



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

October 8, 2015

REQUEST: Landmark Designation: American Legion Federal Post No. 19, 1502 Madison Ave.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

STAFF: Lauren E. Schiszik

PETITIONER: American Legion Federal Post No. 19

OWNER: American Legion Federal Post No. 19

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions:

This designation pertains to the property at 1502 Madison Avenue. The property is a late 19th century 3-bay brick Italianate rowhouse.

General Area:

The American Legion Post No. 19 is located at the southern end of the 1500 block of Madison Ave. near the intersection with Mosher St. It is a contributing property to the Upton's Marble Hill local CHAP district and the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District. The even side of the block is comprised of three-story three-bay wide brick Italianate residences. The northern-most structure is the Monumental Lodge No. 3, IBPOEW, which is a Baltimore City Landmark. The odd side of the block is the site of the Pedestal Gardens garden-apartment complex, which is not located in the Upton's Marble Hill local district.

HISTORY

There are no previous Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

The proposal is 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 August 11, 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: Established in 1930 during the Great Depression, American Legion Federal Post No. 19 is one of the oldest black American Legion posts in Maryland. It has had a very active membership serving their West Baltimore community for decades. Even during the Jim Crow-era, members served in leadership roles in the larger American Legion structure at the state and national level, fighting for equal opportunities for African American veterans both in the organization and in society at large. The Post was also home to the famed Blue Helmet Drum and Bugle Corps. Federal Post No. 19 has served as an important place for Baltimore's African American community for eighty-five years.

Based upon the historical context of the American Legion Federal Post No. 19, 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;

Staff has notified the following of this action: Mayor and City Council, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore City Historical Society, Baltimore National Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland, Upton's Marble Hill CHAP Architectural Review Committee, Marble Hill Community Association, and Midtown Community Benefits District.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director