

**HISTORIC RESOURCE TAS FORCE  
September 13, 2000 – 3:30 P.M.  
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
- 2. Status of Court Square Project**
- 3. Charlottesville tour book status**
- 4. Vandegrift State Historic Marker**
- 5. Co-Chair Discussion**
- 6. 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  
August 9, 2000  
Minutes

**Present:**

Winston Churchill Gooding  
Lynne Ely  
Ingrid Smyer Kelly  
Mark Beliles  
Meredith Richards

**Also Present:**

Satyendra Singh Huja  
Rick Britton

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of July 12, 2000 were accepted with some changes. Mr. Beliles mentioned that Mr. Wootton has resigned from the committee and it would be desirable to have a co-chair that is a residence of the city. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

Mr. Huja has indicated that the state has approved two historic markers for this year. Mr. Huja and Mr. Beliles have visited the sites. Mr. Huja has also met with the VDOT representative for the location of these markers. The first sign for the General Hospital will be located at the end of West Main Street near the UVA hospital sign. The second sign for Woolen Mills will be located next to the railing of the parking lot next to Woolen Mills Chapel, Mr. Huja still has to get permission from the property owners. If everything goes well these markers will be in the ground by the end of the year.

The train historic exhibit has been opened, and was very well received. Mr. Huja reported on the status of the court square enhancement project. He stated that the project met today to finalize the plans. There will be a public hearing in front of City Council on September 18<sup>th</sup> and then a review by VDOT, If everything goes well construction can start by next summer.

There was a discussion of the tour book. Mr. Britton, who is on the book committee indicated that they are finalizing the text. Ms. Ely stated that graphic designer is working on the project. Mr. Beliles has not been able to contact Mr. Heblich about the funding for printing. Mr. Beliles wondered whether The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities could fund the printing of this report. Ms. Smyer-Kelly stated she needs a copy of the report to show to potential donors before she can raise funds.

There was a discussion that the old jail should be preserved. A prepared statement by Mr. Belile's was discussed, it was moved by Lynn Ely and second by Mr. Gooding to adopt the statement with amendments including jailers house and the wall. Motion was passed unanimously. The statement will be forward to the board of supervisors, City Council and court facility committee. (See attached)

There was some discussion of parking needs and the trolley in the court square area.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting will be September 13, 2000.

Lloyd T. Smith, Jr.  
620 Park St.  
Charlottesville, Va. 22902  
August 30, 2000



Satyendra Huja  
Office of the City Manager  
P O Box 911  
City Hall  
Charlottesville, Va. 22902

Dear Huja,

Enclosed are materials I am sending to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in support of an historic marker for General Alexander Archer Vandegrift, a native of this city.

You will find among the papers one that suggests three possible locations for the marker, i.e., his birthplace at 704 East Jefferson St., his boyhood home at 112 E. High St., and the NW Corner of Jackson Square which has greater visibility. Since the two former buildings are no longer in existence, I am inclined to think that the Jackson Park location is the best. There are presently historic markers on the two east corners of Court Square, one commemorating Jack Jouett's ride and the other for Monticello. Beside the Monticello marker the Albemarle County Historical Society has an information exhibit which shows a portrait of General Vandegrift and something about his life. This is a temporary exhibit, and I think it is appropriate that it be made permanent. My purpose in writing you is to request that you submit this to the appropriate commission for approval of the location on the NW Corner of Jackson Park.

It is my intention to submit this proposal directly to the VDHR and, if approved, the cost will be paid by contributions from former marines in this area. The Albemarle County Historical Society will receive the contributions and disburse the cost to VDHR when required.

Please let me know if the City will permit the marker to be located on Jackson Park or whether some other location might be preferred.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd T. Smith, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

## Three Suggestions for Location of Historic Highway Marker for General Alexander Archer Vandegrift

1. General Vandegrift was born in Charlottesville on March 13, 1887 at 704 East Jefferson St. located at the corner of Jefferson and Seventh Streets. It was built about 1820 and called the Francis B. Dyer house. (Source 6) It has a very interesting history and a number of prominent people lived there, but Gen. Vandegrift lived there only about a year and the building was demolished in 1955. (Sources 1,2,3,4) The building now on the site was the Region III headquarters for the Department of Health Education and Welfare for many years, and subsequently the Foreign Science and Technology Center, a branch of the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center. (Source 4,5) There are recent indications that the FSTC will leave, and no new tenant has been determined.

Both Seventh and Jefferson Streets are relatively narrow, and an historic marker on the corner of Jefferson and Seventh may be more of a liability than an asset.

2. About a year after his birth, Gen. Vandegrift's father, William T. Vandegrift, moved his family to 112 E. High St. (Source 3) where the family lived for a number of years. (Source 7,8,9) No other address has been found for the W. T. Vandegrift family before 1909 when Gen. Vandegrift left the University of Virginia and was commissioned in the Marine Corps. (Source 4)

The Sanborn map of Charlottesville 1896, shows 112 E. High St. to be the third lot from the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and East High Streets going eastward from the corner. (Source 9) The house was demolished to make way for the parking lot of the First United Methodist Church (101 E. Jefferson St.), but would have been approximately in the middle of the E. High St. frontage of the church's parking lot. There is about an eight foot grass verge in this block of E. High and space between two Bartlett Pear trees which would make an attractive setting for a highway marker. The buildings opposite the parking lot on the north side of E. High St. are 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, and are the same buildings which would have been there when the Vandegrifts occupied the house at 112 E. High St.

East High St. is well traveled both by cars and pedestrians. It is only one block off of Court Square. This location is five or six blocks from Gen. Vandegrift's birthplace, but he would have spent many more years at his boyhood home, and the location for an historic marker is much superior.

3. A third possibility is Jackson Park which is City owned property about two blocks east of 112 E. High St.. This block, bordered by Jefferson St. on the south, 4<sup>th</sup> St. on the west, High St on the north and Park St. on the east, is comprised of the Albemarle County Court House and Clerk's Office on the eastern half, and Jackson Park with the General T. J. Jackson equestrian statute on the western half. On the two eastern corners are markers commemorating Jack Jouett's Ride and Monticello. The NW corner at E. High and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets is about two blocks east of Vandegrift's boyhood home and being right on courts square would have the best visibility of any of the three.

Two blocks west stood the home of Gen. Alexander Archer Vandegrift. He was born in Charlottesville in 1887, attended the University of Virginia and received his commission in the Marine Corps in 1909. Prior to World War II he served in Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti and China. In 1942 as commanding general of the First Marine Division he led American Forces in the United State's first successful offensive operation of World War II at Guadalcanal, and was awarded the Navy Cross and the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1944, and in the following year became the Marine Corps' first four-star general. After his retirement he returned to Charlottesville and lived on Rugby Road. He died in 1973 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (132)

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