

**HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE**

***June 18, 2003***

***3:30 p.m.***

***BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM***

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Discussion of State Markers
3. Discussion of Local Markers
4. Discussion of Pamphlets
5. 400th Anniversary Celebration of Virginia
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  
Minutes  
May 14, 2003  
3:30 p.m. Basement Conference Room  
City Hall*

**Present:**

Winston Churchill Gooding  
Mary Hill Caperton  
Helena Devereux  
Mark Beliles  
Ingrid Smyer-Kelly  
Rick Britton  
Garrett Smith

**Others Present:**

Satyendra Singh Huja

**Minutes:**

The minutes of April 9, 2003 were moved by Mr. Winston Churchill Gooding and seconded Ms. Mary Hill Caperton as amended. (The spelling of Ingrid Smyer-Kelly's last name)

Mr. Beliles gave a brief review of the Lewis and Clark Festival to the committee. He felt that it went very well. It included Fort Mandan, re-enactors, Indians, Blacksmith, period music, tours, lectures, boats, Star Lab, etc.

Garrett Smith thought that the festival could have been promoted with boys and cub scouts so that they could attend and get merit badges.

Mr. Huja informed the committee that the Federal and State Government have approved the Court Square drawings and that the advertisement will be placed on May 25<sup>th</sup> and hope that construction will begin end of July or early august.

There was a discussion of the committee organizing the groundbreaking ceremony. This will also be the 200<sup>th</sup> year of Court Square. The city and county should be invited to that. Mr. Beliles, Ms. Caperton and Ms. Devereux will be the



sub-committee working on the celebration. Possible dates for the ceremony were discussed; they are Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>, or Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Huja stated that the committee had been working with 3 state markers for this year. Helena Devereux, indicating that the wording relates to the history of the name and early black school with eradication and that students played a role in preparing the Jefferson School marker information. Mr. Huja stated that the Edgar Allan Poe sign has been approved and the location would be on McCormick Road near his room on the range. A June ceremony is planned. Mary Hill Caperton will see if she can contact the Raven Society to pay for the sign.

Mr. Huja informed the committee that there would be one state marker concerning the establishment of UVA located near the Rotunda. The committee will discuss next years list at the next meeting.

There was a discussion of placing 7 local markers around Court Square. Property owners are being contacted for their permission. These could also be unveiled with the ground breaking of the Court Square project. Copy of these will be sent with the minutes.

Ms. Ingrid Smyer-Kelly discussed local markers in other localities.

There was a discussion of pamphlets; one was requested for Jack Jouett. Mr. Beliles felt it should be part of a theme. Mr. Rick Britton asked what the purpose of the pamphlet was and how will they be distributed. After discussion there was an agreement that the following criteria should be used.

- Nationally important people or events
- People in events of statewide importance
- Significant association of local area and concrete connection to local area
- Historical figure
- Diversity

Some of the people recognized could be Daniel Boone, Walter Reed, Lewis, Clark, Edgar Allan Poe, Faulkner, Jack Jouett, Georgia O'Keefe, McGuffey, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, etc.

There was a discussion that we are to recognize 10-20 people, could be put in pamphlet form as well as on the web page. There would be more discussion of this at the next meeting.



Mr. Beliles stated that he has been in contact with Ed McCue concerning the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Virginia. The Historic Resources Task Force could work as a celebration committee. Mr. Beliles will contact the state.

Mr. Beliles handed out a pamphlet on old town center. (Attached) With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be June 18, 2003 at 3:30 in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall.





## Number Nothing

### **Commerce and Early Black History in Charlottesville**

This building was erected as a mercantile store in the 1820s for John R. Jones and Samuel Leitch, Jr, but other buildings around it prevented it from receiving an address in proper numerical sequence. A stone block was once outside the southwest corner of the building and used for auctioning off both goods and slaves until slavery was abolished in 1865. Slaves also shopped around the Square on Sunday mornings. Of the 20,000 or so people living in Albemarle in 1830, slightly more than half were black and all but about 400 of these were slaves. Most free blacks became so before 1807 when it became illegal to be emancipated without being moved out of state. Some blacks gained their freedom by serving as soldiers in Virginia's integrated regiments during the American Revolution. Black soldiers from Albemarle included Shadrack Battles, Sherard Goings, David Barnett, Stephen Bowles, Peter Hartless, and Johnson Smith. Battles, half black and half Native-American, worked after the war as a carpenter and landscaper around Court Square. Goings' wife Susannah was highly-respected in the community.

## Sixth Street Buildings

### **Charlottesville's First Shops and Library**

This brick building on Sixth Street dates from the 1830s. There once stood earlier frame buildings used for storage, a library, a watchmaker's shop, and a liquor shop. The library was begun in 1823 with a donation of books by Congregational clergyman Andrew Eliot of Boston. Jefferson and Presbyterian minister Francis Bowman were on the Library Committee. Lewis Leschot from Switzerland was the watchmaker, and Johnny Yergain sold liquors. A two-story home also once stood along Sixth street owned at first by Joel Terrell and then from 1774 to 1823 by an Irish political refugee and cabinetmaker by the name of Butler. Mr. Butler also used it as a tavern/hotel and possibly was used as a temporary meeting site for the Virginia General Assembly in 1781.

## Swan Tavern

### **Hotel and Restaurant Used by Revolutionary Patriots**

This building was erected in 1832 by Samuel Leitch on the site of the wood frame Swan Tavern - a hotel and restaurant that was owned by John Jouett, Sr. and operated during the American Revolution. On May 28, 1781 members of the Virginia General Assembly made Charlottesville their temporary capital because of the threat of the British army in Richmond. They began to conduct meetings across the street in the Courthouse and some of them lodged and dined on this site. On the night of 3 June, John's son, Jack Jouett, a Captain in the militia, concluded from British troop movements through Louisa where he was staying that they intended to surprise and capture the legislators. Jouett used horse trails and back roads through the night to arrive before them and warn Governor Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Richard Henry Lee, John Tyler and others so they could escape. Daniel Boone and six others were captured but released a day later.

## Early Hotels

### **Dining, Dancing, the Mail, and the Pony Express**

Eagle Tavern opened here sometime prior to 1791. This hotel was the primary place for public dances and political celebrations with its large public hall that could feed 200 people. Many peddlers sold products on its long porch during monthly court days. Baptist minister William P. Farish had already developed a stage coach line in 1845 when he bought the property and erected this building in 1854. The Farish Hotel became a major stage coach stop. Rev. Farish later helped create the famous Pony Express in 1860. Federal occupying forces used it for two years as a headquarters after the Civil War. Just to the right of this property is a building erected in 1926 as the Monticello Hotel where once stood the Jefferson Hotel, a Post Office, a shoe and book shop, and a drug store owned by James Barclay (also owner of Monticello). One room had previously been used by the Widow's Son Lodge of Freemasons, and another contained a grocery run by an African-American named Edmunds.

## Town Hall/Levy Opera House

### **Charlottesville's First Performing Arts Center**

This building was erected in 1851 by private interests as a Town Hall. It served as an auditorium for the purpose of travelling plays and musical events including performers such as opera singer Jenny Lind. Churches and other organizations also used it, such as the first Roman Catholic Church of Charlottesville which began here. During the Civil War it became a hospital for the wounded soldiers brought here from around the state and a place where Confederate uniforms were made. In 1888 Jefferson Monroe Levy, a Jewish man who also owned Monticello, remodeled it to seat up to 800 people and called it the Levy Opera House. The original site and the area to the left of this building was known as the battery - a parade ground for military drills and recreation. Federal troops used it during their occupation of the city in March 1865, and General Philip Sheridan resided in an opposite building on Park St.

## McKee Block/Jackson Park

### **Early Commercial District and Urban Renewal**

This park, created in 1918 by philanthropist Paul Goodloe McIntire as one of the city's first efforts at urban renewal, was named in honor of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and features a world-class equestrian statue sculpted by Charles Keck in 1921. Jackson passed through the city by train during the Civil War. Originally a group of pre-Civil War buildings stood here facing eastward toward a street that ran along the west side of the Courthouse (where is now the north-south sidewalk). In the 1820s the McKee block emerged as a new business district that included Andrew McKee's home and hat shop. To the left of McKee's place once stood the home of Thomas Wayt, housing a shop and a school. To the right of McKee was a dry goods shop and grocery owned by Nimrod Bramham, and then Ebenezer Watts' print and book-binding shop at the other end. It published the *Central Gazette* - the city's first newspaper (1820) - and the first collection of the writings of Jefferson.

## Jefferson Street Buildings

### **Charlottesville's Early Homes and Churches**

Some buildings along this block date from the 1820s and 1830s. Originally there were three buildings on the block: John Kelly's mercantile store on the east end, John Cochran's home in the middle, and the Butler/Norris home on the west end (410 E. Jefferson). Portions of the latter home were built in 1785 by Edward Butler a signer of the 1779 *Albemarle Declaration* during the American Revolution. Kelly, the founder of the first Sunday School in the city, purchased and altered Butler's home around 1808 and in 1816 sold it to Opie Norris, a Town Trustee and Magistrate (notable for freeing a slave named Joyce in 1806). Across Fourth Street (then known as Union St.) to the west once stood the first Baptist church. This new congregation began around 1820 in the courthouse. In 1831 University students Reuben Coleman and James Goss became its first ministers. At about the same time early Episcopal and Methodist churches were erected on Jefferson Street further west as were Presbyterian and Christian churches on Market Street. Thomas Jefferson visited their services and donated money for their buildings.

5/5/2002