

Ordinance – Wilmore Elementary School

Ordinance designating as an Historic Landmark a property known as the “Wilmore Elementary School” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 11907801 as of February 1, 2018 and including the interior and exterior of the building, and the land associated with Tax Parcel Number 11907801). The property is located at 428 West Boulevard in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is owned by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

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 City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina, have taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a public hearing held on the 19th day of February 2018, on the question of designating a property known as the Wilmore Elementary School 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 February 2018, on the question of designating a property known as the Wilmore Elementary School as an historic landmark; and

Ordinance – Carolina Cadillac Company

WHEREAS, the Wilmore Elementary School is the only school that was erected in Wilmore, a working-class suburb established in 1906 by the Suburban Realty Company; and

WHEREAS, the architect of the original section of Wilmore Elementary School was Louis H. Asbury, Sr., the first native North Carolinian to belong to the American Institute of Architects and an architect of local and regional importance; and

WHEREAS, Louis Asbury’s plans were reviewed by Dr. N. L. Engelhardt, a nationally known educator, and the original plans illustrate the design philosophy that influenced school plans in the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmore Elementary School, one of four school Louis Asbury designed for the Charlotte Board of School Commissioners, was identical to the now demolished Seversville Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmore Elementary School documents the evolution of the Wilmore neighborhood from an all-white suburb of the early 1900s, to a neighborhood desegregating in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, to a neighborhood experiencing revitalization today; and

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

WHEREAS, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has jurisdiction over design review of the interior of the building(s) of the property known as the Wilmore Elementary School, because it is publicly owned; and

WHEREAS, the property known as the Wilmore Elementary School is owned by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

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

1. That the property known as the “Wilmore Elementary School” (listed under Tax Parcel Number 11907801 as of February 1, 2018 and including the interior and exterior of the building, and the land associated with Tax Parcel Number 11907801) is hereby designated as an 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 428 West Boulevard, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Features of the property are more completely described in the “Survey and Research Report on the Wilmore Elementary School” (2017).

2. That said exterior and interior are more specifically defined as the historic and structural fabric, especially including all original exterior and interior 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 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 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 “Wilmore Elementary School” 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 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 an 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.

Adopted the ____ day of _____, 20____, 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