



EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

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An Ordinance No. _____ - 2021

DESIGNATING the St. Mark's Church Building located at 3500 Montgomery Road in the Evanston neighborhood as a local historic landmark.

WHEREAS, the Evanston Community Council, the recognized community council for the Evanston neighborhood, has applied to designate the St. Mark's Church Building located at 3500 Montgomery Road (the "Church") as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Church is an architecturally significant example of a locally rare Italian Renaissance Revival Style applied to a church building that reflects the influence of Classicism as applied to a house of worship in the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the Church was completed in 1916 and is the only known Cincinnati work completed by Chicago ecclesiastical architect Henry Schlacks; and

WHEREAS, the Church also features contributions from associate architects Joseph Steinkamp and Brothers, who designed many significant buildings in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, the Church is largely unaltered on the exterior and incorporates the identifiable features of a front-gabled roof, a barrel-vaulted coffered ceiling with arcaded side aisles, a freestanding 130-foot bell tower, and other classical details, including four columns with pronounced entasis, chancel walls with floral stenciling, and brick pilasters; and

WHEREAS, at its height in the mid-20th century, 1200 families worshipped at the Church and, over time, as the neighborhood's demographics changed, the Church became one of several predominately African American parishes in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, following a public staff conference, the Historic Conservation Board, at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2020, and upon considering the factors set forth in Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 1435-07-1, recommended designation of the Church as a local historic landmark and further recommended adoption of conservation guidelines governing the maintenance, rehabilitation, and modification of the proposed historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the recommendation of the Historic Conservation Board, the City Planning Commission, at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2021, and upon considering the factors set forth in Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 1435-07-2-B(c), recommended the designation of the Church as a historic landmark and the adoption of conservation guidelines governing the maintenance, rehabilitation, and modification of the proposed historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Church has historic significance pursuant to Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 1435-07-01(a)(3) because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, particularly the Italian Renaissance Revival Style of architecture; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the historic designation of the Church conforms to the following goal of Plan Cincinnati (2012): the “Sustain” goal to preserve the City’s built history (p. 197); and

WHEREAS, the Council considers the designation of the Church as a historic landmark and the adoption of related conservation guidelines to be in the best interest of the City and the public’s health, safety, and general welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Council approves the Designation Report for the St. Mark’s Church Building located at 3500 Montgomery Road (“St. Mark’s Church Building”), which report is attached hereto as “Exhibit A,” and specifically adopts as its own findings that the St. Mark’s Church Building, depicted on the attached “Exhibit B” and located on the real property more particularly described on the attached “Exhibit C,” has historic significance and qualifies in all respects for designation as a historic landmark under Chapter 1435 of the Zoning Code of the City of Cincinnati (“Zoning Code”); specifically, Council designates the St. Mark’s Church Building as a local historic landmark under Zoning Code Section 1435-07-1-(a)(3). By reference, Exhibits A, B, and C are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.

Section 2. That the Zoning Map of the City of Cincinnati is amended to superimpose over the existing underlying zoning district the designation of the St. Mark’s Church Building as a local historic landmark.

Section 3. That, pursuant to Zoning Code Chapter 1435, Council hereby adopts the “St. Mark’s Church Building Historic Conservation Guidelines,” attached hereto as “Exhibit D” and made a part hereof, which guidelines shall govern the preservation, rehabilitation, or modification of the St. Mark’s Church Building historic landmark.

Section 4. That the Clerk of Council is directed to promptly notify the Historic Conservation Board, the City Planning Commission, the Director of City Planning and Engagement, the Director of Buildings and Inspections, and the City Solicitor of the St. Mark's Church Building historic landmark designation.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to ensure that any alterations to, or demolitions of, the St. Mark's Church Building are reviewed by the Historic Conservation Board pursuant to Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 1435, "Historic Preservation," which is imminently necessary to preserve and protect the church's historic significance.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk