



Board of Historic Preservation

Monday, November 30

4:00 pm

City Center, Room 110
231 North Dakota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD

MEETING ASSISTANCE. Upon request, accommodations for meetings will be provided for persons with disabilities. Please contact the Human Relations office, located on first floor of City Hall, 224 West Ninth Street, Sioux Falls, SD, at 367-8745 (voice) or 367-7039 (TDD) 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

Alex Halbach, Board Chair
Lura Roti, Board Vice Chair
Diane deKoeyer, Neighborhood & Preservation Planner/Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER & QUORUM DETERMINATION	Alex
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Alex
APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA	Alex
PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute comment period per individual)	Alex
NEW BUSINESS	
A. Advocacy Letter for Tuthill House (board action required)	Board Discussion
ADJOURNMENT	

Dear Parks Board:

The Sioux Falls Board of Historic Preservation would like to begin by thanking the Sioux Falls City Parks and Recreation Department for their dedication to celebrating the history of our city's historic parks.

The role of the Board of Historic Preservation is to promote the use and conservation of historic properties for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the citizens of Sioux Falls. Recently, Aaron Skonhovd researched and authored a historic plaque dedicated to the Phillips House that once stood in Terrace Park. The last line of this plaque reads as follows:

May this be a reminder, it is our duty to preserve and protect. Once buildings are gone, they are gone forever.

How ironic is it that this Board is being asked to tear down an iconic structure in one of our best-known city parks at the same time you are asked to approve a plaque commemorating the removal of a similar iconic structure from Terrace Park.

This letter is sent on behalf of the Board of Historic Preservation urging you to consider saving the iconic Tuthill Home in Tuthill Park so that the Park Board might be spared from having to review the text of a plaque in 5+ years for a home that is structurally sound, beloved and used by many Sioux Falls residents, and simply needs some cosmetic repairs so it can continue to be used and loved by a new generation of Sioux Falls residents. Although McKennan, Terrace, Lyon and Tuthill parks were once home to their donors' residence, Tuthill Park remains the only Sioux Falls City Park with its donor's home still standing.

Because the Tuthill Summer Home is historically significant to the City of Sioux Falls and continues to serve its purpose as a gathering and educational venue, we respectfully request that the Parks Board save the structure and work with the Board of Historic Preservation, the City, and the neighborhood to preserve its rich history and ensure that it stands as a reminder to Sioux Falls residents of the generosity, legacy and tenacity of Sioux Falls' residents.

The Secretary of the Interior is the federal agency tasked with preserving America's historic buildings, properties, and landmarks. For instance, Mt. Rushmore and the Pettigrew Home & Museum are both protected by the Secretary of Interior. As a volunteer board appointed by the Mayor, we are asking the Parks Board to save this home because it has historic significance, as defined by the guidelines provided to us by the Secretary of the Interior.

Properties like the Tuthill Summer Home are historically significant to the City of Sioux Falls, even though the property is not listed on the State or National Historic Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that they do not deserve the city's protection because of their historical significance.

Below, utilizing the Secretary of Interior criteria, we outline the reasons Tuthill Summer Home is historically significant to our community and should not be demolished.

Criterion A – Pattern of events or historic trends:

The Tuthill home demonstrates multiple layers of Sioux Falls' history. It was originally built as a farmhouse between 1870s and 1907, highlighting a trend of early homes and farmsteads being incorporated into our city as it grew. Then, the Tuthill family purchased the home and land as their summer home. This showcases yet another trend of Sioux Falls' prominent families spending their summers in homes along the Big Sioux River. The Tuthill home is one of the only remaining, unaltered examples of an early Sioux Falls farmhouse and summer home. When the Tuthill family designed the gardens, for which the park is so revered, they did so with their summer home in mind.

Criterion B – Association with the life/lives of important person(s): The Tuthill Summer Home was occupied by two prominent Sioux Falls citizens, William Howie and Arthur Tuthill. The fact that this home was owned by multiple prominent families strengthens its historic and educational value. For example, Sen. Pettigrew was the second owner of what is now the Pettigrew Home & Museum. William Howie was among the first settlers in Sioux Falls Township. In the 1880s he was elected to serve on the Township Board. Arthur Tuthill was a second-generation, successful Sioux Falls lumber baron. The fact that Tuthill lived in this house is quite significant to it remaining in the park because he is the park's donor and namesake.

Criterion C – Design or Construction Value: This farmhouse could have been built between the 1870s and 1907. Its design is a unique, surviving example of an early Sioux Falls residence. Today, no homes of this type and style currently exist within one of Sioux Falls' seven historic districts.

You have the opportunity to help preserve this valuable piece of Sioux Falls' history so you won't need to review a historic plaque at a future meeting and say to yourself that you wished you could have made a different decision when you had the chance. Please vote to preserve, not demolish this historic and iconic Sioux Falls home so it may be preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Sioux Falls Board of Historic Preservation

Alex Halbach, Chair

Lura Roti, Vice Chair

cc: Mayor Paul TenHaken

City Councilors