RESOLUTION-EXHIBIT 1
PIONEER-MORMON CEMETERY
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS, the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is significant as the burial site of hundreds of Mormon settlers; and,

WHEREAS, the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is significant for its association with Winter Quarters, an 1846-1848 settlement that served as a temporary "way station" for Mormons as they migrated west to Salt Lake City; and,

WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints administers and maintains the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery under a long-term lease agreement with the City of Omaha, the owner of the property; and,

WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints requested that the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery be designated a landmark under the City of Omaha’s Landmarks Heritage Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Omaha’s Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department does not object to designation of Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery.

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

THAT, the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, 3301 State 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
APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Historic Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery
and/or Common Mormon Pioneer Cemetery - Winter Quarters
Note: Conditions of lease - Name must remain as Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery

LOCATION
Street and Number 3215 State Street
Omaha, NE 68112

CLASSIFICATION
Category
District
Building(s)
Structure
Site
Object
Ownership
Public
Leased
Church
Both
Public Acquisition
In Process

Status
Occupied
Unoccupied
Work in Progress
Accessible
Yes: Restricted
Yes: Unrestricted
No

Present Use
Agriculture
Commercial
Educational
Entertainment
Government
Industrial
Military

Museum
Park
Private Residence
Religious
Scientific
Transportation
Other

Historic Memorial and Cemetery

OWNER OF PROPERTY
Name City of Omaha - Leased to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Street and Number
City, State and Zip Code
Church Representative Gwen B. Beck
Street and Number 16456 Pierce St.
City, State and Zip Code Omaha, NE 68130

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Blk 106, Florence, Nebraska

Signature of Owner/Representative

Date 4-22-90
(This side for staff use only)

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

X Historic Omaha Building Survey, Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission. (Local)
X A Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Omaha, Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, 1980. (Local)
__ Omaha City Architecture, Landmarks, Inc., 1977. (Local)
X Survey of Douglas County, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1978. (State)
___ Other:

DESCRIPTION
(See attached)

SIGNIFICANCE
(See attached)

Specific Dates 1846-1848
Architect N/A
Builder N/A
DESCRIPTION
The Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, 3301 State Street, is a 1.87 acre site located on a ridge west of the former city of Florence, now part of Omaha. Mormon church records indicate that 359 Mormon pioneers were buried at the site (and land adjacent to the north) during the period from June, 1846 to May, 1848. Remnants of three of the graves are visible today, uncovered during the erection of a commemorative monument in 1936. The monument, a bronze statue by Salt Lake City artist Avard Fairbanks, depicts parents who have committed the body of an infant to the grave. Stones remnants near the monument indicate the location of graves that were found when the monument base was being placed. In front of the monument, cast in bronze, are the names of the known dead who are buried in the vicinity.

The graves of a number of Florence residents are also located in the cemetery. The community of Florence began to use the cemetery several years after the departure of the Mormons.

SIGNIFICANCE
The Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is significant as the burial site of hundreds of Mormon settlers and for association with Winter Quarters, an 1846-1848 settlement that served as a temporary "way station" for Mormons as they migrated west to Salt Lake City. With the exception of a commemorative marker in the city park, the cemetery is the only visible reminder of the Mormon settlement.

HISTORY
(The following is excerpted from the historic context report "Mormon Settlements in Nebraska" prepared by Carol Ahlgren, Nebraska State Historical Society)

The history of the Mormon church from its creation in 1830 to the murder of its founder, Joseph Smith in 1844, was characterized by tremendous expansion in numbers of followers and economic prosperity. The Mormon Church is associated with mid-19th century settlement and the development of city plans that represented a unique interpretation of the basic land survey "grid". Unlike contemporaneous 19th-century religions such as the Oneidas and the Shakers, the Mormon Church increased its holdings and expanded beyond its New England origins through colonization and a continual westward migration.

The early years of the Mormon Church were also characterized by continuous conflict with local and state governments, due to the Mormon's sanction of polygamy and their increasing economic, military and political power. The conflicts with non-Mormons, combined with the Church's belief in the creation of a Kingdom of God on earth, resulted in efforts to establish autonomous Mormon communities in the Midwest and West.

In the late 1830's, led by Joseph Smith, Mormon's founded a city, Nauvoo, Illinois, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Platted in accordance with the revelations of Smith, Nauvoo served as a prototype for subsequent Mormon settlements. When Smith was murdered in a nearby town in 1844, Mormons abandoned Nauvoo and began twenty years of westward migration that culminated at the Mormon community of Salt Lake City, Utah.
To facilitate the migration of large numbers of Mormons, the church utilized an efficient and unique system of "way stations" that outfitted emigrants. The most established of these was known as Winter Quarters; it was located at the site of present-day Florence, north of Omaha, in Douglas County.

Although Winter Quarters was never intended to be a permanent settlement, within one year over 1,000 homes were constructed. The structures were predominately log, although many dugouts were located in the river banks. While the plat of Winter Quarters did not exactly match the configurations set forth by Joseph Smith, the settlement displayed Mormon characteristics with its unusually large blocks and wide streets. (see Fig. 1) Further, streets were named after Smith, his family, and early church leaders. The organization of houses and open space within the blocks was also Mormon; Smith's successor, Brigham Young, recommended that all homes be constructed on the outer edges of the blocks, thereby leaving the inner areas of lots for yards and garden space. Other buildings in this temporary Mormon community included a meeting house, a stockade that enclosed the settlement, and a water-powered grist mill.

The ultimate purpose of the settlement was to prepare for westward migration to Salt Lake City; one year after Winter Quarter's had been established, Mormons began leaving. In May 1848, a group of over 1,000 Mormons left Winter Quarters and were soon followed by a group of 680. Winter quarters was abandoned by the Mormons; those who did not migrate west in 1848 moved to the east bank of the river to form a new Mormon settlement, Kanesville, Iowa. In 1854, the Florence Land Company began building a settlement on the Winter Quarters site.

The Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is the burial site of many of the settlers that perished at Winter Quarters and Cutler's Park, an earlier settlement abandoned in favor of Winter Quarters.
Plan of Winter Quarters
Omaha County, West Bank of the Missouri River
Surveyed in the Fall of 1846
Case No. H1-89-21, APPLICANT: Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints requests LANDMARK DESIGNATION for Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, 3301 State Street. AREA TO BE DESIGNATED IS SHADED.
October 16, 1990

H1–89–21

Honorable President

and Members of the City Council,

This Ordinance designates the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, 3301 State Street, as a Landmark. The applicant is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AT THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING: At the Planning Board Meeting held September 5, 1990, this request was presented. The cemetery is clearly significant, historically, as the burial site of hundreds of Mormon pioneers who had lived at nearby Winter Quarters. Winter Quarters was a temporary "way station" community that existed between 1846 and 1848 for Mormons as they migrated west to Salt Lake City. It was noted that the City of Omaha owns the land in which the cemetery is located and does not object to this designation. No one appeared in opposition to this request. Full summary of proceedings attached.

PLANNING BOARD ACTION: Approval 6–0–1.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AT LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING: At the Public Hearing and Administrative Meeting held August 8, 1990, a visual overview of the historical significance of the Mormon Cemetery was presented. It was noted that the applicant is seeking designation of the cemetery as a landmark with the stipulation that LHPC construction/site review not apply.

Mormon church records indicates that 359 pioneers were buried at the cemetery site (and land adjacent to the North) during the period from June, 1846 to May, 1848. A commemorative monument was erected at the cemetery in 1936.

Several representatives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints spoke in support of this request. No one appeared in opposition.

LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ACTION: Approval 5–0.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Pryor
Planning Director

5827y

Referred to City Council for Consideration:

Mayor’s Office/Title
Case No. H1-89-21
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

REQUEST: Approval of Landmark Designation
LOCATION: 3301 State Street

Mr. Lynn Meyer gave a slide presentation as background for Landmark Designation for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon Cemetery) at 3301 State Street.

The Cemetery is owned by the City of Omaha but leased to the Mormon church. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are, Mr. Meyer said, seeking designation of the Cemetery as a Landmark with the stipulation that LHPC construction/site review not apply.

The Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is a 1.87-acre site located on a ridge west of the former City of Florence, now part of Omaha. To facilitate the migration of large numbers of Mormons westward, the church utilized a system of "way stations". The most established of these was known as Winter Quarters, which was located in 1846 to 1848 at the site of present-day Florence. Mormon church records indicate that 359 pioneers were buried at the Cemetery site (and land adjacent to the north) during the period from June 1846 to May 1848. Remnants of three of the graves were uncovered during the erection of a commemorative monument in 1936, and are visible today. The monument, a bronze statue by Salt Lake City artist Ward Fairbanks, depicts parents who have committed the body of an infant to the grave. Stone remnants near the monument indicate the location of graves that were found when the monument base was being placed. In front of the monument, cast in bronze, are the names of the known dead who are buried in the vicinity.

The community of Florence began to use the cemetery several years after the departure of the Mormons. The graves of a number of Florence residents are also located in the cemetery.

Although Winter Quarters was never intended to be a permanent settlement, within one year over 1,300 homes were constructed (predominantly log, although there were many dugouts in the river banks). The ultimate purpose of the settlement was to prepare for westward migration to Salt Lake City. One year after Winter Quarter's was established, it was abandoned and those Mormons who did not migrate west in 1848, moved to the east bank of the Missouri River to form a new Mormon settlement: Kanesville, Iowa (now known as Council Bluffs, Iowa).

Mrs. Gwen Beck said that the National Park Service commissioned a man from Southwestern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, to do an historic resource study of the trails used in colonizing the west. Among those trails of interest to the Federal Government and the Park Service is, she said, the Mormon Trail, the Oregon Trail and the Gold Rush Trail.

Mrs. Beck thanked the staff and Commission members for their time and for their efforts in considering this nomination for local Landmark Designation as a first step toward National Register listing.
Mr. Lawrence Giles stated that the Cemetery was opened September 15, 1846 as Cutler Park Cemetery. The community of Cutler Park was located approximately two miles southwest of the Cemetery on the Otoe Indian Reservation. He said that about 2500 Mormon from western Illinois and southeast Iowa abandoned Cutler's Park in late September and moved to what is now the waterworks overlooking the banks of the Missouri River. There was, he said, a battle between the Otoc and Omaha Indian tribes and, to relieve the situation, the Mormons left the Otoe Reservation and moved to the Winter Quarters area.

Mr. Lester Kennington, Director, Winter Quarters, presented charts indicating the increasing number of visitors to the Cemetery from 1987 through 1989, and into 1990; and a listing of states and foreign countries represented by individuals who have visited the Cemetery in 1989 through July 1990.

Mrs. Lester Kennington, record keeper for visitors to the Winter Quarters, said Winter Quarters is also used as a history study for 3rd and 4th grade schools. They have had, she said, 53 grade schools visit the site during April and May. They use a video which tells of the Mormon trek across Iowa, settlement of Winter Quarters, its location, how it was built and what they did there. The video depicts the Winter Quarters community and the Old Mill and the Cemetery which are still there. She said that this is one of the oldest settlements in Nebraska; and when they left in 1848 everyone went back to Kanesville, Iowa (now known as Council Bluffs), which was a way station for LDS people who were going to Salt Lake City.

Mr. LeBeau pointed out that the Commission is to consider a recommendation for Landmark status which will be reviewed by the Planning Board with final determination made by the City Council. He also reminded members that this request does not have the normal site/construction review ordinarily attached to Landmark designations.

No one appeared in opposition to this request.

In response to Mr. Bunger, Mr. Meyer said that he has suggested that this site be designated without review regulators in the same manner as the Commission approved the TransMississippi Site and the Malcolm X Birth Site.

As this is a City-owned property, Mr. LeBeau asked if there are any restrictions placed on the use or development of the property other than what the Commission might apply. Mr. Bunger said he was not familiar with the lease and could not, therefore, respond to the question. Mr. Bunger did say that it would have to comply with the zoning regulations, as well as comply with the State Statutes regarding cemeteries.

In response to Mr. Macchietto, Mr. Meyer said he wrote to the Parks, Recreation & Public Property Department, and they had no objection to the requested designation.

MOTION: Ms. Ferguson moved to APPROVE the request for Landmark Designation with no site or construction regulators. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, roll was called.

YEA: Macchietto, Flinspach, Jeffrey, Ferguson, LeBeau

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

3532t
Planning Board Minutes

H1-89-21

REQUEST: Landmark Designation
LOCATION: 3301 State Street
Pioneer - Mormon Cemetery

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

At the Planning Board meeting held September 5, 1990, Lynn Meyer, City Planner and Administrator for Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission, stated that this designation was initiated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who operates and maintains the cemetery. He said the cemetery is clearly significant, historically, as the burial site of hundreds of Mormon pioneers who had lived at nearby Winter Quarters. Winter Quarters was a temporary "way station" community that existed between 1846 and 1848 for Mormons as they migrated West to Salt Lake City.

Mr. Meyer said the City of Omaha owns the land on which the cemetery is located and does not object to this designation. The Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission recommended approval of this designation at their August 8, 1990 meeting. The Planning Department staff finds this proposed designation to be in conformance with the city's master plan and would urge the Planning Board's approval.

Mrs. Jeffries stated that the designation of a property as a landmark usually precludes any significant changes to the property, but this proposal states that this designation shall carry no restrictions in regard to future use or construction on this site.

Mr. Meyer stated that this designation is being done in a commemorative nature. He said two other cases were handled this way, the Transmississippi Exposition Site and the Malcolm X Birthsite, which have no structures remaining that date back to the period of importance. The Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission felt the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery was in that realm because there are no existing grave markers that date from the Mormon period. Mr. Meyer said the Commission in designating this site was not looking to control the character of the area over time, but wanted to commemorate through the designation that this is an important historic site.

No one appeared in opposition to this request.

Gary Pryor, Planning Director, stated that the Planning Department recommends approval of this designation.

Mr. Lopez moved to APPROVE this request for Landmark Designation; 3301 State Street - Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery. Mrs. Jeffries seconded the motion which carried 6-0-1; Mr. Park being absent.
ORDINANCE NO. 32217

AN ORDINANCE to designate the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, located at 3301 State Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

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

Section 1. That the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is located at 3301 State Street, which is on the following described land, to wit:

Block 106, Florence and the North 10 feet of the South 18 3/4 feet of State Street, adjoining Block 106, Florence, being the South 10 feet of State Street as now owned by the public, together with the West 8 feet of original Block 105, Florence, being the West 8 feet of the present North Ridge Drive East of and adjoining Block 106, and vacated Mormon Street; also, the West 12 feet of the West branch of North Ridge Drive East of and adjoining the West 260 feet of the North half of Block 102, Florence, as surveyed, platted and recorded in Douglas County, Nebraska.

Section 2. That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit I, and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, historical value of the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery is hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation.

Section 3. That the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery 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

[Signature]

APPROVED BY:

[Signature] 11/1/90
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA DATE

PASSED OCT 30 1990 6-0

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
CITY ATTORNEY

5836y
AN ORDINANCE to designate the Pioneer-Mormon Cemetery, located at 3301 State Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

Presented to Council

1st Reading OCT 1, 1990
Heard 10/3/90

Hearing OCT 23, 1990
10/30/90

Final Reading OCT 30, 1990
Passed 6 - 0

Mary Keynes Burnett
City Clerk