

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT
Faith Rock, ca. 1782
216 W. Main St., Franklinville, N.C.
Franklinville Township, Randolph County, N.C.

LOCAL LANDMARK SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Faith Rock has both an ecological natural heritage and historical significance to Randolph County and the Town of Franklinville. It was the setting for one of Randolph County's most legendary Revolutionary War incidents involving Tory guerilla leader David Fanning and local Patriot Andrew Hunter. Hunter had been captured by Fanning, but was able to make a desperate escape from Fanning and his troops even after being shot. Hunter was able to save himself by jumping on Fanning's favorite horse named Bay Doe and riding to safety. Bay Doe was a horse that was much loved by David Fanning, and in 1782 he returned to Franklinville in an effort to retrieve his favorite horse Bay Doe. Fanning found Andrew Hunter still in possession of the horse and a chase began which ended on Faith Rock. Local legend has maintained that Hunter was able to escape capture and probable execution by David Fanning by jumping Bay Doe from Faith Rock into the Deep River that flowed below the rock from a slope of almost 60 degrees. Fanning and his men were in awe at this jump, and although they fired shots at Fanning, they could not pursue. Local legend in Franklinville has maintained the claim that Bay Doe's hoof prints can still be seen embedded in Faith Rock. It is also claimed that some horse lineage currently in Randolph County can be traced back to Bay Doe.

Faith Rock is also significant because of its natural biological heritage importance. The site is classified as a Piedmont Acidic Cliff community and includes examples of Alluvial Forest; Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forests; and Dry-Mesic Oak-Hickory Forest. The location of the Deep River tributary provides natural aquatic habitat with flowing rapids around the site.

In recognition of the cultural and historical significance of Faith Rock to the Town of Franklinville and the Randolph County community, on August 27, 2013, the Randolph County Historic Preservation Commission designated Faith Rock as a local *Cultural Heritage Site*, and directed that further study and actions be taken to obtain Local Historic Landmark designation.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE (including Reference Materials)

The Narrative of Colonel David Fanning (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1973; pp. 59-62)

Revolutionary Incidents and Sketches of Character Chiefly in the "Old North State." E. W. Caruthers, Philadelphia: Hayes and Zell, 1856; pp. 280-281.

Carolina Watchman, Salisbury Newspaper, May 31, 1847, "Incidents of the Revolution in North Carolina, by Professor A.M. Henderson, UNC-CH.

North Carolina University Magazine, 1853 (Vol. II, pp. 72-80)

The Southern Citizen, Asheboro Newspaper, August 24, 1838

The Greensborough Patriot Newspaper, August 10, 1844 "Fanning's Mare"

Randolphhistory.wordpress.com/2009/01/14/faith-rock/ Mac Whatley, Franklinville, N.C.

Natural Heritage Ecological Site Survey Report, Mike Schafale, Nell Allen, N.C Zoological Park, October 28, 2010

FAITH ROCK

Franklinville, south side Deep River, east of the SR 2235 bridge

Rising out of Deep River several hundred feet upstream of the site of Elisha Coffin's grist mill and textile factory is Franklinville's major geological landmark, a huge bluestone outcrop known as Faith Rock. It was the setting for one of Randolph County's most legendary Revolutionary War incidents.

While taking a wagon of produce to trade for salt at the Peedee River market on May 2, 1782, local resident Andrew Hunter was captured by the notorious Tory guerrilla leader David Fanning. Facing immediate execution, Hunter made a desperate escape. In Fanning's words, Hunter "sprung upon my riding mare, and went off with my saddle, holsters, pistols, and all my papers... We fired two guns at him; he received two balls through his body but it did not prevent him from sitting the saddle, and make his escape." [David Fanning, **The Narrative of Colonel David Fanning** (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1973; pp. 59-62.) Enraged, Fanning plundered Hunter's home, holding his pregnant wife hostage for the return of the horse, 'Bay Doe,' "a mare I set great store by, and gave One Hundred and Ten guineas for her." However, Fanning's guerrilla band was forced to release Mrs. Hunter and ride out to join the British evacuation of Charleston, South Carolina.

But Fanning risked a final return to Randolph on September 5, 1782, solely in an attempt to recover his mare. The incident at Faith Rock must have occurred at this time. Hunter "was riding the Bay Doe, on the high ground south of Deep River, and not far above the ...ford; but found they were heading him in that direction. He then turned his course up the river, but they

were there ready to receive him. The only alternative was to surrender, which would be certain and instant death, or to make a desperate plunge down a precipice, some fifty feet high into the river. He chose the latter... It was such a daring adventure that his pursuers... stopped short, in a kind of amazement, and contented themselves with firing two or three pistols after him. As there was no level ground at the bottom of the descent, he plunged right into the river... sometimes swimming and sometimes floundering over rocks, until he found a place where he got out on the north side and made his escape.” [E.W. Caruthers, **Revolutionary Incidents And Sketches of Character Chiefly in the “Old North State.”** Philadelphia: Hayes and Zell, 1856; pp. 280-281.]

Fanning left the country in frustration on September 22, neither recovering his horse nor gaining revenge.

The incident at Faith Rock, is the only event of the Revolution in Randolph County that has received extensive historical examination. In the years after the war, the exploits of Colonel Fanning were researched by some of North Carolina’s earliest historians. One of these was the Rev. Eli Caruthers of Greensboro, a portion of whose two-volume history of the Revolution was quoted above. Other historians only published their research in hard-to-find periodicals. Judge Archibald DeBow Murphey, legal tutor of Governor Jonathan Worth, extensively researched the topic. On May 31, 1847 the Salisbury newspaper **Carolina Watchman** published “Incidents of the Revolution in North Carolina, by Professor A.M. Henderson of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Henderson quoted a letter written to him by General Alexander Gray of Randolph. Judge Archibald DeBow Murphey, legal tutor of Governor Jonathan Worth, extensively researched “the Adventures of Colonel David Fanning” and some of his notes were published in the **North Carolina University Magazine** in 1853 (Vol. II, pp. 72-80).

On May 31, 1847 the Salisbury newspaper **Carolina Watchman** published “Incidents of the Revolution in North Carolina,” an extensive account by Alexander Gray of Randolph County written in the form of a letter to Professor A.M. Henderson of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Gray, a retired General of the War of 1812, was the county’s largest slave owner and one of its first historians.

Gray may also have been the anonymous author (“76” is the only signature) of the earliest known account of Andrew Hunter’s escape from Fanning, published in **The Southern Citizen**, Asheboro’s local newspaper, on August 24, 1838 (and reprinted in the **Greensborough Patriot** on August 10, 1844). Entitled “Fanning’s Mare,” the short story is more self-consciously literary than the later historical accounts, but it shares with them the name of Fanning’s horse: “He called her Red Doe, from her resemblance in color to a deer.”

All of the earliest accounts agree that the name of Fanning’s mare was “Red Doe,” although Carruthers without explanation changes the name to “Bay Doe.” For more than 150 years thereafter, the name “Bay Doe” has been the preferred name of Fanning’s mare. Here’s one possible explanation: “Red” is not an accepted name for equine hair color; “chestnut” or “sorrel” is the proper term for a horse with an all-reddish coat, mane and tail. The shade usually considered “bay” is a bright red hair coat, also called “blood bay.” “Bay,” however, is a generic

term for coats that vary from light reddish brown to dark mahogany brown, but always with black “points” (mane, tail, feet or legs). (For more on equine genetics, check out http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equine_coat_color).

So the name “Bay Doe” tells us that “Red Doe” was not only bright red, but bright red with black “points.”

Local wisdom in Franklinville has always repeated the claim that Bay Doe’s hoof prints can still be seen, embedded in Faith Rock. The truth of that, as well as the likelihood that any horse and rider could jump off a 60-degree slope into a river normally as shallow as Deep River, must be left to the opinion of visitors.

Several generations of Eagle Scouts have established and maintained a rough trail from the Andrew Hunter footbridge in Franklinville, up to the top of the rock. In this 21st-century, there are said to be “geo-caches” stashed around Faith Rock which game-players may discover with their GPS locators.

[from <http://randolphhistory.wordpress.com/2009/01/14/faith-rock/>]

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The Patriot, Greensborough

3 July 1847

" From the Carolina Watchman.

INCIDENTS OF THE REVOLUTION IN NORTH CAROLINA."

Salisbury, May 31, 1847

Messrs. Editors: It is greatly to be regretted, that so many of the stirring events of our war of the revolution, have not been recorded. I mean those individual instances of heroism and desperate daring which characterized the partizan warfare between Whig and Tory; and it is remarkable that so few of the brave men and intelligent officers of our army have written of the events of that day.

Lee and Williams, and perhaps a few others, have left histories which are at best but sketches and scarcely touch upon the partizan warfare to which I allude.

Many years ago, the Legislature of North Carolina passed an act authorizing the late Judge Murphy to write a history of the State, and it is understood that he collected a mass of facts in relation to this subject that were interesting in the highest degree; and it is to be much deplored that the result of his labors has so long been withheld from the public. Should they ever be given to the world, I have no doubt that they will unfold many a tale of true patriotism, and rescue many a name from oblivion, that richly deserves a niche in the temple of fame.

Would South Carolina cherish with such deep devotion the names of Marion, Henry, and Jasper, if their fame had been left to the regular historian? Fortunately for them and the world, Weems has built them a temple that shall last so long as freedom is cherished; and yet all their glory was won in this partizan warfare of which I speak.

North Carolina was a field upon which some of the most striking events of this warfare took place. The retreat of Greene and Morgan from South Carolina into Virginia, passing through North Carolina, hotly pursued by Cornwallis-- the subsequent return of Greene into this State, and consequent battle of Guilford, gave rise to a warfare between Whig and Tory apart from the grander operations of the opposing armies, that richly deserved a separate history.

In whatever direction the grand armies moved, this partizan warfare was seen to arise; and nowhere was it more fiercely waged than in the old North State. But alas! Messrs. Editors, the actors are no more, and a meagre tradition is all that is left, and even this has nearly passed away. Occasionally, however, we meet an old man who still treasures a few anecdotes of the revolutionary war, that he heard his father tell, and this constitutes nearly all that is left to North Carolina. But much is yet to be hoped for from the papers of Judge Murphy.

Caruthers in his life of Caldwell, and Foote in his misnamed book, have, it is true, embodied a few incidents of this interesting warfare, but their meagre records only more forcibly remind us of the immensity of the loss we have sustained by suffering even tradition to wear out.

I throw these remarks together as introductory to the publication of the following sketch of the doings and character of the notorious Col. Fanning, whose deeds of daring cruelty won for him a widespread reputation for infamy, second to some of the kindred spirits who followed in the train of the British army.

The sketch was furnished me by the highly respectable and intelligent gentleman whose name is found attached to it; and I publish it without authority, offering to its author, the sketch itself, as an apology for giving it to the world.

A.M HENDERSON

Randolph County, N.C.
March 30, 1847

Dear Sir: ---In compliance with a promise I made to you at Salisbury on our first acquaintance, to give you such sketches of the life and character of the Tory, Colonel David Fanning, as I have or might be able to obtain; this being our court week, I applied to several of the oldest men I could find who resided in that section of this county where Fanning and his party were mostly sheltered and protected in the time of the revolutionary war; but could obtain from them very little more than a confirmation of what I had before heard, which I now send you. I removed to Randolph in 1792, which being but a short time after the war, and the facts stated being made to me by Colonels Collier, Clark, Dougan and other gentlemen of respectability, who were often in pursuit, that as far as it goes I have no doubt of its correctness. I can obtain no information where Fanning was raised, or from whence he came; but believe he must have been a citizen of this county for some time before he became a Tory Colonel, from the fact that he married a Miss Kerr in the S.E. corner of this county, and had such influence over the people in that section that they almost to a man joined his standard, or give him aid and assistance in such a way as they could. Fanning took his brother-in-law, William Kerr, with him frequently, although only 16 year of age, which brought him into some difficulties. After the close of the war, Kerr became a respectable citizen, and was much esteemed by all who were acquainted with him until his death, which took place but a few years since.

You will recollect that Col. Wellborn said Fanning hired himself as a substitute for a man who had been drafted to go against the Cherokee Indians, that he deserted, returning to Randolph, and became a Tory. Wellborn is older than I am, lived in the county at the time, and of course ought to know more about those circumstances than I do; but he appeared not to know where Fanning was born, raised, or how he first came to the county. We are both old now, and no doubt our recollections are very imperfect.

See also, "What is `Red Doe'?"

The Courier-Tribune, 1 Feb. 1987

-letter from: Ruby O. Perkins
114 Chain St.
Darlington, SC 29532

NATURAL HERITAGE & BIOLOGICAL REPORT SIGNIFICANCE

Faith Rock has maintained the unique ecological natural heritage associated with Franklinville and the Deep River tributary. On October 28, 2010, the following Faith Rock Biological Diversity Report was prepared after investigation by Mike Schafale and Nell Allen, Biologist, N.C. Zoological Park staff:

SITE SURVEY REPORT

SITE NAME: Faith Rock

DATES VISITED: October 28, 2010

INVESTIGATORS: Mike Schafale, Nell Allen (NC Zoo)

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Schafale

DATE OF REPORT: January 2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/PURPOSE OF VISIT: Visited at the request of Nell Allen. This site was previously unknown to the Natural Heritage Program. There is local interest in protecting it.

OWNER:

OWNER CONTACT + NOTES:

COUNTY: Randolph

QUAD: Ramseur

TERRESTRIAL REGION: Southern Slate Belt and Basins

LOCATION / ACCESS: On the south side of the Deep River opposite Franklinville. Access is by a foot bridge from a park on the west side of Franklinville. A trail runs along the river.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This site is a steep bluff along the Deep River. A series of steeply sloped rock outcrops supports a Piedmont/Coastal Plain Acidic Cliff community. The adjacent area consists of Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest and Dry-Mesic Oak—Hickory Forest, which are fairly young. A narrow strip of mature Piedmont Alluvial Forest is present along the river.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SITE: County. The Piedmont Acidic Cliff community is a good example of this type community.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES: None noted.

POTENTIAL FOR OTHER SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES: Low.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES AND FEATURES:

SIZE: 14.53 acres total. 0.45 acres primary, 14.08 secondary.

ELEVATION: 450-540 feet.

TOPOGRAPHY: Moderate to steep north-facing bluffs.

HYDROLOGY AND MOISTURE: Mesic to dry-mesic.

PRESENCE OF STREAMS AND SEEPS: The Deep River flows along the northern edge of the site.

GEOLOGY: Rock in the site looks like rhyolite.

SOIL:

Georgeville: Mid to lower slope around the rocks.

Badin – Tarrus complex: Mid to lower slopes in the eastern part of the site.

Wynott – Enon complex: Upper slopes.

COMMENTS ON PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

NATURAL COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Piedmont/Coastal Plain Acidic Cliff: Series of steeply sloping (but far from vertical) rock outcrops on the mid to lower slope. All face north, and most run down to the river bank. The rock surface is irregular but not highly fractured. The sparse vegetation includes crustose lichens, mosses, and patches dominated by *Danthonia spicata*. Other plants include *Woodsia obtusa*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Hypericum gentianoides*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, *Corydalis sempervirens*, *Talinum teretifolium*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Juniperus virginiana*, and *Vaccinium arboreum*. This community totals about 0.45 acre – relatively small but large enough to be significant.

Piedmont Alluvial Forest: A narrow high terrace along the river is this community. The canopy includes *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Carya tomentosa*, and other species. The understory includes *Acer rubrum*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Ilex opaca*, and *Carpinus caroliniana*. The herb layer was not noted in detail, but includes *Chasmanthium latifolium*. This community is mature, with trees 12-18” dbh, but is too small in size to be a notable example.

Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest: Occurs on the mid to lower slope above the terrace. The canopy is dominated by *Fagus grandifolia*, *Quercus rubra*, and some *Quercus alba*. The understory is dominated by *Ostrya virginiana*, and includes *Acer floridanum*, *Chionanthus virginiana*, and *Hamamelis virginiana*. The trees are quite mature in parts, but the extent of the mature area is not great enough for this to be a notable example.

Dry-Mesic Oak—Hickory Forest: Occurs on the upper slopes. Dominated by *Quercus alba*, with some *Carya tomentosa*, *Quercus falcata*, and other species. The canopy trees average 8-10” in most parts, and there are many young understory trees. It appears to have been selectively cut not very long ago.

OTHER COMMUNITIES PRESENT:

ANIMAL HABITAT COMPONENTS

POOLS AND SEEPS : A little seepage on the edges of the cliff, but no substantial seeps.

ROCK DENNING SITES: None noted.

BIG TREES/LARGE CAVITIES: None noted.

SNAGS AND LOGS: Sparse.

AQUATIC HABITAT FACTORS

STREAM SIZE: The Deep River is a large river, about 80-100 feet wide here.

CONDITION: No obvious water quality problems were noted. An old power dam is just upstream of this portion.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: Many rocks in the river, and several rapids.

SITE INTEGRITY

LAND USE IMPACTS: Most of the forest communities were selectively logged not very long ago. Small trees are abundant, while larger canopy trees are scarce or absent. There is a little trampling impact on the rock outcrops, but it is limited.

EXOTIC/WEEDY SPECIES: Fairly abundant. *Lonicera japonica*, *Ligustrum sinense*, and other species are present in the floodplain. Some *Ligustrum* is present on the edge of one of the rock outcrops.

DIRECT HUMAN INTRUSION: Moderate. A public hiking trail goes through the site.

DISTURBANCE SENSITIVE SPECIES: None noted.

FIRE REGIME: No evidence of fire was noted. This site is on a moist, north-facing bluff and probably fire was likely always limited in its effect.

ADJACENT LAND USE/OFFSITE STRESSES: Bordered by woods and sparse rural houses above. The floodplain across the river is cleared and occupied by a park lawn and by abandoned mill buildings.

RELATION/CONNECTION TO OTHER SITES AND HABITAT PATCHES: No other natural areas are known nearby.

DEGREE OF THREAT/POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE: Fairly high. Steep slopes would limited development potential in parts of the site, but development could consume much of the site. Further logging is possible. More extensive trampling of the rocks is potentially a threat if public use increased.

BOUNDARY EXPLANTATION/JUSTIFICATION: The site includes two small primary areas – the rock outcrops that are the most significant community. The rest of the site is a secondary area consisting of the younger forests and small patches of mature communities that for the ecotones and the landscape context for the rock outcrops. The outer boundary is placed at the road to the south and at the river. The eastern and western boundaries are placed where this patch of forest narrows.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTION: This area would be suitable for registry, dedication, or protection by conservation easement.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESTORATION NEEDS: Ideally, invasive plant populations should be controlled. Special attention should be give to the invasive plants on the rock outcrops, but extreme care will be needed to remove them without damaging the shallow soils.

NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY:

REFERENCES: (e.g. earlier reports)

PHOTO FILE NAMES AND LOCATION:

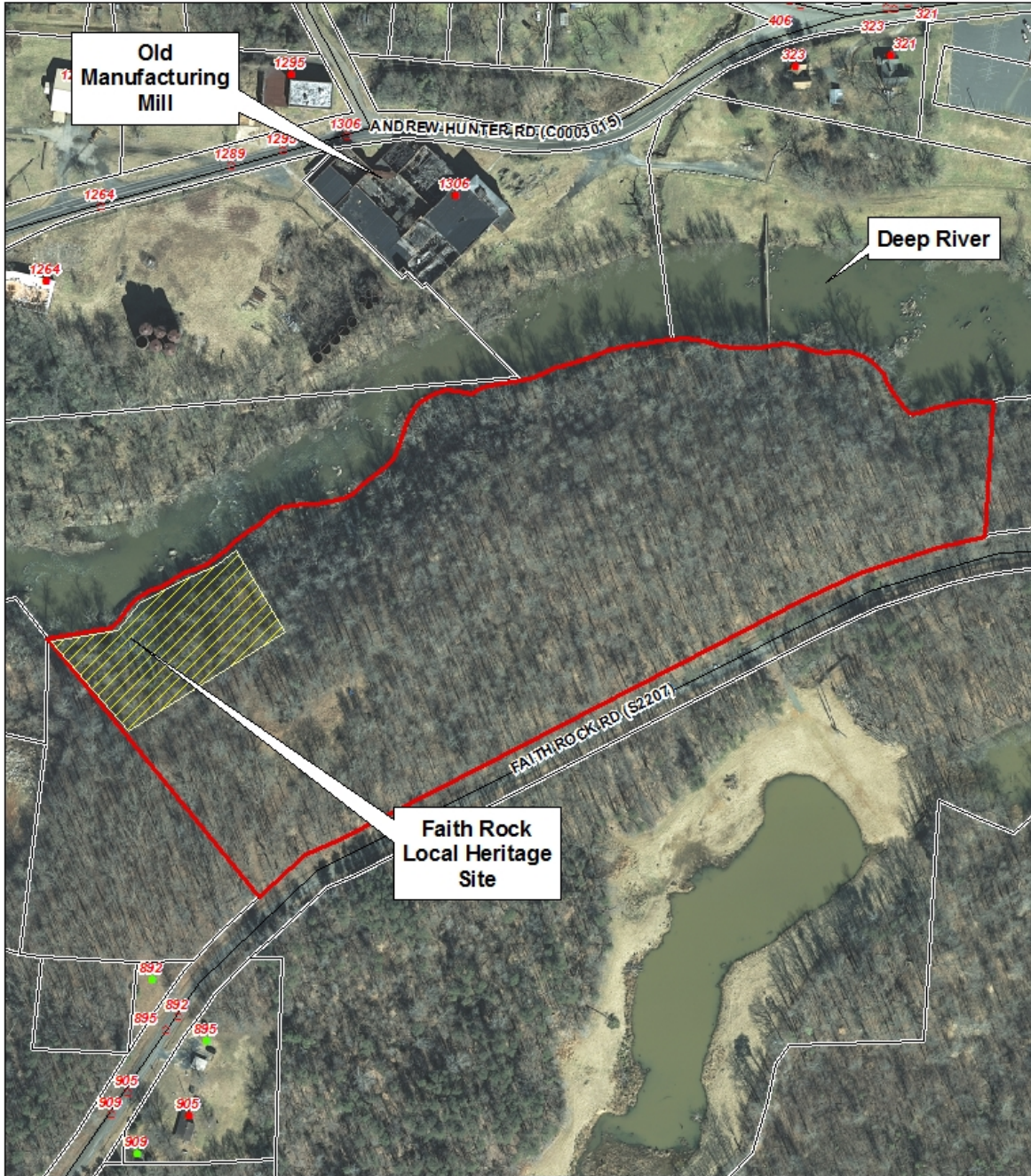


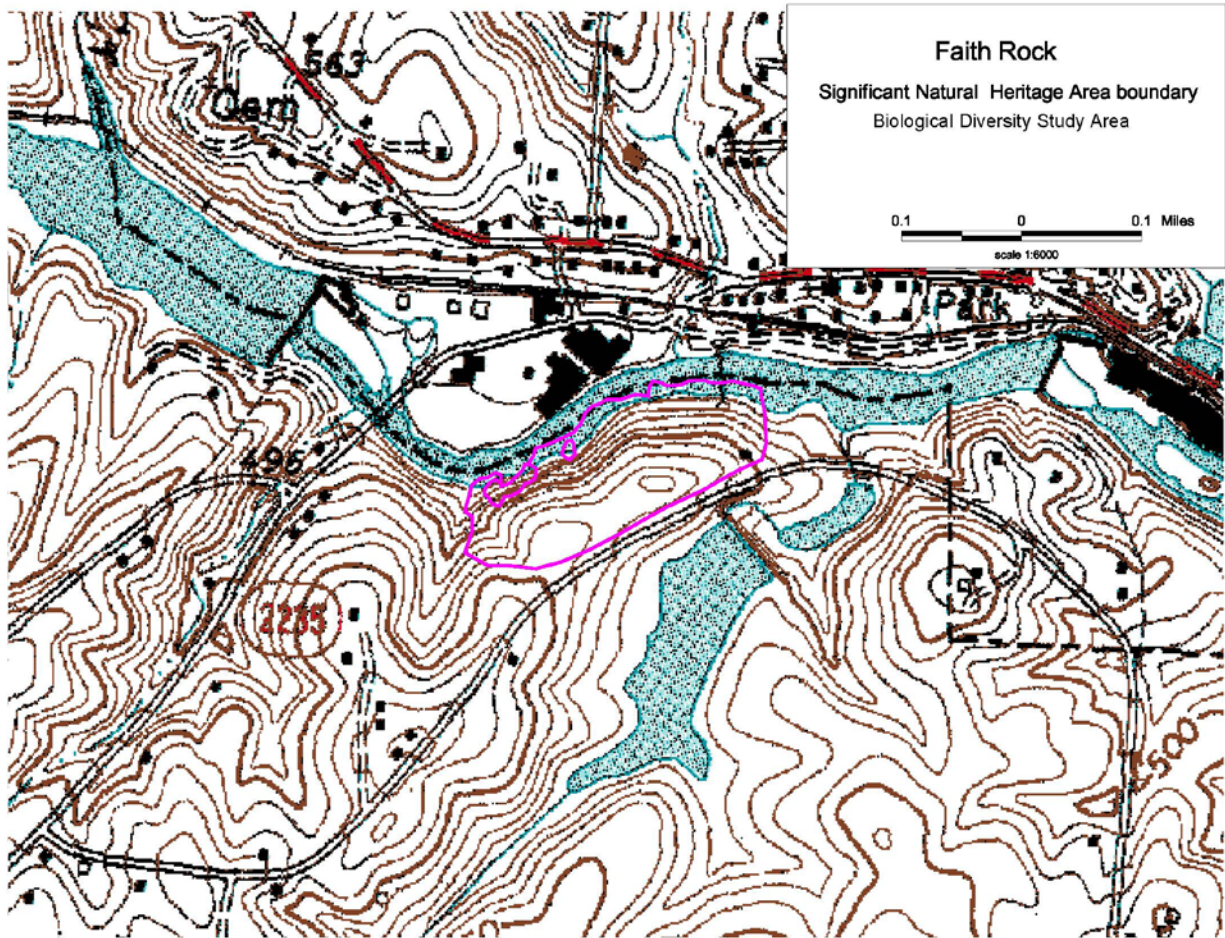
1 inch = 200 feet

Randolph County Planning and Development

FAITH ROCK LOCAL HERITAGE SITE

This map was prepared by Randolph County, NC for the County's internal use. Randolph County, its agents and employees make no warranty as to the correctness or accuracy of the information set forth on this map, whether expressed or implied, in fact or in law, including without limitation the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Map is based on NC Coordinate System of 1983. Map Date: September 09 2012 - Faith - pokey





MAPS, PLANS, & PHOTOS

A Geographical Information System (GIS) air photograph, (produced by the Randolph County Planning Department) reflecting Faith Rock and its relation to nearby structures and streets is included as part of this report. Digital photographs, including the landmark report, are also submitted.

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Faith Rock, Franklinville, N.C. meets Local Historic Landmark criteria as it represents value as a critical part of Franklinville and Randolph County's Revolutionary War heritage and its location is the site of a significant historical event. Faith Rock also represents individuals who contributed to the historic development of Randolph County's Revolutionary War legacy. The location of Faith Rock represents an established and familiar visual feature while maintaining its natural biological heritage significance.
