

1 BOARD BILL NO. 76 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN MARLENE DAVIS,
2 ALDERMAN TERRY KENNEDY ALDERMAN MARLENE DAVIS, ALDERMAN TERRY
3 KENEDY , ALDERMAN FREEMAN BOSLEY, SR., ALDERMAN ANTONIO D. FRENCH,
4 ALDERMAN JOE VACCARO, ALDERMAN SHANE COHN, ALDERMAN CHRIS
5 CARTER, ALDERMAN JOHN J. COATAR, ALDERMAN CARA SPENCER, ALDERMAN
6 MEGAN E. GREEN, ALDERMAN SAMUEL MOORE

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8 An ordinance pertaining to the Maya Angelou Birthplace, located at 3130 Hickory Street (the
9 Property), having as subject matter the designation of the Property as a City of St. Louis
10 Landmark, containing definitions, Landmark Standards and a severability clause.

11 The Board of Aldermen hereby declares as follows:

12 WHEREAS the Property is important in the City of St. Louis because it is the house in the
13 Compton Hill African American neighborhood that was the location of the birth of Marguerite
14 Johnson, later known as Maya Angelou; and

15 WHEREAS the Property is the building in the City most closely associated with Ms. Angelou's
16 years of residence in St. Louis; and

17 WHEREAS this modest house in a once-segregated St. Louis neighborhood helps to convey the
18 journey Ms. Angelou made to become a renowned author, poet, performer, and outspoken civil
19 rights activist; and

20 WHEREAS although Ms. Angelou's life was spent in many places in the United States and
21 abroad, the Property comprises an important part of the history of one of the most prominent and
22 respected women of her generation; and

23 WHEREAS the City of St. Louis Preservation Board was created to recognize and protect the
24 design and physical integrity of sites and districts within the City limits; and

25 WHEREAS the Planning Commission and the Board of Public Service have reviewed the
26 proposed landmark designation and standards and have found that they 1) are in conformity with
27 the City's Strategic Land Use Plan and 2) will have a positive impact on the physical
28 development of the City, and the Preservation Board has approved the landmark petition and
29 recommended that a designation bill be prepared;

30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

31 SECTION ONE. Definitions:

32 ACQUIRED SIGNIFICANCE

33 The importance achieved by an element that is not original to a property, but has sufficient
34 historical or architectural meaning to become valued as highly as the original portion.

35 ARCHITECTURAL PROMINENCE

36 This quality is found in visual and functional visual dominance and significance of the historic
37 component of a building expanded with an addition.

38 BRICKMOLD

39 A finished exterior wood trim that edges the masonry opening of a window at the junction of the
40 window frame and the masonry. Wrapping of a brickmold refers to the covering of this feature
41 with another material that conceals its material, dimensions and profile.

42 CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

43 Those elements of a property that strongly convey its architectural style and/or history.

44 CITY LANDMARK

45 Any site or sites designated for protection from alteration or demolition by the City of St. Louis
46 Board of Aldermen. A City Landmark cannot be altered in design or construction, and
47 demolition of the property cannot occur without the permission of the City of St. Louis
48 Preservation Board or its successor agencies.

49 CORNICE

50 A decorative portion of a building located where the building wall meets the
51 Roof, often a projecting element.

52 ENTRANCE

53 A feature that is a point of entry to a building, often consisting of one or more doors; sidelights
54 or transom windows; surrounding architectural elements; and a canopy or porch that shelters the
55 door(s).

56 GLAZING

57 Panes or sheets of glass set or made to be set in frames, as in windows, doors or mirrors.

58 HISTORIC CHARACTER

59 Those features of a building that strongly convey its architectural form and style through
60 materials and features.

61 MASONRY

62 A family of building materials and techniques that use stone, brick, ceramic, or concrete block
63 units, usually separated by mortar beds and joints.

64 MASSING

65 A term used to describe the visual displacement of space based on the building's height, width
66 and depth: the three-dimensional impact of a structure.

67 PARGING

68 The concealment of a masonry portion of a building with applied plaster or mortar.

69 RECONSTRUCTION

70 The rebuilding of a feature that has deteriorated or been removed from a building.

71 RESTORATION

72 The reconstruction of a feature to have a specific historic character based on a design from the
73 original plans for the buildings or from an extant example on a building of similar type, style,
74 and materials.

75 REMODELING

76 Changes made to the exterior of a building that create a change in character due to new features,
77 new materials, or other obvious alterations.

78 SCALE

79 Term used to describe the perceived size of a building relative to the height and width of
80 adjacent structures. Also the perceived size of an element of a building relative to known
81 architectural elements; for example, the size of a door relative to a window.

82 SECONDARY

83 Perceived as less important.

84 WINDOW

85 An element that consist of a frame, and glazed sash or sashes to admit light and air, and that form
86 a portion of the exterior enclosure of a building.

87 SECTION TWO. LANDMARK STANDARDS

88 These standards are the National Park Service’s Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the
89 Rehabilitation Treatment of Historic Properties supplemented with guidance that reflects the
90 special conditions found at the Property.

91 Character-defining features and aspects of the property addressed by these standards are
92 those that strongly convey its architectural style and history. When these components of an
93 historic property are altered on the exterior, the building or structure can no longer convey its
94 association with the past. Character-defining features vary from property to property, but
95 generally include original building materials, decorative architectural elements, and features such
96 as doors and windows. Character-defining features are likely to be located on façades and other
97 portions of the property visible from the street.

98 *Standard #1. The property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that*
99 *requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and*
100 *environment.*

101 *Standard #2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal*
102 *of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be*
103 *avoided.*

104 The Property has the historic character of a small free-standing single-family dwelling in the
105 Compton Hill neighborhood. No changes shall be made to the exterior of the house that will

106 alter its historic character or original design, or that are in the category of remodeling. The
107 Property has had some exterior alterations and reconstruction since Ms. Angelou's family
108 resided in it, specifically the door and porch at the house's main entrance entry in the east
109 wall, a side entrance of a type common in St. Louis, and windows have been replaced with
110 vinyl replacement sash.

111 All character-defining aspects of the exterior of the house shall be maintained in place and
112 not be altered through removal, paint, covering with other materials, or other physical
113 changes.

114 The general extent and type of landscaping shall be that of a residential property. When
115 the current fence enclosing the rear yard is replaced, it shall be a metal picket fence or a solid
116 privacy fence. The fence shall remain behind the rear wall of the brick house. The one-car
117 garage on the property is not considered to be a historic resource and may be altered or
118 demolished.

119 Any sign identifying the site as the Maya Angelou birthplace shall be affixed to the
120 residence and be of a minimum size to convey the name of the property and date of her birth.

121 Any sign announcing a museum-type use for the property shall be a single monument
122 sign. It shall not be taller than the upper edge of the basement windows. The following types
123 of signs shall not be approved for this property:

124 Roof-top signs, billboards, flashing or animated signs, signs with changing text, back-
125 lighted signs, large projecting signs that block windows, and loudspeaker music for
126 advertising purposes.

127 Alterations to the exterior of the property that provide accessibility are not discouraged yet
128 such changes shall be accomplished without compromising the historic integrity of the
129 dwelling. Both goals of retaining historic integrity and accessibility for people with
130 disabilities can be met through the use of sophisticated design solutions.

131 *Standard #3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use.*
132 *Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features*
133 *or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

134 *Standard #4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic*
135 *significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.*

136 No alterations that have historic significance have been identified for this property. As noted
137 above, no changes shall be made to alter the architectural presence of the dwelling.

138 *Standard #5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of*
139 *craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.*

140 The exterior brick walls shall remain unpainted, except for the west wall that has already
141 been painted. When repairs to the masonry foundation are required, it shall be repaired and
142 exposed, or if the parging remains, it shall be painted a limestone color.

143 *Standard #6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the*
144 *severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall*
145 *match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials.*
146 *Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial*
147 *evidence.*

148 This standard applies to the exterior of the property. The windows and doors of the house
149 have been replaced and do not represent historic configurations or materials. When the
150 windows are replaced, they shall have the appropriate historic configuration and the
151 wrapping of the brickmold and sills shall be removed to expose the historic material, and
152 include its replacement in kind if necessary.

153 Physical evidence on the building and the similarities of such elements in St. Louis
154 provides evidence for the restoration of the porch and entrance. Any changes made to the
155 main entrance entry or windows shall be based on this evidence and re-establish its historic
156 character rather than provide a new design. The main entrance has been shortened in height
157 with a transom above the door being blocked with brick; the arched head that remains
158 documents the original configuration. When the door is replaced, it shall be a hung wood
159 door with a half or three-quarter light.

160 When the sheathing on the cornice is removed, the existing cornice shall be repaired and
161 retained, or replaced with a cornice of identical size and approximate design.

162 Should a replacement entry porch be reconstructed, the design and dimensions of the porch
163 shall be based on the evidence present at the house and in the design of similar historic side
164 porches.

165 Features and materials that must be replaced periodically, such as roofing, shall be the
166 same as the historic or existing, or an appropriate replacement.

167 *Standard #7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to*
168 *historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be*
169 *undertaken using the gentlest means possible.*

170 The masonry materials of the exterior shall not be sandblasted or cleaned with harsh
171 chemicals. Any cleaning project shall be approved by the Cultural Resources Office.

172 *Standard #8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and*
173 *preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.*

174 The property owners shall consult with the Cultural Resources Office before undertaking a
175 project that would include below-grade disturbance that could affect archaeological
176 resources.

177 *Standard #9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy*
178 *historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the*
179 *old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect*
180 *the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

181 *Standard #10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in*
182 *such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic*
183 *property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

184 The construction of any addition to this residence shall be positioned to the rear of the house
185 and be secondary to it in terms of size, scale, height, and architectural prominence. An
186 addition shall not cause the loss of the rear brick wall of the house, but may include the

187 removal of the modern enclosed rear porch. All plans for any additions or new construction
188 on the property shall be reviewed by the Cultural Resources Office.

189 SECTION THREE. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

190 If any provision, sentence, clause, section, part, or application of the ordinance and the
191 regulations and standards contained herein is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, illegal,
192 or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the
193 remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, parts, or applications of this ordinance,
194 regulations and standards.