



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal
Office Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Agenda Report

File Number: 2026-107

Agenda Item# H.10.

Agenda Date: 2/17/2026. **Department:** Planning
Meeting Type: Council Meeting **Category:** Public Hearing Agenda

Title: 2026-107 Ordinance Designating the George and Nancy Keslter House as a Guilford County Historic Landmark

Council Priority: Place an 'x' in the box.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safest City | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Skilled Workforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easiest Place to Do Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Connected City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Sports Capital | <input type="checkbox"/> Hub of Recreation and Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abundance of Attainable Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other/Admin <u>Cultural Heritage</u> |

Council District: District 2

Public Hearing: Yes

Advertising Date/By: February 3 and 10/Planning Department Staff

Contact 1 and Phone: Russ Clegg, Ext. 2211

Contact 2 and Phone: Stefan-leih Geary, Ext. 6300

PURPOSE:

Approve an Ordinance designating the George and Nancy Kestler House, located at 437 Arlington Street, Greensboro, NC (Tax Parcel 1074) as a Guilford County Historic Landmark.

BACKGROUND:

The George and Nancy Kestler House, built in 1876, is locally significant to Guilford County as an exceptional example of Italianate architecture. As one of few extant buildings in Greensboro built before 1880, the Kestler House retains a high level of architectural integrity. The house was likely designed and built by architect Lyndon Swaim (1812-1893), who also constructed the Old Guilford County Courthouse (1872) and, likely, the neighboring Gothic Revival William Fields House (1875-1879; NR 1985). The architect was influenced by Alexander Jackson Downing and may have designed the home based on his drawings in Downing's popular work, *Architecture of Country Houses*. The Kestler House, like its neighbor the Field's House, is representative of the early phase of the mid-19th century residential development in downtown Greensboro, specifically in the Shieldstown neighborhood. The period of significance is the house's 1876 construction date. The entire 0.44 acre lot and the exterior of the site is recommended for designation. Following a public hearing at the Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission regular meeting on July 15, 2025, the Commission voted unanimously, 9-0, to recommend Local Historic Landmark designation. The City of Greensboro was provided

Vision Statement: "A Community with Endless Economic Opportunities and Exceptional Quality of Life."

documentation of this decision on December 3, 2025 for consideration by the Greensboro City Council at the February 17, 2026 meeting. The current tax value for the house is \$437,800.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Guilford County Landmark Properties may receive up to a 50% adjusted property tax deferral.

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

NA

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

It is recommended that City Council designate the George and Nancy Kestler House, 437 Arlington Street, Greensboro, NC (Guilford County Tax Parcel #1074) as a Guilford County Landmark Property.