

**HISTORIC RESOURCE TAS FORCE
October 11, 2000 – 3:30 P.M.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
- 2. Status of Court Square Project**
- 3. Charlottesville Tour Book Status**
- 4. Status of State Historic Marker**
- 5. 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
September 13, 2000
Minutes

Present:

Winston Churchill Gooding
Ingrid Smyer Kelly
Mark Beliles
Mary Hill Caperton
Francis Fife

Also Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja
Rick Britton

The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of August 9, 2000 were adopted as presented with minor changes. The minutes were moved by Mr. Winston Churchill Gooding and second by Mr. Rick Britton.

Mr. Huja gave a brief report on the status of Court Square. He also stated that the 6th Street improvements and changes will not be part of this project and the traffic pattern on 6th Street will stay as it is at present. Mr. Huja also presented the goals and the details of the proposal.

Mr. Britton indicated that the tour book committee is meeting with the graphic designer to layout at least one of the tours in the final format. Ms. Caperton indicated that she has read the text of the tour book, which will be edited by Mr. Frank Grizzard. Ms. Caperton also mentioned that Rugby – Grady Part could be eliminated. Mr. Beliles stated that he has spoken with Mr. Fred Heblich, who is still discussing the issue of funds with the new personnel of the Michie Company, to see if they are still interested in printing this booklet.

Mr. Huja stated that Mr. Lloyd Smith is proposing a state historic marker honoring General Alexander Vandegrift, who was from Charlottesville and was head of the Marine Corps. He also presented three different locations for the marker. The committee felt that this would be a good state historic marker, but made some suggestions in the wording to emphasize the major accomplishments in the text. They also felt that the sign should be located near the Methodist Church where he lived, instead of at Jackson Park. It was moved by Mr. Fife and second by Ms. Cochran to send a letter of support regarding this matter to the state. (See attached)

Mr. Huja commented that he has met with the representatives of the Woolen Mills Neighborhood, about the state historic marker location and is waiting for their response.

Mr. Beliles suggested now that Mr. Jim Wootton has left, it would be nice to have a new co-chair, preferably someone who lives in the City. After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Fife and second by Ms. Cochran that Ms. Caperton be the co-chair and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Beliles mentioned that it would be good to give certificates to Jim Wootton and Coy Barefoot for their services on the task force. Mr. Huja gave Mr. Beliles the City format, based on which Mr. Beliles will prepare two resolutions. It was also agreed that Mr. Beliles would write a letter to the family of Jim Eddins conveying our best wishes.

Mr. Beliles indicated that the next Jeffersonian Thanksgiving Festival would be on November 17th, 18th and 19th. There will be a parade on Saturday at 11:00 and a governor's revolutionary ball that evening. He is hoping to have up to 10,000 people for the festival. Mr. Beliles distributed material regarding the festival. (See attached)

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting will be October 11, 2000.

The Military Program:

About 12 Military Units will participate (at least 60 men with guns, 25 more without guns, plus about 20 civilians, 3 cannon, 3 horses). (30 wedges, 2 Marquees, 2 walis)

Saturday Fife and Drum Soldier's parade

March along the Mall with stop at Central Place for a review of troops by General George Washington and Governor Thomas Jefferson, a firing demonstration, and greetings by (or recognition of) modern local public officials. (11:00am Saturday) (On Sunday there will be everything but the parade at 1:00pm)

Battle Reenactments

Skirmish with British prisoners who escape on Saturday (3:00pm at Court Square)
Tarleton's British invasion on Sunday (3:00pm at Court Square)

Lt. Col. James Monroe trains new recruits (children)

Recruitment for the "little militia" at Lee Park. (10:00am and 1:00pm both days)

Patriots Discuss the Revolutionary War

Ongoing interpretation on the Mall of British prisoners (Convention Army) being guarded by the Albemarle County Battalion. Meet locally-famous soldiers such as Jack Jouett, George Rogers Clark, George Gilmer and free-black soldier Shadrack Battle. (12:00 and 2:00pm both days, plus 10:00am Saturday only)

General George Washington discusses Thanksgiving

3:00 and 5:00pm at Lee Park

Musical Performances:

William Michie leads period folk music and dances

This tavern keeper is portrayed by John DuRant.

Both days at 12:00, 1:00, and 3:00 on the Mall

Both days at 4:00pm at Jackson Park

Plus on Saturday only: 11:00am at Jackson Park and 6:00pm at Lee Park

Joan Fenton & Susan Faia perform period folk music

Saturday only at 1:00pm on the Mall and at 4:00pm at Lee Park

Candlelight Concert by the Blue Ridge Chamber Orchestra

Friday only at 8:00pm at First Christian Church

Organ recital of period music

By Ralph Mills at First United Methodist Church.

Sunday only at 5:00pm

Fife and Drum Concert of patriotic and Celtic music

By the Loudon Border Guards.

Saturday only at 11:30am on the Mall and 5:00pm at Jackson Park

Governor Jefferson's Revolutionary Ball

Period dances by the Cuckoo Assembly Dancers and harpsichord concert by Roger Dowdy. Saturday only at 7:00pm at the Omni Hotel Atrium.

Concert of traditional black spirituals.

The Union Run Baptist Church choir sings songs that enabled enslaved people of long ago to triumph over difficult circumstances.

Saturday at 11:00am at Lee Park.

Both days at 3:00 and 4:00pm on the Mall.

Dramatic Performances

James Madison and Patrick Henry discuss politics with citizens

Sat, 10am on the Mall

Sun, 11am at Lee Park

Both days (with Jefferson) at 4pm on the Mall

Hear a black itinerant preacher

and singing of spirituals

Sat at 11 at Lee Park; Both days 2 and 4 on the Mall

Meet Daniel Boone, Martha Jefferson and other ladies

Both days at 12 and 1 at Jackson Park; Both days at 3pm on the Mall

Revolutionary Clergy Protest Slavery

Both days 2:15pm at Jackson Park

Shocking Thanksgiving Worship Service with Jefferson & Washington

Both days at 12:15 in the Courthouse

The Virginia General Assembly meets with Governor Jefferson & other statesmen to debate issues
Both days at 1:30 in the Courthouse

Other Activities and Events

18th Century Craft and Trade Demonstrations

Horse-drawn carriage rides

Petting zoo

Children's Colonial Games

Demonstration of log-cabin being built

Holiday Candles for windows

The Discovery Museum has crafts and an American Girl play.

Friday night: Lecture on the Patriot Movie and patriotism in the arts by a representative of the film(?)

Saturday night: Lectures on African-American history in the Courthouse by:

Agnes-Cross-White, Editor of the Charlottesville Tribune and publisher of book on local black history

Rev. Alvin Edwards, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and former mayor

Sunday: First annual open-house with refreshments by the Downtown Merchants

Saturday: Holiday window decorating contest begins

Free weekend parking in the garage

Saturday night: Free skating at the Ice Park with the patriots and period music

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".

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 1st 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 19th 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, 4th 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 4th 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)

Two blocks west stood the home of Gen. Alexander Archer Vandegrift. Born in Charlottesville in 1887, he 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. (108)