



June 7, 2018

Re: Proposed Bloomingdale Historic District, Application #17-17

Dear Property Owner:

This letter follows up on correspondence that our office sent to you in May about the nomination to designate a Bloomingdale Historic District. The nomination was submitted in July 2017 by the DC Preservation League on behalf of the Bloomingdale Historic District Coalition. We are confirming that the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) has scheduled a public hearing on the nomination, which will take place at *9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 441 Fourth Street NW (One Judiciary Square), in Room 220 South.*

The hearing is open to all interested parties and persons, and you may testify before the Board. Public and government agencies, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, property and business owners, residents, and interested organizations and individuals may also testify.

If you prefer, you may submit written testimony or comments to the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) before the hearing. All such filings for the Board should be sent to the address below or by email to historic.preservation@dc.gov. The Board welcomes and carefully considers all written comments and expressions of support for, or objection to, the designation.

Purpose of the Public Hearing

At the public hearing, the Board will consider the nominated district for listing in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places. The Board will evaluate the proposed district under the enclosed designation criteria, and in accordance with the historic preservation rules of procedure in Title 10-C, DC Municipal Regulations, Chapter 2. Under the DC Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, the Board may designate the historic district if it determines that it meets the designation criteria.

Information About the Nomination

Information about the Bloomingdale Historic District nomination is posted on the Office of Planning website at <https://planning.dc.gov/page/proposed-bloomingdale-historic-district>. This includes a preliminary HPO report providing an overview of the proposed historic district and an initial analysis of the nomination under the designation criteria. If you would like a copy of the preliminary report mailed to you, please call our office at 442-7600.



Purposes of Designation

The main purposes of historic district designation are to recognize, protect, and enhance areas that represent distinctive elements of the District's cultural, social, and architectural history and development. These purposes support multiple public goals: fostering civic pride, protecting the city's attraction to visitors, supporting its economic health, and promoting the use of historic properties for the education, enjoyment and well-being of District residents.

The District's preservation law achieves these purposes by protecting designated property through the review of permit applications for new construction, demolition, and exterior alteration. The goals of the review process are to retain and enhance historic properties, encourage their adaptation for current use, and ensure that they are treated in ways that are compatible with the character of the historic district.

Information for Property Owners

To assist property owners in understanding the practical implications of a historic district designation, HPO has prepared draft design guidelines for Bloomingdale describing the treatment principles that would apply in the review of exterior work requiring a permit.

These guidelines are intended to help owners understand the important building features and architectural characteristics that should be retained and respected during renovations. They ensure that the same expectations will apply to all property owners. They are also intended to provide assurance that alterations not affecting important features or historic character will be allowed.

The draft design guidelines are posted on the Office of Planning website at the link shown above. If you would like a copy of the design guidelines mailed to you, please call our office at 442-7600.

National Register of Historic Places

At the July hearing, the Board will also consider nomination of the historic district to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic and prehistoric properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage. National Register listing does not impose any controls under DC land use laws or regulations, and public visitation rights are not required of owners. A more complete explanation of the implications of National Register listing is provided on the enclosed information sheet.

Sincerely,



David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer