


FROM	NAME & TITLE	GARY W. COLE, ACTING DIRECTOR <i>Wole</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0173-BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST- ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH		

TO

DATE:

September 17, 2008

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

At its regular meeting of September 11, 2008, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0173 for the purpose of designating the St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1920 Saint Paul 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 #08-0173 and adopted the following resolution, eight members being present (eight in favor).

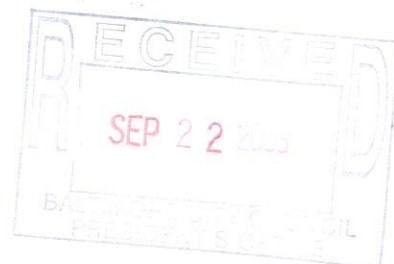
RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0173 be passed by the City Council.

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, Mayor's Office
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
Mr. Tyler Gearhart, Chairman, CHAP



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PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

February 7, 2008

REQUEST: Historic Landmark Designation- St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church-
1920 St. Paul Street

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

STAFF: W. Edward Leon, City Planner II, HAP Division

PETITIONER(S): Rev. Dale Dusman, City of Baltimore-Planning
Department/CHAP/HAP

OWNER: Trustees of St. Mark's English Evangelical Lutheran Church

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The St. Mark's Church is a turn of the 20th century Italian/Richardsonian Romanesque stone structure located at the southwest corner of St. Paul Street and 20th Street and is zoned B-2-3.

General Area: The area immediately surrounding the landmark site is of a combination of churches, former university structures and rowhomes.

HISTORY

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

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

This site lies within the Station North Arts and Entertainment District area. The goal of the designation is to recognize the architectural importance of this late 19th century church. The structure is already located within the Old Goucher National Register historic district.

ANALYSIS

This is the second public hearing on the historic landmark designation process. It will then go to the City Council for introduction by the administration.

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is significant because it was designed in the style of early Christian architecture known as Italian Romanesque. This was the prevalent type of architecture in Europe following the fall of the Roman Empire (476 AD) to the beginning of the Gothic period (late 12th century). The architect, Joseph Evans Sperry, drew inspiration for the church by visiting Europe and touring many of its finest

churches, most notably the St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy. Additionally, works by H. H. Richardson helped contribute to the style we see today at St. Mark's.

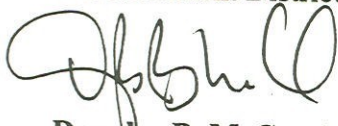
Joseph Evans Sperry's most notable projects prior to St. Mark's included the construction of the Church of St. Michael & All Angels (across from St. Mark's, the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company, the Oheb Shalom Synagogue, and the Brewer's Exchange. After the construction of St. Mark's, Sperry added to his resume by building the Provident Savings Bank and, perhaps the most recognizable landmark in Baltimore, the Bromo-Seltzer Tower.

The interior design of St. Mark's is patterned after the very earliest of Christian architecture, which drew its inspiration from the Roman basilica or court house. The simplicity of the basilica plan: the round apse, the rectangular hall with beam and narthex, the flat ceiling, is in marked contrast to the complex forms of medieval churches. This emphasis on classical horizontality, plus the square bell tower and the portico of the adjoining Sunday School Building are reminiscent of the early Romanesque churches of northern Italy

The site meets CHAP Landmark designation Criteria 4, which stipulates the following:

"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".

The property owner, Old Goucher Community Association, and the Station North Arts & Entertainment District have been notified of this action.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director