



# RECONNECT

AMERICA'S HOMETOWN

- FAYETTEVILLE, NC -

HISTORY, HEROES, AND A HOMETOWN FEELING.

WELCOME TO THE



# FAYETTEVILLE

- AREA -

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NC  
**FAYETTEVILLE**  
AREA  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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# RECONNECT

IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWN

- FAYETTEVILLE, NC -

What makes your family reunion so important? Does the saying, "the family is our refuge, our springboard...our link to the past, our bridge to the future," ring a bell? At a time when families are pulled in many different directions, no occasion better honors your heritage and celebrates your strong family bonds than a family reunion.

Greater Fayetteville, North Carolina, welcomes you and your family to reaffirm your heritage and strong family bonds in America's Hometown!

We invite family reunion attendees to experience our community that embraces the American spirit – a place where History, Heroes, and a Hometown Feeling bestows a unique opportunity for all ages to come together and commemorate your family's past, present, and future.

The hard labor borne by slaves, the entrepreneurship of free blacks, the devotion to religion and education, service to our country, and the desire to learn and preserve one's history and heritage await to tell your family

a grand story. Providing a historical glimpse into the life of African-Americans who resided in Greater Fayetteville, these unique sites will engage and enlighten family ties and tradition.







RECONNECT WITH  
**HISTORY**

## FIRST STOP

# FAYETTEVILLE AREA TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum exhibits contributions made by local African-Americans. The museum also has staff oversight of Fayetteville's Historic Districts and Designated Local Landmark Properties, many of which have strong ties to African-American history. Maintained in the museum archives are all the repository of historical information concerning local African-Americans. Museum staff is available to assist with directed research in the area



of local African-American history as well as give guided Historic Downtown Walking Tours for groups of 20 or more.





## STOP TWO

SANDHILLS  
FAMILY HERITAGE  
ASSOCIATION

An exhibit on plank roads exists at the center's grounds and is used to tell the story of slave labor that helped build them. The Sandhills Heritage Center was founded by African-Americans as a recreational facility for local black youth in 1951. The center was used for youth and adult social gatherings such as family reunions, birthday parties, and during the 1960s as a civil rights meeting place. The Sandhills Family Heritage Association currently offers tours, Thursday through Sunday, 8 am – 4 pm, that will immerse yourself in a real, one-of-a-kind Southern rural African-American cultural experience as told by descendants of slaves and local community storytellers. Enjoyable tour activities include the Sandhills Farmers Market (Saturdays only); tasting locally-grown produce and baked goods; learning the importance of local herbs; viewing a replica of the Plank Road and a brush arbor; a captivating outdoor performance by



BETHEL AME ZION CHURCH

the Sankofa Players; and tour of Bethel AME Zion Church in Spring Lake, NC.





RECONNECT WITH  
**HEROES**

#### FIRST STOP

### E.E. SMITH MONUMENT AT FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. E.E. (Ezekiel Ezra) Smith, a respected African-American educator headed Fayetteville State University for an impressive 50 years. In fact, Smith gave some of his own land to build some of FSU's first buildings. He also served as an ambassador to Liberia and as the adjutant of the 3rd NC Regiment during the Spanish American War. Other notable accomplishments include founding NC's first black newspaper and serving as a Baptist Minister for the black First Baptist Church.

#### STOP TWO

### MLK PARK

At this time a picnic pavilion and open space are the beginnings for the 13 acres of land commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. An impressive sculpture of Dr. King reigns high over the park and plans include a fountain, lighted

spire, gardens, and walking trail. This park is part of the link of greenways connecting people and places!

#### STOP THREE

### AIRBORNE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM

The Airborne and Special Operations Museum preserves the extraordinary feats performed by parachute and glider borne troops and their brothers in arms, the special operations forces. By exploring artifact displays, life-size dioramas, audio and visual displays you will gain a deeper respect and pride for the remarkable achievements of these brave All American Airborne soldiers. There is an exhibit on the Triple Nickels





or the 555th Battalion – a historically all black airborne unit. Also enjoy the motion simulator and gift shop.

#### STOP FOUR

## NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK

North Carolina Veterans Park (NCVP) follows two themes: The first is a “Veteran’s Journey: life before, during, and after service.” The second is rebirth and healing. NCVP was designed for reflections and celebration with bold, unique, and captivating exhibits. This 21st century park is a place where every visitor can share the moving tribute of a grateful state, honoring those to whom our nation owes its freedom.



RECONNECT WITH HEROES

NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK





RECONNECT WITH A  
**HOMETOWN  
FEELING**

#### FIRST STOP

### EVANS METROPOLITAN AME ZION CHURCH

This church was chartered in 1801, and the current building was built in 1983. The congregation was founded by Henry Evans, a black shoemaker and Methodist preacher. His arrival in Fayetteville was the beginning of Methodism in Fayetteville and eastern North Carolina. Evans preached to a congregation of both blacks and whites. By the 1870s, the church became a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. A tablet in the basement marks the grave of Henry Evans.

#### STOP TWO

### ORANGE STREET SCHOOL

Built in 1915, by African-American contractor James Waddell, the Orange Street School is believed to be the oldest building associated with education in Fayetteville. Before its construction, black students had been attending classes in a small, one room schoolhouse for nearly 50 years. The school continued to function as an educational facility for 38 years. The

upstairs now serves as a museum where Bishop James Walker Hood's top hat and bible can be viewed. Orange Street School is also a unique banquet venue, and may be reserved through the school's Restoration and Historical Association.





### STOP THREE

## FANTASY LAKE

Fun for the whole family! Enjoy the water park with slides, volleyball and basketball, and horseshoes. Space available for picnics.



RECONNECT WITH A HOMETOWN FEELING







**CONTACT US TODAY!**

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OUR TOURISM DEPARTMENT  
IS READY TO ASSIST YOU!

TOLL FREE: **888.98.HEROES**  
**INFO@VISITFAYETTEVILLENC.COM**

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