



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Josh Stein
Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

November 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles LeCount charles.lecount@dncr.nc.gov
Division of State Historic Sites
NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: Install Colonial-Era Courthouse Marker, Halifax State Historic Site, 25 Saint David Street, Halifax, Halifax County, GS 25-3425

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 2025, concerning the above project.

As proposed, the marker will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties.

Based on our knowledge of the area, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project. We, therefore, recommend that no archaeological investigation be conducted in connection with this project.

These comments are made in accord with G.S. 121-12(a) and Executive Order XVI. If you have questions regarding them, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Colonial-Era Courthouse Marker Proposal

Historic Halifax State Historic Site

25 Saint David Street
Halifax, NC 27839

Project Manager: Carl Burke, Site Manager carl.burke@dn-cr.nc.gov

SHPO Liaison: Charles LeCount, Deputy Director SHS. Charles.lecount@dn-cr.nc.gov

New Marker Proposal

The Halifax Resolves Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution request permission to place a plaque on a marker base erected in 1950 by the Society for the Preservation of NC Antiquities near the site of the colonial-era Halifax courthouse and relocate the marker to the correct location of the colonial-era Halifax Courthouse, which was recently determined through a ground-penetrating-radar (GPR) study. The plaque would denote the major historical occurrences that happened at this former courthouse and would acknowledge the SAR Chapter as the donor. A Satellite Imagery map (below) shows both the existing marker location (red dot) and the GPR-confirmed, correct the location of the courthouse footprint (outlined in yellow, and now marked with paver edging and a packed crush-and-run base). An additional sketch map shows the intended location of the SAR-proposed relocated marker, near the southeast corner of the former building's footprint. If the movement of the old marker is funded by the SAR Chapter, the additional plaque would be added to the concrete platform base, acknowledging the chapter as the sponsor of the marker's relocation. The marker's original plaque, which details the courthouse site, would remain on the marker itself. The SAR would like to commemorate the new marker on Halifax Day, April 12, 2026.



Red Dot – Current Marker

Yellow Outline – Correct Courthouse Site

A packed crush-and-run base walkway funded by the Cannon Foundation now connects the garden at the rear of the visitor center to the courthouse site, making it readily accessible to visitors. Additional interpretive waysides will be installed at the courthouse site to elaborate on the architecture and history of the courthouse.

Site Photographs

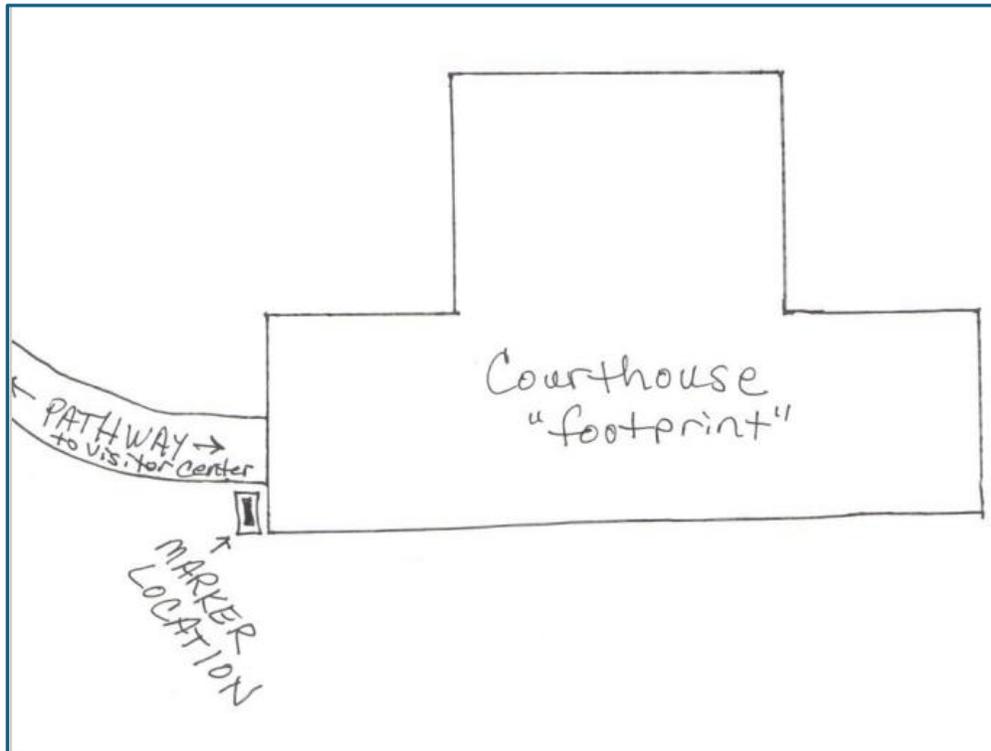
Courthouse Footprint



Current Marker Location with Courthouse Footprint in Background



Relocated Marker Location Sketch Plan



Plaque Dimensions and Materials

A stone plaque, 25" tall and 56" wide, with SAR insignia is proposed for the marker base.

Proposed Text for New Plaque

SAR Insignia

Society for the Preservation of NC Antiquities marker relocated here and rededicated by
the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
on the Semi-quincentennial of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves.

Sunday, April 12, 2026



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December 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles LeCount charles.lecount@dncr.nc.gov
State Historic Sites
NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos, Deputy *RSE for Ramona M. Bartos*
State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: Plan DAR tree and place historical marker for NC America 250, Vance Birthplace,
Reems Creek Road, Weaverville, Buncombe County, GS 25-3727

Thank you for your email of November 17, 2025, concerning the above project.

We have conducted a review of the project and are aware of no historic resources which would be affected by the project. Therefore, we are not requiring any archaeological or architectural survey and have no comment on the project as proposed.

These comments are made in accord with G.S. 121-12(a) and Executive Order XVI. If you have questions regarding them, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

NC Historical Commission Proposal – Vance Birthplace/DAR Tree and Marker for A250

The Daughters of the American Revolution request approval from the NC Historical Commission to plant a tree and place a marker at Vance Birthplace State Historic Site in Weaverville. The Ruth Davidson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution by planting a Chestnut Oak at the site; they have chosen Vance Birthplace due to its association with Zebulon Vance’s grandfather, David Vance Sr., who served in the North Carolina militia during Revolutionary War. In addition to commemorating this service, the DAR chose a tree for Vance Birthplace to help replace those trees that were lost during Hurricane Helene on September 27, 2024.

The Chestnut Oak is a species of oak tree in the white oak group, and is native to the eastern United States, including the western half of North Carolina. It has a heavily ridged bark, produces large acorns, and grows well in dry ridgetop environments. Chestnut oaks can grow to at least 70 feet tall, and in ideal conditions can reach 130 feet.



Location

After consulting with site staff, the proposed location for this tree will be along Reems Creek Road near the reconstructed Vance house. This is an area that lost trees during Hurricane Helene and would benefit from new planting. Advantages of this location include improving curb appeal of the site for traffic on Reems Creek Road, and when the tree reaches maturity, it will help block the view of modern houses on the other side of the street for visitors when they are touring the house.



Marker

The DAR also requests to place a marker near the tree. The marker will be an 8 inch by 10 inch aluminum plaque, with a custom engraved message mounted on the plaque. The marker is inserted into the ground through a metal rod mounted to the back of the plaque.

The proposed wording of the marker is as follows:

In Commemoration of America's
250th Anniversary
The Ruth Davidson Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
Dedicate this Tree to Those Patriots
Who Fought For Freedom
and Settled This Area

This mockup shows the type of marker proposed by the DAR with their preferred wording:

