



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX. AB
9/10/2024

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Certified Local Governments National Register Nomination Report for Classen's North Highland Parked Historic District, roughly bound by NE 13th Street, NE 16th Street, North Lincoln Boulevard, and I-235, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which includes an affirmative statement of opinion regarding the property's National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the reasons stated herein, and therefore recommending Classen's North Highland Parked Historic District to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Board and the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington DC, as eligible for the National Register. Ward 7.

Location:

NE 13th Street, NE 16th Street, North Lincoln Boulevard, I-235, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Purpose:

The City has participated in the Certified Local Governments Program with the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office since January 1991. As a part of being a Certified Local Government, the City has accepted certain responsibilities including the administration of a Historic Preservation program. One of those responsibilities is to review and make recommendations to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Committee who in turn makes recommendations to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington DC, regarding properties within the incorporated area that the City deems eligible for the National Register. The National Register recognizes properties with historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural integrity as exhibited through characteristics such as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. National Register recognition is supported by a Statement of Significance based on one or more of four specific criteria, which can be summarized as history, architecture, significant figures, and archeology.

Background:

On September 4, 2024, the Historic Preservation Commission considered a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council, the State Historic Preservation Review Committee and the Keeper of the National Register at their regular meeting. By unanimous vote, the Commission adopted the resolution affirming the recommendation.

The completed National Register nomination documents that Classen's North Highland Parked Historic District is eligible for listing under Criterion "A" as a property that "is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," illustrating

the community development and planning of residential neighborhoods in the early statehood years of Oklahoma City's history. The neighborhood exhibits prolific local developer Anton Classen's characteristic development style of lushly landscaped, spatial residential neighborhoods with sidewalks, boulevards, and proximity to the streetcar line. It is also eligible under Criterion "C" as a property "that embodies 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," as an excellent collection of examples of residential architectural styles of the period. The period of significance begins in 1910 with the oldest extant properties and ends in 1930 when the district reached its peak development. Residential construction of this time used popular architectural styles of the period including Prairie School, Bungalow Craftsman, and Italian Renaissance Revival. At the time it was platted in 1911, Classen's North Highland Parked was considered a suburb far from the central business district.

Classen's North Highland Parked Addition was an SNI (Strong Neighborhoods Initiative) neighborhood from 2013-2017. A neighborhood meeting was held on August 15, 2024 to present the nomination and answer questions regarding National Register listing. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places does not result in the neighborhood being zoned HP/HL or impose any new regulations upon property owners. National Register listing may qualify certain properties for financial incentives, including state and federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic properties.

This nomination has been completed as part of the City's Certified Local Government (CLG) grant in coordination with neighborhood representatives and the Historic Preservation Commission of the Capitol-Medical Zoning District; no other objections have been made.

Review:

Planning Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.