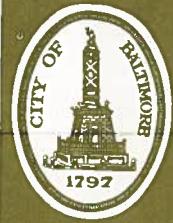


FROM	 <b>THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR</b>	
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	<b>DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING</b> <b>8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET</b>	
SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0735/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST – GRACE TURNBULL HOUSE</b>	

CITY OF  
 BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



DATE:

August 5, 2011

TO

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

At its regular meeting of August 4, 2011, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #11-0735, for the purpose of designating Grace Turnbull House, 223 Chancery Road, as a historical 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 #11-0735 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 #11-0735 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/WYA/kh

Attachment

cc: Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, Deputy Mayor  
 Mr. Peter O'Malley, Chief of Staff  
 Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office  
 The Honorable Bill Henry, Council Rep. to Planning Commission  
 Ms. Barbara Zektick, DOT  
 Ms. Karen Randle, Council Services  
 Ms. Marcia Collins, DPW  
 Mr. Paul Barnes, DGS

**18. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0731/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
FRANKLIN-DELPHEY HOTEL** (Administration – City Council President Young)  
For the purpose of designating Franklin-Delphey Hotel, 300 West Franklin Street, as a historical landmark. (Eleventh District)

**19. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0732/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
GRAND MASONIC TEMPLE** (Administration – City Council President Young)  
For the purpose of designating Grand Masonic Temple, 221-227 North Charles Street, as a historical landmark. (Eleventh District)

**20. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0733/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
MAYFAIR THEATER** (Administration – City Council President Young)  
For the purpose of designating Mayfair Theater, 506 North Howard Street, as a historical landmark. (Eleventh District)

**21. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0734/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
HANSA HAUS** (Administration – City Council President Young)  
For the purpose of designating Hansa Haus, 11 South Charles Street, as a historical landmark. (Eleventh District)

**22. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0735/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
GRACE TURNBULL HOUSE** (Administration – City Council President Young)  
For the purpose of designating Grace Turnbull House, 223 Chancery Road, as a historical landmark. (Fourteenth District)

**23. CIP TRANSFERS**

This agenda was prepared on the assumption that all necessary materials have been made available in sufficient time for consideration by the Commission at this meeting. There are occasionally changes in this agenda when relevant materials have not been delivered to the Department on schedule. **For any item marked (\*\*), please call the Department at 410-396-8337 for most current information.**

**The meeting will be held in the Phoebe B. Stanton Boardroom of the Department of Planning, located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of 417 East Fayette Street.**

**Recommendations:** Approval, with the recommendation that upon the passage of Baltimore City Landmark Designation legislation by the Mayor and City Council, the Special List designation on the subject property be removed by the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation.

**21. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0734/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
HANSA HAUS**

On September 9, 2008, members of the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation recommended approval of landmark designation for the Hansa Haus. The Planning Commission recommended approval of designation of the Hansa Haus to the City Landmark List at its meeting on July 9, 2009.

CHAP's action is the first step and the Planning Commission action is the second step in this three steps process for Baltimore City historical landmark designation. This bill is the final step in the process. This action is consistent with the previous CHAP and Planning Commission actions.

**Recommendation:** Approval, with the recommendation that upon the passage of Baltimore City Landmark Designation legislation by the Mayor and City Council, the Special List designation on the subject property be removed by the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation.

**22. CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0735/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST –  
GRACE TURNBULL HOUSE**

On November 18, 2008, members of the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation recommended approval of landmark designation for the Grace Turnbull House. The Planning Commission recommended approval of designation of the Grace Turnbull House to the City Landmark List at its meeting on July 9, 2009.

CHAP's action is the first step and the Planning Commission action is the second step in this three steps process for Baltimore City historical landmark designation. This bill is the final step in the process. This action is consistent with the previous CHAP and Planning Commission actions.

**Recommendations:** Approval, with the recommendation that upon the passage of Baltimore City Landmark Designation legislation by the Mayor and City Council, the Special List designation on the subject property be removed by the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation.



*Sheila Dixon*  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION



*Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman*

## STAFF REPORT

*Thomas J. Stosur*  
Director

**July 9, 2009**

**REQUEST: Baltimore City Landmark Designation /Grace Turnbull House – 223 Chancery Road**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval, with the recommendation that upon the passage of Baltimore City Landmark Designation legislation by the Mayor and City Council, the Special List designation on the subject property be removed by the Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation.

**STAFF:** Melvin Hicks

**PETITIONER(s):** Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)

**OWNER:** Doug Hamilton, 223 Chancery LLC

### **SITE/GENERAL AREA**

**Site Conditions:** The property entails the main house, the landscaped garden area, and studio. The house is a composite primarily of Spanish Mission Revival and Arts and Crafts architectural details. The house is a two-story stucco house with a hipped roof. It is set back from the street with the main entrance set to the side. In the rear, the studio resembles a small Spanish parish church topped with a bell.

**General Area:** The Grace Turnbull House is located at 223 Chancery Road in the Guilford neighborhood in Northern Baltimore City. This area is characterized by beautiful architecture, community parks, and streets lined with mature trees. It is in close proximity to Johns Hopkins Homewood campus, Loyola College, and the College of Notre Dame.

### **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, with respect to protecting and enhancing the preservation of Baltimore's historic buildings and neighborhoods.

## ANALYSIS

This is the second public hearing in the Baltimore City Landmark Designation process. The structure was reviewed and approved by the CHAP Commission on November 18, 2008. After the Planning Commission renders an affirmative decision on the designation, it will then go to the City Council for introduction by the administration.

Grace Turnbull was born in 1880 to a prominent Baltimore family. The family lived in Bolton Hill in the mansion that has become part of Beethoven Apartments (1500 Block of Park Avenue). The family also owned La-Paix, a summer home in Towson that became a temporary home for F. Scott Fitzgerald. Ms. Turnbull grew up surrounded by artists and intellectuals. Her father edited *The New Eclectic* and the *Southern* magazines, which published poets such as Sidney Lanier. Additionally, another important influence was her mother who became the president of the Women's Literary Club and a novelist. Grace would spend her childhood surrounded by literature and the arts.

She entered the Maryland Institute College of Art where she served as an assistant to Philadelphia artist, Thomas Anschutz. She also studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Arts, where she became adept at portrait painting. In 1902, Ms. Turnbull went to Rome to study sculpture with Moses Ezekiel, and in 1913 she went to Brittany to paint. In 1914 she became a Red Cross searcher for the missing in World War One. At this point in her life, Ms. Turnbull was a committed religious pacifist.

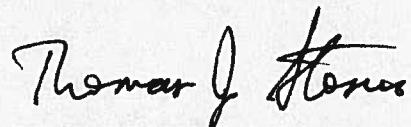
After 1919 and several trips through the Caribbean and to the Grand Canyon, Grace focused on painting flowers and landscapes. In 1927 after settling in Baltimore, she asked her brother, Bayard to design a house. In 1929 she published *Tongues of Fire: A Bible of Sacred Scriptures of the Pagan World*. This book was the culmination of her deep interest in world religions and sacred writings. This book has been reprinted several times, most recently in 2001. Around 1934 she published *Essence of Plotinus*, a translation which some say introduced Plotinus to 20<sup>th</sup> century America. She penned other work: *Fruit of the Vine as Seen by Many Witnesses in all Times*, nonfiction (1950), *Chips From My Chisel, An Autobiography* (1953), *The Uncovered Well*, Fiction (1954), and *Paintings and Sculpture*, an Art Book (1959).

Grace Turnbull's art changed throughout her career. She first worked as a portrait painter using pastels, then oil. Prior to World War One, she studied sculpture in Italy and painting in Brittany. After World War One, she painted landscapes and flowers. After World War II she began making sculpture, leaving Baltimore with several important monuments and outdoor sculpture, including the Reese monument and the Naiad in Mount Vernon Place. By the time of her death, she was an international art figure, an artist and philosopher whose books are still in publication, and a humanitarian. She passed away in 1976 at the age of 96. Her artwork can be found in many museums including the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The Grace Turnbull House meets CHAPS Criteria #2 for Baltimore City Landmark Designation as the home of prominent world-renown artist, scholar, and author. In 1927 Bayard Turnbull, brother of Grace, designed the house for Grace where she lived until her death in 1976.

Based on these findings, staff recommends that landmark status be granted.

Staff notified property owner, Baltimore Heritage, and the Guilford Association of this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur".

**Thomas J. Stosur**  
Director