

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** City Planning Commission, Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Suado Abdi, City Planner, (612) 673-2467

**DATE:** October 6, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Review and Comment on the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Designation Study – 5100 James Avenue North

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### DESIGNATION STUDY REVIEW AND COMMENT

Chapter 599 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances outlines the review process for designation studies. The City is required to submit the designation study to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the City Planning Commission (CPC) for review and comment. Copies of the draft designation study and design guidelines have been submitted to the Minnesota SHPO. Enclosed is a copy of the draft designation study for your review and comment.

Section 599.260 of the Heritage Preservation Regulations requires the planning director to submit all proposed designations to the City Planning Commission for review and comment on the proposal within thirty (30) days. In its review, the City Planning Commission shall consider but not be limited to the following factors:

- (1) The relationship of the proposed designation to the city's comprehensive plan.
- (2) The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area.
- (3) The consistency of the proposed designation with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the city council.

The following memorandum analyzes the proposed designation using the three factors outlined in the section 599.260 of the ordinance.

#### **I. The relationship of the proposed designation to the city's comprehensive plan.**

The future land use of the property is identified as Urban Neighborhood in the *Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*. The area is predominately residential and would continue to be residential. The church is one block east of Humboldt Greenway and is north of Olson Middle School. The designation of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will implement the following policies of the comprehensive plan:

**Heritage Preservation Policy 8.1: Preserve, maintain, and designate districts, landmarks, and historic resources which serve as reminders of the city's architecture, history, and culture.**

- 8.1.1 Protect historic resources from modifications that are not sensitive to their historic significance.
- 8.1.4 Designate resources recommended for designation from historic surveys and listed on the National Register of Historic Places which have no local protection.

**2. The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area.**

The proposed designation of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church would serve as a symbol of the early African Americans that settled in a community that is changing today not only demographically but also through the new housing developments along the Humboldt Greenway.

**3. The consistency of the proposed designation with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the City Council.**

There are no adopted small area plans for the area where the property is located.

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# DESIGNATION STUDY

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

5100 JAMES AVENUE NORTH  
MINNEAPOLIS

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DRAFT: AUGUST 16, 2016



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CPED)

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Craig Taylor, CPED Executive Director  
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MINNEAPOLIS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINNEAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DESIGNATION STUDY FOR PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

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DESIGNATION STUDY FOR PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

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The activity that is the subject of this document has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St, NW, Washington, DC, 20240.

## DESIGNATION STUDY PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

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In November, 2015 Pastor Gaither Robinson submitted an application for nomination to the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) for the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church at 5100 James Avenue North. After completing an initial review, CPED recommended to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) on December 15, 2015 that the property exhibited at least one of the local designation criteria found in section 599.210 of the Heritage Preservation Ordinance. The HPC adopted CPED's findings and placed the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church under interim protection and called for a designation study to be conducted.

This study is intended to fulfill the requirements for local historical designation outlined in Title 23, Chapter 599.230 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances. The study is based on a review of resources including historic building permits, periodicals, newspaper clippings, advertisements, and interviews. Significant contributions to the research for this study were made by Pastor Gaither Robinson (nominator) and members of the church including Doris Jones, known as Mother Jones and her sister Lillian Smith.

A reconnaissance-level survey in the Camden Area identified Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church as a potential historic landmark due to its association with African American religious and social history in the Shingle Creek African American community.<sup>1</sup>

## BASIC PROPERTY INFORMATION

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CURRENT NAME	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
HISTORIC NAME	Humboldt Heights Baptist Mission
CURRENT ADDRESS	5100 James Avenue North
HISTORIC ADDRESS	5100-5102 James Avenue North
ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE	pre-1926
ORIGINAL CONTRACTOR	Unknown
ORIGINAL ARCHITECT, MASTER BUILDER, ENGINEER, DESIGNER, ARTIST, OR CRAFTSMEN	Unknown
HISTORIC USE	Church
CURRENT USE	Church
WARD:	Ward 4
NEIGHBORHOOD:	Shingle Creek

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## PART 1: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

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### PARCEL LOCATION, SHAPE, AND SIZE

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The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is located at 5100 James Avenue North, in the Shingle Creek neighborhood of North Minneapolis. The parcel is rectangular in shape located at the corner of James Avenue North and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. The lot measures approximately 10,117 square feet in area.

### DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY

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The property contains a one-story stucco-clad wood frame building and a small shed (Figures 1-13). The original dates of construction for both the church and shed are unknown. The building is currently used as a church.

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#### *Description of the Primary Structure*

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**DATES OF CONSTRUCTION:** The original date of construction is unknown. A newspaper clipping from the church's files indicates that the building was originally a schoolhouse in rural Osseo, Minnesota.<sup>2</sup> Originally, the City of Osseo was under the townships of Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park. Staff could not find records of the location or any information regarding the original architect or builder of the schoolhouse. In 1926, the building was moved from outside the city limits near 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 5201-5207 Dupont Avenue North and became Hope Lutheran Church.<sup>3</sup> The building was again moved in 1968, when it was donated to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, to the current location at 5100 James Avenue North.<sup>4</sup>

The table on page 4 lists historic building records for the existing church building. Before the building was moved to the current site in 1968, two permits were issued to construct a 34 foot by 77 foot basement foundation and a 10 foot by 24 foot basement addition to prepare for a one-story building. In May 1968, the building was moved from 5201-5207 Dupont Avenue North to 5100 James Avenue North.<sup>5</sup> There is no permit record for the wood accessible ramp added to the front of the building.

**SIZE AND MASSING:** The one-story church building measures 34 feet by 77 feet, approximately 2,618 square feet in gross floor area. The building is symmetrically formed with a high pitched gable roof. The building is rectangular in shape and massed in a three-part plan (vestibule, nave, and choir).

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** No records could be found on where the structure was originally moved from or specific details on the builder and architect. The style of the existing church building is vernacular with Gothic Revival influences.

**KNOWN ORIGINAL ELEMENTS THAT ARE DETERIORATED OR MISSING:** After 1968, building permits for the property do not show that any of the original elements of the building have been removed or altered. The exterior of the church building looks as much the same today as it did when it was moved to the current site in 1968. Overall, the exterior of the building appears to be in very good condition.

Prior to 1968, the building had distinctive features that were not transported along with the move when the building was donated to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. A 1939 *Minneapolis Tribune* newspaper article "Cornerstone to be Laid" included a rendering of the church building (Figure 14).<sup>6</sup> This photo shows that above the front entrance, the building had a large bell tower with a cross over it. Photographic evidence

of when the building was being moved shows that the bell with a cross over it did not exist during the move (Figure 15).

<b>Church Building Records at 5201 Dupont Avenue North (before it was donated to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church)</b>			
Permit #	Construction	Date	Church
E 15852	Building moved from outside city limits near 49 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North.	1926	Hope Lutheran Church
B 195903	30' x 48' foundation for frame church moved in on lot	1926	Hope Lutheran Church
B257477	34' x 38' addition to the church	1939	Hope Lutheran Church
<b>Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Building Records (before existing structure)</b>			
B 274772	24' x 30' frame church building	1943	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
B 333183	40' x 60' x 9'-11" basement addition to church	1953	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
E 19423	Move 24' x 30 building to rear of lot	1953	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
B 333428	Foundation for 24' x 30' church to be moved to new location on lot	1953	Pilgrim rest Baptist Church
B 360521	Construct 2 <sup>nd</sup> egress from church basement	1958	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
<b>Existing Church Building Records (after donation to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church)</b>			
B 408498	34' x 77' basement & foundation for 1 <sup>st</sup> -story frame church to be moved	1968	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
B 408499	10' x 24' 1 <sup>st</sup> -story & basement addition to church building	1968	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
E 22013	Move 34' x 76' church from 5201 Dupont Avenue North	1968	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

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*Description of Secondary Structures*

Though no record could be found, there is an existing small mansard roofed shed on the rear of the lot. The shed does not appear to date to the church's period of significance, which is 1923 to 1968.

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*Description of Interior Features*

The interior of the building is not recommended for protection under this designation. It is a functional space devoted to religious worship.

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*Description of Landscape and Landscape Features*

**TOPOGRAPHY, TERRAIN, AND VEGETATION:** The church building is placed closer to the northern side of the lot, which leaves a large open yard on the south corner side along 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. The lot is relatively flat and contains five mature trees on the south side of the lot.

**FENCES, GATES, SCREENS, RETAINING WALLS, AND PRIVACY WALLS:** There is an approximately four-foot high chain link fence at the rear of the building along the southeast corner of the lot.

**FOUNDATIONS, SCULPTURE, AND OTHER DECORATIVE/ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:** There is a freestanding monument sign with church information on the front of the entrance. Behind the

monument sign is a plaque commemorating the establishment of the church in 1923 and the building's dedication in 1968. These decorative features appear to have been installed after 1968 and are considered non-historic.

## **PART 2: DISCUSSION OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

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Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is one of the earliest African American churches in North Minneapolis. The church is significant under designation criteria #1 and #3 as it is associated with distinctive elements of the early African American community to have settled in the Shingle Creek area and their achieved success in property ownership and literacy during an era of harsh racial discrimination and segregation. North Minneapolis became an attractive site for a small community of African Americans once a subdivision was established in 1913: the Maple Leaf Addition to Minneapolis.

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### *Neighborhood Origins*

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The Maple Leaf Addition to Minneapolis was platted by Thorpe Brothers Realty Company, a local real estate firm. Established in 1885, Thorpe Brothers was the largest real estate firm in Minneapolis. The firm dealt with homes, farms, mortgage, and marketed over 70 subdivisions in the Twin Cities and in other cities and states.<sup>7</sup>

Shingle Creek Addition was the first residential plat in the area laid out in 1890. Several residential additions were platted that densified the area including Camden Gardens in 1909, followed by Hawthorne Terrace in 1911, Thorpe Bros Maple Leaf in 1913, Humboldt Heights in 1914, and the Girard Investment Company's Brookside Park in 1922.<sup>8</sup> While the area was platted, there was very little residential development on the parcels. In her report *The Shingle Creek African American Community Minneapolis, Minnesota*, historian Carol Zellie notes that it took nearly 50 years for the area to fully develop.<sup>9</sup>

Figures 16 and 17 show maps of north Minneapolis before and after the area was subdivided. In 1913, the Thorpe Brothers posted an advertisement of the Maple Leaf Addition in the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* (Figure 18). The area was mostly used for agriculture before residential additions were laid out. Unlike other parts of the City, north Minneapolis was characterized as a suburban area as it was located at the City limits. Due to the lack of development, the area was referred to as "The Country", "The Sticks", and later as "Humboldt Heights".<sup>10</sup>

Before African Americans moved into the area, Zellie notes that in 1910 to 1920, white Europeans of Old Stock Americans, Swedes, Hungarians, Finns, Poles, and Germans lived in north Minneapolis. She notes that by 1920, a small concentration of African American families lived in the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward, now known as the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.<sup>11</sup>

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### *African American Community*

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Once the Maple Leaf Addition was platted, the area began attracting those seeking a suburban lifestyle, including African Americans. The early African American families to have settled in the Maple Leaf Addition were migrants of former slaves and children of slaves who had moved from southern states for a better quality of life. They originated from Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Oklahoma.<sup>12</sup>

The 1920 Minneapolis census reported 3,927 African Americans in the City; only 83 were in Ward 10, now Ward 4. Thirteen African American households were reported in the Maple Leaf and Shingle Creek

Additions, but only one reported renting. Six reported ownership with mortgages and six reported ownership free of debt. By 1930, there were approximately 130 African Americans in the Shingle Creek community.<sup>13</sup> Both Zellie and Sociologist Calvin Schmid's *Social Sage of Two Cities* (1937) notes that the early African Americans in this community had higher rate of home ownership and literacy among African Americans than European settlers.<sup>14</sup> In *African Americans in Minnesota*, David Vassar Taylor notes the success and struggles of African Americans over the past 200 years. He notes that, for employment, African American men often worked as porters, waiters, cooks, and janitors, and on railroad lines and the women were regularly employed as personal or domestic servants.<sup>15</sup>

The African American community in the Shingle Creek area is significant to Minneapolis's history, as it is emblematic of a community that strived and achieved success during a period of harsh racial discrimination and segregation. The period of significance for this designation study is from 1923 to 1968. This period was a time when restrictive housing covenants prevented nonwhites from buying homes in Minneapolis. Not until amendments were made to the City's Civil Rights Ordinance after 1974 did the City explicitly ban redlining, or blocking certain groups from accessing mortgages, insurance, and loans, six years after the federal government prohibited such discrimination through the Fair Housing Act.<sup>16</sup>

The fact most of the early African American settlers in Shingle Creek owned property was a great milestone for this community. The resiliency of this community is still evident as some of the original property owners' descendants still live in the community. Personal conversations and interviews with community members and churchgoers indicated that the main reason African Americans moved into this community was because they could buy property.

Shown in Figure 19, a map by Schmid (1937) shows the concentration of African Americans living in Minneapolis in 1930. The majority of Minneapolis' African Americans were concentrated in the northern and southern parts of the city closest to downtown, specifically, near 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Plymouth Avenue North, Lyndale Avenue, and Lake Street. At the far northern city limits stood the small community of African Americans in Shingle Creek. Each dot on the map represents five people. The African American community in Shingle Creek is noteworthy for its size and how isolated they were from the already established African American communities in the City. While this isolation disconnected the community from other established African American communities, their small number enabled them to live in a quiet area. Personal conversations with churchgoers noted that the small numbers of African Americans in this area were not perceived as a threat to local whites, which is why African American homeownership in this area produced no mobs similar to the ones that assembled outside the Lee House in South Minneapolis at 4600 Columbus Avenue South in 1931.

But racist mobs and killings of African Americans occurred in other parts of the country during this time, even in northern states. Wartime labor shortages during the First World War prompted the Great Migration of African Americans from southern states to northern industrial centers where African American populations had historically remained low. As African Americans earned better-paying jobs and improved their socioeconomic status, their ability to access broader segments of housing, entertainment, transportation, and educational alternatives increased, bringing greater integration with mainstream white society. Organizations like the Ku Klux Klan harnessed pockets of resentment over job competition and jealousy of success to promote racism, anti-immigration, and political persecution. These sentiments in turn helped foment forms of segregation that had not previously existed in most northern states.<sup>17</sup> Even Minnesota, the first state in the union to volunteer forces for the Civil War, a free state when it entered the union in 1858, and a state that had banned segregation in public schools in 1869, fell prey to these fears. During the Ku Klux Klan's national resurgence in the teens and 1920s, the Shingle Creek community's formative years, the organization formed over forty-nine chapters

throughout the state.<sup>18</sup> The state's only lynching of African Americans occurred in Duluth during this time period as well. For a community like Shingle Creek to overcome these challenges during the 1920s was remarkable. Like all communities, this one relied upon strong institutions to unify and support its members.

After African Americans settled in this area, they began establishing churches. By 1930, there were two African American churches in this community, located within two blocks of 50<sup>th</sup> and Humboldt. Built in 1927, Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church was located at 5024 Irving Avenue North, though it was destroyed by fire in 1956.<sup>19</sup> The second church was Humboldt Baptist Mission, now known as Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church located at 5100 James Avenue North. Established in 1923, Pilgrim Rest is the oldest and only African American church associated with early settlers in the Shingle Creek area.

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### *Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church*

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The church is significant under criterion #1 as it is associated with the religious and social history of the Shingle Creek African American community. Established in 1923, the church had its origins as a mission in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens at 5126 Irving Avenue North, one of the founders of the Church.<sup>20</sup>

Under the leadership of Revered W. M. Withers, former pastor of Zion Baptist Church of Minneapolis, and a few community members, the mission was formed. Attending the first meeting were Mrs. Cora Adair, Mrs. Mina Davis, Mrs. Como Lilliard, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Newton, and Mrs. Mayme Burreil. Other African American settlers who came seeking the advantage of suburban life for their families soon joined. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schofield and Mrs. Bertha Christopher, all of whom served in the Church.<sup>21</sup>

The congregation then purchased two lots at the corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and James Avenue North where the existing church is located. In 1929, the church was formally organized and incorporated. From 1929 to 1943, the first structure used as a place of worship was a 12 foot by 30 foot converted garage (Figures 20-21). From 1943 to 1953, a larger one-room structure was constructed. In 1953, the congregation planned to build a new building, but funding ran out once they managed to build the basement out of cement blocks. A roof was built over the basement and for the next fourteen years until 1967, they used the basement as their place of worship. In 1968, the existing church building was donated to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church by Hope Lutheran Church, located a few blocks northeast at 5201 Dupont Avenue North. The table on page 4 lists the church's building permit history.

Churches were very important to the community, not only as places of worship, but also as social centers. The 1920s through the 1960s was a period where African Americans were not allowed to be in certain parts of the city for either recreation or settlement. Most social events, entertainment programs and meetings of self-help organizations were held in churches. Conversations with Gaither Robinson, the current pastor, revealed that the church's name "Pilgrim Rest" has meaning to the community. In the biblical sense, pilgrims travel, worry, and need a place to rest; hence, Pilgrim Rest. The church was a safe haven to the community at a time where racial discrimination and segregation was openly practiced.

As the only African American church in the area, an important aspect about the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is that not only did it anchor the community but it also served as a symbol that identifies the history of the African American community in the Shingle Creek area. As the best remaining example of the African American community in the Shingle Creek neighborhood, it is imperative to preserve the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church as a landmark.

## **PART 3: RATIONALE FOR LOCAL HISTORICAL DESIGNATION**

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Local historical designation is an official action that promotes the preservation of historic resources by recognizing specific people, places, and events that are deemed to be significant in relation to the history and heritage of Minneapolis. Through the requirements set out in the Heritage Preservation chapter of the City's Code of Ordinances, the act of designation establishes a series of protections that are administered through the ordinance to ensure protection of significant places throughout the city against demolition or inappropriate alterations.

### **DESIGNATION CRITERIA**

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Title 23, Chapter 599.210 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances lists seven criteria that are considered when determining whether a property is worthy of local designation as a landmark because of its particular significance. The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is considered below in relation to each of the seven designation criteria.

**CRITERION #1:** The property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic, or social history.

The property is associated with distinctive elements of the early African American community that settled northern parts of the City. This small community was isolated from other well-established African American communities in the City, and achieved remarkable success, as discussed in part two of the designation study.

**CRITERION #2:** The property is associated with the lives of significant persons or groups.

The property does not appear to be associated with the lives of significant persons or groups. Early church members included upstanding citizens, but ones whose historical significance seems best represented by their membership in the church and residence in the neighborhood.

Elizabeth Stevens: Other than her race, no personal information could be found about Mrs. Stevens. She was one of the founders of the church and lived two blocks to the east of the church at 5126 Irving Avenue North.

Henry and Lilian Schofield: The Schofield's were the earliest settlers to have joined the church. The couple had three children, two girls and a boy. In the course of this study, staff met with both daughters: Doris Jones and Lillian Smith, both who still live in the community. Doris Jones, also known as Mother Jones by friends and family, relayed that her father, Mr. Schofield, was the church Deacon and worked at the Ford automobile plant in St. Paul. Mrs. Schofield, the church pianist and secretary, died in 1983, at the age of 89.

Mother Jones noted that while the African American community was small, there were more interactions among the different races in school: an early example of successful integration in Minneapolis.

Lillian Smith, age 93, is the second daughter of the Schofield's. Mrs. Smith currently lives at her parent's old house at 5127 James Avenue North, a few doors away from the church. In an interview she noted that one of the main reasons her parents moved to this community was because they could buy a lot large enough for a home and space to garden. Before her parents bought the current house, the family lived on a lot to the south of James Avenue North, where

Olson Middle School is currently located. She noted that during the depression era, her parents lost their house.

John Henry and Emiline Bannarn: John Henry and Emiline Bannarn built the earliest house at 5058 Humboldt Avenue North. John Henry Bannarn was a former slave from the south. In 1914, the couple built a small house in a small community of African Americans in the Maple Leaf Addition in north Minneapolis. "Teaching a part of history not often told," was an article in the *Star Tribune* in 1999 that reported Delores Grigsby was fighting to save her great-grandfather John Henry Bannarn's house from demolition. The article noted that Grigsby envisioned the house as a modest historic site that could be used to teach about the African American migration to the north. In 2000, the house was demolished to allow for the Humboldt Greenway, a residential and park development project. Grigsby's quest to preserve the history her family and other black settlers brought up pain from the past regarding the death of her grandfather Wilbur (Kelly) Grigsby. Delores Grigsby is also a relative of the Schofield family.

CRITERION #3: The property contains or is associated with distinctive elements of city or neighborhood identity.

The property is associated with religious and social organization of the Shingle Creek African American community as discussed in part 2 of the designation study.

CRITERION #4: The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architectural or engineering type or style, or method of construction.

The property does not appear to be significant under criterion 4. The building is vernacular with Gothic Revival influences, but it does not embody the distinctive characteristic of this style, lacking a steeply pitched roof, cross gables, and decorated vergeboards.<sup>22</sup>

CRITERION #5: The property exemplifies a landscape design or development pattern distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness or quality of design or detail.

The property does not appear significant under criterion 5. There are several mature trees on the corner of the lot and an unmaintained raised planting bed tucked in alongside the rear corner of the building, both of which are quite common to institutional lots.

CRITERION #6: The property exemplifies works of master builders, engineers, designers, artists, craftsmen or architects.

There are no original building records to confirm whether the property exemplifies works of master builders, engineers, designers, artists, craftsmen or architects.

CRITERION #7: The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The subject property has not yielded information important in prehistory or history. Records available at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office indicate that no archaeological sites have been identified on the subject property nor have any archaeological surveys been conducted on or near the property in question.

The subject property is not likely to yield information important in prehistory. The subject property is located within five hundred feet of Shingle Creek's current and historical (1850s) course and nearly one mile west of the Mississippi River.<sup>23</sup> Pre-contact bodies of water generally served as sources of water, food, and transportation, thus areas in close proximity (generally five hundred feet or less) to such sites have a higher than average potential to include archaeological evidence of pre-contact human

habitation. Given the property's proximity to Shingle Creek, it is possible that the site might yield information important in prehistory, however, due to the intensive development of this institutional lot, to include past buildings and a substantial basement beneath the current building, the potential for intact, significant, archaeological deposits to be present that are likely to yield information important in prehistory is regarded as low.

The subject property is not likely to yield information important in history. Building permit records indicate the presence of very simple buildings on the site for decades prior to the movement of the present building onto the site in 1968, but city records indicate the lot was not connected to the municipal sewer system until 1968.<sup>24</sup> For this reason, there is a chance that the lot may contain privy vaults bearing early-to-mid twentieth century archaeological evidence. Other archaeological sources of information such as sheet refuse (general surface trash scatters that accumulate over time), trash pits, and builder's trenches may still be present on the lot. The relatively large volume of relevant written and oral sources (church records, building permit records, a strong context statement already developed for this area's African American community, and the oral testimony of church elders alive during the vast majority of the church's history) limit the ability of these historical archaeological deposits to reveal important information, beyond what these other sources have already revealed.

## INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

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The following is an assessment of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church as relates to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the Secretary of the Interior:

**LOCATION:** The original building permits for the church indicate that the structure was moved twice before it was finally moved to its current location at 5100 James Avenue North. However, since the church was established in 1923, it has always been located at its current location, and the church building arrived on site in 1968, the last year of the period of significance for the Church. For these reasons, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church retains its integrity of location.

**DESIGN:** Very few alterations have been made to the exterior of the building since 1968, which is the end of the period of significance. The most noticeable change is the wooden accessible ramp on the front of the building. While no permit records exist, a newspaper article from the church's file indicates that stained glass windows and a church bell were added to the building by Hope Lutheran Church. No building records could be found for the wooden accessible ramp. When the building was moved in 1968 to the current site, the church bell was removed. Despite these modifications, the building's form, wall cladding, and fenestration pattern all remain intact, and the loss of the bell occurred during the period of significance. For these reasons, the church building retains its integrity of design.

**SETTING:** Since 1968, the church building retains integrity of setting, being surrounded by a residential neighborhood with mostly single family residences, however there are noticeable changes surrounding the church.

**CONSTRUCTION OF OLSON MIDDLE SCHOOL:** The City of Minneapolis bought up several parcels that formerly housed early African American settlers in the Shingle Creek Addition, the first residential subdivision in the neighborhood. Once these parcels were combined, the existing Olson Middle School was constructed in 1961.

**HUMBOLDT GREENWAY:** In 2002, the Humboldt Greenway Fifth Addition was approved by the City Council as an addition to the City of Minneapolis, replatting one portion of the Shingle Creek area. Many of the first homes along Irving and Humboldt Avenues were demolished to allow for the development of the Humboldt Greenway, a residential and parkland project. As a

result, much the character of the predominantly one-story housing stock has changed to multi-story homes.

**MATERIALS:** Very few alterations have been made to the exterior of the building since the period of significance. The church retains integrity of materials.

**WORKMANSHIP:** The building possesses few architectural details, but decorative wood window muntins and door surrounds remain on the exterior of the building and convey its integrity of workmanship.

**FEELING:** The building retains the look and feel of a church.

**ASSOCIATION:** The building continues to serve the African American community in the Shingle Creek neighborhood as the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE BODY OF LOCALLY-DESIGNATED PROPERTIES IN MINNEAPOLIS

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The City of Minneapolis designates properties that represent and reflect elements of the city's culture, social, economic, religious, political, architectural, or aesthetic history as local heritage landmarks. As of April 2016, 170 individual properties are designated as landmarks in the City of Minneapolis, including places significant for their association with Minneapolis' African American heritage like the Lena Olive Smith Home at 3905 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and the Spokesman-Recorder building at 3744 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Of the 16 religious landmarks designated by the City of Minneapolis, the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will be the first African American church with historical significance to the early African American religious and social community in the Shingle Creek area.

The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is unique in the City of Minneapolis and among those properties currently listed as landmarks. The Church was one of the earliest African American churches to service a small population of African Americans in north Minneapolis, isolated from other African American communities in other parts of the City. The church exemplifies the resiliency and identity of the African American community in the Shingle Creek area.

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### *Relationship to the Minneapolis Preservation Plan*

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The proposed designation helps fulfill the goals outlined in the 1990 *Preservation Plan for the City of Minneapolis* by systematically studying a property for its potential for preservation.

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### *Comprehensive and Long-Range Planning*

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Title 23, Chapter 599.260 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances requires the planning director to submit all proposed designations to the Minneapolis City Planning Commission for review and comment on the proposed designation. In its review, the City Planning Commission shall consider but not be limited to the following factors:

- (1) The relationship of the proposed designation to the city's comprehensive plan.
- (2) The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding area.
- (3) The consistency of the proposed designation with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the city council.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION TO THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Policy 8.1 states, “Preserve, maintain and designate districts, landmarks and historic resources which serve as reminders of the city’s architecture, history and culture.” By designating the subject property as a landmark, the City will require the preservation of a building significant for its association with the religious and social history of the African American community in the Shingle Creek area.

Policy 8.11 states, “Raise awareness of the history of Minneapolis and promote the quality of the built environment.” Designation of this property will help to tell the story of Minneapolis’ Shingle Creek African American community to current and future residents of the city.

THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION ON THE SURROUNDING AREA:

The designation of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church would serve as a symbol of the history of African Americans in a community that is changing not only demographically but also through the new housing developments along the Humboldt Greenway.

THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION WITH APPLICABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

There are no adopted small area plans for the area where the property is located.

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*National Register Status*

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The property is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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*State Designation*

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The property is not a Minnesota State Historic District, Historic Place, or Historic Site.

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*Period of Significance*

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The period of significance for the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church is 1923-1968, beginning with when the church was established by the early settlers and ending when the existing church building was moved to the current location.

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## **PART 4: REGISTRATION AND CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION**

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NAME OF PROPERTY

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Historic Name	Humboldt Heights Baptist Mission
Current Name	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Other Names Used	None

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY

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Street and Number	5100 James Avenue North
Is building located on its original site?	No
Date if moved	<u>1926</u> (to 5201-07 Dupont Avenue North by Hope Lutheran Church)

MINNEAPOLIS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINNEAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DESIGNATION STUDY FOR PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

1968 (to 5100 James Avenue North after being  
donated to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church)

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OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

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Owner's Name	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Owner's Address	5100 James Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55430

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CLASSIFICATION

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Ownership of Property	Private
Category of property	Building
Number of contributing resources within property	Buildings: 1 Structures: 0 Sites: 0 Objects: 0
Number of non-contributing resources within property	Buildings: 1 Structures: 0 Sites: 0 Objects: 0
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places?	No
Date of NRHP listing?	Not applicable

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USE AND FUNCTION

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Historic Use	Church
Current Use	Church

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DESCRIPTION

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Architectural classification/style	Vernacular with Gothic Revival Influences
Materials:	
Foundation	Concrete
Roof	Asphalt shingle
Walls	Wood frame stucco clad
Windows	Double hung
Other	N/A

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Applicable local designation criteria	Criterion #1: The property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic, or social history. Criterion #3: The property contains or is associated with distinctive elements of city or neighborhood identity.
Related local contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shingle Creek African American Community</li><li>• North Minneapolis Residential</li><li>• Religion 1850 - 1950</li></ul>
Significant dates	1923, 1968
Period of significance	1923 - 1968
Cultural affiliation	African American
Names of master builders, engineers, designers, artists, craftsmen, and/or architects	Unknown

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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See Sources section

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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Size of parcel	10,117 square feet in area
PIN number	11-118-21-11-0190
Legal Description	Lots 7 and 8, Block 002 of the Thorpe Bros. Maple Leaf Addition to Minneapolis.

## PART 5: PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

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FIGURE 1. FRONT ELEVATION OF EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 2. LEFT ELEVATION OF THE EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 3. RIGHT ELEVATION OF THE EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING AT THE FRONT CORNER, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 4. RIGHT ELEVATION OF THE EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING AT THE REAR CORNER, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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DESIGNATION STUDY FOR PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH



FIGURE 5. REAR ELEVATION OF THE EXISTING CHURCH BUILDING WITH THE SMALL SHED, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 6. DETAILS OF EXISTING DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.



FIGURE 7. DETAILS OF EXISTING DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 8. DETAILS OF EXISTING BASEMENT WINDOWS ON NORTH SIDE, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 9. EXISTING GLASS BLOCK BASEMENT WINDOWS ON SOUTH CORNER SIDE, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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FIGURE 10. DETAILS OF EXISTING  
WOODEN ACCESSORY RAMP,  
JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY  
CPED STAFF.



FIGURE 11. DETAILS OF EXISTING FRONT DOOR, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.



FIGURE 12. DETAILS OF EXISTING CROSS ABOVE FRONT DOOR, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

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DESIGNATION STUDY FOR PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH



FIGURE 13. INSIDE EXISTING CHURCH, JUNE 2016, PHOTO TAKEN BY CPED STAFF.

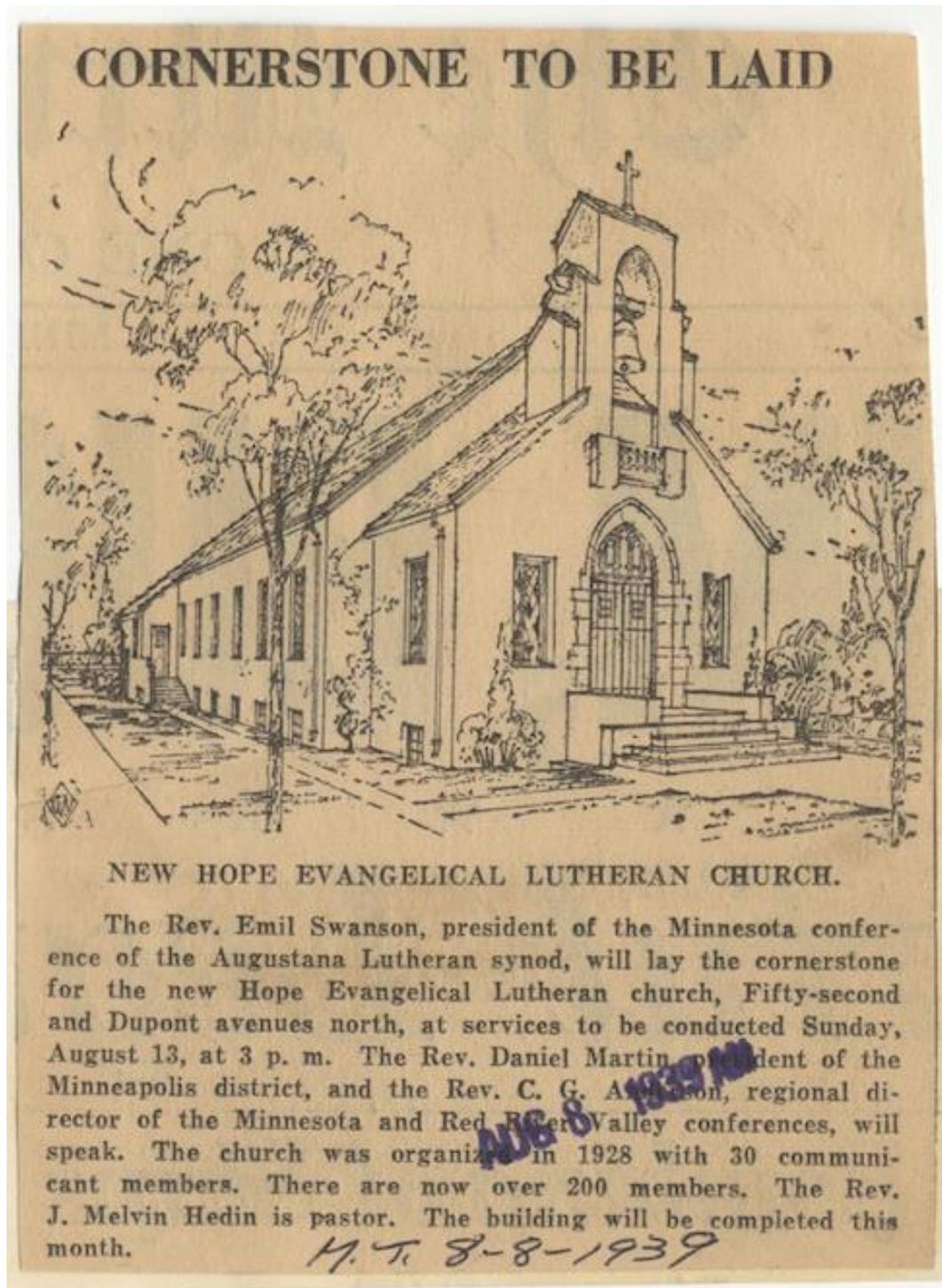


FIGURE 14. CHURCH BUILDING BEFORE IT WAS DONATED TO PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH, SOURCE: "CORNER STONE TO BE LAID", MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE, AUGUST 8, 1939

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FIGURE 15. CHURCH BUILDING MOVED TO PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH AT 5100 JAMES AVENUE NORTH, SOURCE: PHOTO TAKEN BY STAFF FROM PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH FILES



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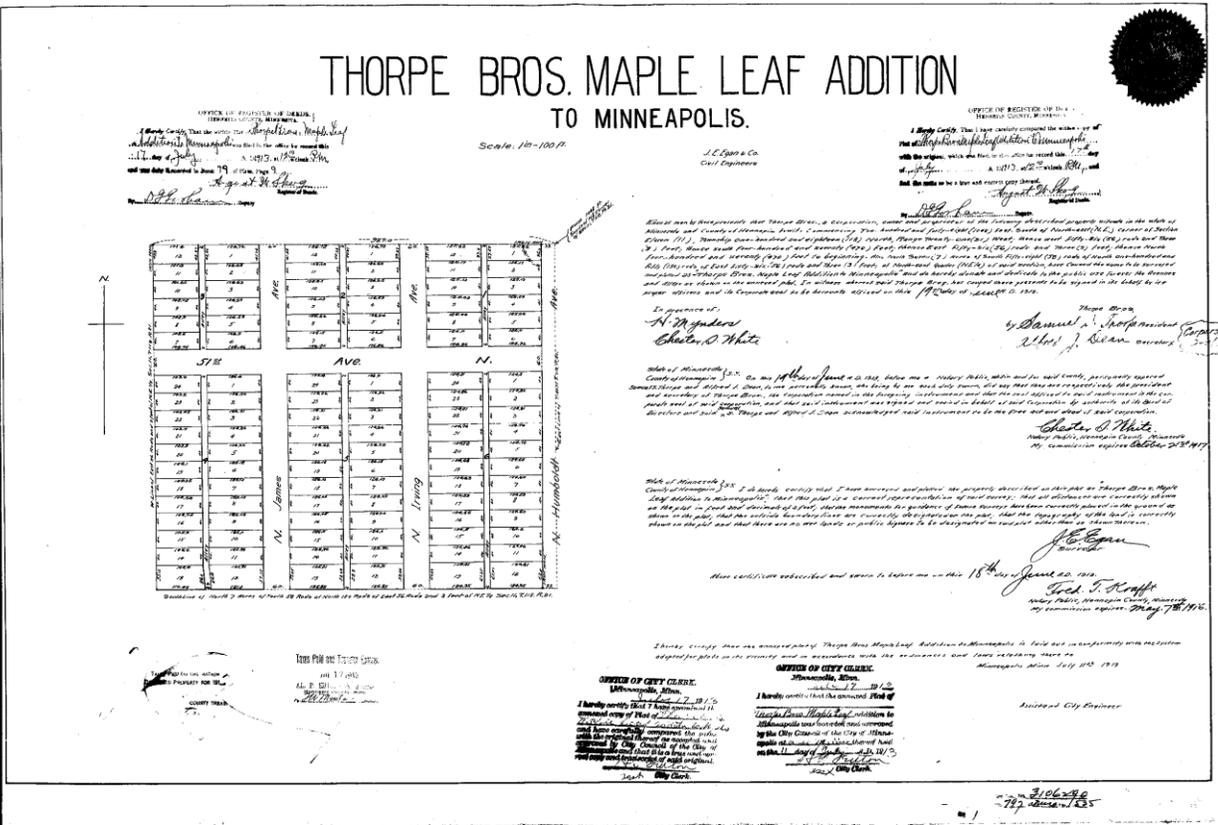


FIGURE 17. ORIGINAL PLATTING FOR MAPLE LEAF ADDITION TO MINNEAPOLIS, SOURCE: HENNEPIN COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

**A GREAT LOT SALE**

**FRIDAY, THE FOURTH, SATURDAY  
and SUNDAY, we will close out**

**THORPE BROS.**

**Maple Leaf Addition**



A last opportunity to buy in Minneapolis big residence lots, desirably situated and on perfect grade at prices of

**\$95 to \$150 Each. None Higher**

There are good homes already built on all sides of this addition. Street car service close by.

Public school (THE HAMILTON), a fine modern well-equipped building, within easy reach.

Close to the CAMDEN PARK, the new CAMDEN BATHS, THE GLENWOOD-CAMDEN PARKWAY, and other park and natural advantages which make this a most desirable location for your home.

A beautiful addition well inside the city limits.

A start today will mean a good investment as well as an attractive home for tomorrow.

All lots surveyed, staked, streets laid out, board walks down, and titles guaranteed.

**YOUR OWN TERMS OF PURCHASE.**  
**ICE CREAM AND POP SERVED FREE ALL DAY THE FOURTH.**  
**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!** **THE SALE IS ON RAIN OR SHINE!**

Take any Eighth Ave. So. and Fremont No. car, north bound. Ride to the end of the line, where our autos will meet each car and take you to the lots.

**THORPE BROS., 206 Andrus Bldg.**

FIGURE 18. LAND FOR SALE ADVERTISEMENT, SOURCE: *THE MINNEAPOLIS MORNING TRIBUNE*, FRIDAY JULY 4, 1913, 2



MINNEAPOLIS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
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FIGURE 20. 12' X 30' GARAGE (SINCE DEMOLISHED) WAS CONVERTED TO THE ORIGINAL PILGRIM REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. 1920S-1930S. SOURCE: MINNEAPOLIS PHOTO COLLECTION



FIGURE 21. CONVERTED GARAGE USED AS A CHURCH BY PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH FROM 1929-1943, SOURCE: PHOTO TAKEN BY STAFF FROM PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH FILES

## SOURCES

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<sup>1</sup> Mead & Hunt, "Historic Resources Inventory: Historic Resources in the Camden Area," Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2010, 36, 43, 51.

<sup>2</sup> Diane Johnson, "Area churches working to build a secure future for Pilgrim Rest," Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Files.

<sup>3</sup> City of Minneapolis Building Permit # E15852, 5100 James Ave N.

<sup>4</sup> City of Minneapolis Building Permit # E22013, 5100 James Ave N.

<sup>5</sup> City of Minneapolis Building Permit #s B408498, B480499, E22013, 5100 James Ave N.

<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. "Cornerstone to Be Laid." *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 8, 1939.

<sup>7</sup> National Association of REALTORS, "Samuel S. Thorpe, President of the National Association of REALTORS - 1911," [<http://www.realtor.org/bios/samuel-s-thorpe>] accessed June 21, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Carole Zellie, "The Shingle Creek African-American Community, Minneapolis Minnesota," Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2000, 4.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 5.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 6.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>14</sup> Calvin, F. Schmid, *Social Saga of Two Cities: An Ecological and Statistical Study of Social Trends in Minneapolis and St. Paul*, (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies, 1937) 176.

<sup>15</sup> David Vassar Taylor, *African Americans in Minnesota* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2002) 18.

<sup>16</sup> "A Brief History of Civil Rights Protection in Minneapolis," [[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@civilrights/documents/webcontent/convert\\_253586.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@civilrights/documents/webcontent/convert_253586.pdf)] accessed 27 April 2016.

<sup>17</sup> Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2004) 17-43, 87-89, 95-98, 106-107.

<sup>18</sup> Elizabeth Dorsey Hatle, *The Ku Klux Klan in Minnesota* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2013) 161-165.

<sup>19</sup> Zellie, 6.

<sup>20</sup> National Council of Negro Women and Ethel V. Mitchell, *Contributions of Black Women to Minnesota History* (St. Paul: Mason Pub. Co, 1977) 13.

<sup>21</sup> 86<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. Pilgrim Baptist Church.

<sup>22</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) 196-197.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Surveyor General's Office, *Minnesota Public Land Survey Plat Map*, Township 118 N, Range 21 W, 5<sup>th</sup> Meridian, 1856. [<http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/glo/Index.htm>] accessed 20 June 2012.

<sup>24</sup> City of Minneapolis Building Permit Index Card, 5100 James Avenue North; City of Minneapolis Public Works and Engineering Sewer and Water Connections Inspection, 5100 James Avenue North.

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# APPENDIX A: ACTION INITIATING NOMINATION

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## NOMINATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

### **Statement describing the applicant's relationship to the property to be designated.**

I am Reverend Dr. Gaither Robinson of the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Statement describing how the property meets at least one of the criteria for designation as a landmark or historic district contained in Section 599.210 of the Heritage Preservation Regulations.**

Due to its association with religious and social organization, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church appears to meet criteria 1, "the property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic or social history for designation as a landmark." Founded in 1923 as the Humboldt Baptist Mission, the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church has long been one of the focal points of the Shingle Creek African-American Community. A Historic Resources Inventory in the Camden Area identified the church as a potential historic landmark.<sup>1</sup>

A book on the Shingle Creek African-American Community indicates that a small community of African-Americans began settling around Humboldt and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues around 1914. At the time, the area was largely agricultural and separated from Minneapolis' residential neighborhoods by farmland. The area remained somewhat rural through the late 1940s. The community was noted for having a higher rate of home ownership and literacy among African-Americans than among European settlers. Many of the residents worked in the nearby Soo Line Yards or at the mills near the mouth of Shingle Creek at the Mississippi River.<sup>2</sup>

### **Statement describing the physical condition of the property and whether the property retains integrity**

The existing 1.5 story building was moved to the current location in 1968. The existing structure was formally used and donated by Hope Lutheran Church, which was located at 5201 Dupont Avenue North. Few exterior changes have been made to the current church since it was moved onsite.

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<sup>1</sup> Mead & Hunt, "Historic Resources Inventory: Historic Resources in the Camden Area," Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2010, 36, 43, 51.

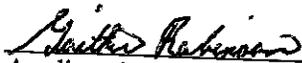
<sup>2</sup> Zellie, Carole, "The Shingle Creek African-American Community, Minneapolis Minnesota," Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2000, 6, 24.

## NOMINATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

<b>Applicant</b> <i>This person will be the primary contact for staff</i>	Name	Reverend Dr. Gaither Robinson
	Mailing Address Including City, State and Zip Code	5100 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55430
	Phone Number	612.529.9186
	Fax	
	Email	Pilgrimrest1@live.com
<b>Property Owner</b>	Name	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
	Mailing Address Including City, State and Zip Code	5100 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55430
	Phone Number	612.529.9186
	Fax	
	Email	Pilgrimrest1@live.com
<b>Property Information</b>	Address(es)	5100 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55430
	Identification Number(s)	1111821110190
	Legal Description	Lots 7 AND 8, BLOCK 002, "THORPE BROS. MAPLE LEAF ADDITION TO MINNEAPOLIS"
<b>Historic or Current Name of Property</b> <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A	

### NOMINATION APPLICATION

I understand that I must file the nomination application with the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development and obtain approval of this application by the Heritage Preservation Commission in order to conform with the heritage preservation regulations of the City of Minneapolis. I certify that the information which I have supplied in submitting this application is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge. When I submit this application, I authorize the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development to process the nomination application.



Applicant's name and signature

11-17-15

Date

- ❖ Must be signed and dated by the applicant before the application(s) will be processed.
- ❖ Applications received after 3:30 p.m. will be processed as received on the following business day.
- ❖ Development Services staff may identify additional applications upon further analysis of the proposed project.

# APPENDIX B: NOMINATION STAFF REPORT

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**HERITAGE PRESERVATION APPLICATION SUMMARY**

*Property Location:* 5100 James Avenue North  
*Project Name:* Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Nomination  
*Prepared By:* Suado Abdi, City Planner, (612) 673-2467  
*Applicant:* Pastor Gaither Robinson, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church  
*Project Contact:* Suado Abdi  
*Ward:* 4  
*Neighborhood:* Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association  
*Request:* Nomination for designation as a historic landmark

**HISTORIC PROPERTY INFORMATION**

<b>Current Name</b>	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
<b>Historic Name</b>	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
<b>Historic Address</b>	5100-5102 James Avenue North
<b>Original Construction Date</b>	Unknown (moved onsite in 1968)
<b>Original Owner</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Architect</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Historic Use</b>	Church
<b>Current Use</b>	Church
<b>Proposed Use</b>	Church
<b>Other Historical Designations</b>	Not applicable

**SUMMARY**

**BACKGROUND.** The City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) has received a grant from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office to study significant properties in Minneapolis associated with under-documented groups. Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church at 5100 James Avenue North was identified as a potential historic landmark due to its association with significant African American religious and social history. Pastor Gaither Robinson has nominated the Church to be considered for designation as a landmark.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Staff has received no public comments on the proposal.

## ANALYSIS

### CONSIDERATION FOR NOMINATION

Per section 599.230 of the Heritage Preservation Regulations, the Heritage Preservation Commission shall review all complete nomination applications. If the Heritage Preservation Commission determines that a nominated property appears to meet at least one of the criteria for designation contained in section 599.210 the commission may institute interim protection and direct the planning director to prepare or cause to be prepared a designation study of the property.

#### Significance

The nominated property appears to meet at least one of the seven criteria for designation contained in section 599.210:

- 1. The property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic or social history.*

Due to its association with significant African American religious and social organization, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church appears to meet criteria I, “the property is associated with significant events or with periods that exemplify broad patterns of cultural, political, economic or social history for designation as a landmark.” Founded in 1923 as the Humboldt Heights Baptist Mission, the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church has long been one of the focal points of the Shingle Creek African-American Community. A reconnaissance-level survey in the Camden Area identified the church as a potential historic landmark.<sup>1</sup>

A book on the Shingle Creek African-American Community indicates that a small community of African-Americans began settling around Humboldt and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues around 1914. At the time, the area was largely agricultural and separated from Minneapolis’ residential neighborhoods by farmland. The area remained somewhat rural through the late 1940s. The community was noted for having a higher rate of home ownership and literacy among African-Americans than among European settlers. Many of the residents worked in the nearby Soo Line Yards or at the mills near the mouth of Shingle Creek at the Mississippi River.<sup>2</sup>

The existing 1.5 story building was moved to the current location in 1968. The existing structure was formerly used and donated by Hope Lutheran Church, located at 5201 Dupont Avenue North. Few exterior changes have been made to the church since it was moved onsite.

The subject property may also be eligible for designation as a landmark under the other six designation criteria. Such an analysis would be conducted as part of a designation study.

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<sup>1</sup> Mead & Hunt, “Historic Resources Inventory: Historic Resources in the Camden Area,” Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2010, 36, 43, 51.

<sup>2</sup> Zellie, Carole, “The Shingle Creek African-American Community, Minneapolis Minnesota,” Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2000, 4-7, 24.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

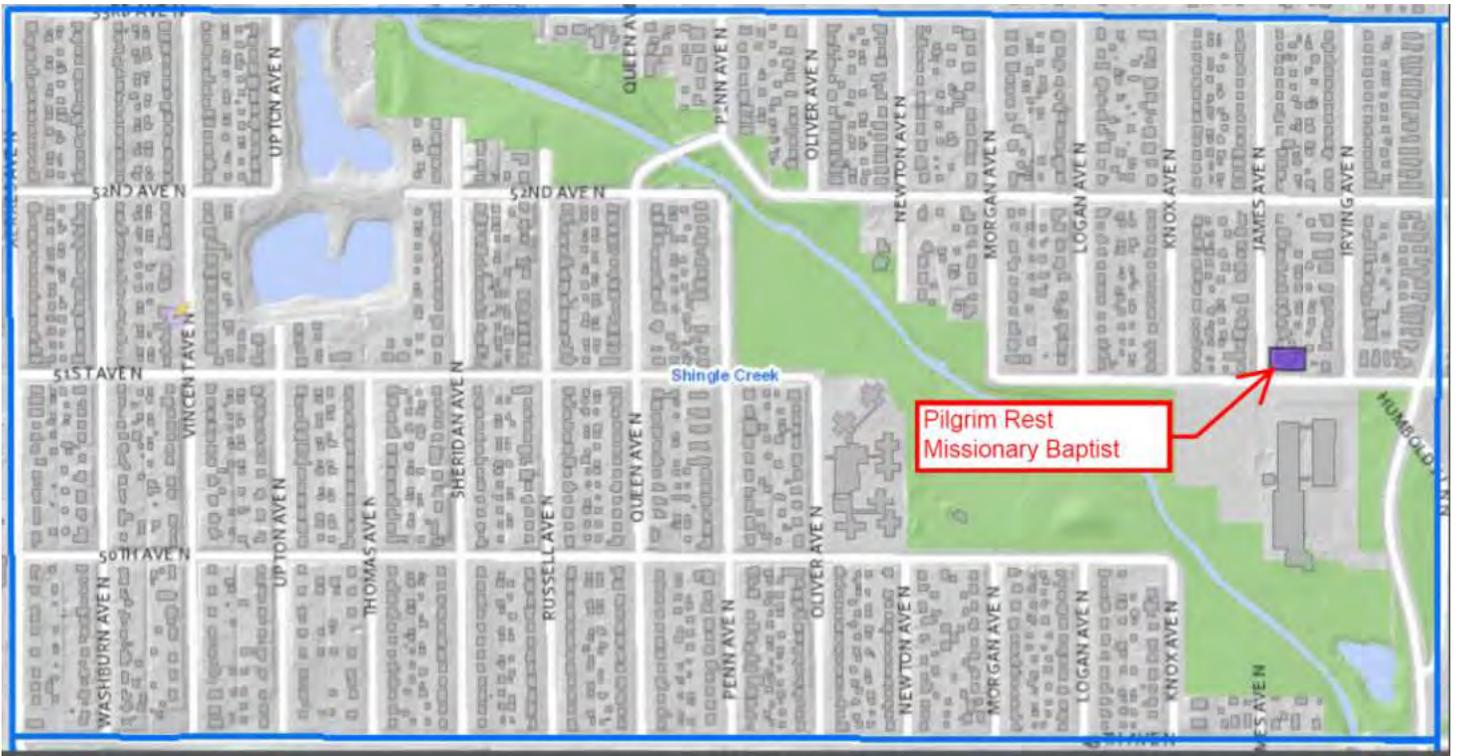
The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development recommends that the Heritage Preservation Commission adopt staff findings for the nomination by Pastor Gaither Robinson for the property at 5100 James Avenue North for designation as a landmark:

### A. Nomination for Designation as a Landmark.

Recommended motion: **Approve** the nomination of 5100 James Avenue North as a landmark; **establish** interim protection; and **direct** the Planning Director to prepare or cause to be prepared a designation study.

## ATTACHMENTS

- I. Nomination materials



**Area Map of Shingle Creek Neighborhood.**



**12' x 30' garage (since demolished) was converted to the original Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. 1920s -1930s.**

Source: Minneapolis Photo Collection, Hennepin County Library.



**In 1968, this 34' x76' stucco-clad wood frame church was moved to 5100 James Avenue North. The structure was donated by Hopes Lutheran Church.**

Source: CPED staff.

# APPENDIX C: HPC ACTIONS FROM NOMINATION HEARING

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# MINNEAPOLIS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING ACTIONS: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

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4:30 p.m. | City Hall, Room 317 | 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street | Minneapolis, MN 55415

### Committee Clerk

[Fatimat Porter](#) – 612.673.3153

### Commissioners

Laura Faucher, Chair | Paul Bengtson | Alex Haecker | Chris Hartnett | Susan Hunter Weir  
Ginny Lackovic | Linda Mack | Dan Olson | Ian Stade | Constance Vork

## CALL TO ORDER

### APPROVAL OF ACTIONS FROM THE DECEMBER 01, 2015 MEETING

The Heritage Preservation Commission approved the actions from the December 01, 2015 meeting.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## ACTION ITEM

### 5. Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Ward 4 Staff report by [Suado Abdi](#), BZH 28967

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development recommends that the Heritage Preservation Commission adopt staff findings for the nomination by Pastor Gaither Robinson for the property at 5100 James Avenue North for designation as a landmark:

#### A. Nomination for Designation as a Landmark.

Action: The Heritage Preservation **approved** the nomination of 5100 James Avenue North as a landmark; **established** interim protection; and **directed** the Planning Director to prepare or cause to be prepared a designation study.

**Aye:** Bengtson, Faucher, Haecker, Harnett, Hunter Weir, Lackovic, Mack, Olson, Stade, Vork,  
**Motion passed**

# APPENDIX D: LETTER TO SHPO

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August 16, 2016

Michael Koop  
Local Preservation Programs  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Blvd. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Designation Study and Design Guidelines– Submittal for State Historic Preservation Office Comment

Mr. Koop:

The City of Minneapolis is pleased to submit the attached designation study and design guidelines for the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church located at 5100 James Avenue North, Minneapolis. Please let me know if you would prefer a paper copy.

The landmark appears eligible for designation as a City of Minneapolis landmark due to its association with a significant event that exemplifies broad patterns of social history and neighborhood identity.

In accordance with state and local law, we respectfully request your comments within 60 days: by October 15, 2016. Staff is available to discuss the designation study in the coming weeks, should you wish to have a meeting. Please contact me with any questions that you may have. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,



Suado Abdi  
City Planner  
Development Services - Zoning Administration  
612-673-2467  
[suado.abdi@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:suado.abdi@minneapolismn.gov)

cc: John Smoley, CPED-Development Services