Z&P Meeting: October 9, 2017
City Council Meeting: November 6, 2017

STAFF PLANNING REPORT

CASE 029-17 A request to apply District HP (Historic Overlay District) and list as a local landmark, the Lincoln School Site

APPLICANT Jill Sullivan and Glendola Flake

LOCATION 85 feet north of East 7th Street and 20 feet east of South Minnesota Avenue

PRESENT ZONING M-2 (Heavy Industrial)

REQUESTED OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT HP (Historic Overlay District)

STAFF ANALYSIS

This is a request by Jill Sullivan and Glendola Flake to nominate the Lincoln School Site as a local historic landmark. The property is located approximately 85 feet north of East 7th Street and 20 feet east of South Minnesota Avenue. The currently vacant parcel (which sits to the south of Unity Baptist) is the former site of Lincoln School. The lot currently contains a small memorial to Melissa Cuther, the founder of Carver Nursery School.

The site serves as the former home of Lincoln School, a Joplin R-8 Facility that predated desegregation. The school served as the only school for African American students in the Joplin area for 65 years. The school served as an anchor for African Americans in Joplin; both in its role as a school and as a community center.

Lincoln School is associated with two individuals who had a large impact on the history of Joplin, Marion Dial and Melissa Cuther.

Marion Dial served as both the principal of Lincoln School and as a city councilman. In fact, Mr. Dial was the first African American in the state to be elected to a city or state office in 1954 when he was elected to the Joplin City Council. Marion Dial's impact as a citizen, education, and statesmen is exemplary.

Melissa Cuther is honored on the memorial on the Lincoln School property. From the application: "Her accomplishments as a community leader and educator were impressive during a time when blacks were barred from many places of work and education."

Per the regulations of the historic preservation ordinance, the structure must meet one or more of the criteria for nomination as a local historic landmark.

The criteria include:

A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, county, state, or country;

B. Its location as a site of a significant local, county, state, or national event;

C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or country;

D. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials;

E. Its identification as the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the community, county, state, or country;

F. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant;

G. Its embodiment of design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative;

H. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature;

I. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to farmhouses, gas stations, or other commercial structures, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance; and/or

J. Its suitability for preservation or restoration.

Any structure, property, or area that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration. (Ord. No. 86-31, § 1, 3-17-86)

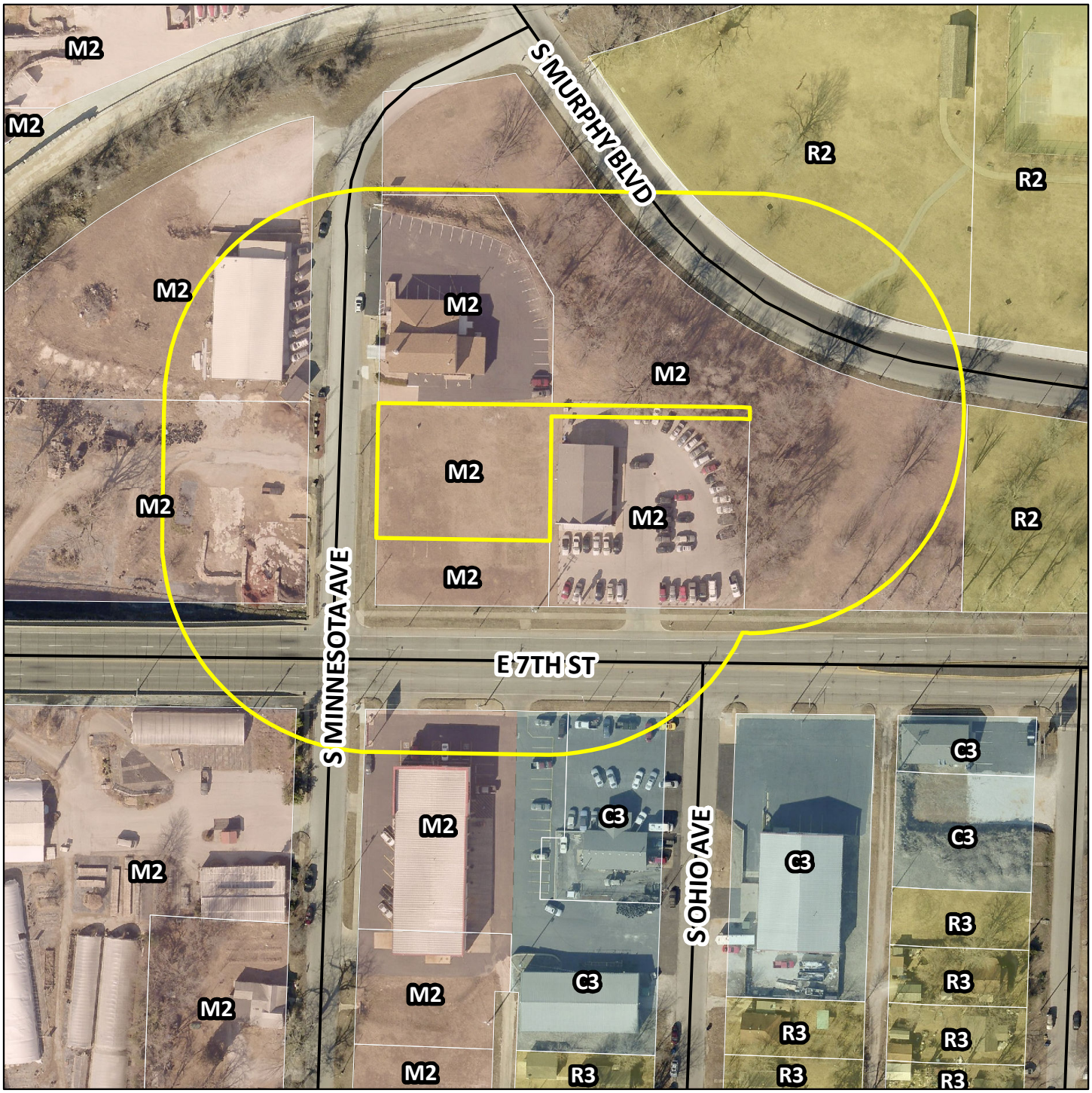
After review, staff believes the Lincoln School Site meets Criteria A and C.

The Historic Preservation Committee recommended approval of Case 029-17.

Staff recommends approval of Case 029-17.

ENCLOSURES

- **Local Landmark Application**
- **HPC Staff Report**



Case 029-17: A parcel located approximately 85 feet north of E. 7th St. and 20 feet east of S. Minnesota Ave. – A request to apply District HP (Historic Overlay District) to the Lincoln School Site – Jill Sullivan and Glendola Flake.

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