



★ AMERICA 250 ★

Waxhaw Historic Scavenger Hunt

Celebrating 250 Years of American History

June 1 – June 30, 2026

History is alive in Waxhaw. It is in the creak of old floorboards, the weathered brick of storefronts, and the names etched into our streets.

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, we invite every resident and visitor — young and old alike — to step outside, look around, and discover the remarkable stories hidden in plain sight throughout our beloved town.

Join us for the America 250 Waxhaw Historic Scavenger Hunt and be part of celebrating the living history all around us!

Visit at least 10 of the 13 historic locations, snap a photo at each one, and submit your entries by June 30, 2026. Three lucky winners will receive a stunning handcrafted patriotic stained-glass feather in red, white, and blue, created by local artists at Cane Creek Studios.

Read on for the full contest details. Good luck, and happy exploring!

THE 13 HISTORIC LOCATIONS

Explore these landmark locations — each one a thread in the rich tapestry of Waxhaw history:

1 Water Tank

This 75,000-gallon water tank was built around 1930 as part of the Works Progress Administration — a New Deal agency that put Americans back to work during the Great Depression. Look up and imagine the laborers who built this structure nearly a century ago!

2 Overhead Bridge

Originally constructed to carry automobile traffic over the railroad tracks, this bridge now serves pedestrians. Stand on it and think about the trains that once rumbled beneath the boots and tires of Waxhaw residents.

3**W.R. McDonald Hotel**

Located at 224 West North Main Street, this elegant building was constructed in 1912. It served as both a hotel and a residence for many of Waxhaw's dedicated schoolteachers. Imagine the conversations that once filled these halls.

4**McDonald House**

At 115 McDonald Street, this residence dates to approximately 1888, making it the oldest home in Waxhaw. It was built by Duncan McDonald, the town's very first postmaster — a man who helped connect Waxhaw to the wider world.

5**Dare Steele Garden**

Located at the intersection of King, S. Providence, and McKibben Streets, this garden honors Dare Steele, the author of "Listen and Remember" — an outdoor drama celebrating the life and times of President Andrew Jackson, who was born in the Waxhaws region.

6**The Well**

Near the intersection of W. North Main St. and N. Broome St., this well was originally dug around 1900 to serve the trains and their crews. The well house replica was constructed in 1989 to commemorate the Town of Waxhaw Centennial. A drop of water — and a century of history.

7**Belk Store Building**

At 200 E. South Main Street, this building dates to around 1894 and is one of the original Belk chain stores. Over the decades it has housed a store, a bowling alley, a greenhouse, and a drug store. Since 1971, it has been home to the Waxhaw Woman's Club.

8**A.W. Heath Store**

At 101 W. South Main Street, this building was constructed around 1898 by McCain-King Mercantile. From 1903 to 1966, the A.W. Heath Company ran one of Waxhaw's most beloved enterprises here — selling, as they famously put it, "everything from a pinhook to a gatling gun."

9**Mule Barn**

This structure at 121 S. Broome Street was built around 1930 for William Henry Collins, who used it for his horse, mule, and cattle trading business until the early 1950s. It also doubled as a beloved gathering spot for the town's finest checker players.

10**Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company**

At 110-112 E. South Main Street, this building housed the Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company from around 1915 until 1973. Today it is Maxwell's Restaurant, named in honor of Maxwell McCain, who joined as a clerk in 1926 and rose to Manager and Treasurer until his retirement.

11

Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill

Established in 1899 by John Lafayette Rodman and E.J. Heath, this cotton mill was Waxhaw's largest employer from its opening until its closing in 1946. The threads of this mill wove the economic fabric of the community for nearly fifty years.

12

John Lafayette Rodman House

At 116 N. Providence Street, this home was built around 1889 by J.L. Rodman and his wife Harriet Hyatt Rodman. The house remains in Rodman family ownership today. Look closely at the remarkable inlaid hardwood floors, elegant mantelpieces, and the ornate tubular metal fence topped with Fleur de Lys crests.

13

The Museum of the Waxhaws

Located at 8215 Waxhaw Hwy in the historic Sims Barn, this museum connects visitors to the agricultural history that shaped the Waxhaws and Union County. The barn is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (closed during Battle of the Waxhaws Weekend, June 5-7, which is a paid ticketed event). Plan your visit accordingly!

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

1. Eligibility

This scavenger hunt is free and open to everyone — all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities. Participants under the age of 18 must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian to enter.

2. Contest Period

The contest begins on June 1, 2026, and ends at 11:59 PM on June 30, 2026. Submissions received before or after these dates and times will not be eligible. All times are Eastern Time (ET).

3. How to Enter

To be eligible for the prize drawing, participants must:

1. Visit at least 10 of the 13 designated historic locations in Waxhaw during the contest period (June 1–30, 2026).
1. Photograph themselves or their group at each location visited. Photos must clearly depict the designated historic location.
2. Submit the [online entry form](#) in full, uploading a photo for each of the locations visited (minimum 10 photos, one per location).
3. Acknowledge and agree to the rules and photo release at the time of submission.

Entries that do not include a minimum of 10 qualifying photos will not be counted. Only one entry per person is permitted.

4. Photo Requirements

- Photos must be taken during the contest period (June 1–30, 2026).
- Each photo must clearly show the historic location indicated.
- Photos must not contain nudity, profanity, graphic violence, illegal activity, hateful imagery, or other inappropriate content. Such entries will be disqualified immediately.
- Photos must be submitted in JPG, PNG, or GIF format and must not exceed 10 MB per image.
- By uploading photos, participants confirm that the images were taken by them or with their knowledge and consent.

5. Winner Selection

Three (3) winners will be selected by random drawing from all eligible entries after the contest period closes. Winners will be notified via the email address provided on their entry form within 14 days of the close of the contest. If a winner cannot be reached within 7 days of notification, an alternate winner will be selected.

6. Prize

Each of the three (3) winners will receive one (1) handcrafted patriotic stained-glass feather in red, white, and blue, created by local artists at Cane Creek Studios. These beautiful pieces are a celebration of American artistry and Waxhaw community pride — a keepsake worthy of this historic milestone.

Prizes are non-transferable and no cash substitution will be made.

7. Photo Release

I hereby give the Town of Waxhaw ("Town") permission to take photographs of me or photographs in which I may be involved with other without compensation to me. These photographs may be used by the Town for promotional and information purposes in print, on the Town website and in other media. Participants must adhere to the rules as posted for this contest.

8. General Rules

- Town of Waxhaw reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these rules.
- Town of Waxhaw reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the contest at any time if fraud, technical failures, or any other factor impairs the integrity of the contest, as determined by Town of Waxhaw in its sole discretion.
- By entering, participants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Town of Waxhaw, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest.

9. Privacy

Personal information collected through the entry form (name, email, phone) will be used solely for contest administration and winner notification. Information will not be sold to third parties. Photos and first names of winners may be shared publicly on the Town's website, social media accounts, or promotional materials.

10. Contact

For questions about the contest, please contact [Melissa Johnson](#) with the Waxhaw Parks and Recreation Department.



Happy hunting — and Happy Birthday, America!

Presented by the Town of Waxhaw
In celebration of America 250 | June 2026

Waxhaw.com/america250