



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. VII.AA.
9/1/2015

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Certified Local Government National Register Nomination Report for the Santa Fe Depot at 146 South E. K. Gaylord Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which includes an affirmative statement of opinion regarding the property's National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the reasons stated herein, and therefore recommending the Santa Fe Depot to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Board and the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington, D.C., as eligible for the National Register. Ward 7.

Purpose

The City has participated in the Certified Local Governments Program with the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office since January 1991. As a part of being a Certified Local Government, The City has accepted certain responsibilities including the administration of a Historic Preservation program. One of those responsibilities is to review and make recommendations to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Committee who in turn makes recommendations to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington DC, regarding properties within the incorporated area that The City deems eligible for the National Register. The National Register recognizes properties with historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural integrity as exhibited through characteristics such as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship feeling and association. National Register recognition is supported by a Statement of Significance based on one or more of four specific criteria.

Background

On August 5, 2015, the Historic Preservation Commission considered a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council, the State Historic Preservation Review Committee and the Keeper of the National Register at their regular meeting. By unanimous vote, the Commission adopted the resolution affirming the recommendation.

The completed National Register nomination documents that the Santa Fe Depot is eligible for listing under Criterion "A" (Transportation) as a property that "is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history"; and "C" "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the works of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack

individual distinction"; and Criteria Consideration "G" as a property that is "less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years."

The Santa Fe Depot is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with rail transportation in Oklahoma City and under Criterion C as an excellent example of an early 1930s, Art Deco, combination passenger and freight railroad depot. The period of significance for the building extends from 1932, when construction began on the express section and elevated track, through 1979, when passenger service through the Santa Fe Depot was discontinued. Although less than 50 years ago, the end date of 1979 is significant as the termination of passenger service through the Santa Fe Depot also ended 90 years of continuous passenger rail service in Oklahoma City. Given the crucial ongoing role that rail transportation historically played in Oklahoma City's development, the cession of passenger service marked the end of a significant transportation era. Accordingly, the depot meets Criteria Consideration G as a property possessing exceptional importance achieved within the last 50 years.

A prior official Determination of Eligibility from the National Park Service has already conveyed the historic status and federal protection equivalent to National Register listing on the property. In order to formally honor and acknowledge the significance of the property in anticipation of its pending revitalization, the City is seeking to complete the formal listing of the property on the National Register.

Review

Planning Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.