



COUNTY *of* CUMBERLAND

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAYETTEVILLE - The popular Fourth Friday event, which draws thousands of visitors to the city center of Fayetteville, includes **a new venue to visit on July 23.**

The historic former Cumberland County Courthouse, referred to by some as the “old” Courthouse, located at 130 Gillespie Street, will be open on **Friday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.**, participating for the first time in the monthly Fourth Friday festivities.

A visit to the historic structure on July 23 will appeal to history as well as art lovers. The building is a veritable repository of the cultural, architectural, and historical artifacts of an early 20th century seat of justice. Earlier this year, the county celebrated 250 years of existence, commemorating the occasion with a restoration of the Superior Courtroom. Six exquisite brass chandeliers in the courtroom have been restored to a brilliant luster, and the two jury boxes, the rail, the judge’s bench and the recorder’s desk have also been restored. A portrait of Marquis de LaFayette adorns the wall, as do portraits of distinguished Cumberland County jurists. Visitors who have seen the restorations say the room evokes a strong sense of nostalgia for an earlier time.

It is not only the Superior Courtroom that merits a visit. The first floor hallway displays a collection of former Cumberland County courthouses, leading to a display of former Cumberland County Sheriffs. On the second floor, a gallery of portraits of former Chairmen of the Cumberland County Commission includes that of Alfred A. MacKethan, who served in that role from 1870 to 1882. Several early maps are on display throughout the building, the earliest of which shows the county’s original land mass.

At 8 p.m., the Cross Creek Pipes and Drums will perform on the steps of the historic Courthouse. Light refreshments will be served, and the public is warmly invited to include this remarkable historic structure on their walk about downtown Fayetteville.

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