RESOLUTION - EXHIBIT I
MALCOLM X BIRTHSITE
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS, Malcolm X, originally known as Malcolm Little, was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19, 1925; and,

WHEREAS, at the time of the birth of Malcolm X the Little family lived at 3448 Pinkney Street; and,

WHEREAS, Robert E. Rose, Sr. is the owner of the property at 3448 Pinkney Street; and,

WHEREAS, this owner, on November 20, 1981, requested that the Malcolm X birthsite be designated a Landmark under the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz) made an outstanding contribution to an awareness of Black American heritage; and,

WHEREAS, Malcolm X played a major role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

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

THAT, the Malcolm X birthsite, 3448 Pinkney Street, be designated as a Landmark of the City of Omaha, and that this designation shall carry no restrictions in regard to future use or construction on this site.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTION DATE
5/11/82

REQUEST
X Landmark Designation
__ District Designation
__ Certificate of Approval to Perform Work

CATEGORY
District
Building
Structure
Site
Object

APPLICANT
Robert E. Rose, Sr.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OR WORK
3448 Pinkney Street

PRESENT USE
Vacant Lot

CONFORMANCE WITH MASTER PLAN
Conforms to the Future Land Use Plan where it is shown as residential; conforms to the 1977 Community Development Master Plan where it is shown in a combination rehabilitation/redevelopment area which calls for reconstruction of existing neighborhoods.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
Existing: The original residences of this area are now gone and many vacant lots with dense foliage presently exist.

Probable future effect on neighborhood if designation is granted or work is approved.
Could help generate interest in the redevelopment of the area through the attraction of public interest to the historical significance of the site.

PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION
Approval

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION
Approval

ADDITIONAL DATA
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission  
APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION  

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
Historic  
Birthsite of Malcom X (Malcom Little)

and/or Common

LOCATION  
Street and Number  
3456 Pinkney Street - Omaha, Nebraska

CLASSIFICATION  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tr>
<td>Building(s)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Park</td>
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<td>X Site</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Work in Progress</td>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>Private Residence</td>
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<td>Object</td>
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<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>Religious</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Scientific</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OWNER OF PROPERTY  
Name  
Robert E. Rose, Sr.  
Phone Number  
(303) 373-0162 (Res.)  
(303) 388-5761 (Bus.)

Street and Number  
7226 E. Colfax Avenue

City, State and Zip Code  
Denver, Colorado 80220

Representative  
Rowena Moore  
Phone Number  
342-4212

Street and Number  
2019 North 20th Street

City, State and Zip Code  
Omaha, Nebraska 68110

LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Lot 23, Block 4, Bedford Place, Douglas County, Nebraska.
REPORTMENT IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title
Date
__ Federal __ State __ County __ Local

REPORTMENT IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title
Date
__ Federal __ State __ County __ Local

REPORTMENT IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title
Date
__ Federal __ State __ County __ Local

DESCRIPTION
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Specific Dates
Architect
Builder

11-20-81

Date

Signature of Owner/Representative
Historical Significance
by Adrian Baul

Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz), originally known as Malcolm Little, was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925. In their brief stay in Omaha, the Little family lived at 3448 Pinkney Street. The house has long since been torn down, and today the site is overgrown with weeds and litter.

Malcolm's father, Earley Little, was a Baptist minister who was an organizer of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.). The movement was responsible for instilling racial pride and attempting to return Black Americans to their African homeland. Louise Little, Malcolm's mother, was born in the West Indies. She was a mulatto and her father was an Englishman.

Earley Little had plans of farming his own land and starting a business in order to supplement his preaching in Omaha, but he was forced to leave Omaha because he was being harassed by the Ku Klux Klan. In Milwaukee, where the Little family moved, Earley Little was a freelance Christian preacher who also spread the work of Marcus Garvey. But as in Omaha, a local hate group, The Black Legion, began to harass Earley Little. He was later lynched, and it was rumored that the Black Legion was responsible.

After the death of Malcolm's father, the Little family experienced considerable turmoil, and the family pressures affected Louise Little psychologically and emotionally. The state welfare agency assumed that Louise Little was not taking proper care of the children, and they tried to seek evidence to support their
assumption. For example, when Malcolm in his impoverished condition was caught stealing food, the state welfare agency assumed that he was not properly cared for. Because of her religious ties with the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Louise Little refused to eat pork when it was offered to her. So the state welfare agency assumed that she was "crazy" for rejecting pork and, therefore, deemed an incompetent parent. Louise Little's mental condition finally weakened to the extent that she was placed in a mental hospital. The family was separated, and Malcolm was sent to live in an orphanage until he was fourteen and had graduated from the eighth grade.

Malcolm later recalled that in his grade school years one of his teachers had encouraged him not to be a lawyer, that instead he should enter a career which carried a lower status, such as a tradesman. The teacher believed that Blacks could not function in such highly skilled positions, and this bothered Malcolm.

After leaving the orphanage, Malcolm moved to Boston to live with his half-sister Ella, a daughter of Early Little from a previous marriage. He stayed with Ella until he was seventeen years old.

In 1942, Malcolm obtained a job as a Pullman Porter between Boston and New York. Meanwhile, one of his friends, nicknamed "Shorty", introduced Malcolm to the "fast" lifestyle of the ghetto. He later gave up his job and began to lead a life of hustling, drug addiction, and crime, which eventually led to a burglary conviction. Malcolm Little with two other Black males and two White females
executed a string of burglaries in New York. Once the operation was uncovered, the authorities were puzzled that these two middle class White females had associated with three Black males. The idea of this interaction produced strong racist overtones which indirectly influenced the case in a negative manner.

Malcolm served six and one-half years in prison on the burglary charge. During the time in prison, he put all of his energy on his self-education. As a result Malcolm emerged totally reformed. Smoking was no longer a necessity. He also refrained from the over indulgence of food and stopped eating pork. Malcolm denounced Christianity and was reborn in the Islamic religion which taught that Christianity brainwashed Black people. For example, many Black slaves in America had been induced to accept their inferior position in which they believed they would experience a better afterlife in heaven. They chose not to raise opposition against the lifestyle that was forced upon them. Malcolm absorbed much of this theology and renamed himself Malcolm X. The letter "X" stood for his original African tribal name which was unknown. Malcolm X began to have extremely close ties with the Nation of Isalm and its leader Elijah Muhammed. Malcolm had a strong sense of respect for the small, frail Muslim leader, and Elijah Muhammed made Malcolm X a minister of one of the main temples in Harlem, New York. When the Nation of Isalm began to gain publicity, Malcolm X emerged as its primary spokesperson. Because of his aggressiveness on the race issue, many people regarded him as a "hate preacher". Malcolm did not support integration because he felt that the White man would continue to dominate the Blackman.
Numerous distinguished Black leaders opposed Malcolm X because of his failure to compromise. He simply referred to these leaders as "Black puppets" who were manipulated by the white power structure. He felt that these Black leaders failed to operate in the best interest of the Black community. He also believed that the integrationist movement was not truly financed by Black people, and it was evident that the Black community would become dependent on the white power structure. Thus, in the 1960s, as his attention was directed increasingly toward racial problems, Malcolm X began to speak less of his religion and more on social doctrines.

When the Islamic leader Elijah Muhammed was charged with two paternity suits, Malcolm found it painful to accept the idea that Elijah Muhammed had committed adultery, yet Malcolm began to doubt the leadership ability of Elijah Muhammed. Meanwhile, many Muslim leaders thought Malcolm was trying to take leadership of the Nation of Islam, and much jealousy was directed towards Malcolm within the Muslim movement. Yet Malcolm continued to emphasize that he was speaking on behalf of the honorable Elijah Muhammed. This internal tension caused a rift between Malcolm and the Nation of Islam that never healed. After the death of John Kennedy on November 22, 1963, Malcolm made a comment which caused him to be silenced by the Nation of Islam for ninety days. Then, Malcolm finally separated from the Muslim group when he discovered his death was ordered.

Upon his separation from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm realized his full leadership potential. He was an international figure who understood the plight of all classes of Blacks. For example, Malcolm could communicate with the urban hustler since he had hustled himself. Yet he had developed his intellect to the extent that he could
communicate with upper-class Blacks as well. Because of his religion, Malcolm set out to make his required pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca. There, Malcolm's attitudes towards Whites changed. He found that Whites in the city of Mecca were not like some of the racists who oppressed minorities in North America. Men of different races and nationalities gathered at Mecca and treated each other as brothers. This experience made Malcolm realize that there were some Whites of goodwill in the United States.

Upon returning to the United States, Malcolm renamed himself El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz which represents the name of the captive tribes brought to the United States. He began to speak mainly against racists and the covert power structure existing in America. He argued that it was the irony of the American society which oppressed many Blacks. Malcolm became interested in the Pan Africanist Philosophy which called for making Africa a unified nation. He also believed that Black people could unite internationally and form a strong political bloc. This was one of the intentions of the new organization he was developing, the Organization of Afro-American Unity (O.A.A.U.). However, Malcolm's dreams coupled with his transformation of attitudes never truly developed because he was victim of assassins' bullets on February 21, 1965.

While never allowed to fulfill his potential as a leader, Malcolm X contributed to an awareness in many Blacks which helped foster the birth of the Black Nationalist Movement of the late 1960s. For that he should be remembered.

The Malcolm X Birthsite

The house which Malcolm X lived in as a child in Omaha was
sold to Earley Little by Wilson T. Graham for the price of five-
hundred dollars. (Lot 23, Block 4, Bedford Place, Douglas County, 
Nebraska.)
LHPC Case No. H1-82-8, APPLICANT Robert E. Rose, Sr. requests LANDMARK DESIGNATION for 3448 Pinkney Street. Area to be designated is shaded.
ORDINANCE NO. 29852

AN ORDINANCE to designate the birthsite of Malcolm X, located at 3448 Pinkney 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 birthsite of Malcolm X is located at 3448 Pinkney Street, which is on the following described land, to wit:

Lot 23, Block 4, Bedford Place, Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2. That for the reasons cited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and made a part of as if fully set forth herein, the historical value of the birthsite of Malcolm X is hereby deemed significant and worthy of recognition.

Section 3. That the birthsite of Malcolm X is hereby designated pursuant to Section 24-61 of the Omaha Municipal Code, however, no restrictions on buildings, structures or land use are created by this designation.

Section 4. 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

Beavie Lim

APPROVED:

Michael Boyle
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
DATE

PASSED SEP 28 1982 5-0

ATTEST:

Mary Hallyer Covert
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ken Bronger
CITY ATTORNEY

PL/8:7D10:17
ORDINANCE NO. 29852

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PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading SEP 14 1982
Hearing 7-21-82

Hearing SEP 11 1982 5010 City 6 25/82

Final Reading SEP 28 1982
Passed 5-0

Mary Sullivan, Clerk