



# Albemarle County

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-416, **Version:** 1

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**AGENDA DATE:** 8/7/2019

**TITLE:**

Request for Authorization for Carr-Greer Farmhouse to be Evaluated for Historic Registers

**SUBJECT/PROPOSAL/REQUEST:** Request for authorization to allow the County Executive to sign the application for preliminary consideration of the Carr-Greer Farmhouse for eligibility for the historic registers

**ITEM TYPE:** Consent Action Item

**STAFF CONTACT(S):** Richardson, Walker, Kamptner, Herrick, Graham, Maliszewski, Russell

**PRESENTER (S):** N/A

**LEGAL REVIEW:** Yes

**REVIEWED BY:** Jeffrey B. Richardson

**BACKGROUND:** River View Farm was purchased in 1807 by Hugh Carr, a formerly enslaved County resident who became a prominent and influential member of the community. Carr and his wife raised seven children, including Mary Carr-Greer, the former principal of the Albemarle Training School for whom Greer Elementary School is named.

The Carr-Greer Farmhouse is one of only a few properties still in existence that illustrate the history of the once thriving rural African American communities of Union Ridge and Hydraulic Mills. The Carr-Greer Farmhouse serves to commemorate the history of the African American community in Albemarle County in the period following emancipation from slavery.

The former River View Farm property is now a part of the Ivy Creek Natural Area which is jointly owned and managed by the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle. The Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF), in long-term agreement with the City and the County, stewards the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Rural Area Character: Preserve the character of rural life with thriving farms and forests, traditional crossroad communities, and protected scenic areas, historic sites, and biodiversity

**DISCUSSION:** The ICF seeks to call attention to the significant heritage of the Carr-Greer Farmhouse and its residents by listing the property in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, the Commonwealth's and nation's official lists of culturally significant places worthy of preservation (Attachment A).

The initial step in listing a property in the historic registers requires the property-owner's signature on the Preliminary Information Form (Attachment B). The ICF is prepared to take responsibility for completing all other aspects of the nomination at no cost to the City or County. County support of the nomination signals a

recognition of the significance of the Farmhouse - an important resource that requires stewardship. Listing of historic properties in the State and National Registers is an identified strategy in the Comprehensive Plan, and staff and the Historic Preservation Committee support the request.

Recent coordination with City staff indicates that City Council will consider this request in early August.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** The historic register application process has no budget impact. County funding was previously approved for repairs to stabilize the Farmhouse. A feasibility study and repair-related survey work are underway, with repair work scheduled to begin in the Fall. Any renovation work beyond the already-funded repair work would require additional CIP requests. Listing in the registers could possibly open some grant funding opportunities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the County Executive to sign the Preliminary Information Form.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Ivy Creek Foundation Memo to BOS

Attachment B: Preliminary Information Form