

Charles Duncan McIver Statue, Raleigh ^[1]

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Postcard with McIver Statue in Raleigh ^[2]
Charles Duncan McIver Statue
Raleigh

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Description: The 7.5-foot bronze statue with a 3.5-foot granite pedestal is a monument to education pioneer Charles McIver, a founder and first president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women (now known as UNC Greensboro). It depicts McIver standing in a dignified manner with a book in his left hand; his right hand rests on his waist. There are four plaques, one on each side of the pedestal.

Images: [Contemporary view](#) ^[4] | [Front inscription](#) ^[5] | [Right inscription](#) ^[6] | [Rear inscription](#) ^[7] | [Left inscription](#) ^[8]
A [duplicate](#) ^[9] statue stands in Greensboro.

Inscription:

Front: CHARLES DUNCAN / MCIVER / EDUCATIONAL STATESMAN / BORN 27TH SEPTEMBER 1860 / DIED 17TH SEPTEMBER 1906

Right: "PEOPLE - / NOT ROCKS AND RIVERS / AND IMAGINARY BOUNDARY / LINES - MAKE A STATE: AND / THE STATE IS GREAT JUST / IN PROPORTION AS ITS / PEOPLE ARE EDUCATED."

Left: FOUNDER AND FIRST / PRESIDENT OF THE / STATE NORMAL / AND / INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE / FOR WOMEN

Rear: ERECTED BY / THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, / THE TEACHERS / AND HIS OTHER FRIENDS / AND ADMIRERS / A.D. 1911

Dedication date: 5/15/1912

Creator: Frederick Wellington Ruckstull, Sculptor

Materials & Techniques: Bronze statue, bronze plaques, and a granite base.

Sponsor: Schoolchildren in North Carolina collected \$3,000 for the construction of the monument by North Carolina Day in 1911. The remainder of the monument costs were paid for by the North Carolina Historical Commission. The committee appointed to commemorate McIver, which was led by Chairman James Y. Joyner and included Francis Preston Venable, Col. William H. Osborn, Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, and Josephus Daniels, began to work on creating a monument in honor of McIver soon after his death in 1906.

Unveiling & Dedication: 5/15/1912

Post dedication use: At the UNC Greensboro location, the monument is a gathering place to commemorate Institutional Founders Day at the university.

Subject notes: Beginning in 1881, Charles Duncan McIver devoted a quarter of a century to educational reform in North Carolina. After his death on September 17, 1906, friends and fellow educational reformers organized to raise funds for a monument in McIver's honor. The committee chairman, James Joyner, started corresponding with Mrs. McIver and sculptor Frederic Wellington Ruckstuhl about a proposed monument in honor of McIver by August 1910. The North Carolina General Assembly approved the monument's construction and location in the Capital Square on March 7, 1911.

Controversies: The monument in Capital Square was criticized for inaccurately portraying McIver and for the monument's representation of the educator. Even the committee felt the monument was more of an embarrassment than an accomplishment.

Location: The monument stands close to the border of the square so that pedestrians and drivers are reminded of McIver's lifework as an educator in North Carolina whenever they pass Capitol Square. The original pedestal raised the sculpture of McIver above spectators; the newer pedestal renders the sculpture more approachable. The monument is located near the monument honoring Charles Brantley Aycock and the George Washington monument.

Former Locations: The McIver monument originally faced Fayetteville Street; it was relocated to face Morgan Street in the late 1920s.

City: Raleigh

County: Wake

Subjects: Historic Educational Figures

Latitude: 35.78011

Longitude: -78.63865

Subjects:

Monuments ^[10]

Places ^[11]

Authors:

Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina ^[12]

Origin - location:

Wake County ^[13]

Raleigh ^[14]

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