

**D.C. COUNCIL****Bill Offers Churches a Say on Historic Designation**

D.C. Council member Marion Barry (Ward 8) has submitted a bill that would allow houses of worship to reject a designation of "historic." He acted at the request of a downtown Christian Science church that wants to demolish its 36-year-old building.

The District's Historic Preservation Review Board designated the Third Church of Christ, Scientist, a historic landmark late last year over the objections of church members. The congregation says that the windowless 400-seat church is too big for a few dozen members and that its design is unwelcoming. The designation froze the congregation's plan to work with a developer to turn the structure, at 16th and I streets NW near the White House, into a mixed-use space including a worship hall.

Terry Lynch, an advocate for the city's faith community, said the measure probably would affect fewer than a half-dozen buildings in the city.

— **Mary Beth Sheridan**