

CITY OF DULUTH
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
LANDMARK DESIGNATION

- I. Name of Property
A. Historic: Lincoln Park Pavilion
B. Common: Lincoln Park Pavilion
- II. Location
A. Address: 501 N 25th Ave W, Duluth, MN 55806
B. Legal Description: Lots Four Hundred Nine (409) and Four Hundred Eleven (411), Block One Hundred Twenty (120), Duluth Proper, Second Division
- III. Classification
A. Type of Property: Pavilion
B. Current Use: Occupied
C. Current Zoning: R-2
- IV. A. Current Owner: City of Duluth
B. Address: 411 W 1st Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
- V. Property Status
A. Occupied/Vacant: Vacant
B. Assessed Value: Land: \$16,200
 Building: \$50,500
 Total: \$66,700
C. Condition: Fair
- VI. Historical Background
A. Year Built: 1934
B. Architect/Builders: WPA (Works Progress Administration), ERA (Emergency Relief Administration), CWA (Civil Works Administration)
C. Original Site: Yes
D. Altered/Unaltered: Underwent a \$130,000 restoration in 2002 which included tuck pointing, a new roof, new windows, new doors and stonework cleaning. The major flood of 2012 caused damage to the pavilion as well as an arson case in 2014 causing around \$75,000 in damages. The pavilion has been closed to the public since 2014.
E. Architectural Style:
- VII. Description of Property:

The Lincoln Park Pavilion is a stone structure located within the boundaries of Lincoln Park near 25th Avenue West in Duluth, MN. The structure is rectangular with stone at the base and features two towers, one on both ends of the structure. The pavilion has a wooden overhang extending out from the stone to provide shelter for the seating below. Inside the structure there are two restrooms and utility rooms connected by a narrow hallway. This nomination is for the pavilion only, not for the entirety of Lincoln Park.

VIII. Present Condition:

The pavilion remains in fair condition, with some damages due to the 2012 flood and 2014 fire which damaged part of the roof.

IX. Statement of Significance:

The Lincoln Park Pavilion represents the history of the community of Lincoln Park in West Duluth. When the structure was first built, park goers used the pavilion for concerts, plays, festivals, political campaigns, a dancehall, warming house, and general congregation. The pavilion provided a family gathering place that was safe and provided entertainment. The Lincoln Park Pavilion received funds and labor from two of the earliest government relief programs during the great Depression: the ERA (Emergency Relief Administration) and the CWA (Civil Works Administration). It was the centerpiece to the annual Swedish Midsummer Festivals that were popular from the early to mid 1900s and were considered the largest Swedish Festivals outside of Sweden.

X. Findings on Designation Criteria:

The following criteria are established by ordinance as the basis for designation of a site/district, with the requirement that the property proposed for designation meet at least one of the criteria.

A. "It has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Duluth, State of Minnesota, or United States."

Finding: Lincoln Park formed the western "bookend" of Duluth's original parkway system, connected by Skyline Parkway from above. "Tallyho" parties touring Skyline Parkway visited Lincoln Park as a destination. At least two previous pavilions burned, and this stone pavilion was rebuilt in 1934. The pavilion continued to be a place for cultural events, notably Swedish festivals, as well as for socials, picnics, and recreation.

B. "Its location was the site of a significant historical event."

Finding: The Pavilion held the annual Swedish Midsummer Festival throughout the early 1900s, beginning in 1911, in which the mayor of Duluth, congressional representatives, prominent Swedish-American leaders from throughout the Midwest and the governor of the state of Minnesota attended every year. Laborers for the Civil Works Administration gave up three days without pay in order to get the pavilion constructed on time for the annual Swedish Midsummer Festival. Swedish societies in the city came together to create a celebration resembling traditional Midsummer Fests in Sweden. Annual attendance ranged from 10,000 to 20,000 people; it was said to be the "greatest gathering of Swedish Americans ever held in Duluth and one of the largest of any kind." The festival kicked off with a parade along Superior Street from 2nd Avenue East to Lincoln Park. The Swedish Midsummer Festival included traditional dance, music and food of Sweden.

C. "It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural development of the City of Duluth, State of Minnesota or United States."

Finding: Not Applicable to this property

D. "It embodies a distinguishing characteristic of an architectural type."

Finding: Not Applicable to this property

E. "It is identified as the work as an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of Duluth or the State of Minnesota.

Finding: The pavilion is a notable example of stone craftsmanship accomplished through government relief programs during the Great Depression; it received funds and labor from the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) and Civil Works Administration (CWA).

F. "It embodies elements of architectural design, details, materials, and craftsmanship which represent significant architectural innovation.

Finding: Not Applicable to this property

G. "Its unique location or singular physical characteristics represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City as a whole."

Finding: The Lincoln Park Pavilion was a central gathering place for families in Duluth. At the time it was first built, it was common for stay at home moms in the area to take their kids to the park for long periods of time and make a day out of the experience by packing lunch and taking in the atmosphere while the fathers were at work or off to the war.

XI: Conclusions

Points in Favor: The pavilion has been a signature destination within a key part of Duluth's parkway system. Its place in Duluth's recreational and cultural identity reflects a long history of events and festivals, such as the Swedish Midsummer Festival, and of Duluth's park-visiting traditions. The pavilion itself is a remaining example of the stonework buildings typical of Great Depression work programs.

Points in Opposition: None

XII. Attachments

- A. Location Map
- B. Photos
- C. Bibliography

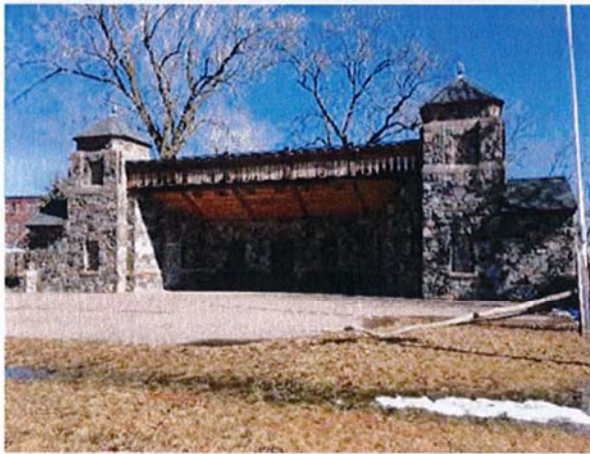
B. Photos

Lincoln Park Pavilion: Original Design 1890's



Lincoln Park Pavilion: Present Day





West Elevation - Stage



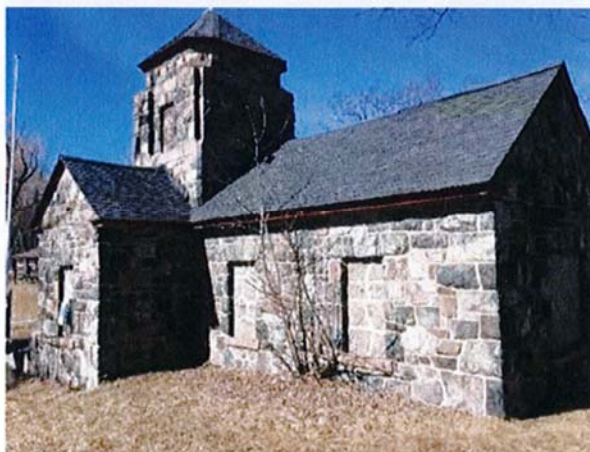
West Elevation - Stage



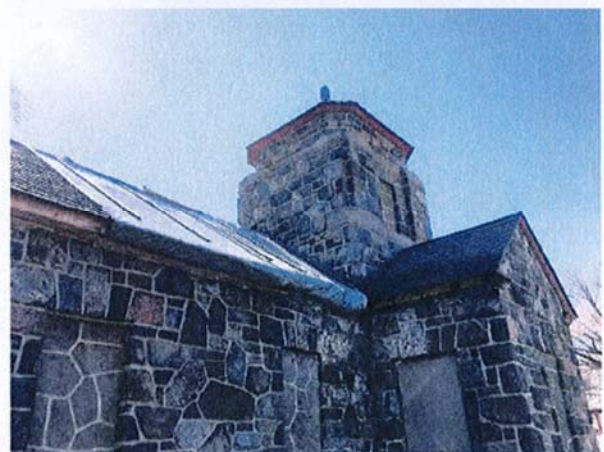
East Elevation - Entrance



East Elevation – Infilled window at north end



Southeast side of building



Northeast side of building with fire damage

C. Bibliography

"Lincoln Park." *Zenith City Online*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 June 2017.
<<http://zenithcity.com/archive/parks-landmarks/lincoln-park/2/>>.

Krueger, Andrew. "Historic pavilion in Duluth's Lincoln Park damaged by arson." *Duluth News Tribune*. N.p., 19 July 2014. Web. 20 June 2017.
<<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/content/historic-pavilion-duluths-lincoln-park-damaged-arson>>.

Nelson, Nancy S., and Tony Dierckins. *Duluth's Historic Parks: Their First 160 Years*. Duluth, MN: Zenith City Press, 2017. Print.

Lincoln Park





Pavilion

Lincoln Park Dr

N 25th Ave W

W 4th St

W 4th St Alley

N 26th Ave W

W 4th St

W 5th St Alley

W 5th St

W 3rd St