

To: Historic Preservation Commission
From: Ed Zimmer
Re: March 15, 2012 agenda items
Date: March 9, 2012

Item #3: 301 N. 8th, Seaton & Lea Building

Last month, the Commission approved several items related to the building and associated stairs, docks, and canopies. This month, this Commission is asked to review designs for signs at the premises.

Item #4: Resolution on FY12-13 application to Historic Preservation Fund, through the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS)

Each year the Commission is asked to review and endorse the Planning Dept.'s application to the Historical Society for funding in support of historic preservation activities. This year the application requests \$27,900, to be matched with \$18,600 in the form of my hours and other members of the Planning Dept., as well donated services by undergraduate interns and others. Key activities will include beginning to coordinate our 1000s of historic site files with our department's Geographic Information Service (GIS) (largely through activities of intern Stephanie Brady); strengthening our WWW content related to designated historic sites; and continuing on-going community education projects.

Item #5: National Register nomination of 124 S. 9th Street, "Mission Arts" Building

Stephanie Brady has prepared a strong nomination of this building for the May 2012 meeting of the Historic Preservation Board (of NSHS), documenting its origins as a brothel and transformation into Peoples City Mission. Owner Judith Andre requested the nomination. The Commission's advice would be very timely. Action on the nomination could be taken at the March or April meeting.

Item #6: National Register nomination of BrownBilt Residential Historic District

My rough draft of this nomination is in process, for approximately 180 houses in the Randolph School area (and including the school building). I will provide it to you at or before the March 15th meeting and not ask for your endorsement until the April 19th meeting.

Areas of significance include Community Planning/Development as a strong example of early houses financed with FHA mortgages, a New Deal program. Included in the discussion is the FHA policy to make loans only to "ethnically homogenous neighborhoods," resulting in racial restrictions on many of the BrownBilt properties. Architectural significance is also described, based on the design and construction quality of the homes, 2/3 of which were built by Howard Brown.

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