ORDINANCE

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AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AS AN HISTORIC LANDMARK
PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE
STOUGH-CORNELIUS/POTTS BARBER SHOP

Ordinance designating as an Historic Landmark a building and known as the “Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 00521214 and including the exterior of the structure and the land listed under Tax Parcel Number 00521214 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, NC, as of September 20, 2021). The property is owned by Gerald M. “Mickey” Potts and is located at 21324 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC.

WHEREAS, all of the prerequisites to the adoption of this ordinance prescribed in Chapter 160D, Part 4 Historic Preservation, 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 Cornelius, North Carolina, have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a public hearing held on the 4th day of October, 2021, on the question of designating a property known as the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop as an historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a public hearing held on the 13th day of September, 2021, on the question of designating a property known as the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop as an historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, The west-side storefront (c. 1923) was constructed by the Stough-Cornelius Company, whose original shareholders included town founder R.J. Stough and town namesake J.B. Cornelius; and

WHEREAS, the Stough-Cornelius Cotton Mill, started in 1891, provided the impetus for the settlement and incorporation of the town of Cornelius, and the former Stough-Cornelius Building is the final extant structure representing that company; and

WHEREAS, constructed at some point between 1923 and 1938, the east-side storefront has housed since 1960 the Potts Barber Shop, generally regarded as the oldest ongoing business continuously owned or operated by an African-American entrepreneur in Cornelius, and perhaps in north Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Potts Barber Shop became the town’s first racially integrated barber shop; and

WHEREAS, the Potts Barber Shop is also notable for its longstanding role as a prominent center of social activity for the town’s male population, and for its 60-year association with the family of Wilson Henry Potts, an early civic leader of the Smithville community, which is one of the oldest African-American communities in north Mecklenburg County, and

WHEREAS, the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop is one of only seven remaining period commercial buildings fronting what was once the bustling business and local government corridor of Catawba Avenue; and
WHEREAS, designation and preservation of this artifact would help preserve the commercial and foundational history, as well as the historic architectural character, of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has demonstrated that the property known as the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop possesses special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and cultural importance; and

WHEREAS, the property known as the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop is owned by Gerald M. “Mickey” Potts.

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

1. That the property known as the “Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 00521214 and including the exterior of the house, and the land listed under Tax Parcel Number 00521214 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, NC, as of September 20, 2021) is hereby designated as an historic landmark pursuant to Chapter 160D-945, as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The location of said landmark is noted as being situated at 21324 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC. Exterior features are more completely described in the Survey and Research Report on the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop building (2021).

2. That said exterior is more specifically defined as the historic and structural fabric, especially including all original exterior architectural features and the 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 160D-947, 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 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 the 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 an 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 of the historic landmark known as the Stough-Cornelius/Potts Barber Shop 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 160D, Part 4 Historic Preservation, of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended, and any amendments to it and any amendments hereinafter adopted.

Adopted this the 4th day of October 2021.

Woody T. Washam, Jr., Mayor

Lori A. Harch, Town Clerk