

ORDINANCE NO. (2015) ###

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE **GETHSEMANE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH** IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK

**WHEREAS**, the property located at 501 S. Person Street, Raleigh, NC, is owned by Phuc Tran; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Raleigh Historic Development Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, on the 7th day of July, 2015, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Municipal Complex, Raleigh, before the City Council of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, all requirements of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:**

**Section 1.** The property designated as Gethsemane Seventh Day Adventist Church, in the planning jurisdiction of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

The property located at 501 S. Person Street, Raleigh, NC, owned by Phuc Tran, that property described in deed book 14611, page 2638 recorded in Wake County Registry, comprising approximately .12 acres.

**Section 2.** Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological and/or cultural significance or any combination thereof are as follows:

The c. 1922 one-story building and the approximately .12 acre upon which it sits. The concrete block church with a front gabled roof and lower, short, side-gabled wings that give the building's overall form the appearance of incorporating a transept at the rear—was the first Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) church built in Raleigh.

The church is architecturally significant for its method of construction—unreinforced concrete blocks decorated with quartz pieces. Constructed in 1922, the simply detailed Gothic Revival style

church building is one of three churches within the East Raleigh-South Park National Register Historic District to retain its historic integrity. The church is also culturally significant as the first SDA church, black or white, established in Raleigh.

Homemade decorative concrete-block construction reached its prime between the 1900s and 1930s. The building material's adaptability to different styles, its strength and durability, and affordability made it very popular and an ideal choice. Widely available block making machines made it easy for builders – homeowners, local contractors, and in Gethsemane's case, congregation members – to make blocks on site. After the concrete set up somewhat, mortar was poured into the remaining inch and one to six dozen pieces of quartz were pressed into the mortar by hand. Oral tradition holds that congregants helped apply quartz to the blocks. These quartz pieces varied in size, depth, and color, giving the new church building a decorative finish.

The front elevation of the Gethsemane SDA Church is composed of three bays and faces westward onto South Person Street. Originally, the church was built with a tower, characteristic of its Gothic Revival style in the center of the front-facing gable on the westward elevation. Today, the tower is gone, removed at an unknown date, cut off just five rows of concrete block above the top of the gothic arched window and double doors.

The building sits on a flat, corner lot at the northwest intersection of East Cabarrus and South Person Streets. The lot's landscaping is limited to bushes that grow along the north and west sections of a chain link fence that surrounds the property and scattered vegetation. The latter is likely unplanned or unmanaged growth.

A detailed architectural description and history is found in the 2015 Raleigh Historic Designation application and report and is hereby referenced.

**Section 3.** No portion of the exterior features of any building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, signs, steps, pavement, paths, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission or its successors; provided however that the Raleigh Planning Director or designee may approve certificates of appropriateness for minor works as listed in the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission.

**Section 4.** No building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, pavement, paths, signs, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission or a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days has elapsed following final review by the Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period of time required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it maybe amended hereafter); provided however, that demolition may be denied by the Raleigh Historic Development Commission in the event that the State Historic Preservation Officer determines that the building, site, or structure has statewide significance as provided by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14.

**Section 5.** The Raleigh Historic Development Commission shall have no jurisdiction over the interior features of the property.

**Section 6.** All owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence shall be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

**Section 7.** This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

**Section 8.** City administration and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic landmark by action of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

**Section 9.** In the event any building, site, structure, or object designated by this ordinance is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

**Section 10.** Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

**Adopted:**

**Effective:**

Distribution: Department of City Planning  
Inspections Department  
Raleigh Historic Development Commission  
Wake County Tax Assessor  
Property Owner and Occupant (if not the owner)  
Registrar of Deeds