

Report of the Board of Trustees History Task Force Implementation Team
October 5, 2017

Although there are no action items from the Implementation Team to be considered at this time, the group continues to work diligently on key History Task Force initiatives that remain to be fully addressed. We anticipate that a final report will be submitted for Board consideration in spring 2018.

Our priorities for this fall include:

- Leveraging technology to make Clemson's history more engaging and accessible through apps, virtual tours, videos and enhanced web and social media activity, essentially creating a "virtual Clemson history museum" while we continue to study the feasibility of a physical one;
- Working with the Naming Committee and Development to evaluate and recommend improvements to current policies and procedures for commemorating individuals or groups;
- Developing a long-term "sustainability plan" to ensure that these programs initiated by the board continue in perpetuity.

Statues and Monuments

The team has held detailed discussions about how to best respond to the Board's recommendation regarding additional statues and monuments. An implementation plan will be submitted for your consideration at a later date.

However, in the interim, the Team recommends that the Administration and Board commit to retaining commemorations of faculty and staff who are currently honored with room names in the Clemson House, commemorations which may be lost when the building is demolished. Given the dearth of recognitions for women and African-Americans on campus, losing these named rooms would be an unfortunate consequence of the demolition.

According to Clemson records and the Clemson Wiki, Clemson House rooms are named for:

- Bill Greenlee, an African-American former servant of Thomas Green Clemson who was later hired by the college and the town and who helped make bricks that built Tillman Hall;
- Lila Holmes, wife of a former head of Clemson's history department chair who, in the 1920s, started a successful campaign to restore Fort Hill;
- Virginia Poole, who worked with the Extension Service, the Commandant's Office and the Office of Business and Finance and resided in the original Clemson Hotel before it became the Clemson House in 1950;
- Virginia Shanklin, who served as secretary to four Clemson University presidents: Samuel B. Earle, Enoch W. Sikes, Robert F. Poole and Robert C. Edwards;

- Joseph L. Young, long-time architecture professor, the first permanent resident to move in and the last to move out, and
- Fred Zink, who managed Clemson House from its opening in 1950 until his retirement in 1970. He and his wife were permanent residents.

A formal proposal will be developed for consideration by the Naming Committee.

Other updates

Funding has been approved for installation of new signage for historic buildings and Gantt Circle, based on designs and text approved previously by the Board. Production is under way, and the new signage should be installed by the end of November or early December.

A budget has been submitted to the Administration to support the development of media for the “Virtual Museum,” participation in the Universities Studying Slavery consortium and a 2nd Annual Clemson History in Plain Sight Day.