



HERITAGE TRAILS

American Independence

Trail Summary

As one of the original 13 colonies, North Carolina is steeped in varied Revolutionary history. The fever for independence spiked in communities across the state. Fayetteville's revolutionary roots include the signing of the "Liberty Point Resolves" by the Cumberland Association; local men serving in the militia and enlisting in the Continental Army; Robert Rowan, an ardent supporter of independence who served in the Provincial Congress; and finally, the ratification of the U.S. Constitution at the State House. As you travel the American Independence trail, remember that you'll drive to places where once only horses and wagons drove.



The Stops

1. Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
2. Fifer's Grave
3. Cross Creek Cemetery

4. Marquis de Lafayette Statue
5. Liberty Point
6. Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

7. Old Bluff Cemetery
8. Historical Markers
 - A) Cornwallis
 - B) Flora McDonald
 - C) Moore's Camp



American Independence

In June 1775, prompted by British actions that included the battles at Lexington and Concord and “arbitrary impositions,” a group known as the Cumberland Association signed a Committee of Safety document in Fayetteville that has become known as “The Liberty Point Resolves.” Fifty-five men signed this document, including Robert Rowan, merchant and entrepreneur who arrived in Cross Creek (later renamed Fayetteville) in the 1760s. Rowan served as a captain of the 1st NC infantry in the Continental Army. Through the colonial period, Robert Rowan’s political activity consisted of numerous terms in the General Assembly and the Provincial Congress, making him a leading spokesman on matters relating to American Independence.

Cumberland County witnessed divided loyalties unique to an area settled by a large population of Scottish immigrants who had taken a loyalty oath to England before deciding to board ships for America. However, many Scottish settlers sided with the Patriots fighting for independence, while others joined British troops to subdue patriotic fervor. Statistically, pre-1760, Scottish immigrants tended to align with the Patriots or Whigs, and those that settled here after the 1760s were generally Tories, also known as Loyalists. A clash between these neighbors occurred in February 1776, when Patriot militia, minutemen, and a few Continentals, including Captain Robert Rowan’s company, engaged the Scottish Highlander Militia at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. This three-minute battle squashed the hopes of the British to gather southern support for the Loyalist cause.

In 1780, Patriot cavalry camped just north of downtown Fayetteville for observation and other duties for five months. Lord Cornwallis marched his troops through Fayetteville in April 1781, after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, giving an uneasy feeling to local Patriots. Cornwallis counted on Fayetteville Loyalists to offer a place to rest and re-supply his troops. However, he arrived to find that the majority of Loyalists had been run out of the community. The remaining Patriots did not want to accommodate Cornwallis’ troops, but he still managed to find a place to bed down for the night. Lord Cornwallis and his red coats left peaceably and headed south toward Wilmington. Six months later on October 19, Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.



STOP

04

Marquis de Lafayette Statue



Fayetteville Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (FACVB)

245 Person Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

01

The Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (FACVB) positions Fayetteville and Cumberland County as a destination for conventions, tournaments, and individual travel. Operating a Visitors Center with a drive-through window. The FACVB is located just minutes from the heart of downtown. Signs from I-95 provide clear directions to the Visitor Center. Call for information and help planning your visit to the area or stop by when you arrive for maps, brochures and more.

• **HOURS :**

Open to the public
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

• **NEXT STOP**

Exit the FACVB parking lot, making a left onto Person Street, enter into roundabout, take third exit onto N. Cool Spring Street, and Fifer's Grave will be on the left.



Fifer's Grave

North Cool Spring Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

02

The fifer, Isaac Hammond, lies buried here. Hammond became the first fifer in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry and served 30 years. He also served in the 10th NC Regiment Continental Line during the Revolutionary War. He became a barber in town and participated in politics even though African-Americans were not permitted to vote at the time.

• **HOURS :**

Exterior View Only.
Open to the public, daily
before dusk.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on North Cool Springs Street. Cross Creek Cemetery is on your right.



Cross Creek Cemetery

North Cool Spring and Grove Street
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

03

The oldest public cemetery in Fayetteville, containing over 1,100 grave markers, is the burial ground for early settlers and locally significant persons in Fayetteville's history. This cemetery contains graves of Revolutionary War veterans, including the notable Revolutionary War hero Robert Rowan. He was the leading town patriot as well as the organizer and a signer of the "Liberty Point Resolves." His burial site is marked by a tall stone monument.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.
Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on North Cool Spring Street and take the first right out of the roundabout onto Person Street. Veer right on Bow Street. Turn Right onto Ann Street The Marquis de Lafayette Statue is on your Left.



Marquis de Lafayette Statue

Ann Street (across from First Presbyterian Church)
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

04

The statue of Lafayette in Cross Creek Park honors the city's namesake. Fayetteville shares the distinction of being named for the Revolutionary War hero with other cities and counties. However, Fayetteville, North Carolina was the very first one to bear his name and the only one that he actually visited. In 1777, at the age of only 19, the Marquis de Lafayette sailed from France to America to join the colonists' fight for independence from England. He was assigned to George Washington's staff as a major general and soon proved his valor in the Battle of Brandywine. Washington awarded Lafayette with command of the Virginia army, and he played a pivotal role in the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.
Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn around on Ann Street. Make a left onto Bow Street. Liberty Point is on your right.



Liberty Point

Person and Bow Streets
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

05

Near this site in June 1775, a group of fifty-five patriots signed a document of freedom known as the "Liberty Point Resolves," one year before the Declaration of Independence was signed. A granite marker commemorates their pledge to the cause of Independence and lists 55 signers' names. Liberty Point is not only a locally cherished historical area, but also a vestige of early street patterns with its notable triangular plot.

• **HOURS :**

Exterior view only.
Daily before dusk.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn right onto Person Street.
Continue around the traffic circle and Person Street becomes Hay Street. Continue straight on Hay Street through the traffic light on Bragg Blvd. Make a left onto Bradford Avenue. Make a right onto Arsenal Avenue.



Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

801 Arsenal Avenue
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-486-1330

06

Nearly 400 years of history is retold at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex. The museum's exhibits provide a larger context to the patriotism and revolutionary activity that occurred in southern North Carolina. The story of patriotism in this area, however, is made more interesting by the presence of Scottish Highlanders, who settled this area beginning in the 1730s. They took a loyalty oath prior to immigrating to the colonies, and the American Revolution divided their loyalties between the desire for independence and their status as British subjects who swore allegiance to the king. These divided loyalties were tested at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge where Scottish patriots met and defeated Scottish Tories. After the Revolution, the State House in Fayetteville would be the site where North Carolina delegates ratified the U.S. Constitution, making North Carolina the twelfth state to join the Union. A large relief mural of the State House is unique to see. A visit through the museum's American Revolution gallery lifts history from the pages of textbooks and places you in the midst of the events. The museum's exhibit creates a clearer understanding of American Independence in the Cape Fear region.

• HOURS :

Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m.;
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Mon • Open to the public.

• NEXT STOP

Make a right onto Arsenal Avenue. Make a left onto Bradford Avenue. Make a right onto Hay Street. Make a left onto Bragg Blvd. Make a right onto Rowan Street. Rowan Street becomes Grove Street. Make a left onto North Eastern Blvd. Continue on North Eastern Blvd/US-301 North until the Middle Road exit on the right. Take the exit and make a left onto Middle Road. Make a left onto Dunn Road (301 N). Bear straight/left onto Sisk Culbreth Road. Make a left onto Old Bluff Church Road.



Old Bluff Cemetery

Old Bluff Church Road
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

910-891-5019

07

This graveyard is one of the oldest in Cumberland County. It is located adjacent to Old Bluff Church, which was organized in 1758. Both are located on the high east bank of the Cape Fear River. Colonel Alexander McCalister, a leading county patriot during the Revolutionary War, is buried here. He came to North Carolina in 1740 from Scotland and quickly became a great patriot and a prominent figure in North Carolina, becoming a member of the N.C. Senate in 1787. A monument commemorates his many achievements.

• HOURS :

Open to the public,
Exterior view only.

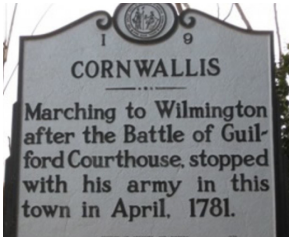
• NEXT STOP

Historical Markers

Historical Markers

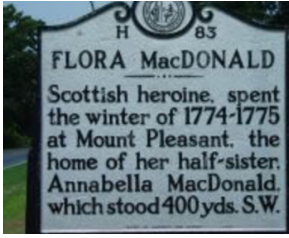
A) Cornwallis - Green Street at Old Street, Fayetteville

Marching to Wilmington after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, stopped with his army in this town in April 1781.



B) Flora MacDonald - Cool Spring Street and Hawley Lane, Fayetteville

Near this spot, the Scottish heroine bade farewell to her husband, Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh, and his troops during the march-out of the Highlanders to the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 1776.



C) Moore's Camp - NC 87 south of Fayetteville

Prior to the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, forces of Gen. James Moore, Whig commander, camped, Feb. 15-21, 1776, 1½ miles northeast.

