

Royal Colonial Boundary of 1665

National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark – Plaque Dedication

Lake Barkley Resort Park Lodge

May 20, 2016, 11:00 AM Central

Join us for the dedication of the bronze plaque recognizing the Royal Colonial Boundary of 1665.

The landmark, officially named in 1985, represents the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina and between Kentucky and Tennessee. This is the second of two plaques recognizing this Civil Engineering achievement. The first plaque has been dedicated and is located at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM followed by lunch at the lodge.

A dining room has been reserved for attendees. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Cost: The cost of lunch if you choose to eat at the lodge.

About the Landmark:

The Royal Colonial Boundary of 1665 was decreed by England's King Charles II to demarcate his American colonies. It provided a survey from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River along 36 degrees, 30 minutes north latitude. The boundary now serves to divide Virginia from North Carolina and Kentucky from Tennessee.

The survey, completed in five stages, was one of the first times a surveyed line was so long that the curve of the Earth had to be taken into consideration. It drew attention both to the importance and to the difficulty of cadastral surveying (to delimit and identify property lines) and geodetic surveying (in which the form and size of the earth are considered). It demonstrated some of the first attempts to locate an exact geographical position on the ground.

The 1665 line of 36 degrees, 30 minutes north latitude was recognized as the de facto dividing line between the North and the South in the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

