

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

SIUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HISTORIC NOMINATION STAFF REPORT

Name of Property South Side Presbyterian Church
Address of Property 1926 Sarah Street
Property Owner South Side Presbyterian Church
Nominated by:..... Matthew Falcone
Date Received:..... December 20, 2018
Parcel No.: 12-K-129-02
Ward:..... 17th
Zoning Classification:..... R1A-VH
Neighborhood:..... Southside
Council District:..... 3 – Kraus

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION:

1. Act on the Preliminary Determination of Eligibility for Historic Designation (6 February 2019)
2. Conduct a public hearing for the Historic Designation (6 March 2019)
3. Review the Report prepared by staff for the property in question, and make a recommendation to the City Council on the Historic Designation (6 March 2019)

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

4. Conduct a public hearing for the Historic Designation (9 April 2019)
5. Review the recommendations of the Historic Review Commission and make a recommendation to the City Council on the Historic Designation (9 April 2019)

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

6. Conduct a public hearing
7. Review the recommendations of the Historic Review Commission and the City Planning Commission and take action on the Historic Designation

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

FACTS

1. On December 20, 2018 the staff of the Historic Review Commission received an application for the nomination of the South Side Presbyterian Church to be designated as a City Historic Structure.
2. **Description of the South Side Presbyterian Church** *(as extracted from the nomination form)*

The church complex is divided into three main sections that were built in four stages in 1869-70 (main part of sanctuary), 1893 (narthex and tower addition), 1913 (community center/gym), and 1920 (second floor addition to community center).

The principal (original) section of the church building measures about 85 feet wide by 56 feet deep and about 45 feet tall to the eaves of the roof. The building rests on a smooth-cut, regular coursed sandstone foundation topped with a cut stone water table. The building measures five bays deep and three bays wide. Walls consist of common bond plain brick. On the east (side) façade of the first floor, each of the six bays contain paired, double hung windows with geometric stained glass panels except for the fourth bay back, which contains a side door on S. 20th Street with double-leaf, seven-panel doors surmounted by a Gothic arched, stained glass transom. First floor window and door lintels are flush with the adjacent brick wall and consist of aluminum-clad wood. First floor sills are stone that has been painted gray. On the second floor, each of the six bays are recessed, giving the illusion of pilasters between the bays. Each bay contains a Gothic arched stained glass window set in a wood frame with two sashes (originally double hung but now converted to fixed sashes with ventilators). The second floor windows have unpainted stone sills and brick-arch lintels with recessed voids that likely provided a nailer for wood window hoods. Each window bay is topped with six corbelled Gothic arches. The building's plain eaves are clad in aluminum that generally conforms to the cyma reverse profile of the wood molding behind it. The building's front gabled roof is clad with blue-gray asphalt shingles. The east (side) eaves wall is pierced by one masonry chimney and the south (rear) gable wall is pierced by two masonry chimneys. The west (side) elevation is similar except that it lacks a first floor door. The rear (south) façade is obscured by the community center addition on its first floor. On the second floor, the rear façade contains a central apse, constructed of brick with three sides. The center section of the apse contains a blind, Gothic arched window; each of the side panels contain a boarded up arched window that is partly obscured by the community center addition. On either side of the apse is a blind arched window set in a recessed rectangular panel topped with brick dentils. The gable features a brick cornice with corbelled Gothic arches and a circular window whose sash has been removed and covered with plywood with drilled vent holes. There are octagonal, brick projections at each corner of the rear façade that were reportedly surmounted with pinnacles (Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette, March 26, 1870).

The building's Sarah Street (front/north) façade features a one-bay deep addition (1893), in a modified gothic style that adapts the paneled brick façade and Gothic arched corbels of the original section of the building. The addition added a narthex and increased the useable space in the sanctuary by one bay. The north face is symmetrical in all respects except that the east tower, at 100 feet, is 30 feet taller than the west tower and features a belfry with four Tudor style arches trimmed in stone and supported by a pair of columns with modified Corinthian capitals. Each archway features elaborate wrought iron grill work in its balustrade and arch enclosure. The pyramidal tower

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

roofs are both clad in slate. Unlike the other façades, the north façade features a rusticated stone foundation with a cut stone water table. Gothic window and door arches feature smooth-cut stone voussoirs, impost blocks, and sills. The central bay of the north façade contains two entry doors (each a large, paneled, single-leaf pocket door with arched, stained glass transom) recessed in between two Gothic arches resting on sets of modified Corinthian stone columns. The second floor contains two pairs of double-hung, stained glass window. The third floor (balcony level) contains a large arched stained glass window with five horizontal pivoting operable wood sashes. The window contains a cut stone Gothic arch that is set in a central gable with corbelled arches. At its apex, the gable is really a parapet since it is higher than the roof line behind it. Thus, the top section of the large stained glass window is above the sanctuary ceiling height and opens into the attic space.

The community center was added to the church's south (rear) façade in 1913 and it is built up to the sidewalk line on both S. 20th Street and Larkins Way. The office and meeting rooms (east) half of the addition is two stories (the second story was added in 1920) and measures three bay deep (along S. 20th Street) and 10 bays deep along Larkins Way. This wing rests on a rusticated stone foundation with a smooth-cut water table on its main (east) façade only. Typical windows are one-over-one-light, double-hung, vinyl sash replacements. The east façade contains one larger window opening fitted with three windows surmounted by a transom. To the immediate right is a paneled wood door with glazed upper half. Ornamental features include continuous, cut-stone lintel and sill courses (painted white) and five projecting diamond-shaped brick ornaments between the first and second floors. The community center office wing has a flat roof and parapet wall capped with cut stone, which is then capped with aluminum. The south façade of the office wing contains ten typical windows on the first and second floors and four diamond ornaments. An additional first floor entry door is located and the west end of the building.

The gym section of the community center (also built 1913) measures three bays wide and two bays deep. The south façade contains three groups of windows that are recessed below the sill level. Each group contains three twelve-over-twelve-light, double-hung, wood sash windows with eight-light, fixed transoms. Lintels are steel, and sills are rowlock brick. The roof is flat, and the brick parapet wall is topped with tile coping; the central bay features a taller parapet. The north elevation is similar. The west elevation of the gym abuts a neighboring rowhouse.

3. History of the South Side Presbyterian Church (as extracted from the nomination form)

The first time discussion relating to building construction is mentioned in session (the body of ruling elders) minutes is October 7, 1867, when session designates the collection taken the first Sabbath in October to be used for ministerial relief and church erection. Then, at its November 1, 1867, meeting, session gave "consideration of the propriety, availability, and actual necessity of making a full effort to purchase the ground with the view to an early erection of a church, or whatever may be best in our circumstances to pursue." Discussions apparently continued into the following year without action, as the pastor of the South Side congregation met on July 6, 1868, with the pastor of Third Presbyterian Church (then located downtown on Sixth Avenue) to discuss church erection.

By July 1869, the congregation had hired John T. Natcher to construct a church building reported to cost \$30,000. John T. Natcher was a contractor and builder (1847-1889), then based in the South Side (Birmingham) at 162 S. 16th Street. Natcher was murdered in August 1889 by a painter with whom he had a monetary dispute; his obituary states that he erected the (former) South Side Market House, (former) Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church, and mills or foundries for the Garrison

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Foundry Company, Robinson Rea & Company, Zug and Company, Shoenberger & Company, McIntosh & Hemphill, and Clark's Solar Iron Works (Pittsburgh Daily Post, August 24, 1889). On July 21, 1869, session met at the East Birmingham Common School building "where we now worship during the erection of church building." A March 26, 1870, account of church construction also states that construction began in July 1869 and that it was scheduled to be completed mid-May 1870 (Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette, March 26, 1870). By January 1870, the first floor of the building was in use by the congregation, as minutes from January 10 state that "session met in new church session room." Though building had commenced the prior year, the congregation's deed to the original 96-by-120-foot lot is dated November 9, 1870; the lot was purchased from the School District of East Birmingham for \$6,000 (Allegheny County Deed Book [ACDB] 261:586). The church was officially dedicated on December 4, 1870.

- June 1889, trustees sign contract for installation of a pipe organ.
- 1893, church is enlarged, remodeled, and rededicated November 19. Sarah Street façade addition with twin towers, large front entrance, additional rooms on the first and second floors, and the balcony; new second floor stained glass windows (based on stylistic evidence). Contractor is Waite & Rowlands, of 2500-2506 Jane Street, South Side.
- March 23, 1913, session minutes recognize "the kind intentions of a beneficial Christian friend [likely Wilson Shaw] and the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in connection with the institutional work on the South Side. Session authorized the purchase of the adjoining lot, erection of [community center] building, and revision to the existing building.
- June 19, 1913, church receives electrical permit from City of Pittsburgh for installation of 50 fixtures/receptacles.
- November 21, 1913, session moves that rooms in the main office wing [community center, first floor] be used only for the pastor, session, board of trustees, and Sunday school officers.
- April 2, 1919, session notes that Wilson A. Shaw recently deeded over to South Side Presbyterian Church the house at 1924 Sarah Street [rented in the past as a parsonage/manse]; thus, the pastor was relieved of paying monthly rent.
- October 13, 1920, session approves second floor addition to community center to contain an office, dining room, and kitchen. Session also approves alterations to the bathrooms and locker rooms under the gym according to plans of J.A. Long, Architect. Redecoration of sanctuary also approved.
- October 17, 1920, trustees sign contract with E.A. Hill, Contractor, for the erection of second floor community center, etc., for \$6,312.00.
- February 9, 1921, inspection shows addition by E.A. Hill completed satisfactorily.
- May 14, 1924, Duquesne Light Company proposed new lighting system for sanctuary and Sunday school rooms [note: church pays Clifford Rossiter \$265.35 on February 10, 1926, for electrical work completed in 1924].
- November 12, 1924, Julius Golden redecorates church
- February 12, 1937, manse damage by fire;

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

- May 25, 1940, J.C. Schmitt paid \$18/window to seal sashes and install ventilators and Chamberlain metal weather-stripping on ten windows.
- April 2, 1951, Flooring Specialists install [asphalt tile] flooring in Sunday school and adjoining halls for \$2,800; a \$95 premium is paid for the shuffleboard courts in the floor.
- November 9, 1952, Sunday school windows screened for \$152.
- As of 1956 furnaces still burn coal; congregation cannot afford conversion to gas.
- Summer 1985, Emerald Art Glass repairs and cleans first and second floor stained glass windows.
- 1985, insulation installed in attic.
- Spring 1987, Ariondo Plastering repairs ceiling plaster in sanctuary for \$9,500.

In 1983, the Church began intentional congregational redevelopment, renewal, and increased neighborhood service and outreach; with this spiritual and social renewal, it also began making numerous repairs, restorations, and building improvements. Structural members were inspected and one received a minor repair immediately. Many fundraisers were held to invest in repairs done by both contractors and volunteers throughout the 1980's and 1990's. The main original slate roof was replaced with asphalt shingles. In 1985, Emerald Art Glass repaired, cleaned, and re-glazed the second floor stained glass windows. The gym floor was refinished and the gym painted. Insulation was installed in the main attic, and painting, installing carpeting, creating the nursery room under the gym, cleaning out the main basement, and insulating the gym attic made improvements. In 1987, plaster was repaired and painted on the sanctuary ceiling and front wall. More fundraising enabled the Church to install a handicap ramp and a chairlift to the sanctuary. Pointing was done on the east and west walls of the main building. New windows were installed in the community center wing's meeting rooms and offices, two handicap accessible restrooms were created, and the old shower/locker room under the gym was remodeled into a large women's restroom with a new wall and entrance to the nursery room providing it with its own preschool-age restroom facility, as the Church opened a Preschool there in 1996. Six new furnaces were installed throughout the mid-1990's; one was the first central furnace for the meeting room and office section of the community center wing, replacing individual room gas heaters.

In June 1994, the church's front eastern tower was struck by lightning, knocking loose a decorative brick tile and a couple of bricks. After much prayer and spiritual discernment, the Church was led to not only repair the tower but also to do major exterior restorations of the whole front (the 1893 addition) of the building – for the benefit of the South Side neighborhood as well as to create a more appealing, attractive, alive look for the most visible part of the building. It should be noted that the building's exterior and windows were blackened from decades of coal heating and steel mill soot. Gerald Lee Morosco Architects, P.C., was contracted to oversee this work from 1994 – 1996. M&T Building Restoration did the stone and brick repairs, cleaning, pointing, and restoration. Subcontractors removed the original slate and installed new slate roofs on the two towers, installed lightning rod protection to the entire facility, and W. Chestnut Painting & Decorating restored and painted the wooden doors, frames, and transoms. New yet historic looking signage was added. Also in 1995-96, Gerald Lee Morosco Architects, P.C., oversaw re-painting the sanctuary and the Sarah Street vestibule, halls, and stairway areas, designing a rich color scheme believed to be more historic as well as attractive! W. Chesnut Painting did this excellent painting also. The Church celebrated

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

the completion of all this work in a special worship service and reception on its 145th anniversary in 1996.

Repairs, renovations, and restorations have continued, including ongoing pointing, painting, gym floor refinishing, and roof work. After several years of fundraising, a new asphalt shingle roof was installed on the main building in 2011. In 2013, unusually heavy snow and ice caused a support board of the gym roof to crack, creating a valley in the central flat roof surface with water leakage. Frederick M. Winkler Architect AIA donated his services to work with the church in obtaining bids and preserving the health of the gym floor until Rich's Construction rebuilt the central roof support structure, installed new roofing, and fixed and repainted the ceiling and water-damaged wall areas inside. In 2017, the old roof and box gutters of the apse over the community center wing were removed and rebuilt, with blue asphalt roof shingles and new copper-lined box gutters. Frederick M. Winkler Architect has been an active Church participant since 1996 and has blessed the Church by donating his professional expertise on these and countless other building maintenance and improvement projects. Several times, sections of the sanctuary plaster cornice fell and needed repair; in 2006, Frederick M. Winkler designed and had made a Styrofoam replacement which matches the heavy plaster cornice exactly, which the Church has been delighted to use for repairs.

4. Significance of the South Side Presbyterian Church *(as extracted from the nomination form)*

The *Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title 11, Historic Preservation, Chapter 1: Historic Structures, Districts, Sites and Objects* lists ten criteria, at least one of which must be met for Historic Designation. The nominator is of the opinion that the South Side Presbyterian Church meets several of the criteria as follows.

3. Exemplification of a distinguished architectural type, style, or design

Though not an architect-designed building, South Side Presbyterian Church is distinguished as a local example of mid-nineteenth vernacular Gothic Revival design with late-nineteenth century Gothic Revival alterations and early twentieth century utilitarian additions. The original (1869-70) section of the building was constructed by contractor and builder, John T. Natcher, then a south side resident with offices and shop at 162 S. 16th Street. The 1893 Sarah Street façade addition with towers was constructed by South Side contractor and builder, Waite & Rowlands, located nearby at 2500-06 Jane St. Though not rare, innovative, or unique in terms of its design, the building is distinguished by its quality of design and high degree of integrity of feeling, materials, and craftsmanship. Even with the façade addition, the building's basic plan and division of space, both interior and exterior, reflects its original ca. 1870 design, which (excluding the narthex) consists of one large room and three small rooms per floor, with the principal first floor room serving as Sunday school and the principal second floor room serving as sanctuary. The functions of all principal rooms are evident because all major character-defining spaces are fundamentally unaltered. This high degree of architectural integrity is rare, and the survival of all original millwork, including doors, windows, pews, wainscot, staircases; adds appreciably to the building's quality of materials and craftsmanship. A contemporary (1870) account of the building's construction states that the "sashes, doors, &c. were made by [Mr. Natcher]...and are far superior to machine made work" (*Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette*, March 26, 1870). By today's standards, the building has an excessive number of doors—the first and second floor central anterooms have doors on all four sides in a dizzying array of hinged, bi-fold, and swinging types. The survival of such an

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

arrangement is indeed rare and it gives the building an equally rare ability to convey its Victorian sensibility regarding spatial division and hierarchy.

The sanctuary retains the original white ash and walnut pews, ash wainscot, and extensive collection of faux grained divider doors in a remarkable state of preservation. The casework and façade pipes of the ca. 1889 organ survive though its mechanicals do not; the Gothic arch framing the apse in which it is installed retains its decorative plasterwork with stenciled pilasters. The flat ceiling and simple plaster molding give the sanctuary a distinctly mid-nineteenth-century feeling. The plasterwork is now plainly painted in warm, historically-sensitive colors. The sanctuary's significance in term of quality of design, workmanship and materials is not the result of one particular outstanding element or feature, but rather it is the result the space's completeness. That is to say, the survival of a great number of historical elements, though individually undistinguished, results in a space that is exceptional in its integrity of feeling.

The basic form and architectural details (save the wood window hoods and corner pinnacles) of the original building's exterior survive intact on three façades. The principal façade's 1893 renovation is sympathetic to and shares some basic design features of the earlier building, such as the corbelled brick cornice. However, the addition is grander in terms of scale, quality of materials, and ornamentation. Here, running bond façade brick replaces common bond plain brick, stone lintels replace brick or wood lintels, and additional ornament abounds: pressed brick underscores the water table; portals feature carved column capitals; the frame the spire is replaced by two substantial (though shorter) masonry towers—complete with wrought iron filigree; and the scale of the central gable is increased by means of a false front. (To keep up the illusion of height, the upper section of the large, central stained glass window must open to the attic rather than the sanctuary.) The overall effect of the façade addition is harmonious, and the composition is significant for exemplification of the evolution and transition from mid-nineteenth to late-nineteenth century vernacular Gothic Revival architecture.

7. Association with important aspects or events in cultural or social history

The South Side Presbyterian Church is locally significant to the history of the South Side in association with the themes of religion, ethnicity, and social history. The church is one of the oldest continually active religious congregations on the South Side. Though churches abound in the South Site Flats, there are few that are active in their original building, at their original location, and who continue to pursue their original mission. The congregation has been active since 1851, which corresponds to the period of early development in East Birmingham. Initially, the church's establishment reflected the Scots Irish, German, and English ethnic groups that were predominant in the neighborhood. At the end of the nineteenth century, when the neighborhood's manufacturing base transitioned from a labor force dominated by skilled laborers to one dominated by unskilled (and foreign born) laborers, the South Side Presbyterian Church shifted its focus outward rather than inward and built a community center in 1913 to implement its mission of broad-based social engagement. At a time when the South Side was densely populated with 40,000 inhabitants, many of whom shared inadequate housing, the South Side Presbyterian church opened the community's first public gym and offered a host of community activities and outreach programs, such as sports, gym class, sewing classes, scout meetings, business classes, socials, and summer camp. The church

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

offered showers to hundreds of children in the summer at a time when few had indoor bathing facilities. In 1919, the Public Health Nursing Association established a station at the church staffed by 28 nurses serving the community. It was reported that some 22,000 patrons used the church's community center in the 1921 season. At its height in the second decade of the twentieth century, the congregation's Sabbath school enrolled 1,000 children. Though church membership declined in the mid- twentieth century, reaching only 115 in 1977, the church underwent a period of revitalization in the 1980s and 1990s, as new residents moved to the area. Today the congregation continues to serve the South Side by offering a diverse array of community programs, including a pre-school, food pantry, clothing pantry, emergency fund, prayer team, coffee house and open mic night, poetry exchange, and co-creators youth club. The pastor leads classes in breath and movement meditation and dance prayer in the gym, and community groups continue to utilize church facilities for Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and basketball. In this way, the South Side Presbyterian Church continues its historically significant role of serving the social and spiritual needs of its members and the community at large.

10. Unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence

The South Side Presbyterian Church is a prominent feature of the South Side Flats, which serves and a neighborhood landmark. The structure dates to the neighborhood's most intensive period of development and it has been present for nearly 150 years at the southwest corner of S. 20th and Sarah Streets. For more than a generation, the South Side has celebrated churches as important features of the neighborhood skyline, and the community has promoted its churches as significant neighborhood landmarks by organizing summer church tours. The South Side Presbyterian Church has been highlighted at these tours

5. Integrity

The building's exterior retains a high degree of integrity. Decorative stone trim, pressed brick, and ironwork are all intact, as are the wood window frames and sashes in the sanctuary and gym. An exception are the windows in the office wing of the community center, which have been replaced with vinyl windows of a similar one-over-one-light, double hung sash configuration. This change is minor because it is on the rear alley and on the newest and least architecturally significant section of the building. Overall the exterior and interior of the building survive in a remarkably unaltered state.

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

6. Photos



**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

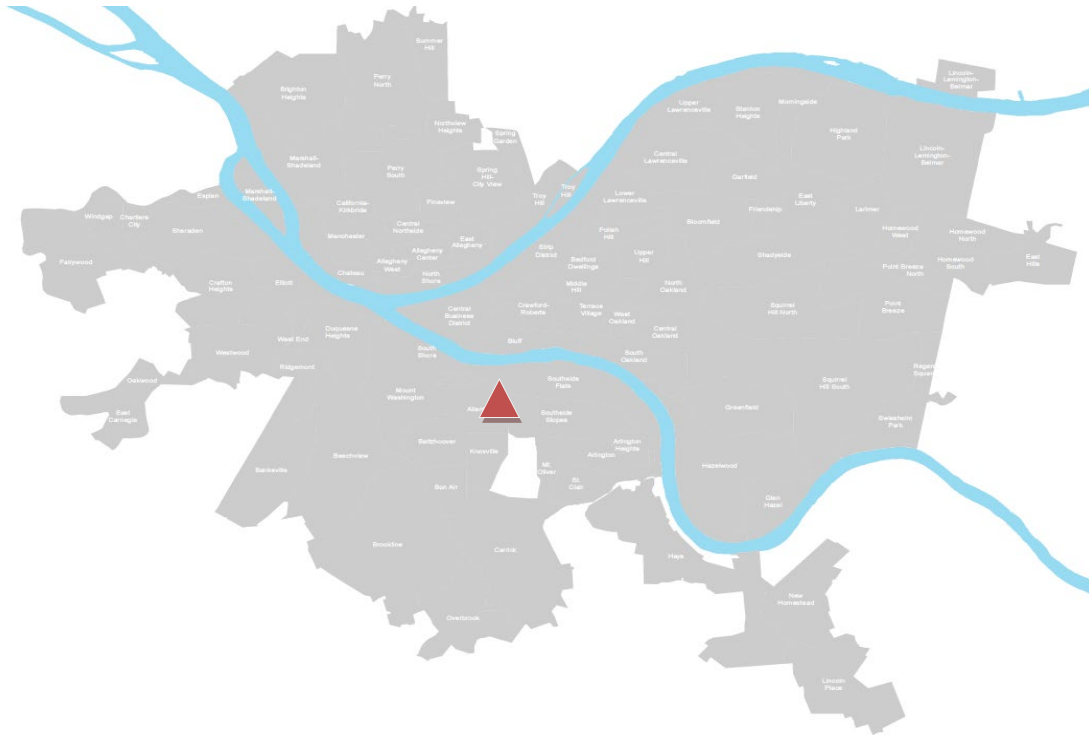
1911



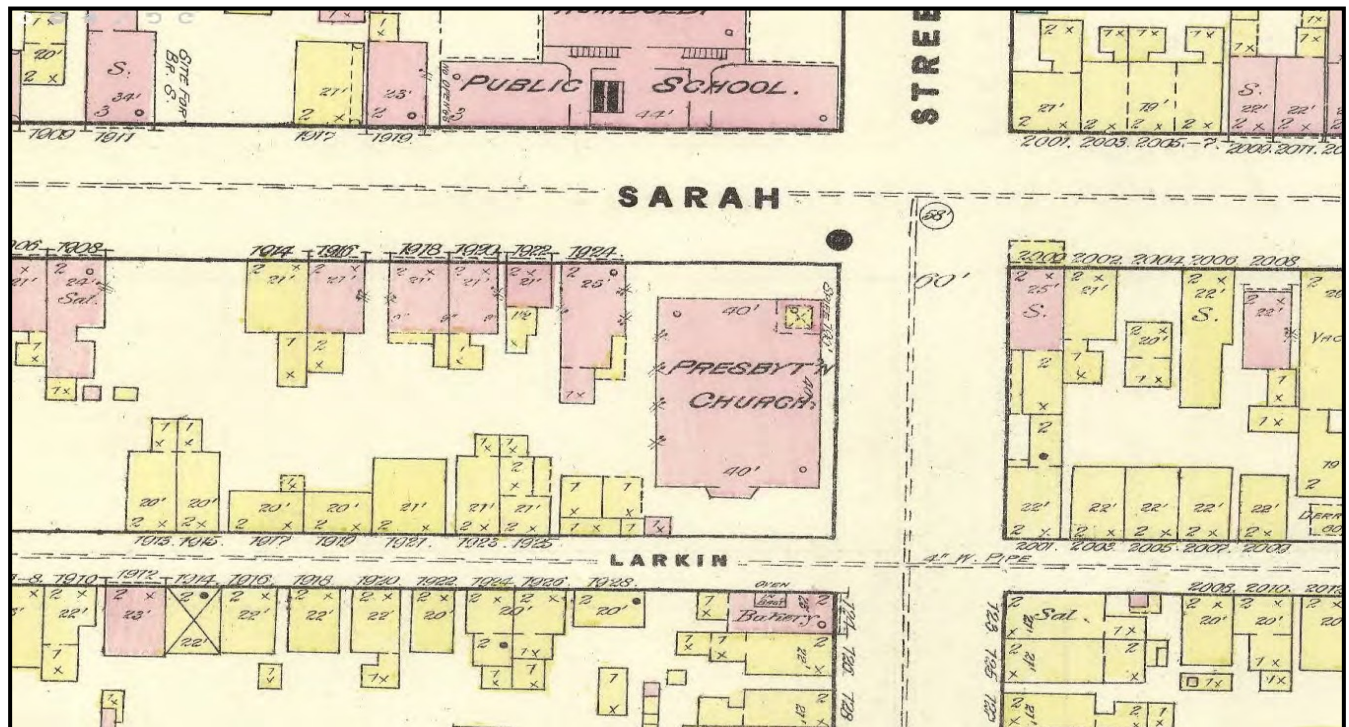
NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

7. Maps



1926



**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

8. Recommendation of the Historic Review Commission

The Historic Review Commission held a public hearing regarding the designation of the South Side Presbyterian Church. On March 6, 2019 the Commission voted to recommend to City Council that it designate the South Side Presbyterian Church as historic.

9. Recommendation of the City Planning Commission

The City Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the designation the South Side Presbyterian Church. On April 9, 2019 the Commission voted to recommend to City Council that it designate the South Side Presbyterian Church as historic.

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

10. Meeting Minutes

HRC MINUTES – FEBRUARY 6, 2019 – PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Pittsburgh HRC – February 6, 2019

South Side Presbyterian Church
1926 Sarah Street

Historic Nomination

Owner:

Southside Presbyterian Church
1926 Sarah Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15203

Ward: 17th

Lot and Block: 12-K-129

Inspector:

Nominator:

Southside Presbyterian Church/Matthew Falcone

Council District: 3rd

Nomination Received: 12/20/18

National Register Status: **Listed:** **Eligible:**

Proposed Changes: Nomination for historic designation.

Discussion:

1. Ms. Quinn gives a short presentation on the nomination. She states that the church is significant under **Criterion 3**, exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, **Criterion 7**, association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States, and **Criterion 10**, unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh. She states that the building retains integrity as well.
2. The Commission discusses the nomination and reviews the pictures.

Motion:

1. Ms. Loysen moves to find the nomination viable based on Criteria 3, 7, and 10.
2. Mr. Gastil seconds.
3. Ms. Aguirre asks for a vote; all are in favor and motion carries.

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

HRC MINUTES – MARCH 6, 2019 RECOMMENDATION

NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Pittsburgh HRC – March 6, 2019

Southside Presbyterian Church
1926 Sarah Street

Historic Nomination

Owner:

Southside Presbyterian Church
1926 Sarah Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15203

Ward: 17th

Lot and Block: 12-K-129

Inspector:

Nominator:

Southside Presbyterian Church/Matthew Falcone

Council District: 3rd

Nomination Received: 12/20/18

National Register Status: **Listed:** **Eligible:**

Proposed Changes: Nomination for historic designation.

Discussion:

3. Ms. Kathy Hamilton-Vargo steps to the podium representing the church. She thanks the commission for their work with historic buildings and thanks them for considering this nomination. She talks about the church and states that support for the nomination was unanimous in their organization. She talks about the buildings history and importance as part of its Southside neighborhood.
 4. Ms. Aguirre restates for the record that the church was found to be significant under **Criterion 3**, exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, **Criterion 7**, association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States, and **Criterion 10**, unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh. She states that the building retains integrity as well.
 5. Mr. Gastil adds that the church has a high degree of integrity as well, thanks to the congregation that has preserved their resource. He thanks the pastor and congregation for their efforts and looks forward to the designation.
-
-

Motion:

4. Ms. Aguirre moves to recommend the nomination for historic designation based on Criteria 3, 7, and 10.
 5. Mr. Gastil seconds.
 6. Ms. Aguirre asks for a vote; all are in favor and motion carries.
-
-

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES –APRIL 9, 2019

**NOMINATION OF THE SOUTH SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

C. DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS (See **Attachment C** for staff reports.)

1. Hearing and Action: Historic Nomination: 1926 Sarah Street, Historic Nomination, South Side Presbyterian Church

Ms. Quinn made a presentation in accord with the attached staff report. Ms. Quinn recommended approval of the proposal.

There was a convention of Presbyterians recently and over 600 of the attendees are in support of this nomination.

The structure meets the three of the ten criteria. The first being that the structure exemplifies of a distinguished architectural type, style or design. Secondly the structures association with important aspects or events in cultural of social history. Lastly, the structure is a unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence.

She concluded by showing photos of the structure emphasizing the prominence in the community as stated in the staff report.

The Chairwoman called for comments from the Public.

There being no comments from the Public, the Chairwoman called for questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Ms. Deitrick stated that it is nice to see this moving on.

There being no more questions or comments from the Commissioners, the Chairwoman called for the motion.

MOTION: That the Planning Commission of the City of Pittsburgh make a positive recommendation to City Council for historic designation.

MOVED BY Ms. Deitrick; SECONDED BY Ms. Dick.

IN FAVOR: Mondor, Askey, Burton-Faulk, Deitrick, Dick, Mingo, O'Neill

OPPOSED: None

CARRIED