

STATUS OF CONFEDERATE ICONOGRAPHY ON POST

Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee
April 2022

Pursuant to the charges issued upon its formation in October 2020, the Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee, an ad-hoc committee of the VMI Board of Visitors, has reviewed all artwork, memorials, commemorative items, and names on Post that have associations with the Confederacy. These tributes were collected in an Inventory approved by the Board of Visitors on 29 January 2021. Based on the directives set forth in the document “Finding Meaning in the Landscape and Criteria by Which to Assess it,” also adopted by the Board of Visitors on 29 January 2021, the committee has been engaged in thorough, thoughtful deliberation on the appropriateness of each item relative to the ultimate goal of fostering a welcoming and inspirational landscape on Post for cadets, faculty, staff, and visitors. In connection with the analysis undertaken by the committee, the committee looked at the purpose of the veneration of each item. If the purpose of the tribute was the veneration of the person as a confederate soldier or the confederacy generally or slavery generally, the item was removed. Alternatively, if the purpose behind the tribute was to venerate the person’s contribution to VMI, and if that contribution outweighed the compelling historical considerations, the item was retained.

In determining the most appropriate course of action to recommend for an individual item, the committee considered three possible options:

- Remain “as is” – the item should stay as it currently is;
- Retain & Explain – the item should be retained by VMI, but may be moved to a different location on Post, may have appropriate contextualizing information made available, and/or may have current text revised; or
- Remove – the item should no longer remain on Post or should be renamed

The table below—with reference to the Inventory page number—represents a summary of the committee’s recommendations to the full Board of Visitors. In addition, the table sets forth any action taken by the BOV and the current status of the object.

p.#	Item Description	CMNRC Rec.	BOV Vote	Current Status
2	Francis H. Smith Administration Building	Remain “as is”	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
2	Statue of Smith by Legnaioli	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
2	Painting of Smith by Hubard	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
2	Painting of Smith by Weyl	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
2	Quotation in Smith Hall Lobby	Remain “as is”	04/30/22	
4, 9	Maury-Brooke Hall	Remain “as is”	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
4	Maury House	n/a	n/a	Marker removed
4	Plaster cast of Maury statue	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
4	Maury Plaque	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update text
5	Scott Shipp Hall	Remain “as is”	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
5	Scott Shipp Plaque	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update text

5	Painting of Shipp by Andrews	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
6	Jackson Memorial Hall	Remove name	05/01/21	Renamed Memorial Hall
6	Statue of Jackson by Ezekiel	n/a	10/29/20	Moved to the New Market museum
6	"You may be..." quotation	Retain & Explain	05/01/21	Placard wording approved by BOV; awaiting installation
6	Jackson Arch	Remove name	05/01/21	Name removed
8	Richardson Hall	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
8	Richardson Plaque	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update text
9	Brooke Plaque	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update text
9	Painting of the <i>Virginia and the Monitor</i>	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
10	Preston Library	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
10	Parapet wall inscription	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	
11	Crozet Hall	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	Contextualizing information will be provided
11	Crozet gravesite and headstone	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	
12	<i>Charge of the New Market Cadets</i>	Retain & Explain	05/01/21	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
13	<i>Virginia Mourning Her Dead</i>	Retain & Explain	05/01/21	VMI Museum staff to redesign setting to commemorate all VMI cadets who have died in service
13	New Market Cadet Graves	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	
14	1848 Cadet Battery	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
14	Little Sorrel Grave Marker	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update text
15	Tredegar Cannon	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to update contextualizing information
15	Cadets to Harpers Ferry Plaque	Remove	04/30/22	Move to New Market museum
16	Ruffin Plaza	Remove	n/a	Plaque has been removed
16	Alpha Tau Omega Monument	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	
17	Jackson-Hope Medal and Monument	Retain & Explain Reconfigure Medal	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to coordinate with the Dean to reconfigure imagery on the obverse side of the medal
17	Statue of Washington	Remain "as is"	04/30/22	
18	Virginia Historical Markers	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to coordinate with Virginia Highway Historical Marker program staff to update text
18	Official VMI Crest	Retain & Explain	04/30/22	VMI Museum staff to request edit to description from US Army Institute of Heraldry