

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

Current Name	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Historic Name	Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Historic Address	5100-5102 James Avenue North
Original Construction Date	Unknown (moved onsite in 1968)
Original Owner	Unknown
Original Architect	Unknown
Original Builder	Unknown
Historic Use	Church
Current Use	Church
Proposed Use	Church
Other Historical Designations	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.¹

A book on the Shingle Creek African-American Community indicates that a small community of African-Americans began settling around Humboldt and 51st 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.²

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.

¹ 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.

² 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

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.¹

A book on the Shingle Creek African-American Community indicates that a small community of African-Americans began settling around Humboldt and 51st 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.²

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.

¹ 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.

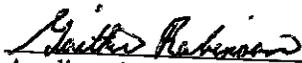
² Zellie, Carole, "The Shingle Creek African-American Community, Minneapolis Minnesota," Potential Historic Resource Files, Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Minneapolis, MN, 2000, 6, 24.

NOMINATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Applicant <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
Property Owner	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
Property Information	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"
Historic or Current Name of Property <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.

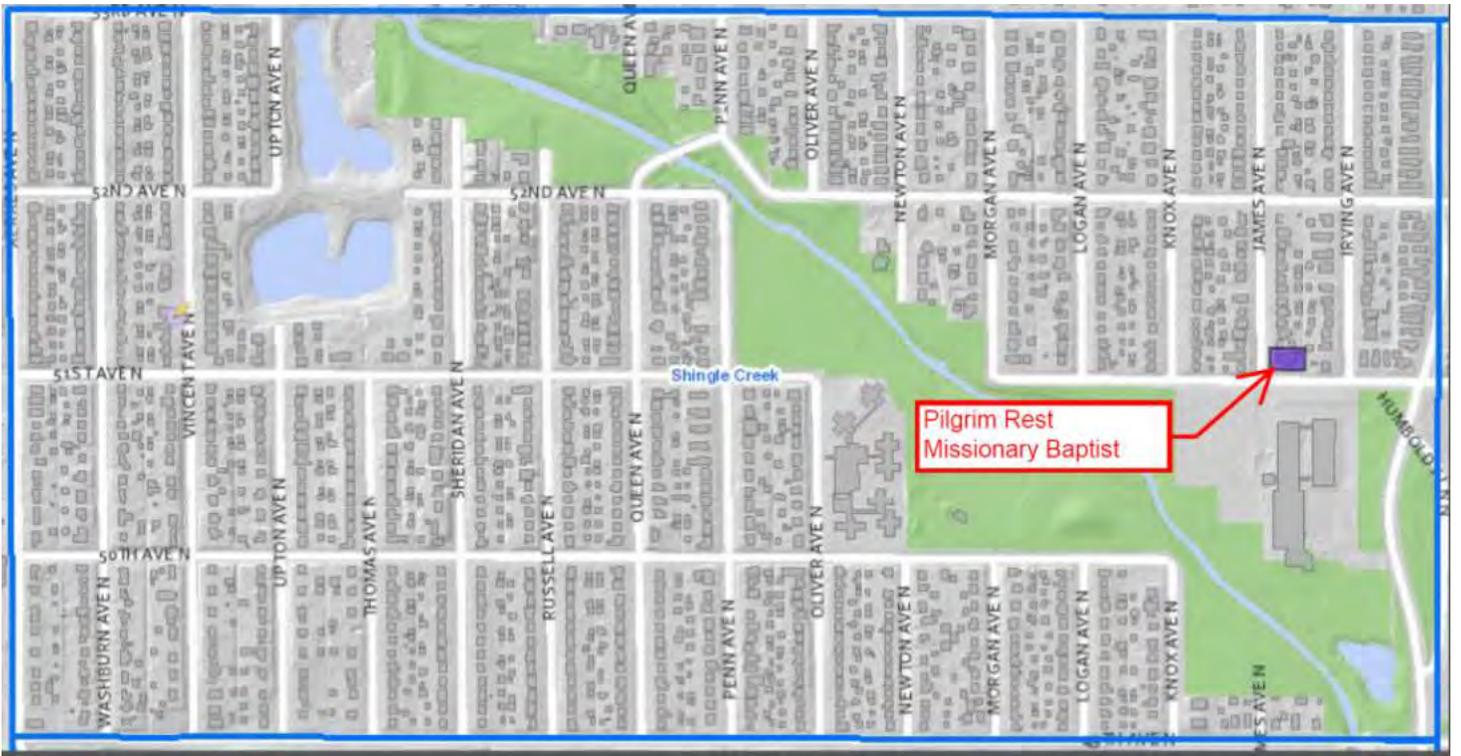


Applicant's name and signature

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.



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.