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CITY OF LAS VEGAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CENTER
333 NORTH RANCHO DRIVE
3RD FLOOR
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

VOICE 702.229.6301
FAX 702.474.0352
TTY 7-1-1
www.lasvegasnevada.gov



/city of las vegas

December 10, 2015

Ms. Courtney Mooney
CLV Department of Planning
333 North Rancho Drive, 3rd Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

RE: HPC-62224

Dear Ms. Mooney:

Your request regarding a nomination report to the National Register of Historic Places for the Reed Whipple Building, located at 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North, (APN 139-27-708-019), C-2 (General Commercial) Zone, Ward 5 (Barlow), was considered by the Historic Preservation Commission on December 9, 2015. The Notice of Final Action was filed with the Las Vegas City Clerk on December 10, 2015.

The Historic Preservation Commission voted to **APPROVE** your request.

This action by the Historic Preservation Commission on December 10, 2015 is final unless a written appeal is filed with the City Clerk within ten (10) days of the date of the Historic Preservation Commission's decision.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Perrigo
Director
Department of Planning

TAP:CM:clb



STAFF REPORT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 12/09/15

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING

ITEM DESCRIPTION: HPC-62224 - Discussion and possible action regarding a nomination report to the National Register of Historic Places for the Reed Whipple Building, located at 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North, (APN 139-27-708-019), C-2 (General Commercial) Zone, Ward 5 (Barlow).

BACKGROUND

No relevant case history.

ANALYSIS

At the October 28, 2015 HPC meeting, the Commission requested an item on the December 09, 2015 agenda to direct staff to begin the process to nominate the Reed Whipple Building on the National Register of Historic Places.

The HPC Centennial Legacy Budget Operating Fund balance is \$117,309.84. National Register nominations are listed on the Approved Project List under the Operating Fund with \$10,000 allocated toward an amendment to the Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs National Register designation to include the "Old Adobe," and \$10,000 allocated toward a potential nomination of a mid-century motor court on Fremont Street.

If approved, staff will prepare a request for proposals for qualified firms to prepare a nomination report. Once proposals are received, staff will request a revision to the Approved Projects to include the Reed Whipple Building nomination, and will assign a budget amount to the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Listing Process¹

- Nominations are submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups. Official National Register Nomination Forms are downloadable or from your State Historic Preservation Office. National Register Bulletins can also provide guidance on how to document and evaluate certain types of properties. Sample Nominations provide additional useful information.
- The SHPO notifies affected property owners and local governments and solicits public comment. If the owner (or a majority of owners for a district nomination) objects, the property cannot be listed but may be forwarded to the National Park Service for a Determination of Eligibility (DOE).

¹ Abbreviated from http://www.nps.gov/nr/national_register_fundamentals.htm, 11/17/15

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- Proposed nominations are reviewed by the HPC, the SHPO and the [Nevada Board of Museums and History]. The length of the state process varies but will take a minimum of 90 days.
- Complete nominations, with certifying recommendations, are submitted by the SHPO to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for final review and listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. The National park Service makes a listing decision within 45 days.

Results & Owner Information

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archeological significance based on national standards used by every state. Results include:

- Becoming part of the National Register Archives, a public, searchable database that provides a wealth of research information.
- Encouraging preservation of historic resources by documenting a property's historic significance.
- Providing opportunities for specific preservation incentives, such as:
 - Federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation
 - Federal investment tax credits
 - Preservation easements to nonprofit organizations
 - International Building Code fire and life safety code alternatives
- Possible State tax benefit and grant opportunities.
- Involvement from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation when a Federal agency project may affect historic property.

History of the Reed Whipple Building

The Reed Whipple Building was constructed in 1963 as an administrative building for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). The building combined a stake center and a multipurpose recreational facility including indoor basketball courts and outdoor softball fields.

The building was sold to the city in 1970 for \$1,067,000 and housed the Las Vegas City Hall until 1972. The facility was dedicated in Reed Whipple's honor on Feb. 16, 1971, by former Las Vegas Mayor Oran Gragson in tribute for Whipple's services to the city of Las Vegas. Reed Whipple was a former LDS bishop, president of the LDS St. George temple, vice president of the First National Bank, and community leader. He is credited with conceiving the idea for municipal parking garages downtown to handle the city's congested streets. He was also instrumental in negotiating the deal for the Foley Federal Building.

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The building served as a home for arts nonprofits like Las Vegas Youth Orchestra from 1972 to 2011. Several interior remodels occurred in those years. In 2012 the building was leased by the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company. The building Houses a 275-seat multi-purpose theater, an 80-seat studio theater, art gallery, dance studio, conference room, meeting room, pottery studio and a kitchen. The building is currently vacant.

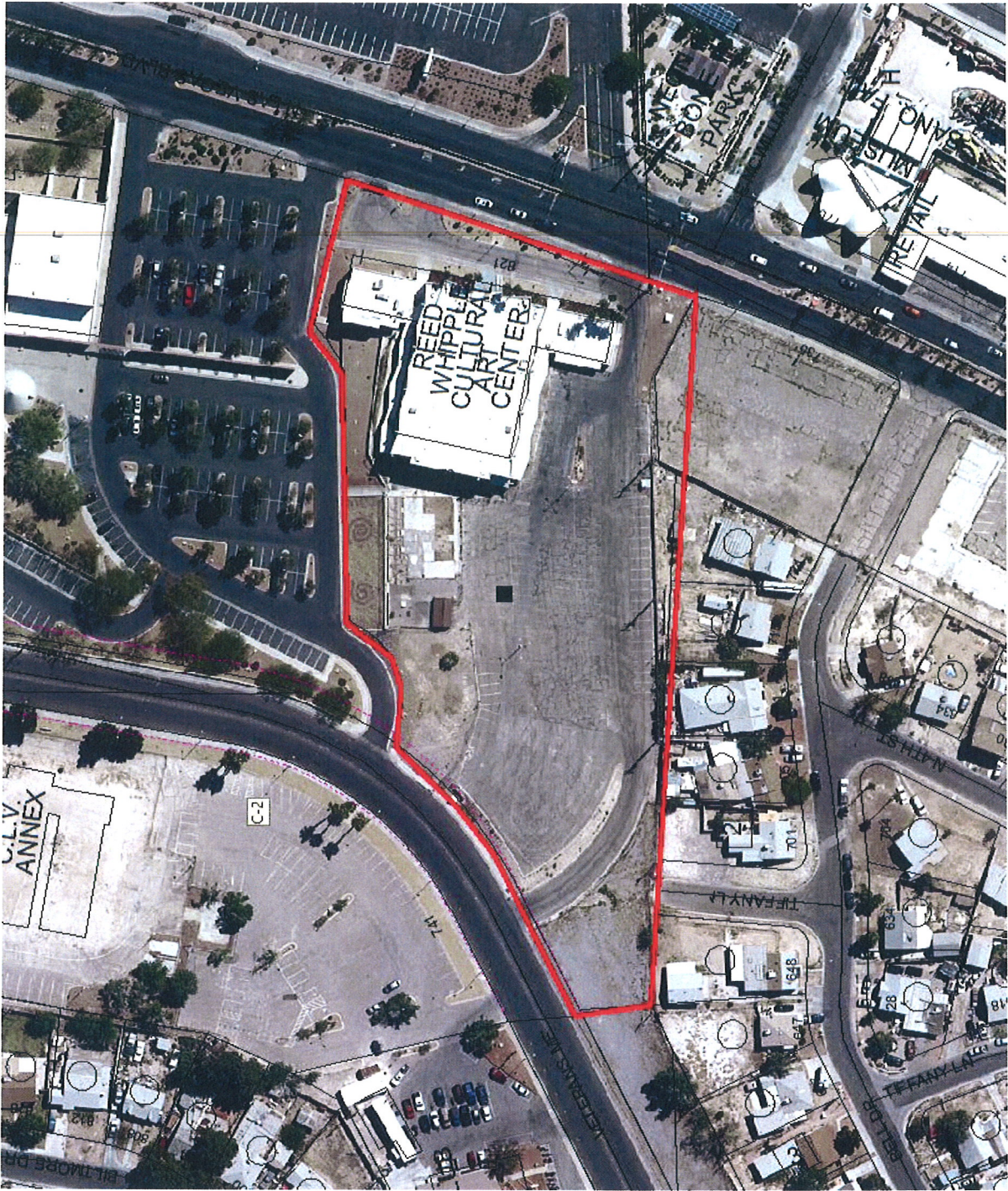
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL

BACKUP DOCUMENTS

- Image of the Reed Whipple Building.
- Aerial of the Reed Whipple Building area.
- Reed Whipple Building main floor plan, 1973.





A circular stamp from the National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice. The text around the perimeter reads "NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION" and "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE". In the center, it says "FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION". There are handwritten signatures and dates over the stamp. One signature appears to be "J. Edgar Hoover" and another "W. C. Sullivan". Dates include "10-1-36" and "10-1-36".

EXIST. CONST. TO BE REMOVED	EXIST. CONST. TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED	CONST. PREVIOUSLY REMOVED	EXIST. METAL PARTITIONS TO BE REMOVED + STORED
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NOTES:
- REMOVE ALL
- FROM GYM
- CARPET
- FLOOR

STORE THEATER SEATS + METAL
PARTITIONS THIS AREA

MAIN FLOOR PLAN

