


FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #12-0135/ BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST- FREDERICK DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL		

DATE:

TO

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

November 19, 2012

At its regular meeting of November 15, 2012, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #12-0135, for the purpose of designating the Frederick Douglass High School located at 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway as a Baltimore City Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #12-0135 and adopted the following resolution, nine members being present (nine in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #12-0135 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: Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, Deputy Chief for Economic and Neighborhood Development
 Mr. Alex Sanchez, Chief of Staff
 Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
 The Honorable Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. Nicholas Blendy, DHCD
 Ms. Barbara Zektick, DOT
 Ms. Karen Randle, Council Services
 Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, Chief, CHAP
 Mr. Tom Leibel, Chairman, CHAP Commission
 Hon. Nick Mosby, City Councilman, 7th District



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

November 15, 2012

REQUEST: City Council Bill #12-0135/Baltimore City Landmark List for Frederick Douglass High School - 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway

For the purpose of designating Frederick Douglass High School, 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway, as a historical landmark.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor A. Quashie

PETITIONER(S): Councilmember Nick Mosby

OWNER: Mayor and City Council, Baltimore City Public School System

SITE/ GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The school is located in the Mondawmin neighborhood of Baltimore in the Western planning district.

General Area: Frederick Douglass High School campus is located at 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway. The school property is bound by Gwynns Falls Parkway to the north, N. Pulaski Street to the east, Windsor Street to the south, and Warwick Street to the west. The area primarily consists of attached row homes and some multiple family dwellings.

HISTORY

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

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

This action is consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, specifically:

PLAY Goal 1: Enhance the enjoyment, appreciation and stewardship of Baltimore's Historic and Cultural Resources.

LIVE Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods.

ANALYSIS

This is the second public hearing for the Baltimore City Landmark designation for this building. The first hearing occurred on November 13, 2012, when the CHAP Commission reviewed and recommended approval of landmark designation for Frederick Douglass High School located at 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway. After the Planning Commission recommends approval, its recommendation will be sent to City Council to secure passage of Baltimore City Landmark Designation legislation for Douglass High School.

Frederick Douglass High School was the first high school established for African Americans in the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. It was the third African American High School established in the United States. For fifty years, this was the only high school for African Americans in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. In 2013, the school will celebrate its 130th anniversary.

It grew out of a primary school for African American children, established in 1867, called the Colored Grammar School. The high school curriculum was added in 1883, and the first class graduated from the Colored High School of Baltimore City in 1889, receiving their diplomas from Mayor Latrobe.

Douglass has served as one of the most illustrious institutions of higher learning in the City of Baltimore. The African American teachers at Douglass were highly educated, many holding PhDs and Masters Degrees from the best colleges and universities in the country. Generations of Douglass students received educations unsurpassed by most white schools, and were taught to overcome the racial, economic, and social inequities facing them. The school also nurtured the students' talents through music, arts, sports, clubs such as the "Imperial Bengals", and other activities.

Some of the Douglass High School alumni of note include:

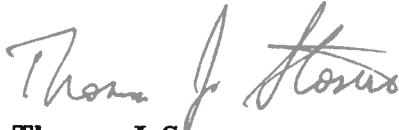
- Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice
- Parren Mitchell, and Kweisi Mfume, U.S. Congressmen
- Harry Cole, State Senator and Judge for the Maryland Court of Appeals
- Verda Welcome, State Senator
- Howard Peters Rawlings, Educator, Civil Rights Activist and Maryland State Delegate
- Milton Allen, Baltimore State's Attorney, Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge
- Robert Watts, Municipal Court Judge, Baltimore City Supreme Court Judge
- Solomon Baylor, Baltimore City District County and Circuit Court Judge
- John Hargrove, Sr., U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland Judge
- Lillie May Carroll Jackson, Civil Rights leader, founded Baltimore's NAACP chapter
- Clarence Mitchell, Jr. , Civil Rights leader, Chief lobbyist for the NAACP
- Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Attorney
- Clarence "Du" Burns, Mayor of Baltimore
- Agnes Welch, City Councilwoman
- Carl Murphy, publisher of the *Afro-American*
- Veronica Tyler, Ann Wiggins Brown, Marian Jackson Downs, and Ethel Ennis, Singers
- Cab Calloway and Chick Webb, Jazz musicians and Band leaders
- Avon Long, Broadway Actor and Singer
- Dr. Sydney Cousin, Superintendent, Howard County Public School System

Douglass High School is a three-story brick school building designed in a Collegiate Gothic Revival style that was popular in the early 20th century for academic institutions. The building was designed by Joseph Evans Sperry, a prominent Baltimore architect whose works include St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Bromo-Seltzer Tower, the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company (with J.B. Noel Wyatt), and the Provident Bank Building (with York & Sawyer), all of which are Baltimore City Landmarks. The school has rich architectural details: arched windows and entrances, quoining, buttresses, large, ornately traceried Gothic arch windows, bas-relief plaques, and more. This building has a twin – the former Eastern High School building on 33rd St., now the JHU at Eastern campus.

Frederick Douglass High School meets CHAP Landmark Criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of Baltimore history
3. 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.

Staff has notified Councilman Nick Mosby, Dr. Andrés Alonso, CEO, Mr. Paul Turner, Ms. Greta Sawyers, Mr. Keith Scroggins from Baltimore City Schools, Dr. Antonio Hurt, Principal of Douglass High School, members of the Douglass High School Alumni Association, Western High School Alumnae Association, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore City Historical Society, Preservation Maryland, Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation, Whittier Monroe Community Neighborhood Association, and the Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council, Inc.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

