

TJS

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0110/ BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST: EXTERIORS – OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



TO

DATE: September 27, 2017

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

At its regular meeting of June 15, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0110, for the purpose of designating the Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 3301 The Alameda as a Commission for Historic Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary and previous staff report that recommended approval of the Historic Landmark. Thus, the Planning Commission recommended approval of City Council Bill #17-0110 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 #17-0110 be passed by the City Council.

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~~
- Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
- Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
- Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
- Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
- Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
- Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
- Ms. Lindsay Wines, DOT
- Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
- Mr. Paul Plymouth, Council Services



Catherine E. Pugh  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

### STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur  
Director

June 15, 2017

**REQUEST:** Designate as a Baltimore City Landmark: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**STAFF:** Lauren Schiszik

**PETITIONER/OWNER:** Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The building, constructed in 1929/1930 is a one-and-a-half story stone Gothic Revival church, featuring a three-story bell tower with 18 carillon bells. The church has stained glass windows, a slate roof, and on the bell tower, lancet-arched windows with decorative hoods that end with bas-relief faces, largely of humans, but also include a dog and cat. There is a simple stone addition on the north elevation of the building that was constructed in 1957/1958. The church was designed by the architecture firm Frohman, Robb, and Little, also responsible for designing the National Cathedral. It features stained glass windows made by the Willet Stained Glass Company and wrought iron work by Samuel Yellin, both of Philadelphia, and 18 carillon bells cast by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore. These were the largest set of bells cast in an American foundry.

General Area: Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located on the corner of the wide, tree-lined boulevards of 33<sup>rd</sup> St and The Alameda, in the suburban neighborhood of Ednor Gardens-Lakeside. Thirty-third Street (designated as a Baltimore City Landmark is one of the Olmsted Parkways) is the boundary of Ednor Gardens/Lakeside to the north, and Coldstream Homestead Montebello to the south. These neighborhoods were developed in the 1920s and 1930s. The homes surrounding the church to the north are Colonial, Spanish-Revival, and bungalow single family homes and duplexes. The homes across 33<sup>rd</sup> St. are 1920s porch-front daylight rowhouses. The property of Baltimore City College (a Baltimore City Landmark) is located diagonally from Our Saviour across 33<sup>rd</sup> St and The Alameda.

#### **HISTORY**

There are no Planning actions related to this property.

This designation is being requested by the congregation. This church building was constructed in 1929/1930 for the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This church was one of the earliest English-speaking Lutheran congregations established in the city in 1892. Originally located in East Baltimore, the congregation moved to this site in 1920. This structure was

designed by the firm of Frohmann, Robb, and Little, who designed many ecclesiastical structures, including the Washington National Cathedral and Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

This congregation served the needs of their congregants, but also – and almost more importantly – the needs of their community. This church opened a non-denominational Sunday School for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 1951, and was one of the eight churches of Homestead-Coldstream Churches Inc., which investigated and fought block-busting and racially discriminatory real estate practices in their community in the 1960s. In 1973, this congregation merged with another historic Lutheran congregation, that of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. This congregation was founded in Baltimore in 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans who moved from rural Meherrin, Virginia to Baltimore in the first wave of the Great Migration. The core of this church was comprised of members from the African-American St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Meherrin, which was the first African-American Lutheran Church in Virginia, founded in 1883. In 1971, Baltimore's St. Matthew Lutheran Church, facing an impending loss of their church building due to urban renewal plans, decided that they wanted to merge with another congregation, particularly a white Lutheran congregation that wanted an integrated congregation. Mergers between predominantly white and predominantly African-American congregations are highly uncommon, and this merger set a precedent in Baltimore and in the Lutheran Church's Missouri Synod. Today, the congregation is still thriving and serving its congregation and community at large.

### **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 requested by the Church. As per the landmark designation process, the CHAP Commission considered this designation at its hearing on April 11, 2017, and determined that the landmark designation meets the CHAP landmark designation Criteria 1 and 3, as the church is significant for its role in Baltimore City history and for its architecture.

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.

### **NOTIFICATION**

The following community organizations have been notified of this action:

Baltimore AIA, Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore National Heritage Area, Ednor Gardens-Lakeside Civic Association, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, Preservation Maryland, Strong City Baltimore.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'T' and a prominent horizontal stroke across the middle.

**Thomas J. Stosur**  
**Director**

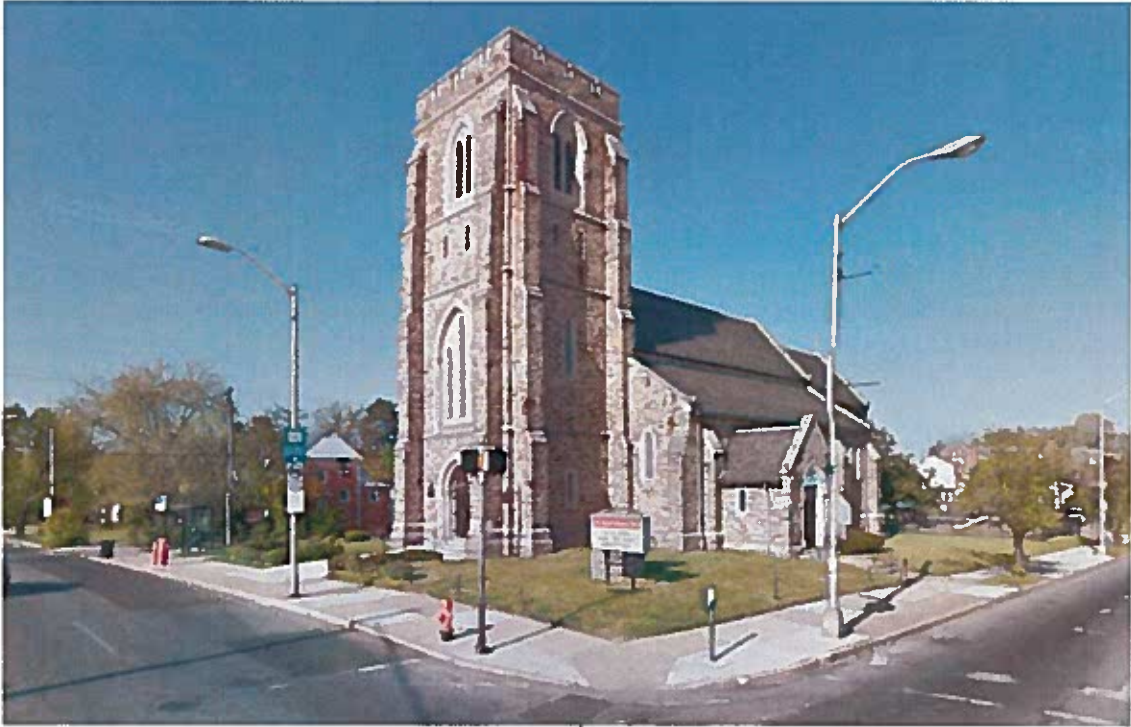








*Image 2 - Aerial view of site, view from south.*



*Image 3 - View of church from The Alameda and 33<sup>rd</sup> St.*



*Image 4 – Church façade on The Alameda.*



*Image 5 – South elevation facing 33<sup>rd</sup> St.*

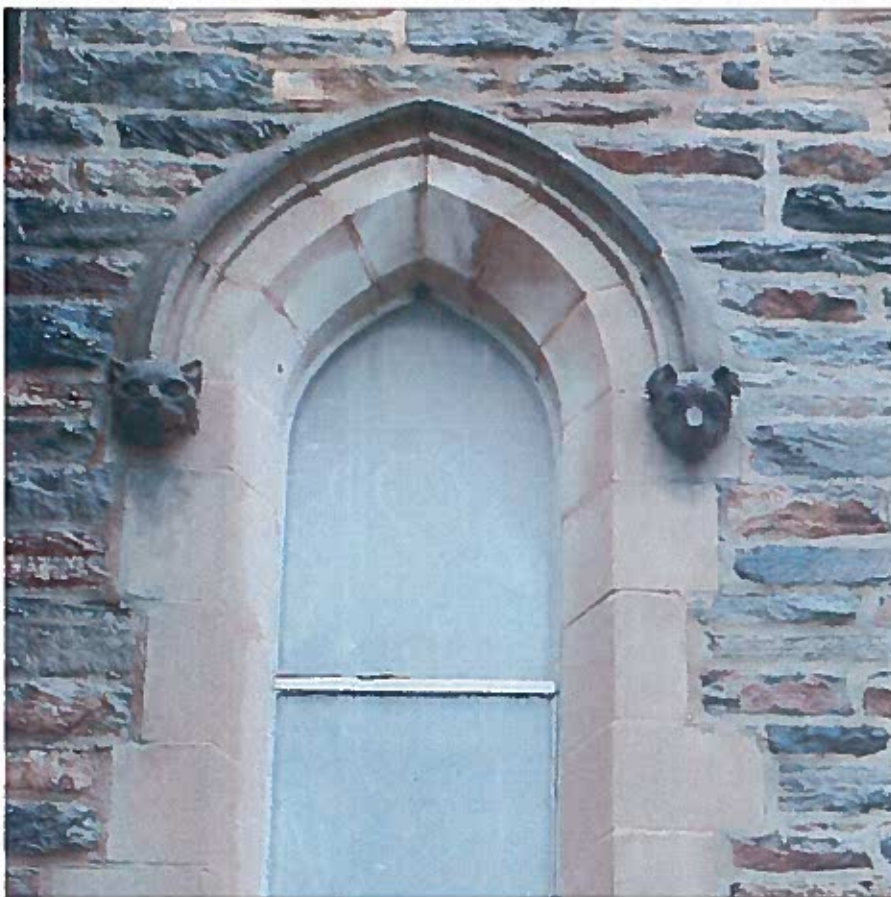


*Image 6 – Detail of the entrance on 33<sup>rd</sup> St.*



*Image 7 – View of the church and 1957 addition.*





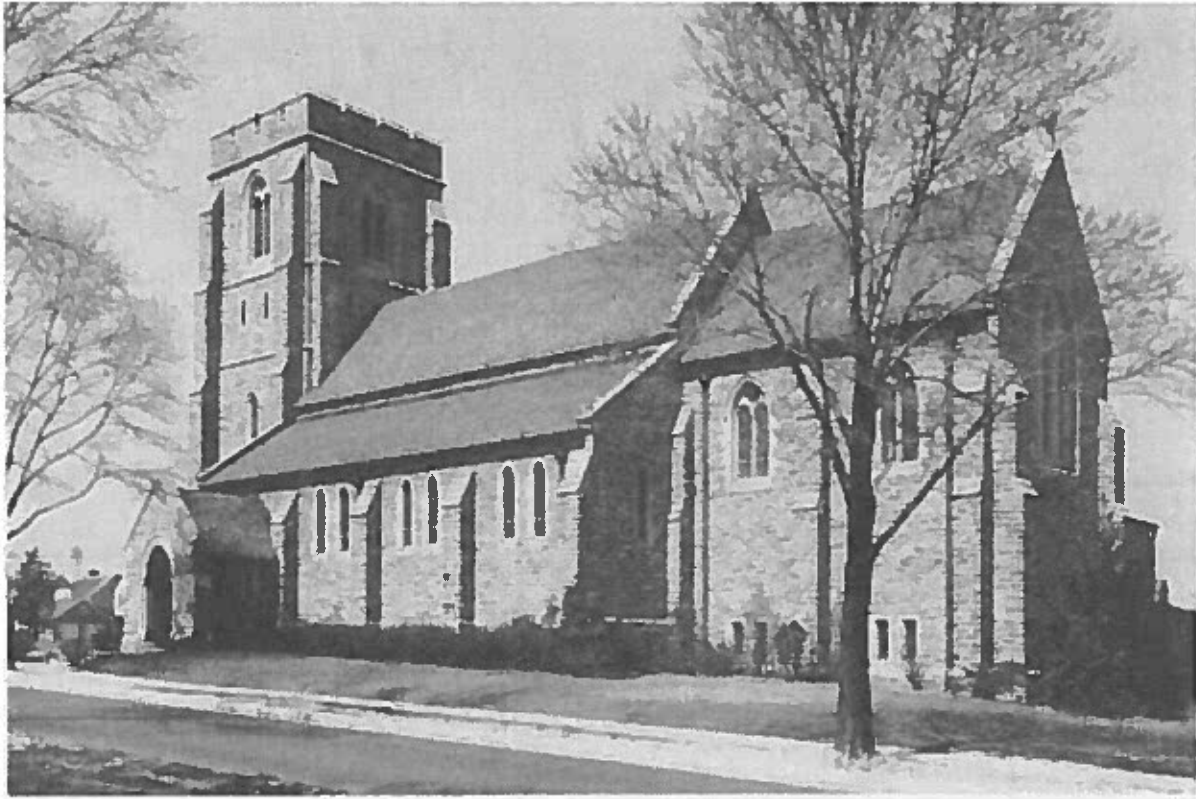
*Image 8 – Detail of decorative cat and dog carvings.*



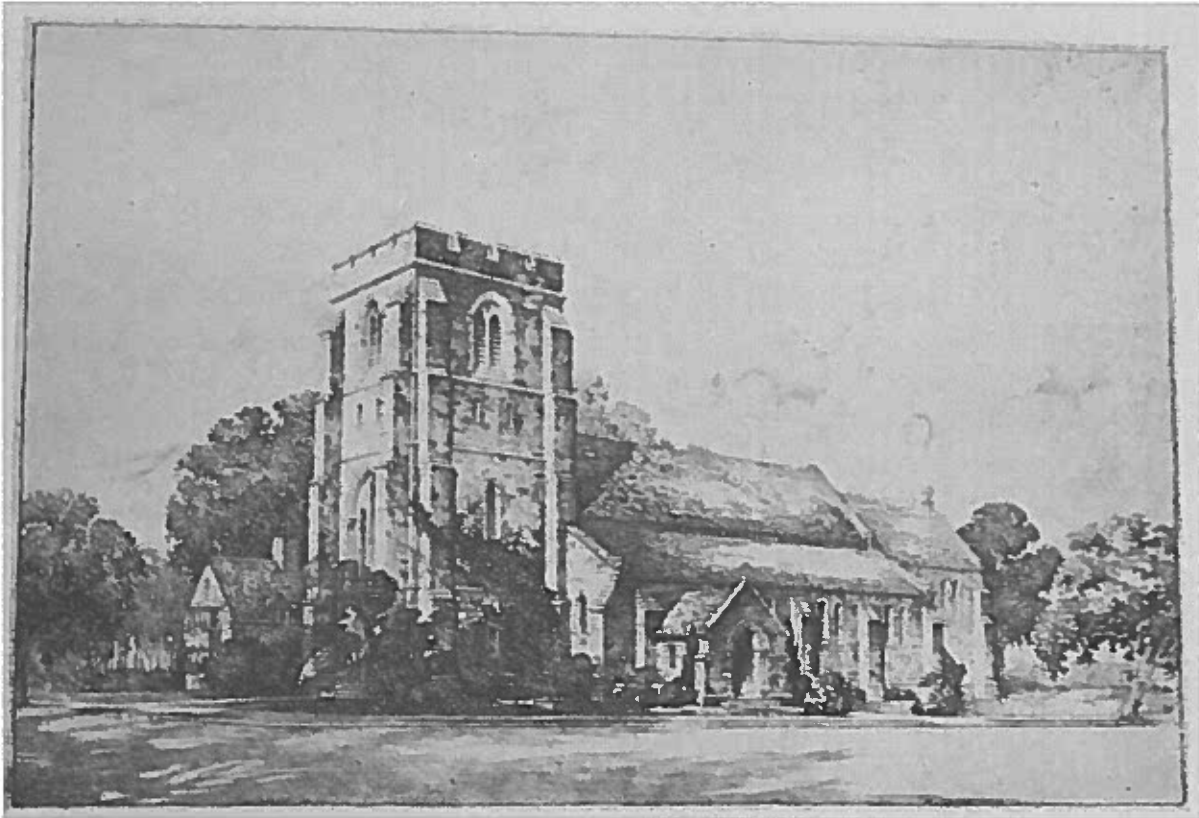
*Image 9 – The cornerstone.*



*Image 10 – Rear of the 1957 addition.*



*Image 11 - Historic photo of the 33<sup>rd</sup> St. elevation, undated.*



*Image 12 – Drawing of the church from its dedication ceremony, 1930.*

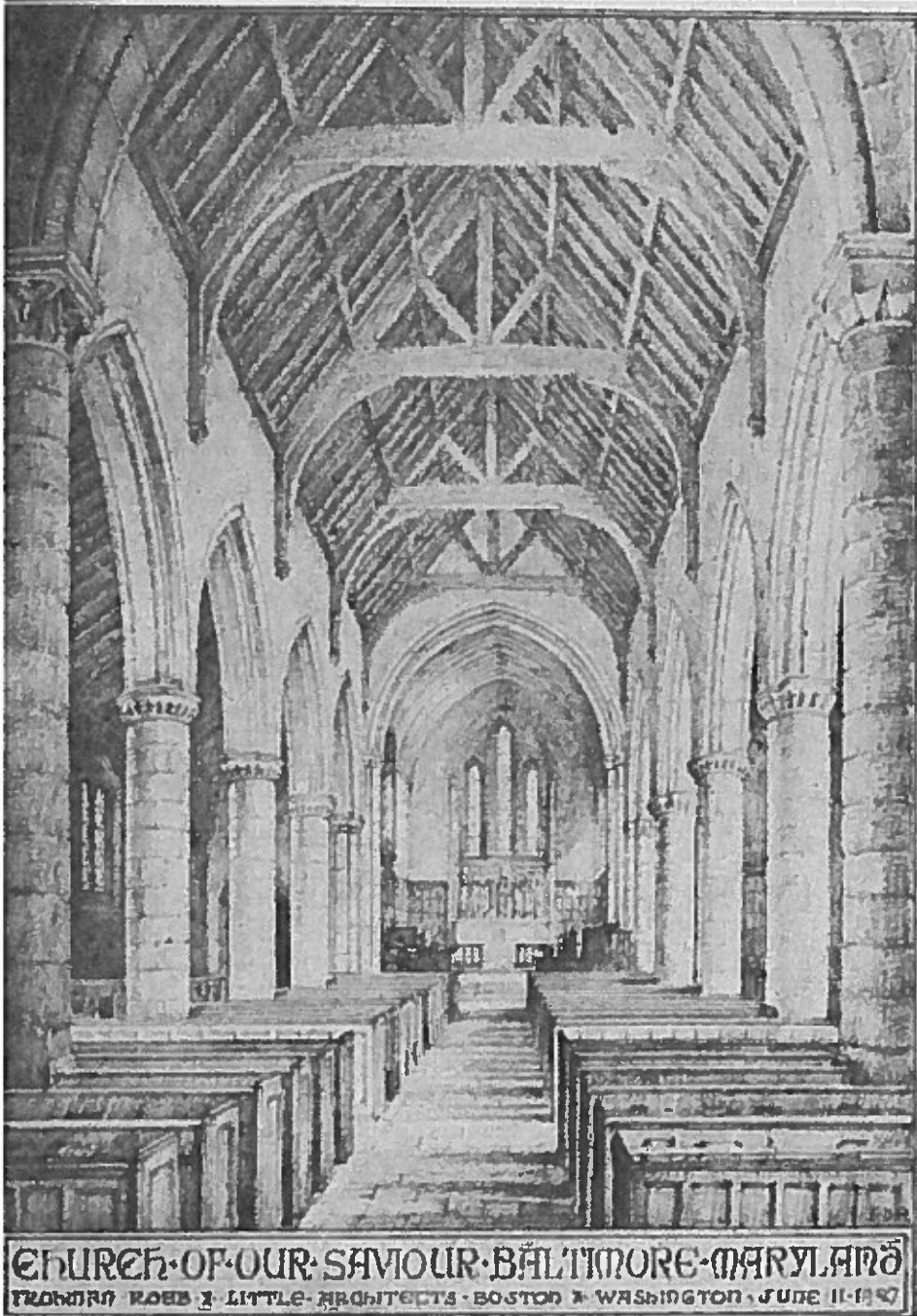


Image 13 – Drawing of the interior of the church