



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Melvin Carter, Mayor

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Preservation Commissioners  
FROM: Christine Boulware, Historic Preservation Specialist  
RE: January 11, 2021 HPC meeting – CLG comment on nomination of the Woodland Park Baptist Church at 860 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, Ramsey county to the National Register of Historic Places.

### BACKGROUND

Woodland Park Baptist Church, located at 860 Laurel Avenue in Saint Paul, Minnesota, may be considered by the State Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on February 16, 2021. Because the City of St. Paul has been granted Certified Local Government (CLG) Status under the provisions of 36 CFR 61.5 and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office's "*Procedures for Applying for and Maintaining Certified Local Government Status*," the nomination is being sent to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) for review.

### STAFF COMMENTS

The Woodland Park Baptist Church, at 860 Laurel Avenue in Saint Paul, Minnesota, is neighborhood church constructed in 1907 during the early years of residential development of the western portion of the Summit-University neighborhood. The two-story church was designed in the Gothic Revival style with brick-masonry construction and an intersecting gable roof. The dark, finish brick contrasts with the light stope trim details. There is a prominent corner tower and repeated application of the Gothic or lancet arch. The property retains a high level of historic integrity. The church retains its original floor plan on both the first and second floors, including the character-defining Akron Plan which created flexibility to integrate classroom and worship spaces. The interior also retains original millwork and many original windows.

The Woodland Park Baptist Church is locally significant as the only church in Saint Paul's Summit-University neighborhood, of any style or construction material, that utilizes the Akron Plan. The church is also the only extant church in the Summit-University neighborhood that is of a Gothic Revival style in this form and stylistic expression with dark brick and light-colored stone trim. The nomination identifies the property as eligible under NRHP **Criterion C in the areas of architecture** as the sole, distinctive local example of the Akron Plan along with **Criteria Consideration A** - owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. The related historic contexts are "Urban Centers, 1870-1940" and "Churches, Synagogues, and Religious Buildings: 1849-1950." The building's period of significance is 1907 when the church building was placed in service. The Woodland Park Baptist Church retains a high level of historic integrity as it relates to location, association, setting, design and materials.

### SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the HPC support the National Register designation the Woodland Park Baptist Church, located at 860 Laurel Avenue as per presented testimony, submitted documentation and information provided in the staff memo.