

HOUSE RESOLUTION 179

By Hill M

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Christopher Taylor House in Jonesborough.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body find it appropriate to recognize those Tennessee landmarks that have contributed to the enduring legacy of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, one such historic landmark is the Christopher Taylor House in Jonesborough, a 241-year-old structure that continues to tell the story of Northeast Tennessee's early settlers; and

WHEREAS, built sometime between 1777 and 1778, the log house is named for Christopher Taylor, who lived there with his family; Mr. Taylor was a veteran of the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, and he fought alongside John Sevier at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He also served as a delegate to the constitutional convention of the State of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, the Christopher Taylor House is one of the oldest structures in Washington County and is considered one of the few remaining examples of pioneer architecture in Northeast Tennessee; the house features a "V" notch construction and a blend of various influences with local modifications and adaptations, many reflecting architectural responses to geography and the available resources of the period; and

WHEREAS, originally located two miles west of Main Street on Old State Route 34, the Christopher Taylor House was often host to boarders traveling along the prominent stage road in the late 1700s; among the boarders Christopher Taylor and his family took in was Andrew Jackson, who was a young lawyer at the time; and

WHEREAS, the house remained in use as a private residence through the 1940s, but by the 1970s, it had fallen into disrepair and was threatened with demolition; in an effort to best

preserve the structure, it was relocated to Main Street in 1974, and since that time has become one of the most popular attractions in Jonesborough and served as a visitors center, museum, workshop for craftspeople, and meeting space for various groups; and

WHEREAS, preservation efforts at the Christopher Taylor House are ongoing; thanks to a National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Special Projects Grant, the house has been stabilized; a new cedar shake roof has been installed; and the building has been dried out; and

WHEREAS, the house is open to visitors most weekends from April through October and then again in December; since it was reopened to the public following completion of the new roof in March 2018, more than 5,000 people have visited the house; and

WHEREAS, the Christopher Taylor House is a true Tennessee treasure and an enduring symbol of the rich history of our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize the Christopher Taylor House in Jonesborough as one of the most important historic landmarks in this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.