



*Stephanie Rawlings-Blake*  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman*

### STAFF REPORT



*Thomas J. Stosur*  
Director

**October 8, 2015**

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill #15-0509/Baltimore City Landmark List – Eastern Avenue Pumping Station – 751 Eastern Avenue

For the purpose of designating the Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, 751 Eastern Avenue, as a historical landmark.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval.

**STAFF:** Lauren E. Schizik

**PETITIONERS:** Councilman James Kraft, Council President Young

**OWNER:** Mayor and City Council

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

##### Site Conditions:

The building is a large three-and-a-half story Classical Revival brick structure faced with orange brick and sandstone and granite trim. It features several blocks, with a main block, hyphen, rear wing, and smokestack. The main block faces north on Eastern Avenue, and features a projecting middle section with a gabled pediment and central entrance.

##### General Area:

The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and President Street in downtown Baltimore, bordering the Harbor East and Little Italy neighborhoods. It is located directly east of the outfall of the Jones Falls. Located to the north is a park and monument honoring Christopher Columbus, and the Scarlett Place development.

#### **HISTORY**

There are no previous Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

#### **CONFORMITY TO PLANS**

The proposal is also consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, specifically: PLAY Goal 1: Strengthen Stewardship of Historical 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 this structure as part of the Baltimore City Landmark Designation process. The first hearing occurred when the CHAP Commission reviewed and recommended approval of Landmark designation on September 8, 2015. CHAP's staff report is attached to this staff report.

This Landmark Designation has been reviewed by the CHAP Commission and is consistent with planning initiatives.

The CHAP Commission found the following: At the start of the twentieth century, Baltimore City trailed behind other American cities in terms of public health and sanitation, because it lacked a sewer system. Following the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904, the City quickly constructed a comprehensive and modern sewer and stormwater management system that connected the entire city. It was an engineering marvel that anticipated the needs of the city decades into the future. The Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, designed by Baltimore architect Henry Brauns and completed in 1912, is the most prominent structure constructed for this sewer system. The large Classical Revival building, located on the Jones Falls at Eastern Avenue in downtown Baltimore, still serves its original purpose of meeting the sanitation needs of the city

Based upon the historical context of the Eastern Avenue Pumping Station, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation found that it meets CHAP Landmark designation criteria for the following standards:

- B. A Baltimore City Landmark may be a site, structure, landscape, building (or portion thereof), place, work of art, or other object which:
1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution 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.
  4. ability to yield information important in Baltimore prehistory or history.

Staff has notified the following of this action: Mayor and City Council, Department of Public Works, the Baltimore Public Works Museum, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore City Historical Society, Baltimore National Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland.



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