

George Davis Monument ^[1]

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Average: 4.5 (2 votes)



George Davis Monument, Wilmington. Photo courtesy of Natasha Smith.

^[2]

George Davis Monument
Wilmington [Removed]

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<https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/112> ^[3]

Description: This bronze 8-foot tall cast sculpture of George Davis stands atop a granite base. Davis, Confederate Senator and Attorney General from 1820-1896, stands upright and raises his right hand in the air while resting his left hand atop a decorated pedestal. The base, weighing five and a half tons, features gilded seals of both North Carolina and the Confederate states.

Images: [West side inscription](#) ^[4] | [East side inscription](#) ^[5]

Inscription:

West face: GEORGE DAVIS / SENATOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL / OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA / 1820 - 1896

South face: SCHOLAR / PATRIOT / STATESMAN / CHRISTIAN

East face: HIS WISDOM ILLUSTRATED THE / PRINCIPLES OF LAW AND EQUITY. / HIS ELOQUENCE COMMANDED / THE ADMIRATION OF HIS PEERS. / BELOVED FOR HIS STAINLESS / INTEGRITY, HIS MEMORY DWELLS / IN THE HEARTS OF HIS PEOPLE. / SHINING IN THE PURE EXCELLENCE / OF VIRTUE AND REFINEMENT, / HE EXEMPLIFIED, WITH DIGNITY / AND SIMPLICITY, WITH GENTLE / COURTESY AND CHRISTIAN FAITH, / THE TRUE HEART OF CHIVALRY / IN SOUTHERN MANHOOD.

North face: ERECTED / IN LOVING MEMORY / BY / THE UNITED DAUGHTERS / OF THE CONFEDERACY

Dedication date: 4/20/1911

Creator: Francis H. Packer. Sculptor Gorham Manufacturing Company, Foundry

Materials & Techniques: Bronze statue, granite base

Sponsor: The United Daughters of the Confederacy (Cape Fear Chapter 3)

Cost: \$5010

Unveiling & Dedication: The statue of George Davis was unveiled on April 20, 1911 by four of the man's grandsons: M.F. H. Gouverneur, Jr., Donald McRae, Jr., George Rountree, and Robert Cowan Davis. Henry G. Connor, Judge of the United States Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, delivered the dedication speech, which can be read [here](#) [6]. The Delgado Band was hired for twenty-five dollars to provide musical accompaniment to the dedication ceremony.

Post dedication use: George Davis' birthday was celebrated at the monument in 1993 by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Davis was again honored two years later by his descendants in a monument ceremony. In 2000, traffic damage to the monument led to its repair and reinstallation.

Subject notes: George Davis was born in 1820 in Wilmington, NC and later attended the University of North Carolina, where he was valedictorian. He studied law and served in the Confederate army as a delegate. Jefferson Davis elected him Attorney General in 1864, a position in which he served until the end of the war. He was captured and imprisoned by the US army in 1865 but was pardoned. Davis returned to Wilmington in 1866 and lived there until his death on February 23, 1896.

Controversies: The statue was removed by the Town of Wilmington on June 24, 2020. In the wake of civil protest combating racism across the country, town leaders made the decision to remove the statue in the interest of public safety and to preserve the historical artifact.

City: Wilmington

County: New Hanover

Subjects: Historic Political Figures

Latitude: 34.23567

Longitude: -77.94455

Subjects:

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Origin - location:

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[Wilmington](#) [11]

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