



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

Travis A. Voyles
*Secretary of Natural and Historic
Resources*

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March 21, 2024

Dear Mr. Werner,

I am pleased to send official notification that the Virginia Board of Historic Resources approved the Sales of Enslaved People in Court Square highway marker at its meeting on March 21, 2024. The final text is as follows:

Sales of Enslaved People in Court Square

Between 1762 and 1865, auctioneers sold enslaved men, women, and children at various locations in Court Square: outside taverns, at the Jefferson Hotel, at the "Number Nothing" building, in front of the Albemarle Co. Courthouse (where sales were then recorded), and, according to tradition, from a tree stump. After Thomas Jefferson's death, 33 enslaved people from his Monticello estate were auctioned at the Eagle Hotel in Jan. 1829 to satisfy his debts. Enslaved Charlottesville residents Fountain Hughes and Maria Perkins recalled Court Day sales as dreaded occasions that separated Black families. Such sales were frequent in Virginia, where the domestic slave trade was central to the economy.

Soon I will authorize the foundry, Sewah Studios, to produce the marker. Could you please let me know the address of the facility in Charlottesville to which the marker and post should be shipped, as well as the phone number and email address of a contact person there? I will need this information before I can place the order. Please note that there is a large backlog of orders at Sewah, and it generally takes 5-6 months to manufacture and ship new markers.

The foundry will bill the City of Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee directly. The invoice will arrive around the time the marker is shipped.

If you have any questions at this stage, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again for your interest in educating the public through the state highway marker program, and congratulations!

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Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Loux, Ph.D.
Highway Marker Program Manager

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