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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Edds and the Rowan County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Aaron Poplin, Planner
DATE: May 26, 2022
RE: **HLC 01-22**

SUGGESTED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACTION

- ☐ Schedule public hearing for **HLC-01-22** For June 20, 2022

REQUEST

In June of 2020, the Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) received an application from Dr. Betsy Brown to establish St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery as a Rowan County historic landmark. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery is located at 1115 St. Andrews Church Rd. further referenced as Rowan County Tax Parcel 806-013. The applicant wishes to designate the exterior of the church along with the cemetery.

BACKGROUND

The Rowan County HLC's mission is to identify and inventory properties within the county having historical, pre-historical, architectural, and cultural significance, and make recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding sites, areas, structures, and objects to be designated as "Historical Landmarks". Since the HLC was established in 2003, the Commission has recommended eight (8) other structures for designation:

The HLC wishes to recognize St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery because it is locally significant under the category of architecture as one of the few examples frame antebellum Episcopal churches in the state. The Church has had very few alterations since it's original construction in 1840. In 1977 and 2010 repairs were done to the Church to

address structural issues that arose from the age of the structure. The repairs used materials that were common at the time of construction to keep the character of the Church as close to the original construction as possible.

**STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
COMMENTS**

On December 3, 2021 Planning Staff received comments from Kristi Brantley, SHPO staff member, regarding local designation application for the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery. Ms. Brantley stated the Church has local significance.

SHPO recommended a few changes to the report to recognize that the repairs have stayed in character with the original construction.

HLC COMMENTS

Based on these comments and the revised report, the HLC recommends approval of the *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery* as a Rowan County historic landmark. After reviewing the application, an on-site investigation of the property, and extensive research, the HLC deems the *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery* to be of special significance in terms of its historical and cultural importance, and to possess integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, and character.

On May 10, 2022, the HLC conducted a courtesy hearing to receive comments regarding the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery designation. No one spoke in opposition to the designation. On a vote of 4-0, the HLC recommended landmark designation for the exterior of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery.

PLANNING STAFF COMMENTS

- Staff supports the designation of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery.