

ADDRESS: 1600-06 E BERKS ST

Proposal: Install commemorative marker and plaque

Review Requested: Final Approval

Owner: Memphis Street Partners LLC

Applicant: Carey Jackson Yonce, CANNODesign

History: 1885; St. Laurentius Church; Edwin Forrest Durang, architect; demolished in 2022

Individual Designation: 7/10/2015

District Designation: None

Staff Contact: Jon Farnham, jon.farnham@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This application proposes to install a marker and plaque to commemorate St. Laurentius Church, which stood nearby until 2022, when it was demolished to abate an unsafe condition. On 9 May 2025, the Historical Commission approved an application to construct eight three-story townhouses at the vacant church site, provided a public display commemorating the St. Laurentius church building is installed as part of the project. This application proposes that commemorative display, a marker and plaque.

The marker would consist of a bronze cast of the front section of St. Laurentius church building set on a masonry base. The cast would be fabricated with the scan taken of the front façade of the church before demolition. A plaque and cornerstone salvaged from the church would be incorporated into the masonry base. The marker would be located in front of the St. Laurentius Catholic School at 1608 E. Berks Street, adjacent to the site where the church building stood at 1600-06 E. Berks Street. The plaque would resemble the blue metal plaques on posts installed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It would be located at the northwest corner of the school lot at 1608 E. Berks Street. The text on the plaque, which is not yet written, would be developed with stakeholders.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Install marker and plaque.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines are not applicable because no historic resources survive at the site, and the surrounding neighborhood is not designated as historic.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends approval of the application.

ST. LAURENTIUS CHURCH

Memorial Proposal

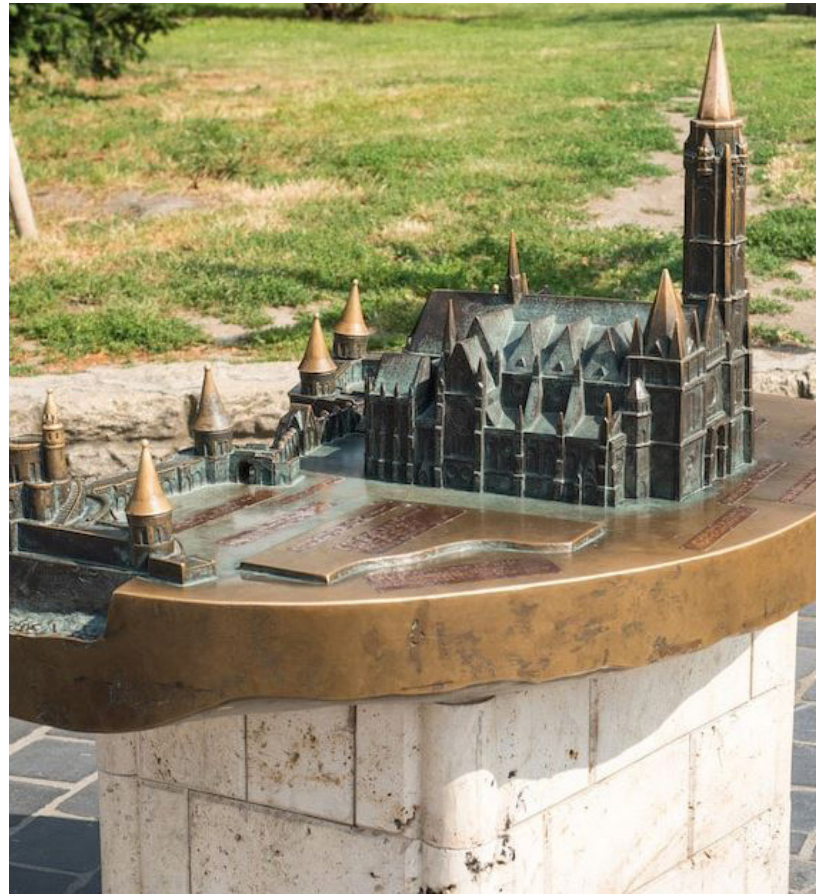
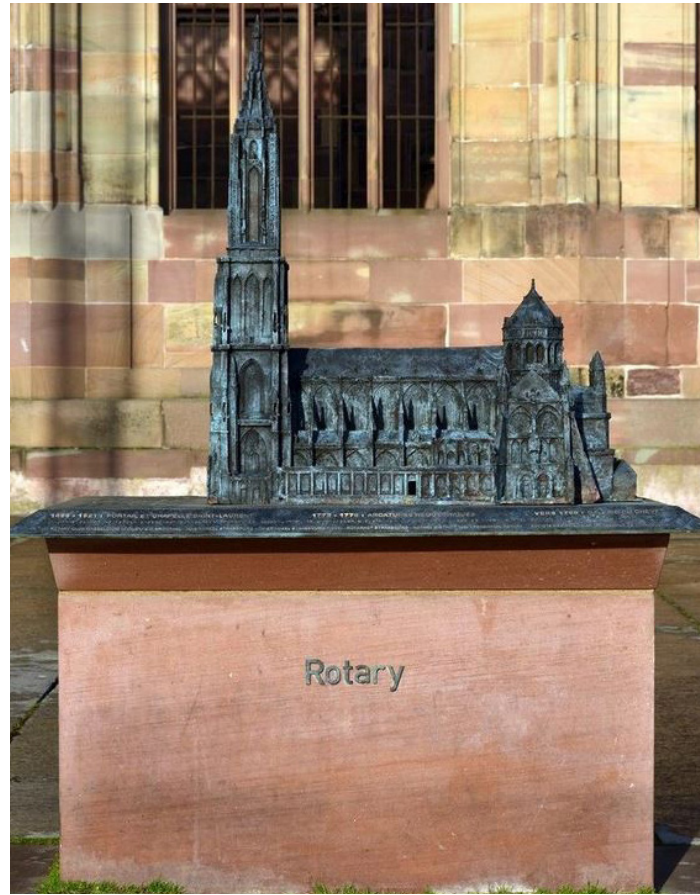


Historical Images and Photos of St. Laurentius Church



Proposed Monument Location in Front Yard of 1608 East Berks Street





Precedent Images



EAST VIEW-CAST BRONZE MONUMENT



WEST VIEW-CAST BRONZE MONUMENT

Overall Dimensions:

Height:
6'-1"

Width:
2'-2 1/2"

Depth:
1'-8"



FRONT VIEW-3D PRINTED MODEL

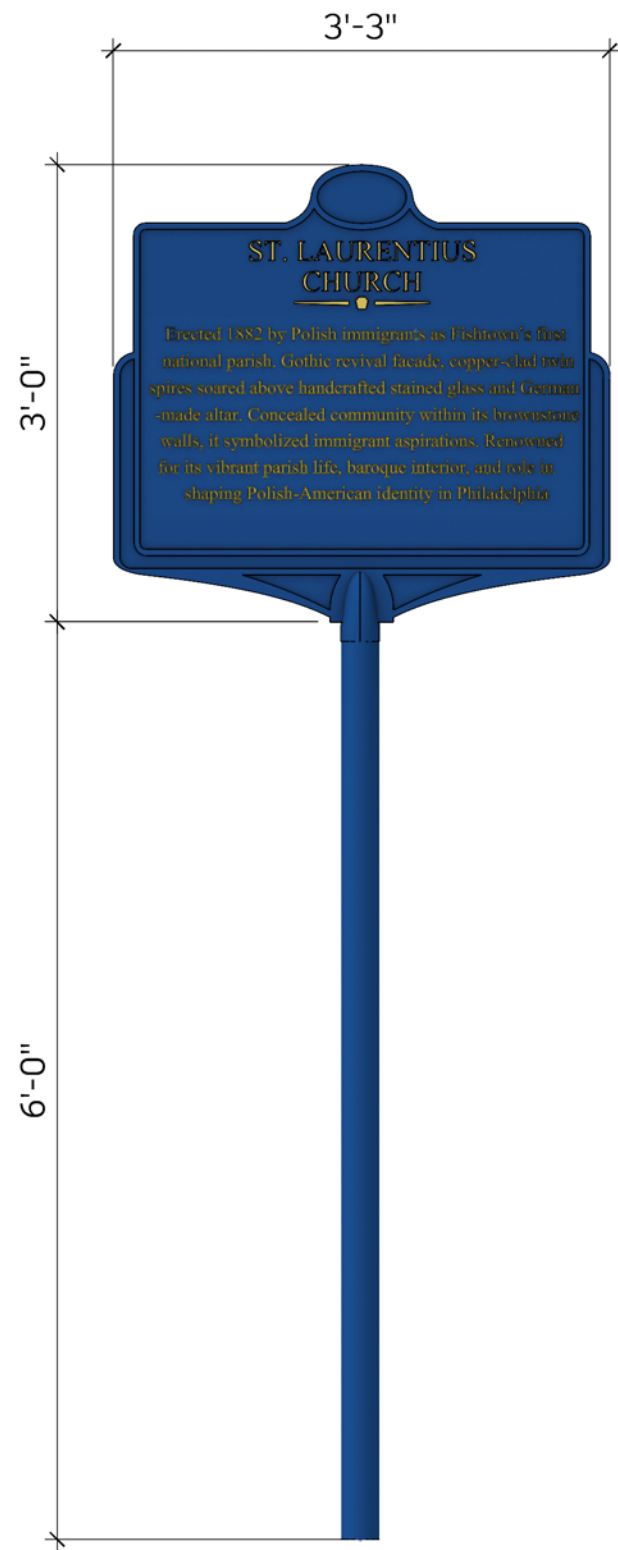


PERSPECTIVE VIEW- BRONZE CAST AND STONE BASE

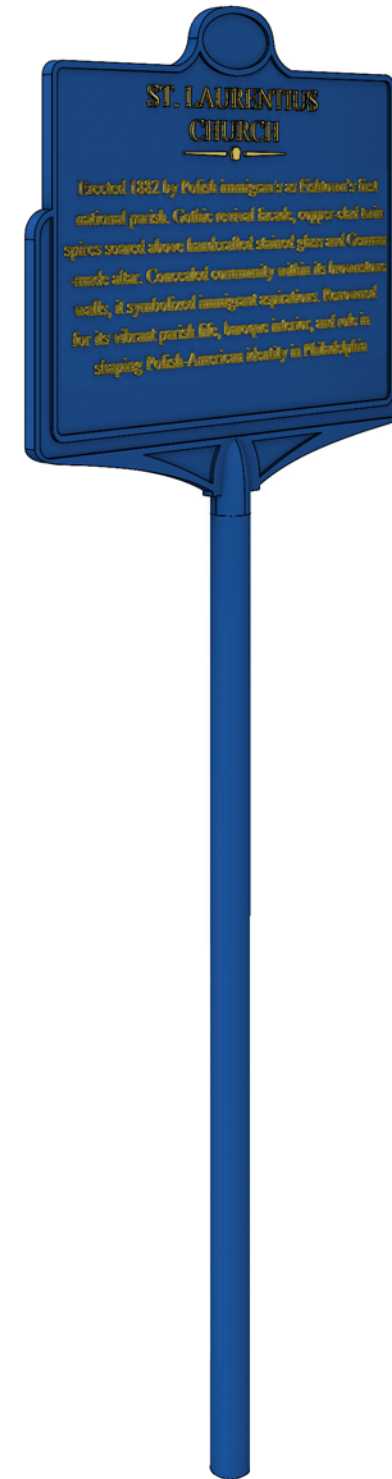
SALVAGED
CORNERSTONE



SALVAGED
PLAQUE



FRONT ELEVATION



PERSPECTIVE VIEW

Overall Dimensions :

Total Height:
9'

Total Width:
3'-3"

Location:
1608 East Perks
Northeast Corner of Lot

FINAL TEXT TO BE
COORDINATED WITH
PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS