

MEMORANDUM

To: Historic District Commissioners

From: Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator

Date: February 10, 2011

Re: Old West Side Survey Public Hearing

A public hearing for the *Old West Side Historic District Reconnaissance-Level Survey* is scheduled for the February 10, 2011 HDC meeting. Included in your packet is a copy of the survey report, and the survey cards for the 958 properties within the district are available online at www.a2gov.org/hdc (see the left sidebar for a link to *OWS Survey*). The executive summary of the report is below. See the report for more information on the survey methodology, history of the district, and a list of non-contributing properties.

Executive Summary

When the City of Ann Arbor designated the Old West Side Historic District in 1978, survey and designation techniques were not as developed as they are today. Therefore, a list of contributing and non-contributing properties in the district was never developed. The purpose of this reconnaissance-level survey is solely to determine which resources contribute to the character of the historic district.

The entire survey area is within a larger district that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Old West Side Historic District. The nomination was completed and the district listed in 1972, with a revision prepared by the State Historic Preservation Office in 1991. The period of significance in the revised nomination is 1840-1941. Contributing and non-contributing properties were not identified by address in the revised nomination. Because the history of the district is well documented both in the national register nomination and in the original study committee report, no further historic research was conducted for this survey. Each property was photographed, and a list of potentially non-contributing properties was developed from the field work. These properties were researched to verify the date of construction and the history where necessary. Properties constructed after 1941 or that have lost their architectural integrity have been determined as non-contributing.