

September 28, 2026
Ordinance Book 70, Page 258
Ordinance No. 1199-X

FOR REGISTRATION
Fredrick Smith
REGISTER OF DEEDS
Mecklenburg County, NC
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RETURNED TO CUSTOMER

Ordinance designating as Historic Landmarks the properties known as the “Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2” (listed under Tax Parcel Identification Numbers 08511506 and 09108109, and including both cemeteries and all fixtures associated with those parcels, including without limitation all graves, grave markers, tombs, and architectural structures and features, and the land listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 08511506 and 09108109 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of May 1, 2026). The properties are located at 335 West Craighead Road and 4130 North Tryon Street in Charlotte, North Carolina, and are owned by Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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 City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina, have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a public hearing held on the 28th day of September, 2026, on the question of designating the properties known as the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 as historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented

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

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

at a public hearing held on the 14th day of September, 2026, on the question of designating the properties known as the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 as historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, founded in 1755, is the oldest extant church congregation in Mecklenburg County and one of North Carolina's oldest Presbyterian churches; and

WHEREAS, Cemetery #1 (ca. 1750) and Cemetery #2 (ca. 1786) of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church are historically significant as the centuries-old final resting places for many of the county's earliest settlers, including such notable original Charlotteans as Reverend Alexander Craighead (the county's first full-time religious leader, widely acknowledged as the inspiration for the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence), Abraham Alexander (chairman of the Mecklenburg Convention of 1775 credited with adopting that Declaration of Independence), Hezekiah Alexander (a framer of North Carolina's first Constitution and Bill of Rights), and Jemima Alexander Sharpe (one of the few known local female Revolutionary War participants, who served as a battlefield nurse); and

WHEREAS, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 are also historically and culturally significant for their late eighteenth and early nineteenth century collections of funerary art, including a sizeable collection of gravestones artistically crafted by the Bigam Family Stonecutters Shop, the region's first professional stonecutter shop and one of the Carolinas' most prolific and culturally significant groups of stonemasons during that time period; and

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

WHEREAS, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 are also architecturally significant for their impressive late nineteenth century walls composed of hand-stacked field stones, crafted using the vernacular styles of the traditional folkways of North Carolina's Piedmont region; and

WHEREAS, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 are also archeologically significant as the sites of numerous burials in marked and unmarked graves of many of the region's earliest settlers and Revolutionary War combatants, as well as – in the case of Cemetery #2 – the site of the second house of worship for the congregation of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, a log structure used by the congregation during the early 1800s; and

WHEREAS, based on the additional information further detailed in the *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission Designation Report on Cemeteries #1 and #2 of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church* (April 2026), all of which is incorporated herein by reference, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has demonstrated that the properties known as the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 possess special significance in terms of their historic, architectural, archeological, and/or cultural importance; and

WHEREAS, the land upon which the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 are situated – as identified on the map of said properties attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference – appropriately reflects and preserves the historic locations and settings of the two cemeteries, and therefore possesses its own special historical significance independent of the cemeteries; and

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

WHEREAS, the properties known as the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 are owned by Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the members of the City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina:

1. That the properties known as the “Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2” (listed under Tax Parcel Identification Numbers 08511506 and 09108109, and including both cemeteries and all fixtures associated with those parcels, including without limitation all graves, grave markers, tombs, and architectural structures and features, and the land listed under Tax Parcel Numbers 08511506 and 09108109 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of May 1, 2026) are hereby designated as historic landmarks pursuant to Chapter 160D, Article 9, as amended, of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The locations of said landmarks are noted as being situated at 335 West Craighead Road and 4130 North Tryon Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. The fixtures and features of the properties are more completely described in the *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission Designation Report on Cemeteries #1 and #2 of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church* (April 2026).

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

3. That said designated historic landmarks 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 landmarks may not be denied,

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

except if such landmarks are judged to be of Statewide 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, 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 landmarks that does not involve a change in design, material, or outer appearance thereof, nor to prevent or delay 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 landmarks from making any use of the historic landmarks 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 properties have been designated as historic landmarks and containing any other appropriate information. If the owner consents, the sign(s) may be placed on said historic landmarks.

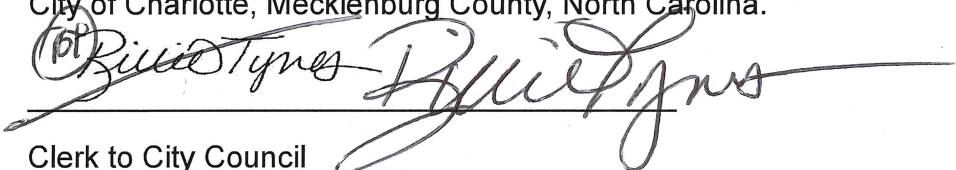
6. That the owner(s) of the historic landmarks known as the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 be given notice of this ordinance as required by applicable law and that copies of this ordinance be filed and indexed in the offices of

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

the City 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 28th day of September, 2026, by the members of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.


Clerk to City Council

Approved as to form:


~~Senior Assistant City Attorney~~

Attachment: Exhibit A: Polaris Map of Sugaw Creek Cemeteries #1 and #2, 335 W. Craighead Rd. & 4130 N. Tryon St.

CERTIFICATION

I, Billie Tynes, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, in regular session convened on the 28th day of September 2026, the reference having been made in Minute Book 163, and recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, Page(s) 258-265.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, this 28th day of September 2026.




Billie Tynes, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Ordinance- Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2

Exhibit A: Polaris Map

Polaris Map – Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Sugaw Creek Cemeteries #1 and #2, 335 W. Craighead Rd. & 4130 N. Tryon St.

