

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Director of Strategic Planning

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HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE APRIL 15, 1998 -- 4:00 P.M. MICHIE ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM

AGENDA

1. Approval of March 11, 1998 Minutes
2. Committee Presentations & Finalization of Recommendations
3. Other Business

NOTE: You can park in the Market Street Parking Garage. Bring your ticket into the office with you to be stamped for two-hours free.

HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE

CHARGE

- The development of heritage walking tours by private entrepreneurs and/or other organizations.
- Cultural events such as the Jefferson Thanksgiving, Colonial Christmas.
- Educational programs for adults and/or children, through the schools and other organizations, including community archaeology to learn the history of native American, colonial and civil war periods in Charlottesville.
- Historical plaques, sculptures or other public exhibits in public places and private businesses;
- Development of signs to identify historic buildings and sites related to individuals who contributed to local, regional or national history.
- Promotion or creation of museums or permanent exhibits of cultural history.

HONORARY CHAIRS

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Mr. Coy Barefoot (**Chair**)
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100 South Street #1
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971-6745

Ms. Bobby Cochran
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Ms. Mary Hill Caperton
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Ms. Lynne Ely
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Mr. Mark Beliles, Director
Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival
304 Minor Ridge Road
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Mr. Jim Wootton
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Charlottesville, VA 22903
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STAFF CONTACT: Satyendra Huja, Director of Strategic Planning 970-3186

TIMEFRAME: This task force is appointed for a five months term, ending May 1998.

An Ideal Longterm Plan for Downtown:

(proposed by Mark Beliles)

I believe that our area has the potential to be a major historical tourist destination in the state similar to Colonial Williamsburg. The rich history of the city in the Revolutionary and early Federal period (1770-1830) includes the authors of the *Declaration* and the *Constitution*, three of our early Presidents, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the founding of the University of Virginia. Few cities compare with Charlottesville's history during this period. I therefore believe that the City should set its goals very high when thinking about developing its historical resources. The longterm results could be enormous. The proposals that follow are with these goals in mind.

Develop a Unified Tourist Pass and Trolley-Shuttle System

1. Tourists could purchase a unified Pass that would include Monticello, Ashlawn-Highland, Michie Tavern, Downtown Charlottesville's Visitor Center/Museum, and the University of Virginia. For an extra fee, also include as an option Montpelier, the 1781 amphitheatre production, or a meal at Michie Tavern (...to induce overnight stays).

2. People should be able to purchase the pass and begin the tour at any of three major points: Monticello Visitor Center, Downtown Visitor Center/Museum, or UVa.

3. A continuously-running trolley should be established that would run on a circuit between the three points (The drivers could also go through other neighborhoods). The city would be asked to provide the trolley. A loading and unloading area for tourist buses or trolleys in the downtown area and near UVa needs to be established.

Extend the Downtown Mall to Include Court Square and 5th Street

The Courthouse property on Courtsquare plus the adjacent buildings on Park Street and 6th Street between High & Market (Swan Tavern, No. Nothing) are the most original historical structures from the early history of the city. They still have the look & character of being old and can be preserved in a way that allows tourists to feel they are truly in a historic district. I believe therefore that the ideal goal for the city would be to:

1. Make the Old Courthouse the Visitor Center/Museum

-The old Courthouse and perhaps the annex next to it should become the location of the visitor center/Lewis and Clark Museum. In it there could be a slide show, exhibits, tour guides, gift shop, snacks, etc.

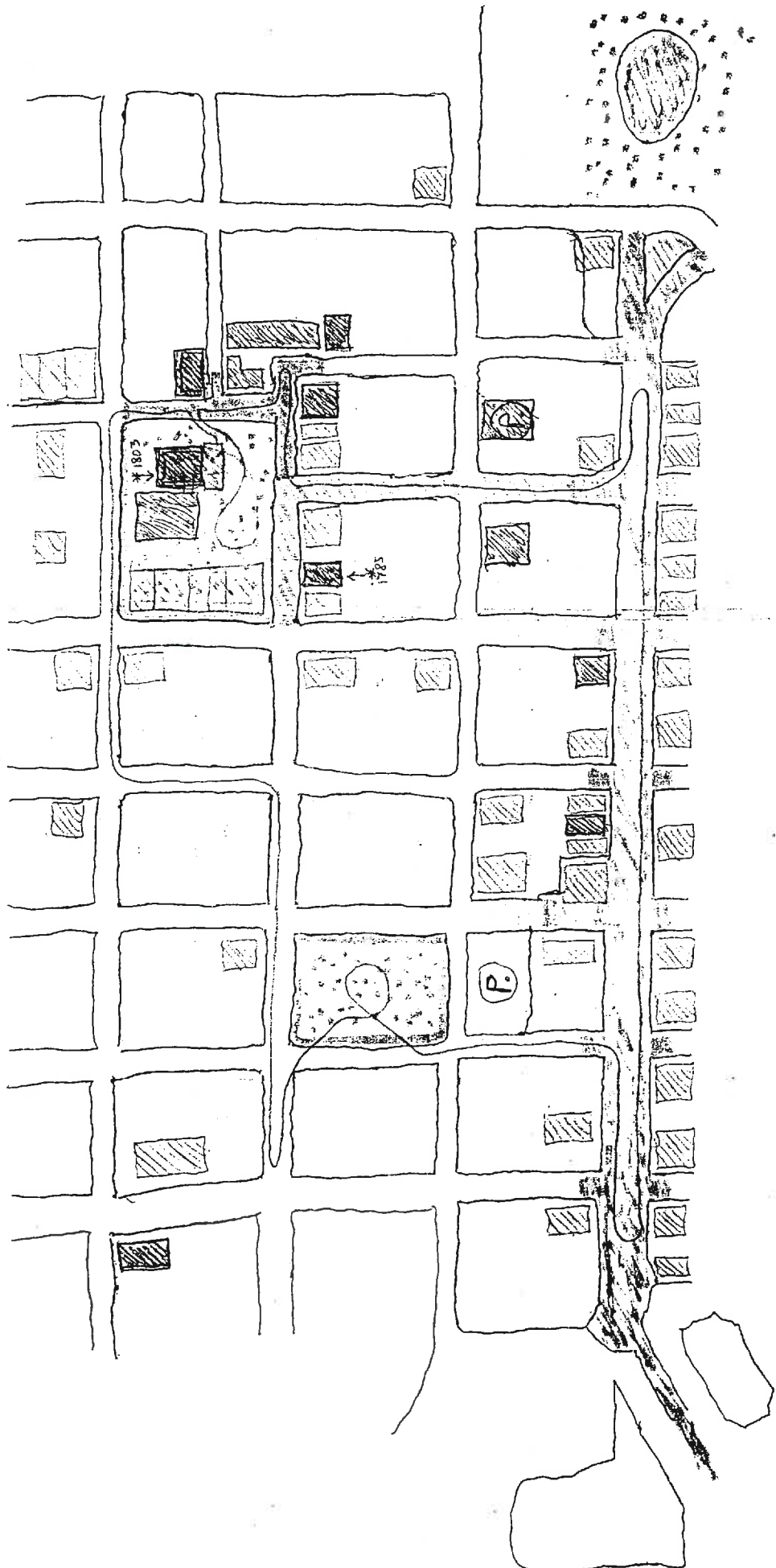
2. Acquire the properties to the east of the Courthouse and close the street

- The Swan Tavern, Number Nothing, and other adjacent buildings should be acquired as well. In these buildings, additional exhibits could be shown on certain themes (i.e. African-American history, tavern life, etc).

-If these structures could be obtained, then possibly have the street on the east side of the Courthouse permanently closed and laid with brick or cobblestones and the area turned into a pedestrian-only historic area.

3. Close off Fifth Street and make it part of the Historic Downtown Mall

-This would become a pedestrian connector between the original Mall and the Court Square area. Court Square and Fifth Street could be dressed with Revolutionary-era flags, etc. You could even have horse-drawn carriages giving people rides between Court Square and the Mall.



Develop a Local History Education Program

1. Establish a living-history educational program on Court Square/Jackson Park

- Costumed tour guides from the Revolutionary and early Federal Period (1770-1830) would be available all day long. In the warmer months a Revolutionary soldier camp would be set up (tents or a few small huts) on Jackson Park. British prisoners of war would be guarded by American soldiers as they actually were in our area during the Revolutionary War.
- Have a historic character featured each month during the high tourist season for tourists to meet such as: Thomas and Martha Jefferson, James and Dolly Madison, James Monroe, Shadrack Battles, Meriwether Lewis, George Rogers Clark, Jack Jouett, Daniel Boone, William Michie. (Some of these could also appear at Monticello, Ashlawn, Montpelier, & Michie Tavern.)
- This living-history program could go ahead and be developed even if the Courthouse and Annex are not acquired and turned into the main visitor center/museum. Grace Covenant Church, which organizes the annual Thanksgiving Festival, could also possibly develop this whole program. Using youth and volunteers can keep this from getting too expensive, but the city would still need to pay for costumes, advertizing and salary of a coordinator. By offering credit in the high schools and at UVA, students could be encouraged to take a short course in the local history.

2. Promote the annual Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival (see appendix)

This Festival is an interactive living-history program in November that is based on an actual *Public Day of Thanksgiving* proclaimed during the American Revolution by Virginia's Governor Thomas Jefferson. It re-creates historic events that actually happened in Charlottesville between 1779 & 1781, including military skirmishes, political debates and town-meetings. It features over a hundred costumed characters (professionals from Colonial Williamsburg or actors with experience in television, film and local theatre) who portray famous people from the past, demonstrate 18th century trades and crafts, perform colonial music and dance, and re-enact soldier life. The audience steps back in history & interacts with famous citizens, soldiers and slaves, and learns local traditions that nurtured some of the most influential ideas and leaders in the world. The whole family kicks off the Thanksgiving season by giving thanks the way people did in Jefferson's day!

3. Expand the Walking Tour Program (and add a driving tour option?)

- Self-guided tours could also be developed that first focus on the earliest part of our city's history at Court Square and on the present Mall (1770-1830), then covers later history (1830-1900) on the Mall and around Lee Park.
- Develop a brochure for the self-guided tour and get structures that existed before 20th century marked better by plaques or borders painted on the ground.
- Develop a driving tour of other historic sites in the city and county that tourists could visit in addition to the unified pass sites. Develop a brochure for those who wish to do it in a self-guided fashion. (or personal tour guides)

Develop Costumed Characters at UVA

University guides at the Rotunda already provide tours, however, a costumed historic character could be featured at the University each month during the high tourist season for tourists to meet.

The 5th Annual

Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival:

Friday-Sunday, Nov 13-15, 1998

Experience the American Revolution In Historic Downtown Charlottesville!

(Downtown Mall, Court Square, Lee Park, and McGuffey Art Center)

1. Military Demonstrations, Drills and Skirmishes

Join **James Monroe, Jack Jouett** & the historic Albemarle Minutemen for an authentic recreation of military drills and firing of muskets and artillery. Catch a brief skirmish of soldiers when some prisoners try to escape, or observe the famous British invasion by **Tarleton's Legion** that is thwarted by **Jouett's ride** to Charlottesville. During the day or at night you can visit an authentic American soldier encampment at Court Square or British prisoners of war at Lee Park and see camp life as it really was including cooking and repairs. The Continental soldier battalions and British redcoats will explain the history of their particular units. Kids also can join the "little militia" for some fun drills. You can also visit the soldier camps at night.

2. Demonstrations of 18th Century Trades and Crafts

Meet merchants, craftsmen and artisans, using colonial tools and methods to perform the arts, skills and crafts of the period: blacksmithing, woodworking, candle-dipping, leatherworking, spinning, printing, weaving, gunmaking, ropemaking, glass-blowing and more! Many of these skills are explained by costumed characters. Discuss the winemaking business with the Italian **Fillippo Mazzei**. Visit Dr. **George Gilmer's** field Hospital for a demonstration of medical and surgical arts of the time.

3. Conversations and Debates with Famous Persons From the Past

Pretend it is 1781 and you're attending a political town-meeting. Participate in a courthouse debate of the political issues of the day with **Thomas Jefferson, James Madison**, and other statesmen and citizens. Feel free to voice your opinion too! Mingle with **Martha Jefferson, Patrick Henry** or other members of the Continental Congress and state legislature that are in town for the day. Meet famous clergymen and experience a "shocking" thanksgiving service. Converse with the patriotic woman **Lucy Gilmer**, or even a Tory or two. Explore the life, times & issues that motivated 18th-century citizens.

4. Colonial Music, Dance and Games for Children

Enjoy authentic music, ballads and dance provided by tavern keepers **John Jouett** and **William Michie** using period instruments: harpsichord, deutsche laute, fiddle and harp. Attend a concert in the courthouse of chamber music or of African-American music and song. Kids can take a carriage ride, try their skills at games that children played in Revolutionary times, or visit an authentic colonial cabin in the Discovery Museum. Mini-concerts are during the day & fuller programs in evenings including the Governor's Ball.

5. Religious Culture and African-American Culture

Attend a Thanksgiving-Day religious service and meet local preachers such as Methodist **Henry Fry**, Baptist **John Leland**, Anglican **Charles Clay**, Presbyterian **James Waddell**. Attend an African-American service led by "Black Harry" **Hosier**. Learn about daily life for African-Americans, from Monticello slave **Betty Hemings** or free-black soldier **Shadrack Battle**.

All events are free and still take place despite rain or very cold weather (many are moved indoors).

HISTORIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE

Local History in the Charlottesville Public Schools

Per Mr. Ronald Hutchinson, Central Office

A local history kit is being used in grade 3 primarily. At present the Charlottesville social studies curriculum is being revamped, in light of the new Virginia Standards of Learning. The use of the kit is being moved down to grade 2, to be reviewed in grades 3 and 4.

NEEDED: The kit needs to be updated.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Nancy King's talk Show, Charlottesville Live

Auction of the Robertson Black Americana Collection

March 23, 1998 4:00 p. m.

Green Valley Auctions

Mt. Crawford, VA

Over 2000 pieces, such as figurines, humidors, dolls, toys, iron works, jewelry, and books

For more information, call 540-434-4260 two weeks before the auction

Florence C. Bryant
3/11/98

Historic Resources Task Force

Historic School Buildings of Charlottesville

These buildings provided the educational foundation for historic Charlottesville. They should be named and keyed with a marker in whatever document the Task Force comes up with.

1. Clark Elementary School
100 Belmont Avenue
Built in 1930
Named in honor of George Rogers Clark, early American frontiersman; active in Albemarle County's early history. Continues to be used as an elementary school, grades 1-4
Underwent complete renovation in 1988,
2. Jefferson School
4th Street, N.W.
Named in honor of Thomas Jefferson
Grade school, built in 1894; expanded to include high school in 1927 and again in 1939.
Segregated African American grade and high school.
At present, houses the PVCC College Neighborhood Center, the Charlottesville Pre-school Educational Center, and a variety of other school system services.
3. Lane High School
401 McIntire Road
Built in 1940 to replace the former Charlottesville High School (founded in 1929).
Named in honor of James W. Lane, former principal of Charlottesville High School, a Charlottesville educator for forty-five years.
The building was purchased by the county of Albemarle in 1981 and is at present the Albemarle County Office Building.
4. McGuffey Elementary School
201 2nd Street, N.W.
Built in 1915
Named in honor of William Holmes McGuffey, professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Virginia; author of a famous speller, readers and primers; best known for his McGuffey Eclectic Readers, used widely throughout the United States.
The building was donated to the City in 1974. At present it is the McGuffey Art Center, studio center for forty local artists and craftsmen.

5. Venable Elementary School

406 14th Street, N.W.

Built in 1925-26

Named in honor of Colonel Charles Scott Venable, professor of Mathematics at the University of Virginia; author of arithmetic textbooks widely used in the United States.

The building was completely renovated in 1977 and continues to be an elementary school, grades 1-4.

Flourence C. Bryant
3/11/98