

Board of Trustees History Task Force Implementation Plan

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[RESEARCH](#)

[ABOUT](#)

**FORT HILL SLAVE AND
CONVICT CEMETERY**
African Americans enslaved
at Fort Hill were buried
along the hillside below
the Calhoun family plot in
graves marked only by field
stones. The exact number of
burials is unknown.
Beginning in 1890, Clemson
College leased prisoners,
primarily African Americans,
from the state to construct
campus buildings. Until
1915, those who died during
their incarceration were
buried adjacent to the
slave cemetery.
SPONSORED BY CLEMSON UNIVERSITY, 2009

TELL THE STORY

Markers signal new effort to share Clemson's full history.

Implementation Philosophy

- Mirror the tone and philosophy established by the task force
 - Acknowledge all aspects of history
 - Engage constituents in meaningful ways
 - Create action plans grounded in academic rigor, research and professional expertise
 - Strive for an integrated, comprehensive approach
 - Have a lasting impact
 - Be thoughtful, be thorough and do it right, but work with a sense of urgency
 - Recognize that “telling the story” is an ongoing process
- Work toward clear goals
 - Improve campus climate: Help build a culture of inclusion
 - Teach, learn and celebrate the history of Clemson
 - Enhance academic reputation: Be a national model

Implementation Team

- Dr. James Burns, chair, History and Geography department
- Dr. Thompson Mefford, faculty liaison to Board of Trustees
- Dr. Rhondda Thomas, English department
- Helen Adams, director, visitors center
- Michele Cauley, presidential & constituent communications
- Gerald Vander Mey, campus planning
- Lee Gill, chief diversity officer
- Will Hiott, director of historic properties
- Susan Schiff, director of marketing services
- Sam Blackman, athletics
- Kesha Williams, social media manager
- Matt Bundrick, director of web services
- Kelly Durham, alumnus/volunteer
- Cathy Sams, project manager

Other key resources

- History Faculty
 - Dr. Vernon Burton
 - Dr. Abel Bartley
 - Dr. Rod Andrew Jr.
 - Dr. Megan Taylor-Shockley (public history)
 - Dr. Paul Anderson (Southern history/Civil War)
 - Professor Emeritus Jerry Reel
- Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Faculty
 - Fran Mainella, 16th director, U.S. National Park Service
 - Dr. Gregory Ramshaw
- Creative Inquiry Teams
- Other key staff in Campus Planning, Archives & University Relations
- Nationally recognized external experts and consultants
 - Wendy Davis, Harper's Ferry Interpretive Design Center, US NPS
 - John Veverka, interpretive master planning
 - National Council on Public History (Campus History as Public History Group)
 - Universities Studying Slavery Consortium (University of Virginia)
- Previous work (CU Preservation Master Plan, 2009, JMA Associates)

BOT task force recommendations

- Communication
 - Official and complete historical narrative (over-arching)
 - Updated bios of key figures
 - Social media accounts
 - History website
- Interpretive public history
 - Signage for historical buildings
 - Signage for Gantt Circle
 - Markers & plaques
 - Monuments and statues
- Educational and visitor engagement programming
 - Museum or center
 - Academic course on Clemson history
 - Clemson History Week
 - Historical tours

Communication

- Biographies (full and brief summary) of key figures have been updated, vetted by faculty and submitted for Board review.
- A social media strategy will be launched at the beginning of the semester using our most popular accounts.
 - A calendar of original content and brand standards are in development. We will engage our Social Media Users Group to encourage them to create their own content, which we can share through official channels.
- The history website can be enhanced by the beginning of the semester with new content, including updated bios, links to ClemsonTV videos and recommended reading.

Communication

- The team recommends that we build out an online, comprehensive **historical timeline** rather than craft an “official” written narrative.
 - A timeline is not subjective, easy to update and offers flexibility for writers, tour guides and teachers.
 - It will provide guidance about critical events in Clemson’s history, but not prescribe exact language.
- We will also develop a communications plan to keep constituents informed of progress – key points and boilerplate language will be part of that plan.

<http://www.clemson.edu/about/history/>

◀
NOVEMBER
13, 1838
Thomas and
Anna marry



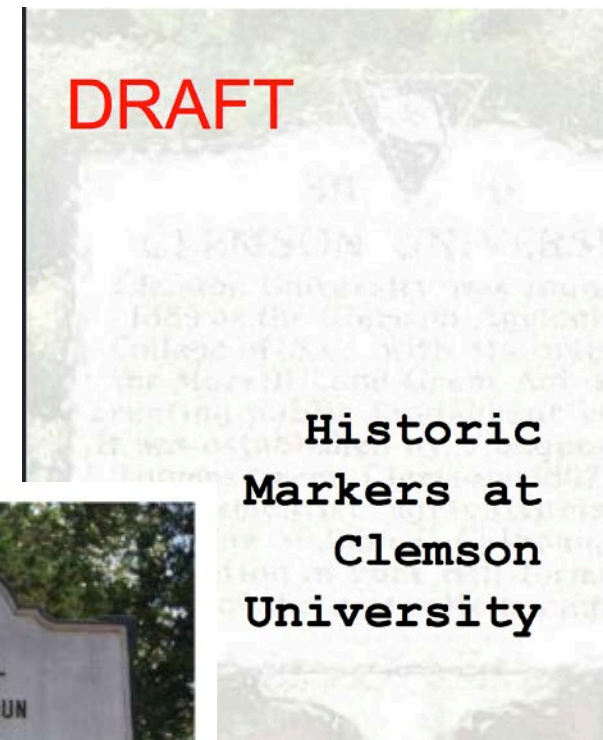
1886

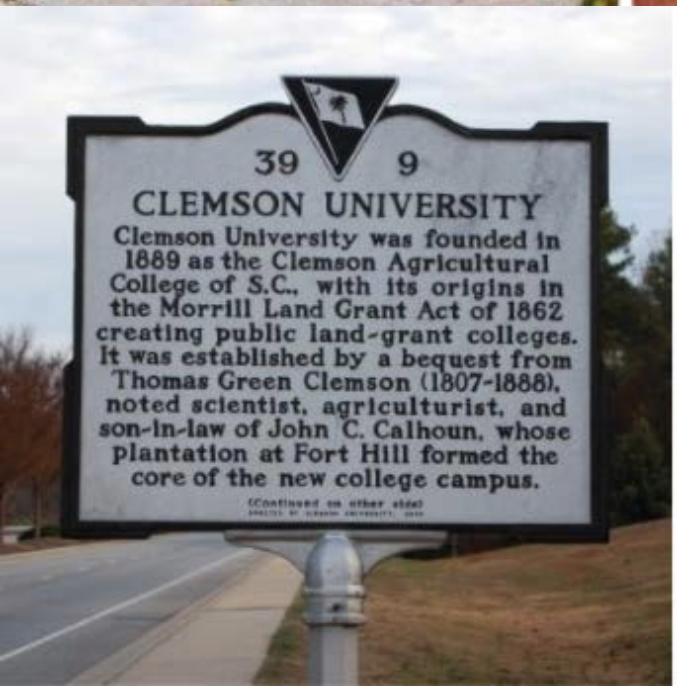
Will signed

Thomas Green Clemson
will to create Clemson
College of South Carolina

Interpretive public history

- Markers and plaques:
 - New markers - including slave quarters - were installed in May
 - We have completed an inventory of current historical markers, which can provide resources for tours, apps, etc.
 - There are three markers at Fort Hill, primarily focused on John C. Calhoun. Templates have been developed for additional SC Heritage Corridor markers at Fort Hill.
- New markers, plaques, monuments will be reviewed by implementation team before submission to board. This will be coordinated with the Naming Committee.







Public History Interpretive Plan

- The team recommends that Clemson develop a **long-range interpretive master plan**.
- The process will begin with a multi-day, facilitated workshop that engages a broad group of stakeholders to identify:
 - The stories we want to tell ~ physical and intangible
 - Audiences
 - Outcomes (what we want audiences to learn, do, experience)
 - Media (how to best tell the story)
- Workshop would be held in September, with phase 1 completed by December – with markers, signage and monuments as priorities.
- We can implement interim solutions while this work is under way.

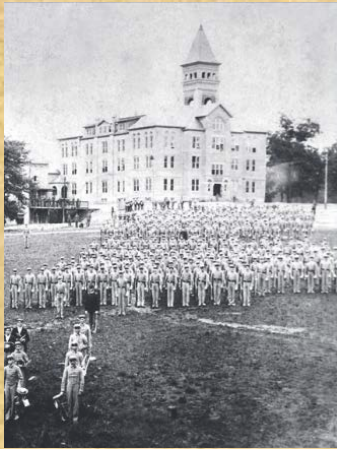


Interim options

- Tillman Hall
 - A display to tell the story of Tillman Hall inside the building can be in place by the beginning of the fall semester.
 - Temporary signage can be in place by the start of the fall semester.
- The opening of the Gantt Multicultural Center creates an opportunity to tell the story of Harvey and Lucinda Gantt through displays and events.



The Story of Tillman Hall – and its role in the History of Clemson University



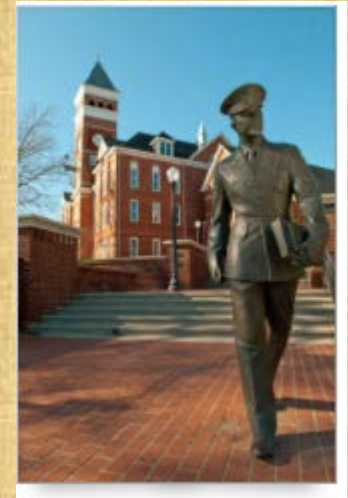
Board of Trustees Minutes 28 June 1946

16. In accordance with the report of the Buildings and Grounds Committee it was recommended that the following names be given to certain buildings and roads on the campus:

1. Main Building -- Tillman Hall
2. Road parallel with the highway near the peach orchard on which the pre-fabricated houses are located -- Morrison Road
3. New road near Hammer House -- Colonial Circle
4. Barracks 1 -- Simpson Hall
5. Barracks 2 -- Johnston Hall

Approved

FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CLEMSON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, HELD AT THE COLLEGE, FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1946



The early years

Text including original name

Main building renamed

Text including Tillman controversial legacy

Clemson desegregates

Text including Harvey Gantt

The modern era

Text including naming issue

Interim Exterior Signage Concept

*reflecting on the past...
preparing for the future.*



Main Administration Building

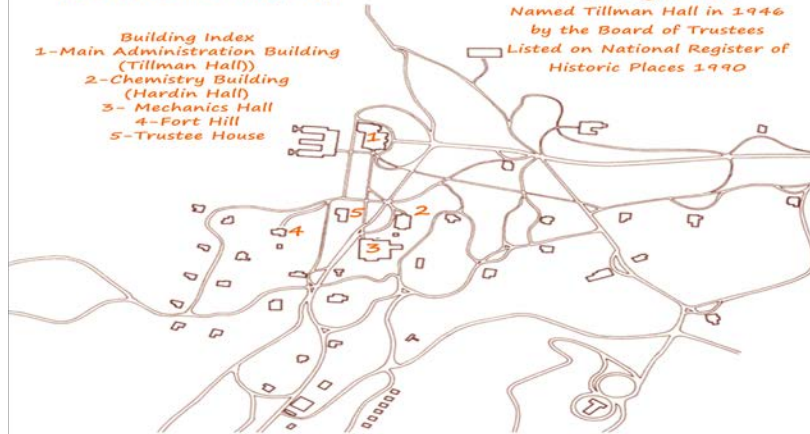
The campus in 1896

First Graduating Class 1896:
37 in agriculture
22 in engineering

First cadet class 1893 (446)

Part of the original Clemson
College Campus
Built by convict laborers using
local materials
Completed 1893, burned and
rebuilt a year later
Named Tillman Hall in 1946
by the Board of Trustees
Listed on National Register of
Historic Places 1990

Building Index
1-Main Administration Building
(Tillman Hall)
2-Chemistry Building
(Hardin Hall)
3-Mechanics Hall
4-Fort Hill
5-Trustee House



Educational and Visitor Programs

- Museum or center – The Trustee House continues to emerge as a logical home for an interpretive center. Recent renovations have created significant documentation about the historic property.
- Academic course on Clemson history – This course currently exists (HIST 1000: Higher Education and Clemson)
- Clemson History Week – We will seek recommendations from constituent groups at their regular fall meetings (need to get on their agendas now)
- Historical tours – The team is exploring technology-based, self-guided tours (adding to our current visitor app). Personal guided tours may be offered during special events.

Educational and Visitor Programs

- The history department recommends that Clemson host an academic conference on how universities are addressing similar issues nationwide, with a book of essays as one possible outcome.



Educational and Visitor Programs

- Clemson's efforts in these areas are beginning to receive positive national recognition.
- The team endorses the history department's recommendation to seek a leadership role in the national conversation to build academic reputation.

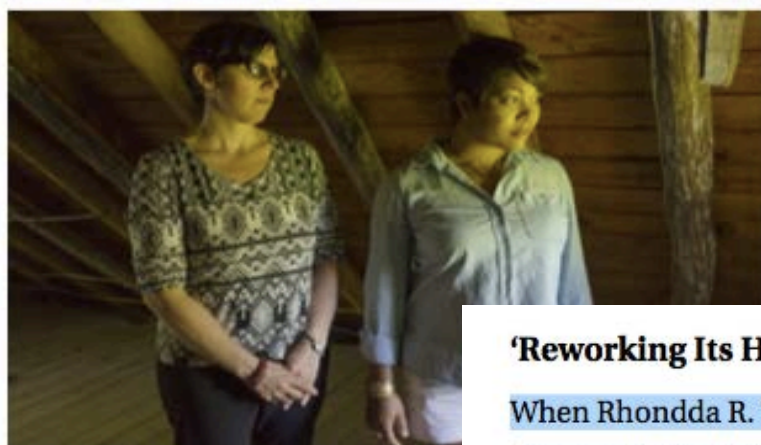


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RESEARCH

Historians of Slavery Find Fruitful Terrain: Their Own Institutions

By *Corinne Ruff* | JUNE 21, 2016



Crystal Rosson (right), a genealogist, (left), a professor at Sweet Briar College in Virginia campus where one of Ms. Rosson's ancestors lived. The two researchers turned the cabin into an exhibit on the college's

Crystal S. Rosson had spent years tracing her family roots — poring over courthouse documents, asking relatives to show her the unmarked graves of their ancestors, even quitting her job at a

'Reworking Its History'

When Rhondda R. Thomas arrived at Clemson University, she heard rumors that convict laborers had built the institution on top of the plantation of John C. Calhoun, the 19th-century U.S. senator and vice president who was one of slavery's most zealous advocates. But no one seemed to know who the laborers were or how many of them lived on the South Carolina campus.

Funding

- Immediate:
 - Consultant(s)
 - Tillman Hall display
 - Interpretive planning workshop – Campus Planning budget
- FY16-17:
 - Consultant(s)
 - Faculty release time
 - Creative Inquiry teams
 - Interpretive master plan development
 - Travel/site visits
 - Media (brochures, videos, apps, exhibits, etc.)
 - Events
 - Cost of markers, signs, statues, etc.



Clemson's history is filled with stories of vision, determination and tremendous spirit.

It also includes stories that are difficult to tell and hear.

The charge of the board is to tell them all.

Our goal is to be responsive to this charge. Rather than seek low-hanging fruit, let's take a more challenging and rewarding path. This work can have a lasting – and transformative – impact on Clemson's future.