

Introduced by: Councilmember Henry

*Piwlett, Joth*

Costello

*Buller, Young*

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: June 13, 2017

*Cohen*

Referred to: **HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Committee

*Middleton*

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

*Stokes*

*Dorsey*

*Burgett*

*Sheed*

*Clarke*

*Schlicker*

*Reisinger*

CITY COUNCIL 17-0090

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors -  
Harry O. Wilson House**

FOR the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue, as an historical landmark: exterior.

By adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation  
Section(s) 17A-44  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

*[Signature]* *E.V. Cook*

*Bill [Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*Robert [Signature]*

**\*\*The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

**Agencies**

Baltimore City Public School System

Baltimore Development Corporation

City Solicitor

Comptroller's Office

Department of Audits

Department of Finance

Department of General Services

Department of Housing and Community Development

Department of Human Resources

Department of Planning

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Public Works

Department of Real Estate

Department of Recreation and Parks

Department of Transportation

Fire Department

Health Department

Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Mayor's Office of Human Services

Mayor's Office of Information Technology

Office of the Mayor

Police Department

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Estimates

Board of Ethics

Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals

Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation

Commission on Sustainability

Employees' Retirement System

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Control Board

Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System

Labor Commissioner

Parking Authority Board

Planning Commission

Wage Commission

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
ORDINANCE **17-040**  
Council Bill 17-0090

---

Introduced by: Councilmember Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Cohen, Middleton,  
Costello, Scott, Pinkett, Stokes, Dorsey, Burnett, Sneed, Bullock, Clarke, Schleifer, Reisinger  
Introduced and read first time: June 19, 2017  
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: July 17, 2017

---

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –  
Harry O. Wilson House**

FOR the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue and Block  
5191, Lot 009, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation  
Section(s) 17A-44  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the  
Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation**

**Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s**

**§ 17A-44. HARRY O. WILSON HOUSE.**

**HARRY O. WILSON HOUSE, 4423 CRADDOCK AVENUE AND BLOCK 5191, LOT 009.**


SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
Ordinance.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
after the date it is enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by  
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

Council Bill 17-0090

Certified as duly passed this 17 day of JUL 17 2017

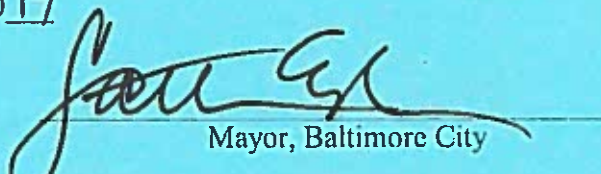
  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this 17 day of JUL 17 2017


  
Chief Clerk

Approved this 1 day of August, 2017

  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved For Form and Legal Sufficiency

This 19<sup>th</sup> Day of July 2017

  
Assistant Solicitor

APPROVED FOR FORM  
STYLE, AND TENTUAL EFFICIENCY  
7-17-17  
DEPT LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 17-0090  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reader Copy)

By: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after "Avenue", insert "and Block 5191, Lot 009"; and, on the same page, in line 17, after "AVENUE", insert "AND BLOCK 5191, LOT 009".

**ADOPTED**



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Housing And Urban Affairs Committee**  
**VOTING RECORD**

DATE: 7-17-17

**BILL#CC: 17-0090 BILL TITLE: Ordinance – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson**

**MOTION BY:** HENRY **SECONDED BY:** Schleifer

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bullock, J. Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, I. Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, K.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sneed, S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Z	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>		

**CHAIRPERSON:** [Signature]  
**COMMITTEE STAFF:** Richard G. Krummerich, Initials: rk





**Certificate of Posting**

**Baltimore City Council**

**Hearing Notice City Council Bill No. 17-0090**

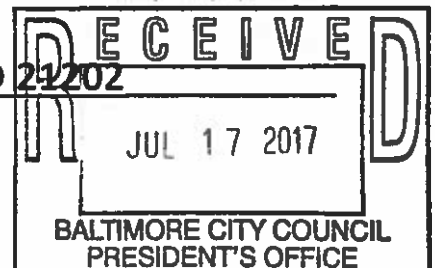


**4423 Craddock Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212 Posted 7/1/17**

**Bill Henry**

**100 N. Holliday Street, Room 502, Baltimore, MD 21202**

**410-396-4830**





BALTIMORE CITY  
THE HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 418 FLOOR, CITY HALL, 100 N.  
HOLIDAY STREET TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON CITY  
COUNCIL BILL NO. 17-0090, CO. 17-0090 ORDINANCE, BALTIMORE  
CITY LANDMARK LIST EXTENSIONS - HARRY O. WILSON HOUSE, FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE HARRY O. WILSON HOUSE,  
4423 CRADDOCK AVENUE, AS A HISTORICAL LANDMARK; EXTERIOR  
BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 - HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
PRESERVATION SECTION(S) 17A-44 (BALTIMORE CITY CODE  
(EDITION 2000)) NOTE THIS BILL IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT BY THE  
BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
JOHN BULLOCK, CHAIR

NOTICE

NOTICE

DECEMBER 5  
BALTIMORE CITY



## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Acting Commissioner

Date: July 13, 2017

Re: **City Council Bill 17-0090 - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors  
Harry O. Wilson House**

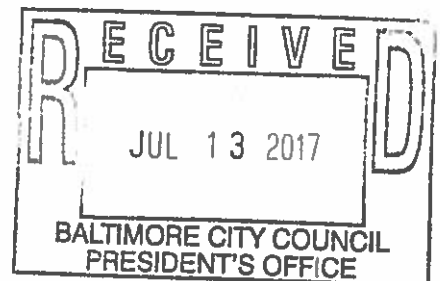
---

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0090, for the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue, as an historical landmark: exterior.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 17-0090.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*




No 062





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**FROM:** William H. Cole, President and CEO 

**DATE:** July 5, 2017

**SUBJECT:** City Council Bill No. 17-0090  
Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House

---

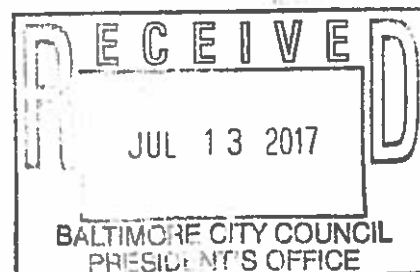
The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 17-0090, an ordinance for the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue, as an historical landmark: exterior.

Harry O. Wilson was a prominent businessman, banker and landlord in Baltimore during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. At a time when it was challenging for African-Americans to own a home, both because of redlining and because banks refused to lend to them, Mr. Wilson bought 1,000 acres in East Baltimore. There he sold lots and built houses in a neighborhood which he named Wilson Park.

Mr. Wilson designed his personal residence as a large, single-family structure, measuring approximately 2,400 square feet, and he erected multiple outbuildings on the property. Because of the unique design elements and the historical significance of Wilson Park, the Harry O. Wilson House should be landmarked and preserved.


BDC supports the proposed ordinance and is respectfully requesting that Bill No. 17-0090 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks







<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0090: BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST: EXTERIORS - HARRY O. WILSON HOUSE - 4423 CRADDOCK AVENUE		

DATE:

July 7, 2017

**TO**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of July 6, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0090, for the purpose of designating the Harry O. Wilson House located at 4423 Craddock Avenue as a Commission for Historic Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the staff report recommending approval of the Historic Landmark, with the addition of the parcel to the immediate south (Block 5191, Lot 009) to the designation boundaries. Thus, the Planning Commission recommended amendment and approval of City Council Bill #17-0090, and adopted the following resolution eight members being present (eight in favor).

**RESOLVED**, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #17-0090 be amended and passed by the City Council, with the following amendment:

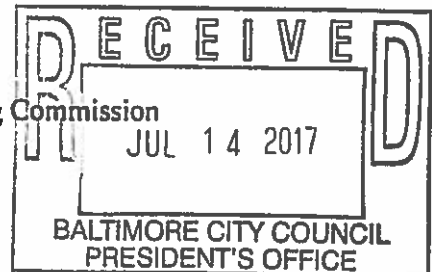
- That on page 1, at the end of line 17, strike the period and add: AND (BLOCK 5191, LOT 9/10).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-4488.

TJS/WA

Attachment

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances  
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office  
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission  
The Honorable Bill Henry, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Mr. David Tanner, BMZA  
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration  
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD  
Mr. Patrick Fleming, DOT  
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services  
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC



*Fav w/ Amend*





*Catherine E. Pugh*  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman*

### STAFF REPORT



*Thomas J. Stasur*  
Director

July 6, 2017

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House. 4423 Craddock Ave.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval with addition.

**STAFF:** Lauren Schiszik

**PETITIONER:** Councilman Bill Henry

**OWNER:** Mabel Smith

#### SITE/GENERAL AREA

**Site Conditions/Architectural Description:** The property is a two-story bungalow structure built in the early 1920s that sits on a hill on the east side of Craddock Ave, a half-block south from E. Cold Spring Lane. It features a large front porch with a sandstone block foundation. The building is frame on a brick foundation, with siding. There are the remains of a four-car garage in the rear. There is a large side yard.

**General Area:** The neighborhood of Wilson Park is a suburban neighborhood largely featuring single-family homes that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is an historic African American suburban enclave developed by Harry O. Wilson in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### HISTORY

There are no prior Planning actions related to this property. This designation is being requested by Councilman Bill Henry.

This was the home of Harry O. Wilson, African American banker, founder of the Mutual Benefit Society, and real estate developer in the early 20th century. He was one of the wealthiest and influential men in Baltimore – African American or white, in the early-twentieth century. He helped fund the construction of the Southern Hotel, and served on many appointed committees focused on Baltimore business and improvements, where he was often the sole African American. His bank was one of the few in Baltimore that did not close during the Depression. He developed the neighborhood in which this house is located, Wilson Park, beginning in 1917. He created a suburban African American community that achieved so many of the American ideals that were largely inaccessible to African Americans. This house was built for Mr. Wilson, where he and his family entertained African American elite, and from



which he even operated an office for his bank and insurance company. He died in this house in 1939, and is where his funeral was held.

#### **CONFORMITY TO PLANS**

There is not a neighborhood Master Plan for this area. Thus, staff applied the 2006 Comprehensive Master Plan.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Background: This designation is being considered by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation on July 11, 2017, where this designation will be considered under the landmark designation criteria.

The Planning Commission and its staff apply all relevant Master Plans to proposed historic designations. Reviewing this proposal using the Comprehensive Master Plan, staff finds that this proposed landmark designation meets with planning initiatives. Landmark designation of this church meets LIVE Goal 2: Elevate the Design and Quality of the City's Built Environment through Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods, which states that Planning staff will actively pursue historic designation.

Staff recommends that designation include the entirety of the property that was Harry O. Wilson's home, which would add the parcel to the immediate south (Block 5191 Lot 009) to the designation boundaries. This lot has always served as a side yard to the house, and was presumed to be included in the parcel with the address of 4423 Craddock Avenue, and its omission was a technical oversight. It is also owned by Mrs. Smith, the owner of the Harry O. Wilson House, and still functions as her yard and driveway today. Mrs. Smith is amenable to the inclusion of this parcel (Block 5191 Lot 009) in the boundaries of this landmark designation.

#### **NOTIFICATION**

The following community organizations have been notified of this action: Baltimore AIA, Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore National Heritage Area, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, Preservation Maryland, York Road Partnership.

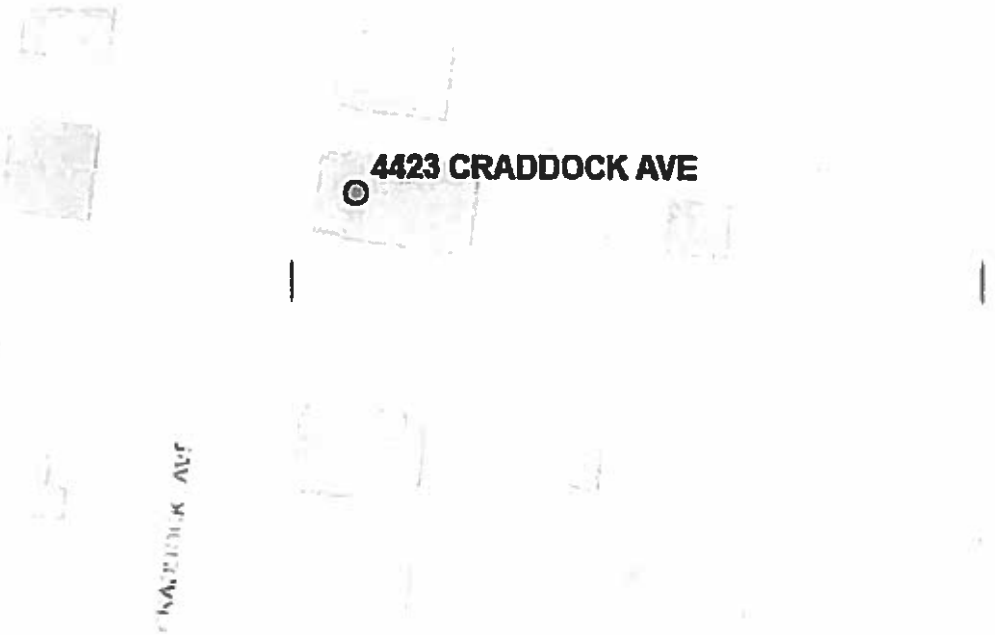
  
Thomas J. Stosur  
Director



## MAP AND IMAGES



**Map 1: Map of the property.**



**Map 2: Close-up map of the site.**








*Image 1: Front of house*



*Image 2: Side of house*

City Council Bill 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List. Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Ave.



<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP <i>EH</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 <sup>TH</sup> Floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #17-0090/Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House		

TO

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: July 13, 2017

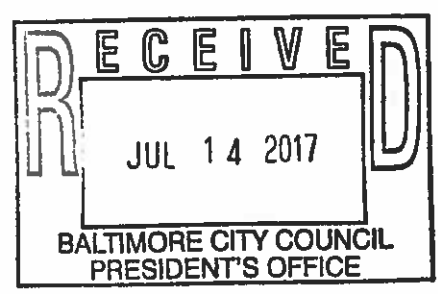
At its regular meeting on July 11, 2017, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation considered City Council Bill 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List:  
Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House

In its consideration of this Bill, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of the following staff recommendation (12 members being present, 12 in favor):

Staff recommends a finding of approval for listing (or naming the property to the list) of this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List because it meets criteria 1, 2, and 3 of CHAP's criteria for designation. Staff also recommends adding the parcel Block 5191 Lot 009 in the boundaries of this landmark designation to include the side and rear yard that has always served this property. Its omission was an oversight.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-396-4866.

CC:  
Kyron Banks  
Natawna Austin



*Fav w/ comments*





*Stephanie Rawlings-Blake*  
Mayor

**COMMISSION FOR  
HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL  
PRESERVATION**

*Tom Liebel, Chairman*

**STAFF REPORT**



*Thomas J. Stosur*  
Director

**July 11, 2017**

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Ave.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval, with addition.

**STAFF:** Lauren Schiszik

**PETITIONER:** Councilman Bill Henry

**OWNER:** Mabel Smith

**SUMMARY:** Designate this property as Baltimore City Landmark.

**SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**General Area:** The neighborhood of Wilson Park is a suburban neighborhood largely featuring single-family homes that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is an historic African American suburban enclave developed by Harry O. Wilson in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Site Conditions/Architectural Description:** The property is a two-story bungalow structure built in the early 1920s that sits on a hill on the east side of Craddock Ave, a half-block south from E. Cold Spring Lane. It features a large front porch with a sandstone block foundation. The building is frame on a brick foundation, with siding. There are the remains of a four-car garage in the rear. There is a large side yard.

**BACKGROUND**

- This designation is being requested by Councilman Henry, with the introduction of City Council Bill 17-0090.

**PROPOSAL & APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES**

Designate this property as a Baltimore City Landmark.

**ANALYSIS**

CHAP staff has reviewed the landmark designation report and has determined that the property is eligible for designation as a landmark under Criteria 1, 2, and 3.



This was the home of Harry O. Wilson, African American banker, founder of the Mutual Benefit Society, and real estate developer in the early 20th century. He was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Baltimore – African American or white – in the early twentieth century. He helped fund the construction of the Southern Hotel, and served on many appointed committees focused on Baltimore business and improvements, where he was often the sole African American. His bank was one of the few in Baltimore that did not close during the Depression. He developed the neighborhood in which this house is located, Wilson Park, beginning in 1917. He created a suburban African American community that achieved so many of the American ideals that were largely inaccessible to African Americans. This house was built for Mr. Wilson, where he and his family entertained African American elite, and from which he even operated an office for his bank and insurance company. He died in this house in 1939, and this is where his funeral was held.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS**

The property is not located within a CHAP district; therefore, comments from an Architectural Review Committee are not applicable.

**Staff recommends a finding of approval for listing (or naming the property to the list) of this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List because it meets criteria 1, 2, and 3 of CHAP's criteria for designation. Staff also recommends adding the parcel Block 5191 Lot 009 in the boundaries of this landmark designation to include the side and rear yard that has always served this property. Its omission was an oversight.**



**Eric Holcomb  
Director**





## MAP AND IMAGES



Map 1: Map of the property.



Map 2: Close-up map of the site.

Baltimore City Landmark Designation: Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue.





*Image 1: Front of house*



*Image 2: Side of house*

**Baltimore City Landmark Designation: Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue.**



**Baltimore City  
Commission for Historical and  
Architectural Preservation**

**Landmark Designation Report  
July 11, 2017**



**Harry O. Wilson House**

4423 Craddock Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland





Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation

ERIC HOLCOMB, *Executive Director*

Charles L. Benton, Jr. Building 417 East Fayette Street Eighth Floor Baltimore, MD 21202-3416  
410-396-4866



CATHERINE E. PUGH  
*Mayor*



THOMAS J. STOSUR  
*Director*





“I have no special rule for success, save hard work and scrupulous honesty.”<sup>1</sup>  
- Harry O. Wilson

### **Significance Summary**

This property is significant for its association with Harry O. Wilson, its role in the broad patterns of Baltimore history, and its design. This was the home of Harry O. Wilson, African American banker, founder of the Mutual Benefit Society, and real estate developer in the early 20th Century. He was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Baltimore – African American or white – in the early-twentieth Century. He helped fund the construction of the Southern Hotel, and served on many appointed committees focused on Baltimore business and improvements, where he was often the sole African American. His bank was one of the few in Baltimore that did not close during the Depression. He developed the neighborhood in which this house is located, Wilson Park, beginning in 1917. He created a suburban African American community that achieved so many of the American ideals that were largely inaccessible to African Americans. This house was built for Mr. Wilson, where he and his family entertained African American elite, and from which he even operated an office for his bank and insurance company. He died in this house in 1939, and this is where his funeral was held.

### **Harry O’Neill Wilson, Sr.**

Harry O. Wilson was a man of many talents: banker, insurer of health and property, real estate developer, realtor, investor, newspaper publisher, and philanthropist. He was one of the most influential and wealthy citizens in Baltimore at the time of his death in 1939. His successes are even more astonishing because he achieved these successes as an African American during the Jim Crow era. Today, his legacy is not well-known. Wilson was a founder and president of the Mutual Benefit Society, the Helping Hand Building Association, and the Wilson Bank, all of which were founded to serve African Americans who had very limited access to insurance, banking, loans, and mortgages. A 1926 *Afro-American* article quite rightly named Wilson a “financial genius”, citing these institutions as “a Monument to his Untiring Energy and Business Integrity.”<sup>2</sup> He was a stockholder in the Southern Hotel and the Baltimore Commercial Bank – both white institutions.<sup>3</sup> He also published an afternoon newspaper with W. Ashbie Hawkins under the mast of the Herald Publishing Company, of which he was president.<sup>4</sup>

Born in Baltimore, Wilson had little formal education due to the early death of his father, an early African American school principal in Baltimore. Wilson didn’t attend school because he had to help support his mother and seven sisters, though he was tutored by Kelly Miller. After his mother’s early death, he purchased a home on Vine Street for himself and his sisters. He first started a business as a shoemaker, but later bought a horse and buggy which he used to collect debts. He was one of the founders of the Mutual Beneficial Society in 1903, and at the time of his death, the company employed 400 people.<sup>5</sup> The Mutual Benefit Society was founded to provide weekly sick benefits, death benefits, and health insurance for African Americans.<sup>6</sup> This institution existed for 74 years, until merging with another Life Insurance Company in 1977.<sup>7</sup> In 1914, he founded the Helping Hand Building Association, which quickly became one of the largest building associations for African Americans.<sup>8</sup> In 1921, he and Dr. Charles Fowler founded the Baltimore Mortgage and Discount Corporation, a banking institution with one million dollars in authorized capital stock, which offered savings and loans for African Americans - one of the first institutions founded in the U.S. to provide loans to African



Americans.<sup>9</sup> His bank and building associations funded the construction of many African American institutions and churches, and even funded the construction of the grand Southern Hotel, that opened in 1918 for whites only.<sup>10</sup>

Wilson was an astute banker, a recognition that was shared by whites as well as African Americans early in his career. This was demonstrated when he was appointed by a Federal court as the trustee and receiver for two African American banks in Baltimore that failed in 1921.<sup>11</sup> A Letter to the Editor in the *Afro-American* by Dr. William Piekens, former Dean of Morgan College, clarifies the significance of Wilson's appointment as receiver: "When the federal judge commissioned Harry O. Wilson to the task, it was an acknowledgement that it was not COLOR that had failed, but only BANKS. Whenever white men want to show colored people that they are failures **because they are colored**, they always send in white receivers to take over Negro financial affairs, much as if to say: 'You colored folk can never do anything right without the intervention or oversight of us white people.' The business and financial ability of Mr. Wilson salvaged the honor of the race when the other two banks failed."<sup>12</sup> Mr. Wilson's bank was one of fifteen African American banks nationwide to survive the Great Depression.<sup>13</sup> Following the Great Depression, he was the only African American banker in Maryland.<sup>14</sup>

Mr. Wilson's businesses, including his bank, the Mutual Benefit Society, and two savings and loan institutions, were all operated out of the building at 407-413 W. Franklin Street, which still stands today on the west side of downtown Baltimore.<sup>15</sup> At the peak of his career, over one million dollars in transactions occurred there annually.<sup>16</sup>

Wilson was very active in real estate, buying and selling properties across Baltimore, including in white neighborhoods. Following his death in 1939, his estate included almost \$150,000 worth of real estate across the city.<sup>17</sup> This real estate also included parcels in Wilson Park, the suburban neighborhood for African Americans that he began developing in 1917, and where he lived until his death.

He was also politically engaged, helping shape the city and its policies. Wilson was invited to serve on several prominent commissions and task forces in Baltimore, such as the Oppenheimer Commission that reorganized the People's Court, and a committee to rehabilitate "blighted" areas. Often he was one of only a handful of African Americans, and sometimes the sole African American on these commissions.<sup>18</sup> He was also politically engaged with the Republican party, serving as an organizer for the Landon-Knox Legion in 1936 alongside prominent Baltimoreans such as John W. Garrett and Theodore McKeldin and nationally prominent politicians.<sup>19</sup>

Wilson died February 25, 1939, at the age of 66 from a heart attack. He died at his home, 4423 Craddock Road, from which his funeral was also held.<sup>20</sup>

### **History of Wilson Park**

Harry O. Wilson's home at 4423 Craddock Avenue was located in the heart of the suburban development that he founded in 1917. The neighborhood is located in north central Baltimore, bound by York Road to the west, The Alameda to the west, E. Cold Spring Lane to the north, and 43<sup>rd</sup> Street (formerly Arlington Avenue) to the south.



The published narrative of the founding of Wilson Park is that it was a farm owned by German-Americans who could not sell their property due to anti-German sentiments during World War I.<sup>21</sup> However, the deeds and map records paint a different picture. The original portion of what is Wilson Park today was an estate named "Glenview", owned by Dr. St. George W. Teackle, an Irish-American doctor, who lived there until his death in 1902.<sup>22</sup> It is likely that St. George's Avenue, which was developed with several duplexes prior to 1898, and was the street on which Teackle's estate had its address, was named for him.<sup>23</sup> In 1915, the majority of the property was owned by Mrs. Ida Teackle.<sup>24</sup>

On September 1, 1917, Wilson purchased three properties in Baltimore County, close to York Road that became the original core of Wilson Park. The sellers were the Huntingdon Building Company, Carroll Thomas and wife, and Wilhemina McLaughlin.<sup>25</sup> In all three cases, the sales were subject to Wilson assuming mortgage debt from the Huntingdon Building Company on the properties.<sup>26</sup> The deed from Wilhemina McLaughlin references that the purchase includes all the buildings and improvements thereupon and all the alleys, ways, water privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or anywise appertaining...<sup>27</sup> Based on the historic maps and the language in these deeds, it is clear that Wilson purchased tracts that were already in the process of being subdivided and built upon by the Huntingdon Building Company. There were also some buildings already extant on the parcels that became Wilson Park that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These buildings are depicted on the 1898 and 1915 Atlases of Baltimore County.<sup>28</sup> Some of these buildings, including the duplexes on St. George's Street and some single family homes on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, are still extant today.

Just three weeks after purchasing these properties, the first advertisement for Wilson Park ran in the *Afro-American*:

"Open to our race. Nineteen acres, 200 lots, 6 new cottages with all conveniencies [sic], hot water heat, electric lights, large porch fronts. The smallest lots are 25 ft x 112 ft; owned by one of our Leading Business Men of Baltimore City, MR. HARRY O. WILSON.

This beautiful site is located 3 squares east of the beautiful Guilford on the York Road. There is no low or marsh land on this magnificent site; it is 400 feet above sea level overlooking Baltimore City. Five-cent carfare, 10 minutes' ride from City Hall. The prices of lots range from \$300 up; Cottages from \$1600 up.

Take York Road Car and get off at Arlington Avenue and York Road; go east 3 squares and you will find the beautiful site on the left upon the hill. You may secure any of these lots or cottages on easy terms from the following agents authorized by Mr. Harry O. Wilson."<sup>29</sup>

This advertisement portrays an idyllic suburban enclave. The early-20th-century ideal of the "suburban dream" of single-family detached homes in a somewhat rural environment easily



accessible to downtown was a dream shared among all Americans, regardless of race or class.<sup>30</sup> But this suburb – with its prime location and topography, its amenities, and its proximity to the most exclusive, expensive, and racially-restrictive community in Baltimore – is even more significant because it was built for African Americans.

This achievement of creating a prime suburb for African Americans flew in the face of the multiple layers of legal, economic, and social limitations that were intentionally stacked against African Americans in Baltimore and the United States at large. Andrew Wiese, a historian that focuses on African American suburbs, writes that:

“Racism not only limited black access to employment, credit, and public facilities, but it ensured that most African Americans lived in a racially separate and materially unequal world. Housing discrimination hemmed them in, efforts to segregate schools and other public facilities affected people regardless of class, and other distinctly spatial practices -- such as redlining, commercial disinvestment, industrial polluting, and political gerrymandering -- compounded race and class inequities...

Against this backdrop, African Americans struggled to create places of their own. In metropolitan areas dominated by whites, they sought to use suburban space to their advantage, to satisfy their needs as well as their aspirations. This intention operated at many levels. For some, the place in question was a home that they owned, evidence of permanence, a marker of achievement, and the satisfaction of a long-deferred dream in the black South. For others, suburban space represented a means to economic subsistence, even independence: a lot with a spreading garden, chickens in the yard, and a house that they built was the help of friends and neighbors. For many, it was a black community, a place of social comfort and cultural affirmation if not racial pride, a “safe space” in which to nurture families and educate children, a symbol of resistance to white supremacy and a foundation for politics, if not economic and political power. For most suburbanites, too, home was a refuge, a shelter from the pressures of white racism. In important ways, therefore, black suburbanization was a movement set in juxtaposition to the wider society.”<sup>31</sup>

Wilson Park was founded the same year that Morgan State College (now University), an HBCU, moved to the campus at which it is still located today, a mere mile east of Wilson Park. Morgan Park, a suburban neighborhood adjacent to the college that was built for African Americans affiliated with the college, was also founded in 1917.<sup>32</sup>

On August 10, 1918, the plat for Wilson Park was recorded in the land records of Baltimore County, making the suburb official.<sup>33</sup> Wilson Park became an enclave for elite African American





Baltimoreans, including civil rights leaders W. Ashbie Hawkins, George W. F. McMechen, and Garnett Russell Waller (who was Wilson's father-in-law).<sup>34</sup> Wilson offered homes or lots for sale, allowing people to choose the best way to achieve homeownership - either through purchasing homes, or building homes themselves.<sup>35</sup>

Wilson Park was a wholesome rural respite, with a school, a church, and a country feel.<sup>36</sup> It was this rural feel that drew Mrs. Mabel Wilson, owner of 4423 Craddock Avenue, to Wilson Park when she moved to the community in the 1950s as a newly-wed. She had grown up in rural Baltimore County before moving to Towson to attend Carver, the one Baltimore County High School for African Americans. When she and her husband were looking for a place to buy a home, they were drawn to Wilson Park because it felt like a piece of the country in the city. It was so rural that Craddock Avenue was still a dirt road when she moved to 4402 Craddock Avenue, where she lived for over 40 years.<sup>37</sup> Band leader and entertainer Cab Calloway lived in Wilson Park for a short time as a young man, and recounted in his biography that it "was like an interlude. It was good for me because it got me out of the city and into an environment where there were very few temptations. The kids who lived in Wilson Park had their own baseballs and bats. While we lived in Wilson Park, I started going to church again."<sup>38</sup>

This peaceful setting was by design, cultivated by Wilson himself. An article in the *Afro-American* from 1920 described Wilson as "a man of quiet habits, spending his evenings at his well-appointed home in Wilson Park, a real estate development of his."<sup>39</sup> Wilson encouraged the faith-based institutions, and helped establish a school and recreational activities.

In 1920, Wilson Park served as the site of a large and impressive interracial eleven-day-long tent camp meeting for the Chesapeake Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist.<sup>40</sup> In 1921, the Providence Baptist Church was organized, and the cornerstone laid in 1923.<sup>41</sup> The community was home to the Wilson Park Giants, a Negro League baseball team.<sup>42</sup> There was a plan to create a six-hole golf club in Wilson Park, sponsored by Wilson, George W. F. McMechen, and H. Stanton McCard, President of the American Tennis Association.<sup>43</sup> There were ladies' afternoon whist clubs and teas.<sup>44</sup> Wilson donated the land for the elementary school, which opened in 1925.<sup>45</sup> There were close ties with Morgan College, and the school in Wilson Park was utilized for Morgan's summer school programs.<sup>46</sup>

It is unknown who designed Mr. Wilson's home and other properties in Wilson Park. However, it is likely that the architect and those who built the homes were African American. In 1926, in a statement that he gave to African American businessmen, Wilson "declared he had always employed colored doctors, builders, carpenters, and purchased his supplies from colored business men," and urged others to do the same.<sup>47</sup>

### **Property History and Architecture**

The property that was Mr. Wilson's home is two-thirds of an acre in size, comprised of two lots: the lot with the address of 4423 Craddock Avenue, and the unimproved parcel to the immediate south (Block 5191 Lot 009) that serves as a side and rear yard, and on which a portion of the driveway is located. The house itself is a large two-story bungalow with a full basement and deep porches that span the width of the building on the front and rear. When it was constructed, it had seventeen rooms, and when the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, purchased the



property in 1992, there was a swimming pool, fish pond, circular driveway, and garage, all attributed to Mr. Wilson.<sup>48</sup> The 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows that there were once several one-story outbuildings in the rear of the lot, including a garage.<sup>49</sup> Mr. Smith, stated in a 2000 *Sun* article that "In its prime, the home was nothing short of a mansion. We've talked to people who came here for social events in the earlier part of the century when it was the elite place to be."<sup>50</sup> When Walton and Mabel Smith purchased the property at auction in 1992, it was in serious disrepair and required a complete rehab. The building has new siding, windows, and interior, but it still retains its original form and original details such as the large brownstone porch with wood columns. The pool and fish pond have been filled in and the garage is in a state of serious disrepair, as it was when the Wilsons purchased the property.<sup>51</sup> The circular driveway is still extant.

This house, while large in footprint, is somewhat modest in its architectural style. A bungalow is not exactly what one might picture one of the wealthiest men in Baltimore living in, as many of the Baltimore elite lived in mansions. Yet the house was well-appointed, with many rooms in which to entertain. Wilson also had an office in his home, from which he conducted business in the evening.<sup>52</sup>

The house sits on a hill, and Ms. Smith states that some of the steepness of the hill has been lost with the paving of the road and the addition of sidewalks. Thus the house historically had a more commanding presence in the neighborhood when it was constructed, with a large front porch that served as a social space, land in the rear for stabling the horse and buggy, a garage for several cars, and other outbuildings, a swimming pool and fish pond, and a barbeque pit in the woods behind the house, off of the property.<sup>53</sup> This large bungalow and sizable property with many outbuildings and landscape features were all representative of Mr. Wilson's achievements and the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburban ideal.

### **Application of Landmark Designation Criteria**

The property meets CHAP Landmark Designation Standards:

B. A Baltimore City Landmark may be a site, structure, landscape, building (or portion thereof), place, work of art, or other object:

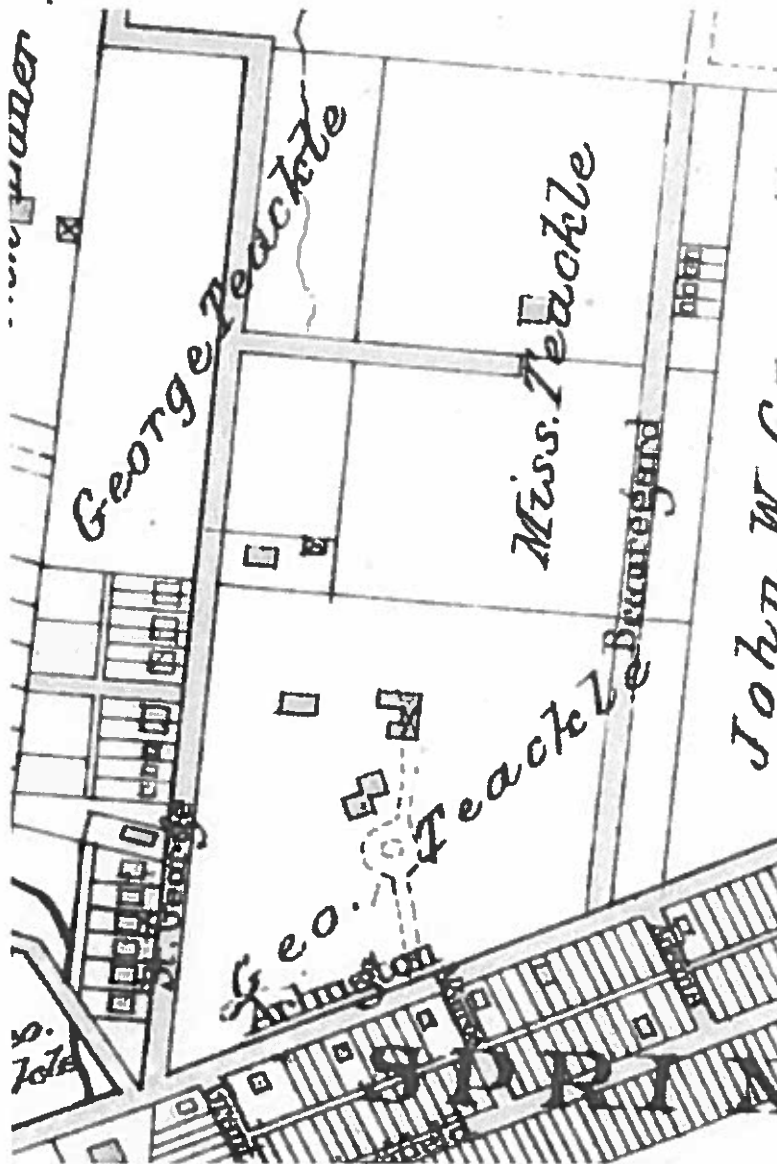
1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history;
2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in Baltimore's past; or
3. That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

This was the home of Harry O. Wilson, African American banker, founder of the Mutual Benefit Society and Helping Hand Building Association, and real estate developer in the early 20th century. He was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Baltimore – African American or white – in the early-twentieth century. He helped fund the construction of the Southern Hotel, and served on many appointed committees focused on Baltimore business and improvements, where he was often the sole African American. His bank was one of the few in Baltimore that



did not close during the Depression. He developed the neighborhood in which this house is located, Wilson Park, beginning in 1917. He created a suburban African American community that achieved so many of the American ideals that were largely inaccessible to African Americans. This house was built for Mr. Wilson, where he and his family entertained African American elite, and from which he even operated an office for his bank and insurance company. He died in this house in 1939, and this is where his funeral was held.

#### Maps



1898 Bromley Map, depicting the estate of George Teackle and his daughter, Miss Teackle, on which Wilson Park sits today. Several of the extant houses on St. George St. date to the 19th century. (Atlas of Baltimore County, 1898, Plate 16: Part of 3rd & 9th District. Accessible at: <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/bitstream/handle/1774.2/34349/Plate%2016%20-%20Part%20of%203rd%20%26%209th%20Districts.jpg?sequence=63&isAllowed=y>)

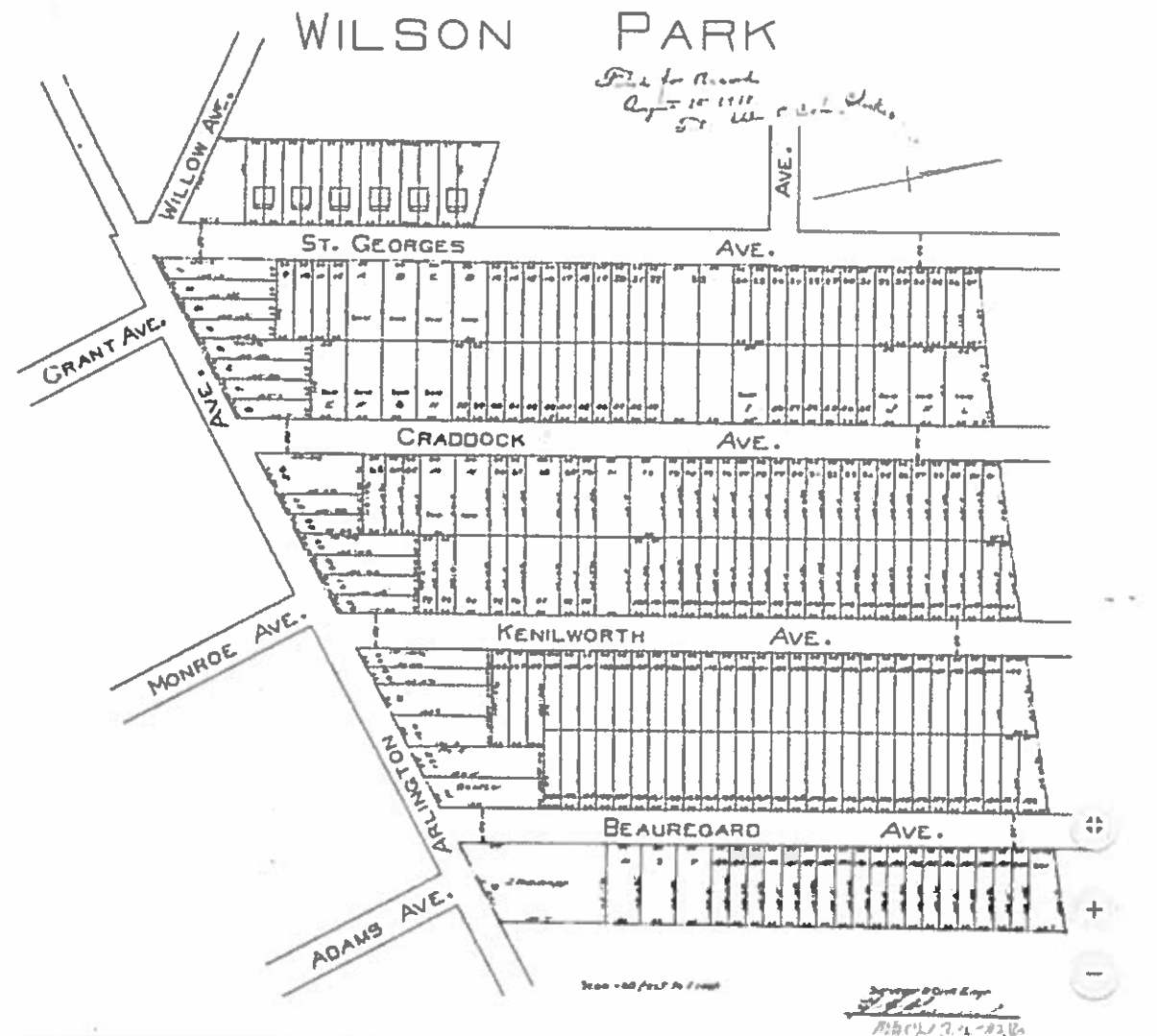




Image of Wilson Park boundaries overlaid on 1915 Bromley Atlas, annotated by Isekoff. Accessed 7/1/2017, from [http://www.mdhistory.net/msaref07/bc\\_ba\\_atlases\\_1876\\_1915/html/bc\\_ba\\_atlases\\_1876\\_1915-0745.html](http://www.mdhistory.net/msaref07/bc_ba_atlases_1876_1915/html/bc_ba_atlases_1876_1915-0745.html)







Plat of Wilson Park, 1918, depicting extant houses and lots that were sold. Note that this plat doesn't include all of Wilson Park today, including the lot on which 4423 Craddock is located. (Baltimore County Circuit Court (Plats), 1918/08/10, Wilson Park, Plat Book WPC 6, p. 148, MSA C2136-4386, Accessed June 28, 2017 at <http://plats.net/pages/unit.aspx?cid=BA&qualifier=C&series=2136&unit=4386&page=adv1&id=707252984>)



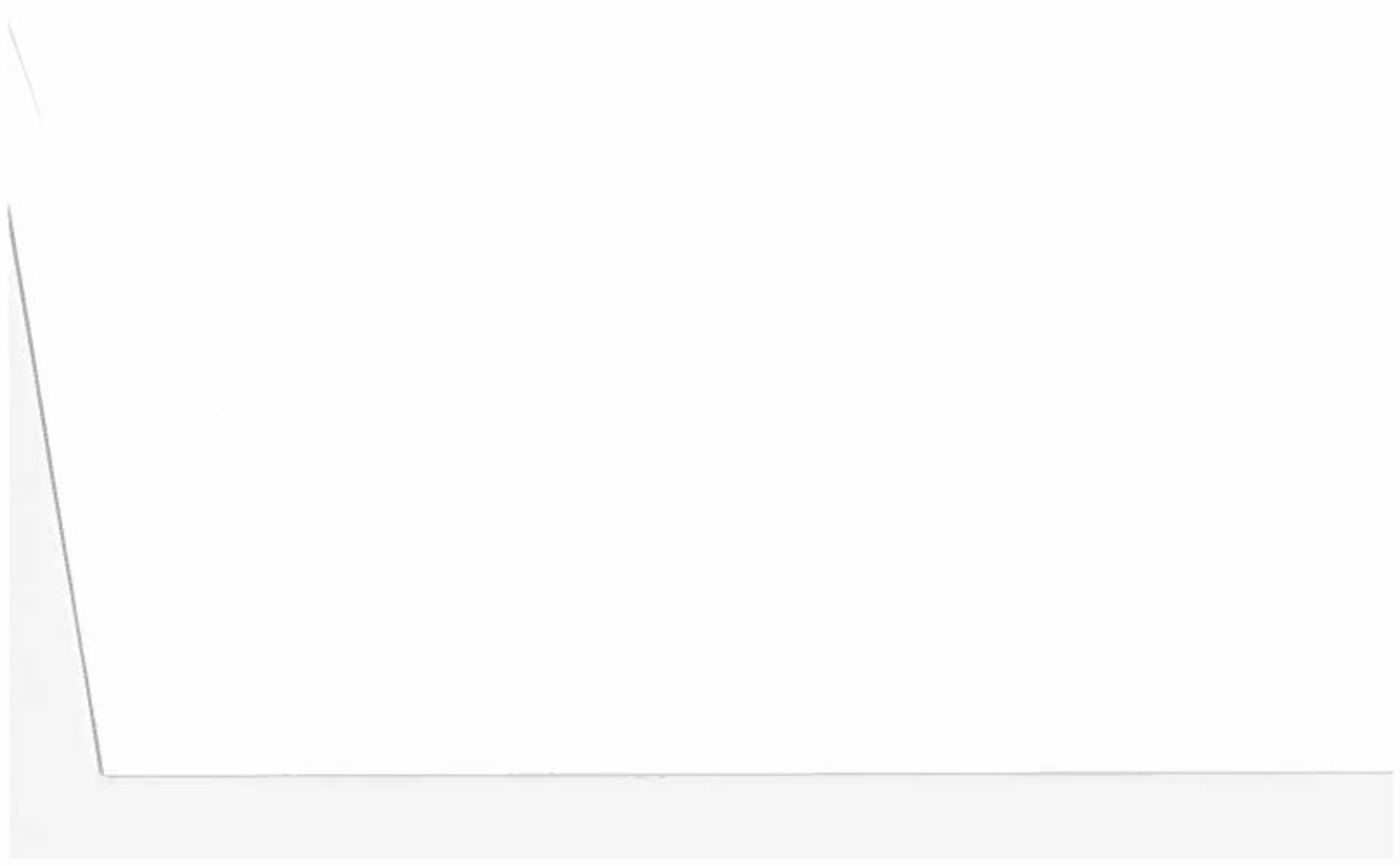


This Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1929 depicts Wilson Park, as well as Harry O. Wilson's large home and outbuildings at 4423 Craddock Ave, outlined in red. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1928-1936, Vol. 10, 1929, Sheet 1466.)

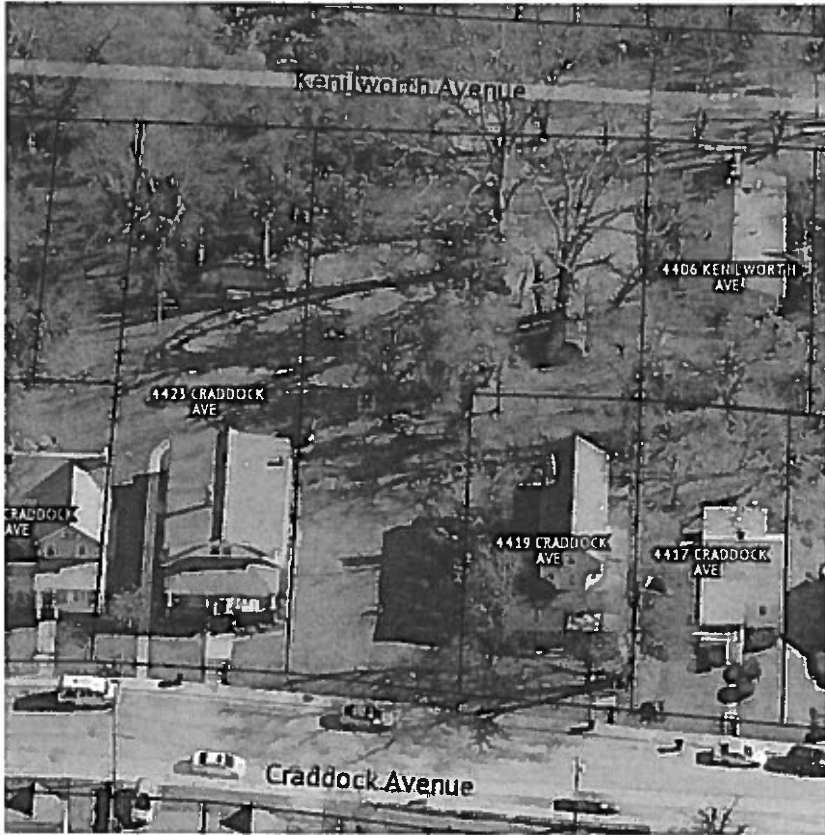




This Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1953 depicts Wilson Park, showing the development of the community, as well as the changes on Mr. Wilson's own parcel, with the demolition of some outbuildings, and addition to the garage. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914-1953, Vol. 14, 1953, Sheet 1466.)



**Images**



Aerial view from the west.



Aerial view from the south.







View of side yard and house.



Remains of the garage.



Driveway to rear of house, through wooded backyard.



- <sup>1</sup> "First of a Series of Articles about Local Business Men.: Does ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Nov 12, 1920; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 5
- <sup>2</sup> "Harry O. Wilson A Financial Genius: Building of Three of Baltimore's ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 27, 1926; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 11
- <sup>3</sup> "Heart Attack Fatal to Rich Insurance Man: Private Rites for Banker to ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 25, 1939; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 5
- <sup>4</sup> *The American Printer and Lithographer, Vol 65*, November 5, 1917, pg. 60 (New York: Oswald Publishing Company, 1917) Accessible at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=sf0gAQAAAMAAJ>
- <sup>5</sup> "Heart Attack Fatal to Rich Insurance Man: Private Rites for Banker to ..."
- <sup>6</sup> "Ask That Name Be Changed" *The Sun* (1837-1991); May 2, 1903; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 6; Advertisement in the *First Colored Professional, Clerical and Business Directory of Baltimore City, 25th Annual Edition, 1937-1938*, page 16, Volume 515 of the Archives of Maryland Online, accessible at: <http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/000001/000515/html/am515--14.html>; "A quick look at black history in Maryland" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Feb 7, 1985; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 12
- <sup>7</sup> James Gutman, "Black-owned Mutual Benefit plans merger with N.C. firm" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 17, 1977; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. A9
- <sup>8</sup> "Harry O. Wilson A Financial Genius: Building of Three of Baltimore's ..."
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*; Sandler.
- <sup>11</sup> William Piekens "Dean William Piekens Pays High And Well Deserved Tribute To Harry O. Wilson" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 3, 1922; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 7; "100 CITIZENS FETE HARRY O. WILSON" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 30, 1922; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 3
- <sup>12</sup> William Piekens
- <sup>13</sup> "NEW JERSEY NEWARK ATLANTIC CITY: FIFTEEN BANKS SURVIVE THE DEPRESSION ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jul 9, 1932; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 4)
- <sup>14</sup> Gilbert Sandler, "The only Negro banker in Maryland", Baltimore Glimpses, *Baltimore Sun*, January 25, 1994
- <sup>15</sup> "Harry O. Wilson A Financial Genius: Building of Three of Baltimore's ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 27, 1926; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 11; "Flower Blooms Once a Year, at Night-10-year-old Girl Travels, Africa ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Aug 8, 1931; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10)
- <sup>16</sup> "Flower Blooms Once a Year, at Night-10-year-old Girl Travels, Africa ..."
- <sup>17</sup> "New Inventory in Wilson Estate Totals \$78,200" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jul 27, 1940; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 24
- <sup>18</sup> "INDORSE FINDINGS ON PEOPLE'S COURT: Nice, Mayor And Bar Head Approve ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jun 28, 1938; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 7; "TO MAP POLICY ON BLIGHTED AREAS OF CITY: Group Named By Jackson To ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); May 10, 1937; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 18; "COMMITTEE TO PLAN SEGREGATION NAMED: Mayor Announces Those Selected ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jan 17, 1924; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 20)
- <sup>19</sup> Louis J. O'Donnell, "LANDON-KNOX LEGION FORMED IN MARYLAND: Organizers Are Republican None ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 2, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 20)
- <sup>20</sup> "Heart Attack Fatal to Rich Insurance Man: Private Rites for Banker to ..."
- <sup>21</sup> Antero Pietila, *Not in My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great American City* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2010), page 60; Charles Belfoure, "Pride flows forth from historic past Wilson Park began as a place of hope for Baltimore blacks" *The Baltimore Sun*, August 26, 2001.
- <sup>22</sup> "ST. GEORGE W. TEACKLE DEAD: Well-known Baltimore Physician Succumbs To Heart Disease" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 31, 1902; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 8; Atlas of Baltimore County, 1898, Plate 16: Part of 3rd & 9th District. Accessible at: <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/bitstream/handle/1774.2/34349/Plate%2016%20-%20Part%20of%203rd%20%26%209th%20Districts.jpg?sequence=63&isAllowed=y>
- <sup>23</sup> Atlas of Baltimore County, 1898, Plate 16: Part of 3rd & 9th District; "IN SUBURBS AND COUNTY: Jury Reverses Magistrate In Auto Accident Case ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 31, 1912; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 8
- <sup>24</sup> 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County, annotated by Isekoff. Accessed 7/1/2017, from [http://www.mdhistory.net/msaref07/bc\\_ba\\_atlases\\_1876\\_1915/html/bc\\_ba\\_atlases\\_1876\\_1915-0745.html](http://www.mdhistory.net/msaref07/bc_ba_atlases_1876_1915/html/bc_ba_atlases_1876_1915-0745.html)



- <sup>25</sup> "The Huntingdon Building Company Deed to Harry O. Wilson", Baltimore County Circuit Court (Land Records), WPC 483, page 564, MSA\_CE62\_483; "Carroll Thomas and wife Deed to Harry O. Wilson", Baltimore County Circuit Court (Land Records), WPC 483, page 567, MSA\_CE62\_483; "Wilhemina McLaughlin Deed to Harry O. Wilson", Baltimore County Circuit Court (Land Records), WPC 483, page 562, MSA\_CE62\_483.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>27</sup> Wilhemina McLaughlin Deed to Harry O. Wilson", Baltimore County Circuit Court (Land Records), WPC 483, page 562, MSA\_CE62\_483.
- <sup>28</sup> Atlas of Baltimore County, 1898, Plate 16: Part of 3rd & 9th District.; 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County, annotated by Isekoff.
- <sup>29</sup> "Display Ad 6 -- No Title" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Sep 22, 1917; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8.
- <sup>30</sup> Andrew Wiese, *Places of Their Own: African American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2004), 69.
- <sup>31</sup> Wiese, 8.
- <sup>32</sup> Roland C. McConnell, *The History of Morgan Park: A Baltimore Neighborhood 1917-1999* (Baltimore: Morgan Park Improvement Association, Inc., 2000)
- <sup>33</sup> Baltimore County Circuit Court (Plats), 1918/08/10, Wilson Park, Plat Book WPC 6, p. 148, MSA C2136-4386, Accessed June 28, 2017 at <http://plats.net/pages/unit.aspx?cid=BA&qualifier=C&series=2136&unit=4386&page=adv1&id=707252984>
- <sup>34</sup> "REAL ESTATE DEALS AND BUILDING NEWS: Large Auto Service Property At ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jan 8, 1924; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 16; "Meeting Friday To Form Golf Club For Baltimore" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 27, 1926; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10.
- <sup>35</sup> Belfoure
- <sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>37</sup> Mabel Smith, personal communication, June 30, 2017.
- <sup>38</sup> Sandler
- <sup>39</sup> "First of a Series of Articles about Local Business Men.: Does ..."
- <sup>40</sup> "ADVENTISTS CAMP PROVES A SUCCESS: Visitors From Many Points Build Place To Live In Four Days" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Sep 24, 1920; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 3.
- <sup>41</sup> "TWO BAPTIZED IN POTOMAC RIVER" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 30, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 3; "New Baptist Church Nearly Completed" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Aug 24, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 3.
- <sup>42</sup> "Subway Giants 13, Wilson Park 2" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Sep 16, 1921; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 9.
- <sup>43</sup> "Meeting Friday To Form Golf Club For Baltimore" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 27, 1926; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10; "GOLF EXPERT WILL TEACH AT NEW CLUB" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 17, 1926; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8.
- <sup>44</sup> "'Abide With Me' Termed America's Favorite Hymn. 'Nearer My God To ...'" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 27, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 3)
- <sup>45</sup> "GOOD MORNING JUDGE: the Afro Court Reporter Explanation Did Not Quite Explain" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 13, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 16; "EQUIPMENT FOR HI SCHOOL APPROVED: School Board Passes On Contracts ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 27, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 16
- <sup>46</sup> "CONDUCT JOURNALS IN SUMMER SCHOOLS: Morgan College Newspaper Groups ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Aug 15, 1925; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. A9.
- <sup>47</sup> "PROFESSIONAL MEN LACK HACE PRIDE: Harry O. Wilson Tells Business Men ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 2, 1923; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8
- <sup>48</sup> Mabel Smith
- <sup>49</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1928-1936, Vol. 10, 1929, Sheet 1466.
- <sup>50</sup> Martin Schneider, "Past a pleasant surprise for home's renovators DREAM HOME Restoration: Five years after buying a rundown house at auction, a couple moves in", *The Baltimore Sun*, April 09, 2000.
- <sup>51</sup> Mabel Smith
- <sup>52</sup> "Display Ad 15 - No Title", *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Dec 2, 1921; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American



---

<sup>53</sup> Mabel Smith





**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



**BOARD OF MUNICIPAL AND  
ZONING APPEALS**

DAVID C. TANNER, Executive Director  
417 E. Fayette Street, Room 1432  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

July 13, 2017

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill No. 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List – Exteriors – Harry O.  
Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Avenue

Ladies and Gentlemen:

City Council Bill No. 17-0090 has been referred by your Honorable Body to the Board of  
Municipal and Zoning Appeals for review and subsequent recommendation.

The purpose of City Council Bill No. 17-0090 is to designate the exterior of the Harry O.  
Wilson House located at the real property address known as 4423 Craddock Avenue, as a  
historical landmark: exterior.

The BMZA has reviewed the proposed legislation and recommends approval of Bill  
Number 17-0090.

Sincerely,

David C. Tanner  
Executive Director

DCT/rdh

CC: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances  
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office

