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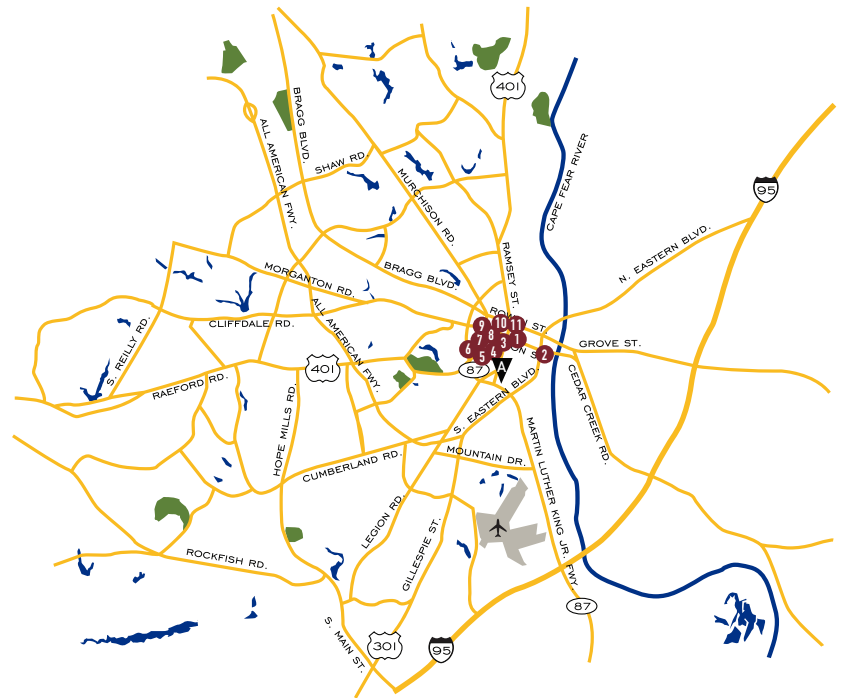
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HERITAGE TRAILS

# Lafayette Trail

## Trail Summary

In March of 1825, the citizens of Fayetteville, North Carolina, were honored by a two-day visit from the famous French proponent of liberty and hero of the American Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette.



## The Stops

1. Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
2. Clarendon Bridge
3. Liberty Point
4. Town House

5. State Banking House
6. Lafayette Hotel
7. Fayetteville and Fayette County
8. Robert Strange Town House

9. Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Armory and Museum
10. Phoenix Masonic Lodge Number 8
11. Grave of Isham Blake
12. Historical Markers  
A) Lafayette



## Lafayette Trail

In his speech of welcome, Judge Toomer proclaimed, "Never, never can we forget the youthful stranger who, in the darkest hour of adversity, so generously flew to our succor, and so gallantly fought the battle of freedom." Fayetteville had been named for Lafayette by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1783. It was the very first city in America named for him and the only namesake city that he actually visited. In response to Judge Toomer's speech, Lafayette said of Fayetteville, "...upon entering the interesting and prosperous town which has done me the great honor to adopt my name, I can at once admire its actual progress and anticipate its future destinies...."

Marie Joseph Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was born in Auvergne, France, on September 6, 1757. Although an aristocrat, Lafayette became enamored of the American fight for independence at an early age. In 1777, when only 19, he flaunted convention and royal edicts by sailing to America on a ship he purchased and outfitted with his own funds. After six weeks on the high seas, he endured an arduous journey from South Carolina to Philadelphia. There, he presented himself to the Continental Congress and volunteered his services. He was allowed to join the American forces as a major general and became lifelong friends with General George Washington.

Lafayette's humility, eagerness to learn, enthusiasm for liberty, and courage in battle won him the admiration and friendship of soldiers, officers, and statesmen. His battlefield heroics also earned him the admiration of his countrymen in France. This and his petitions to King Louis XVI helped persuade the French monarch to side with America against England and to send money, troops, and supplies. After Lafayette distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine, Washington awarded him with command of the Virginia army. He conducted a brilliant campaign against the army of General Cornwallis, maneuvering him into a corner in Yorktown. There, with the forces of Lafayette, Washington, and Rochambeau on one side, and the French fleet on the other, Cornwallis had no choice but to surrender. Although the Treaty of Paris was not signed until 1783, the victory at Yorktown essentially decided the war in America's favor.

After his return to France, Lafayette continued his campaign for liberty. His involvement in the French Revolution eventually led to persecution by radicals on both sides. With arrest and execution by guillotine eminent, Lafayette attempted to flee to England. He was caught by the Austrian army in Belgium and imprisoned for five years. He was freed only after his fame brought worldwide pressure for his release. He was eventually repatriated in France and continued to serve as a fierce advocate of equal rights for all men and the abolition of slavery.

In 1824, as America was preparing to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, President James Monroe invited Lafayette to return as the "Guest of the Nation." He was welcomed in cities like New York, Boston, and Philadelphia by huge crowds, eager to see one of the last surviving heroes of the American Revolution. He also visited many smaller cities and towns on his tour of all 24 states.

Many years before his Grand Tour, Lafayette had been given an engraving of the State House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, by a friend who had just returned from America. Touched by his friend's story of the very first town in America to be named after him, Lafayette decided to include Fayetteville on his tour. Although there were numerous cities and towns at that time that were named Fayetteville or Lafayette or Fayette, this was the only one of those that he visited. The citizens returned the honor with several banquets and receptions and elaborate military reviews. Especially memorable was his reunion with his one of his bodyguards from Yorktown, Isham Blake. Each site along this trail has a bronze marker that captures the importance of each of the stops during the tour.



STOP

09

Fayetteville Independent Light  
Infantry Company





## Fayetteville Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (FACVB)

245 Person Street  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

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. Continue down until you reach Eastern Blvd, and pass through the light. You will pass over the Cape Fear River on the bridge. Make a right into Campbellton Landing and turn around to go back over the bridge towards downtown.



## Clarendon Bridge

Present day Person Street Bridge  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

02

On March 4, 1825, the Honorable Hutchins G. Burton, Governor of North Carolina; the Honorable John L. Taylor, Chief Justice of the State; General William Williams; and Colonel Polk's Troop of Cavalry from Mecklenburg County and others escorted Lafayette and his son from Raleigh to Fayetteville. Fayetteville's Magistrate of Police (Mayor) and Commissioners received and welcomed Lafayette at the Clarendon Bridge. He was then escorted into town by local militia units, which included the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry. The bronze marker is located to the left of the entrance to the bridge on the ground.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Person Street, passing back over Eastern Blvd. Liberty Point is at the intersection of Person and Bow Streets.



## Liberty Point

Person and Bow Streets  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

03

On March 4, 1825, as Lafayette was being escorted into town from the Clarendon Bridge, he passed by Liberty Point. This location is not only a locally cherished historical area but also a vestige of early street patterns with its notable triangular plot. Near this site in June 1775, a group of 55 patriots signed a document of freedom one year before the Declaration of Independence was signed, popularly known as the Liberty Point Resolves. A granite boulder commemorates their pledge to their country and lists the names of the 55 signers. The bronze marker is located near the granite boulder.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Person Street until you reach the roundabout. The Town House (present-day Market House) is located directly in front of you in the center.



## Town House (Market House)

Intersection of Person and Hay Streets with Green and Gillespie Streets  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

04

Lafayette was escorted from the Clarendon Bridge to the Town House, which stood at this site. From a stage erected for the occasion, Lafayette addressed the citizens of Fayetteville. The various military units formed lines on each side of the street, and Lafayette's carriage passed between them amidst the discharge of artillery. This was an appropriate site to receive Lafayette, for in 1789, within the walls of the Town House (then known as the State House), North Carolina had ratified the Constitution of the United States. From the Town House, Lafayette was escorted to his place of lodging at the State Banking House. This site is now referred to as the Market House, and the bronze marker can be found underneath toward the back on one of the pillars nearest Person Street.

### • HOURS :

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

### • NEXT STOP

Make almost a complete circle to Gillespie Street. Turn right and continue on Gillespie until you get to Franklin Street. The State Banking House is on your right.



## State Banking House (Historic County Courthouse)

130 Gillespie Street  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

05

On the evening of March 4, 1825, Lafayette was lodged at the State Banking House, the residence of Duncan MacRae, Esq., which was located on this site. The bank was an imposing structure of heavy stonework and brick. Shortly after arriving, Lafayette appeared on the balcony where citizens were assembled below and was saluted by the military. He then dined in the company of Governor Burton, the several committees, and some of the oldest citizens of the town. This site is now the location of the old Cumberland County Courthouse. The bronze marker can be found on the ground to the left of the stairs.

### • HOURS :

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

### • NEXT STOP

Turn around on Franklin Street and head back towards the roundabout. Make almost a full circle and turn right onto Hay Street. Continue on Hay Street until you reach Donaldson Street. The old Lafayette Hotel is located on your left.



## Lafayette Hotel

Corner of Hay and Donaldson Streets  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

800-255-8217

STOP

06

On this site stood the first Lafayette Hotel, built by Robert Donaldson in 1824 and completed in time for Lafayette's visit in March 1825. It was a Georgian brick structure, three-and-a-half stories high, with a hipped roof and dormer windows. A glass transom and sidelights framed the main entrance on Hay Street. On the evening of March 4, 1825, a large ball was held in Lafayette's honor at this newly completed hotel, where the rooms had been decorated with evergreens and flowers. In the late afternoon of March 5, a farewell dinner was held here for Lafayette. The bronze marker is on the building facing Donaldson Street.

### • HOURS :

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

### • NEXT STOP

Continue on Hay Street. The Fayetteville City Hall is located on your left.



## Fayetteville and Fayette County

Fayetteville City Hall, 433 Hay Street  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

07

Cumberland County, named in honor of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, was formed in 1754 from Bladen County. In 1783, the two villages of Cross Creek and Campbellton were combined and named Fayetteville in honor of General Lafayette. Fayetteville became the first city in the United States named for Lafayette, and the only one named for him that he actually visited during his lifetime. In early 1784, Cumberland County was renamed Fayette County, but the act was repealed at the next General Assembly in November 1784. The bronze marker can be found near the flag poles in the front entrance.

• **HOURS :**

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

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Hay Street and cross through the light over Bragg Blvd. Go up the hill and turn right onto Hale Street. The Robert Strange House is on your right.



## Major Robert Strange House

114 Hale Street  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

08

Built in circa 1817, this federal-style house is situated on a commanding site overlooking the city below. Major Strange was the Commander of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, which escorted Lafayette during his visit to Fayetteville. He was also the Master of the Phoenix Masonic Lodge, which entertained Lafayette. Upon Lafayette's death, Fayetteville held a memorial service at the First Presbyterian Church on July 12, 1834, in which Major Strange delivered an eloquent eulogium on the character and services of Lafayette. The bronze marker is located on the ground to the right of the driveway.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk.  
Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn left onto Brandt's Lane. Turn left onto Hillside. Go back to Hay Street and make a left. Continue through the Bragg Blvd. intersection and turn left onto Ray Avenue. Make a right onto Maiden Lane. Turn right onto Burgess Street. The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Museum is located on your left.



## Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company

210 Burgess Street  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

09

Upon General Lafayette's arrival on March 4th, 1825, the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry (F.I.L.I.), under the command of Major Robert Strange, escorted Lafayette from the Clarendon Bridge to the Town House to his place of lodging and continued to escort him throughout his visit. F.I.L.I. is the oldest militia unit in continuous existence in the South. The carriage that Lafayette rode through the streets of Fayetteville is located in the museum. The bronze marker is located in front of the entrance slightly to the left of the door.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only or by appointment.

• **NEXT STOP**

Turn around on Burgess Street. Make a left back onto Maiden Lane. Take the mini round-a-bout directly to your right onto Ray Avenue. Turn Right onto Mason Street. The Phoenix Lodge is located on your Right.



## Phoenix Masonic Lodge Number 8

221 Mason Street along Cross Creek  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

10

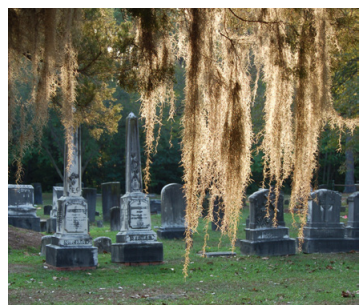
On March 5, 1825, General Lafayette visited the Phoenix Masonic Lodge at Saint John's Square. The lodge was located at one of the three public squares. The original lodge at this site was replaced by the current lodge in 1858. Lafayette, like George Washington and so many of the nation's founding fathers, was a Free Mason. The bronze marker can be found behind the building close to Cross Creek near the path.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only or by appointment

• **NEXT STOP**

Continue on Mason Street. Turn left onto Green Street. Turn right onto Grove/Rowan Street. Turn right onto Cool Spring Street. The cemetery is located on your left.



## Grave of Isham Blake

Cross Creek Cemetery I, Cool Spring and Grove Streets  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

STOP

800-255-8217

11

Isham Blake, a musician in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, also served as one of General Lafayette's bodyguards at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781. The Siege of Yorktown was an American victory by a combined assault of American and French forces led by General George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, and French General Comte de Rochambeau over a British Army commanded by General Lord Cornwallis. This surrender caused the British government to negotiate an end to the War. After the War, Blake became a productive and respected citizen of Fayetteville. On the morning of March 5, 1825, Lafayette received a visit from his former body guard. He is now buried in Cross Creek Cemetery I. The bronze marker is at the brick wall across from Evans A.M.E. Zion Church.

• **HOURS :**

Daily before dusk. Exterior view only.

• **NEXT STOP**

Historical Marker

## A) Lafayette - Gillespie Street at Franklin Street

On March 4-5, 1825, Lafayette was a guest of Fayetteville (named for him in 1783), staying at the home of Duncan McRae, the site of the present courthouse.

