

FOR REGISTRATION
Fredrick Smith
REGISTER OF DEEDS
Mecklenburg County, NC
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Ordinance 2025-12 – Davidson Baptist Chapel

TOWN OF DAVIDSON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (the “Town Board”) adopts the following ordinance designating as a Historic Landmark a property known as the “Davidson Baptist Chapel” (listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 00327565, 00327507, and 00327511 and including the exterior of the building and the land listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 00327565, 00327507, and 00327511 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of October 1, 2025). The property is located at 307 Armour Street in Davidson, North Carolina, and is owned by the Town of Davidson.

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 Town Board of Davidson, North Carolina, have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a public hearing held on the 14th day of October, 2025, on the question of designating a property known as the Davidson Baptist Chapel as a 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 October, 2025, on the question of designating a property known as the Davidson Baptist Chapel as a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Davidson Baptist Chapel, later the First Baptist Church of Davidson, is significant as an extant representation of the “town and gown” class divide which once characterized the town. Davidson was divided by the railroad both physically and socioeconomically. The eastern section of the town was associated with Davidson College, the town’s upper- and middle-class residents, and the business district. While the west side developed in the early twentieth century around cotton mills and the associated mill villages; and

WHEREAS, the west side of Davidson, especially around the Delburg Mill Village, has experienced significant re-development and continues to face significant development pressures; and

WHEREAS, western Davidson remained working class well into the twentieth century, and the Davidson Baptist Chapel is an important non-residential element of the history of that section of Davidson; and

WHEREAS, The Davidson Baptist Chapel is an important element in understanding the development and evolution of houses of worship in Davidson. In 1947 the Mecklenburg Baptist Association purchased the church property. Cornelius Baptist Church sponsored the initial Davidson mission, known as the Davidson Baptist Chapel, with Huntersville Baptist Church assuming the sponsorship of the mission in 1954; and

WHEREAS, the Davidson Baptist Chapel building has retained a good degrees of integrity as to its exterior design, and feeling; and

WHEREAS, the associated property upon which the Davidson Baptist Chapel is situated appropriately reflects and preserves the historic location and setting of the

structure, and therefore possesses its own special historical significance independent of the structure; and

WHEREAS, based on the additional information detailed in the *Landmark Designation Report for the Davidson Baptist Chapel* (July 2025), all of which is incorporated herein by reference, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has demonstrated that the Davidson Baptist Chapel possesses special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and/or cultural importance; and

WHEREAS, the property known as the Davidson Baptist Chapel is owned by the Town of Davidson.

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

1. That the property known as the “Davidson Baptist Chapel” (listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 00327565, 00327507, and 00327511 and including the exterior of the building and the land listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 00327565, 00327507, and 00327511 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of October 1, 2025) is hereby designated as a 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 307 Armour Street in Davidson, North Carolina. Exterior features are more completely described in the *Landmark Designation Report for the Davidson Baptist Chapel* (July 2025).

2. That said exterior is more specifically defined as the historic and structural fabric of the property, especially including all original exterior architectural features and the contours of landscaping, and that those elements are integral to its historical,

architectural, or prehistorical value, as described in the *Landmark Designation Report for the Davidson Baptist Chapel* (July 2025).

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 and the waiting period before demolition must be observed in accordance with Chapter 160D, Article 9, of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended.

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 *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission's Standards for Rehabilitation*, 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 owner of the historic landmark known as the Davidson Baptist Chapel 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, Article 9, of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended, and any amendments to it and any amendments hereinafter adopted.

Adopted the 14th day of October, 2025, by the members of the Town Board of Davidson,
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.



Town Clerk

Approved as to form:



Town Attorney

