

North Carolina Highway Historical Markers Program





The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program has operated jointly with NCDOT since 1935

The Highway Historical Marker Program Advisory Committee is made up of 10 history professors from four-year colleges and universities



Since the late 1940s North Carolina's historical markers have been made by Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio. They are handmade cast aluminum and designed to last for generations.





Unlike most state marker programs, North Carolina does not require applicants to pay any fees associated with the application, purchase, or installation.

The DOT provides a budget of \$100,000 per year, which pays for markers, repairs, and replacements. DOT Traffic Services staff install markers...



...and Traffic Services staff do some repairs and maintenance as time allows.



Applications
are submitted
by the public

Application for North Carolina

to be complete, clear, and organized. All facts and statements that were written at the time of the event and secondary sources may include letters, cards, newspaper articles, or meeting minutes that might be included in the application. In addition, the applicant needs to locate secondary sources, primary articles or books. Photographs must include captions, location, author, and date of

of all documentation, primary and secondary, must be submitted with the application. For purposes, please use photocopy rather than staples. Scanned applications and documentation are appreciated.

Subject of proposed marker and (rough) proposed inscription:
William B. Gould
1837-1923
Enslaved Bellamy mansion plasterer, fled to freedom in 1862; Union navy veteran and farmer. Lived two blocks north.

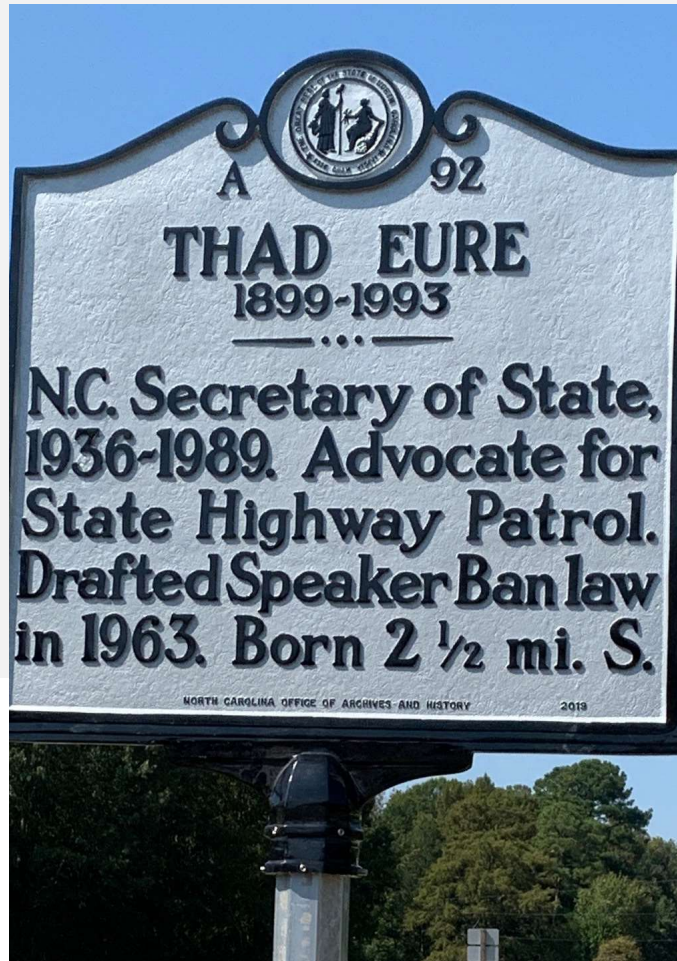
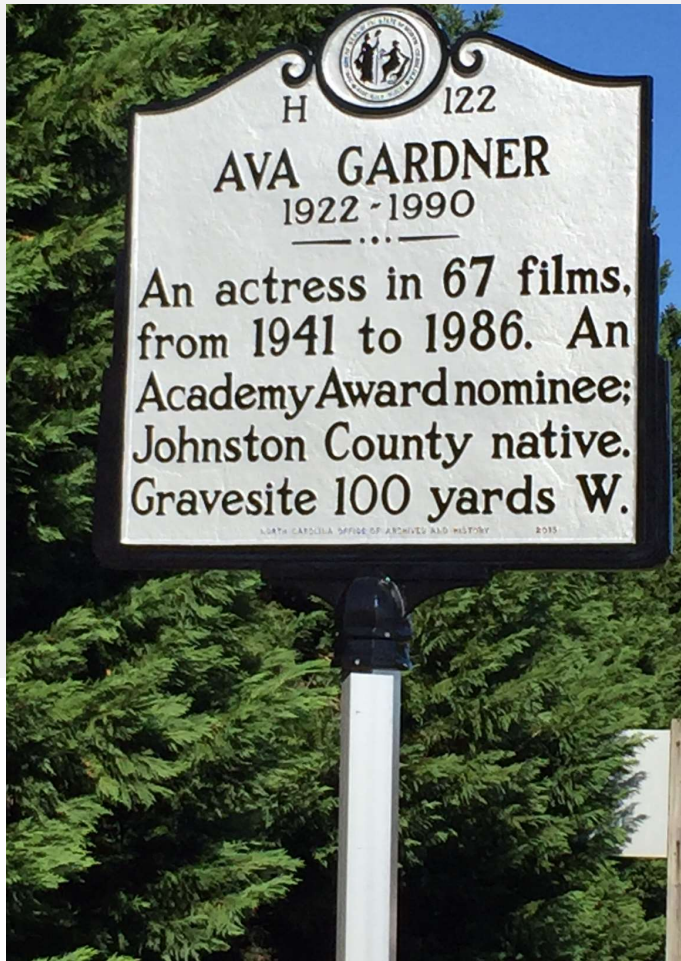
Site to be marked:
Bellamy Mansion Museum of History and Design Arts: A Sewadshin Property of Preservation North Carolina

Proposed location of marker on numbered, state-maintained highway: (Be specific. Please provide street address or closest intersection. Note whether the site lies within the corporate limits of a city or town. An attached map of the location would be useful.)
503 Market Street, Wilmington, NC, 28401. At the intersection of Sth Street and Market Street



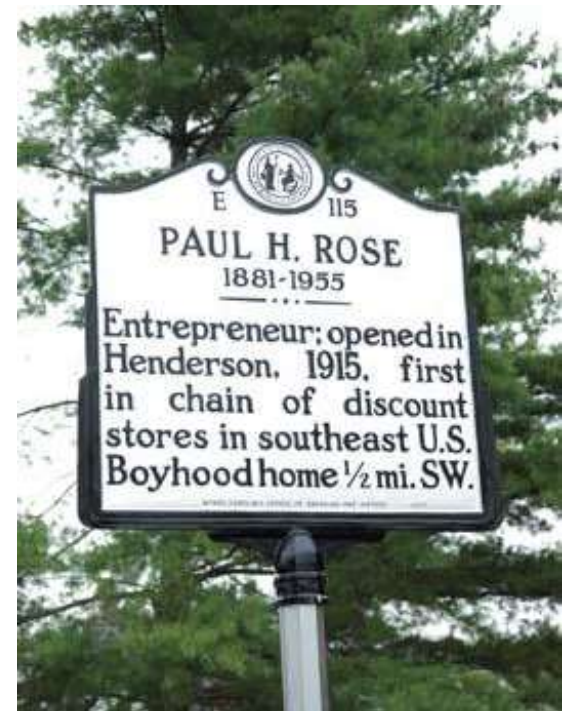


Subjects must
be of statewide
historical
significance



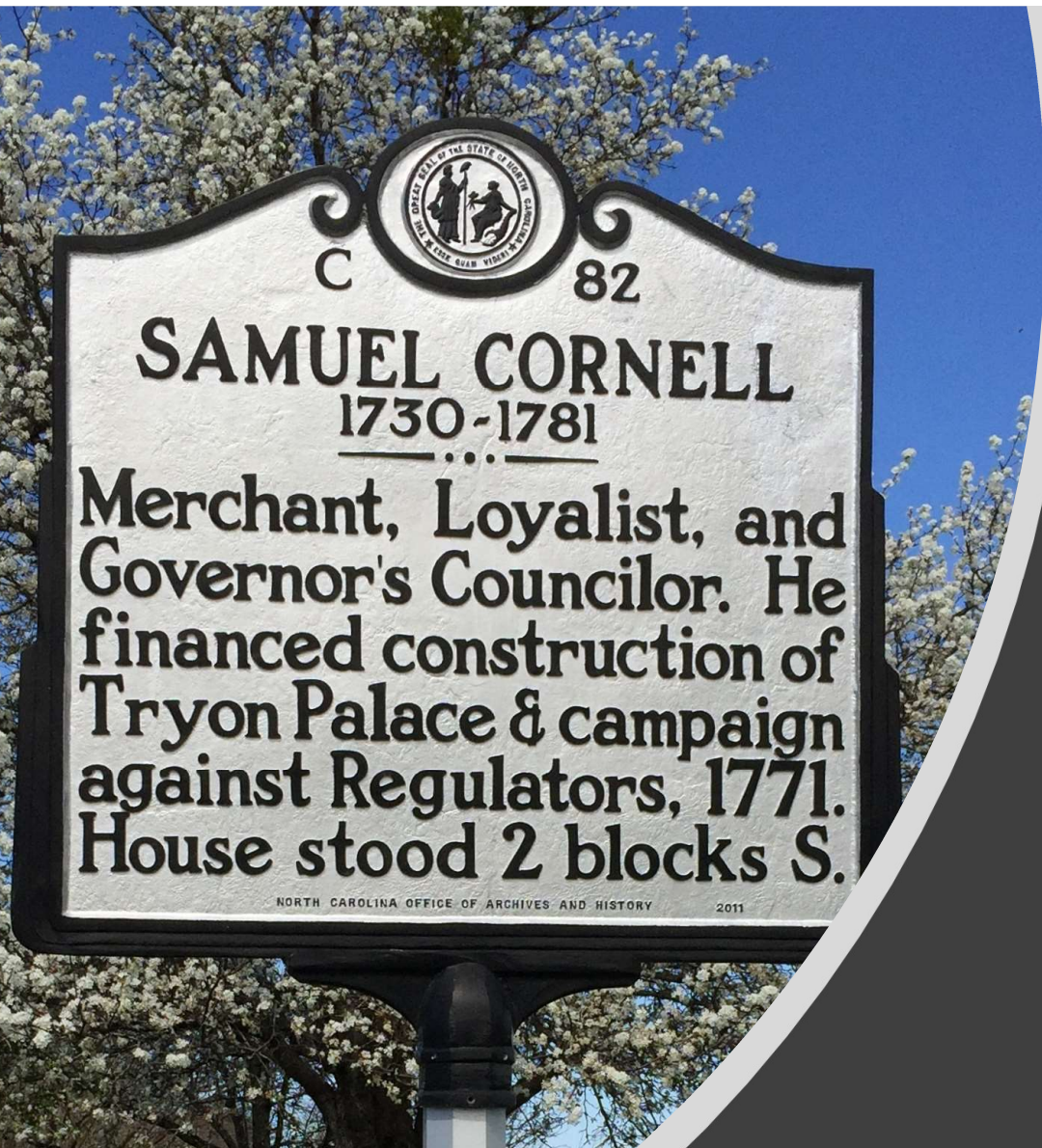
People must be deceased for at least 25 years before they can be considered for a marker

We do not
marker currently
operating
businesses—but
founders can be
considered.



The marker program does not mark houses or structures just because they are old or on the National Register.

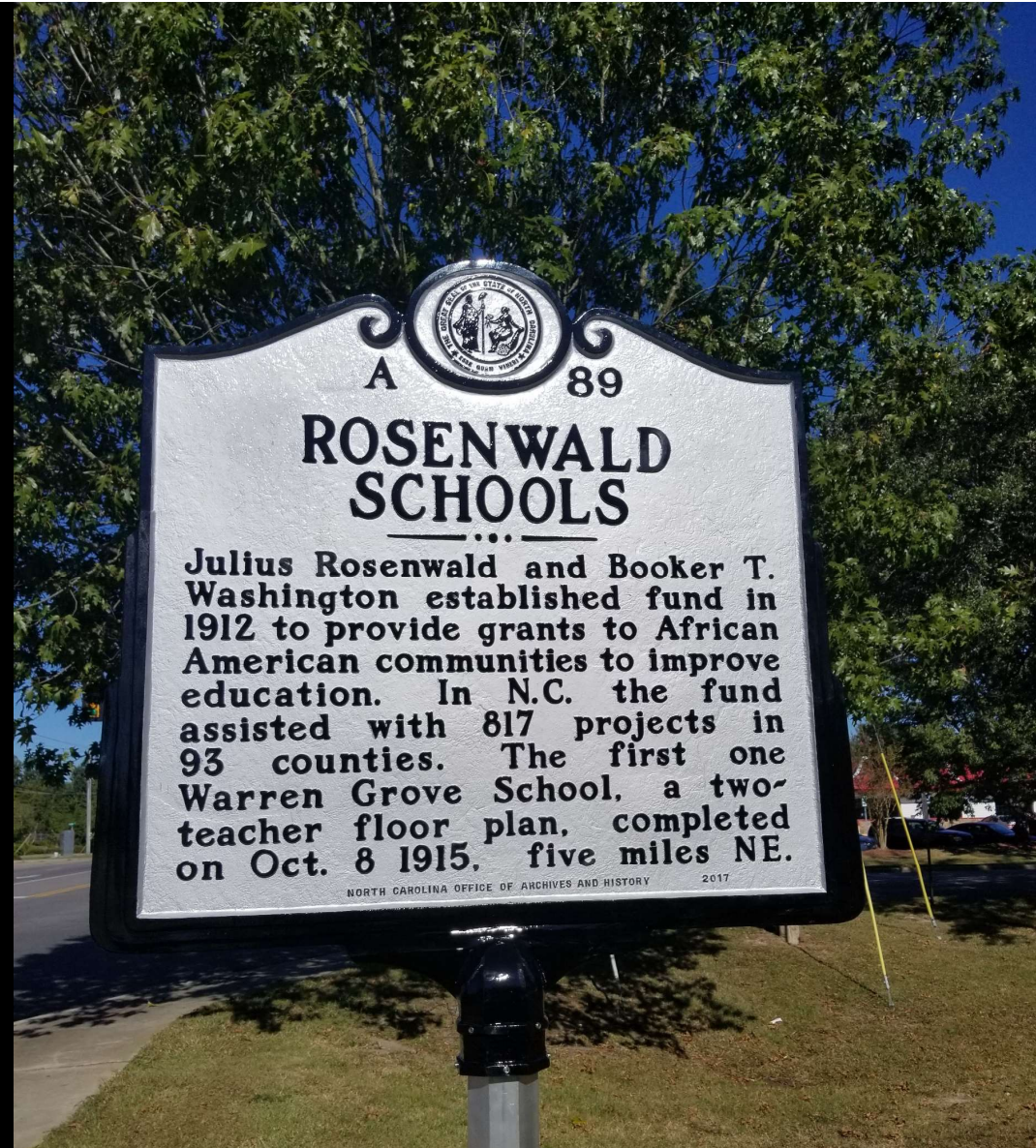


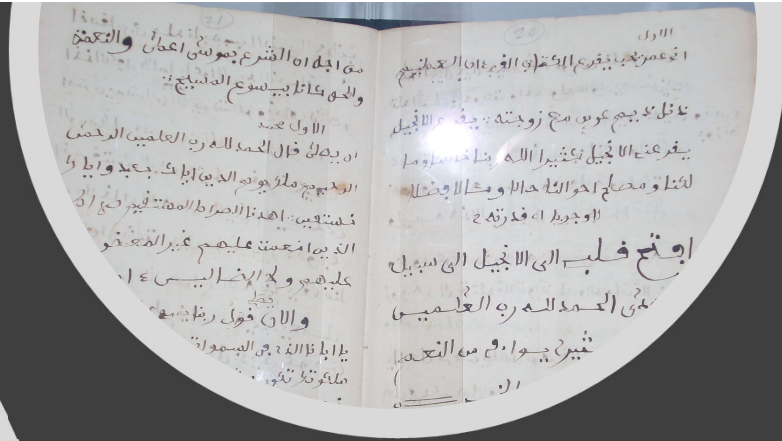


Historical markers generally mark people or events and often point to structures that are no longer there.

When there are many examples of a subject, the program looks to mark one that rises above the others in some way.

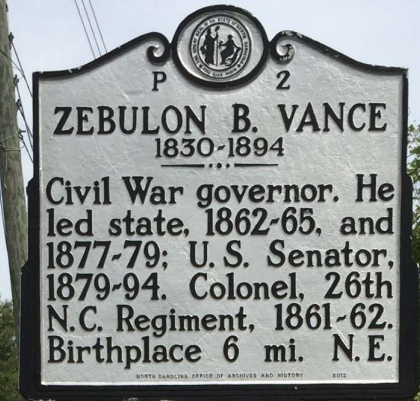
For Rosenwald Schools we selected the first to open—Warren Grove School in Chowan County





The location of the marker is also a consideration—there may be more than one option

Historical markers are not monuments. Monuments literally put people on pedestals in places of power and honor. Whereas historical markers are labels on the landscape, placed along roadsides.





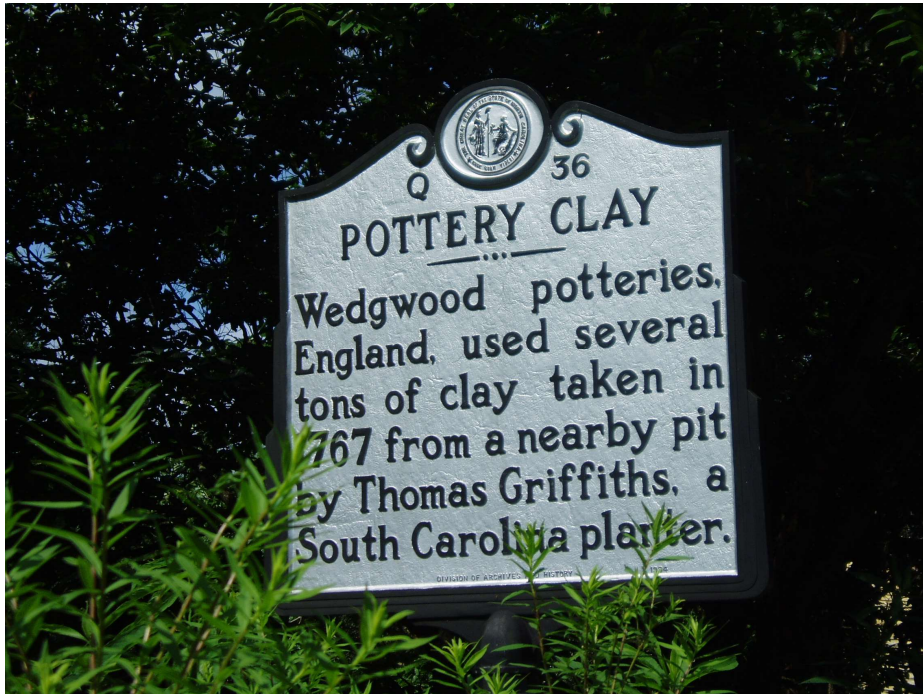
Markers tell the stories you know...

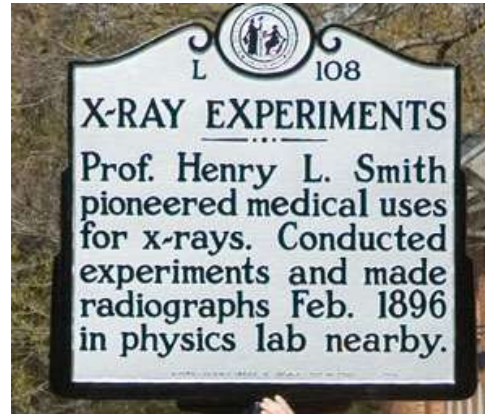
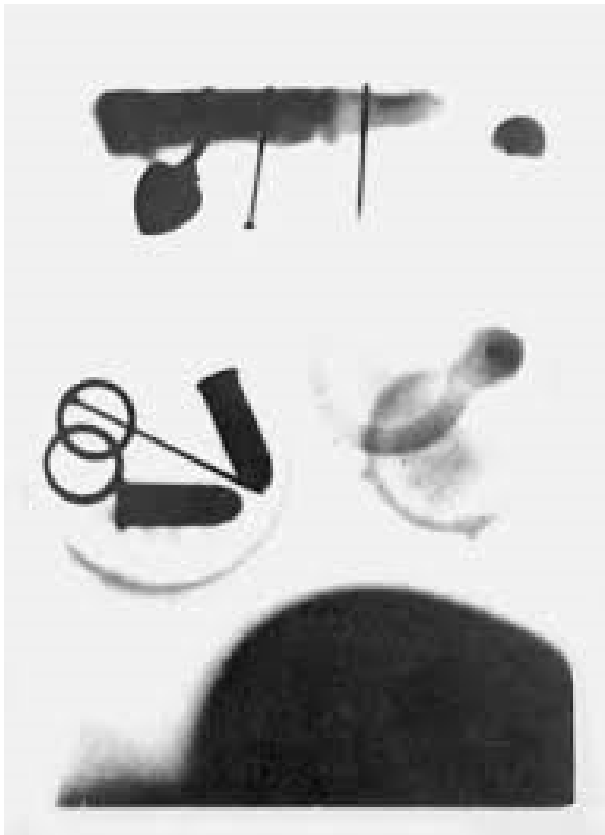




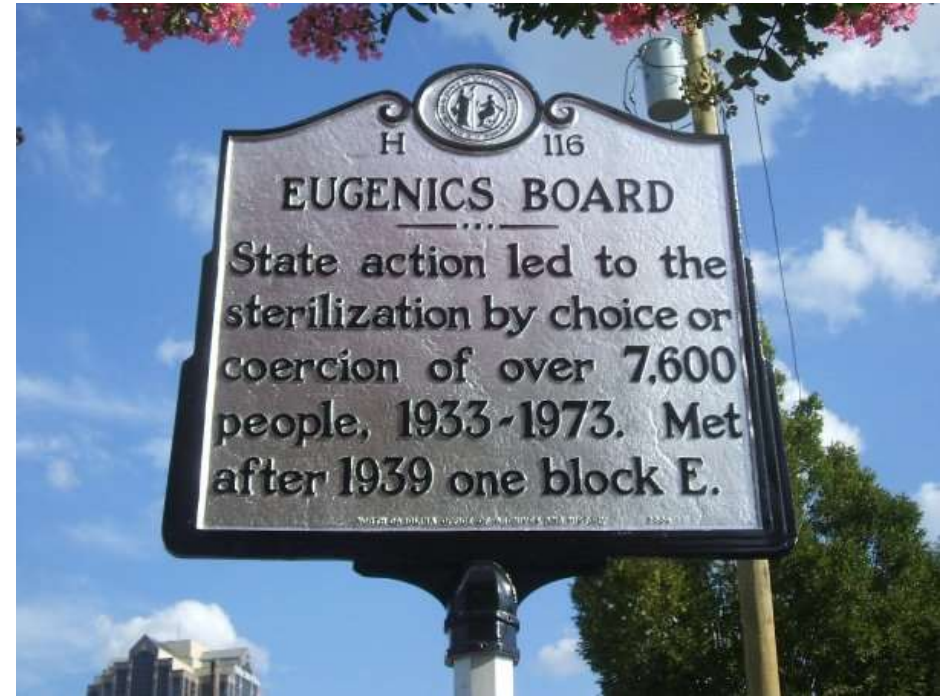
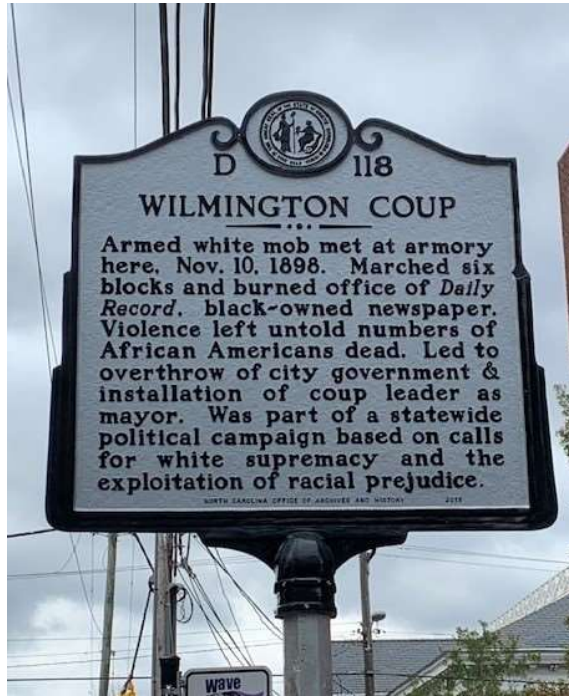
...and some that might surprise you

In 1767, an agent for Wedgwood bought about 5 tons of white clay from the Cherokee Indians near Franklin. The “Cherokee Clay” was used in biscuit porcelain for 15 years.



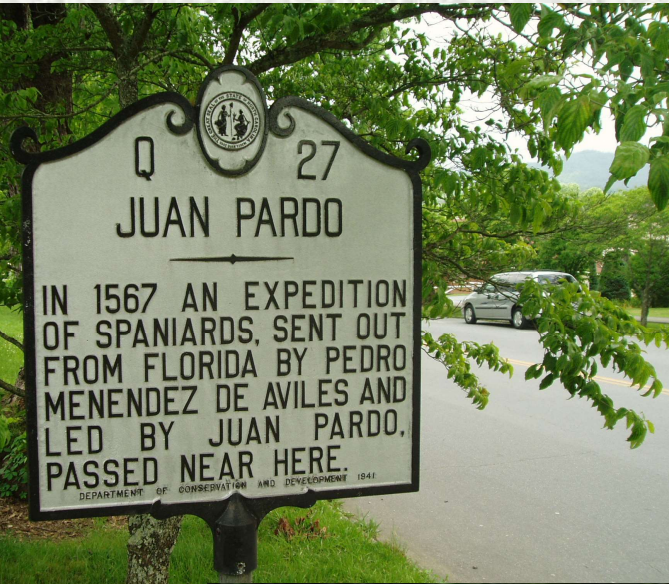


The earliest x-rays in North Carolina were at Davidson College—where students broke into the professor’s lab and took x-rays, including one of pins stuck into a cadaver thumb



North Carolina historical markers sometimes convey reprehensible stories

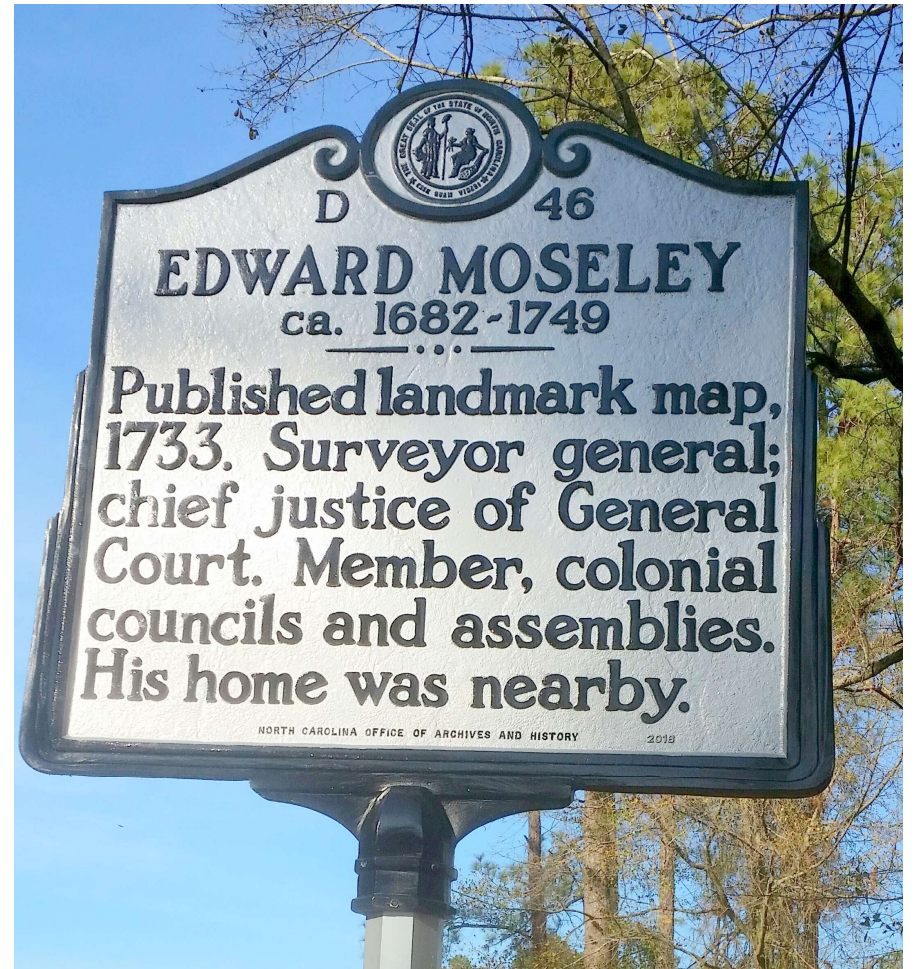
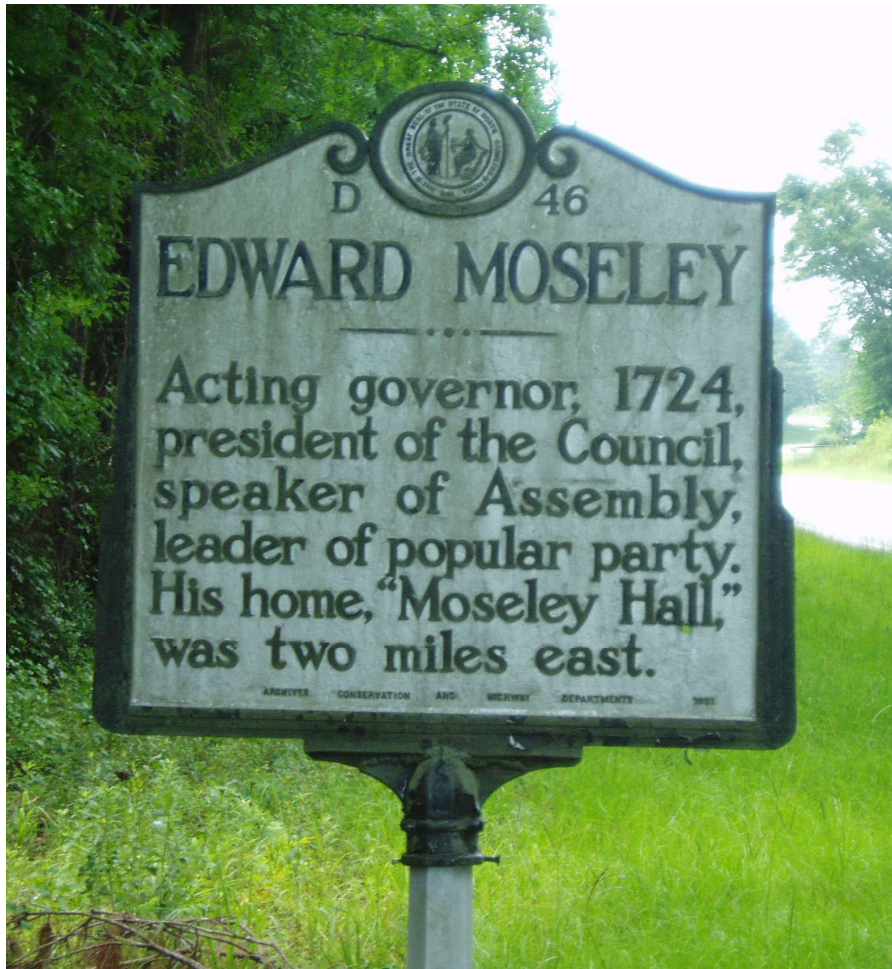
When what we know about history changes due to new information, old markers may be updated or removed.



Modern scholarship taught us that the “Tea Party” was not a party at all.

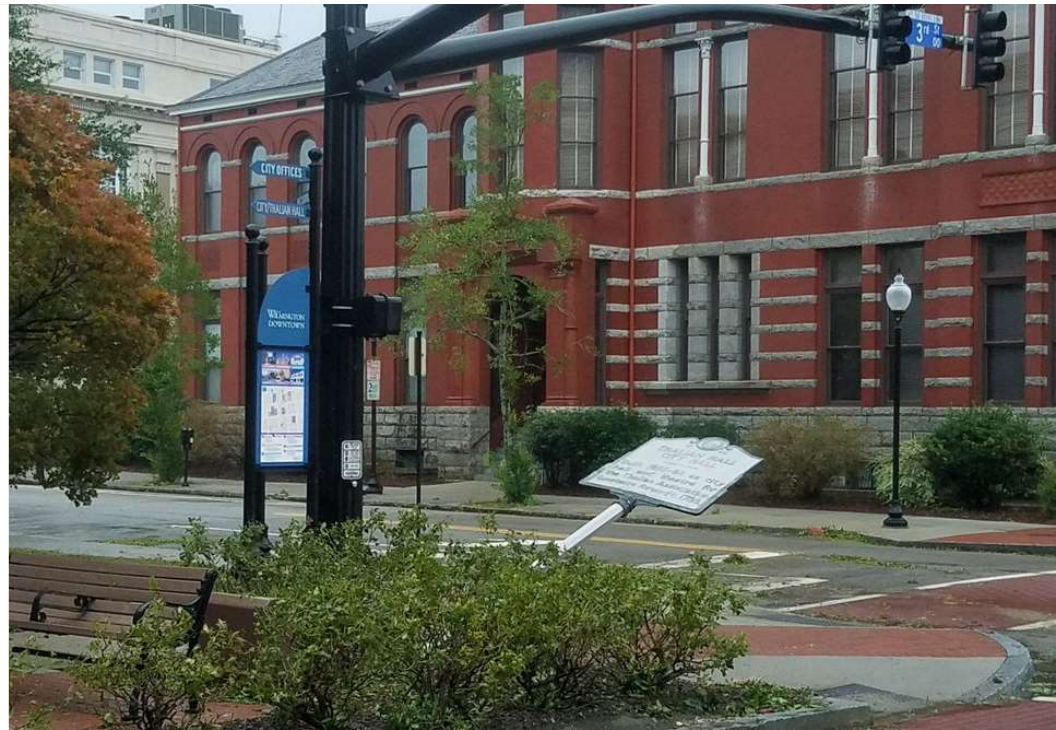






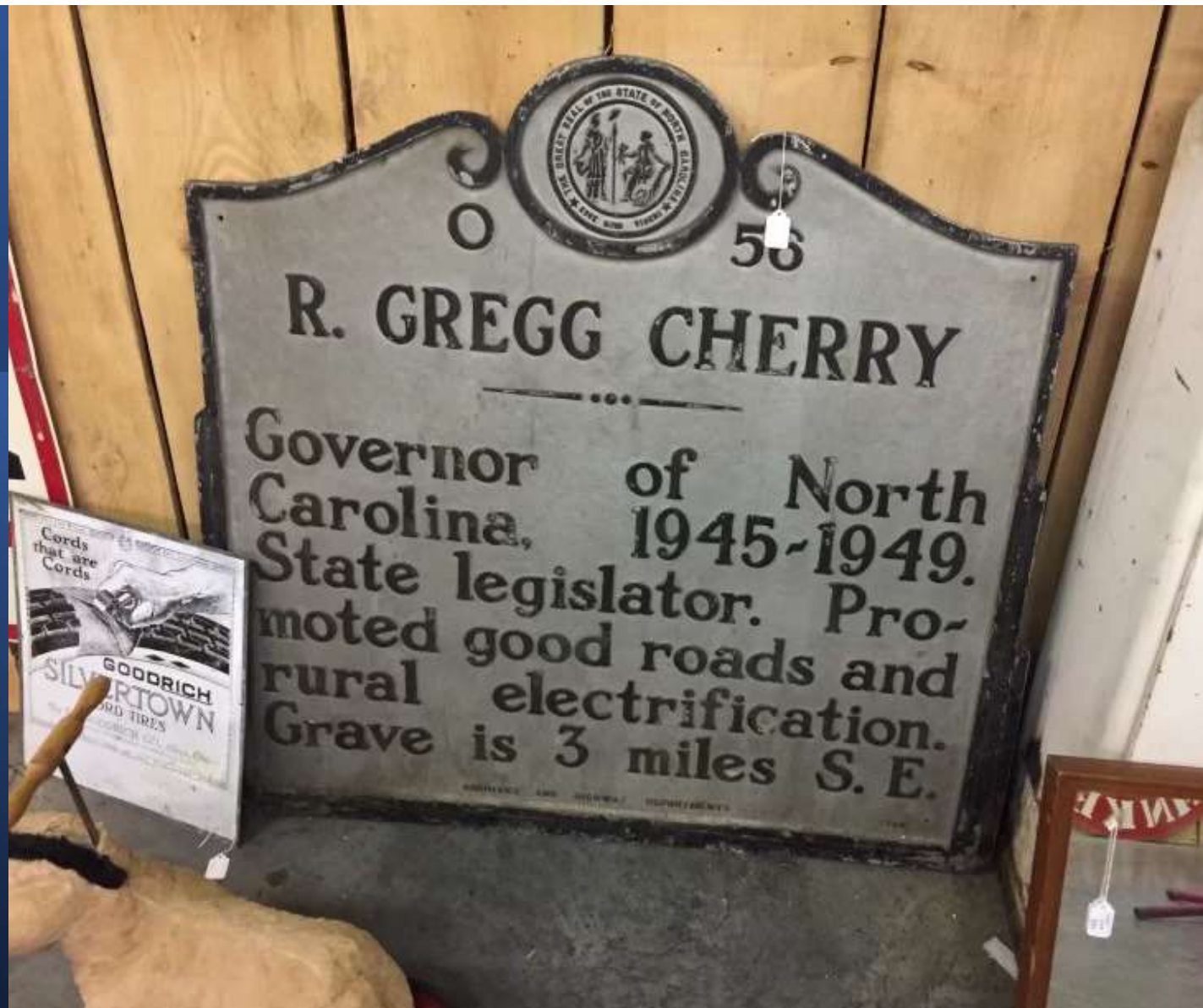


Because historical markers are installed in the DOT's right-of-way, damage by vehicles is inevitable



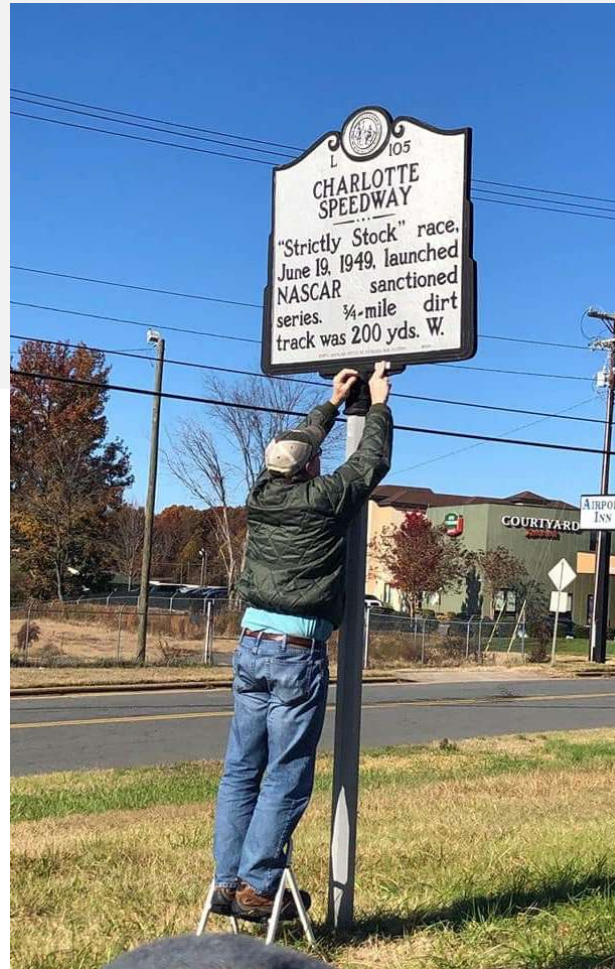
North Carolina's hurricanes and tornados have also wreaked havoc on historical markers

Sometimes historical markers find their way into private hands – this one is currently for sale in an antique shop in Tennessee.





In 2019 we bought some “property of” stickers and enlisted volunteers to put them on the markers around the state





There are currently 1614 historical markers- at least one in every county. We have a comprehensive website with maps, photos, and an essay for each marker.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program

Thursday, September 17, 2020

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ID: H-125

Marker Text:
LUNSFORD LANE 1803-1879
Enslaved. Bought freedom in 1835. An abolitionist, nationally known orator, and entrepreneur. Wrote his Narrative in 1842. Was born nearby.

Essay:
Lunsford Lane was born into slavery on May 30, 1803. As a domestic slave for Sherwood Haywood, a prominent banker in Raleigh, Lane had a constant desire to be free. So, he worked odd jobs and saved his money to purchase his freedom. As a domestic slave, he had opportunities that farm hands did not have. Always emphasizing the positive, Lane acknowledged this fact: "This was a privilege which comparatively few slaves at the South enjoy; and in this I felt truly blessed."

In towns and cities, the enslaved commonly worked multiple jobs and earned extra money when possible. Lane was different, however. He started his own "independent business," selling tobacco. He eventually had three branches in Fayetteville, Salisbury, and Chapel Hill. When Lane earned his money, he saved it. He still dressed modestly and maintained the same habits, for he did not

[View Image](#)



The historical marker program is a way to connect people with places in a tangible way

