

Monuments and Statues Recommendations

From the Board of Trustees Final Report: RECOMMENDATION: DEDICATE A MONUMENT/STATUE TO PROMINENT HISTORICAL FIGURES

Erecting statues of important historical figures is another way to honor and preserve Clemson's history and commemorate important milestones in Clemson's history that should be considered. The President will create a committee led by members of the history department as well as the university archivist to study the feasibility of such new historical monuments. Final approval of any such monument or statue is required by the Board of Trustees.

I. Observations from the History Task Force Implementation Team

- Many people who have contributed to Clemson's success were ordinary people of modest means who did extraordinary things. We have a policy and process that favors commemoration of people with the means to make large donations. As a result, there is currently a lack of balance and diversity in our commemorations.
- The team has mixed perspectives adding more major monuments and statues to the campus, and at least one member thinks there should only be one statue on campus – that of Thomas Green Clemson. We agree that statues are appropriate ways to permanently honor prominent figures, and we know that people are naturally drawn to figures vs. text on markers. At the same time, we are cognizant of the national climate regarding statues, especially those honoring Confederate-era figures. We advise that the university be extremely thoughtful about who is placed (literally) on a pedestal.
- There is some sentiment that the campus is already cluttered with markers and plaques. A 2016 inventory showed that there were (excluding signs for features in the S.C. Botanical Garden):
 - Four SC Historic Markers (now seven)
 - 16 signs related to war and/or veterans
 - 39 other historical signs
 - To this number we are now adding signage for Gantt Circle and historic buildings. Public history experts say that markers and monuments alone don't engage, inspire and teach as much as direct interaction with real stories of real people (i.e., via tours, technology and special programs).
- Many commemorative plans have been developed, but not funded and moved forward. A lesson is that meaningful commemoration must have adequate resources and campus advocates who are invested enough to work for months, if not years, with University Planning and Design, artists and architects to bring projects to fruition. The university may want to start by considering concepts that have been developed but not completed:

- Scholar's Walk
 - Founder's Garden
 - President's Garden
 - Anna Calhoun Clemson park
- Over the next few years, as the university grows and adds new buildings, landscapes and public art, there will be many opportunities to add meaningful commemorations that enhance rather than clutter the campus, create special places and recognize important individuals and groups whose contributions have been overlooked or lost. This could be done within the planned budget for projects such as:
 - Hunnicutt Creek restoration
 - Alumni Park
 - Rooms and greenspaces in new buildings, including the business school and Douthit Hills
 - Major renovations and additions to existing buildings, including the library, Daniel, Lehotsky, Martin, Long, Poole, Lowry, Hunter and the Hendrix Center – all of which have unnamed areas and rooms.

II. Recommendations from the Implementation Team

1. **Catch up: Over the next five to 10 years, make a deliberate effort to create more balance and diversity in campus commemorations.** Consider setting aside a percentage of naming opportunities in new buildings and renovations, landscape projects and public art for the commemorations recommended as item III, whether or not there are fundraising opportunities tied to those commemorations.
2. Recognize that scope, location and scale play major roles in creating balance.
3. **Increase campus awareness** of the naming policies and processes to encourage recommendations.
4. In developing **public art**, actively seek out African-American, Native American and women artists to ensure diversity of artistic perspectives.

III. Who and what should be recognized, other than donors

Individuals

- **Harvey Gantt:** Further enhance campus recognition of the first African-American student, by incorporating a likeness or statue in the Gantt Circle area.
- **Margaret Snider:** Further enhance campus recognition of the first woman to earn a Clemson degree with a likeness near the existing marker or naming of the Brackett Auditorium.
- **People who had rooms named for them in the Clemson House:**

- 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;
- Fred Zink, who managed Clemson House from its opening in 1950 until his retirement in 1970. He and his wife were permanent residents.
- **Anna Calhoun Clemson:** Develop a significant place on campus to recognize her role as a founder, including a naming and perhaps a likeness appropriate for the space and current times.
- **Richard Simpson:** Develop a way to tell the story of his contributions to the founding of Clemson, possibly at Simpson Hall and/or the Simpson Research and Education Center.
- **R.C. Edwards:** Tell the story of his leadership during a period of significance change, while recognizing that his administration initially fought Harvey Gantt's enrollment.
- **James F. Barker:** Recognize his role in Clemson's rising stature in terms of national ranking, student quality and athletics.
- **Ben Skardon:** Honor the alumnus, war hero who survived the Bataan Death March, faculty member and legend.
- **Ben Robertson:** Honor the alumnus, internationally known journalist, author of *Red Hills and Cotton*, a memoir of Upcountry South Carolina.
- **Joe Young,** longtime faculty member and Clemson House resident, who was honored with a named endowment supporting the Clemson House Penthouse.

Groups: In terms of recognizing individuals vs. groups, we offer the Scroll of Honor and Military Heritage Park as good examples of a hybrid approach. These monuments honor individuals but also pay tribute to groups (veterans and current service men and women) and ideas (service and sacrifice).

- **Clemson Pioneers:** Develop a special place where "firsts" can be recognized by name and new "firsts" added in the future. There are literally hundreds of people who could be recognized in such a place, such as:
 - Gantt and Snider
 - Patti McAbee, first woman trustee
 - Kim Wilkerson, first woman successor trustee
 - Yukata Tsukiyama, first non-white Clemson graduate
 - Mary Hart Evans, first woman faculty member
 - Jim Bostic, first African-American trustee, first African-American to earn a doctorate

- Rita Barker, first woman elected undergraduate student body president
- **Enslaved people:** Enhance the existing recognition of the slave quarters and burial sites, including names if we have them.
 - **Consider restoring the original name of Hunnicutt Creek, which was Sawney's Branch,** named for enslaved laborer Sawney Calhoun.
- **Convict laborers:** Develop a way to recognize the people who constructed the first buildings on campus.
- **Nationally recognized scholars:** Reconsider the "Scholar's Walk" concept to recognize faculty (current, retired or deceased) who have earned significant national awards or achievements, such as Academy membership, the Oscar, a Pulitzer Prize, a Nobel Prize, National Book Award, etc.
- **Successor Trustees:** Create a "hybrid" commemoration concept that recognizes the unique make-up of Clemson's board and the direct lineage from the original trustees to those serving on the board throughout history and today.
- **Student organizations:** Develop a space or work of art that recognizes the important role that organizations play in the distinctive Clemson student experience, leadership development and school spirit.
- **Unsung heroes:** Develop a tribute to the early wage earners and staff who helped build the campus and shape the early student experience.
- **Native Americans/the Village of Essenecca:**
 - Enhance the existing campus recognition (marker), working with tribal representatives to effectively tell the story of the first people to call the area home.
 - Relocate and enhance the Cherokee Garden exhibit in the S.C. Botanical Garden

Other

- **Clemson House:** Develop a way to preserve and tell the story of the Clemson House as part of the business school design and construction.
- **Bowman Field:** Develop a way to tell the story of the importance of Bowman Field as the cadet marching grounds, Clemson's first athletics field and a gathering spot for festivals, special events and daily recreation.
- **Agricultural Heritage:** Develop a place on campus that pays tribute to the role of agriculture in the development of the campus, the land-grant mission and the statewide role and impact of Clemson PSA.

IV. Process and responsibility: We recommend that Brian O'Rourke, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, and Brett Dalton, Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations, work together and to prioritize and develop specific commemoration concepts to bring to the Board of Trustees for action, with advice and counsel of a standing advisory group of stakeholders (to be established) to ensure engagement and representation from the broader Clemson community.