RESOLUTION - EXHIBIT A
THE KEIRLE HOUSE
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, the Florence Historical Foundation is the owner of the Keirle House at 3017 Mormon Street; and,

WHEREAS, the owner has requested that the Keirle House, and the garage, be designated as a Landmark under the City of Omaha's Landmarks Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the Keirle House is an important element of the Council approved Florence Park Neighborhood Conservation District; and,

WHEREAS, the Keirle House was built in 1905; and,

WHEREAS, the Keirle House was built for Charles and Julia Keirle; and,

WHEREAS, the Keirle House is significant architecturally as a fine example of the vernacular 'classic box' style in Omaha; and,

WHEREAS, the Keirle House combines Queen Anne and classical revival features, including an asymmetrical plan, wrap around porch with extensive columns, entablature, and porte cochere, lap siding, roof dormers, matching detached garage, band-saw and turned fret work, parquet floors, and Palladian window that all contribute to an eclectic composition; and,

WHEREAS, the grounds with many large mature trees, landscaping, curved drive through the porte cochere, fountain, and the siting of the house itself are important character defining elements; and,

WHEREAS, the building is significant as the residence of Charles Keirle, who was a Florence businessman who sold ice and later built streets in South Omaha; and,

WHEREAS, Maude Keirle, his daughter, was a unique, colorful individual of the Florence area who was unfortunately murdered in the house; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the owner to use the structure as a historic residence with tours, and until then, as temporary offices; and,

WHEREAS, this case application and supporting data are attached hereto as exhibits, and incorporated herein by this reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

THAT, the Keirle House, 3017 Mormon Street, be designated a Landmark of the City of Omaha.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

Application for Landmark
or Landmark Heritage District

1. Name of Structure: Keirle Family Home

2. Location / Address: 3017 Mormon Street

3. Applicant:
   name Florence Historical Foundation
   address Omaha, NE 68112
   phone

4. Classification:
   - Category
     - district
     - building(s)
     - structure
     - site
     - object
   - Ownership
     - public
     - private
     - both
     - public acquisition
   - Status
     - occupied
     - unoccupied
     - work in progress
   - Present Use
     - agriculture
     - commercial
     - educational
     - entertainment
     - government
     - industrial
     - military
     - other (explain)
     - office for profit

5. Owner of Property:
   name Florence Historical Foundation
   address 3017 Mormon Street
   Omaha, NE 68112
   phone 457-5346

6. Legal Description:
   Lots 2 Am 03, Block 44, Florence
7. **Historic Description and Significance:** Please provide as thorough a description as possible. This should include, but is not limited to, architectural styles and features, site elements, landscaping/urban design elements, architects, builders, and owners. Copies of architectural drawings, photos and similar documents are encouraged. Include a statement explaining why the item/property/district is historically significant. The Landmarks Commission staff will assist you in filling out this portion if necessary. Use additional sheets if necessary.
THE KEIRLE HOUSE

The Keirle House, at 3017 Mormon Street, is located in historic Florence. It is at the west side of a plateau and foot of a high steep bluff. It is across the street from the Florence town square, which along with the streets, was laid out by the Mormons in 1846 as part of the famed Winter Quarters, a two year occupation that was the first organized white community in the state of Nebraska. The square was the common coral. The Keirle House is in this setting.

The house is named for the only family that ever lived there. This sole occupancy ended in 1994 with the unfortunate murder of 94 year old Maude Keirle, the last member of the family. Maude was born in 1899. Her parents, Charles and Julia Keirle, built the house in 1905. When they and their two children moved in, their son Clifford was 13 and Maude was 5. They and their two children lived in the house their entire lives.

In terms of style, the Keirle House is a Midwest example of the 'classic box', a vernacular style with elements, in this case, associated with several turn-of-the-century movements including Queen Anne and classical revival. Numerous details like: an asymmetrical plan, wrap around porch with extensive columns and entablature, lap siding, roof dormers, matching detached garage, band-saw and turned fret work, parquet floors, and a Palladian window contribute to the eclectic, stately ensemble. The many large trees and previously landscaped grounds are extensions of the park to the south and create a lush, peaceful environment near the rush of busy 30th Street.

The Keirle House is, a positive and important factor in maintaining the historical character of the entire Florence town square area. The square is unique in Omaha. Of all the formerly independent towns to be incorporated into Omaha, Florence is the only one to have a town square, a feature that is more commonly found in small towns throughout Nebraska. The Florence town square embodies, or is surrounded by, elements that have come to define town squares such as: a central location, proximity to a business district and
important community buildings, public meeting platforms and monuments. They also serve as a prominent and well landscaped open space and as an important focal point for the houses of important citizens. One such residence in this case is the Keirle House which occupies a quarter of the block on the south side of the square. This distinctive property is aesthetically connected and interrelated to the square. The square, the historic Keirle property and the many mature trees in the area are important character defining elements of the Florence Park Neighborhood Conservation District; a recent City Council approved district.

The house is historically significant, not only for its fine period architectural integrity and grounds, but also for its representation of the social and economic life of the upper middle class in the early years of this century. The home was occupied by two generations of one family for ninety years; never remodeled and is complete with furnishings, fixtures, clothing, and other details of the period giving a complete picture of their life in the entire twentieth century. Often only the mansions and lives of the very wealthy are preserved as examples of life in previous times.

The Keirle's property originally included the entire block. They penned a large number of cattle on the half block to the east of the house which was later sold off to St. Phillip Neri's Church. The southwest quarter was recently sold to the church to help pay for restoration.

Charles Keirle cut and solid ice. The company was located where Kelly's Bowl is now. Maude sometimes went with her father to cut ice from the reservoir but was never allowed to go when he cut ice from the Missouri River. Reservoir ice was kept separate from river ice and cost more because it was clearer. Charles still sold ice after the introduction of refrigerators. He tried selling the new appliances, but after a while he turned to contracting and laid streets in South Omaha. At that time Florence, Omaha and South Omaha were individual cities and Maude remembered that she had to go through three cities to visit her father's office.
Clifford, eight years older than Maude, graduated from the University of Nebraska as a Civil Engineer. He worked for several companies in many areas of the world and owned his own firm in Omaha. Clifford enjoyed bowling and was an avid golfer. In 1974 he hit a hole-in-one at Happy Hollow Country Club at the age of 82, after 53 years of golfing. Clifford died of a stroke in 1984, at the age of 93.

As Maude grew up, she became very interested in music. She taught music, was a church organist and played piano for silent movies. Maude enjoyed traveling and in 1930 flew from England to Paris on the City of Manchester. "It was a crate. They gave us box lunches. My uncle wouldn't fly back with me," she said. Very active, Maude shingled one side of the house roof in the 1970's when she was in her mid-seventies; Clifford, in his eighties, shingled the other side.

Maude never married. When asked why not, she replied, "I never got ready, and I liked a good time. I couldn't see being with the same guy all the time." Maude cared for her parents during their last illness. Julie died in 1962 and Charles sometime before that. No out-of-date, musty Victorian, she. With a twinkle in her eye, she would ask, "The Walkers, you know, have a vineyard outside of town. Would you like a glass of wine?" Maude's untimely death in 1994 at the age of 94, interrupted a life, lived to the fullest. From her daily chin-ups to her sense of humor, Maude's life spanned a Victorian childhood to the space age, as does the stately house and grounds where she lived.

The house was completely restored during 1996 by the volunteer efforts of the Florence Historical Foundation. It is currently occupied by the Foundation and the Uta Halee Organization. It still retains its original woodwork, fixtures, and many furnishings.
Bibliography:

1. City of Omaha Planning Department, "Patterns On The Landscape" Omaha, Nebraska: Klopp Printing Company, 1984


3. Florence Historical Foundation, "Florence Days" Omaha, Nebraska May 11, 1992

4. Patricia Pixley, "Keirle House Restoration Feasibility Study" Omaha, Nebraska: 1995
Honorable President

and Members of the City Council,

The attached Ordinance designates the Keirle House located at 3017 Mormon Street as a landmark. The applicant is the Florence Historical Foundation.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

Summary of Testimony at the Planning Board public hearing: At the Planning Board public hearing May 7, 1997, Jim Krance, City Planner, presented the request.

No one appeared in opposition.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

Summary of Testimony at the Landmark Heritage Preservation Commission public hearing: At the LHPC public hearing March 12, 1997, Jim Krance, City Planner, presented the request. He stated that the house was built in 1905. The Keirle House is a midwest example of the classic box, which is a vernacular style with elements associated with several turn of the century movements including Queen Anne and classic revival. Details include an asymmetrical plan, wrap around porch with extensive columns with entablature, lap siding, roof dormers, and a Paladin window which contributes to the eclectic, stately ensemble.

No one appeared in opposition.

Full summary of all proceedings attached.

LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Planning Director  6-3-97

Date

Mayor's Office/Title  6/19/97

Date
CASE: C3-97-105
APPLICANT: Planning Department
REQUEST: Approval of Landmark Designation for the Keirle House
(Landmark Case #H-1-97-4)
LOCATION: 3017 Mormon Street
SUBJECT AREA IS OUTLINED — MAY 1997

SCALE: 1" = 500' (APPROX.)
ORDINANCE NO. 3-12-75

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Keirle House and site, located at 3017 Mormon Street as a landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

Section 1 That the Keirle House and site, located at 3017 Mormon Street, which is on the following described land, to wit.

Lots 2 and 3, Block 44, Florence, City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2 That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the architectural characteristics, grounds and social heritage of the Keirle House and site, are hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation

Section 3 That the "Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Buildings", as may be from time to time amended, are hereby adopted as the design standards to be applied in the enforcement of this Ordinance and Chapter 24, Article II, of the Omaha Municipal Code

Section 4 That the Keirle House and site is hereby designated pursuant to Section 24-61 of the Omaha Municipal Code, and hereby subject to all of the provisions of this Ordinance and Chapter 24, Article II, of the Omaha Municipal Code.
Section 5. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect fifteen (15) days from
and after the date of its passage.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER

APPROVED BY:

PASSED JUL 15 1997 7-0

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA DATE

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY DATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
and correct copy of the original document
now on file in the City Clerk’s Office

Buster Brown, City Clerk, City of Omaha
1766-1825-1926

ORDINANCE NO. 34245

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Keirle House and site, located at 3017 Mormon Street as a landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading JUN 24 1997 Hearing
21/7/97

Hearing JUL 1 1997 - Over to
7/15/97 pursuant to City Council Action

Final Reading JUL 1 5 1997
Passed 2-0

Mary Bergan Barnett
CITY CLERK
NOTICE TO PUBLIC

ORDINANCE NO. 34245

The following Ordinance has been set for
City Council Hearing July 1, 1997 at 2:00
P.M.

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Keefe
House and site located at 3017 Morrison
Street as a landmark pursuant to the Land-
mark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the
City of Omaha.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OMAHA,

Section 1 That the Keefe House and site
located at 3017 Morrison Street which is on
the following described land to wit:
Lots 2 and 3, Block 44, Florence City of
Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2 That for the reasons stated in
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commis-
sion Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit
"A" and made a part hereof as if fully set
forth herein, the architectural characteristics
are hereby deemed signifi-
cant and worthy of preservation.

Section 2 That the Ordinance is set forth
in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commis-
sion Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit
"A" and made a part hereof as if fully set
forth herein, the architectural characteristics
are hereby deemed signifi-
cant and worthy of preservation.

Section 3 That the “Secretary of Inte-
rer’s Standards for Rehabilitation and
Guidelines for Rehabilitating Buildings” as
may be from time to time amended are
hereby adopted as the design standards to
be applied in the enforcement of this Ord-
inance and Chapter 24, Article II of the
Omaha Municipal Code.

Section 4 That the Ordinance is set forth
in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commis-
sion Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit
"A" and made a part hereof as if fully set
forth herein, the architectural characteristics
are hereby deemed signifi-
cant and worthy of preservation.

Section 5 That this Ordinance shall be in
full force and effect fifteen (15) days
from and after the date of its passage.

APPROVED BY

7/17/97
K. DAVIE
MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF OMAHA

MARY GALLAGHER CORNETT,
City Clerk

25-97