

Revised Mission Statement

The mission of the Museum of Ashe County History is to preserve the Ashe County 1904 Courthouse. The Courthouse functions as:

- **A museum.** The museum will collect, preserve, interpret, and display objects of historic and cultural interest. Emphasis will be on items and events of historic significance to Ashe County and the Southern Appalachian region. Permanent and rotating exhibits will include a veteran's honor room, a scale model of the Virginia Creeper Railroad, and displays highlighting local industry, agriculture, and decorative arts.
- **A visitor's center.** The 1904 Courthouse will be both an introduction to Ashe County and Southern Appalachian history and a hub for local tourism. By promoting heritage tourism, the organization will offer economic stimulus for Ashe County's revitalization plans.
- **An educational institution.** The museum will focus on the youth of the county by active exchanges with area schools through visits to elementary classes and hosting group visits to the museum to teach the rich heritage of the region. The museum will create liaisons with organizations throughout western North Carolina and in neighboring states to encourage interest and exchanges to further our mission.
- **A community center.** The 1904 Courthouse will provide program space for compatible local organizations and activities, including civic and business meetings, dramas and musical performances, school functions, festivals, and other community activities. The museum gift shop will also function as a treasury for local literature, arts and crafts, and music.