

Sites Worth Saving

MINNESOTA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 2011



Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

Howe School, built in 1927, was once the center of community life in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. The 30,000 sq. ft., two-story building was designed by the Minneapolis Board of Education's Bureau of Buildings, during a two-decade boom of student enrollment in the city. The school design incorporated natural light, ventilation, steam heating, modern sanitation systems, and fireproof construction, as well as public meeting rooms, which helped foster a strong bond between the school and its community. Howe's Collegiate Gothic style featured decorative entrances with curved jambs, pointed arches, and transoms trimmed with cast stone, contrasting with the red brick exterior. Original drinking fountain niches, built-in cabinets, arched corridor ceilings, oak doors, and plaster moldings still remain inside the building.



Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) closed Howe in 2005, and it has since been listed for sale. The district marketed the building to be reused for residential, commercial, medical, or other educational purposes, but so far has refused to sell Howe for reuse as a charter school, despite a high level of interest by sponsoring organizations. As no potential buyer has been found, the district is now considering demolishing the building and converting the site to athletic fields for a nearby junior high school.

While the school is not designated as a historic property, city ordinance allows the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission to review its significance if and when the school district applies for a demolition permit. Over the past several years, many members of the Howe and Longfellow communities have attended public meetings, undertaken a reuse study, and petitioned the Minneapolis school board to protect the school. These efforts are evidence of the strong bond between the school building and its neighbors, and of their interest in seeing this community landmark preserved.

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Action Steps

1. Join the Longfellow Community Council members who have been advocating for reuse of Howe School.
2. Contact members of the Minneapolis School Board, Minneapolis Public Schools administration, and Minneapolis City Council to express your support for the reuse of Howe School.
3. Sign the [online petition](#).

HOWE SCHOOL

