

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE
March 13, 2002 – 3:30 P.M.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Charlottesville Tour Book Status
3. Discussion of New State Historic Markers
4. Discussion of Local Markers
5. Discussion of Jefferson School
6. Historic Court Square Status Report
7. 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 Resources Task Force
Minutes
February 13, 2002*

Present:

Mary Hill Caperton
Rick Britton
Ben Ford
Winston Churchill-Gooding
Ingrid Smyer-Kelley
Helena Devereux
Lynn Heetderks
Mark Beliles
Satyendra Singh Huja

Minutes:

The minutes of January 9, 2002 were adopted.

Mr. Huja presented a request for a state historic marker, acknowledging a Supreme Court case "Buck vs. Bell", dealing with eugenic sterilization laws in Virginia. This sign is proposed by Mr. Paul Lombardo, (attached is the description). They are proposing to locate this sign in front of the Region Ten Office on Preston Avenue. Mr. Ford stated that it is important to acknowledge this landmark case. Mr. Britton stated that the Nazi's in WWII had a number of trials that used this Virginia law to justify their behavior. He stated that the person involved in this case was associated with Venable School. Ms. Devereux stated that the sign would be better off at Venable School or Oakwood Cemetery where Carrie Buck is buried. She also commented that it could be placed where she lived. After a lengthy discussion, it is the committee's recommendation, that the title of the marker should include the subject, so it would be easy to understand. There was no concession on the location. Mr. Huja is to convey these comments to the Virginia Historic Resources Department.

Mr. Huja gave the Historic Court Square status report, indicating that construction for the project will begin July 2002 and will take 12 months.

Mr. Britton reported on the tour book status, indicating that they are close to finishing the text. They are currently working on the cover design and hope to have it at the printers by the end of February. It was agreed that Ms. Devereux, Ms. Caperton and Ms. Smyer-Kelly would walk the tours to check for accuracy and will mail their comments to Mr. Britton.

The State Markers for next year were discussed. It was agreed that everyone would have draft languages of his or her marker by March 13th. There was a discussion of additional state markers, one which would recognize Walter Reed, who is associated with the UVA Medical School and the other which is associated with Three Notch'd Road from Woolen Mills to the City. Mr. Huja stated that we already have a marker for Three Notch'd Road.

Mr. Huja shared the mark-up of the local markers. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that we should go ahead with the markers that are 130 square inches in size (14.536 inches x 9 inches). These markers would cost \$290.00 per marker, as well as installation. A motion was made by Mr. Gooding and seconded by Ms. Caperton to proceed with the local markers with the above specifications. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Beliles commented that the next Lewis and Clark festival would be May 11, 2002.

Mr. Beliles stated that he has presented the idea of a local marker, at the George Rogers Clark statue, to Sons of the American Revolution.

There was a discussion as to whether the Historic Resources Task Force, should be discussing the issues of the preservation of Jefferson School. Mr. Huja stated that there is no plan to demolish the school. Mr. Ford commented that the Preservation Piedmont and the alumni of Jefferson school are involved in thinking about the future of the school. Ms. Devereux stated that we should liaison with the community group that is working on Jefferson school. She also suggested that we might wish to put a local marker on the school. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the task force would discuss this in March.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30pm. The next meeting will be March 13, 2002.

BUCK v. BELL

In 1924, Virginia, like a majority of states during that era, enacted eugenic sterilization laws. Virginia's law allowed state institutions to operate on individuals to prevent the birth of what were believed to be "genetically inferior" children. Charlottesville native, Carrie Buck (1906-1983), involuntarily committed to a state facility in Lynchburg, was chosen as the first person to be sterilized. The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, on 2 May 1927, affirmed the Virginia law. Buck along with more than 8000 Virginians were sterilized until the act was repealed in 1974. Later evidence showed that Buck and many others had no "hereditary defects." She is buried south of here.

Department of Historic Resources, 2002

CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL ETHICS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PAUL A. LOMBARDO PHD JD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR,
PROGRAM IN LAW AND MEDICINE

Scott Arnold
Program Manager
Historical Highway Marker
Department of Historical Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

January 16, 2002

Dear Mr. Arnold:

I am writing to propose an Historical Highway Marker to commemorate the United States Supreme Court case of Buck v. Bell. The Buck case, widely considered one of the most infamous decisions in Supreme Court history, focused on the family of Carrie Buck of Charlottesville. The case is generally remembered for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. line asserting that "Three generations of imbeciles are enough" and endorsing Virginia's 1924 Eugenic Sterilization Act. That law allowed state officials to surgically sterilize patients thought likely to produce children whose hereditary "defects" might render them "socially inadequate."

Legal and historical scholarship analyzing the Buck case has condemned it as an embodiment of social bigotry against the disabled and an example of faulty science that became social policy. That scholarship has also pointed out the fallacies contained in the Buck opinion, noting among other things, that Carrie Buck's daughter Vivian -the supposed third generation "imbecile"-later won a place on her school's honor roll. Following the Buck decision some 60,000 Americans were sterilized under similar state laws and the decision was applauded by German eugenicists who supported comparable legislation among the earliest enactments of the Nazi regime.

This Spring will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Buck opinion. A General Assembly resolution (enclosed) has already been passed, declaring regret for Virginia's eugenic history, and Governor Warner is on record as endorsing the need for public education on the eugenics movement. The Charlottesville City Council will issue its own proclamation this Spring to commemorate the Buck decision. For all of these reasons, it is appropriate to remember the Buck case with an Historical Highway Marker.

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I have conferred with the Region 10 Mental Health Services agency, which has offered a site for the marker on their property fronting Preston Avenue in Charlottesville. This portion of the road is well traveled, and is located midway between Venable School, which Vivian Buck attended, and the Oakwood Cemetery, where both Carrie and Vivian Buck are buried.

Photocopies of a proposed text for the marker, as well as copies of background literature detailing the facts of the Buck case are enclosed. I will personally guarantee payment of the \$1225 marker fee. I look forward to hearing from you concerning the Buck marker and trust that your Board will find it an appropriate topic to be memorialized.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Lombardo", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul A. Lombardo

March 7, 2002

Please add this to the agenda

Satyendra S. Huja

Huja, Satyendra

From: Amy Hill [amyhill@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2002 8:32 PM
To: Huja, Satyendra
Subject: Highway marker for Jefferson School

Dear Mr. Huja,

In an effort to get the ball rolling quickly on the State Highway Marker for Jefferson School, I asked Julie Gronlund of Preservation Piedmont (who wrote the PIF for Jefferson in 2000) to write something up using as many primary sources as possible. She used as a reference some samples of markers from African American schools that Scotr Arnold at state DHR sent me.

We would really like to get input from Jefferson Alumni before finalizing anything, but here is a start. I hope this has made it to you on time to get on the agenda for the March 13 meeting of the local committee.

Please let me know how we should proceed, to try and get this marker in consideration for state DHR's June board meeting.

Thanks,

Amy Hill

979-2878

Proposed Text for Jefferson High School State Highway Marker
composed from primary sources by Julie Gronlund of Preservation
Piedmont, 2/28/02

Opened in 1927, Jefferson High offered Charlottesville's African-American community their first opportunity to receive a public secondary education. Built beside the elementary school called Old Jefferson (demolished in the mid-twentieth century), the schools thrived and offered the community a place to gather as well as to educate their children. The building was added onto in stages to accommodate a continuously growing student body. During the late 1950s, when Charlottesville became engaged in the state-wide battle to integrate public schools, Jefferson students would become some of the first to integrate public schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia and lead the way to the end of public school segregation throughout the South.

Sources:

Calrow, Browne and Fitz-Gibbon, Architects, Norfolk, Va. Heating Plan of Jefferson High School (new construction), 2 March 1925. Charlottesville City Schools Maintenance Department Blueprint Files, Charlottesville, Va.

Charlottesville School Board. Papers of the Charlottesville, Va., School

Board, 1925-1946. Alderman Library, University of Virginia.

The Jeffersonian. Published by the students of Jefferson High School, 1936-1942. Albemarle County Historical Society, Charlottesville, VA.

Mittendorf, Bradley Charles. From Discussion to Confrontation: Defining Race Relations in Charlottesville Before the Brown Decision. University of Virginia Master's Thesis, 1993.

Saunders, James Robert. Urban Renewal and the End of Black Culture in Charlottesville, Virginia. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998.

Sullivan, Colleen A. A History of Charlottesville Public School Facilities. Architecture in Virginia series no. 38, Fine Arts Library, University of Virginia.

Virginia Council on Human Relations. Papers of the Virginia Council on Human Relations Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter, 1956-1970. Alderman Library, University of Virginia.