



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

To: State Historic Preservation Office & Other Applicable Agencies for National Register
From: Joshua L. Grant, MPA, Manager
Date: October 3, 2025
Subject: Machpelah National Register Nomination Submittal Package

[Package of Submittal]

Machpelah Presbyterian Church for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Public comment was offered during the public hearing held at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lincoln County Historic Preservation Commission at 4:00PM on September 18th, 2025. During this meeting the Commission voted to send the nomination forward to SHPO and NRAC for consideration and listing on the National Register. The Commission highlighted the significance of the architecture and the contributing structure and cemetery site as well as the facts presented in the report during their vote/decision.

A copy of the National Register nomination for Machpelah Presbyterian Church was placed at the Planning & Inspections Department in the public lobby for the duration of the 60 day period. A notification of the public hearing as well as the public comment period was posted on the County's Website and the County's Social Media Pages.

Please see the attached documentation including:

- 1) National Register Nomination Draft
- 2) Resolution by Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
- 3) Signed Statements as Required by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - a. Board of County Commissioners Chairperson, Jamie Lineberger
 - b. Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson, Laura Gregory
- 4) Documentation of Public Hearing
- 5) Public Comments Received



Lincoln County Board of Commissioner's Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	09/08/2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Agenda:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Submitting Person:	Megan H. Gilbert	Presentation Time (est):	5 min.					
		Phone Number/Ext:						
Presenter at Meeting:	Megan H. Gilbert	Email:	megan.gilbert@lincolncountync.gov					
		Phone Number/Ext:						
Submitting Department:	Legal	Email:						
		Department Head Approval:						

Description of Agenda Item:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF MACHPELAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Background & Basis of Recommendations:

We have received correspondence from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office requesting comment on the proposed nomination of Machpelah Presbyterian Church to the National Register of Historic Places. This correspondence was also sent to the Historic Preservation Commission who will meet to discuss later this month. The Board of Commissioners designated Machpelah as a Historic Landmark in Lincoln County in 2020.

Action/Recommendations:

Adopt as presented.

Time Sensitivity (none or explain):	Deadline to respond: October 8, 2025
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Budget Impact (if applicable):	none
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List of Attachments (if any):	RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF MACHPELAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JAMIE LINEBERGER, CHAIR
BUD CESENA, VICE-CHAIR
TRENT CARPENTER
MARK MULLEN
ALEX PATTON

COUNTY MANAGER
DAVIN W. MADDEN

COUNTY ATTORNEY
MEGAN H. GILBERT

CLERK TO THE BOARD
JENNIFER M. FARMER

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF MACHPELAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, declares that the preservation of historic properties “significant to the Nation’s heritage” is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, education, aesthetic, inspirational, economic and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans;

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act further suggests that states work to establish preservation programs, and the State Historic Preservation Office within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has previously been established;

WHEREAS, Lincoln County (the “County”) entered into a Certification Agreement for Local Governments dated May 13, 1992 with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office which establishes the process for review of National Register Nominations;

WHEREAS, the County has been notified on or around July 30, 2025, that Machpelah Presbyterian Church located at 226 Brevard Place Road in Iron Station has been nomination to the National Register of Historic Places;

WHEREAS, Machpelah Presbyterian Church (and Cemetery) was officially designated as Lincoln County Local Historic Landmark on the 21st day of September 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Certification Agreement, the chief elected official shall notify the State Historic Preservation Office and the owner of the nominated property in writing of their opinions concerning the eligibility of the nomination within 60 days of receiving a copy of the nomination.



O. 704-736-8473
F. 704-736-8820



LincolnCountyNC.gov

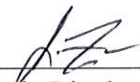


P.O. Box 738 | LINCOLNTON NC 28093
353 N. GENERALS BLVD | LINCOLNTON NC 28092

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners that this Board has reviewed the nomination and Report for Machpelah Presbyterian Church and finds that the property meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as provided in Section 8 of the Report, and therefore does recommend that Machpelah Presbyterian Church be submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and

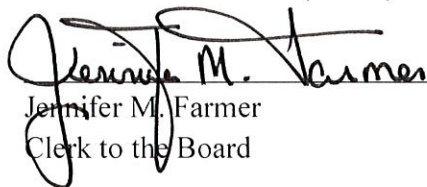
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Board shall provide a copy of this Resolution and a letter of support to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Machpelah Church Foundation within 10 business days, and shall make available for public inspection a copy of the nomination documents at the Lincoln County Administration Building located at 353 N. Generals Blvd., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

This the 8th day of September, 2025.



Jamie Lineberger, Chair
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: (SEAL)



Jennifer M. Farmer
Clerk to the Board





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CLERK TO THE BOARD
JENNIFER M. FARMER

September 8, 2025

Jeff Smith, National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

RE: Letter of Support for Machpelah Presbyterian Church

Mr. Smith:

Machpelah Presbyterian Church is a landmark in Lincoln County and holds great historical significance to the county and its citizens, with both its architectural and religious background. In addition, the cemetery on the property is distinctive for having artistic merit and containing the graves of numerous individuals who were essential to the history of Lincoln County and the State of North Carolina.

Therefore, it was it with great pleasure that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners provides you with the attached Resolution of Support for Designation of Machpelah Presbyterian Church in the National Register of Historic Places. This letter and the attached resolution is being sent pursuant to Section II(2) of the Certification Agreement for Local Governments and should serve as official notice of support of the nomination. If you need any additional information from this Board, please contact Jennifer M. Farmer, Clerk to the Board at Jennifer.Farmer@lincolncountync.gov.

Respectfully,

Jamie Lineberger, Chair
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

cc: Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission



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F. 704-736-8820



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CLERK TO THE BOARD
JENNIFER M. FARMER

September 8, 2025

Machpelah Church Foundation
Attn: Walter Clark
P.O. Box 9
Lincolnton, NC 28092

RE: Letter of Support for Machpelah Presbyterian Church

Mr. Clark:

Machpelah Presbyterian Church is a landmark in Lincoln County and holds great historical significance to the county and its citizens, with both its architectural and religious background. In addition, the cemetery on the property is distinctive for having artistic merit and containing the graves of numerous individuals who were essential to the history of Lincoln County and the State of North Carolina.

Therefore, it was with great pleasure that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners provides you with the attached Resolution of Support for Designation of Machpelah Presbyterian Church in the National Register of Historic Places. This letter and the attached resolution is being sent pursuant to Section II(2) of the Certification Agreement for Local Governments and should serve as official notice of support of the nomination. If you need any additional information from this Board, please contact Jennifer M. Farmer, Clerk to the Board at Jennifer.Farmer@lincolncountync.gov.

Respectfully,

Jamie Lineberger, Chair
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

cc: Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission



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THE CHIEF ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIAL OR THE LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD SHOULD
COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMENT PARAGRAPHS:

C. I, **Commissioner Jamie Lineberger, Chairperson**, or We, the **Lincoln County Board of Commissioners**, have reviewed the nomination for **Machpelah Presbyterian Church** and find that the property **meets** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register.

Additional Comments:

 9-8-25

Chief Local Elected Official's signature and date

D. I, **Commissioner Jamie Lineberger, Chairperson**, or We, the **Lincoln County Board of Commissioners**, have reviewed the nomination for **Machpelah Presbyterian Church** and find that the property **does not meet** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **do not recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register. The reasons for my (or our) findings concerning this nomination are stated below (use additional sheet if necessary).

Additional comments:

Chief Local Elected Official's signature and date

THE CLG COMMISSION SHOULD COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

A. We, the **Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission**, have reviewed and discussed the nomination for **Machpelah Presbyterian Church** and find that the property **meets** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register.



9/30/2025

Commission chair's signature and date

B. We, the **Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission**, have reviewed and discussed the nomination for **Machpelah Presbyterian Church** and find that the property **does not meet** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **do not recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register. The reasons for our findings concerning this nomination are stated below (use additional sheet if necessary).

Commission chair's signature and date

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS

P.O. Box 40

Lincolnton, NC 28093

Telephone (704) 240-9393

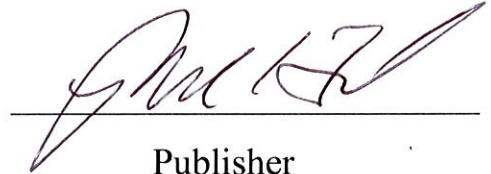
I, Landon C. Ford III, Publisher of **The Lincoln Times-News**, do hereby acknowledge that the attached advertisement was published in The Lincoln Times-News on the following:

Date: September 10, 17, 2025

This the 17th day of September, 2025

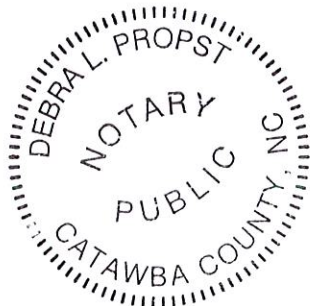


Witness/Notary



Publisher

My commission expires: 05/19/2027



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission, at their regularly scheduled meeting, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 4:00pm to review and provide opportunity for public comment on a National Register Nomination of the Machpelah Presbyterian Church located at 226 Brevard Place Road, Iron Station, NC 28080.

The public is invited to attend this meeting, which will be held in the Conference Room on the third floor of the James Warren Citizen Center located at 115 W Main St, Lincolnton, NC 28092. A copy of the nomination and all associated documentation has been made available for inspection upon request at the above stated address. For more information, please call 704-736-8489.

2T: Sept. 10, 17, 2025

News Carousel

Posted on: September 10, 2025

[ARCHIVED] Public Comment Period Open: Machpelah Presbyterian Church

Lincoln County Planning & Inspections staff who serve as liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission are busy at work, administering the Local, State and Federal process required for Machpelah Presbyterian Church to become listed on the

National Register of Historic Places.

Public Comment Period is now open through October 1st, 2025.

Submit your comments by emailing them to planning@lincolncountync.gov



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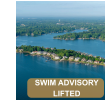
Select Language ▼

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Other News in News Carousel

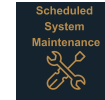
[Swim Advisory Lifted](#)

Posted on: October 1, 2025



[Utility Billing Online Services Planned Maintenance](#)

Posted on: September 30, 2025



[Lincoln County Positive TB Case](#)

Posted on: September 19, 2025



[Lincoln County 13th Rabies Case](#)

Posted on: September 18, 2025



[Lincoln County Hires Airport Manager](#)

Posted on: September 18, 2025



[Lincoln County Boundary Line Re-established](#)

Posted on: July 10, 2025



Joshua Grant

From: Planning
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 8:27 AM
To: Joshua Grant
Subject: Fw: Machpelah Church and Cemetery

This was sent through the planning inbox.

From: Ann Graham <anncgr@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:45 AM
To: Planning <planning@lincolncountync.gov>; Ann Graham <anncgr@msn.com>
Subject: Machpelah Church and Cemetery

CAUTION: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.

My ggg grandfather was Joseph Graham, a general in the Revolutionary War who was a leader in Lincoln County in the 1700s and 1800s. When his 13-year-old daughter, Polly died in 1801, he and Alexander Brevard established a burial ground halfway between their two plantations for the Graham and Brevard families (Joseph and Alexander each married a daughter of Major John Davidson). Polly was the first person buried there. Members of the community made contributions and a church was built next to the cemetery in 1848. It was named Machpelah meaning burial place. The brick used in the building was made by slaves and a gallery was added in the rear for slaves who looked after the children. The first pastor was Rev. Robert Morrison, husband of Mary Graham, Joseph's daughter and he served until services were abandoned in 1865. Joseph, his wife Isabella Davidson Graham, and many family members are buried at the cemetery there.

I so value the history of this cemetery and church and support all efforts to recognize, remember, and preserve. I am also a member of the Vesuvius Furnace Chapter of the DAR.

Thank you so much, Ann Graham

Disclaimer

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 132, Public Records, this electronic mail message and any attachments hereto, as well as any electronic mail message(s) sent in response to it, may be considered public record and as such subject to request and review by anyone at any time.