Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT

Thomas J. Stosur
Director

August 29, 2013

REQUEST: City Council Bill #13-0251/ Baltimore City Landmark List – Messiah English Lutheran Church - 1025 South Potomac Street

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor A. Quashie

PETITIONER: Hon. James Kraft

OWNER: Trustees of Messiah English Lutheran Church

SITE/GENERAL AREA
Site Conditions: 1025 South Potomac Street, the Messiah English Lutheran Church is occupied by an active congregation in a two story granite building located between South Decker Avenue and South Potomac The site is zoned B-2-2 and is owned by the Trustees of Messiah English Lutheran Church.

General Area: 1025 South Potomac Street is located in the Canton neighborhood. The area is composed of two story brick residential buildings. There are commercial establishments west of the church along O'Donnell Street. The site is bounded by South Potomac Street to the west and South Decker Street to the east.

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 the Baltimore City Landmark Designation process. The first hearing occurred when CHAP Commission reviewed and

recommended approval of Landmark designation for 1025 South Potomac Street on August 13, 2013. CHAP's staff report is attached to this staff report.

This Landmark Designation has been reviewed by the CHAP Commission and does not impede any planning initiatives.

Located on O'Donnell Square in Canton, Messiah English Lutheran Church has served an important religious and civic role in the area since it was founded in 1889. This English Lutheran church was established to serve the growing German community in Southeast Baltimore. It provided the congregation with a religious institution that conducted services and Sunday school in English, which helped its congregation assimilate into society at large, while also retaining their faith, culture, and social ties. The church has continued to serve Canton, providing leadership on community-wide issues. The Gothic Revival church is the congregation's second church building at this location, and was constructed by Jacob Peters in 1900. This property is eligible for designation for its role in the history of Canton and for its architecture.

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation found that 1025 South Potomac Street meets CHAP Landmark Designation 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 represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Staff has notified of this action, Councilmember of the 1st District James Kraft, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore City Historical Society, Preservation Maryland, Canton-Highlandtown Community Association, Friends of Patterson Park, Brewer's Hill Community Association, Waterfront Coalition, Southeast Community Development Corporation, Highlandtown Arts & Entertainment District, Southeast President's Council, and Southeastern District Police Community Relations Council.

Thomas J. Stosur
Director