

Grosse Pointe  
Historic District Study  
Committee

January 13, 2021

# Types of Historic Designation

**National Register of Historic Places** – primarily honorific, does not impose regulation or design review, allows owners of income producing properties to apply for a federal historic rehabilitation tax credit

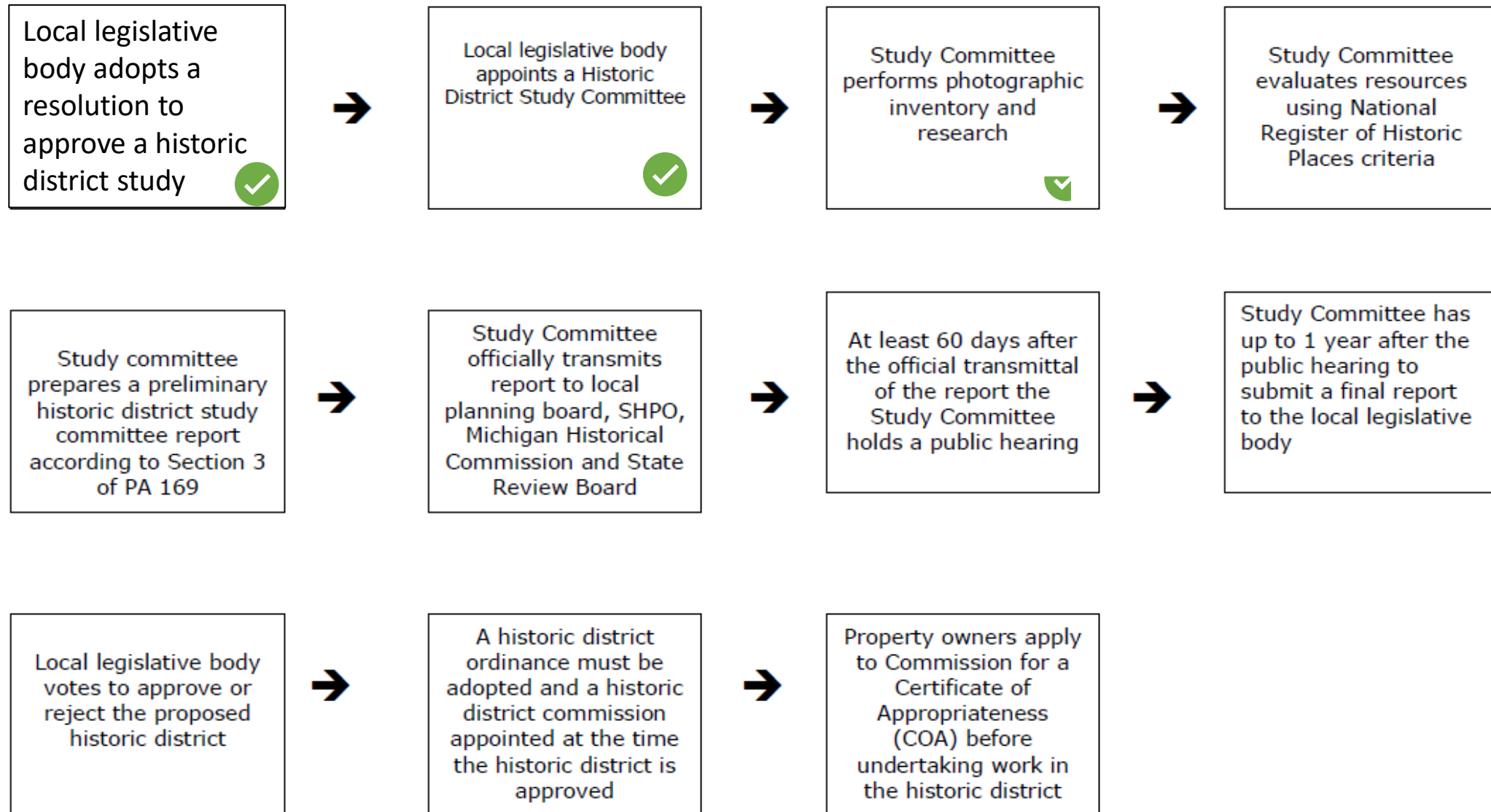
**State Register of Historic Sites** – only used in conjunction with the Michigan Historical Marker Program

**Local Historic Districts** – protects properties by requiring review and approval of any exterior changes

# Benefits of a local historic district

- Protection of irreplaceable historic properties that tell the story of Grosse Pointe and its residents
- Protection of investments made in rehabilitating historic properties
- Review of any exterior changes to the buildings or land within the district by a local historic district commission – including demolitions and new construction
- Ensures any changes within the district are in keeping with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*
- *Michigan Local Historic Districts Act, Act 169 of 1970* is the state enabling legislation that governs district creation and administration

# How to Create a Local Historic District



# Historic District Study Committee

- Appointed by City Council
- A majority of members must have a clearly demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation, and shall contain representation from 1 or more duly organized local historic preservation organizations
- Committee conducts a **photographic inventory, historic research, and evaluation of study area** – results in a study committee report that will eventually be submitted to Council with Committee's recommendation – Council makes final decision
- Professional assistance with the inventory and research, as well evaluation of the potential districts is allowed

# Historic District Study Committee

- Evaluation of study area – Committee makes recommendations to Council on:
- If there is a district and if so, what are the borders?
- The significance and period of significance for the district
- Which properties are contributing, and which are non-contributing
- The name of the district
- <https://www.miplace.org/historic-preservation/programs-and-services/local-historic-districts/> - various documents to guide the work
- How to write a study committee report:  
<https://www.miplace.org/4add07/globalassets/documents/shpo/programs-and-services/local-historic-districts/creating-a-local-historic-district/how-to-write-a-historic-district-study-committee-report.pdf>

# Anticipated timeline and process

**January** - first study committee meeting, receive information and assignments

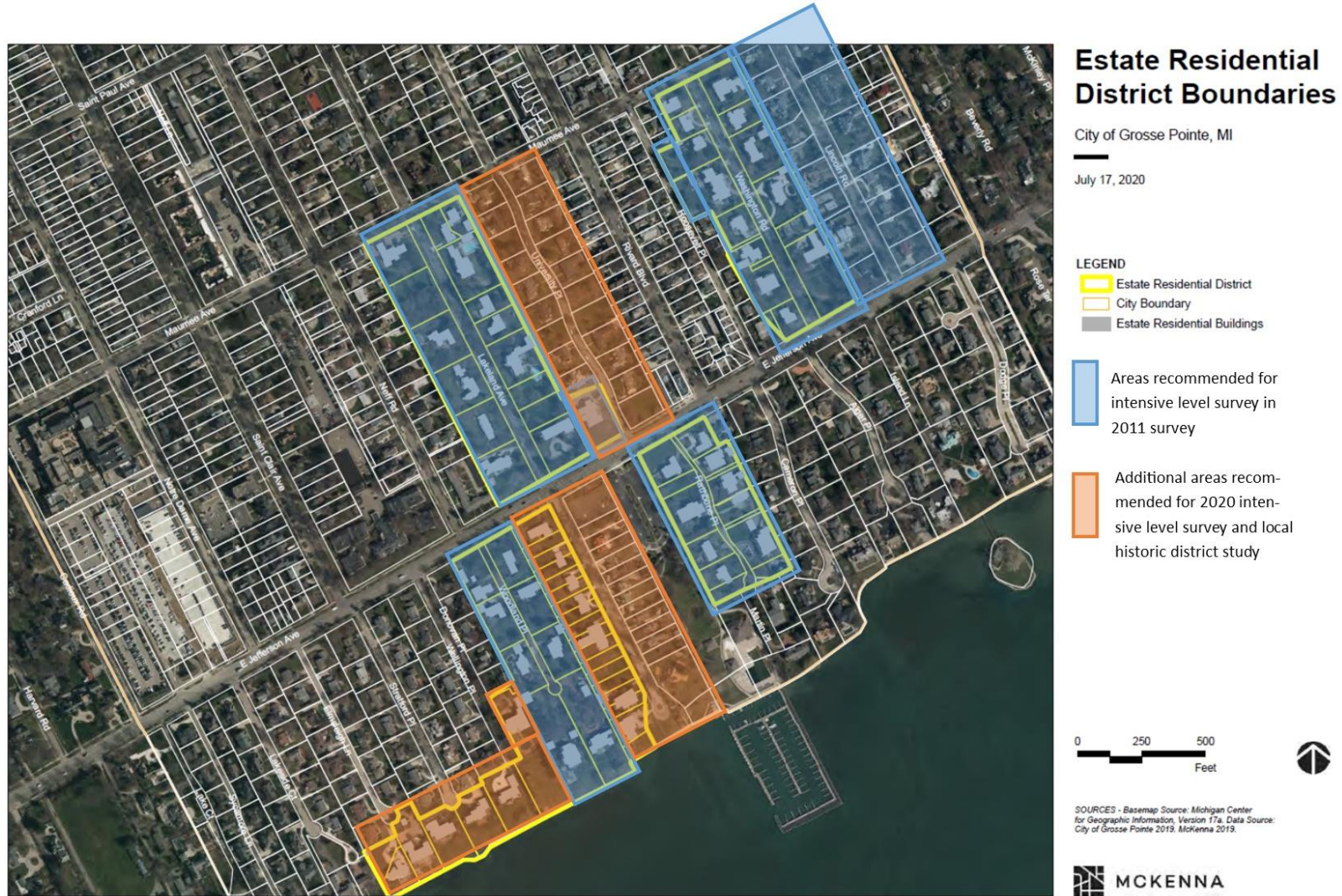
**February** – review draft preliminary study committee report – possibly adopt, start 60 day waiting process, submit report to SHPO and Planning Commission for comments

**April** – hold public hearing, review draft final report

**May** – possibly adopt final report, transmit recommendations back to City Council

NOTE: this is a tentative timeline and may need to be adjusted

# Survey/study area designated by City Council

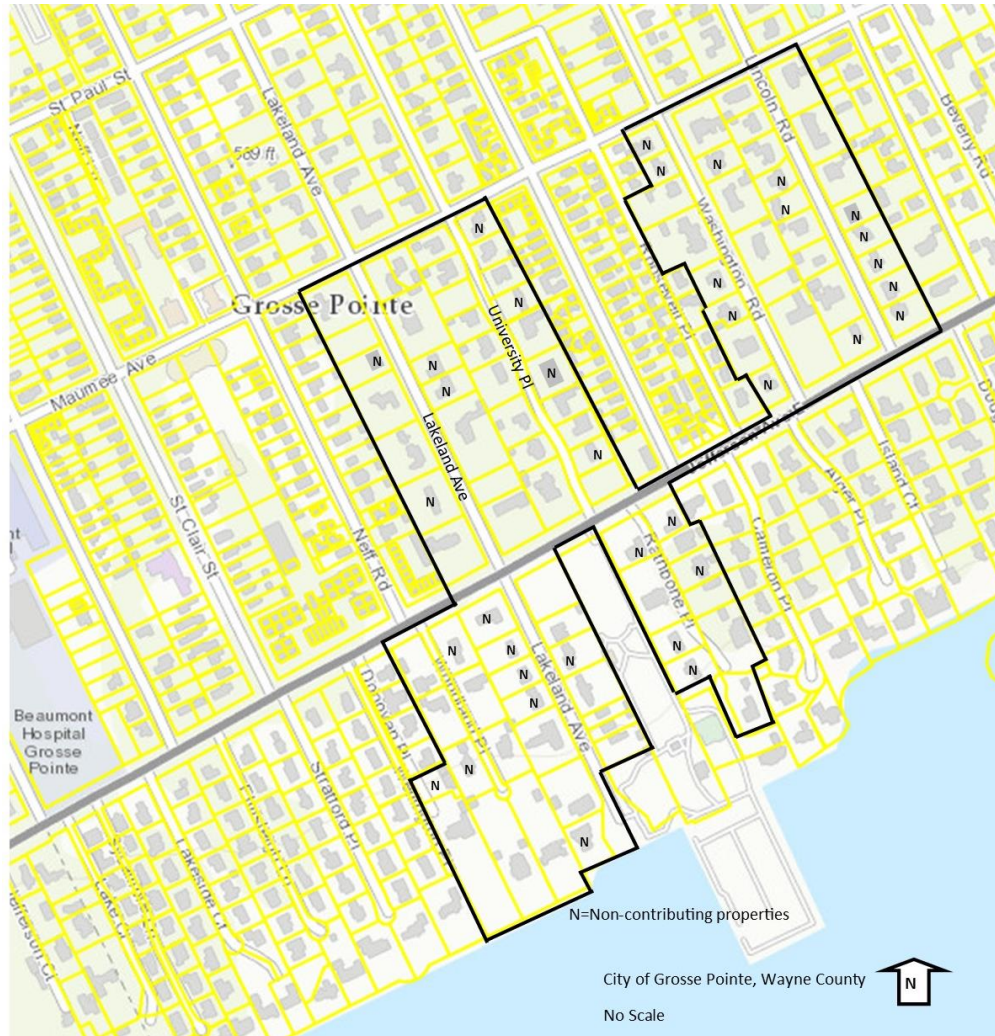




# Intensive Level Survey Review

- General history of Grosse Pointe and more detailed history of the survey area
- Exterior photos of all the buildings in the survey area
- History of individual properties in the survey area – date of construction, architect, original owners, owners of note
- Survey forms for every property
- Report with recommendations on possible districts

# Intensive Level Survey Results Review



Proposed district boundaries shown on map

102 properties surveyed, 92 properties in proposed district – 56 contributing, 36 non-contributing

Period of significance 1898-1940

Meets National Register criteria A, B, and C

# National Register of Historic Places Criteria

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The proposed district is significant under criteria A for its association with the early development of Grosse Pointe and the residences constructed when the city was being developed as a suburb of Detroit.

The proposed district is significant under criteria B for its association with a number of the early residents of the district who were important to the history of Grosse Pointe, Detroit, and southeast Michigan. Many of the original owners constructed large architect designed homes that served the needs of their families and affluent lifestyles.

The proposed district is significant under criteria C for its association with prominent Detroit architects. At least thirty-four of the contributing resources were designed by noted architects including George Mason; Albert Kahn; Smith, Hinchman & Grylls; and Robert Derrick among others. While perhaps not the most notable designs by these architects the collection of so many architect designed houses in the proposed district points to the importance of the original owners and defines the built environment of the proposed district. The architectural styles represented are the popular styles in the period of significance and include Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Prairie, and Neo-Classical.

# Assistance Requested from Study Committee Members

- Careful review of information on survey sheets, survey report, and draft study committee reports
- Brief biography – 2 to 3 sentences, emphasizing your interest in historic preservation
- Survey report pages 22-25 and Resource List – any information to add? Any information on houses original owners or architects that you have that is missing? Any past owners that have association with Grosse Pointe community or politics?
- Brick walls – estate walls – any information and documentation?
- 203 and 243 Lakeland – some confusion – need clarification – see separate slide
- 333 Washington – difference in historic photographs

# Brick walls



Any maps or other documentation showing the age and significance of these walls that are primarily along E. Jefferson but may exist in other parts of the proposed district

# 203 and 243 Lakeland

1915 Detroit Free Press – 203 Lakeland 1981 DFP – Travis Obituary, 243 Lakeland

**ARTISTIC HOME WITH GLASS ENCLOSED PORCHES IS BUILT IN GROSSE POINTE**



**RESIDENCE FOR DANIEL T. CROWLEY.**

Two glass-enclosed porches on the first floor, overlooking Lake St. Clair, with two sleeping porches above, also overlooking the lake are attractive features of an artistic home which is being constructed on the west side of Lakeland avenue in Grosse Pointe Village for Daniel T. Crowley, secretary of Crowley, Milner & Co., and of the Peninsular Stove company. B. C. Wetzel & Co. are the architects. The exterior of the house will be finished in light gray brick and plaster. The hall, vestibule and dining room will have mahogany finish and the living room, in which is a large fireplace, will be in quartered oak. The reception room and the rooms on the second floor will be finished in mahogany and white enamel. There will be a ball-room on the third floor and a billiard room, with open fireplace, in the basement. A glass enclosed breakfast room in the southeast corner of the first floor will permit a fine view of the lake. Floors of the vestibule and porches will be of English quarry tile; walls and floor of the bathroom of terra vitra tile and floors in the kitchen and serving quarters of dreadnaught tile. Heat will be supplied by a Peninsular combination ventilating and heating system. It is expected the house will be ready for occupancy by July 1.



203 Lakeland in 1947. Photo courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

## Katherine C. Travis, Crowley's executive

By HARRY AMANA  
Free Press Staff Writer

Katherine Crowley Travis has been described as a woman with a mind of her own. She took free-lance and theatrical writing jobs in New York and acted in little theater groups in New York and Detroit.



And while she came from a well-to-do family, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College, had lived and traveled extensively in Europe, and was married to a prominent attorney, she worked for three years during World War II in the advertising department of a local retail store.

Later she worked in numerous jobs at Crowley, Milner & Co., the huge Detroit department store founded by her father, Joseph J. Crowley. Eventually she became its vice-president and a member of the board.

Mrs. Travis died Monday in her home in Grosse Pointe. She was 83.

"She moved into the executive world at a time when it was unusual for a woman to do so," said Joseph Keys, Mrs. Travis' nephew.

**BORN KATHERINE JANE CROWLEY**, she graduated from Vassar in 1919, became an avid golfer, and met Dehull Norman Travis at a championship golf tournament in Flint; they were married in 1924. She was the oldest of three sisters and the only one to work as an executive in the family store.

Before she became vice-president at Crowley's, Mrs. Travis worked at the store as an advertising copywriter, assistant merchandise manager, personnel director, research director and public relations director. She retired in 1960.

Mrs. Travis is listed in Who's Who of American Women and was a member of the League of Women Voters, Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs, Women's City Club, Vassar Club and Women Writers Club.

She is survived by her brother-in-law, David G. Standart; two nieces, Patricia Standart Morrison and JoAnn Standart; and two nephews, Richard Sterrett Keys and Joseph Crowley Keys.

Funeral services will be Thursday at noon at the Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack at Outer Drive, Grosse Pointe Park.



Ownership records indicate that Mrs. Travis Crowley (wife of prominent attorney Dehull Norman Travis and daughter of Joseph J. Crowley, founder of Crowley, Milner & Co.) lived here until her death in 1981.

1983 Larry Dowers

243 Lakeland was home to Katherine Crowley Travis until her death in 1981. She was the daughter of Joseph J. Crowley, of the Crowley's Department Stores where she worked until her retirement in 1960. She was married to prominent attorney Dehull Norman Travis. Later the house was owned by Lorenzo "Red" Browning, the president of his family's companies, T.T. Browning Steamship Company and Boblo Island. He served on the Grosse Pointe City Council from 1970, and mayor of the city from 1983, until his death in 1994.

# 333 Washington



1965 – courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society



1977 – courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Roofline drastically different – anyone know what might have happened? Non-contributing?

Questions and discussion