

A Resolution to Call for a Public Hearing to Consider Designating the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2 (335 W. Craighead Rd and 4130 N. Tryon St) as Local Historic Landmarks



Cemeteries #1 (ca. 1750) and #2 (ca. 1786) are associated with Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, founded in 1755 as the oldest extant church congregation in Mecklenburg County and one of the state's oldest Presbyterian churches. The cemeteries have served for centuries as the final resting places for many of the county's earliest settlers, including Rev. Alexander Craighead (the county's first full-time religious leader, widely credited for inspiring the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence), Abraham Alexander (chairman of the Mecklenburg Convention of 1775 that adopted the "Meck Dec"), and Hezekiah Alexander (original owner of the county's oldest standing structure and a framer of North Carolina's first Constitution and Bill of Rights). The cemeteries are also historically and culturally significant for their sizeable collection of gravestones crafted by the Bigham Family Stonecutters Shop, the area's first professional stonecutter shop and one of North Carolina's most prolific and artistically significant groups of stonemasons. The recommended designation is for each cemetery in its entirety and all fixtures associated with each cemetery, including without limitation all graves, grave markers, tombs, and architectural structures and features, and the associated parcels of land.

