Public comment received by the Historical Commission regarding the nomination of 5001 Baltimore Avenue
May 18, 2021

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Nelson  
Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church  
5001 Baltimore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Dear Rev. Dr. Nelson:

Thank you for contacting the Presbyterian Historical Society about the history of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Presbyterian Historical Society is the national archives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessor denominations.

The St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was organized on October 29, 1899, by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The congregation was always located at 50th Street and Baltimore Avenue in the city of Philadelphia. In 1901 the congregation built a chapel at this location and constructed a larger church building connected to the chapel in 1906.

The St. Paul Presbyterian Church experienced rapid growth in its membership during the early decades of its existence followed by a decline in membership through the 1960s. In October 1972, the remaining members of the St. Paul Presbyterian Church petitioned the Presbytery of Philadelphia for dissolution. Their petition was granted and the church was formally dissolved. The property of the church was then transferred to the Trustees of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. In May 1974, the Trustees of the Presbytery of Philadelphia entered into an agreement of sale of the land and building of the former St. Paul Presbyterian Church to the Philadelphia Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

During the time the St. Paul Presbyterian Church was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), it was never granted any special historical designation. The St. Paul Presbyterian Church was in existence for a little over 70 years. There is nothing remarkable about the history of this congregation compared to the hundreds of Presbyterian churches that have existed in the city of Philadelphia over the past 300 years. There is nothing remarkable about the building that was constructed by the St. Paul Presbyterian Church. It is typical of church architecture. When the Presbytery of Philadelphia sold the building in 1974 to the Philadelphia Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church they did so with no caveats as to how the building and the property be used.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson  
Senior Reference Archivist