

**HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE
June 14, 2000 – 3:30 P.M.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
- 2. Status of Historic Markers**
- 3. Status of Court Square Project**
- 4. Charlottesville tour book status**
- 5. Status Reports**
- 6. Discussion of the charge of the committee**
- 7. 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 RESOURCE TASK FORCE
May 10, 2000
Minutes

Present:

Winston Churchill Gooding
Jim Wootton
Mary Hill Caperton
Lynne Ely
Ben Ford
Jim Eddins
Frances Fife
Ingrid Smyer Kelley
Mark Beliles

Also Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of April 12, 2000 were unanimously approved. Except for an amendment to show that Jim Eddins was present at the April 12th meeting.

Mr. Wootton informed the task force that he has been in discussion with Scott Arnold of the state Historic Resources Department. They have agreed to minor changes to the state marker for the Charlottesville General Hospital.

Mr. Huja stated that he has been in contact with Garrett Smith, Mr. Huja has agreed to pay for the graphic design layout of the historic tour booklet. Mr. Huja will get \$2000.00 from the visitor's bureau and \$750.00 from his account. Mr. Huja stated that there is also a question about the printing of paper that needs to be resolved along with the finalization of the printing with the Michie Company. Ingrid Smyer Kelly indicated that she has talked with some potential donors but she needs the layout before raising the funds, so those donors can see what they are paying for.

Ms. Lynne Ely stated that she has given the union station exhibit to Gropen for mounting and hanging it on the wall. Ms. Ely expects this to be done by the end of May. It was agreed that there would be an unveiling ceremony in early June.

Mr. Ben Ford stated that he and his committee have been working on the City's recognition of archeology as a valid concern in the comprehensive plan and further study. Mr. Ford hopes to present the report to the planning commission in June.

Mr. Beliles distributed an article from the daily Progress dealing with historic preservation. Mr. Beliles would like to discuss this issue in a future meeting. (see attached)

Ms. Capperton stated that DNR Development has hired a new historical architect from Charleston to assist if the facades can be preserved. The committee members discussed whether they should take the position on this issue as a group. It was agreed that they needed to check the change of the committee, learn more about the project. Members can express their individual viewpoints or through their membership in other organizations. It was felt that it was premature for the task force to take a position at this time.

Mr. Huja shared the latest plan for the historic court square enhancement and indicated that he is preparing for community meeting at Albemarle County Courthouse tonight (5-11-00). Mr. Huja stated that a new plan reduces a net of eight parking spaces. The task force discussed their historic tour for the community meeting.

There was a discussion by the members in regards to the format of their walking tour of Court Square before that evening's public meeting to hear proposals for enhancing Court Square. Lynne Ely will begin the tour with a brief history of the Albemarle County Courthouse, to be delivered from the courthouse steps at 6:30 p.m. After her 10-minute presentation, Mark Beliles and Jim Wootton will conduct walking tours around Court Square. If the audience is too large, Joan Fenton will also assist with the walking tours. The tours will conclude by 7:00 p.m. when the public meeting is schedule to begin.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20. The next meeting will be June 14, 2000.

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE:

May 14, 2000
~~May 12, 2000~~

TO:

Satyendra Singh Huja

FAX # 970-3890

FROM:

Jim Wootton

THIS DOCUMENT HAS TWO PAGES.

MESSAGE:

Thanks for your phone message yesterday. I look forward to our lunch meeting on May 31st.

I also had two other points to pass on to you:

1) The April minutes of the Historic Resources Task Force should be amended to show that Jim Eddins was present. After you left the May meeting—"The members of the Task Force discussed the format of the walking tour of Court Square before that evening's public meeting to hear proposals for enhancing Court Square. Lynne Ely will begin the tour with a brief history of the Albemarle County Courthouse, to be delivered from the courthouse steps at 6:30 p.m. After her 10-minute presentation, Mark Beliles and Jim Wootton will conduct walking tours around Court Square. If the audience is too large, Joan Fenton will also assist with the walking tours. The tours will conclude by 7:00 p.m., when the public meeting is scheduled to begin. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20."

2) Scott Arnold e-mailed me the Department of Historic Resources revised text for this year's two historical markers. They both seem fine to me, but as Mark Beliles is out of town, I thought you should see them too. Any questions or changes have to be submitted by this coming Monday, May 15th. Scott apologized for the short notice, but I don't think there will be any changes.

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

Jim

Should Confederacy past be set in stone?

Associated Press

FAIRVIEW, Ky. — In the midst of miles of canola and tobacco fields it rises, like some ancient stone spaceship. The fourth tallest monument in the United States; the tallest concrete obelisk in the world.

The gray-white needle, soaring 351 feet into the air, casts a long shadow over this postage stamp of a town in the rolling western Kentucky countryside.

These days the column is undergoing a \$3 million, publicly funded

Increasingly active opponents, including many descendants of slaves, see monuments that stand in town squares and on courthouse lawns across the South — and beyond — as an affront.

repair, and that troubles some people because of whom the crumbling shaft honors: Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

Around the nation each year, local and state governments spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to

maintain monuments to soldiers and leaders of what amounted to a failed rebellion.

Descendants of Confederate veterans say the memorials recognize heritage and sacrifice. But increasingly active opponents, many

descendants of slaves, see the monuments that stand in town squares and on courthouse lawns across the South — and beyond — as an affront. They want them removed.

"Many of them were put up at taxpayer expense. It's an outrage," said historian James Loewen, author of the new book, "Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong."

Loewen has found Confederate memorials in such unlikely spots as a park in Helena, Mont., which was still being organized as a terri-

See CONFEDERATE on A10

Confederate

Continued from A1

tory as the Civil War was ending in 1864. The statue, erected in 1916 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was propaganda, Loewen argues.

"By 1916, this monument declares implicitly that the Confederacy was somehow patriotic and that whites agreed, even this far north, to honor it nostalgically," he wrote.

In South Carolina, a battle is raging over the Confederate flag that flutters over the state capitol. But that is a piece of cloth; Loewen and others are calling for a reassessment of the hundreds of memorials set in stone and cast in bronze.

"[T]hey're all about saying that 'We were right, and they were wrong, and the South should have won the war,'" said Gary Bledsoe, who, as president of the Texas NAACP, last month called for the removal of two Confederate plaques from the Supreme Court building in Austin. "We think these things are clear badges of slavery."

Many of the monuments were built between 1890 and 1920 — the Jim Crow era of lynchings and segregation that Loewen calls the "nadir of race relations in the United States." And most, like the statues of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson on Richmond's Monument Boulevard, were erected with public funds or turned over or taxpayer maintenance at a time when blacks would never have dreamed of protesting.

The United Daughters once boasted that, through the group's efforts, "the Southland has become a land of monuments." These run the

gamut, from simple life-size bronze soldiers to the enormous granite relief on Georgia's Stone Mountain.

UDC's greatest achievement, in its own estimation, was the Jefferson Davis obelisk in Fairview.

Dedicated in 1924, it mimics the Washington Monument in shape and stature. Two years after its dedication, the monument was turned over to the state of Kentucky, which maintains it as a historic site. Davis was born in a log cabin where the Fairview Post Office now stands.

Despite sending nearly three times as many troops to the Union as to the Confederacy — while remaining officially neutral during the Civil War — Kentucky has 72 Rebel monuments and only two Union ones, according to a count by state historian Thomas D. Clark.

In Todd County, where the Davis obelisk stands, many people believe their area was always Rebel country, even though it was predominantly pro-Union during the war, noted Tony Horwitz, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Confederates in the Attic." In 1995, a local man, Michael Westerman, became a modern-day Confederate martyr when he was fatally shot by a group of blacks for flying a Confederate flag from his pickup truck.

Emblems of the Civil War, be they flags or monuments, carry messages to today's generations, born a century after Appomattox.

Many monuments were erected as protests against Northern domination and to let locals know where things stood, says Elizabeth Paul, a researcher with the Library of Congress. "They create a world in which white men have the

power to express themselves in a way women and black people do not," she wrote last year in her University of Virginia master's thesis.

UDC President June Murray Wells did not return calls for comment. But James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, says people should not try to endow those who lived in the 19th century with modern sensibilities.

"I've got a problem with people being insulted by that kind of stuff," Lighthizer said. "It was a different world back then. They also married 12-year-old girls. ... My point is, the social and cultural mores were different 150 years ago. You don't have to agree with them."

Even the language of the memorials evokes a bygone era, such as this from a Confederate marker on the courthouse lawn in Darlington, S.C.:

"They never fail who die in a great cause.

"While the tree of freedom's wither'd

"Trunk puts forth a leaf.

"Even for thy tomb a garland let it be."

Three years ago, when a group demanded that a memorial in Walterboro, S.C., be moved, the proposal died quietly. No member of the county council would make a motion for a vote.

Rarely do such efforts succeed; though supporters of South Carolina's statehouse Rebel flag fear the tide could turn if it comes down.

In Texas, Bledsoe did not persuade Gov. George W. Bush to remove two Confederate plaques from the court building. Bush's presidential campaign responded that the capital complex contains "many historical representations of the six different governments that governed Texas in the past."

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.