

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, 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 #20-0548 / LANDMARK LIST – REED CALLOWAY HOUSE		

DATE:

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

September 11, 2020

At its regular meeting of September 10, 2020, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #20-0548, for the purpose of designating the Reed Calloway House, 1316 North Carey Street, as an historical landmark: exterior.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #20-0548 and adopted the following resolution; nine 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 #20-0548 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

CR/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Nicholas Blendy, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office  
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office  
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC  
Ms. Livhu Ndou, BMZA  
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration  
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD  
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.  
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC  
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services  
Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services



*Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
Mayor*

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Sean D. Davis, Chairman*

### STAFF REPORT



*Chris Ryer  
Director*

**September 10, 2020**

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill #20-0548 Landmark List: Reed Calloway House: For the purpose of designating the Reed Calloway House, 1316 North Carey Street, as an historical landmark: exterior.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**STAFF:** Lauren Schiszik

**PETITIONER(S):** Councilman Leon Pinkett et al.

**OWNER:** Trendline Properties, LLC

#### **SITE/GENERAL AREA**

Site Conditions: The structure is a three story, three-bay wide brick Italianate rowhouse with an ornate wood cornice on the façade. The fascia brick on the façade has been replaced, but the window and door openings and locations match those of the rest of the houses on the block. The only tells that the fascia brick has been replaced is presence of rowlock lintels above the windows and doors instead of jack arch lintels, and the texture of the brick. The rear of the house has a two-story rear ell with a small frame deck. The rear is clad with stucco.

General Area: This property is located on the west side of the 1300 block of North Carey Street, which is located in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of Baltimore. This block is bound by Laurens Street to the south, Presstman Street to the north, and the alley street of N. Woodyear Street to the west and N. Stockton Street to the east. The block is comprised mainly of three-story and some two-story Italianate brick rowhouses. There has been some demolition on the block, resulting in a few empty lots, a surface parking lot, and a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century church. A recent fire has damaged the rowhomes immediately north of the subject property. The surrounding blocks to the south, east, and west are largely comprised of late 20<sup>th</sup> century two-story rowhouses, many with a front yard set back.

#### **HISTORY**

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

## **CONFORMITY TO PLANS**

The request conforms to the goals and objectives of the Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan, specifically PLAY Goal 1: Strengthen Stewardship of Historical and Cultural Resources; and LIVE Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore’s Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods.

## **ANALYSIS**

Background: This property was the home of Blanche and Cab Calloway for a couple years during their childhood, living with their grandmother Annie Credit Reed, their mother, and extended family. It is arguably the most significant of the two surviving residences associated with them in Baltimore City. Despite their short tenure, the impact of their family that lived in this home for over forty years was profound. This designation honors not just Blanche and Cab Calloway, but their extended family that served the City in so many ways. Cab and Blanche Calloway’s maternal family was the foundation on which they built their careers, and 1316 N. Carey Street, their home for a brief period, was the home for many members of the extended family. Cab, Blanche, and their siblings Bernice and Milton all had natural musical talent and were all performers, but that talent was fostered by their Reed and Credit extended family, particularly their grandmother Annie Credit Reed. Their grandparents, aunts, uncle, and mother were all musicians as well, serving as choirmasters, organists, music teachers, and entertainers in hotels. Annie’s obituary noted that she was known for her exceptional musical ability, and that she taught all of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren instrumental and vocal musical education. The obituary goes on to refer to Blanche, Bernice, and Cab Calloway, and their aunt Lillian Reed Thompson as “living monuments to her exceptional musical accomplishments.” A 1934 article in the *Afro-American*, after Cab’s rise to stardom, credits Annie for Cab’s musical talents. Her influence deserves recognition. Additionally, the Reed family made many contributions to the City’s civic, educational, and religious life. The family’s purchase and residence at 1316 N. Carey Street from 1904 into the 1940s also demonstrates the broad pattern of history of West Baltimore in the early 20th century in terms of economic and social development.

This is the second public hearing for this property as part of the Baltimore City Landmark designation process. The first hearing was the August 11, 2020 hearing of the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), during which the Commission reviewed and recommended approval of Landmark designation because it meets criteria 1 and 2 of CHAP’s criteria for designation. The Commission recommended approval of the landmark designation

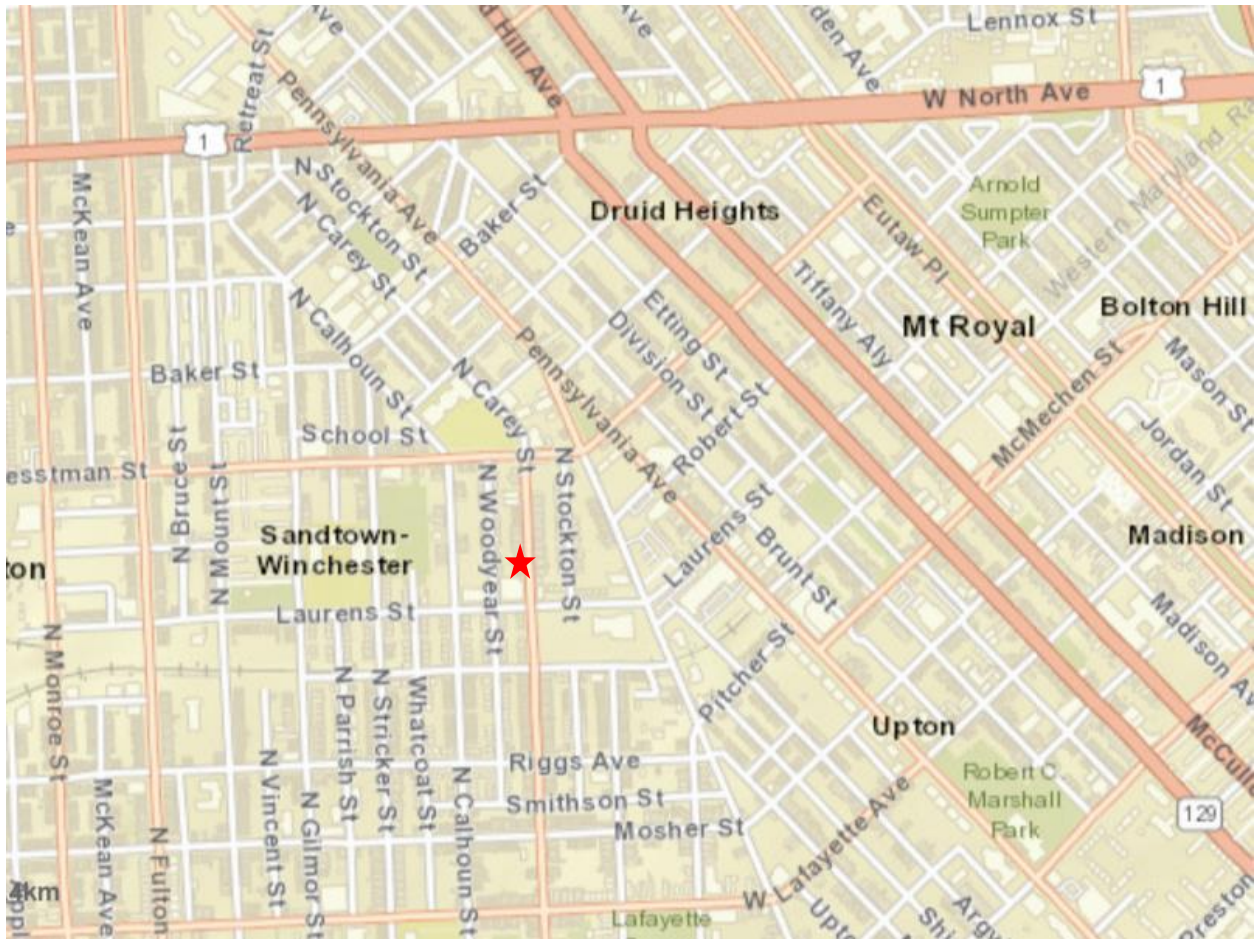
## **NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS**

Notification: Sandtown South Neighborhood Alliance, Fulton Community Association, Baltimore Heritage, Inc., the Baltimore National Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland have been notified of this action.



**Chris Ryer**  
**Director**

**Site Map**



Map 1: Locator Map, 1316 N. Carey Street marked with a red star.



Map 2: Detailed map of 1316 N. Carey Street, marked in red.