



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

September 27, 2019

Eric Holcomb  
Baltimore City Commission For Historical & Architectural Preservation  
417 East Fayette St., 8th floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Mr. Holcomb,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I would like to emphatically support the request that the Woodberry community be designated as a Baltimore City Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Historic District.

The Woodberry neighborhood played an essential part in the story of Baltimore. The Jones Falls provided the power that fueled manufacturing in Baltimore in the 19th and 20th centuries. The string of mills built in the valley along the river had an indelible economic and social impact on the surrounding areas, the effect of which can still be felt to this day. Many residents, workers, and visitors continue to experience the Woodberry neighborhood and its mills every day. We now have an opportunity to ensure that future generations are able to live, work, and play in one of the most unique and vibrant historic neighborhoods in the city.

While, Woodberry has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic District since 2003, this does not afford the same protections that a CHAP district designation would. Given the demolition of the historic pre-Civil War stone houses on Clipper Road earlier this year and the potential for more development projects in the near future, we have serious concerns for the future of the historic fabric of the area.

The City of Baltimore is undergoing a period of revitalization, and with that inevitably comes development. Development can often be seen as the natural enemy of historic preservation; however, Preservation Maryland is not opposed to the thoughtful redevelopment of historic structures. We believe that creating the Woodberry CHAP district will go a long way to ensure that the historic character of the neighborhood is maintained in the future.

Therefore, we join with community members in supporting the designation of the Woodberry neighborhood as a CHAP district.

Sincerely,

Elly Colmers Cowan  
Director of Advocacy, Preservation Maryland