

Panel supports Dumbhundred's nomination bid

City neighborhood seeking spot on National Register of Historic Places

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CUMBERLAND — The Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission voted Wednesday to support the proposed Dumbhundred Historic District's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The commission's action came during a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting at City Hall. There was no opposition to the nomination.

During the hearing, an overview was presented of the completed National Register nomination and the historical significance of the Dumbhundred neighborhood.

The proposed historic district contains approximately 590 contributing resources, including buildings, structures and sites associated with Cumberland's industrial and residential development.

The district is generally bounded by Henderson, Franklin, Bedford and Independence streets.

The nomination identifies a period of historical significance extending from 1850 through 1930, corresponding with one of Cumberland's most important periods of industrial expansion and urban development.

The neighborhood contains a collection of historic residential architecture, including examples of Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman, American Foursquare, and Colonial Revival styles, along with traditional vernacular homes.

The presentation emphasized the neighborhood's compact urban development, its relationship to Cumberland's distinctive topography and the surviving architectural integrity of its buildings and streetscapes.

The nomination was presented as meeting two criteria for National Register recognition, including association with events and broad patterns of

development that made significant contributions to history and architectural significance through distinctive building types, periods, methods of construction and design characteristics.

Together, these characteristics document the neighborhood's role in Cumberland's growth as an important industrial and transportation center, according to the presentation.

Commission members and city representatives expressed enthusiasm for the neighborhood's historic character and the opportunities that National Register recognition could provide.

During the discussion, it was emphasized that listing in the National Register of Historic Places does not, by itself, impose the same restrictions on private property owners that may apply within locally regulated historic preservation districts.

Potential benefits include opportunities for qualifying historic preservation tax credits and recognition of the neighborhood's architectural and historical significance.

Following Wednesday's commission action, the necessary documentation is expected to be presented to the Cumberland mayor and City Council for their consideration.

The nomination is scheduled for review by the Maryland Historical Trust State Review Board Oct. 20.

Following the required state review procedures and approvals, the nomination may advance to the National Park Service, the federal agency responsible for administering the National Register of Historic Places.

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