

# CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS PLACARD

for Raleigh Historic Resources

**Project Description:**

Install plaque

519 E Hargett St  
17 S East St

Address

Historic District

City Cemetery

Historic Property

COA-0001-2020

Certificate Number

1/30/2020

Date of Issue

7/30/2020

Expiration Date

*This card must be kept posted in a location within public view until all phases of the described project are complete. The work must conform with the code of the City of Raleigh and laws of the state of North Carolina. When your project is complete, you are required to ask for a final zoning inspection in a historic district area. Telephone the RHDC office at 832-7238 and commission staff will coordinate the inspection with the inspections Department. If you do not call for this final inspection, your Certificate of Appropriateness is null and void.*

Signature, \_\_\_\_\_

*Collette R. Kinnane*

Raleigh Historic Development Commission

*Pending the resolution of appeals, commencement of work is at your own risk.*



Type or print the following:		
Applicant name: Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.		
Mailing address: PO Box 33012		
City: Raleigh	State: NC	Zip code: 27636
Date: 1-1-20	Daytime phone #: 919-868-4042	
Email address: jthurman1@nc.rr.com		
Applicant signature: Jane Thurman		
Minor work (staff review) – one copy Major work (COA committee review) – ten copies Additions > 25% of building sq. footage New buildings Demolition of building or structure All other Post approval re-review of conditions of approval		<b>Office Use Only</b> Transaction #: _____ File #: <u>COA-0001-2020</u> Fee: _____ Amount paid: _____ Received date: _____ Received by: _____ _____
Property street address: 17 S. East Street, Raleigh NC		
Historic district:		
Historic property/Landmark name (if applicable): City Cemetery		
Owner name: City of Raleigh		
Owner mailing address: PO Box 590, Raleigh NC		

**For applications that require review by the COA Committee (major work), provide addressed and stamped envelopes for owners for all properties with 100 feet on all sides of the property, as well as the property owner.**

Property Owner Name & Address	Property Owner Name & Address

I understand that all major work applications that require review by the Raleigh Historic Development Commission's COA Committee must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the date of the application deadline; otherwise, consideration will be delayed until the following committee meeting. An incomplete application will not be accepted.

Will you be applying for rehabilitation tax credits for this project? Yes      No  Did you consult with staff prior to filing the application? Yes      No	Office Use Only Type of work: <u>64</u>
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Design Guidelines: please cite the applicable sections of the design guidelines ( <a href="http://www.rhdc.org">www.rhdc.org</a> ).		
Section/Page	Topic	Brief description of work (attach additional sheets as needed).

<p align="center"><b>Minor Work Approval (office use only)</b></p> <p>Upon being signed and dated below by the Planning Director or designee, this application becomes the Minor Work Certificate of Appropriateness. It is valid until <u>07/30/2020</u>.</p> <p>Please post the enclosed placard form of the certificate as indicated at the bottom of the card. Issuance of a Minor Work Certificate shall not relieve the applicant, contractor, tenant, or property owner from obtaining any other permit required by City Code or any law. Minor Works are subject to an appeals period of 30 days from the date of approval.</p> <p>Signature (City of Raleigh) <u>Collette R. K</u>      Date <u>01/30/2020</u></p>
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January 1, 2020

Dear COA Committee Members,

Our friends group, Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation (RCCP) has been involved in the restoration and historic tours of City Cemetery since 2006 that have included the Colonel William Polk family plot.

Colonel William Polk (July 9, 1758-Jan. 14, 1834) is one of the most illustrious persons buried in City Cemetery. Polk was a soldier during the American Revolution, surviving key battles and enduring several major wounds. During the American Revolution, Polk served more than five years in military, engaged in seven significant battles that included Brandywine, Germantown, Camden, and the Guilford Courthouse. He survived the encampment at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 with General George Washington. In 1781, Polk served his last military engagement at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina- which was also the last battle of the American Revolution fought in the South. He was just 22.

His later career included public official, land speculator, banker, politician and educator. Polk served four terms in the North Carolina House of Commons, and 17 years as Supervisor of Internal Revenue for the District of North Carolina, for which he was appointed by President George Washington. He also was the first president of the State Bank of North Carolina, appointed in 1811 and an office he held for eight years.

#### Polk's Memberships in Organizations

Col. Polk was a member of the Masons, and was among the Continental Army officers who helped found the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati in 1793. The society, with branches in the United States and France, is interested in preserving the ideals and fellowship of officers of the Continental Army who served in the Revolutionary War. It is the oldest hereditary society in the US.

The Polk family plot in City Cemetery is one of the largest family plots within the cemetery. In addition to the obelisk marking the grave of Col. Polk (Photo 1), there are 17 other family members interred there.

RCCP has told the story of the Polk family while visiting the plot on our historic tours over the years. The grave marker of Col. William Polk has drawn much attention over time. Both the Masons (2008) and the NC Society of the Cincinnati (2017) have installed small markers at the base of the monument to represent their organizations, with permission from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2015, NC Society of the Cincinnati also generously donated \$5000 to RCCP to fund the restoration and cleaning of all 18 markers within the Polk plot. All work was done by Dean Ruedrich, restoration specialist. (Photos 2, 3, 4)

The efforts of some volunteers prior to the formation of RCCP have not always been kind to the obelisk marker for Col. William Polk. Polk's obelisk has an engraved inscription within a panel located on the base of the monument that is now illegible (Photo 5). The panel was likely cleaned with household bleach over the years by well-meaning volunteers, unaware that the lettering would become "sugared"

and cause decay, and ultimately destroy the writing, according to Dean Ruedrich, our restoration specialist.

#### Request

Fortunately, the original text of the inscription has survived, and it is a fitting tribute to the interesting career of an American patriot such as Col. Polk.

RCCP requests permission from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission COA Committee to install a 22-inch by 15-inch bronze plaque inscribed with the text, mounted on granite of similar size, at the base of the Col. Polk monument. The text would be as follows:

*The inscription once engraved above:*

In memory of William Polk, born in the county of Mecklenburg, July 9, 1758; departed this life January 14, 1831, aged 75 years, 6 months and 5 days. A gallant soldier throughout the war by which the independence of his country was established. A pure and ardent patriot, inflexible in integrity, firm in friendship, true and warm in every social affection. He possessed while living the respect and attachment of all who knew him, and left an affectionate veneration for his character deeply impressed in the hearts of his widow and his children, who have caused this monument to be erected.

*Donated by the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati  
(of which Col. William Polk was a member)  
January 2020*

The plaque would be mounted on granite in a design similar to the marker for enslaved person Cato marker, installed in September 2019 by RCCP in City Cemetery with RHDC approval (Photo 6).

The new installation would require moving the two small markers to the left side of the base of the monument that were put there by the Masons and the NC Society of the Cincinnati with permission from the City of Raleigh. This relocation of two small markers would allow the plaque to be placed directly below the illegible text panel. (Photo 7).

The NC Society of the Cincinnati will pay for the plaque and base. The costs would total \$1695, with \$1057 needed for the bronze plaque, and \$638 for the granite base.

Wake Monument Company of Rolesville, NC, which has helped us with other historic plaque installations and placement in the cemetery, will mount the bronze plaque on the granite.

We believe the inscription needs to be placed within the plot to preserve this important piece of history. Respectfully submitted,



Jane Thurman, President  
Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.

jthurman1@nc.rr.com  
919-868-4042 cell









Photo 2 - Before restoration



Photo 3





Photo 4 - After restoration



Photo 5 - Damaged monument inscription



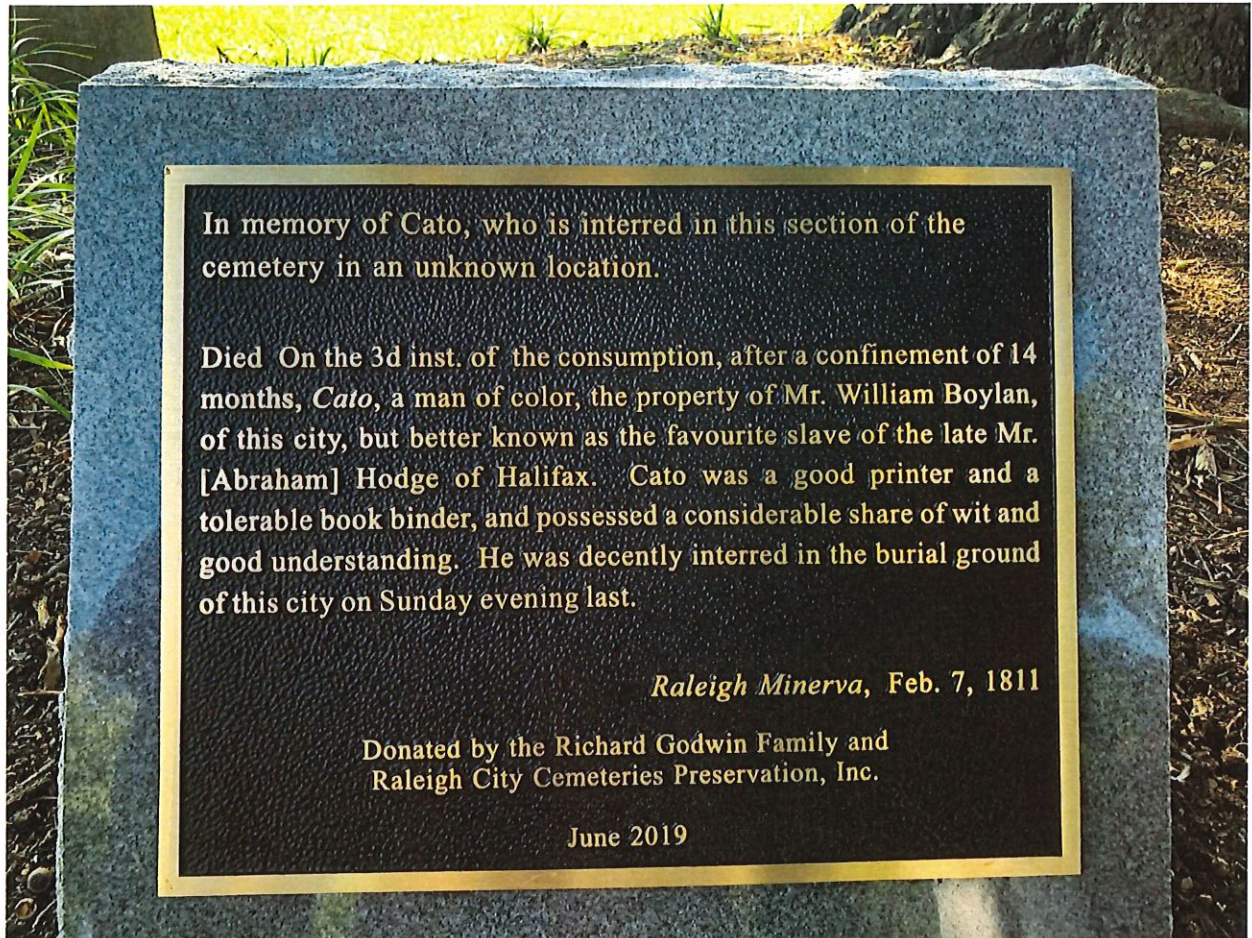


Photo 6 - Cato plaque installed 2019



Photo 7 - Base of monument with Mason and Society markers