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Rockingham County, NC

Benjamin J. Curtis, Register of Deeds

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MITZI M. EVANS

Prepared by and Return to:
Erin B. Gilley, City Attorney

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING RIVERMONT AT 351 W. MEADOW ROAD
TO BE A HISTORIC LANDMARK

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Eden, North Carolina, that, after the Eden Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council of the City of Eden having fully complied with all legal requirements, including publication of notices of public hearings and the holding of separate public hearings relative thereto, and the Eden Historic Preservation Commission having proposed the designation of Rivermont located at 351 W. Meadow Road as a Historic Landmark and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office having reviewed and commented on the request, the following described property is hereby designated to be a "Historic Landmark":

Section 1: Description of the property:

Being all of that property commonly known as 351 W. Meadow Road located on the north side of Meadow Road and identified by the Rockingham County Tax Dept. as PIN 7070-1673-9545 and Parcel ID #106623. Said property being more particularly described in the Deed recorded in Book 1556, page 2829, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Rockingham County, N.C.

Section 2: Name of Owners: Sandra Kay Darnell and husband, Curtis H. Darnell, Jr.

Section 3: Rivermont was built in 1935-36 by Frank Letcher Eggleston, a prominent local businessman, and his wife on 16 acres on a hill overlooking the Smith River. Construction on the home was begun in 1935 under the direction of Danville, VA architect William Heard. The property was purchased from the Nelson family in 1933, and had originally belonged to B. Frank Mebane (grandson-in-law of Gov. John Motley Morehead). Mebane had built a log clubhouse on the property in the 1920's, which was used for social events.

The property is locally significant as a largely intact example of a large, stately Colonial Revival style home. The house is set well back of the road, and is accessed by a long circular drive lined with mature boxwoods. Originally there was a large riding ring for horses that were kept in

stables on the property (no longer standing). The grounds were landscaped with 1,500 English boxwoods, as well as native shrubs and large trees.

The house is an elegant, painted brick, Colonial Revival style house with a two-story gable roofed center main block with flanking one-story wings. The five-bay wide main block has a full height porch topped by a balustrade, with six large columns which were imported from England. The front entrance has a paneled door with leaded glass sidelights. The main block has an exterior chimney on either end. The right wing houses the kitchen and servants area as well as a garage, and has a recessed arched loggia with smaller columns which were also imported from England. There is a two-car garage addition on the rear of this wing. The left side wing contains the family room and features a conservatory with a bellcast roof. The house is lit by eight-over-eight casement windows. The third floor once served as an enormous playroom. The house has gabled and hip roofs covered with slate shingles. Slate is also used for the walkways and patios.

The main block of the house contains the living areas on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. The living and dining rooms feature handmade Williamsburg style cornices. The entry hall features arched doorways and an elegant flying staircase. There are several fireplaces with original details. The family room has a wall of built-in bookcases. The interior doors are wide six-panel doors. Most of the original features of the home are intact, however the interior is not included in the designation.

Section 4: The waiting period set forth in Part 3C of Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes entitled, "Historic Districts and Landmarks," shall be observed prior to any demolition on the property.

Section 5: Filings and Notices of Ordinances: The Eden Historic Preservation Commission shall:

- (a) file this Ordinance in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina;
- (b) file a copy of this Ordinance with the Codes Inspector, City of Eden; and
- (c) notify the Tax Supervisor of the Rockingham County Tax Department of the adoption of this Ordinance.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, this 18th day of June, 2019.

CITY OF EDEN

BY: Neville Hall
Neville Hall, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deanna Hunt

Deanna Hunt
City Clerk