

FROM	NAME & TITLE	GARY W. COLE, ACTING DIRECTOR <i>G Cole</i>
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0244/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST- PRESIDENT STREET STATION

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE:

December 26, 2008

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

At its regular meeting of December 18, 2008, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0178 for the purpose of designating the President Street Station located at 801 Fleet Street as a Baltimore City Landmark

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary, and previous staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #08-0244 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 #08-0244 be passed by the City Council.

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

GWC/ttl

cc:

- Mr. Andy Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Demuane Millard, Chief of Staff
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable "Rikki" Spector, City Council Commission Representative
- Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
- Ms. Deepa Bhattacharyya, Law Department
- Mr. Larry Greene, Councilmanic Services
- Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, Chief, CHAP Division
- Mr. Tyler Gearhart, Chairman, CHAP



PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

April 17, 2008

REQUEST: Baltimore City Landmark Designation/President Street Station (801 Fleet Street)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

STAFF: Andrea Houseman

PETITIONER(S): Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

OWNER: Mayor and City Council

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The site address is 801 Fleet Street and is zoned B-2-4

General Area: President Street station is located in South East Baltimore on the cusp of what we know today as the Harbor East and Little Italy neighborhoods. The station sits on a small lot between President Street and a high-rise hotel.

HISTORY

There are no known previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site, it is however a star attraction on the Baltimore City Heritage Area Walk.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

Landmark designation reinforces CMP PLAY/Goal 1, Obj. 4: *Strengthen Stewardship of Historical and Cultural Resources.*

ANALYSIS

This is the second public hearing on the historic landmark designation process. The structure was reviewed and approved by the CHAP Commission on March 11, 2008. After the Planning Commission renders a decision on the designation, it will then go to the City Council for introduction by the administration.

Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Rail Road began construction on the President Street Station in 1851. The station stands today an icon of railroad engineering, the Civil War, Underground Railroad history and is the oldest surviving passenger railroad station in a large urban area. President Street Station is on the National Register of Historic Places and on the National Park Service's Underground Network to Freedom Trail, a collection of certified Underground Railroad sites.

President Street Station meets CHAP Baltimore City Landmark Designation criteria #1, #2 and #3.

- *Criteria #1: Is associated with the life of an outstanding historical person or persons; or*

In 1861 a newly elected President Lincoln passed in secret through Baltimore via President Street Station to his Washington Inauguration. The original trip was supposed take the President through Harrisburg, Pennsylvania then directly to Camden Station, but information from now famed detective Alfred Pinkerton gave hint to a plot to assassinate Lincoln and his destination was changed to the President Street Station. President Lincoln passed through the station on two other occasions, once in 1862 for a meeting with General Winfield Scott at West Point and again in 1864 to address the Philadelphia Sanitary Fair.

Two of the most well known slaves that escaped using the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad are Frederick Douglass in 1836 and Henry "Box" Brown. Brown purchased a box just large enough for himself and with the help of shop keeper Samuel Smith, he was shipped "direct express to Philadelphia." The box containing Henry Brown may have passed through the President Street Station landing him safely in Philadelphia. From then on he was known as Henry "Box" Brown and became an icon of the Underground Railroad. Several other well known escapees' passed through the President Street Station, William and Ellen Kraft, Harriet Eglin and Charlotte Giles all passed through Baltimore to Pennsylvania.

- *Criteria #2: Is the site of an historic event with a significant effect upon the cultural, political, economic, social, or historic heritage of the City of Baltimore; or*

On April 19th 1861 a mob attacked the 6th Massachusetts Troops and the 26th and 27th Pennsylvania Militia while marching between President Street Station and the Camden Street Station. Several companies of the Massachusetts regiment passed through town to the Camden Station unharmed before a crowd gathered cutting off the C, D, L and I regiments and the regimental band from the rest of the troops. A carriage load of sand, and several anchors from the near by piers were thrown across the tracks blocking the rail cars, the rail cars were returned to President Street Station and the remaining men, about 220, attempted to rejoin the rest of the company on foot. The mob of southern sympathizers shouted at the troops, and pelted them with rocks and bottles, and shot there pistols at them. Following previous orders, the soldiers shot back. The resulting riot lasted several hours and took the lives of four soldiers and twelve Baltimoreans, an additional 36 soldiers and an unknown number of civilians were injured. This event, known now as the Pratt Street Riot, is the considered the first blood shed of the Civil War and was the inspiration for the secessionist poem and state song "Maryland, My Maryland."

- *Criteria #3: Is significant of the architectural period in which it was built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method of construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or*

The original 1851 shed that extended from the back of the station house was constructed using the Howe arch. William Howe patented this new technology in structural engineering in 1840 for constructing bridges. The President Street Station was the first use of the method in a rail building.

The property owner and the following groups have been notified of this project: Downtown Partnership, Baltimore Development Corporation, Waterfront Partnership, and Baltimore City Heritage Area.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director.