

FOR REGISTRATION  
Fredrick Smith  
REGISTER OF DEEDS  
Mecklenburg County, NC  
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TAYLORD



**ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AS AN HISTORIC LANDMARK THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE "BLYTHE HOUSE", LOCATED AT 121 GILEAD RD, INCLUDING THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL INTERIOR HALLWAYS AND STAIRCASE OF THE BUILDING, THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING, AND THE APPROXIMATELY 0.397 ACRES OF LAND LISTED UNDER TAX PARCEL NUMBER 01711623 IN THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY TAX OFFICE OF NC, AS OF JULY 2022.**

WHEREAS, all of the prerequisites to the adoption of this ordinance prescribed in Chapter 160D, Article 9, 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 public hearing held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, on the question of designating a property known as the Blythe House 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 12th day of September, 2022, on the question of designating a property known as the Blythe House as an historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Blythe House (circa 1910) is of local historic significance for the Town of Huntersville as the home of prominent early-20th century Huntersville residents Hattye Bradley Jackson Blythe and William Brevard (W. B.) Blythe, as well as the childhood home of their son William LeGette Blythe (1900-1993) and his two siblings; and

Mail To:  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission  
2100 Randolph Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28207

**WHEREAS**, LeGette Blythe, a member of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, was a prolific novelist, esteemed journalist, enthusiastic local historian, and so-called “Squire of Huntersville” who – along with other influential native North Carolinians like novelist Thomas Wolfe and playwright Paul Greene – formed a group of illustrious writers who inspired the Southern literary renaissance of the early 20th century; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blythe House, prominently located on a major thoroughfare west of Huntersville’s downtown district, is also architecturally significant, in that its otherwise vernacular styling reflects within the house’s massing, porch, and form certain Neoclassical Revival design trends and styles popular from 1895 to 1955; and

**WHEREAS**, despite previous exterior alterations and its current use as commercial office space, the Blythe House retains its original form and location, elements of its historical materials and workmanship, and its overall feeling and historic association with the Blythe family; and

**WHEREAS**, the century-old Blythe House thereby offers both an example of late-19th to early-20th century architecture unique in Huntersville and a singular representation of the formative years of LeGette Blythe, noted author and namesake of one of the Town’s elementary schools; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the additional information further detailed in the *Blythe House Local Landmark Report* (February 2022), all of which is incorporated herein by reference, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has demonstrated that the property known as the Blythe House possesses special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and/or cultural importance; and

Ordinance for Adoption: Blythe House Historic Landmark

**WHEREAS**, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has jurisdiction over portions of the property known as the Blythe House, because consent for interior design review of the buildings has been given by the owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the property known as the Blythe House is owned by HFH Investments, LLC.

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

1. That the property known as the “Blythe House” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 01711623, and including the first and second level interior hallways and staircase of the building, the exterior of the building, and the approximately 0.397 acres of land listed under Tax Parcel Number 01711623 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, NC, as of July 1, 2022) is hereby designated as an historic landmark pursuant to Chapter 160D, Article 9, as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The location of said landmark is noted as being situated at 121 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC. Interior and exterior features are more completely described in the *Blythe House Local Landmark Report* (February 2022).

2. That said interior and exterior are more specifically defined as the historic and structural fabric, especially including all original interior architectural features of the first and second level interior hallways and staircase, 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

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Carolina Division of Archives and History. However, the effective date of such Certificate may be delayed in accordance with Chapter 160D, Article 9, 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 a historic landmark and containing any other appropriate information. If the owner consents, the sign may be placed on said historic landmark. Location of said sign shall be coordinated with the Town of Huntersville.

6. That the owners of the historic landmark known as the Blythe House 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.

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7. That which is designated as a historic landmark shall be subject to Chapter 160D, Article 9, of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended, and any amendments to it and any amendments hereinafter adopted.

Adopted the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, by the members of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

  
Clerk to Town Board



Approved as to form:

  
Town Attorney