

Cultural center dream unfolds in north Tulsa

■ House photo, page 10A

By KATHERINE FORAN

Tribune Writer

"I have not the ancient land-mark, which thy fathers have set." — Proverbs 22:28

North Tulsa pioneer Mabel Little heeds such words as instructions from the Lord.

Unswerving belief, she says, can bring even far-fetched dreams within reach.

One such dream is the Heritage

Center, where ground breaking is scheduled Oct. 7, three days after Mrs. Little's 88th birthday.

Through the efforts of civic leaders, state Rep. Don Ross and Mayor Terry Young, \$300,000 in state and city funds has been committed to fulfill a dream Mrs. Little has nurtured for two years — construction of a cultural and community center in north Tulsa.

Ross last week announced the state has committed \$175,000 to

restore and expand the 61-year-old Heritage house at Easton Street and Greenwood Avenue — centerpiece of the proposed project.

The city has promised more than \$100,000.

Corporate leaders and north side ministers are trying to raise more money to convert the landmark, built atop the ashes of Tulsa's 1921 race riot, into a heritage center and museum. Preliminary plans for the esti-

mated \$700,000 project include addition of a 400-seat auditorium to the rear of the house, said architect Joe Robinson.

The Business and Industrial Development Corp., a non-profit development organization, also hopes to move the home about a block south to a two-acre tract across from the Vernon AME Church.

The group salvaged the home from condemnation when the Tulsa Urban Renewal Authority

purchased the land for part of a proposed redevelopment project. The group now is seeking historic landmark status for the house.

The center would complement the nearly completed renovation of the Greenwood Market, once a thriving black business district, immediately to the south, said organization President George Anderson.

See HERITAGE, page 2D