

Ordinance – Derita High School Gymnasium

Ordinance designating as an Historic Landmark a property known as the “Derita High School Gymnasium” (including the exterior of the building and the land listed under Tax Parcel Number 04704312 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of May 1, 2020). The property is located at 6115 Rumble Road in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is owned by the 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 22nd day of June 2020 on the question of designating a property known as the Derita High School Gymnasium 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 8th day of June 2020 on the question of designating a property known as the Derita High School Gymnasium as an historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Derita High School Gymnasium is the only surviving pre-World War Two public building associated with the Derita Community; and

WHEREAS, the Derita High School Gymnasium is one of only three extant gymnasiums that were erected by the Mecklenburg County Board of Education before World War Two; and

WHEREAS, the Derita High School Gymnasium documents the rising importance of physical education and sports in secondary public education in Mecklenburg County in the 1920s and 1930s; and

WHEREAS, the Derita High School Gymnasium, designed by Lucian Jackson Dale, is a rare example of Stripped Classicism and is the only extant pre-World War Two public school gymnasium in Charlotte-Mecklenburg that exhibits features of mid-century non-revivalist civic design; and

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

WHEREAS, the property known as the Derita High School Gymnasium is owned the 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 “Derita High School Gymnasium” (including the exterior of the building and the land listed under Tax Parcel Number 04704312 in the Mecklenburg County Tax Office, Charlotte, North Carolina as of May 1, 2020) 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 6115 Rumble Road,

Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Features of the property are more completely described in the “Survey and Research Report on the Derita High School Gymnasium” (2018).

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 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 “Derita High School Gymnasium” 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