



June 10, 2025

Jon Farnham, Executive Director  
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Re: Philadelphia City Planning Commission Comments regarding the Blakemore Street  
Historic District**

Octavia Howell  
*Executive Director*

Jessie Lawrence  
*Chair*

Joseph Syrnick  
*Vice Chair*

Rob Dubow  
Patrick Eiding  
Maria Gonzalez  
Karen Fegely  
Adam Thiel  
Ximena Valle, AIA

Dear Dr. Farnham:

Pursuant to the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission must review and comment on the creation of historic districts and provide those comments to the Historical Commission to assist in its determination as to whether the designation of the district is in keeping with larger City policies and plans. On June 5, 2025, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission had the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Blakemore Street Historic District.

Historical Commission staff member Kim Chantry presented the proposed Blakemore Street Historic District to the Planning Commission. Commissioners asked general questions about listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places and what that means for property owners. Ms. Chantry explained that the historic designation of these properties will only regulate work on the exterior of the buildings and that any existing conditions can remain until a property owner chooses to undertake work. She stated that the nomination was authored by Oscar Beisert of the Keeping Society and submitted by the East Mount Airy Neighbors, the local Registered Community Organization for this area. Two members of the public asked questions, one of which was about potential job creation, and the other about the Historical Commission's lack of jurisdiction of work to the interiors of these buildings.

The Planning Commission found that the Blakemore Street Historic District is in keeping with Citywide Vision Renew 8.1.1 to preserve culturally, historically, and architecturally significant buildings, sites, structures, and districts, as well as the Upper Northwest District Plan RENEW to list historic districts and properties on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, focusing on themes identified by residents and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Octavia Howell  
Executive Director, Philadelphia City Planning Commission  
Deputy Director Division of Planning and Zoning, Department of Planning and Development