

Advisory Committee on City of Atlanta Street Names and Monuments Associated with the Confederacy

(Atlanta City Council Resolution 17-R-4255)



Meeting #2

**November 1, 2017 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm
City Council Chambers – Atlanta City Hall**

**Categories
of
Monuments and Memorials
associated with the
Confederacy**

Category One

- Immediate Post-Civil War

- 1865-1889
- Erected in order to mourn Confederate dead
- Funereal type monuments
- Example: Obelisk in Oakland Cemetery*



Category Two

- Jim Crow Era

- 1890s-1930s
- Erected in order to reinforce white political and social power
- Advanced Lost Cause mythology
- Often equestrian statues or figures of famous Confederate military leaders
- Many reconciliation statues fall in this era
- Example: John B. Gordon on Georgia State Capitol grounds*



Photo: Brent Moore

https://www.flickr.com/photos/brent_nashville/8604771289

Category Three

- Civil Rights Era / Massive Resistance

- Began 1954 (after *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling)
- Monuments during this time opposed federally mandated integration
- Sought to continue white social dominance
- Example: Stone Mountain (completed 1973)*



Current
City of Atlanta
Street Renaming Process
(Section 138-8 of the City of Atlanta Code)

Current City of Atlanta **Street Renaming Process** **(Section 138-8 of the City of Atlanta Code)**

- Application submitted to the Commissioner of the Dept. of Public Works that must include:
 - detailed cost estimate City expense to change signs, etc.
 - \$2,500 application fee
 - agreement from 75% of residences or business that would be affected by the renaming
 - information about the individual/organization that will be the new name
- Restrictions on potential street names:
 - If for living individual, must be 75 years old
 - If for deceased individual, must be deceased for at least 30 days
 - If for individual or organization, must be of local, national, or international significance
- Applicant pays for City costs of street renaming (new signs, etc.)
- Must be for an entire length of street
- Process requires review by the Urban Design Commission, Dept. of Public Works, City Utilities Committee, and Atlanta City Council

Examples of Confederate-related street names previously changed:

Former Name	<i>Current Name</i>
Gordon Street	<i>Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard</i>
Forrest Avenue	<i>Ralph McGill Boulevard</i>
Ashby Street	<i>Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard</i>
Bedford Place	<i>Central Park Place Argonne Avenue</i>
Rolling Mill Street	<i>Boulevard</i>
Calhoun Street	<i>Courtland Street</i>
Jackson Street	Parkway Drive

Current
City of Atlanta
Urban Design Commission
Review & Comment Process

(Section 6-4043 of the City of Atlanta Code)

Current

Urban Design Commission

Review & Comment Process

(Section 6-4043 of the City of Atlanta Code)

- It is required for Urban Design Commission to review and comment on:
 - *all works of art that will be on city property or which will be gifted to the city.*
 - *the proposed location and design of proposed parks and proposals for the relocation or significant change to existing parks.*
 - *the proposed location and design of buildings, bridges, viaducts, elevated ways, streets, highways, and site / streetscape features on land belonging to the city or on city right-of-way.*
 - *the demolition, alteration, moving, or construction of any structure, site or building which involves the use of capital expenditures by the city or capital expenditures by other public agencies*
- Review and comment takes place a public hearing as part of regular agenda with other types of reviews
- Comments directed to pertinent City agency
- Also applies to Atlanta Public School projects

Preliminary Work Draft
of
Monuments and Memorials
on
City of Atlanta Property
associated with the
Confederacy

Confederate Obelisk

Location: Oakland Cemetery

- Erected by The Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association
- Fundraising began in 1869, completed in 1873
- Inscription:

“Our Confederate Dead, 1873

Erected by The Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association”

- Any maintenance required is funded by the Historic Oakland Foundation



Lion of the Confederacy

Location: Oakland Cemetery

- Erected by The Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association

- Dedicated in 1894

- Inscription:

“Unknown Confederate Dead

T.M. Brady Sc.

Erected by The Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association 1894”

- Serves as headstone for 3,000 unknown Confederate dead buried in cemetery

- On the Smithsonian register of historically significant funerary art

- Any maintenance required is funded by the Historic Oakland Foundation



Photo: J. Glover,
2005

Peace Monument

Location: Piedmont Park

- Erected by the Old Guard of the Gate City Guard
- Dedicated October 10, 1911
- Inscriptions are on next slide
- Commemorates reconciliation of North and South after the Civil War ("Sons of North and South Marching to Piedmont Park to Celebrate Peace of Nation.")
- Note larger context of reconciliation- reconciliation is for whites only at the time, leaves out African-American perspective and civil rights
 - Height of Jim Crow
 - 1906- Atlanta Race Riots
 - 1915- Rebirth of Ku Klux Klan on Stone Mountain



Photo: Wally Gobetz,
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wallyg/8988344779/in/p-hotostream/>

Peace Monument Inscriptions

- Front:

- *“Cease Firing– Peace Is Proclaimed”*
- *In Bello Paceque Primus*” [First in War, First in Peace]

- Larger plaque:

- *“The Gate City Guard, Captain G Harvey Thompson*
- *In the conscientious conviction of their duty to uphold the Cause of the Southern Confederacy, offered their services to the Governor of Georgia and were enrolled in the Confederate Army April 30, 1861*



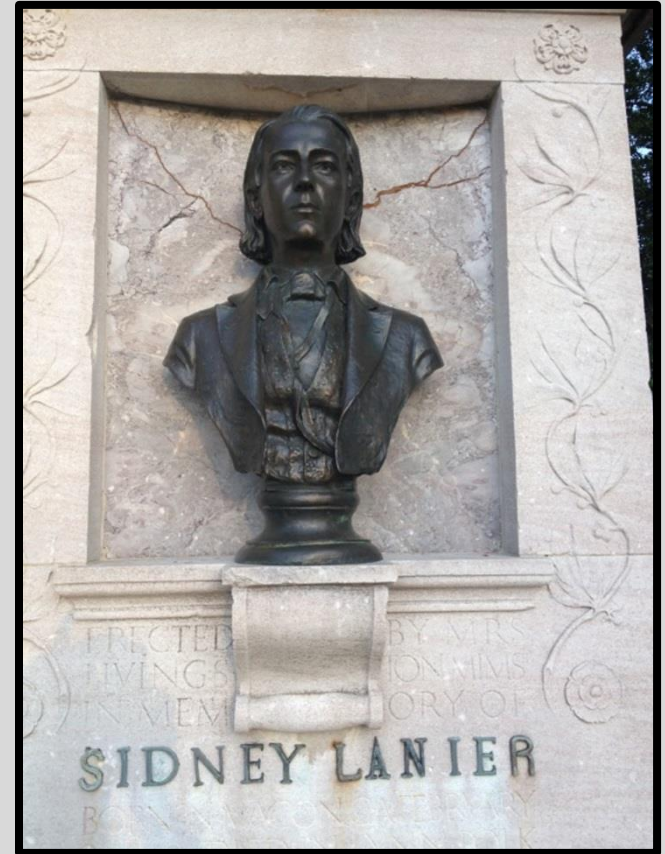
- *“Inspired with the same sincerity of purpose and accepting in good faith the result of that heroic struggle,*
- *The Gate City Guard, under the command of Captain Joseph F. Burke,*
- *Desiring to restore fraternal sentiment among the people of all sections of our country, and ignoring sectional animosity, on October 6th, 1879, went forth to greet their former adversaries in the Northern and Eastern states, inviting them to unite with the people of the South to heal the Nation’s wounds in a peaceful and prosperous reunion of the states. This “mission of peace” was enthusiastically endorsed by the military and citizens in every part of the union and this monument is erected as an enduring testimonial to their patriotic contribution to the cause of national fraternity.*
- *“Dedicated October 10th, 1911 by Simeon E. Baldwin (Governor of Connecticut) and Hoke Smith (Governor of Georgia)”*

Sidney Lanier Bust

Location of Original: Oglethorpe University

Location of Replica: Piedmont Park

- Erected by Piedmont Park association with funds bequeathed to the association by Mrs. Livingston Mims
- Originally erected in 1914
- Original moved from Piedmont Park in 1985
- Inscription: *“Erected by Mrs. Livingston Mims in memory of Sidney Lanier”*
- Lanier enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 20 in the Confederate signal corps
 - Later, pilot of English blockade runner ship- captured by the Union and imprisoned
 - Died in 1881 of tuberculosis contracted while in prison camp
- Famous poet, musician, and author
- Georgia’s first “national” poet according to the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame



Monument to General Walker (W.H.T. Walker)

Location: Off Glenwood drive near the I-20 exit

- Dedicated in 1902
- Inscription:
 - *“In memory of Maj.Gen. WM. H.T. Walker C.S.A. Born November 26, 1816, Killed on this spot, July 22, 1864”*
- Monument was originally on a nearby hill and moved to current location in the 1930s
- Essentially functions as a battlefield marker for General Walker’s death- often paired with the one for Union General James McPherson in East Atlanta (both have upturned cannons)
- B*ATL is raising money for restoration of both the Walker and McPherson monuments



Peachtree Battle Avenue Monument

Location: Peachtree Battle Avenue, near Peachtree Road intersection

- Erected by the Old Guard of Atlanta
- Dedicated by Atlanta Post No. 1, American Legion in 1935
 - *“On this historic ground where Confederate soldiery, defending Atlanta, met and disputed the southward advance of federal troops along Peachtree Road, July 19th 1864.*
 - *This memorial is a tribute to American Valor, which they of the blue and they of the gray had as a common heritage from their forefathers of 1776, and to the pervading spirit thereof which, in the days of 1898 and the Great World conflict of 1917-1918, perfected the reunion of the North and the South.*
 - *Erected by the Old Guard of Atlanta. Dedicated by Atlanta Post No. 1, American Legion. 1935.”*
- Reconciliation monument



James M. Calhoun Portrait

(February 12, 1811 – October 1, 1875)

Location: Atlanta City Hall

- Part of City of Atlanta Collection of Portraits of Former Mayors
- Date of portrait: Unknown at this time
- Date of Installation: Unknown at this time
- 16th Mayor of Atlanta, served four one-year terms as Mayor
- In 1863, he commissioned a volunteer militia to defend Atlanta.
- Calhoun surrendered the City to Union forces under Sherman on September 2, 1864.



***Preliminary
Working Draft***
of
**Existing City of Atlanta
Street Names
associated with
the Confederacy**

***Preliminary Working Draft* of Existing City of Atlanta Street Names associated with the Confederacy**

- Based on preliminary research by the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works, Office of Design Historic Preservation Staff, and the Atlanta History Center
- Other street names that can be documented to be associated with the Confederacy can and should be added to this list based on appropriate research and analysis
- The purpose of this list is to catalogue the existing street names
- The Advisory Committee must still make a recommendation or recommendations as to what the City of Atlanta should or could do about street names associated with the Confederacy

Preliminary Working Draft of Existing City of Atlanta Street Names associated with the Confederacy

Street Name	Street Name
<i>Cleburne Avenue</i>	<i>Holtzclaw Street</i>
<i>Cleburne Terrace</i>	<i>Lee Street</i>
<i>Confederate Avenue</i>	<i>Pickett Street / Alley</i>
<i>East Confederate Avenue</i>	<i>Walker Street</i>
<i>Forrest Street</i>	<i>Walthall Drive</i>
<i>Gordon Place</i>	<i>Walthall Court</i>
<i>Hardee Street</i>	

**Relate Efforts by Other
Cities and
Organizations
Addressing
Confederate-related
Names,
Monuments and
Memorials**

Examples of Related Efforts: *Yale University*

- Presumption: Renaming on account of values should be an **exceptional event**, but is sometimes warranted
- Presumption against renaming is strongest when the memorialized individual made significant contributions to the institution (city, University, etc.)
- Times frames to consider
 - The **present**:
Is principal legacy of the individual memorialized significantly at odds with present mission and values?
 - The **era of the memorialized individual's life and work**:
 - *Was that person promoting an odious practice at the time or was their relationship with said practice unexceptional?*
 - *Was their principal legacy contested at the time?*
 - **Example**: Legacy of George Washington vs. John C. Calhoun
 - The **time of a naming decision**:
 - *Was that individual, at the time of the memorialization decision, chosen for a reason opposed to the values of the organization?*
 - **Example**: UNC hall named Saunders Hall because officials deciding the name at the time wanted to honor Saunders for KKK membership.
- Decision to retain a name or rename comes with obligations of **non-erasure**
- **Contextualization**
- University of Mississippi used these principles when considering its Confederate history

Examples of Related Efforts: *University of Michigan*

- Set of Principles:

- ***Pedagogy:*** Always be an opportunity for learning about history of institution.
- ***Interpretation:*** Obligation to explain and interpret name of facility extends beyond naming ceremony.
- ***Due Diligence:*** Substantial research on a name is a primary responsibility.
- ***Commitment:*** The University makes a significant commitment to that person or family. Those seeking to change a name must carry a heavy burden of argument for justification.
- ***Revision:*** Historical foundations of a naming decision may appropriately be questioned when new historical understandings occur.
- ***Historical and Institutional Context:*** Understand that it is impossible hold someone in the past accountable for not sharing contemporary ideas and values.
- ***Consistency:*** Only some of the many alumni and faculty members are honored with a naming. If all space names are fixed forever, the idea / practice would come to an end.
- ***Contemporary effect:*** Honorifics given at one time can have different effects on community members at another time, and these differences are worthy of consideration.

Examples of Related Efforts: ***City of Richmond, VA***

- Commission established in June, 2017 – 10 members, 2 advisory, and 34 staff
- Ongoing effort
- Public Input:
 - website form for submitting response to specific questions
 - data form offering choice of certain actions with comments section
 - meeting – speakers chosen at random from those signed in ahead of time
- Five public meetings held from July 31 – August 7
- Ongoing process

Examples of Related Efforts: *City of Baltimore, MD*

- Commission created June 30, 2015 – 8 members total
- From September, 2015 (first meeting) to August, 2016 (final report submitted)
- **Report recommendations:**
 - Lee and Jackson Monument – removal, deaccession, and offer to NPS for use at Chancellorsville Battlefield
 - Taney Monument – move from Mount Vernon Place
 - Soldiers and Sailors Monument – retain, but with financial support for contextualization
 - Women’s Monument – retain, with financial support for contextualization
- December, 2016 – Plaques installed as short-term solution
- August, 2017 – Charlottesville attack occurs on Saturday, August 12th. City Council votes to remove all statues and statues removed overnight during August 15-16th

Examples of Related Efforts: ***City of New Orleans, LA***

- June, 2015 – Mayor Landrieu calls for removal of 4 monuments
- July, 2015 – 115 people take part in talks out of 600 invited – facilitated through “Welcome Table” racial reconciliation initiative – talks are not open to press or public
- August, 2015 – Historic District Landmarks Commission votes 11-1 to remove monuments
- December, 2015 – Monuments Taskforce delivers petition to keep all monuments
- December, 2015 – City Council holds public hearings and votes to remove all monuments
- May, 2017 – all four monuments removed and placed in storage

Examples of Related Efforts: *City of Dallas, TX*

- August 24, 2017 – Mayor creates task force
- September, 2017- City Council provides further guidance about task force through city Council resolution
- August 31, 2017 to September 22, 2017 – Task Force holds five public hearings, two of which provided opportunities for public comment

-Specific recommendations for specific monuments:

- Lee statue – donate to a museum
- Confederate Monument (in cemetery) – donate to a museum
- Fair Park – historic art and architecture remain in place and contextualized

-Specific recommendations for park names and street names:

- Robert E. Lee park – rename
 - Confederate Cemetery – rename
 - Street names – rename
- Recommends ***creation of City-wide engagement process to consider renaming City parks*** for a broader range of individuals, including abolitionists, formerly enslaved, civil and human rights leaders, marginalized and underrepresented communities, and victims of police brutality.

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Comments:

**StreetsAndMonuments
@AtlantaGa.Gov**

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Thank you for coming.