

Carroll County Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 937
Hillsville, VA 24343

Mr. R. Cellell Dalton
Carroll County Administrator
605-1 Pine Street
Hillsville, VA 24343

September 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Dalton:

The Carroll County Historical Society has two requests concerning the historic Courthouse in Hillsville. First, we would like to see the evergreen tree removed from the front lawn; and second, we would like to have two interpretative signs located on the lawn.

The evergreen tree has outgrown its space and now blocks the view of the historic courthouse which is architecturally unique in the state of Virginia. The combination features of columns and arches, portico and porch are not found in any other courthouse in the state. The experiences of viewers and visitors would be enhanced by the removal of the tree and the placement of an interpretative sign about this historic building.

Trees on the Courthouse lawn have been an issue for a long time. I am attaching two articles related to the history of trees on the courthouse. No source is available for either article and the second one is undated.

"From Sept. 1953-- The county has never been content with the trees on the courthouse lawn. In 1872, there were locusts planted, but they were cut in the early 30's. Then these fruit trees were planted and after these, a huge pine or cedar was put there along with a Paw Paw tree. They too, all bit the dust. Now, I've heard that the current foliage is about to be removed. Talk about waffling!"

Trees On Court House Lawn Felled

The "orchard" was chopped down in the Court House lawn Wednesday morning leaving a barren appearance on each side of the steps leading from the street. A peach and an apple tree plus a lot of nice shade from the summer sun was sacrificed to a cutting tool. The shrubbery that will take their place should add to the elegance of the already stately Court House and premises, however.

For some time, various individuals and organizations have endeavored to have some action taken on removing the trees, which practically hid the front of the courthouse.

So, acting under orders, Dan Combs, Sanitation and Street Cleaning Commission of the Town, grabbed his trusty axe and at 8:30 A.M. Wednesday, he laid the orchard low.

The recent Paw Paw tree that had been on the Courthouse lawn (must have been the second one planted) broke in 2010 and then later that year the entire tree was removed.

The second interpretative sign would be for the Confederate veteran statue. Since closing the museum we have noticed a good number of people who come to visit the statue (and they usually take pictures). Without the availability of museum staff or volunteers to answer questions or offer background information about the statue, there is a lack of information the Historical Society believes important to provide through an interpretative sign.

We are researching signage specifications and costs which we will provide as soon as are available. Some sample signs can be found at the website of Imperial-Images in Mt. Airy, NC.

We hope the Board of Supervisors will agree that these two actions would be an enhancement for visitors to the courthouse and that they will approve and support the Historical Society in moving forward with these projects.

Sincerely,



Shelby Inscore-Puckett, President