Ordinance – Bethesda Schoolhouse

Ordinance designating as a Historic Landmark a property known as the “Bethesda Schoolhouse” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 019-151-14 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of January 1, 2004, and including the interior and exterior of the schoolhouse and the land associated with Tax Parcel Number 019-151-14). The property is owned by Merle and Elizabeth L. King and is located at 13129 Alexanderana Road in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

WHEREAS, all of the prerequisites to the adoption of this ordinance prescribed in Chapter 160A, Article 19, as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina have been met; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville, North Carolina, have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a joint public hearing held with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission on the 16th day of February, 2004, on the question of designating a property known as the Bethesda Schoolhouse as a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, The Bethesda Schoolhouse is the oldest identified African American primary school in Mecklenburg County, and is significant as one of the county’s few surviving rural schoolhouses; and

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Historic Landmarks Comm.
2100 Randolph Road
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WHEREAS, the Bethesda Schoolhouse is significant as a rare surviving artifact of the early efforts by the county's African American residents to educate their children, a newly won privilege after the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Bethesda Schoolhouse is one of the earliest surviving non-residential African American buildings in the county, and is therefore important in understanding the broad patterns county's history; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has demonstrated that the property known as the Bethesda Schoolhouse possesses special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and/or cultural importance; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has jurisdiction over portions of the property known as the Bethesda Schoolhouse because consent for interior design review for the Bethesda Schoolhouse has been given by the Owner; and

WHEREAS, the property known as the Bethesda Schoolhouse is owned by Merle and Elizabeth L. King.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the members of the Board of Commissioners of Huntersville, North Carolina:

1. That the property known as the "Bethesda Schoolhouse" (listed under Tax Parcel Number 019-151-14 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of January 1, 2004, and including the interior and exterior of the schoolhouse

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and the land associated with Tax Parcel Number 019-151-14) is hereby designated as a historic landmark pursuant to Chapter 160A, Article 19, as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The location of said landmark is noted as being situated at 13129 Alexanderana Road in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Interior and exterior features are more completely described in the “Survey and Research Report on the Bethesda Schoolhouse (2003).

2. That said exterior and interior are more specifically defined as the historic and structural fabric, especially including all original interior and exterior architectural features and the original contours of landscaping.

3. That said designated historic landmark may be materially altered, restored, moved or demolished only following issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness authorizing the demolition of said landmark may not be denied, except if such landmark is judged to be of State-wide significance by duly authorized officials of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. However, the effective date of such Certificate may be delayed in accordance with Chapter 160A, Article 19, and amendments thereto, and hereinafter adopted.

4. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prevent or delay ordinary maintenance or repair of any architectural feature in or on said landmark that does not involve a change in design, material or outer appearance thereof, nor to prevent or delay the construction, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition or removal of any such
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feature when a building inspector or similar official certifies to the Commission that such action is required for the public safety because of an unsafe condition. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the owner of the historic landmark from making any use of this historic landmark not prohibited by other statutes, ordinances or regulations. Owners of locally designated historic landmarks are expected to be familiar with and to follow The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, the guidelines used by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission to evaluate proposed alterations or additions.

5. That a suitable sign may be posted indicating that said property has been designated as a historic landmark and containing any other appropriate information. If the owner consents, the sign may be placed on said historic landmark.

6. That the owners and occupants of the historic landmark known as the Bethesda Schoolhouse be given notice of this ordinance as required by applicable law and that copies of this ordinance be filed and indexed in the offices of the Town Clerk, Building Standards Department, Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, and the Tax Supervisor, as required by applicable law.

7. That which is designated as a historic landmark shall be subject to Chapter 160A, Article 19, of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended, and any amendments to it and any amendments hereinafter adopted.
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Adopted the 15th day of March, 2004, by the members of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

[Signature]
Clerk to Board of Commissioners

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Town Attorney