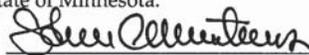
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Front cover photos (courtesy of City of Chaska): A historical photo of Chestnut Street, looking east toward the 200-block shows Chaska to be a center of celebration and community vitality in 1915. *Inset;* a generation of Chaska’s youth from 100-years ago looked forward to taking on the role of leadership in preserving the quality of life in their home town.

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Prepared for
The Chaska Heritage Preservation Commission
(submitted December 23, 2003)

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Licensed Architect under the laws of the state of Minnesota.

Signature: 

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Date: 23 December 2003 Reg. No. 16842

Credits:

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