

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

FILE NAME: Washington to Ecolab Street Name Change
 DATE OF HPC MEETING: May 28, 2015
 CLASSIFICATION: Street Name Changes
 STAFF INVESTIGATION AND REPORT: Amy Spong
 DATE: May 21, 2015

A. BACKGROUND:

Ecolab has requested the Heritage Preservation Commission review its petition to change the name of Washington Street between 6th Street and St. Peter Street to Ecolab Place. The remaining portion of Washington Street would remain from Kellogg Boulevard to 6th Street. The reason cited is due to Ecolab's recent purchase of the Traveler's north office building located at 385 Washington Street. However, Travelers will remain in their south office tower and have requested to retain their north office address of 385 Washington for their south office building. The north office building will become Ecolab's headquarters

B. ORDINANCE CITATIONS:

Chapter 73.04 (10) Street name changes. The commission shall review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more prior to action on the name change by the city council. In their review of and recommendations on such street name changes, the commission shall utilize guidelines and criteria as adopted by the commission on April 14, 1988.

The resolution dated April 14, 1988 states the following:

...the Heritage Preservation Commission adopts the following criteria for HPC review of and recommendations on street name changes:

- 1. The relationship of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history;*
- 2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the street; and*
- 3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in St. Paul.*

C. FINDINGS:

- 1. *Legislative Code § 73.04(10) Street name changes.*** *The commission shall review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more prior to action on the name change by the city council. In their review of and recommendations on such street name changes, the commission shall utilize guidelines and criteria as adopted by the commission on April 14, 1988.*
- 2.** The Heritage Preservation Commission adopted criteria for review of and recommendations on street name changes are:
 - 1. The relationship of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history;*
 - 2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the street; and*
 - 3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in St. Paul.*
- 3. *The relationship of both streets to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political***

history.

Washington Street (shortening): this downtown street was named in 1849 in Rice and Irvine's Addition for George Washington, first president of the United States. Washington Street extended from West 7th Street, along Rice Park (also platted in 1849) pivoting at 3rd Street (now Kellogg Boulevard) and extending to the bluff between Chestnut and Walnut Streets. It also appears to have picked up below the bluff for a few blocks at Smith Avenue. Only the portion from Kellogg Boulevard to St. Peter Street at Seventh Place (the alignment was curved when the Travelers Building was built) remains. West 7th Street was also closed and rerouted.

Washington Street is significant as one of the first streets named in St. Paul and its location is representative of St. Paul's 1849 platting and street grid. The street has value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City of St. Paul [73.05(a)(1)]. Its location represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City of Saint Paul [73.05 (a)(7)].

Ecolab Place (adding new): Ecolab was founded by Merritt J. Osborn in 1923 first under the name of Evaporato Company which was then changed to Economics Laboratory, in the Endicott Building (extant). By 1925, the company moved to 2540 University Avenue in the City's Midway district and then a year later to the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company warehouse at 2694 University Avenue (razed).

In the late 1920s, the company then split its operations between Chicago and their new downtown St. Paul location in the Minnesota Building (extant). In 1939, the company moved to the Guardian Building (razed) and by 1963 occupied all but the ground floor. The company continued to grow and expanded to other parts of the country, moving their executive offices to New York City in 1954. In 1968 the 22-story Osborn Building (extant, NRHP Urban Renewal Historic District) was constructed of stainless steel, glass and polished black granite centrally located and is where the company still resides. Directed by architect Clark Wold, the building was to project a quality of cleanliness with its steel, polished granite and a reflecting pool encircling the building (razed). In 1986, Economics Laboratory, Inc. changed its name to Ecolab, Inc. In the mid-1990s, Ecolab brought new jobs to downtown St. Paul with Ecolab University. In 1998, the three-building headquarters were renovated and the building was called Ecolab tower.

The Ecolab company has value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City of St. Paul [73.05(a)(1)] but the proposed location for Ecolab Place does not represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City of Saint Paul [73.05 (a)(7)].

4. ***Significance of both streets and their relationship to the location and prominence of the street.***

Washington Street: Washington Street has been the current street name since Rice and Irvine's Addition in 1849, the first platting of this portion of downtown. What is left of Washington Street is significant as it encompasses a significant section of Rice Park, the historic Federal Courts Building, Custom House and Post Office (now Landmark Center), the historic Women's Club (now Wild offices) and the historic Central and JJ Hill Libraries. Rice Park with its surrounding buildings has also been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Ecolab Place: Ecolab currently does not have a relationship to the location of the street given they just purchased the building and will be moving there.

5. ***The representation of both streets in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in St. Paul.***

Washington Street: Staff was not able to identify other place names in St. Paul that are named after George Washington except for the Washington Technology Magnet School at 1495 Rice Street on the North End. There also do not appear to be any memorials, statues or plaques at the Minnesota State Capitol. Washington Street has been removed from 2nd Street to Kellogg Boulevard (Science Museum) and also had bluff stairs to navigate but was removed. There are three businesses that will have a Washington Street address: the Wild, Ordway and Travelers.

Ecolab Place: While their current headquarters is formally called the Osborne Building, many know it as the Ecolab Tower given a sign is at the top of the building. The plaza is also referred to as the Ecolab Plaza. It is unknown if Ecolab will also install a new skyline sign on their new building and if the current Ecolab sign will remain on the current building with offices.

6. Renaming a portion of Washington Street to Ecolab Place generally will not have a negative impact on the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history in Saint Paul, however, 1) renaming a portion of a street that lines up/connects with another street of a different name is not a good policy for a city with an urban grid that already shifts and angles in response to the topography, the River and different stages of development, 2) renaming a street after a business that has moved to various locations within St. Paul since it began may result in a future name change if the business is moved again, and 3) the renaming may establish a precedent for other businesses in the urban core that also have a history in Saint Paul.

D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the findings above, staff recommends approval of renaming a portion of Washington Street to Ecolab Place, although a co-naming would be a better option. Once the HPC finalizes their recommendation, a resolution will be drafted and submitted to the City Council, Ecolab and Public Works for further consideration.

E. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ecolab's letter of request
2. Sanborn Insurance Map updated through 1925
3. 1925 photo taken of the intersection of Market, St. Peter, and Washington Streets from 7th St.



Jason Grev
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

T 651 250 2181
F 651 225 3274
M 612 532 0545

370 WABASHA STREET NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55102-1390
jason.grev@ecolab.com

May 7, 2015

Ms. Amy Spong
Heritage Preservation Commission
1400 City Hall Annex
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Spong:

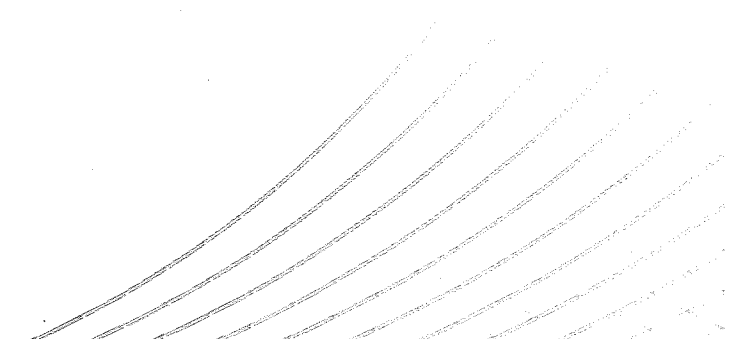
Ecolab is requesting Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) review of its petition to change the name of the curved portion of Washington Street between 6th Street and St. Peter to Ecolab Place.

As you know, Ecolab recently purchased from Travelers their north office tower located at 385 Washington Street. Because Travelers, fortunately, intends to remain in downtown Saint Paul in the south office tower, they will be retaining their corporate address as 385 Washington Street. That request is separately before the City, but we expect that it will be approved.

Our request to rename a small portion of Washington Street in front of what will now be our world headquarters reflects the strength of our commitment to downtown Saint Paul. Ecolab looks forward to continuing as a strong corporate citizen of Saint Paul for many years to come.

We understand and appreciate the significance of Washington Street as one of Saint Paul's earliest streets, connecting West Seventh Street to the Mississippi River. We believe, however, that there is room for the HPC to support this request on two counts:

Ecolab has been a significant part of Saint Paul's history. Founded by Merritt J. Osborn in 1923 on the sixth floor of the Endicott Building, Ecolab has grown to be a Fortune 500 Company with plants and customers around the globe. Through our 92 year history, however, Ecolab has been unique among our corporate peers in maintaining our corporate headquarters within the City of Saint Paul. From the



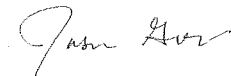
Ms. Amy Spong
May 7, 2015

Endicott Building, Ecolab moved to the Midway, the Minnesota Building and the Guardian Building, before constructing the Osborne Building in 1966. With this move, we are poised for the future where our mission to find solutions to the world's biggest problems is closely aligned with the region's identified growth sectors of Agriculture and Water Technology, Health and Life Sciences, and Innovation and Technology. In its own way, the renaming of this small segment of street recognizes an important story in Saint Paul's economy.

While Washington Street is part of the original plat, this portion of Washington Street has already been reconfigured and no longer reflects its historic alignment. The original plat shows a five way intersection created by St. Peter, West Seventh Street and the terminus of Washington Street. It appears the curve was added when the Travelers Tower was built, so that the terminus is now at St. Peter.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions in advance of the public hearing. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Commission.

Sincerely,



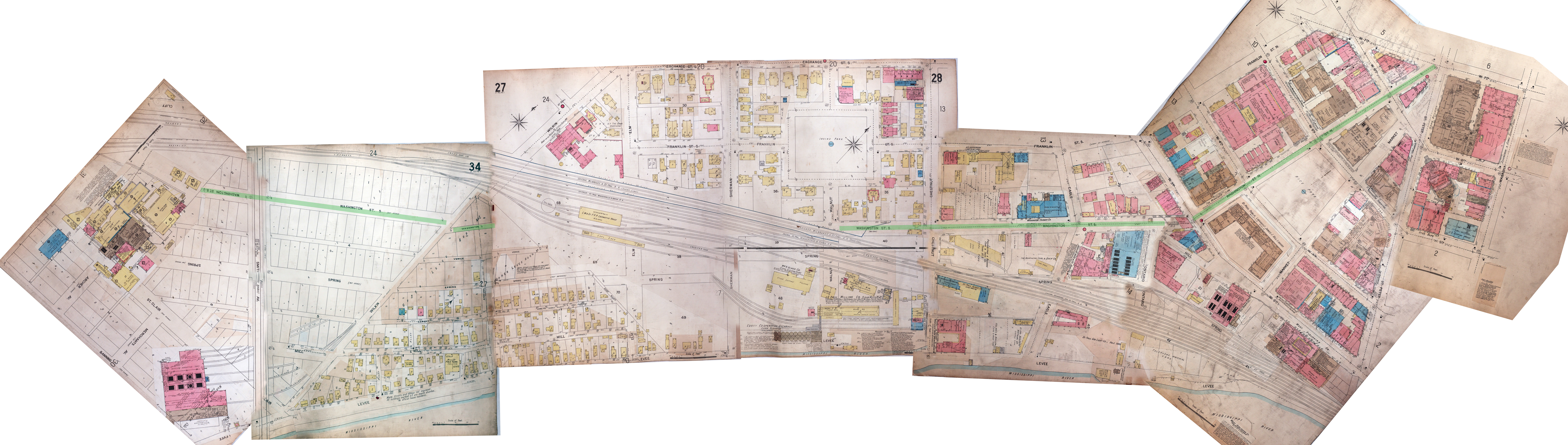
Jason Grev

cc: Kris Taylor – Ecolab V.P. Community Relations
Robert Dompke – Ecolab Director – Facilities & Real Estate

Enclosures: Plat Map
Celebrating 75 Years of History (please see link)
[http://ecolab.com/~media/Ecolab/Ecolab Site/Page
Content/Documents/Our Company/Publications/Eco75YrBk1.pdf](http://ecolab.com/~media/Ecolab/Ecolab%20Site/Page%20Content/Documents/Our%20Company/Publications/Eco75YrBk1.pdf)

Ms. Amy Spong
May 7, 2015





St. Peter, Market, and Washington Streets from Seventh Street circa 1925

