

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: June 21, 2017

Referred to: HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS Committee

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 17-0110

A BILL ENTITLED

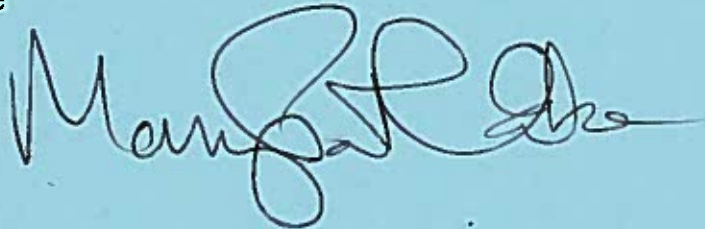
AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –
Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
Section(s) 17A-44
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)



****The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

Agencies

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore City Public School System | <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Development Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Real Estate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Solicitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Recreation and Parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comptroller's Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Audits | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of General Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Employment Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Housing and Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Human Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Human Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Information Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Mayor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
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Boards and Commissions

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Estimates | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Control Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Commissioner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Authority Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employees' Retirement System | <input type="checkbox"/> Wage Commission |
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CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE **17-073**
Council Bill 17-0110

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke
Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: October 30, 2017

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

1 **Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –**
2 **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

3 FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an
4 historical landmark: exterior.

5 BY adding

6 Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
7 Section(s) 17A-44
8 Baltimore City Code
9 (Edition 2000)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the
11 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

12 **Baltimore City Code**

13 **Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation**

14 **Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s**

15 **§ 17A-44. OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

16 OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3301 THE ALAMEDA.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
18 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
19 Ordinance.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
21 after the date it is enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

Council Bill 17-0110

Certified as duly passed this _____ day of NOV 13, 2017



President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this _____ day of NOV 13 2017



Chief Clerk

Approved this 29 day of November, 2017



Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved For Form and Legal Sufficiency

This 17th Day of November 2017



Chief Solicitor

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
Housing And Urban Affairs Committee
VOTING RECORD

DATE: 10-26-11

BILL#CC: 17- 0110 BILL TITLE: Ordinance – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

MOTION BY: HENRY **SECONDED BY:** DORSEY

- FAVORABLE FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
 UNFAVORABLE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bullock, J. Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, I. Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, K.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sneed ,S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Z	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TOTALS	7	0		

CHAIRPERSON: [Signature]
COMMITTEE STAFF: Richard G. Krummerich, Initials: RK

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT
PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT

PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT
PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT

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PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT
PLANT INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

RE: Case No. CCB 17-0110

Date of Hearing 10/26/17

**Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna B. Austin
Room 409 – City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Md. 21202**

This letter is to certify that the necessary sign(s) were posted conspicuously on the property located at _____

3301 The Alameda

on 10/11/17

Sincerely,

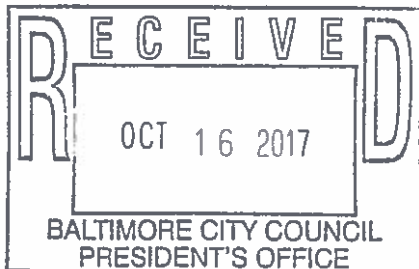
 10/11/17

Richard E. Hoffman

904 Dellwood Drive

Fallston, Md. 21047

(443) 243-7360

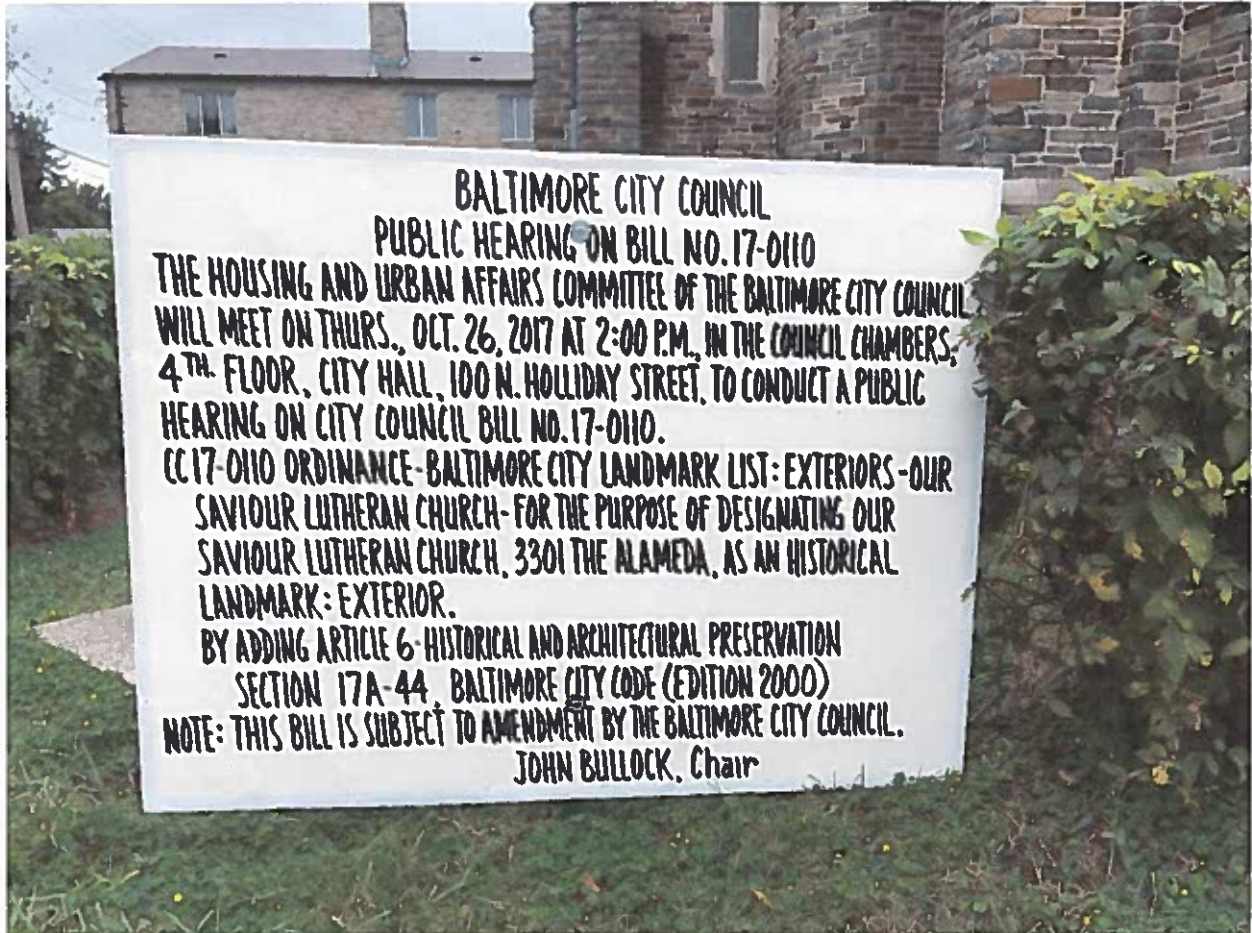


Certificate of Posting

Baltimore City Council

Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

City Council Bill No. 17-0110



3301 The Alameda

Posted 10/11/17


Richard E. Hoffman

Richard E. Hoffman

904 Dellwood Drive

Fallston, Md. 21047

443-243-7360

The Daily Record

11 East Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-2199
(443) 524-8100

<http://www.thedailyrecord.com>

Order #: 11420179
Case #: BILL #17-0110
Description:

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

We hereby certify that the annexed advertisement was published in The Daily Record, a daily newspaper published in the State of Maryland 1 times on the following dates:

10/10/2017

BILL NO. 17-0110. - The Housing and Urban Affairs Committee of the Baltimore City Council

Darlene Miller, Public Notice Coordinator
(Representative Signature)

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL NO. 17-0110

The Housing and Urban Affairs Committee of the Baltimore City Council will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 2:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, to conduct a public hearing on City Council Bill No. 17-0110.

CC 17-0110 ORDINANCE - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exterior - Our Saviour Lutheran Church - FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation

Section(s) 17A-14

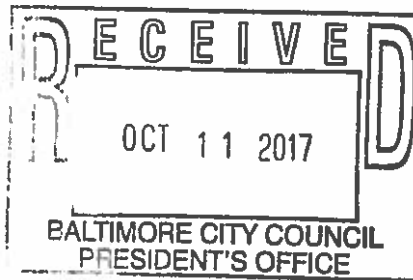
Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

NOTE: This bill is subject to amendment by the Baltimore City Council

John Bullock
Chair

o10



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 20, 2017

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 17-0110 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our
Savior Lutheran Church

Dear President and City Council Members:

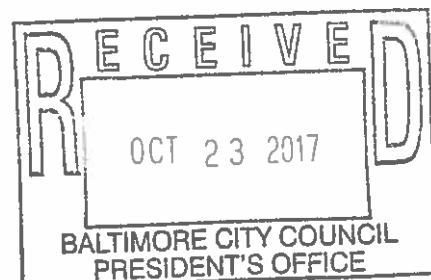
The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-00110 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill designates Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council is required to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors." BCC Art. 6, §4-2(1). The City Council must refer the bill for written reports and recommendations to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), the Planning Commission, and any other agency that the Council President designates. BCC Art. 6, §4-5(a). Section 4-6 sets forth the public notice and hearing requirements. If a bill seeks to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors" and was not initiated by CHAP, the City Council may not take action to add the structure to that list without first referring the action to CHAP for a written report and recommendation. Art. 6, §4-8(b).

Assuming CHAP reviews the bill and approves the landmark designation and the notice and hearing requirements are satisfied, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.


Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor



*Fav upon
CHAP
Approval*

**cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor**

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 TH Floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #17-0110/Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church		

DATE: October 20 2017

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

At its regular meeting on April 11, 2017, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation considered Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alemeda.

In its consideration of listing Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alemeda on the Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors, the Commission reviewed the Landmark Designation Report and unanimously voted to recommend landmark designation to the Mayor and City Council (12 members present, 12 members in support) because the building meets the following landmark designation criteria:

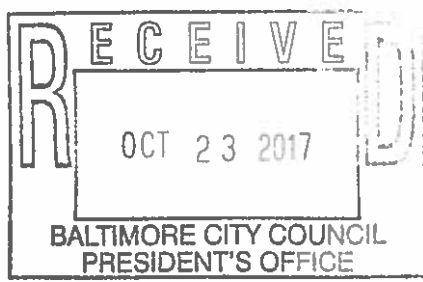
The property meets CHAP Landmark Designation Standards:

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. That 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-396-4866.

F



**Baltimore City
Commission for Historical and
Architectural Preservation**

**Landmark Designation Report
April 11, 2017**



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

3301 The Alameda
Baltimore, Maryland



COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

ERIC HOLCOMB, *Executive Director*

Charles L. Benton, Jr. Building 417 East Fayette Street Eighth Floor Baltimore, MD 21202-3416
410-396-4866



CATHERINE E. PUGH
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

Significance Summary

The church is significant for its architecture and for its role in Baltimore City history. This church building was constructed in 1930 for the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This church was one of the earliest English-speaking Lutheran congregations established in the city in 1892. Originally located in East Baltimore, the congregation moved to this site in 1920. This structure was designed by the firm of Frohmann, Robb, and Little, who designed many ecclesiastical structures, including the Washington National Cathedral and Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

This congregation served the needs of their congregants, but also the needs of their community. This church opened a non-denominational Sunday School for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 1951, and was one of the eight churches of Homestead-Coldstream Churches Inc., which investigated and fought block-busting and racially-discriminatory real estate practices in their community in the 1960s and 1970s, resulting in investigation of these practices.

In 1973, this congregation merged with another historic Lutheran congregation, that of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. This congregation was founded in Baltimore in 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans who moved from rural Meherrin, Virginia to Baltimore in the first wave of the Great Migration. The core of this church was comprised of members from the African-American St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Meherrin, founded in 1883. In 1971, Baltimore's St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, facing an impending loss of their church building due to urban renewal plans, decided that they wanted to merge with another congregation, particularly a white Lutheran congregation that wanted an integrated congregation. Mergers between predominantly white and a predominantly African-American congregations are highly uncommon, and this merger set a precedent in Baltimore and in the Lutheran Church's Missouri Synod. Today, the congregation is still thriving and serving its congregation and community at large.

History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (1892-1973)

Our Saviour Lutheran Church was originally founded as Jackson Square Evangelical Lutheran Church in March 1892. It was founded by 12 charter members who wanted to create an English-speaking Lutheran church, born out of German-speaking Immanuel Lutheran Church. The congregation first held its services at Immanuel Lutheran Church, until it purchased and renovated the former Jackson Square Centenary Methodist Congregation church and parsonage later that year. This church is located at 1721 E. Fairmont Ave., the southeast corner of the intersection of Fairmount Avenue and Irvin Place in the Washington Hill neighborhood in East Baltimore. The church once faced Jackson Square (alternatively referred to as Jackson Place), which is now gone. After making improvements to the building, the church was dedicated as the

Jackson Square Evangelical Lutheran Church on August 7, 1892.¹ A Sunday School was founded in the autumn of the same year.

In July 1902, the rear of the church was destroyed by a severe windstorm.² The congregation raised funds for repairs, and the church was rededicated in March 1903. Architect Joseph Evans Sperry designed the reconstructed rear of the church.³ By 1911, the congregation had grown to 345 members.⁴ In 1912, the church hosted the "First Convention of the English District", a national meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church's Missouri-Ohio Synod. This was a great honor, and the church was renovated and refurnished prior to this event.⁵ By the 1910s, many members of the congregation were moving out of the neighborhood, and so the congregation as a whole decided to move to another part of the city. Because their church name was tied to Jackson Square, they chose to rename the congregation "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour". The church held a farewell service on June 8, 1919, but continued to hold services in the Sunday School rooms until December 1919, and then held services at Immanuel Church until mid-May 1920. The congregation sold their church in Jackson Square to the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, which has occupied the building ever since.⁶

The congregation of Our Saviour Church purchased its present site at 33rd Street and The Alameda from the Frank Novak Realty Company in 1919, and constructed a frame chapel that seated 200.⁷ At that time, the area was largely undeveloped, and the congregation considered their new site a "wilderness." In the congregation's *50th Anniversary History*, it states that "prevailing conditions had dictated the choice of building materials", which likely referred to the limitations of building materials during and immediately following World War I. This chapel was dedicated on May 16, 1920.⁸ A fire on August 8, 1921 burned the rear half of the chapel, destroying the Sunday School and the pipe organ that the congregation had brought with them from their first church.⁹ The congregation worshipped in a neighborhood church until the chapel repairs were completed in October 1923.¹⁰

The congregation determined that they needed a more durable edifice. In December 1922, the congregation announced that they were seeking bids from contractors for construction of a stone church designed by architect J. A. Dempwolf, of York, PA.¹¹

It seems that Rev. Stiemke's arrival as pastor in 1924 was the impetus for a change in direction for the church construction, because the plans for new church changed drastically in just a few short years.¹² In June 1927, initial sketches and preliminary drawings were accepted from the architecture firm of Frohman, Robb, and Little, which had offices in Washington, D.C. and Boston. Edward A. Wehr of Pittsburgh was chosen as the general contractor.¹³ Both the architect Donald Robb and contractor Edward Wehr were natives of Baltimore. The Church building committee stated that because both Robb and Wehr were from Baltimore, they "took a special interest in seeing that The Church of Our Saviour should include personal touches of refinement

and care in execution.”¹⁴ The building committee chose the architecture firm based on their excellent body of work, including the Washington Cathedral. In 1965, the program for the building’s 35th anniversary stated that “Our church’s design has received many laudatory comments that have reached across the seas. The Church of Our Saviour is still known as one of the finest small churches in America.”¹⁵ The contractor, Edward A. Wehr, was a Baltimore native who established himself in Pittsburgh, but had contracts across the country, including in New York City and Cleveland. He specialized in ecclesiastical construction. Wehr was well-regarded in the construction field, serving as President of the Master Builders’ Association, and as a member of the Pittsburgh Builders’ Exchange.¹⁶

Ground broke on November 25, 1928, and the cornerstone for the present building at Thirty-third Street and The Alameda was laid in a ceremony on August 4, 1929.¹⁷ It was dedicated on September 7, 1930.¹⁸ The eighteen carillon bells were donated by John and Alma Wever in 1934.¹⁹ An annual tradition began just a year later when the Naval Academy had a game at Memorial Stadium, further west on 33rd St. Apparently several young men from the neighborhood had entered the Naval Academy, and their parents asked Rev. Stiemke to play the bells as the midshipmen marched down 33rd St. to the stadium before the game. As the Sun article states, “Not a man to do a thing by halves, the Rev. A. J. Stiemke, pastor of Our Saviour, decided that the parents had an excellent idea there--and decided as well that ‘Anchors Aweigh’ [the fight song for the Naval Academy] would do justice to the occasion.”²⁰

In 1942, the congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, at which the first four pastors of the church participated: Rev. William Dallmann, pastor at the time of the church founding in 1892, Rev. Dr. Henry Bernard Hemmeter, pastor from 1892-1895, Rev. Oscar Martin Kaiser, pastor from 1895-1910, and Rev. Theodore Christian Sorge, pastor from 1910-1924.²¹

The pastor at the time of 50th Anniversary was Rev. Adolph John Stiemke, who became pastor in 1924.²² Rev. Stiemke served as pastor from 1924-1961, and then as pastor emeritus until his death in 1967. Rev. Stiemke was “instrumental in the planning and building of the present Our Saviour Lutheran church structure”, was also responsible for planning the sequence of the stained glass windows installed after World War II, and establishing a scholarship fund for students interested in joining the ministry.²³

Two decades after opening its new church, the congregation had grown in numbers and expanded its activities. It had a robust Sunday School, and in 1951, the church opened the first Sunday School class for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities. Organized by a congregant who had a child with intellectual disabilities, the Sunday School was run through the Lutheran Mission Society, and was open to anyone with intellectual disabilities, regardless of faith. It was the first Sunday School for people with intellectual disabilities in Baltimore.²⁴ Former Church Council President and current Church Council Board member Judy Volkman

was involved with the Sunday School in the 1960s because her son had a disability.²⁵ Other church groups included the Junior Walther League and Senior Walther League, the Women's Guild, and the Choir and Junior Choir.²⁶

The ground breaking for the Parish Activities Building was in October 1957, and the building was dedicated in June 1958.²⁷ This addition to the church was designed by architect Howard G. Hall of Baltimore, the contractor was J.H. Williams, and the building cost \$178,360.²⁸

Working with other neighborhood churches and organizations, Our Saviour helped develop a community health facility, child care center, and an investigation in the buying and selling of housing in the neighborhood.²⁹ Our Saviour was one of eight churches in Ednor Gardens-Lakeside and the adjoining neighborhood of Coldstream Homestead Montebello that banded together to fight block-busting in their communities in the 1960s and 1970s.³⁰ The group, Homestead-Montebello Churches, Inc., working with community partners, were "resolute in their determination to expose instances of unlawful real property schemes, and to assist those residents so victimized by seeking redress of their losses to the fullest extent of all available remedies at law."³¹ This group of churches pooled their money together and hired Vincent Quayle, then a Jesuit seminarian, to investigate the predatory real estate practices in the area.³² Quayle later went on to found and be the long-running Executive Director of St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center.

The churches were so mobilized because their neighborhoods were changing very quickly at the hands of realtors that were block-busting, that is, buying properties from white people for cheap due to fears of an influx of African-Americans, and then selling to African-Americans for significantly higher prices and often with financially-predatory lending terms. The opening lines of a 1969 *Sun* article about block-busting in Baltimore stated "Between April, 1965, and July, 1966, a well-known Baltimore real estate speculator bought 25 row houses from white people along two blocks of the Alameda south of 33d street and sold or rented them to Negroes. Typical among the houses was one that was bought for \$6,500 and sold two months later for \$11,950."³³ Between 1964 and 1970, this neighborhood rapidly shifted from a white community to majority African-American community, and churches in the community closed or were on shaky financial ground as their congregants moved away.³⁴ Rev. Quayle and a fellow Jesuit, Rev. John Martin, conducted a study of the house sales in the neighborhood, finding that at least a third of the houses in the neighborhood were "bought cheaply from panicky whites and sold dearly to Negroes by speculators, who often arranged terms at exorbitant rates for persons unable to call on banks."³⁵ In a 1969 *Sun* article, Rev. Quayle blamed two realtors who "single-handedly changed the neighborhood" of Coldstream Homestead Montebello between E. 33rd St. to the north, E. 28th St. to the south, the Alameda to the west, and Hillen Road to the east.³⁶ According to Mike Dausch, former Church Council President for Our Saviour Lutheran Church, it was realtor Morris Goldseker that was block-busting in Coldstream Homestead Montebello.³⁷

In February 1969, thanks to the efforts of fair-housing advocates, Homestead-Montebello Churches Inc., and others, the U.S. Justice Department initiated an investigation into block-busting practices in Baltimore, which were made illegal under the 1968 Civil Rights Act. The Act took effect January 1, 1969, meaning that the Justice Department began its investigation into block-busting in Baltimore merely a month after it had the authority to do so.³⁸ Our Saviour stayed involved in these efforts and in October 1972, it hosted a meeting for City housing officials, including Housing Commissioner Robert Embry, Jr. and neighborhood groups on the topic of racial “steering” practices.³⁹ Our Saviour Lutheran Church’s activism regarding block-busting and racially-discriminatory housing practices in the 1960s and early 1970s really set the groundwork for their decision to merge with an African-American Lutheran congregation.

History of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (1929-1973)

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church was founded in Baltimore in April 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans. It was founded by George Rufus Evans and several others who moved to Baltimore from Meherrin, a very small community in rural central Virginia, as part of the first wave of what would later be recognized as the Great Migration. Mike Dausch, Church Council President of Our Saviour at the time of the merger, stated that people moved up to Baltimore from Meherrin to work in the steel industry starting after WWI and into WWII.⁴⁰ George Rufus Evans moved to Baltimore first in 1920, and he originally worshipped at Immanuel Lutheran Church.⁴¹ Once others from his community moved to Baltimore, the small group of families worshipped in their homes, particularly at the home of Ms. Marie Dowdy, before petitioning for a Lutheran Mission.⁴²

On February 1, 1930, an article in the *Baltimore Afro-American* announced that Rev. Martin H. Dorpat, pastor of the Lutheran Mission, 1535 N. Patterson Park Avenue, would begin a series of services at the Druid Hill Y.W.C.A. Sunday morning. The Lutheran Mission has recently been established in Baltimore for African-Americans. The article went on to state that “There are at present seventeen members, who were formerly a part of a Meherrin, Virginia congregation, which the Rev. L. G. Dorpat, father of the Baltimore pastor, has charge of. When these members moved to this city and there was no church of the denomination at which they could worship, the elder Dorpat arranged the mission here and placed his son in charge. These two ministers, father and son, are the only white Lutheran pastors who devote their entire time to race missions.”⁴³ This congregation in Meherrin, named Saint Matthews Lutheran Church, had been established in 1883 by a white Lutheran Missionary, and it was home to a church and school for African-Americans.⁴⁴ This church still stands today. Perhaps not surprisingly, this small group of African-American Lutherans named their church in Baltimore after their home church in Meherrin, where they retained close ties, with the congregation of St. Matthew traveling down to Meherrin annually.⁴⁵

Reverend Martin Dorpat helped the congregation in Baltimore secure an assembly room in the second floor of the Druid Hill YMCA to worship. The church grew slowly in the first few years. The main members in 1930 were Moses Doswell, George Rufus Evans, Henry Dowdy, Carrington March, Marie Dowdy, Georgia March, Rachel Dowdy, and nine children.⁴⁶ Interestingly, Carrington March was not from Meherrin, and was a Reverend in the Lutheran Church. In the 1920s, he served as the pastor for St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Baltimore, which was the first African-American Lutheran Church in Baltimore, founded in the 1890s.⁴⁷ However, March was one of the founding members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, and obviously retained close ties to St. Matthews, as this is where his funeral was held in 1964.⁴⁸ Carrington's son, William C. March, was also a founding member of the congregation; he later grew up to establish his eponymously-named funeral home, which was the largest African-American-owned funeral home in the country, was a founder of Harbor Bank, and a noted philanthropist.

Saint Matthew grew slowly but gained a larger following in the 1930s, hosting its first baptisms in 1931, the first confirmations in 1932, and forming a choir in 1935 under the leadership of Mrs. Julia Becker, a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. In 1936, the Church was officially organized. The congregation formed a Ladies Aid Society, a Young People's Society, and a Junior Young People's Society soon after.⁴⁹ Due to the growth of the congregation, they needed larger facilities. The Baltimore City Mission Board of the Lutheran Church purchased a building at the corner of Druid Hill Ave. and Robert St. for \$25,000 in 1938.⁵⁰ This had previously been the home of a Seventh Day Adventist Church, and was originally constructed as a telephone exchange building for the Maryland Telephone Company.⁵¹ The Women's Auxiliary bought the ground on which the building sat so that they did not have to pay ground rent. The new church was dedicated on July 24, 1938.⁵² This building still stands today.

In 1944, the church welcomed an African-American pastor, Rev. Osborn T. Smallwood, of Washington, D.C.⁵³ On July 25, 1954, the church celebrated its 25th Anniversary, and burned their mortgage, which they had paid off. In April 1966, property was purchased at Eutaw and Whitelock Streets in Reservoir Hill with the intention that a new church would be built there. A service of Praise and Consecration was held on May 15, 1966. But in July 1972, the church returned the property to the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church.⁵⁴ It is not clear why the church did not pursue construction of a new church at that site, but instead, this "small but most loyal" congregation merged with Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and moved to the church at Thirty-Third Street and The Alameda on April 1, 1973.⁵⁵

The Merger and Creation of Our Savior Lutheran Church (1973-present)

On April 1, 1973, the congregations of Our Saviour Lutheran Church and Saint Matthew Lutheran Church merged together. While church mergers are not terribly uncommon, this merger was unique in that it was a merger between a predominantly white and predominantly African-American congregation. This was the first merger of black and white churches in Baltimore City.⁵⁶ Press about the merger was quick to point out that the merger was the decision of the congregations, not the pastors or the District officials.⁵⁷ Mayor William Donald Schaefer designated April 1, 1973 as "Our Saviour and St. Matthew Lutheran Church Day", noting that this merger "is an outstanding achievement in a troubled times" and "is a hallmark in human relationships and a true sign of Christian Brotherhood in action."⁵⁸

For the congregation of St. Matthew, the impetus for a merger stemmed their church being slated for eventual demolition as part of urban renewal plans.⁵⁹ Their options were to purchase another building, construct a new building, or merge with another Lutheran congregation in a "changing neighborhood" -that is, a neighborhood that was transitioning from majority white to majority African-American- that would be interested in "instant integration and a joint ministry with a biracial approach."⁶⁰ The President of Our Saviour's Church Council, Mike Dausch, had read about the decision facing the congregation of St. Matthew in the Lutheran Mission Society newsletter, and shared the possibility of a merger with the members of the Church Council and the Pastor. After much discussion and a very tight vote in favor, the congregation of Our Saviour decided to pursue the merger.⁶¹ In an article about the merger, it was described in this way: "Barriers can be found in most anything. Racial. Tradition. Culture. There are probably barriers involved in the Our Saviour-St. Matthew merger. The headers are so resolved that any and all barriers can be overcome by the love of Christ. This has happened during the five-month talks. It will continue to be the case. It is so determined."⁶²

On the day of the merger, Sunday, April 1, 1973, the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church held their last service in their church at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. The one hundred members then participated in a motorcade that travelled to the Martin Luther statue by Lake Montebello, where they laid flowers in memory of deceased members, and then proceeded to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, where the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Our Saviour Lutheran Church worshipped together for the first time.⁶³ The *Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper article, Judy Volkman and Mike Dausch all relayed the astonishing weather event that occurred during the service. As Mike Dausch recalled in a phone interview, "The church was packed. During that service, it got as black as night, the wind blew like mad, there was rain, hail, on the roof you could hear the hail, and I was wondering if the roof was going to collapse, and then by the end of the service, the sun was shining and there was a rainbow. All in that one hour period."⁶⁴

Mike Dausch stated that beyond faith and hard work, there were some other reasons why this merger succeeded where others failed. This merger was successful because both congregations were financially sound, both were in the Missouri Synod, and the church was in good shape. Karl

Lutze, a minister at Valparaiso University and president of the Lutheran Human Relations, who advised Dausch on the merger, had warned him other cases of church mergers where the church with a white congregation was not in good financial shape and the building was in poor shape because they had deferred maintenance because they weren't sure if they were going to stay in a neighborhood that experiencing racial change. The result was that when the churches decided to merge and stay in a building, the costs of deferred maintenance were exorbitant. This outcome was not the case for Our Saviour's merged congregation.⁶⁵

When the two congregations merged, both of the pastors from original congregations - Rev. Erwin Prange from St. Matthew and Rev. Robert Metzger from Our Saviour - served the newly merged congregation as co-pastors for a year.⁶⁶ The two Church Councils also merged together for one year so that everyone could get to know one another and each other's traditions, after which elections were held for a single, integrated Church Council.⁶⁷ The new congregation, named Our Saviour Lutheran Church, had over 400 members, since at the time of the merge, St. Matthew's had 110 members, and Our Saviour had 325.⁶⁸

However, as both Mike Dausch and Judy Volkman confided, the congregation did lose members as a result of the merger.⁶⁹ Volkman, a former Church Council President (and first woman President in the Baltimore area for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), even remembers people saying at the time of the merger that the church wouldn't survive it, that the site of the church would become a gas station after the merger failed.⁷⁰ Dausch recalls people who stayed after the merger, and who decided to join. Dausch recalled an usher from Our Saviour that tendered his resignation immediately following the merger service, but Dausch asked him to stay for a month to teach the usher from St. Matthew about his efficient ushering system. The usher agreed, and stayed for a month, and ended up not leaving the congregation, dying a member years later. He also recalled that African-American civic and civil rights leader Raymond Haysbert, who was then the CEO of Parks Sausage, sent his children to Sunday School at Our Saviour before the merger, but that he and his wife didn't attend themselves. But they joined the congregation after the merger, saying "I know you said that all people were welcome, but until the merger, I didn't believe it."⁷¹

Since the merger in 1973, the church of Our Saviour Lutheran has continued to serve its congregation and the surrounding community. Judy Volkman recalls the ecumenical "Friday School" that the church ran in the 1970s and 1980s. The church was open to children in the surrounding community, and the kids would participate in activities, be tutored in reading, and have a meal. Some of these students did join the church, and Volkman will occasionally see these children – now adults – in the neighborhood today.⁷²

Today, the congregation is largely comprised of older adults, most of whom commute to the church, but they are active ministering to their neighborhood and to their members. Judy

Volkman ascribes the long-term success of Our Saviour Lutheran Church to the fact that there is a core group of people who believe that it is important that they are at the corner of the Alameda and 33rd Street, ministering to the surrounding community.⁷³

Architecture

The Gothic Revival stone church was designed by Frohmann, Robb, and Little. This firm also designed the National Cathedral and in Baltimore, the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation on University Parkway.⁷⁴ When it was constructed, the church had a seating capacity for 400 people.⁷⁵ “The structure, which has already received many favorable comments because of its splendid lines and pleasing effect, is one of the first in America to combine the architecture of the Early English and the Norman periods. It has been built with the thought of permanency and the incorporation in it of a true devotional atmosphere.” An article in Baltimore *Shopper’s Guide* noted “Of special interest, because of its excellent conformity with the architectural motif, is the wrought iron hardware of the church. This was made by Samuel Yellin, a Philadelphia craftsman.”⁷⁶

The 18 bells in the bell tower were a gift by two members of the congregation, John and Alma Wever.⁷⁷ The bells were the largest set of carillonic bells in Maryland and the largest set cast in an American foundry.⁷⁸ The bells were cast by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore.⁷⁹ The bells have the same range as a human voice and are fully chromatic.⁸⁰ The bells weigh between 500 and 3,000 pounds, and each have lengthy inscriptions on them with both Bible verses and dedications.⁸¹

The stained glass windows were made by the Willett Stained Glass Company in Philadelphia.⁸² On October 28, 1941, the chancel windows were dedicated in a service. On December 4, 1949, the chancel windows were dedicated in a ceremony. On June 10, 1962, there was a dedication service for the tower windows.

Application of Landmark Designation Criteria

The property meets CHAP Landmark Designation Standards:

B. A Baltimore City Landmark may be a site, structure, landscape, building (or portion thereof), place, work of art, or other object which:

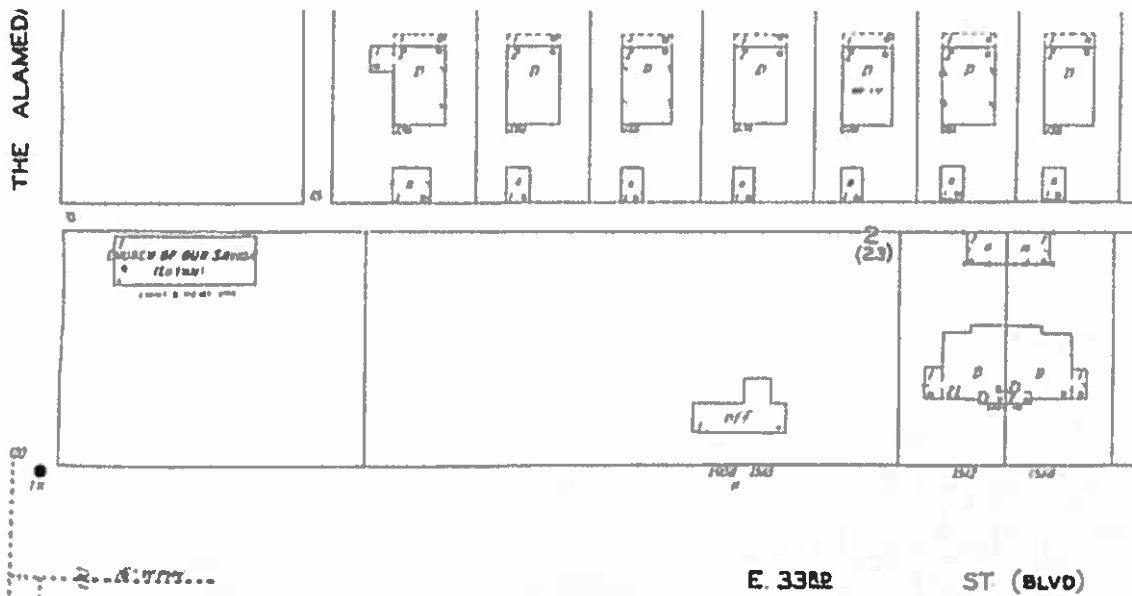
1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history;
3. That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The church is significant for its architecture and for its role in Baltimore City history. This church building was constructed in 1930 for the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This church was one of the earliest English-speaking Lutheran congregations established in the city in 1892. Originally located in East Baltimore, the congregation moved to this site in 1920. This structure was designed by the firm of Frohmann, Robb, and Little, who designed many ecclesiastical structures, including the Washington National Cathedral and Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

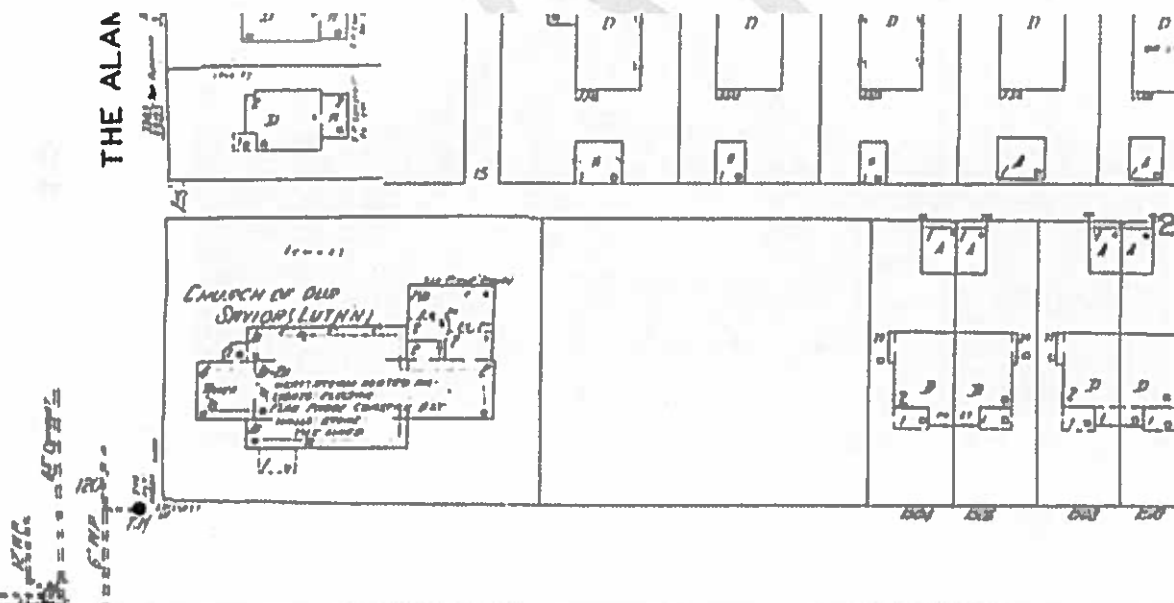
This congregation served the needs of their congregants, but also the needs of their community. This church opened a non-denominational Sunday School for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 1951, and was one of the eight churches of Homestead-Coldstream Churches Inc., which investigated and fought block-busting and racially-discriminatory real estate practices in their community in the 1960s and 1970s, resulting in investigation of these practices.

In 1973, this congregation merged with another historic Lutheran congregation, that of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. This congregation was founded in Baltimore in 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans who moved from rural Meherrin, Virginia to Baltimore in the first wave of the Great Migration. The core of this church was comprised of members from the African-American St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Meherrin, founded in 1883. In 1971, Baltimore's St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, facing an impending loss of their church building due to urban renewal plans, decided that they wanted to merge with another congregation, particularly a white Lutheran congregation that wanted an integrated congregation. Mergers between predominantly white and a predominantly African-American congregations are highly uncommon, and this merger set a precedent in Baltimore and in the Lutheran Church's Missouri Synod. Today, the congregation is still thriving and serving its congregation and community at large.

Maps



This 1928 map shows the one-story frame chapel. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1928-1936, Volume 7, 1928, Sheet 753).



This 1951 maps illustrates the church prior to its 1957 addition. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1914-1951, Volume 7, March 1951, Sheet 753)

Historic Images



Photograph of Our Saviour's wooden chapel at The Alameda and 33rd St., constructed in 1920.

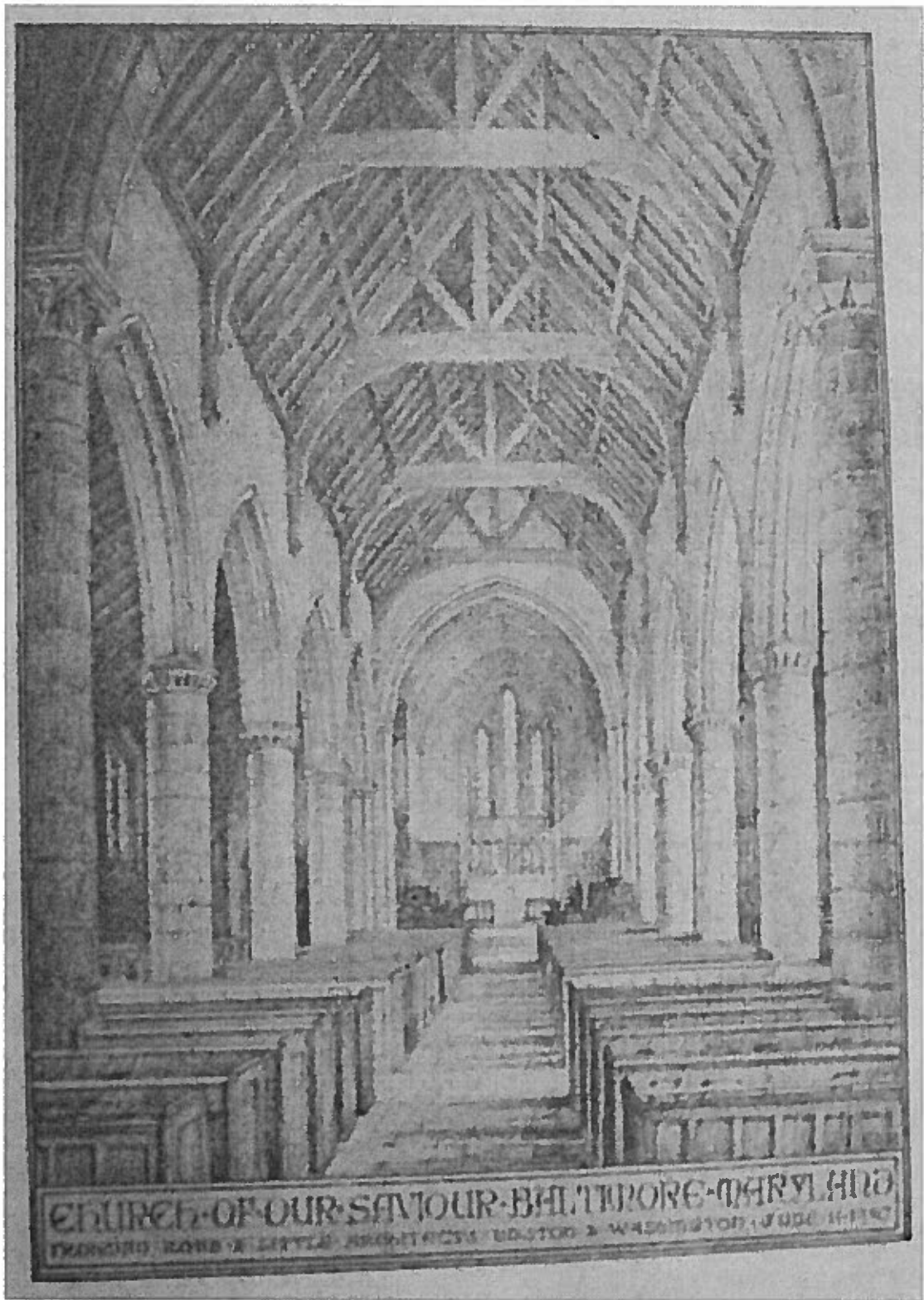


Illustration of the church interior.

- ¹ "Historical Sketch of the Church" in Twenty-fifth Anniversary, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ² *Ibid.*; "CHURCHES ARE HIT: Steeple Of St. Mary's Star Of The Sea Must Come ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jul 21, 1902; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 2)
- ³ "CHURCH TO BE REDEDICATED: Jackson Square English Lutheran Is Also Ten Years Old" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Mar 14, 1903; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 6
- ⁴ "CHURCH MARKS ANNIVERSARY" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Mar 13, 1911; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 7)
- ⁵ A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church; "LUTHERANS IN SESSION: Missouri-Ohio Synod Meets At Jackson Square ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jun 27, 1912; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 9; "LUTHERAN SYNOD CLOSES: Sessions At Jackson Square Church Have Been Important" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jul 3, 1912; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 8.
- ⁶ *History* in "75 Years of Our Savior", on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁷ 85th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church; A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942; on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁸ A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942; on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁹ 85th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church; A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942; on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church; "2 SPECTACULAR FIRES IN CHURCH AND STABLE: Rear Of Lutheran Structure ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 9, 1921; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 18
- ¹⁰ A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ¹¹ "REAL STATE DEALS AND BUILDING NEWS: Evangelical Lutheran Church Of ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Dec 16, 1922; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 14; *The American Contractor, Vol. 43, No. 32*, August 22, 1922, pg. 43. Accessible as a Google E-book: <https://books.google.com/books?id=KPxYAAAAAYAAJ>
- ¹² "LUTHERAN CLERIC DIES AT HIS HOME: Mr. Stiemke Was Retired From Church In 1961" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jun 17, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. A12
- ¹³ A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ¹⁴ The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Church, September 19, 1965, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church; "CORNERSTONE RITE SET FOR TOMORROW: Rev. A. J. Stiemke To Officiate At ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 3, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 5;)
- ¹⁵ The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Church, September 19, 1965, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ¹⁶ George Thornton Fleming, *History of Pittsburgh and Environs: From Prehistoric Days to the Beginning of the American Revolution, Volume 5*, (New York and Chicago: The American Historical Society), 1922, pg 309. Accessible as a Google E-book.
- ¹⁷ A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church; Program from Corner stone laying ceremony of The Church of Our Saviour Lutheran on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church; "CORNERSTONE RITE SET FOR TOMORROW: Rev. A. J. Stiemke To Officiate At ..."
- ¹⁸ 85th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ¹⁹ Program for the "Dedication Service and Memorial Chime Concerts, May 20-27, 1934", on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ²⁰ Jacob Hay, "Maryland's Best 'Ring' Busy On Football Days" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Nov 2, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. FA3
- ²¹ "CHURCH PLANS CELEBRATION: Evangelical Lutheran To Mark Fiftieth ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Apr 11, 1942; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 6
- ²² *Ibid.*; "CHURCH TO INSTALL PASTOR TOMORROW" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Sep 20, 1924; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 5
- ²³ "LUTHERAN CLERIC DIES AT HIS HOME: Mr. Stiemke Was Retired From Church In 1961"
- ²⁴ Wallace Weldon, "For Mentally Handicapped: A Church School" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Mar 16, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. B5)
- ²⁵ Judy Volkman, personal communication, 3/29/2017.
- ²⁶ Program for the Ground Breaking Service Parish Activities Building, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ²⁷ Program for the Ground Breaking Service Parish Activities Building; The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Church, September 19, 1965, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church

- ²⁸ Program for the Ground Breaking Service Parish Activities Building; Program for the Dedication Service for the Parish Activities Building, June 29, 1959 on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ²⁹ Melvin J. Knott, "People-Propelled Merger Is Seasoned By Love of Christ" *The Baltimore Lutheran News*, edition unknown, page 5, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ³⁰ Mike Dausch, personal communication, 3/15/2017
- ³¹ Richard Schuerholz, Jr. "Letters to the Editor: Blockbusting Opposition" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jun 5, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 14)
- ³² Dausch; Douglas Connah Jr. "Blockbusting in Baltimore: less blatant and rapacious: The old ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jan 26, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. K2)
- ³³ Connah.
- ³⁴ Weldon Wallace, "Montebello Church's Demise Parable Of An Urban Parish" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Dec 6, 1970; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 30
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*
- ³⁶ "Priest Blames 2 For Area Change" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Feb 25, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. C13
- ³⁷ Dausch
- ³⁸ Naomi S. Rovner, "U.S. PROBING BLOCKBUSTING IN BALTIMORE: Justice Department Is Moving Under 1968 Civil Rights Act" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Feb 27, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. C20)
- ³⁹ "Racial 'steering' is meeting topic" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Oct 15, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 124
- ⁴⁰ Dausch
- ⁴¹ Farewell Service pamphlet, Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Sunday, April 1, 1973, On file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁴² *Ibid.*
- ⁴³ "Rev. M. H. Dorpat Holds Y.W.C.A. Meet: Lutheran Minister to Conduct ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 1, 1930; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. A13)
- ⁴⁴ "Saint Matthews Lutheran Church Christian Day School" The Historical Markers Database, <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=31035>; "Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail" Brochure, Virginia Retreat, accessible at: <http://www.varetreat.com/adventures/history-adventures/civil-rights-in-education-heritage-trail/>
- ⁴⁵ Dausch.
- ⁴⁶ "Historical Sketch" in 25th Anniversary Pamphlet, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁴⁷ "MARCH RITES SET SUNDAY: Retired Lutheran Minister Died At Age 70" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jul 10, 1964; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 13; "Other 16 -- No Title" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Aug 31, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. A4; "About St. Philips" St. Philips Evangelical Lutheran Church, <http://www.stphilipslutheranch2.org/about.html>)
- ⁴⁸ "MARCH RITES SET SUNDAY: Retired Lutheran Minister Died At Age 70"
- ⁴⁹ "Historical Sketch" Farewell Services Pamphlet, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁵⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁵¹ "Display Ad 38 -- No Title" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Oct 12, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. A4; Baltimore, MD Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1914-1915 Vol. 2, 1914, Sheet 205; "To Open New Hall" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jan 13, 1912; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8)
- ⁵² "Historical Sketch" in Farewell Service Pamphlet, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁵³ "The Monumental City: Weekly News Summary" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 1, 1944; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 15; "St. Matthew Confirmation Class" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 7, 1945; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 6
- ⁵⁴ Farewell Service pamphlet, Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Sunday, April 1, 1973, On file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church

- ⁵⁵ 85th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁵⁶ Brenda Wright, "City's 1st merger of black, white churches" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 14, 1973; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10
- ⁵⁷ "St. Matthew, Our Saviour: Black, White Churches Merge in Baltimore" in *The Lutheran Witness*, Part 2, Vol. XCII, No. 6: Southeastern District News, St. Louis, MO, April 22, 1973
- ⁵⁸ Proclamation by Mayor William Donald Schaefer Designating April 1, 1973 as "Our Saviour and St. Matthew Church Day" in Baltimore; On file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church.
- ⁵⁹ "Two Congregations Unite As One" *Baltimore Afro-American*, February 10, 1973.
- ⁶⁰ "Committee Studying Future of St. Matthew's Congregation" *The Baltimore Lutheran News*, Vol. 1, No. 2, July-August Edition.
- ⁶¹ Dausch
- ⁶² Knott
- ⁶³ Wright
- ⁶⁴ Wright; Dausch; Volkman.
- ⁶⁵ Dausch
- ⁶⁶ "St. Matthew, Our Saviour: Black, White Churches Merge in Baltimore"
- ⁶⁷ Volkman.
- ⁶⁸ "St. Matthew, Our Saviour: Black, White Churches Merge in Baltimore" in *The Lutheran Witness, Part 2, Volume XCII, No. 6, Southern District News* (St. Louis, April 22, 1973)
- ⁶⁹ Dausch; Volkman.
- ⁷⁰ Volkman.
- ⁷¹ Dausch
- ⁷² Volkman.
- ⁷³ Volkman
- ⁷⁴ "CORNERSTONE RITE SET FOR TOMORROW: Rev. A. J. Stiemke To Officiate At ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 3, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 5)
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁷⁶ "Church of Our Savior Dedication Service" *Shoppers Guide*, August 28, 1930;
- ⁷⁷ Program for the "Dedication Service and Memorial Chime Concerts, May 20-27, 1934", on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁷⁸ "The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Church, September 19, 1965, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁷⁹ "Program for the "Dedication Service and Memorial Chime Concerts, May 20-27, 1934"; "Church Chimes are On Display" *The News American*, February 25, 1934, page unknown; Albert Williams, "I Remember: The Role a Sapling Played in Making a Fine Bell" *The Sun Magazine*, April 14, 1968, page 2, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁸⁰ The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Church, September 19, 1965
- ⁸¹ Program for the "Dedication Service and Memorial Chime Concerts, May 20-27, 1934": 85th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church; A Half Century for Christ - 1892-1942, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- ⁸² Program from the Dedication Service of the South Aisle Windows, March 15, 1953, on file with Our Saviour Lutheran Church

The Baltimore City Department of
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner



Date: October 11, 2017

Re: **City Council Bill 17-0110 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**

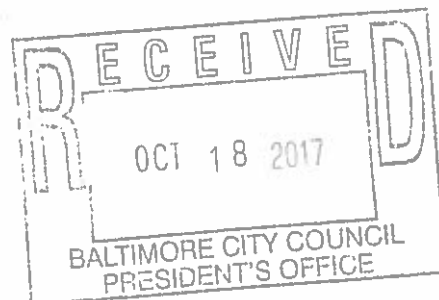
The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0110, for the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

The Our Saviour Lutheran Church was constructed in 1929/1930 with the Gothic Revival architectural style. It is located in the Ednor Gardens-Lakeside Neighborhood and Councilwoman Clarke introduced Bill 17-0110 for the designation of the exterior of the Church as an historical landmark.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 17-0110.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*



TJA

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0110/ BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST: EXTERIORS - OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CITY of
BALTIMORE

MEMO



TO

DATE: September 27, 2017

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

At its regular meeting of June 15, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0110, for the purpose of designating the Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 3301 The Alameda as a Commission for Historic Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary and previous staff report that recommended approval of the Historic Landmark. Thus, the Planning Commission recommended approval of City Council Bill #17-0110 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 #17-0110 be passed by the City Council.

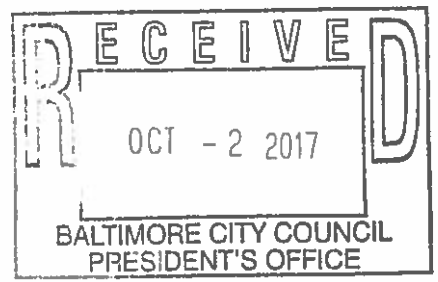
If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-4488.

TJS/WA

Attachment

- cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Ms. Lindsay Wines, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Paul Plymouth, Council Services

A





*Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor*

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



*Thomas J. Stosur
Director*

June 15, 2017

REQUEST: Designate as a Baltimore City Landmark: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Lauren Schiszik

PETITIONER/OWNER: Our Saviour Lutheran Church

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The building, constructed in 1929/1930 is a one-and-a-half story stone Gothic Revival church, featuring a three-story bell tower with 18 carillon bells. The church has stained glass windows, a slate roof, and on the bell tower, lancet-arched windows with decorative hoods that end with bas-relief faces, largely of humans, but also include a dog and cat. There is a simple stone addition on the north elevation of the building that was constructed in 1957/1958. The church was designed by the architecture firm Frohman, Robb, and Little, also responsible for designing the National Cathedral. It features stained glass windows made by the Willet Stained Glass Company and wrought iron work by Samuel Yellin, both of Philadelphia, and 18 carillon bells cast by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore. These were the largest set of bells cast in an American foundry.

General Area: Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located on the corner of the wide, tree-lined boulevards of 33rd St and The Alameda, in the suburban neighborhood of Ednor Gardens-Lakeside. Thirty-third Street (designated as a Baltimore City Landmark is one of the Olmsted Parkways) is the boundary of Ednor Gardens/Lakeside to the north, and Coldstream Homestead Montebello to the south. These neighborhoods were developed in the 1920s and 1930s. The homes surrounding the church to the north are Colonial, Spanish-Revival, and bungalow single family homes and duplexes. The homes across 33rd St. are 1920s porch-front daylight rowhouses. The property of Baltimore City College (a Baltimore City Landmark) is located diagonally from Our Saviour across 33rd St and The Alameda.

HISTORY

There are no Planning actions related to this property.

This designation is being requested by the congregation. This church building was constructed in 1929/1930 for the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This church was one of the earliest English-speaking Lutheran congregations established in the city in 1892. Originally located in East Baltimore, the congregation moved to this site in 1920. This structure was

designed by the firm of Frohmann, Robb, and Little, who designed many ecclesiastical structures, including the Washington National Cathedral and Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

This congregation served the needs of their congregants, but also – and almost more importantly – the needs of their community. This church opened a non-denominational Sunday School for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 1951, and was one of the eight churches of Homestead-Coldstream Churches Inc., which investigated and fought block-busting and racially discriminatory real estate practices in their community in the 1960s. In 1973, this congregation merged with another historic Lutheran congregation, that of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. This congregation was founded in Baltimore in 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans who moved from rural Meherrin, Virginia to Baltimore in the first wave of the Great Migration. The core of this church was comprised of members from the African-American St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Meherrin, which was the first African-American Lutheran Church in Virginia, founded in 1883. In 1971, Baltimore's St. Matthew Lutheran Church, facing an impending loss of their church building due to urban renewal plans, decided that they wanted to merge with another congregation, particularly a white Lutheran congregation that wanted an integrated congregation. Mergers between predominantly white and predominantly African-American congregations are highly uncommon, and this merger set a precedent in Baltimore and in the Lutheran Church's Missouri Synod. Today, the congregation is still thriving and serving its congregation and community at large.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

There is not a neighborhood Master Plan for this area. Thus, staff applied the 2006 Comprehensive Master Plan.

ANALYSIS

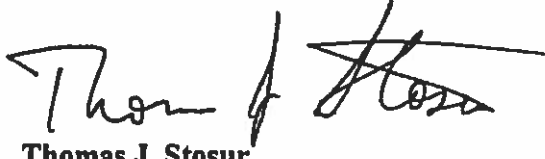
Background: This designation is being requested by the Church. As per the landmark designation process, the CHAP Commission considered this designation at its hearing on April 11, 2017, and determined that the landmark designation meets the CHAP landmark designation Criteria 1 and 3, as the church is significant for its role in Baltimore City history and for its architecture.

The Planning Commission and its staff apply all relevant Master Plans to proposed historic designations. Reviewing this proposal using the Comprehensive Master Plan, staff finds that this proposed landmark designation meets with planning initiatives. Landmark designation of this church meets LIVE Goal 2: Elevate the Design and Quality of the City's Built Environment through Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods, which states that Planning staff will actively pursue historic designation.

NOTIFICATION

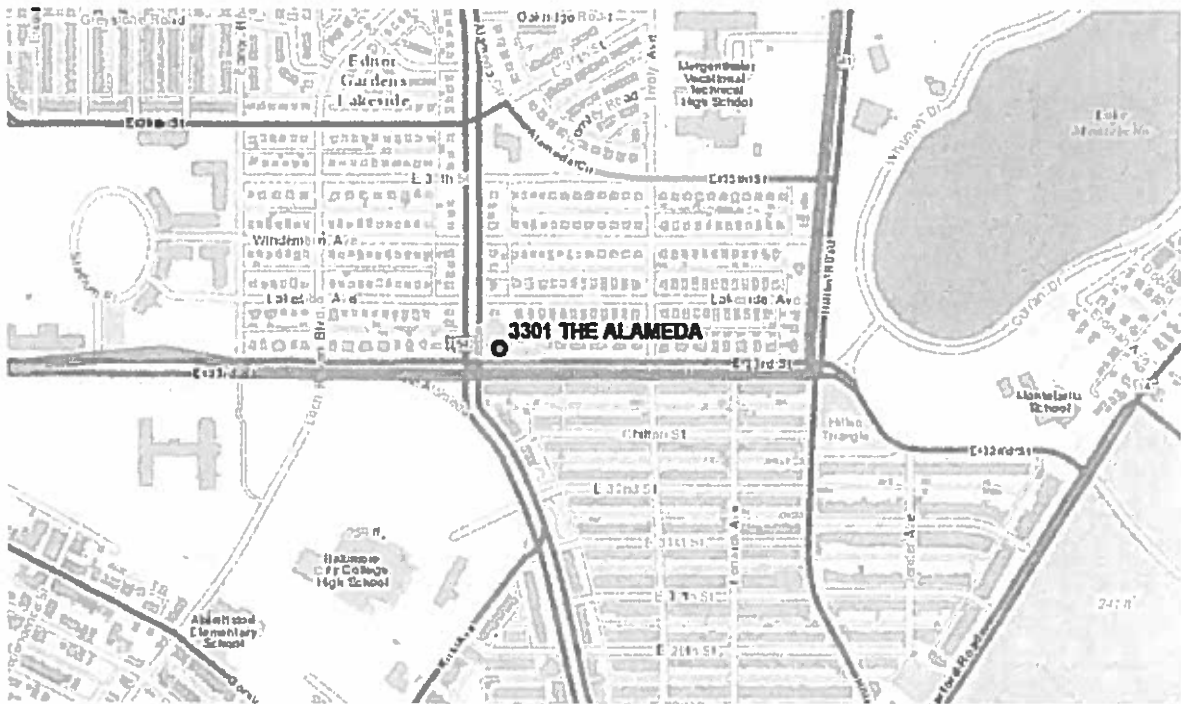
The following community organizations have been notified of this action:

Baltimore AIA, Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore National Heritage Area, Ednor Gardens-
Lakeside Civic Association, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, Preservation
Maryland, Strong City Baltimore.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas J. Stosur
Director

MAP AND IMAGES



Map 1: Map of the property.



Image 1— Aerial view of site, view from northwest.



Image 2 - Aerial view of site, view from south.

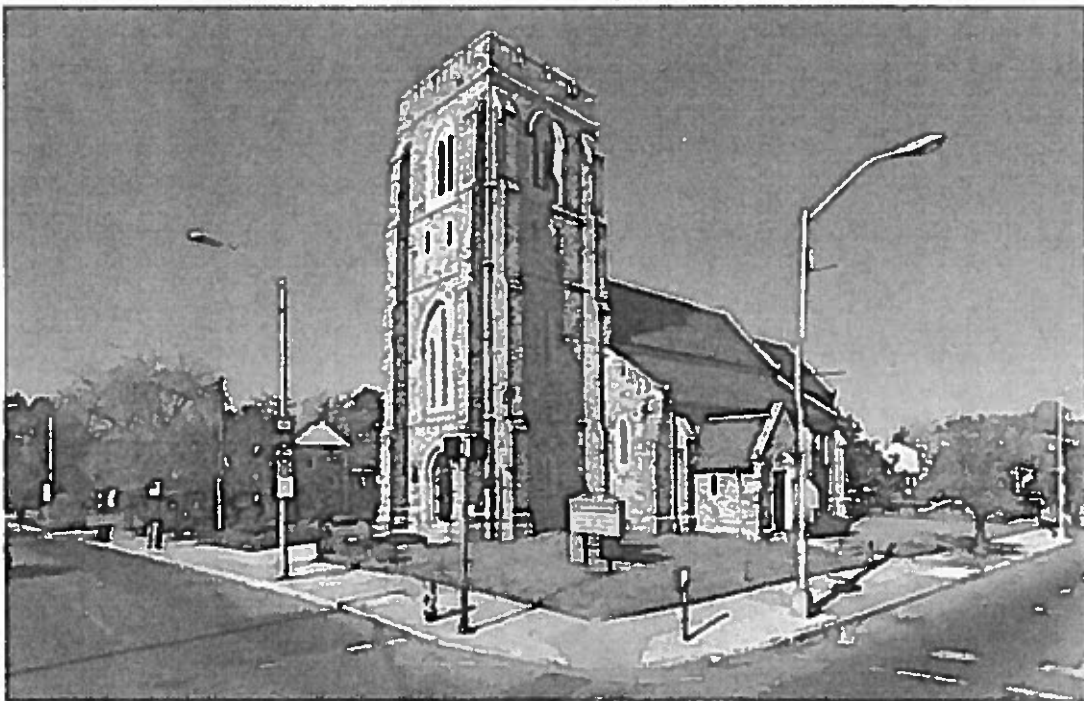


Image 3 - View of church from The Alameda and 33rd St.



Image 4 – Church façade on The Alameda.



Image 5 – South elevation facing 33rd St.



Image 6 – Detail of the entrance on 33rd St.



Image 7 – View of the church and 1957 addition.



Image 8 – Detail of decorative cat and dog carvings.



Image 9 – The cornerstone.



Image 10 – Rear of the 1957 addition.

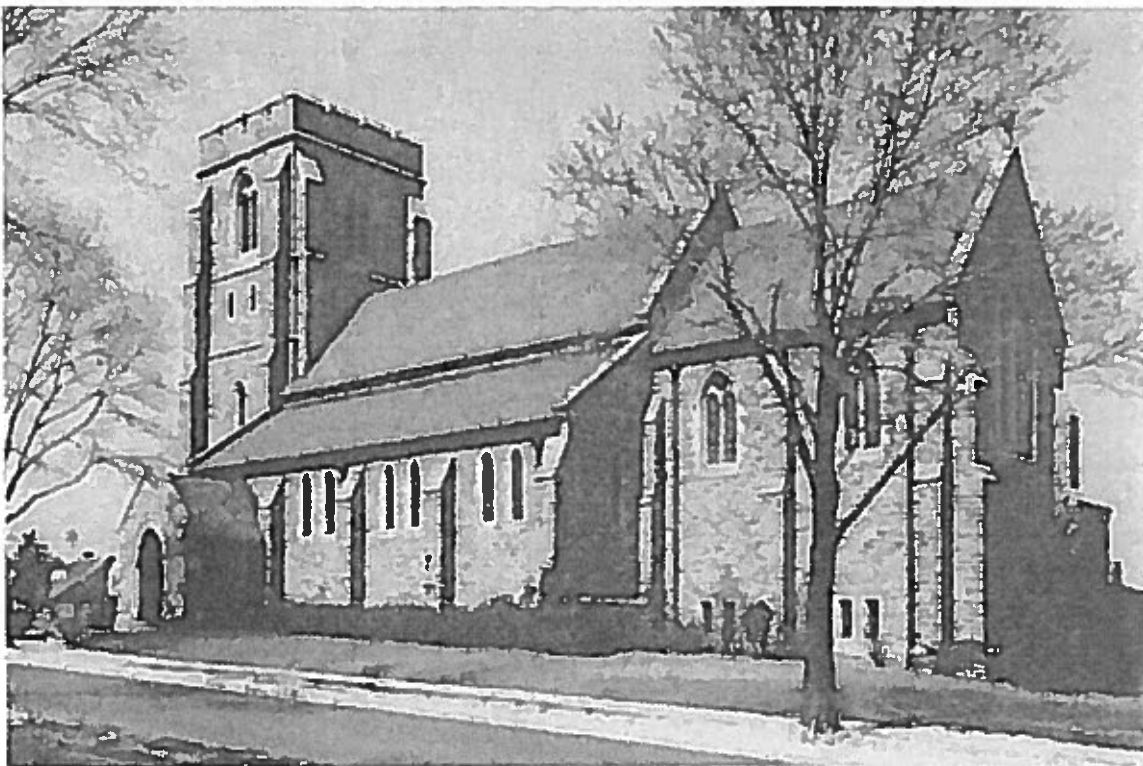


Image 11 - Historic photo of the 33rd St. elevation, undated.

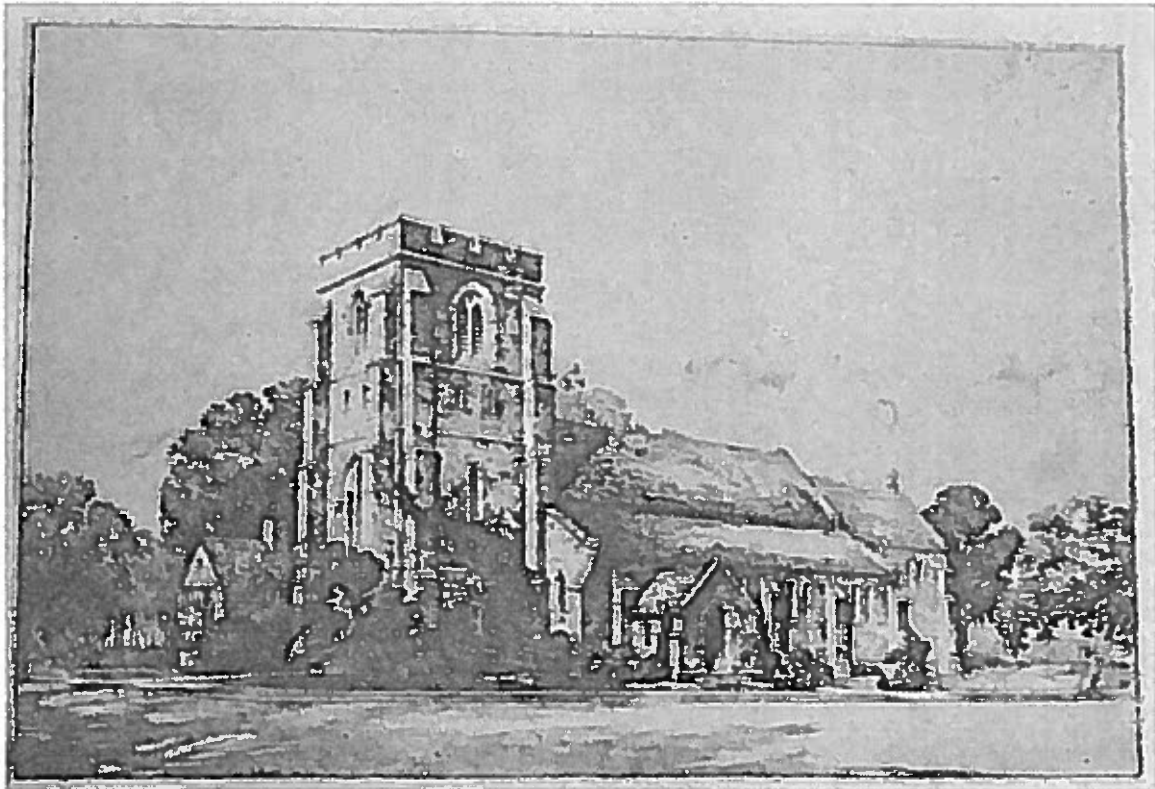


Image 12 – Drawing of the church from its dedication ceremony, 1930.



CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR BALTIMORE MARYLAND
FRANK FORD & LITTLE ARCHITECTS BOSTON & WASHINGTON JUNE 11 1890

Image 13 – Drawing of the interior of the church



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO *WHC*

DATE: August 3, 2017

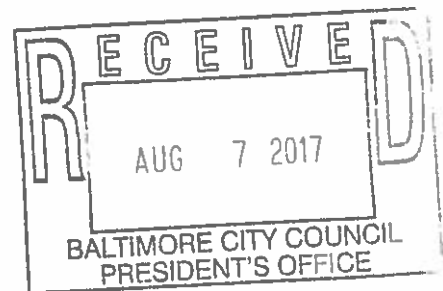
SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 17-0110
Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 17-0110, an ordinance for the purpose of designating the exterior of Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 3301 The Alameda as an historical landmark.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is sited on a key corner of The Alameda and 33rd Street and anchors the surrounding neighborhoods as both a prominent community and cultural asset.

BDC supports the proposed ordinance and respectfully requests that Bill No. 17-0110 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks





HEARING NOTES

Bill: CC 17-0110

Ordinance – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Committee: Housing and Urban Affairs
Chaired By: Councilmember John Bullock

Hearing Date: October 26, 2017
Time (Beginning): 2:03 PM
Time (Ending): 2:08 PM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chamber
Total Attendance: 18
Committee Members in Attendance:
John Bullock Zeke Cohen
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer Ryan Dorsey
Kristerfer Burnett
Bill Henry
Sharon Sneed

Bill Synopsis in the file? yes no n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? yes no n/a
Agency reports read? yes no n/a
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? yes no n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? yes no n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? yes no n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? yes no n/a
Motioned by: **Councilmember Henry**
Seconded by: **Councilmember Dorsey**
Final Vote: **Favorable**

Major Speakers
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Eric Holcomb
-

- CHAP

Major Issues Discussed

1. The previous hearing continued
2. Our Saviour Lutheran Church is a important part of the northeast community and played a pivotal role in the integration of the neighborhood.
3. The Bill passed on a 7-0 vote.
- 4.

Further Study

Was further study requested? Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

J. Bullock:..... Yea
I. Schleifer: Yea
K. Burnett: Yea
B. Henry: Yea
S. Sneed:..... Yea
Z. Cohen:..... Yea
R. Dorsey:..... Yea
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Richard G. Krummerich, Committee Staff Date: 10-27-17

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File



**CITY OF BALTIMORE
CITY COUNCIL HEARING ATTENDANCE**

Committee: * Housing and Urban Affairs

Date: October 26, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: *C

Subject: * - Ordinance - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Our Savior Lutheran

PLEASE PRINT

IF YOU WANT TO TESTIFY PLEASE

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ST. #	ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	Z
John	Doe	100	North Charles Street	212
Mary	Eckhart		Our Saviour Lutheran Ch	
Patricia	Doorns		" "	
Mica	SAZ		BBC	
Erlie	HOLCOMB		417 FAYETTE- CHAP	
Shawn	Johnson		Foreing	
Charles	McClean		Our Saviour Lutheran Ch	



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Housing and Urban Affairs

Bill CC 17-0110

Ordinance – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Sponsor: Councilmember Clarke *

Introduced: July 17, 2017

Purpose:

For the purpose of designating Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark; exterior

Effective: 30 days after enactment

Hearing Date/Time/Location: October 26, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the Council Chambers

Agency Reports

Planning Commission	Favorable
Baltimore Development Corporation	Favorable
Department of Law	Favorable Upon CHAP Approval
Department of Housing and Community Development	Favorable
Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	
CHAP	Favorable

Analysis

Current Law

Sections 17A-44 of Article 6 of the Baltimore City Code establish a process for designating structures Historical Landmarks. Such designation can help protect a building from demolition and can have favorable tax consequences. The final step in the process is enactment of an Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council.

Background

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located at 3301 The Alameda near the intersection of 33rd Street in the Ednor Gardens Community of northeast Baltimore. The Building was constructed in 1929 on a design by the architects, Friedman, Robb, and Little. It is designed in the Gothic Revival Style.

The Congregation was one of the earliest English speaking Lutheran congregations in Baltimore. In 1971 the congregation merged with St. Mathews Lutheran Church. This was the first merger of predominately white and black congregations in the history of the Lutheran Church. The Church has played a major role in the development of the Northeast Baltimore Community.

CC 17-0110 designates Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3301 the Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Bill File

Analysis by: Richard G. Krummerich *RK* Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1266
Analysis Date: 10-24-17

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0110
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017

Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, Baltimore Development Corporation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –**
3 **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

4 FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an
5 historical landmark: exterior.

6 BY adding

7 Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation

8 Section(s) 17A-44

9 Baltimore City Code

10 (Edition 2000)

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
12 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

13 **Baltimore City Code**

14 **Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation**

15 **Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s**

16 **§ 17A-44. OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

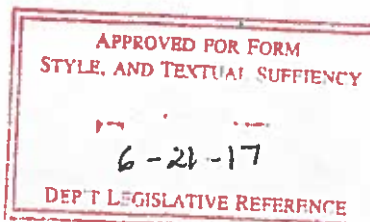
17 **OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3301 THE ALAMEDA.**

18 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
19 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
20 Ordinance.

21 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
22 after the date it is enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _____



Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –
Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
Section(s) 17A-44
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation

Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s

§ 17A-44. OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3301 THE ALAMEDA.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior Ordinance.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day after the date it is enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.



ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

JUL 17 2017
20

_____) _____

16-26 _____ 20 17

10-30 _____ 20 17

_____) _____

FAVORABLE _____ UNFAVORABLE _____ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED _____ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

[Handwritten Signature]

Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

OCT 30 2017
20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING _____

NOV 13 2017
20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) _____

20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) _____

20

WITHDRAWAL _____

20

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Order be removed from the files of the City Council.

[Handwritten Signature]

President

[Handwritten Signature]

Chief Clerk

The Daily Record

11 East Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-2199
(443) 524-8100

<http://www.thedailyrecord.com>

Order #: 11420179
Case #: BILL #17-0110
Description:

BILL NO. 17-0110. - The Housing and Urban Affairs Committee of the Baltimore City Council

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

We hereby certify that the annexed advertisement was published in The Daily Record, a daily newspaper published in the State of Maryland 1 times on the following dates:

10/10/2017

Darlene Miller, Public Notice Coordinator
(Representative Signature)

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING ON BILL NO. 17-0110**

The Housing and Urban Affairs Committee of the Baltimore City Council will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 12:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, to conduct a public hearing on City Council Bill No. 17-0110.

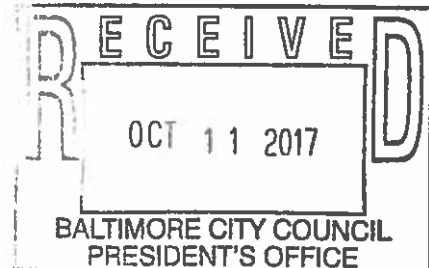
CC 17-0110 ORDINANCE - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Our Saviour Lutheran Church - FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding
Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
Section(s) 17A-14
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

NOTE: This bill is subject to amendment by the Baltimore City Council.

John Bullock
Chair.

o10



The Baltimore City Department of
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner



Date: October 11, 2017

Re: City Council Bill 17-0110 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour
Lutheran Church

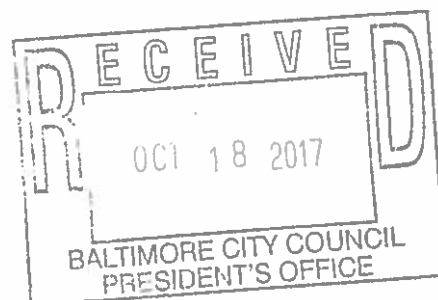
The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0110, for the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.


The Our Saviour Lutheran Church was constructed in 1929/1930 with the Gothic Revival architectural style. It is located in the Ednor Gardens-Lakeside Neighborhood and Councilwoman Clarke introduced Bill 17-0110 for the designation of the exterior of the Church as an historical landmark.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 17-0110.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 TH Floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #17-0110/Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church		

DATE: October 20 2017

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

At its regular meeting on April 11, 2017, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation considered Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alemeda.

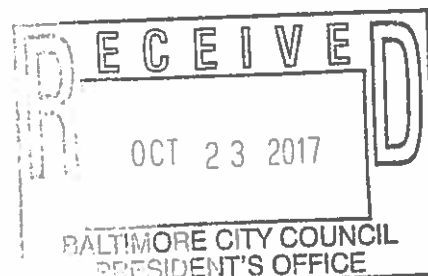
In its consideration of listing Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alemeda on the Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors, the Commission reviewed the Landmark Designation Report and unanimously voted to recommend landmark designation to the Mayor and City Council (12 members present, 12 members in support) because the building meets the following landmark designation criteria:

The property meets CHAP Landmark Designation Standards:

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. That 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-396-4866.



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 20, 2017

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 17-0110 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our
Savior Lutheran Church

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-00110 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill designates Our Savior Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

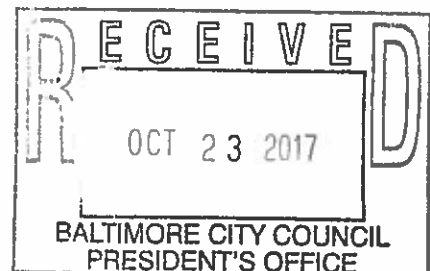
An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council is required to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors." BCC Art. 6, §4-2(1). The City Council must refer the bill for written reports and recommendations to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), the Planning Commission, and any other agency that the Council President designates. BCC Art. 6, §4-5(a). Section 4-6 sets forth the public notice and hearing requirements. If a bill seeks to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors" and was not initiated by CHAP, the City Council may not take action to add the structure to that list without first referring the action to CHAP for a written report and recommendation. Art. 6, §4-8(b).

Assuming CHAP reviews the bill and approves the landmark designation and the notice and hearing requirements are satisfied, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

Victor K. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor

*Fav upon
CHAP approval*




0 3

2



**cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant Solicitor**

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0110/ BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST: EXTERIORS - OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH		

TO

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

DATE:

September 27, 2017

At its regular meeting of June 15, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0110, for the purpose of designating the Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 3301 The Alameda as a Commission for Historic Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary and previous staff report that recommended approval of the Historic Landmark. Thus, the Planning Commission recommended approval of City Council Bill #17-0110 and adopted the following resolution eight members being present (eight in favor).

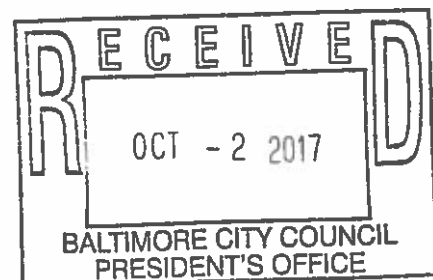
RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #17-0110 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-4488.

TJS/WA

Attachment

- cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Ms. Lindsay Wines, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
Mr. Paul Plymouth, Council Services



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*Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor*

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



*Thomas J. Stosur
Director*

June 15, 2017

REQUEST: Designate as a Baltimore City Landmark: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Lauren Schiszik

PETITIONER/OWNER: Our Saviour Lutheran Church

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The building, constructed in 1929/1930 is a one-and-a-half story stone Gothic Revival church, featuring a three-story bell tower with 18 carillon bells. The church has stained glass windows, a slate roof, and on the bell tower, lancet-arched windows with decorative hoods that end with bas-relief faces, largely of humans, but also include a dog and cat. There is a simple stone addition on the north elevation of the building that was constructed in 1957/1958. The church was designed by the architecture firm Frohman, Robb, and Little, also responsible for designing the National Cathedral. It features stained glass windows made by the Willet Stained Glass Company and wrought iron work by Samuel Yellin, both of Philadelphia, and 18 carillon bells cast by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore. These were the largest set of bells cast in an American foundry.

General Area: Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located on the corner of the wide, tree-lined boulevards of 33rd St and The Alameda, in the suburban neighborhood of Ednor Gardens-Lakeside. Thirty-third Street (designated as a Baltimore City Landmark is one of the Olmsted Parkways) is the boundary of Ednor Gardens/Lakeside to the north, and Coldstream Homestead Montebello to the south. These neighborhoods were developed in the 1920s and 1930s. The homes surrounding the church to the north are Colonial, Spanish-Revival, and bungalow single family homes and duplexes. The homes across 33rd St. are 1920s porch-front daylight rowhouses. The property of Baltimore City College (a Baltimore City Landmark) is located diagonally from Our Saviour across 33rd St and The Alameda.

HISTORY

There are no Planning actions related to this property.

This designation is being requested by the congregation. This church building was constructed in 1929/1930 for the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This church was one of the earliest English-speaking Lutheran congregations established in the city in 1892. Originally located in East Baltimore, the congregation moved to this site in 1920. This structure was

designed by the firm of Frohmann, Robb, and Little, who designed many ecclesiastical structures, including the Washington National Cathedral and Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation. The church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

This congregation served the needs of their congregants, but also – and almost more importantly – the needs of their community. This church opened a non-denominational Sunday School for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities in 1951, and was one of the eight churches of Homestead-Coldstream Churches Inc., which investigated and fought block-busting and racially discriminatory real estate practices in their community in the 1960s. In 1973, this congregation merged with another historic Lutheran congregation, that of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. This congregation was founded in Baltimore in 1929 by a group of African-American Lutherans who moved from rural Meherrin, Virginia to Baltimore in the first wave of the Great Migration. The core of this church was comprised of members from the African-American St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Meherrin, which was the first African-American Lutheran Church in Virginia, founded in 1883. In 1971, Baltimore's St. Matthew Lutheran Church, facing an impending loss of their church building due to urban renewal plans, decided that they wanted to merge with another congregation, particularly a white Lutheran congregation that wanted an integrated congregation. Mergers between predominantly white and predominantly African-American congregations are highly uncommon, and this merger set a precedent in Baltimore and in the Lutheran Church's Missouri Synod. Today, the congregation is still thriving and serving its congregation and community at large.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

There is not a neighborhood Master Plan for this area. Thus, staff applied the 2006 Comprehensive Master Plan.

ANALYSIS


Background: This designation is being requested by the Church. As per the landmark designation process, the CHAP Commission considered this designation at its hearing on April 11, 2017, and determined that the landmark designation meets the CHAP landmark designation Criteria 1 and 3, as the church is significant for its role in Baltimore City history and for its architecture.

The Planning Commission and its staff apply all relevant Master Plans to proposed historic designations. Reviewing this proposal using the Comprehensive Master Plan, staff finds that this proposed landmark designation meets with planning initiatives. Landmark designation of this church meets LIVE Goal 2: Elevate the Design and Quality of the City's Built Environment through Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods, which states that Planning staff will actively pursue historic designation.

NOTIFICATION

The following community organizations have been notified of this action:

Baltimore AIA, Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore National Heritage Area, Ednor Gardens-
Lakeside Civic Association, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, Preservation
Maryland, Strong City Baltimore.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T' and 'S'.

Thomas J. Stosur
Director

MAP AND IMAGES



Map 1: Map of the property.



Image 1- Aerial view of site, view from northwest.



Image 2 - Aerial view of site, view from south.

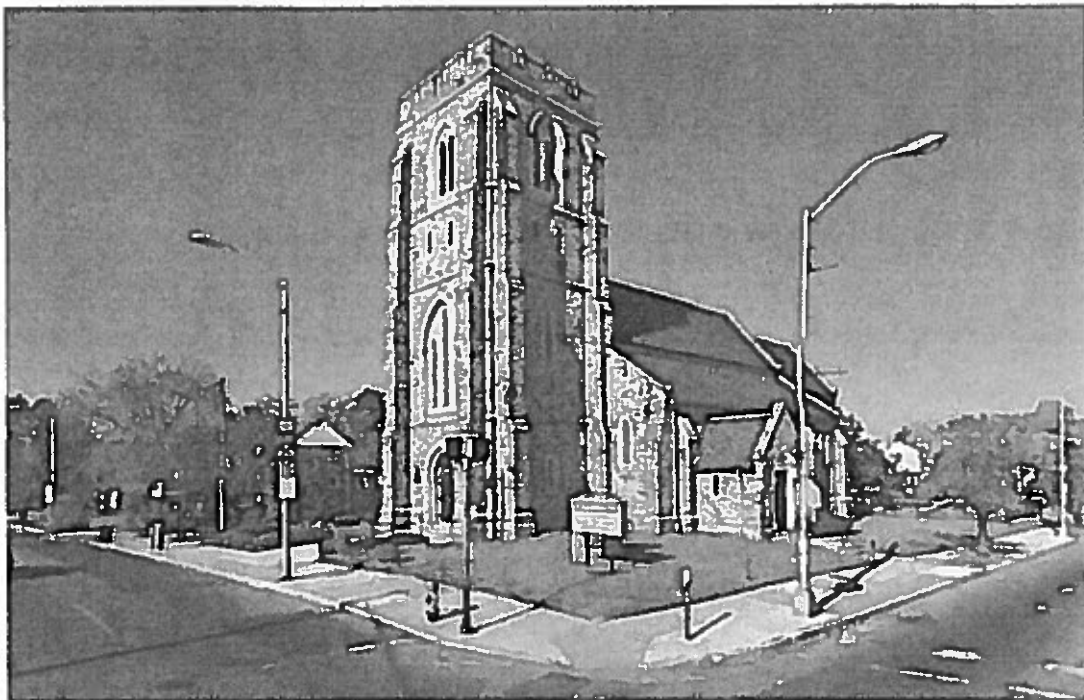


Image 3 – View of church from The Alameda and 33rd St.



Image 4 – Church façade on The Alameda.



Image 5 – South elevation facing 33rd St.



Image 6 – Detail of the entrance on 33rd St.

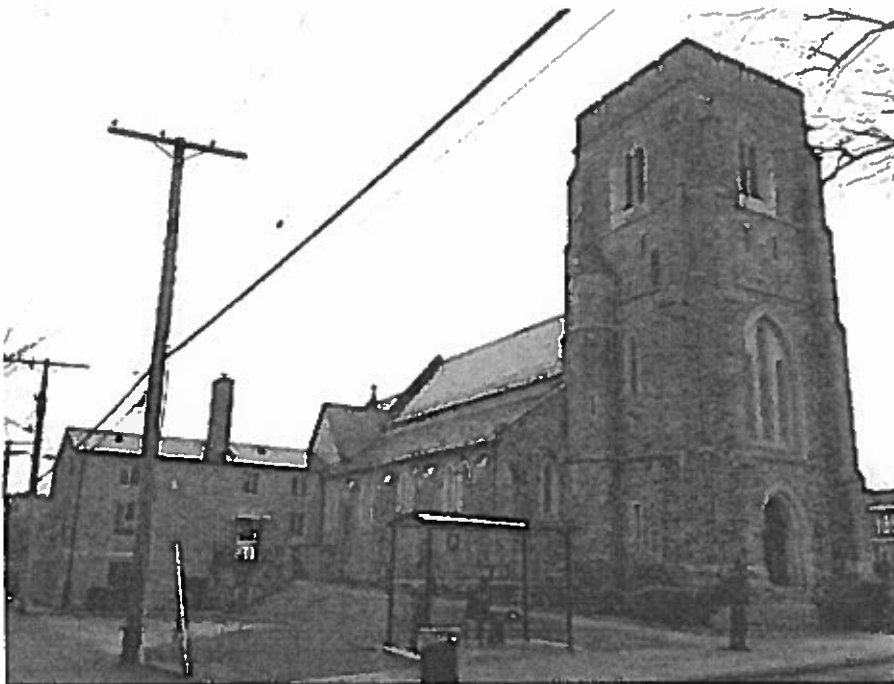


Image 7 – View of the church and 1957 addition.



Image 8 – Detail of decorative cat and dog carvings.

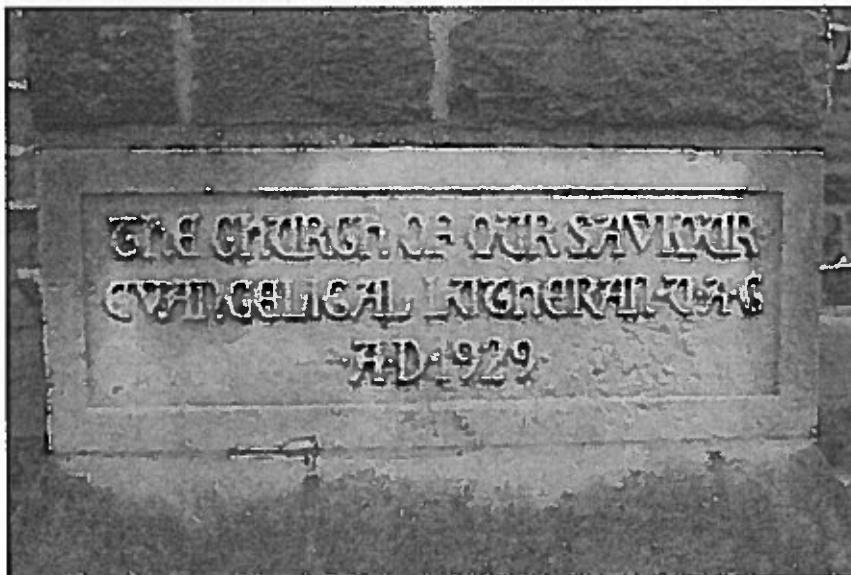


Image 9 – The cornerstone.



Image 10 – Rear of the 1957 addition.

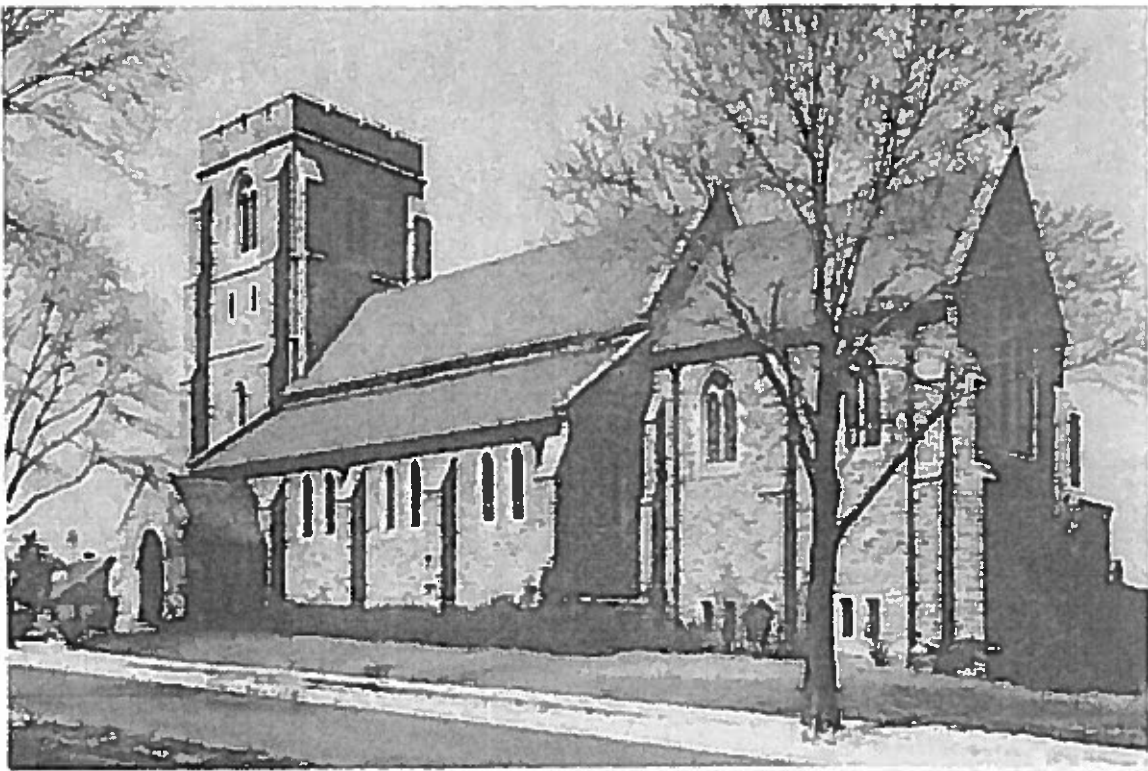


Image 11 - Historic photo of the 33rd St. elevation, undated.

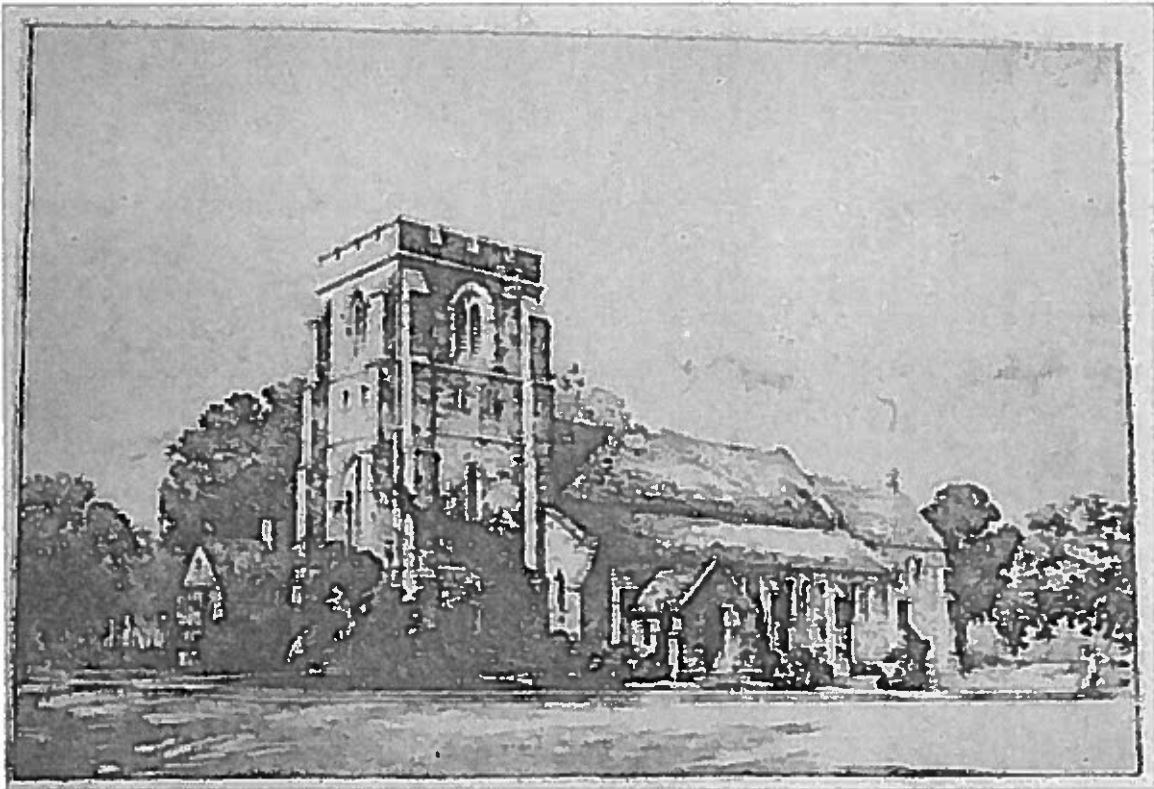


Image 12 – Drawing of the church from its dedication ceremony, 1930.



CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
THOMAS ROSS & LITTLE, ARCHITECTS, BOSTON & WASHINGTON, JUNE 11, 1887

Image 13 – Drawing of the interior of the church

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0110
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017

Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. Baltimore Development Corporation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –**
3 **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

4 FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an
5 historical landmark: exterior.

6 BY adding

7 Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
8 Section(s) 17A-44
9 Baltimore City Code
10 (Edition 2000)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the
12 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

13 **Baltimore City Code**

14 **Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation**

15 **Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s**

16 **§ 17A-44. OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

17 **OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3301 THE ALAMEDA.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
19 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
20 Ordinance.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
22 after the date it is enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0110

APPROVED FOR FORM
STYLE AND TEXTUAL SUFFICIENCY
6-21-17
DEPT LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –
Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

Handwritten notes:
A-1
Law
BMZA
Planning
Comm.
HCP
CHAP
BDC

FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

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Section(s) 17A-44
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

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Baltimore City Code

Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation

Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s

§ 17A-44. OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3301 THE ALAMEDA.

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SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day after the date it is enacted.


EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: August 3, 2017

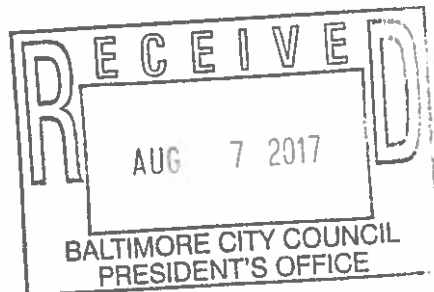
SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 17-0110
Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 17-0110, an ordinance for the purpose of designating the exterior of Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 3301 The Alameda as an historical landmark.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is sited on a key corner of The Alameda and 33rd Street and anchors the surrounding neighborhoods as both a prominent community and cultural asset.

BDC supports the proposed ordinance and respectfully requests that Bill No. 17-0110 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks



CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 17-0110

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke
Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2017
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: October 30, 2017

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –
Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

FOR the purpose of designating Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3301 The Alameda, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
Section(s) 17A-44
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

Council Bill 17-0110

Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20____

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this _____ day of _____, 20____

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20____

Mayor, Baltimore City