



## **Town of Beaufort, NC**

701 Front St. - P.O. Box 390 - Beaufort, N.C. 28516  
252-728-2141 - 252-728-3982 fax - [www.beaufortnc.org](http://www.beaufortnc.org)

### **Town of Beaufort Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 6:00 PM Thursday, July 01, 2021 - Train Depot, 614 Broad Street, Beaufort, NC 28516 Monthly Meeting**

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#### **Call to Order**

#### **Agenda Approval**

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Staff Report**

- [1.](#) Beaufort Woman's Club Grant Letter
2. Meetings 2021

#### **Items for Discussion and Consideration**

- [1.](#) Middle Passage Dedication & Marker Project Request
2. Non-Verbal Communication Board Consideration
3. RJ Park Dedication

#### **Board Comments**

#### **Adjourn**

 BEAUFORT WOMAN'S CLUB

1921 **100** YEARS of 2021

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dear Town of Beaufort -

On behalf of the Beaufort Woman's Club Grants + Scholarship Committee, we would like to thank you for your submission.

Our mission is to make a positive difference in our community by supporting preservation, revitalization, education and the economically depressed in Carteret County.

After a thorough review of your application, we regret that we are unable to fulfill your request at this time. We encourage you to visit our website and to reach out to us again in the future.

Regards -

Catherine Elkins

# Request to Dedicate Topsail Park and Erect a Middle Passage Marker



Submitted By:

The Middle Passage Project Committee

Presented By: Heather 3lker

# BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

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# BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC HUMAN TRADE

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Beaufort, North Carolina was a Port-of-Call in both the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-American human trade. The **Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc.** and the **North Carolina African American Heritage Commission** have identified Beaufort, North Carolina as a place of arrival for enslaved Africans directly from the African Coast. The arrival sites located in Beaufort have been officially designated as a Site and Itinerary of Memory as part of **UNESCO's Slave Route Project.**

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TRANS-AMERICAN (DOMESTIC) AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC HUMAN TRADE?

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## Trans-American (Domestic)

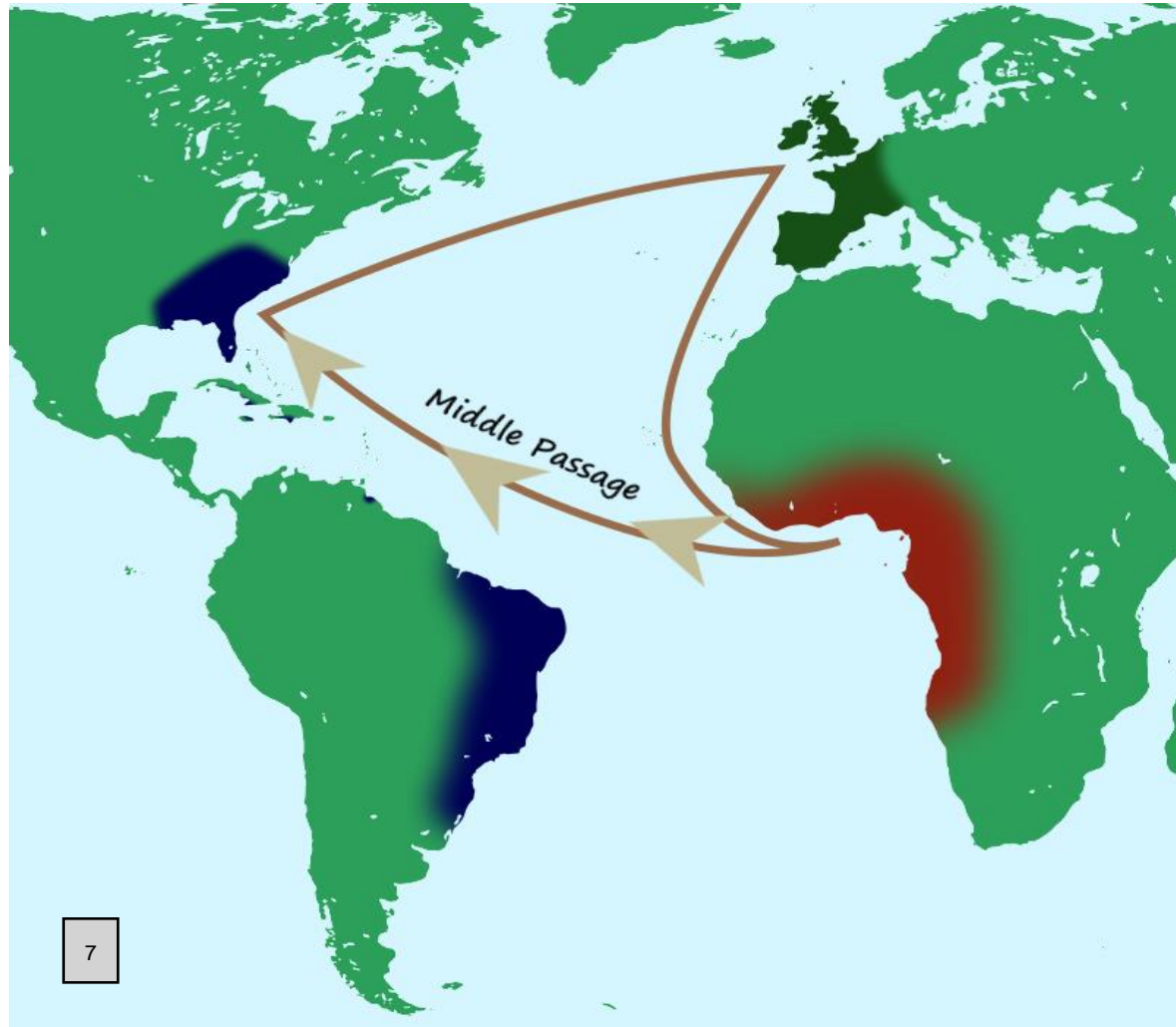
- The trafficking of enslaved African people from one location in the Americas to another

## Trans-Atlantic

- The trafficking of enslaved African people directly from the coast of Africa to the Americas

# WHAT IS THE MIDDLE PASSAGE?

The Middle Passage is the route used in the trafficking of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas

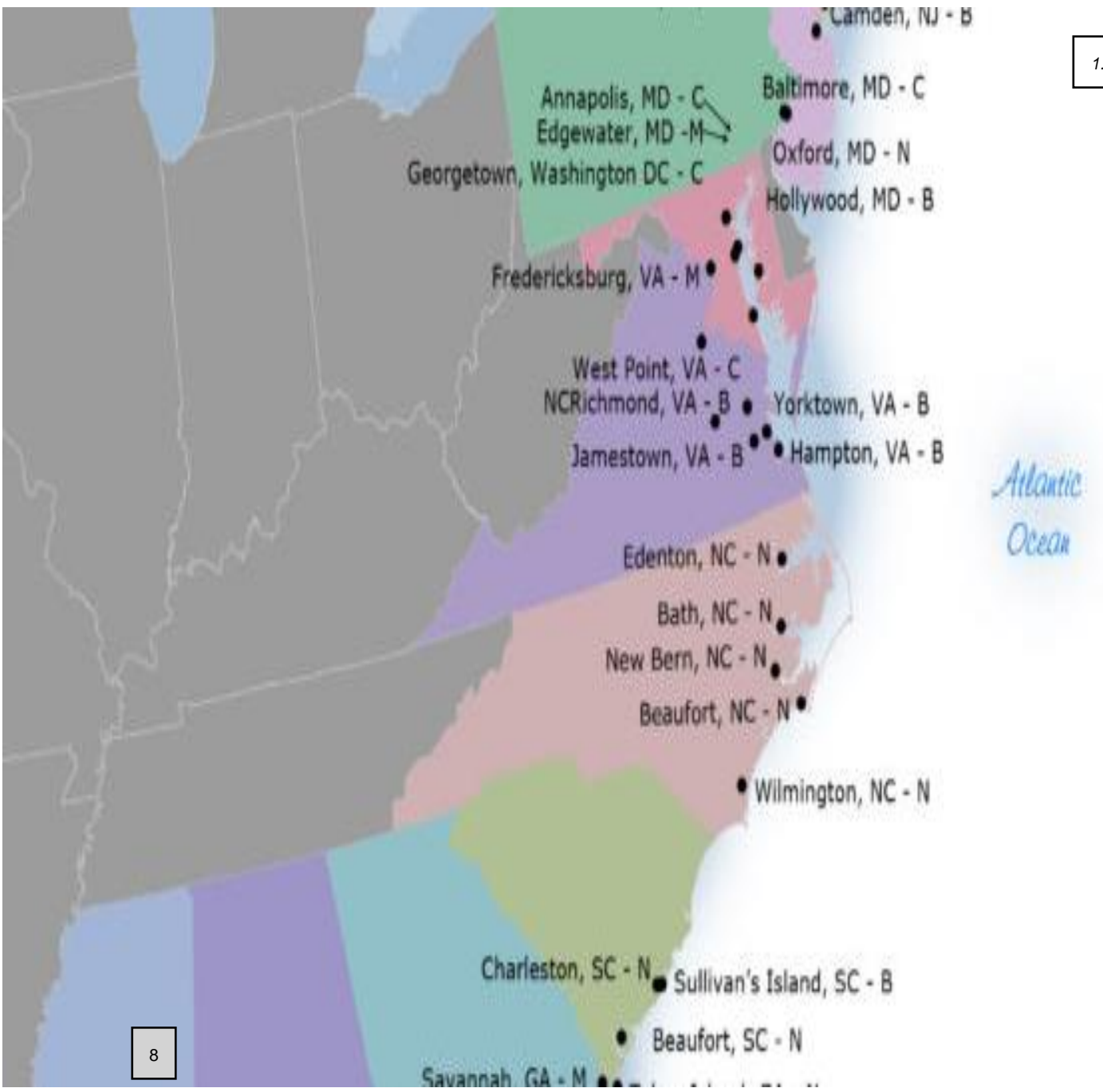


# THERE ARE FIVE CITIES/TOWNS WITH DOCUMENTED SITES OF ARRIVAL IN NORTH CAROLINA

- **Edenton**
- **Bath**
- **New Bern**
- **Beaufort**
- **Wilmington**



If approved, Beaufort will be the first town in North Carolina to place a marker acknowledging an arrival site.



# WHAT IS UNESCO?

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- **UNESCO** stands for the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**.
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.
- Only sites of **international** significance receive UNESCO designation.
- The Statue of Liberty is also a UNESCO designated site



# ELEMENTS OF THIS PROJECT

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Map by  
Henry  
Mouzon  
1775

# REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS

## *African Presence and the Middle Passage*

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Beaufort, North Carolina, was involved in the Trans-Atlantic human trade and is a documented Middle Passage arrival site.

Enslaved people disembarked at or near this exact location, now called Topsail Park. Records from 1769 show that one particular ship transported thirty-six Africans directly from the coast of Africa to the Port of Beaufort, North Carolina. The ocean voyage, known as the Middle Passage, was a treacherous and brutal journey. It was part of the largest forced migration in human history; twelve million Africans were captured and taken from their homeland. Approximately two million Africans perished during the journey to the Americas. Their remains lie at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

The men, women, and children who survived the voyage of the Middle Passage disembarked here and were sold into chattel slavery for the purpose of profit and development of this town and nation.

Over the centuries, these men and women, and their descendants made possible the agricultural and maritime commercial development of the region, with special emphasis on the menhaden and turpentine industries.

Although these enslaved people have departed from this life, their descendants have continued to contribute to the town's success, culture, and community in countless ways.

As a documented arrival site, Beaufort, North Carolina 12 has been designated as a Site and Itinerary of Memory by the UNESCO Slave Route Project.



### **The UNESCO Slave Route project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage**

Launched in 1994, the international and inter-regional project ‘The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage’ addresses the history of the slave trade and slavery through the prism of intercultural dialogue, a culture of peace and reconciliation. It thereby endeavours to improve the understanding and transmission of this human tragedy by making better known its deep-seated causes, its consequences for societies today and the cultural interactions born of this history. The project is structured around five key fields of activity: scientific research, development of educational materials, preservation of written archives and oral traditions, promotion of living cultures and contributions by the African diaspora and, lastly, preservation of sites of memory.

The promotion of the memorial heritage related to the slave trade and slavery plays a decisive role not only in educating the general public, and young people in particular, but also in facilitating national reconciliation and social cohesion processes in societies.

It is in this perspective that The Slave Route project has created a label to encourage the preservation of sites of memories and the establishment of itineraries that can tell this story and ensure that this heritage receives due attention at the national, regional and international levels.

This site fulfils the quality criteria set by the UNESCO Slave Route Project in conjunction with the International Network of Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory.



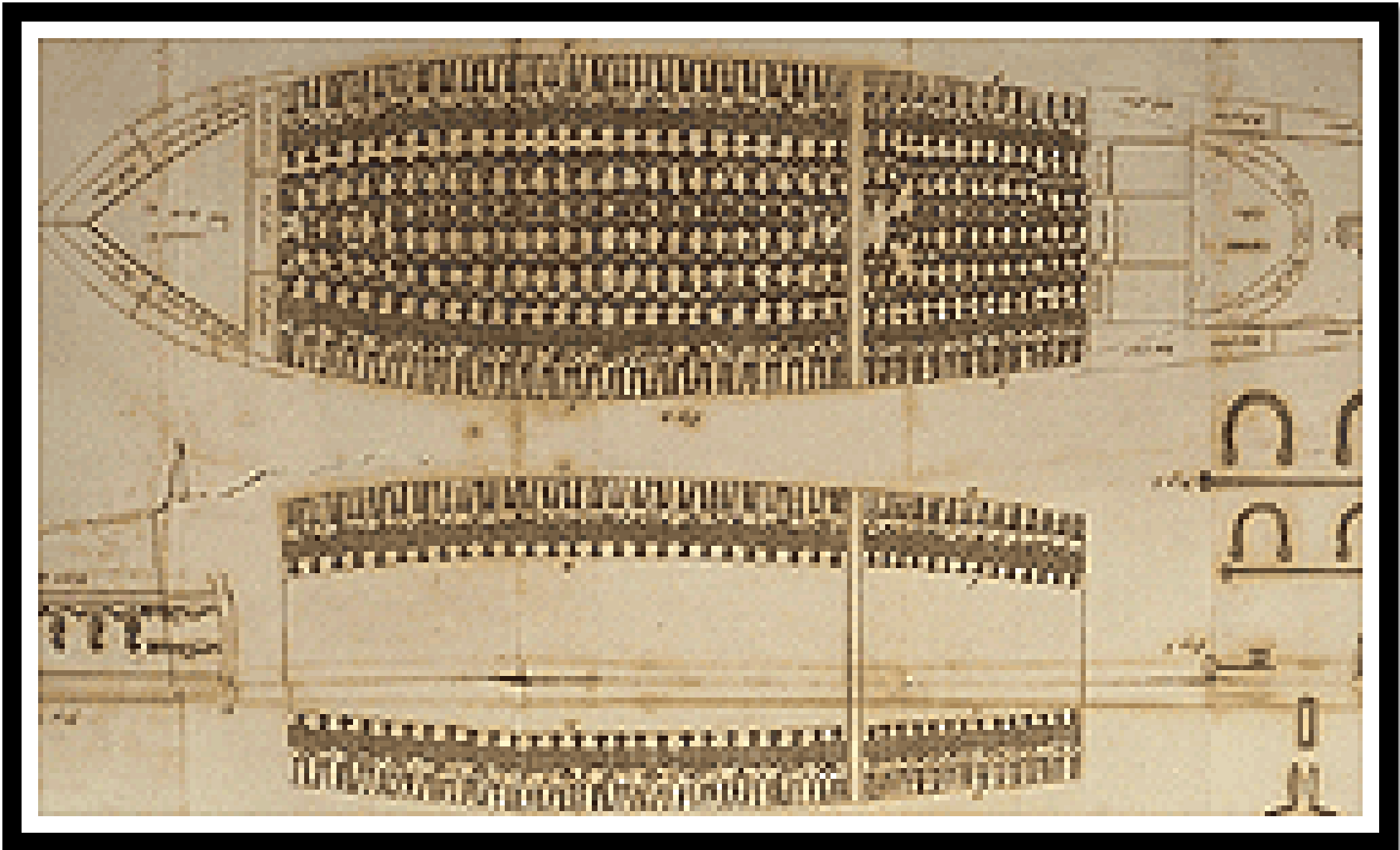


Image Courtesy: Library of Congress

This drawing shows the way in which enslaved Africans were packed into ships for the journey through the middle passage.

Entered in Port-Beaufort, from the 1st of October 1763, to the 1st of October 1764, the following Vessels, viz.

2 Ships,	72 Sloops,	
1 Snow,	43 Schooners,	
9 Brigs.		
	In all	127

Imported in the said District, between the 1st of October 1763, and 1st of October 1764.

320 Hhds. Rum,	352 Barrels Flour,
318 Do Molasses,	1972 Do of Bread,
342 Bar. brown Sugar.	28000 lbs. of Iron,
18160 lbs. Loaf Do	179 Slaves,
40 Casks of Wine,	2479 lbs. of Cheese,
913 Barrels Cyder,	96 Barrels of Beer,
10865 Bushels Salt,	1600 lbs. of Flax,
Exclusive of European Goods, Coffee, Tea, &c.	

# EXECUTOR'S SALE

OF  
**Slaves.**

**W**E will sell, at Public Auction, on the 1st day of January 1850, at the Court House in Beaufort, the following named slaves, belonging to the Estate of JAMES W. HUNT, decd. Margaret, and her female child; this woman is about 21 years old, very healthy, a good cook, washer, and ironer; her child is nearly two years old. A young negro man about 21 years old, named Bate, a good turpentine hand, and accustomed to farm work. A very likely boy named Clinton, now in his eleventh year. The above named Slaves will be sold on a Credit of six months. Notes with approved security will be required, with interest from the date.

**JECHONIAS PIGOTT.**  
**M. B. ROBERSON,**  
**J. MANNEY,**  
**RALPH HOWLAND,** } **Executors.**

Beaufort Dec. 12th 1849. ——— 50. — 1w.

Clipp from:  
The Eastern Carolina Republican  
(New Bern, NC) 1849

# CONCLUSION

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# CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

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- Having United Nations' UNESCO designation and recognition means these Sites and Itineraries of Memory are worthy to be set aside for the remembrance of the Africans who perished on the journey through the Middle Passage. From a moral and an educational standpoint, it is important that we acknowledge our past. Although a dark period in history, it *is* our history, nonetheless. Acknowledgement is part of the process of Beaufort's truth-telling, justice, and healing.
- Historical documents reveal the remains of at least 50 captive Africans, on one vessel brought from Barbados, were tossed directly into the waters at the Port of Beaufort, now called Topsail Park. This history needs to be acknowledged where it occurred.
- This place is not only significant in history, but also in our community. Dedicating this space enables members of our community, both black and white, to reflect on the events that took place here and to pay homage to those that came before us.

# REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION

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The Middle Passage Port Marker Project Committee respectfully asks the Town of Beaufort Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to consider the following requests:

- Permission to place the proposed marker, designed by members of the community, at Topsail Park
- Designate August 23, the United Nations' Day of Remembrance, for a Remembrance Ceremony to be held annually at Topsail Park
- Dedicate Topsail Park as a Memorial Park to the African Ancestors
- Consider placement of a memorial monument at Topsail Park or another public space to honor our African Ancestors

# MARKER OPTIONS & SPECIFICATIONS

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# Option No. 1

2'x3' Finished Size  
No Border

## REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS *African Presence & The Middle Passage*



Middle Passage Ceremonies  
and Port Markers, Inc.  
*Remembering The Ancestors*



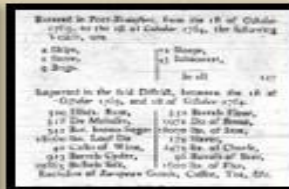
### The UNESCO Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage

Launched in 1994, the international and inter-regional project 'The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage' addresses the history of the slave trade and slavery through the prism of intercultural dialogue, a culture of peace and reconciliation. It thereby endeavors to improve the understanding and transmission of this human tragedy by making better known its deep-seated causes, its consequences for societies today and the cultural interactions born of this history. The project is structured around five key fields of activity: scientific research, development of educational materials, preservation of written archives and oral traditions, promotion of living cultures and contributions by the African diaspora and, lastly, preservation of sites of memory. The promotion of the memorial heritage related to the slave trade and slavery plays a decisive role not only in educating the general public, and young people in particular, but also in facilitating national reconciliation and social cohesion processes in societies. It is in this perspective that The Slave Route project has created a label to encourage the preservation of sites of memories and the establishment of itineraries that can tell this story and ensure that this heritage receives due attention at the national, regional and international levels. This site fulfils the quality criteria set by the UNESCO Slave Route Project in conjunction with the International Network of Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory.

Beaufort, North Carolina, was involved in the Trans-Atlantic human trade and is a documented Middle Passage arrival site. Enslaved people disembarked at or near this exact location, now called Topsail Park. Records from 1769 show that one particular ship transported thirty-six Africans directly from the coast of Africa to the Port of Beaufort, North Carolina.

The ocean voyage, known as the Middle Passage, was a treacherous and brutal journey. It was part of the largest forced migration in human history; twelve million Africans were captured and taken from their homeland. Approximately two million Africans perished during the journey to the Americas. Their remains lie at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

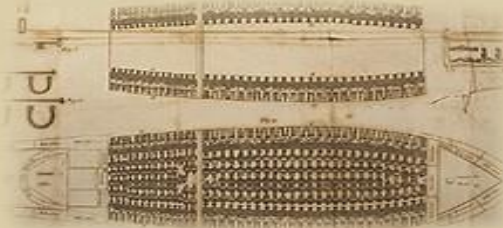
The men, women, and children who survived the voyage of the Middle Passage disembarked here and were sold into chattel slavery for the purpose of profit and development of this town and nation.



Over the centuries, these men and women, and their descendants made possible the agricultural and maritime commercial development of the region, with special emphasis on the menhaden and turpentine industries.

Although these enslaved people have departed from this life, their descendants have continued to contribute to the town's success, culture, and community in countless ways.

As a documented arrival site, Beaufort, North Carolina, has been designated as a Site and Itinerary of Memory by the UNESCO Slave Route Project.



# Option No. 2:

2'x3' Finished Size

Add Header and Footer

## REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS *African Presence & The Middle Passage*



Middle Passage Ceremonies  
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*Remembering The Ancestors*



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# Option No. 3:

2'x3' Finished Size

Add Full Border

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Middle Passage Ceremonies  
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*Remembering The Ancestors*



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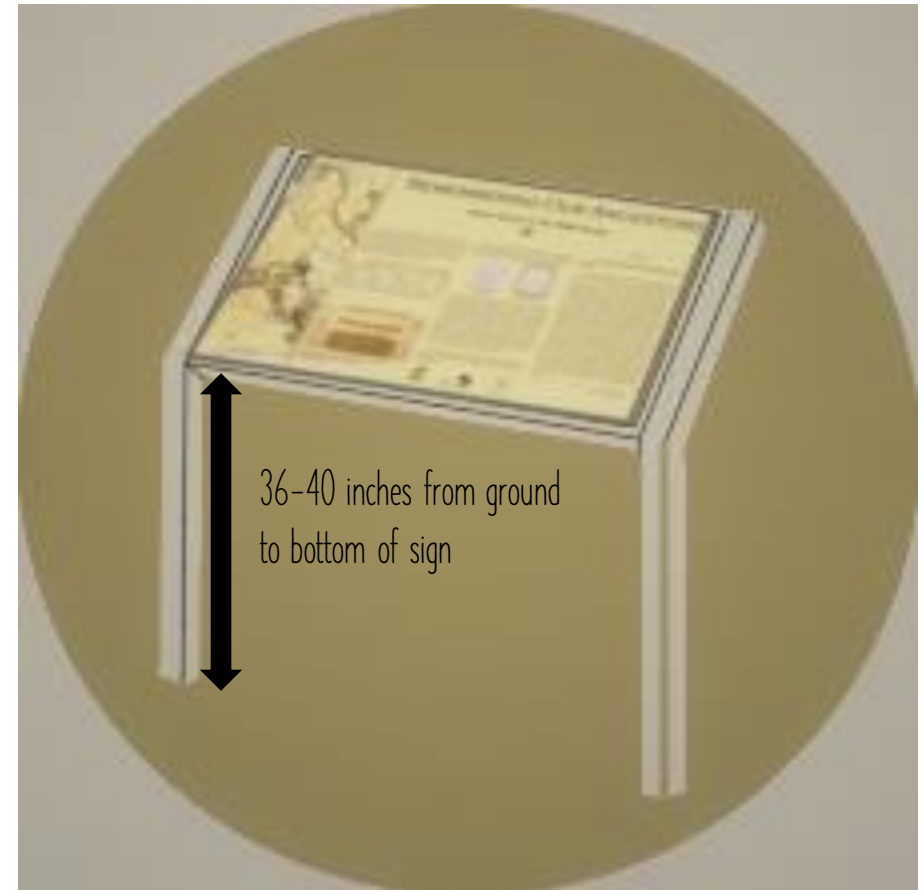
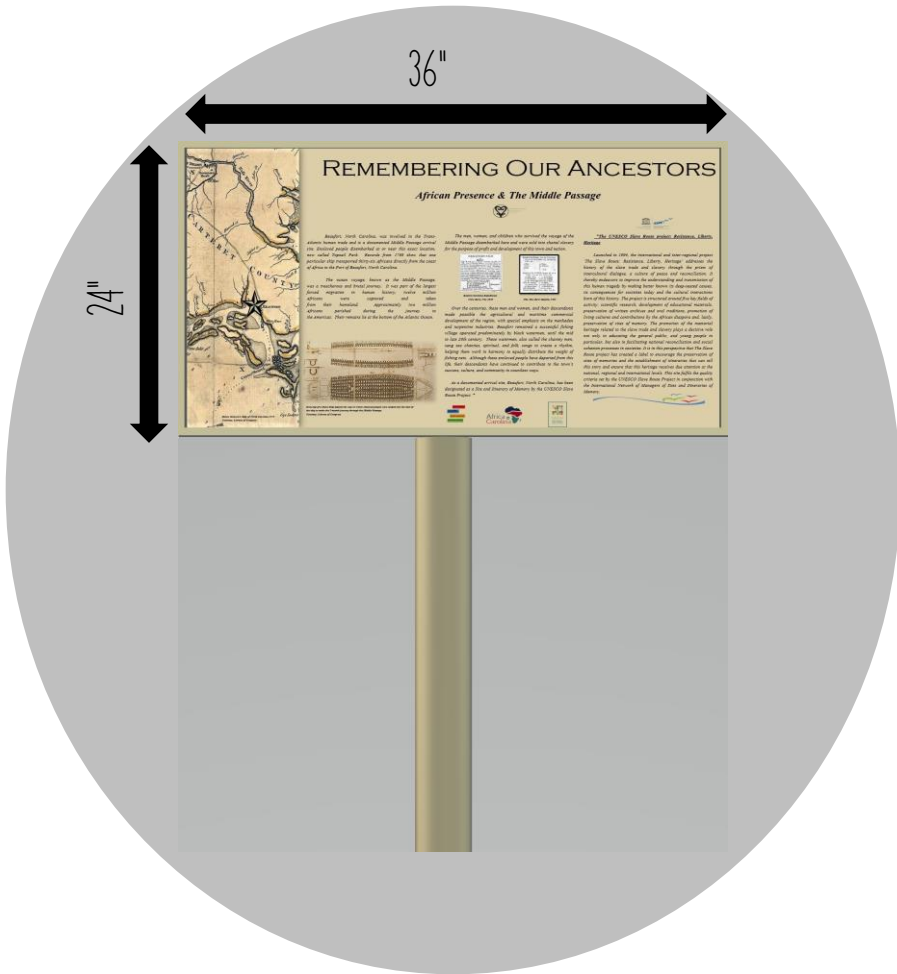
Reproduction of the original drawing by the artist and engraver, and based on the drawing of the original drawing by the artist and engraver.

# Marker Mount Specifications

**24" x 36" sign**

**36" - 40"  
pedestal or  
double- leg stand  
height**

**Angled mount  
style (prevents  
obstruction of  
water-view)**



## RENDERING OF PROPOSED MARKER IN PLACE AT TOPSAIL PARK

There are several ideal locations within the park area for marker placement.

This photo shows the marker placed near the sidewalk for passers-by to view easily.



# PROJECT MEMBERS & TIMELINE



- 
- **2017:** MPCPMP approached NCAAHC with data that identified several locations within the state of North Carolina as Middle Passage Arrival Sites. Beaufort was included on that list.
  - **2018:** application was submitted to the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc.(MPCPMP) by the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission (NCAAHC) to locate, investigate, and designate sites of former slave ports in North Carolina.
  - **August 2018:** a package was submitted by MPCPMP to the United Nations' Education, Science, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) for designation on its Slave Route Project. This package contained two sites in Beaufort, North Carolina.

- **The two sites designated in Beaufort, NC**
  - Topsail Park area
  - the former location of the Market Street Wharf (located at the South end of Turner Street).
- **December 2018:** The stipulations of designation, agreed upon by local authorities, in the application packages included preservation of designated sites and dedication for exclusive use as a UNESCO Slave Route Project Site of Memory.

# BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA

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## THE TRANS-ATLANTIC HUMAN TRADE

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- **February 2019:** Town of Beaufort Mayor, Rett Newton reached out to Mr. Sylvester Johnson requesting to meet with him and other key leaders in Beaufort to have a marker erected and made him aware that a generous benefactor had already agreed to pay for it.
- **May 2019:** Dr. Ali Moussa-lye informed the NCAAHC and MPCPMP that a city, as a whole, is not eligible to have the designation as a Site of Memory, only the sites of sites of arrival within the city are eligible and Middle Passage markers may only be placed at these locations.
- **March 2020:** Heather Walker began researching Beaufort's African American History related to this project and others for Beaufort, North Carolina
- **November 2020:** after the passing of Mr. Johnson, Mayor Newton agreed the project should move forward and Commissioner Sharon Harker reached out to see if there was community interest in having a marker erected.
- **March 2021:** a group of citizens, including town, county, state, and national, formed a committee to design a sign layout for Beaufort, North Carolina's Middle Passage Marker.
- **May 2021:** After working closely with Commissioners Sharon Harker, Charles McDonald, The NCAAHC, and MPCPMP, the final design was drafted and a proof was created

# MIDDLE PASSAGE PROJECT ADULT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

---

- Francesca Quinn, Newport
- Tyrone Fleshman, James City
- Heather Walker, Beaufort
- LaShone Jones, Morehead City
- Jane Hines, Beaufort
- Kerry Peay, Winston-Salem
- Charles McDonald, Beaufort
- Donnell Johnson, Greenville
- Joanna Knight, Havelock
- Shawn Robinson, Beaufort
- Melvin Cooper, Beaufort
- Justin Wallace, Beaufort
- Amanda Crooms, Beaufort
- Regina Johnson, Beaufort
- Kisha Simmons, Beaufort

# YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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- Sarah Walker, Beaufort
- Anthony Walker, Beaufort
- K'ryah Reels, Beaufort
- Sabre Tepatate, Beaufort
- Mackenzie Morehead, Beaufort
- Nyema George, Beaufort
- CeCe Johnson, Beaufort
- Charles Matheka, Beaufort
- Shamel Baker, Beaufort
- Julian George, Beaufort

# SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS

- Airyel Rothrock
- Aja Davis
- Andrea Murray
- Ann Wallace
- Annie Henry
- Arlene Fisher
- Beverly James
- Bobby Chambers
- Carrie Johnson
- Carsell Walker, Jr.
- Charles McDonald
- Craig Stanley
- Crystal Brown
- David Krueger
- Derrick Partee
- Donovan Henry
- Doug Miron
- Douglas George
- Eddie Murrell
- Elisa Orianna
- Evelyn Johnson
- George Henry
- Gilbert Powell
- Grace Ellison
- Henry Everett
- Henry McLane
- Isaac Teel
- Jack Garrison
- James Futrell
- Jane Hines
- Jerry Cox
- Jerry Wilson
- Jessica McLane
- Lakesha George
- Latescheca Johnson
- Laveria Pritchett
- Laverne Johnson
- Lee Stiles
- Lillian 31 nley
- Lillian Walker
- Margaret Powell
- Marvin Windley
- Montravias King
- Monty Ellison
- Patrick Simmons
- Perry Harker
- Porsha Partee
- Robert Wallace
- Roger James
- Scott Walker
- Sharon Harker
- Shaun Smith
- Sonya Henry
- Stephanie Hillsgrave
- Tammy Krueger
- Taylor James
- Teresa Parker
- Tia Crooms
- Timothy Wallace
- Timothy Wallace, Jr.
- Tyisha Teel
- Victoria Washington
- William Ellison
- William George Henry
- Yolanda Murray

# SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc.
- Eastern Carolina Foundation for Equity and Equality
- North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- Queen Street Missionary Baptist Church
- Helpful Movers
- Within My Budget Furniture
- Queen Street Heritage Foundation
- Operation Uplift II
- Wilson's Clipper and Barber Styling
- Thriftique Boutique
- Crystal Clean Cleaning Service
- HippoRed Mfg. Co
- National Park Service
- CCBS and Sign Shop
- Old Town Taxi
- James City Historical Society
- African American Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party  
Forsyth County Social Justice and Policing Reform Committee
- Progressive Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party  
Policing Reform Committee
- Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
- Ellison Realty
- Hope Insurance
- Minority Vendor Networking
- D.R.E.A.M., Inc.
- Visions Community Outreach
- UNESCO
- Mastermind Image Photography
- Hope 4 Today Consulting
- Opulent Ambience