



**TITLE: LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REQUEST: LM-24-01-30-00002, SANDRA AND RICHARD CROMLISH JR. (APPLICANTS); PROPERTY PARCEL: 125407, LOCATED AT 16 W. WOODROW AVE., BELMONT, NC. AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE DR. JOHN M. AND LAURA WATT PRESSLY HOUSE, BELMONT, SOUTH POINT TOWNSHIP, GASTON COUNTY, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

WHEREAS, all the prerequisites to the adoption of this ordinance prescribed in Part 4, Chapter 160D of the General Statutes of North Carolina have been met; and,

WHEREAS, the Belmont City Council has taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at the public meeting held on the 16th of September 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Gaston County has taken into full consideration all statements and information presented at a joint public hearing held with the Historic Preservation Commission on the 22nd day of October 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the structure known as the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House located at 16 W. Woodrow Ave. in Belmont stands as an exceptional example of the American four-square style home; and,

WHEREAS, the structure was built in the twenties by the Revered Dr. John M. Pressly and his wife, Laura Watt Pressly; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. John M. Pressly served as one of two doctors in the Belmont area who served the Eagle Mill; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. John M. Pressly was instrumental in bringing a public library, Davis Park, and the Auten-Stowe American Legion Building to the City of Belmont; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission has demonstrated the historic significance of the building and property, as well as North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has reviewed the designation report and nomination of the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners that after consideration of the local landmark designation request, public hearing comment, City of Belmont, and Historic Preservation Commission recommendation:

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**I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:**

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- 1) That the building and property known as the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House, located at 16 W. Woodrow Ave, Belmont, South Point Township, North Carolina, is hereby designated as historic property pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 160D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. For the purpose of description only, described as follows:

Property Description:

BEGINNING at a stake on north side of Maple Avenue (now known as Woodrow Avenue) in the Town of Belmont, and runs North 31 ¼ West, 227 feet to a stake; thence South 66 ½ West, 100 feet to a stake; thence South 31 ¼ East 227 feet to a stake on north side of Maple Avenue; thence North 66 ½ East 100 feet with Maple Avenue to the BEGINNING, containing 51/100 of an acre, more or less, and being Lot No. 8, as laid off and surveyed by A. F. Hand. Deeded to W. D. Crawford by Mrs. E. M. Crawford, February 6, 1914, and recorded in Book 110, page 445, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Gaston County.

Also known as Parcel ID 125407 in the Gaston County GIS system.

- 2) That said buildings and property may not be demolished, materially altered on the exterior of the buildings, remodeled, or removed until three hundred sixty-five days written notice of the owner's proposed action has been given to the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission.
- 3) That nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prevent ordinary maintenance or repair of any architectural exterior features in or on the said building or property that does not involve a change in design, material, or other appearance thereof, nor to prevent the construction, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition, or removal of any such feature when a building inspector or similar official certifies to the Commission that said action is required for the public safety because of an unsafe condition. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the property owners from making any use of this property that is not prohibited in other statutes, ordinances, or regulations. The designation shall not be applied to the interior of the home or any other areas included in easements or rights-of-way.
- 4) That a suitable sign shall be posted indicating the said building and property designation as a local landmark and any other appropriate information. If the owner consents, the sign shall be placed upon the said building or property, or in a nearby public right-of-way.
- 5) That the owner of the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House shall 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 County Clerk, Gaston County Register of Deeds, Building and Development Services, and Tax departments as required by law.

Certification

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of *An Ordinance Designating the Dr. John M. and Laura Watt Pressly House, Belmont, South Point Township, Gaston County, as a Local Historic Landmark* as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on October 22, 2024.

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Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

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