


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-140	Meeting:	April 7, 2025
	Agenda Item:	48	Roll Call:	25-0533
	Submitted by:	Cody Christensen, Development Services Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Public Hearing on request by petition for designation of the Ulysses S. Grant School located at 1031 23rd Street as a Local Landmark.

SYNOPSIS:

The structure located at 1031 23rd Street, known as the Ulysses S. Grant School, has been nominated by petition as a Local Landmark. The property is owned by the New Life Center. Built in 1885 with additions in 1895 and 1910, the Grant School is one (1) of the oldest surviving public-school buildings in Des Moines. Its design reflects the architectural style typical of the City's 1880s school buildings and represents the pride in which the City held its school buildings, teachers, and educational system.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Ulysses S. Grant School is one (1) of the oldest public-school buildings still remaining in Des Moines. It was built in 1885, with additions in 1895 and 1910. Its design reflects the architectural style typical of the City's 1880s school buildings, featuring a two (2)-story brick building that was stuccoed in the early part of the 20th century.
- The Grant School is an important remnant of the early school history of Des Moines and represents the pride in which the City held its school buildings, teachers, and educational system.
- As Des Moines expanded westward, the school was constructed to serve its growing population. Demand for school buildings continued to increase after the original six (6)-room Grant School building was built in 1885, resulting in the addition of four (4) rooms in 1895. In 1910, the school expanded again with another four (4)-room addition plus a cafeteria.
- The Grant School was named for Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States (1869-1877) and a leading Union general during the Civil War.
- The nomination has demonstrated that it meets Criterion 2 "*Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history*" and Criterion 4 "*Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction*" and designation as a

landmark would meet the purpose of the Historic Preservation Ordinance as defined by Section 58-56.

- On February 19, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the proposed nomination and voted to support its designation as a Local Landmark. On March 6, 2025, the Plan and Zoning Commission reviewed the proposed nomination and voted to support its designation as a Local Landmark. If the Ulysses S. Grant School is designated as a Local Landmark, then any alteration, new construction, or demolition would be subject to review by the Historic Preservation Commission.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: March 6, 2025

Resolution Number: CAHP-2025-000007

Action: Motion to recommend approval of the Ulysses S. Grant School as a Local Landmark. Approved 12-0.

Board: Historic Preservation Commission

Date: February 19, 2025

Resolution Number: CAHP-2025-000007

Action: Motion to recommend approval of the Ulysses S. Grant School as a Local Landmark. Approved 6-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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