The public dedication of Hyde County’s newest North Carolina Highway Historical marker was held in Swan Quarter on May 26, 2019. The Hyde County School Boycott (know locally as “The Movement”) of 1968-69 was commemorated with the unveiling of a prominent silver-and-black sign following a short ceremony that took place on the grounds of the Hyde County Government Center, 30 Oyster Creek Road.

In 1968-69, a year-long school boycott by African-Americans in this rural eastern North Carolina county was prompted by a desegregation plan put forth by the Hyde County Board of Education that called for the county’s black schools (O. A. Peay School in Swan Quarter and Davis School in Engelhard) to be closed. Blacks, who had been left completely out of the planning process, were dismayed at the lack of respect for their educational heritage and the impending closure of their schools. The “Committee of 14” (6 men and 8 women - two persons from each of seven black churches of every local denomination) was formed. Trusted leaders in the black community, the group set about to learn about the latest Hyde County plan. When discussions with the local school board proved fruitless, they developed their own counter-strategies with the help of Golden Frinks, state field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). The school boycott that followed was one of the most sustained and successful civil rights protests in America. Ultimately, both schools remained open and a new era began.

The NC Highway Historical Marker Program was established in 1935 in an effort to standardize the practice of marking sites of statewide historical significance. There are markers in each of the State’s fifty counties. This is eighth such marker in Hyde County. For more information about the program visit [**http://www.ncmarkers.com/Home.aspx**](http://www.ncmarkers.com/Home.aspx) .

The following series of links from noted NC historian David Cecelski’s (author of ***Along Freedom Road Hyde County North Carolina and the Fate of Black Schools in the South***)website provide more information about The Movement:

1. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/26/remembering-the-hyde-county-school-boycott-a-50th-anniversary-celebration/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/26/remembering-the-hyde-county-school-boycott-a-50th-anniversary-celebration/)
2. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/27/in-our-blood-from-way-back-the-history-of-the-o-a-peay-school/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/27/in-our-blood-from-way-back-the-history-of-the-o-a-peay-school/)
3. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/29/letha-selby-stands-up-celebrating-the-50th-anniversary-of-the-hyde-county-school-boycott-part-3/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/29/letha-selby-stands-up-celebrating-the-50th-anniversary-of-the-hyde-county-school-boycott-part-3/)
4. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/29/everybody-was-organized-celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-4/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/29/everybody-was-organized-celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-4/)
5. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/31/shoot-out-in-middletown-celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-5/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/08/31/shoot-out-in-middletown-celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-5/)
6. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/09/01/freedom-stories-celebrating-the-hyde-county-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-6/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/09/01/freedom-stories-celebrating-the-hyde-county-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-part-6/)
7. [**https://davidcecelski.com/2018/09/09/celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-engelhard-n-c/**](https://davidcecelski.com/2018/09/09/celebrating-the-hyde-co-school-boycotts-50th-anniversary-engelhard-n-c/)