



**402 North Main Street Suite 204  
Salisbury, NC 28144**

Phone: 704-216-8588 |

Aaron.Poplin@rowancountync.gov

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Edds and the Rowan County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Aaron Poplin, Planner  
DATE: December 22, 2022  
RE: **HLC 03-22**

### **SUGGESTED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACTION**

- ☐ Schedule public hearing for **HLC-03-22** For January 17, 2023

### **REQUEST**

In July of 2022, the Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) received an application from Jack S. Kepley, Jr. and William K. Kepley to establish the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse as a Rowan County historic landmark. The Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse is located at 7255 Bringle Ferry Road. further referenced as Rowan County Tax Parcel 643-145. The applicant wishes to designate the exterior of the house along with the 1.57 acres it sits on.

### **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 ten (10) other structures for designation:

The HLC wishes to recognize the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse because it is locally significant under the category of architecture. The architectural significance of the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse derives from for being one of the few remaining wood-frame farmhouses from the nineteenth century in rural eastern Rowan County and for being a

well-preserved example of Queen Anne Victorian style in a rural setting. The property is also significant culturally due to it being the home of two well-known and distinguished Rowan County citizens Tobias Kesler and Jack Simpson Kepley Sr.

**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE  
COMMENTS**

On November 8, 2022 Planning Staff received comments from Kristi Brantley, SHPO staff member, regarding local designation application for the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse. Ms. Brantley stated the report had significant information for a local governing board to determine if the house has local significance. SHPO did not recommend any changes to the report..

**HLC COMMENTS**

Based on these comments the HLC recommends approval of the *Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse* as a Rowan County historic landmark. After reviewing the application, an on-site investigation of the property, and extensive research, the HLC deems the *Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse* 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 December 13, 2022, the HLC conducted a courtesy hearing to receive comments regarding the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse designation. No one spoke in opposition to the designation. On a vote of 3-0, the HLC recommended landmark designation for the exterior of Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse.

**PLANNING STAFF COMMENTS**

- Staff supports the designation of the Kesler Newsom Kepley Farmhouse.