

Department of Historic Resources

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STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER "WINFIELD SCOTT" TO BE DEDICATED

*—Dinwiddie County marker features two topics: "War of 1812" and military hero
"Winfield Scott" —*

—The marker's text is reproduced below—

RICHMOND – A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources that highlights—not one, but two topics—Dinwiddie County's native son, Winfield Scott, and the "War of 1812" will be dedicated on Wednesday.

The public ceremony to dedicate and unveil the new marker begins at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 24, at the "old" Dinwiddie Courthouse, in Dinwiddie.

The ceremony will feature remarks by Del. Rosalyn Dance of the Virginia Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commission; Betty Bowen of the Dinwiddie County Historical Society; Kevin Massengill, Dinwiddie County Administrator; H. Edward "Chip" Mann, a member of the Department of Historic Resources' Governor-appointed Board of Historic Resources, and Dr. Jennifer Loux, historian and coordinator of the historical highway marker program. The Fort Lee Color Guard will present the colors.

"One of America's early military heroes," in the marker's words, Winfield Scott was twice wounded and promoted to brigadier general during the War of 1812. He also fought in the Mexican-American War and served the U.S. during the Civil War, formulating his "Anaconda Plan," which proposed "blockading the Southern coast and severing the Confederacy in the West," a plan that "presaged eventual Union victory," according to the marker.

The two-topic sign marks another stop on a War of 1812 highway route linked by historical markers created to honor the 200th anniversary of the war. The signs—now numbering 19 approved, with 10 erected—result from collaboration between Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Virginia Bicentennial of the War of 1812 Commission.

The War of 1812—sometimes referred to as the nation’s second war of independence— was fought between the U.S. and Great Britain and ended in 1815.

Each of the bicentennial signs feature on one side general information about the causes of the War of 1812 and its adverse impact on Virginia, especially the Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater regions. The signs also note that “more than 2000 enslaved African Americans in Virginia had gained their freedom aboard British ships.”

According to the legislation enacted by the General Assembly to establish the bicentennial commission, "An estimated 70,000 Virginians served during the War of 1812. There were some 73 armed encounters with the British that took place in Virginia during the war." The 2008 legislation also states, “The nation's capitol, strategically located off the Chesapeake Bay, was a prime target for the British, and the coast of Virginia figured prominently in the Atlantic theatre of operations.”

Virginia’s historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Route 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,400 official state markers, most maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, as well as by local partners in jurisdictions outside of VDOT’s authority such as the City of Richmond.

Text of the marker:

Winfield Scott (1786-1866)

Winfield Scott, one of America’s early military heroes, was born nearby. He attended the College of William and Mary and in 1807 received a U.S. Army commission. During the War of 1812, wounded twice, he was promoted to brigadier general. He became Army general in chief in 1841. He commanded the amphibious force that captured Mexico City in 1848, ending the

Mexican-American War. Scott remained loyal during the Civil War, and his Anaconda Plan—blockading the Southern coast and severing the Confederacy in the West—presaged eventual Union victory. Scott retired in Nov. 1861 and died at West Point, N.Y.

The War of 1812

Impressment of Americans into British service and the violation of American ships were among the causes of America's War of 1812 with the British, which lasted until 1815. Beginning in 1813, Virginians suffered from a British naval blockade of the Chesapeake Bay and from British troops plundering the countryside by the Bay and along the James, Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers. The Virginia militia deflected a British attempt to take Norfolk in 1813 and engaged British forces throughout the war. By the end of the war, more than 2000 enslaved African Americans in Virginia had gained their freedom aboard British ships.

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