
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District: **Emory United Methodist Church** (nomination pending)
Address: **6100 Georgia Avenue NW** (x) Agenda

Meeting Date: **April 23, 2015** (x) Raze
Case Number: **15-307**

Staff Reviewer: **Tim Dennée** (x) Permit

The applicant, property owner Emory United Methodist Church, requests the Board's review of a permit application to raze the church, which is the subject of a pending landmark nomination.

The applicant has circulated raze clearance letters to the necessary review agencies and disciplines. A landmark nomination renders a property historic for the purposes of the law until a decision on designation settles the matter of jurisdiction. Historic Preservation Office clearance and the issuance of a raze permit may depend on the decision regarding the nomination. The preservation law requires that, prior to the issuance of a permit to raze a historic property or demolish it in significant part, the application must first be referred to the Board.

If the Board designates the property as being of sufficient importance and integrity to merit landmark designation, then it must also find that its demolition in significant part would fail to retain and enhance the landmark, which would be contrary to the purposes of the preservation law.

If the Board does not designate the property, it is no longer subject to the jurisdiction of the preservation law, and the city's issuance of a raze permit may proceed without further preservation review.

Recommendation

If the subject property is designated a historic landmark, the HPO recommends that the Board advise the Mayor's Agent that the proposed demolition is inconsistent with the purposes of the preservation law, because it does not retain a historic landmark property.

If the Board does not designate the property, no further action will be taken on this case by the HPO or Board, except for administrative clearance of the raze letter, for lack of jurisdiction.