

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE
April 9, 2003
3:30 p.m.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Vestige Billboard Presentation
3. Discussion of State Markers e.g., Jefferson School
4. Discussion of Local Markers
5. Discussion of Pamphlets
6. 400th Anniversary Celebration of Virginia
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
Minutes
March 12, 2003
3:30 p.m. Basement Conference Room
City Hall*

Present:

Winston Churchill Gooding
Mary Hill Caperton
Helena Devereux
Genevieve Keller
Mark Beliles
Ingrid Smyer-Kelley
Douglas Day

Others Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja

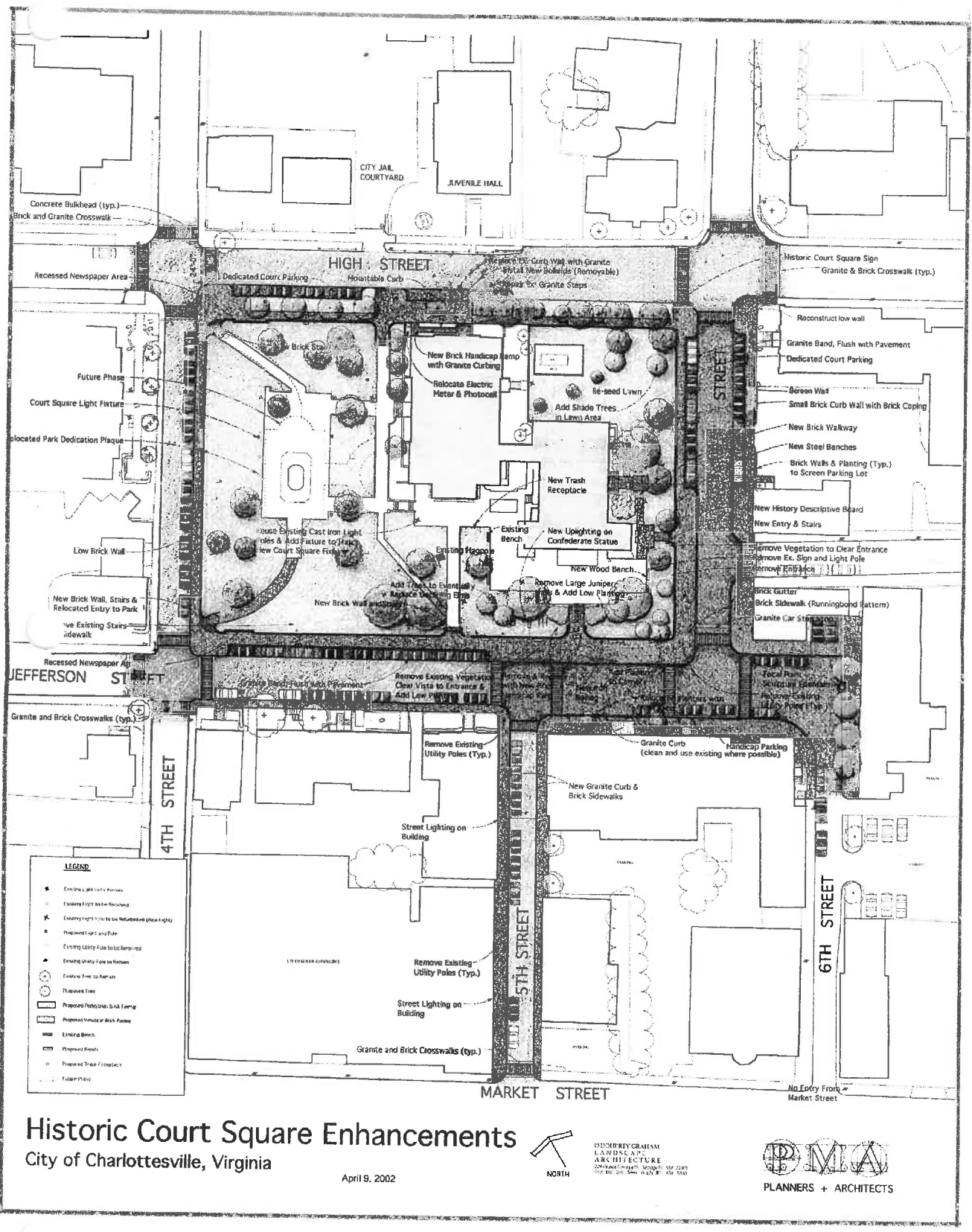
Minutes:

Mr. Huja presented the sign package for Court Square. The first sign was "Information Board", 7 feet 6 inches tall and 4 feet 6 inches wide. The next was the "Court House Building"; it will contain an historic map of the Court Square and a space for a bulletin board. The committee felt that instead of bulletin board space, there should be the history of the Court Square for the visitors to read. It will be an aluminum frame painted Charleston green. The second sign will be a freestanding monument stand at the southwest corner of Park and High Street. It will be 3 feet by 3 feet sitting atop of a 7 foot 6 inches high pole painted gloss black. The committee liked the sign very much especially the background. After some discussion it was felt that, the cupola logo is too general and the committee would prefer the three-president logo on this and other signs. This would be more symbolic of this specific location. The third sign was a small sign hanging from the streetlights with three presidents. The committee felt that there should not be to many of these signs. There could one or two on each street surrounding the Court Square. Another sign that the committee discussed was a need for small directional signs directing people from the downtown mall to Court Square. It was moved by Mrs. Caperton and second by Mr. Gooding that the Task Force adopts the above recommendations for the signs. The motion was adopted unanimously. There was also a discussion of the

street signs that they should be on nice poles, but more traditional and legible. (See attached)

There was a discussion of the text of eight local markers around Court Square. The Task Force reviewed the wording of each marker and made appropriate modifications and reductions. It was agreed that any additional comments should be given to Mr. Beliles, no later than Friday, March 14, 2003. Mr. Beliles will finalize the wording and send them to Mr. Huja on Monday March 17, 2003. (See attached)

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be April 9, 2003 at 3:30.



Historic Court Square Enhancements

City of Charlottesville, Virginia

April 9, 2002



 NORTH

 DOROTHY GRAHAM

 & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

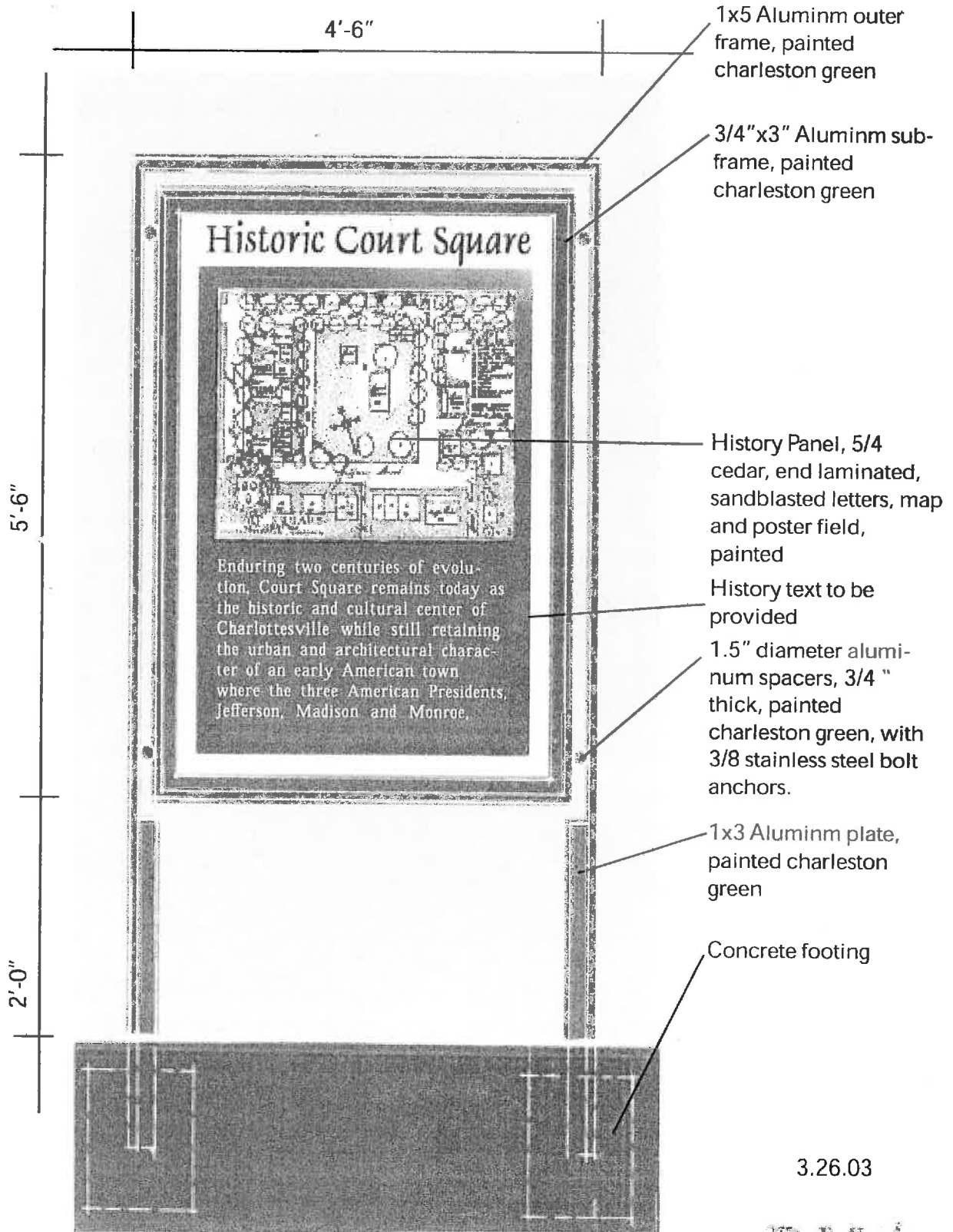
 ARCHITECTURE

 220 N. BROAD STREET, SUITE 100, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

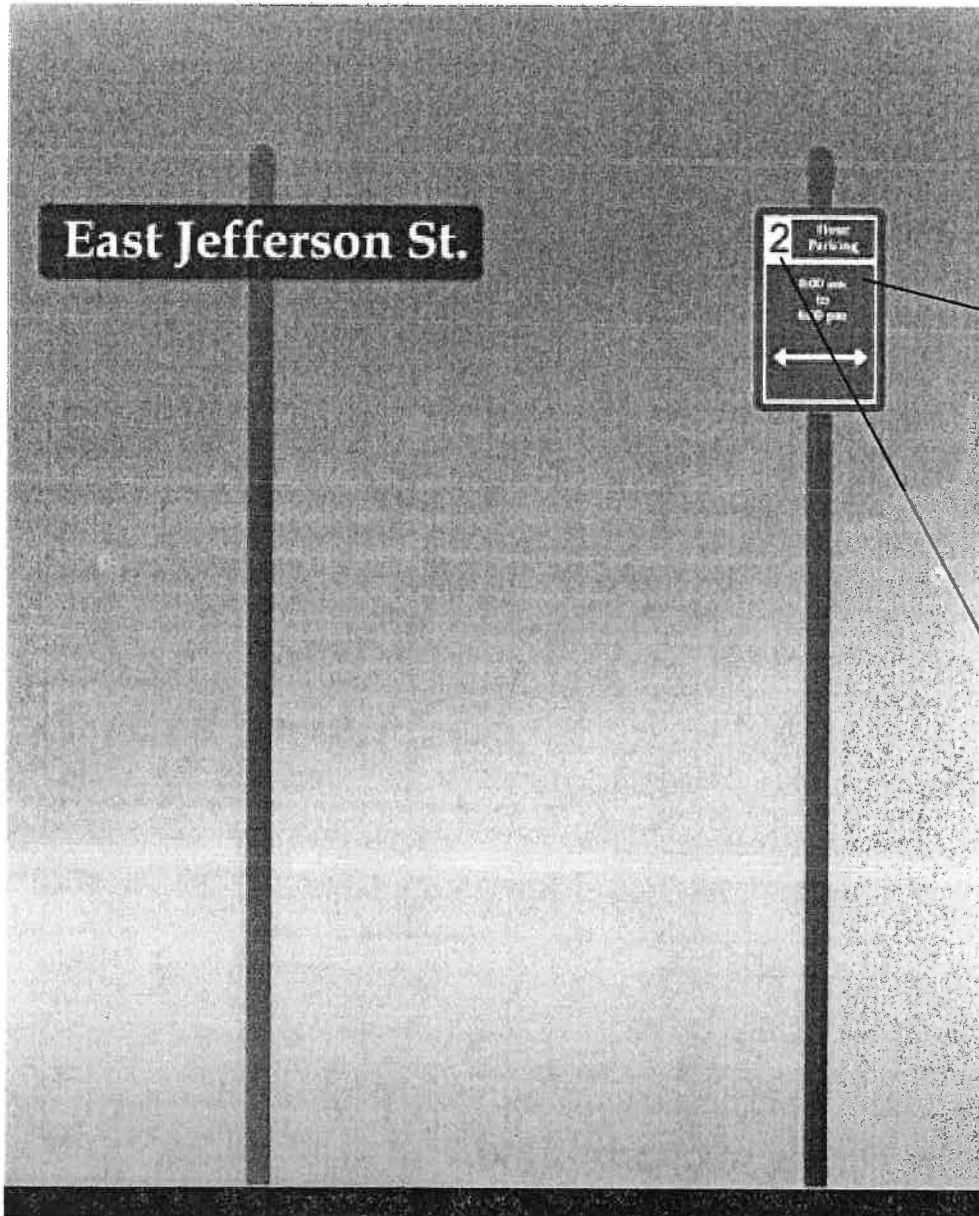
 803.974.1100



 PLANNERS + ARCHITECTS



3.26.03



2"x2"
Galv. Powder
Coated Post
with ball top
sign, Black

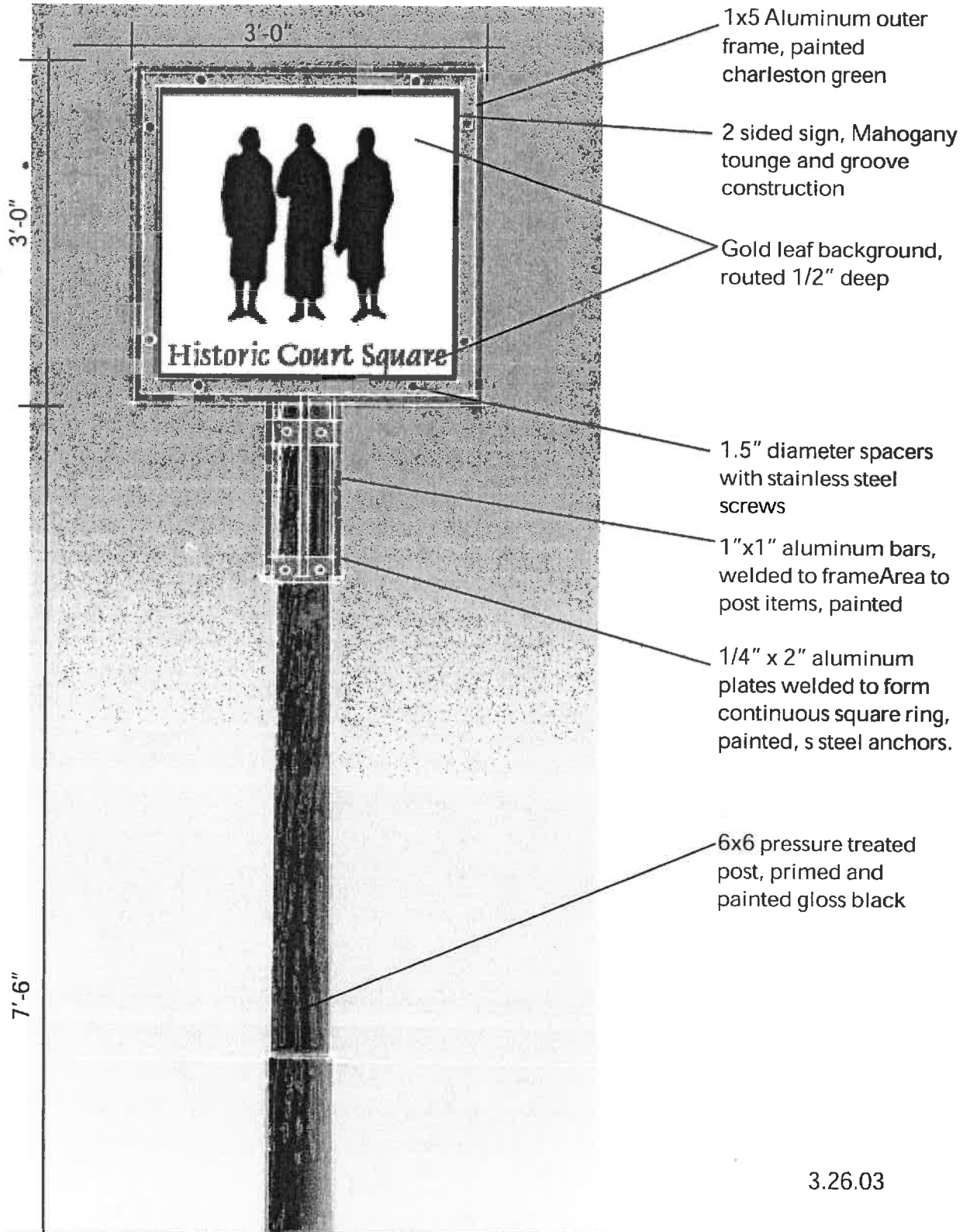
Charleston
Green painted
aluminum
background
plate,
painted both
sides, typi-
cal

3M traffic
signage over-
lay film per
VDOT Stan-
dards, re-
flective
white

3.26.03

Street and Regulatory Signs

PMA
Planners + Architects



Court Square Monument Sign

3.26.03

Text for local markers around Court Square

Number Nothing (0 Park St)

This building was erected as a mercantile store in the 1820s by John R. Jones and Samuel Leitch, Jr. Other numbered buildings around it prevented it from receiving a number in proper sequence. Auctions of goods and slaves were held adjacent to this building. A stone auction block was once at the southern corner.

Buildings on 6th Street

The brick building on 6th Street dates from the 1830s. There once stood earlier frame buildings used for storage, a library, a watchmaker's shop, and a liquor shop. The library was begun in 1823 with a donation of books by Congregational clergyman Andrew Eliot of Boston. Jefferson and Presbyterian minister Francis Bowman were on the Library Committee. Lewis Leschot from Switzerland was the watchmaker, and the Johnny Yergain sold liquors. A two-story home also once stood along 6th street owned at first by Joel Terrell and then from 1774 to 1823 by an Irish political refugee and cabinetmaker by the name of Butler. Mr. Butler also used it as a tavern/hotel and possibly was used as a temporary meeting site for the Virginia General Assembly in 1781.

Swan Tavern (300 Park St)

This building was erected in 1832 by Samuel Leitch on the site of the wood frame Swan Tavern - a hotel and restaurant that was owned by John Jouett, Sr. and operated during the War for Independence. On May 28, 1781 members of the Virginia General Assembly made Charlottesville their temporary capital because of the threat of the British army in Richmond. They began to conduct meetings across the street in the Courthouse and some of them lodged and dined on this site. On the night of 3 June, John's son, Jack Jouett, a Captain in the militia, concluded from British troop movements through Louisa where he was staying that they intended to surprise and capture the legislators. Jouett used horse trails and back roads through the night to arrive before them and warn Governor Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Richard Henry Lee, John Tyler and others so they could escape. Daniel Boone and six others were captured but released a day later. John Jouett also was a founding member, along with Jefferson and others of a short-lived independent congregation that began in the courthouse in 1777 called the Calvinistical Reformed Church. When its pastor Charles Clay moved away in 1785 the church discontinued.

Eagle Tavern/Farish Hotel (300 Court Square)

The present building was erected around 1854 on what was once the site of the wood frame Eagle Tavern - a hotel and restaurant that opened sometime prior to 1791. The Eagle Tavern was the primary place for public dances and political celebrations with its large public hall, and many peddlers sold products on its long porch. It could feed 200 people and care for 250 horses during monthly court days and also became a stopping place for stage coaches. Rev. William P. Farish, a Baptist minister, had already developed a stage coach line in 1845 and helped create the famous Pony Express in 1860 when he bought the property and created the Farish Hotel. Federal occupying forces used it for two years as a headquarters after the Civil War. Just to the right of this property (at 500 Court Square) is a building erected in 1926 where once stood a Post Office, a shoe and book shop, and a drug store (James Barclay, owner of the drug store and also of Monticello, later moved to Scottsville and became a minister and missionary). One room was used by the Widow's Son Lodge of Masons. An African-American named Edmunds later had a grocery here. The present building was erected as the Monticello Hotel.

Town Hall/Levy Opera House (350 Park St)

This building was erected in 1851 by private interests as a Town Hall. It served as an auditorium for the purpose of travelling plays and musical events, as well as for churches and other organizations. During the Civil War it became a hospital for the wounded soldiers brought here from around the state. Confederate uniforms were also made here. In 1888 Jefferson Monroe Levy, a Jewish man who also owned Monticello, remodeled it to seat up to 800 people called it the Levy Opera House. The first Catholic Church of Charlottesville began meetings here. The area to the left of this building was known as the battery - a parade ground for military drills and recreation. Federal troops used it during their occupation of the city in March 1865, and General Philip Sheridan resided in an opposite building on Park St.

The McKee block/Jackson Park

This park, created in 1918 in honor of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, features one of the world's finest equestrian statues, sculpted by Charles Keck in 1921. The park was created with funds donated by Paul Goodloe McIntire on the site of the old McKee block, a group of pre-Civil War buildings facing eastward toward a street that ran along the west side of the Courthouse (where is now the north-south sidewalk separating the park from the court buildings). It terminated at the old city jail on the north side of High Street. In the 1820s there were thriving businesses on this small city block. At the end of the block near Jefferson street was the home of Thomas Wayt, housing a shop and a school. Next was Andrew McKee's home and hat shop. Then a dry goods shop and grocery owned by Nimrod Bramham, and at the other end Ebenezer Watts' print and bookbinding shop which published the Central Gazette - the city's first newspaper (1820) - and the first collection of the writings of Jefferson.

Early Homes and Churches (Jefferson St)

Many of the buildings along this block of Jefferson Street date from the 1820s and 1830s but the oldest home in Charlottesville is the townhouse at 410 East Jefferson, portions of which were built in 1785 by Edward Butler, a signer of the *Albemarle Declaration* during the American Revolution. The home was altered around 1808 and in 1816 was the residence of Opie Norris. Next door to the east was a Mercantile store in the early 19th century owned by John Kelly. Kelly, a Presbyterian, was also the founder of the first Sunday School in the city located where First Presbyterian Church is now on Park Street. At the west end of this block and across 4th Street is the site of the first Baptist church. This new congregation began meeting in the courthouse around 1820 and in 1831 Reuben Coleman and James Goss, students at the University, formally started the new church and served as its first ministers. Thomas Jefferson donated money for it. This congregation is now located at 735 Park St.

Old County Jail (410 East High St)

This stone jail, erected in 1875, has seven cells surrounded by an 18-inch thick brick wall. It could hold as many as 35 prisoners and was the scene of Virginia's last public hanging in 1904 of Charlottesville Mayor Samuel McCue for the murder of his wife. It was in operation until 1977. It replaced one that formerly stood next to the county courthouse along with a stocks and pillory. To the right is a building erected in 1902 as the Elks Lodge and later remodeled as a court building.

Court Square Enhancement Master Plan

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE VIRGINIA

clutter in the streetscape. A special hanging logo banner plaque is proposed to identify the Court Square Block as shown in Figure 2.11. This banner plaque would be fabricated from enameled metal for durability and attached to the light posts at intersections to help identify the Court Square area as shown in Figure 2.12.

This signage should also be extended to the gateway entrance areas leading to Court Square at the intersections between Ninth Street with High and Market Streets in order to better signify the historic area. Street identification signage (e.g. High Street, East Jefferson Street) should also be designed to evoke the historic theme of the Court Square area. Regulatory signs (e.g. parking signs, speed limit signs) should be designed and constructed with color scheme and post design which is compatible with street identification signage

Improvements to the Surrounding Neighborhood - Additional improvements are recommended to the neighborhood surrounding Court Square, which will enhance the pedestrian and visual environment of the overall district. These improvements are summarized below and appear in Figure 2.13 along with other recommended improvements.

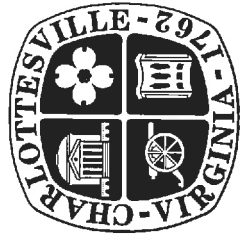
- **Pedestrian Lighting Improvements** - Installation of decorative pedestrian lighting along all streets is recommended on High Street, East Jefferson Street, Market Street and along First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets. The fixture style shown in Figure 2.12 is recommended in these areas because most of this area is defined by early-to-mid Twentieth Century architecture.



Figure 2.11 Proposed Street Identification Signage



Figure 2.12 Proposed Logo Banner



The McKee block/Jackson Park

Early Commercial District and Urban Renewal

This park, created in 1918 by philanthropist Paul Goodloe McIntire as one of the city's first efforts at urban renewal, was named in honor of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and features a world-class equestrian statue sculpted by Charles Keck in 1921. Jackson passed through the city by train during the Civil War. Originally a group of pre-Civil War buildings stood here facing eastward toward a street that ran along the west side of the Courthouse (where is now the north-south sidewalk). In the 1820's the McKee block emerged as a new business district that included Andrew McKee's home and hat shop. To the left of McKee's place once stood the home of Thomas Wayt, housing a shop and a school. To the right of McKee's was a dry goods shop and grocery owned by Nimrod Bramham, and then Ebenezer Watts' print and book-binding shop at the other end. It published the Central Gazette - the city's first newspaper (1820) - and the first collection of the writings of Jefferson.



Number Nothing Commerce and Early Black History in Charlottesville

This building was erected as a mercantile store in the 1820s for John R. Jones and Samuel Leitch Jr., But other buildings around it prevented it from receiving an address in proper numerical sequence. A stone block was once outside the southwest corner of the building and used for auctioning off both good and slaves until slavery was abolished in 1865. Slaves also shopped around the Square on Sunday mornings. Of the 20,000 or so people living in Albemarle in 1830, slightly more than half were black and all but about 400 of these were slaves. Most free blacks became so before 1807 when it became illegal to be emancipated without being moved out of state. Some blacks gained their freedom by serving as soldiers in Virginia's integrated regiments during the American Revolution. Black soldiers from Albemarle included Shadrack Battles, Sherard Goings, David Barnett, Stephen Bowles, Peter Hartless, and Johnson Smith. Battles, half black and half Native-American, worked after the war as a carpenter and landscaper around Court Square. Going's wife Susannah was highly respected in the community.



Sixth Street Buildings

Charlottesville's First Shops and Library

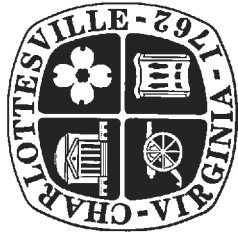
This brick building on Sixth Street dates from the 1830s. There once stood earlier frame buildings used for storage, a library, a watchmaker's shop, and a liquor store. The library began in 1823 with a donation of books by Congregational clergyman Andrew Eliot of Boston. Jefferson and Presbyterian minister Francis Bowman were on the Library Committee. Lewis Leschot from Switzerland was the watchmaker, and Johnny Yergain sold liquors. A two-story home also once stood along Sixth street owned at first by John Terrell and then from 1774 to 1823 by an Irish political refuge and cabinet maker by the name of Butler. Mr. Butler also used it as a tavern/hotel and possibly was used as a temporary meeting site for the Virginia General Assembly in 1781.



Swan Tavern

Hotel and Restaurant Used by Revolutionary Patriots

This building was erected in 1832 by Samuel Leitch on the site of the wood frame of Swan Tavern - a hotel and restaurant owned by John Jouett, Sr. And operated during the American Revolution. On May 28, 1781 members of the Virginia General Assembly made Charlottesville their temporary capital because of the threat of the British Army in Richmond. They began to conduct meetings across the street in the Courthouse and some of them lodged and dined on this site. On the night of 3 June, John's son, Jack Jouett, a Captain in the militia, concluded from British troop movements though Louisa where he was staying that they intended to surprise and capture legislators. Jouett used horse trails and back roads through the night to arrive before them and warn Governor Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Richard Henry Lee, John Tyler, and others so they could escape. Daniel Boone and six others were captured but released a day later.



Early Hotels

Dining, Dancing, the Mail, and the Pony Express

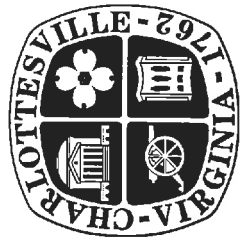
Eagle Tavern opened here sometime prior to 1791. This hotel was the primary place for public dances and political celebrations with its large public hall that could feed 200 people. Many peddlers sold products on its long porch during monthly court days. Baptist minister William P. Farish had already developed a stage coach line in 1845 when he bought the property and erected this building in 1854. The Farish Hotel became a major stage coach stop. Rev. Farish later helped create the famous Pony Express in 1860. Federal occupying forces used it for two years as a headquarters after the Civil War. Just to the right of this property is a building erected in 1926 as the Monticello Hotel where once stood the Jefferson Hotel, a Post Office, a shoe and book shop, and a drug store owned by James Barclay (also owner of Monticello). One room had previously been used by the Widow's Son Lodge of Freemasons, and another contained a grocery run by an African American named Edmunds.



Town Hall/Levy Opera House

Charlottesville's First Performing Arts Center

This building was erected in 1851 by private interest as a Town Hall. It served as an auditorium for the purpose of traveling plays and musical events including performers such as opera singer Jenny Lind. Churches and other organizations also used it, such as the first Roman Catholic Church of Charlottesville which began here. During the Civil War it became a hospital for the wounded soldiers brought here from around the state and a place where Confederate uniforms were made. In 1888 Jefferson Monroe Levy, a Jewish man who also owned Monticello, remodeled it to seat up to 800 people and called it the Levy Opera House. The original site and the area to the left of this building was known as the battery, a parade ground for the military drills and recreation. Federal troops used it during their occupation of the city in March 1865, and General Philip Sheridan resided in an opposite building on Park St.



Jefferson Street Buildings

Charlottesville's Early Homes and Churches

Some buildings along this block date from the 1820s and 1830s. Originally there were three buildings on the block: John Kelly's mercantile store on the east end, John Cochran's home in the middle, and the Butler/Norris home on the west end (410 E. Jefferson). Portions of the latter home were built in 1785 by Edward Butler a signer of the 1779 *Albemarle Declaration* during the American Revolution. Kelly, the founder of the first Sunday School in the city, purchased and altered Butler's home around 1808 and in 1816 sold it to Opic Norris, a Town Trustee and Magistrate (notable for freeing a slaved named Joyce in 1806). Across Forth Street (then known as Union St.) to the west once stood the first Baptist church. This new congregation began around 1820 in the courthouse. In 1831 University students Reuben Coleman and James Goss became its first ministers. At about the same time early Episcopal and Methodist churches were erected on Jefferson Street further west as were Presbyterian and Christian churches on Market Street. Thomas Jefferson visited their services and donated money for their buildings.

