



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

**COMMISSION FOR
HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL
PRESERVATION**

Tom Liebel, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

July 11, 2017

REQUEST: City Council Bill 17-0090: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Harry O. Wilson House, 4423 Craddock Ave.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with addition.

STAFF: Lauren Schiszik

PETITIONER: Councilman Bill Henry

OWNER: Mabel Smith

SUMMARY: Designate this property as Baltimore City Landmark.

SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT

General Area: The neighborhood of Wilson Park is a suburban neighborhood largely featuring single-family homes that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is an historic African American suburban enclave developed by Harry O. Wilson in the early 20th century.

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The property is a two-story bungalow structure built in the early 1920s that sits on a hill on the east side of Craddock Ave, a half-block south from E. Cold Spring Lane. It features a large front porch with a sandstone block foundation. The building is frame on a brick foundation, with siding. There are the remains of a four-car garage in the rear. There is a large side yard.

BACKGROUND

- This designation is being requested by Councilman Henry, with the introduction of City Council Bill 17-0090.

PROPOSAL & APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES

Designate this property as a Baltimore City Landmark.

ANALYSIS

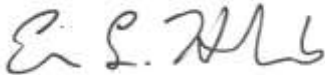
CHAP staff has reviewed the landmark designation report and has determined that the property is eligible for designation as a landmark under Criteria 1, 2, and 3.

This was the home of Harry O. Wilson, African American banker, founder of the Mutual Benefit Society, and real estate developer in the early 20th century. He was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Baltimore – African American or white – in the early twentieth century. He helped fund the construction of the Southern Hotel, and served on many appointed committees focused on Baltimore business and improvements, where he was often the sole African American. His bank was one of the few in Baltimore that did not close during the Depression. He developed the neighborhood in which this house is located, Wilson Park, beginning in 1917. He created a suburban African American community that achieved so many of the American ideals that were largely inaccessible to African Americans. This house was built for Mr. Wilson, where he and his family entertained African American elite, and from which he even operated an office for his bank and insurance company. He died in this house in 1939, and this is where his funeral was held.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS

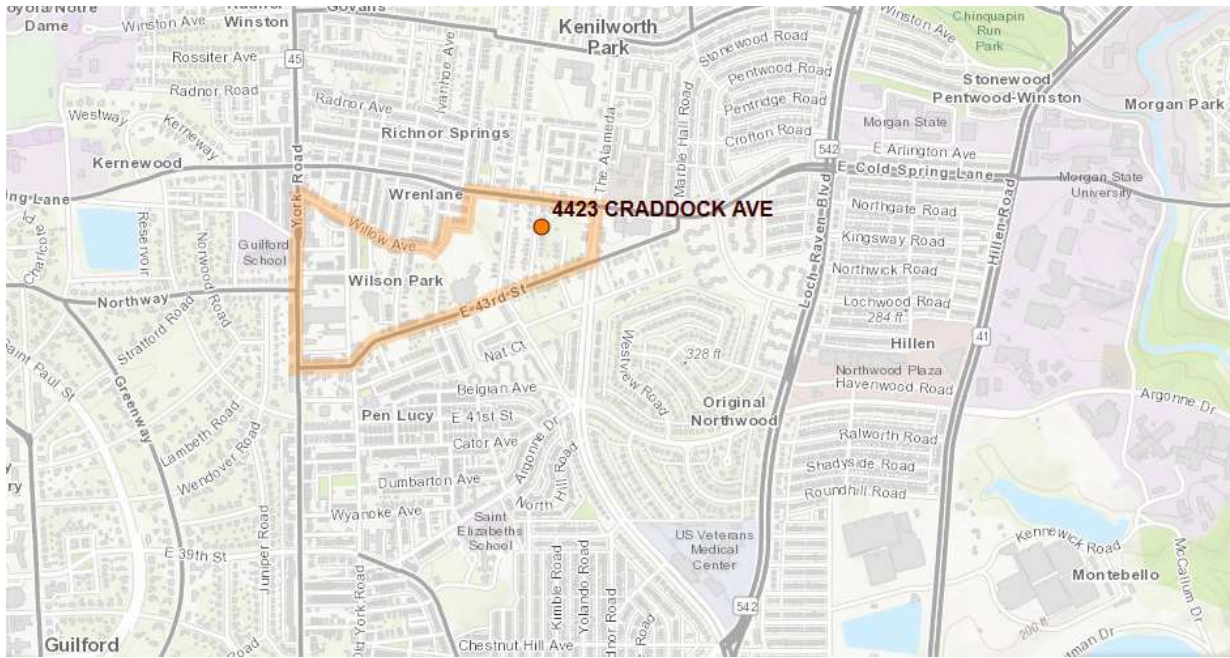
The property is not located within a CHAP district; therefore, comments from an Architectural Review Committee are not applicable.

Staff recommends a finding of approval for listing (or naming the property to the list) of this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List because it meets criteria 1, 2, and 3 of CHAP's criteria for designation. Staff also recommends adding the parcel Block 5191 Lot 009 in the boundaries of this landmark designation to include the side and rear yard that has always served this property. Its omission was an oversight.



Eric Holcomb
Director

MAP AND IMAGES



Map 1: Map of the property.



Map 2: Close-up map of the site.



Image 1: Front of house



Image 2: Side of house