

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2020

Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

Charles Allen, Committee member

Pat C. Carpenter, Committee member

Tony Carr, Committee member

John Felak, Committee member

Trina Mackie, Committee member

David W. McGhee, Committee member

Milledge Murray, Committee member

Mandy Nelson, Committee ex officio member, non-voting

Mark Newell, Committee member

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Calhoun Park Committee meeting of the City of North Augusta of January 7, 2020, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Pettit at 6:34 p.m. in the Council Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Mayor Pettit, Charles Allen, Councilmember Carpeter, John Felak, Trina Mackie, Councilmember David McGhee, Milledge Murray, and Mandy Nelson. Tony Carr and Mark Newell were absent. Also in attendance were Rachelle Moody, Interim City Administrator, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk. Members of the public and the media was also present.

The minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting were accepted and approved by general consent.

ITEM 4. Final Review of RFP for Sculpture/Display

While there was general agreement that the RFP was complete, the committee requested the RFP for the Sculpture/Display project be emailed again to the members for one last review before final approval. Mayor Pettit requested the award funds be re-submitted for approval. (See ATTACHMENT 4)

ITEM 5, Review Draft Report to Council


Mayor Pettit submitted a final Report to Council which included a proposal to enhance Calhoun Park. (See ATTACHMENT 5)


The report contains contributions from committee discussions and individual committee member's assistance since the committee was formed May 2019.

Deacon David Pope of First Providence Baptist Church made comments of a recent re-union of Carrsville descendents and the efforts to maintain the history of the area.

The Committee's plan moving forward is to present the RFP and Report to Council at the February 3rd, 2020 Study Session and regular City Council Meeting. Committee member, Trina Mackie, will present the report at the Study Session. Mayor Pettit and Milledge Murrary will schedule to meet with Dr. Alex Pope of First Providence Baptist Church to solicit permission to move the Hamburg marker to Calhoun Park.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF
July, 2020.

Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

ATTACHMENT #4

OVERVIEW

The City of North Augusta, South Carolina desires to establish a memorial to be installed in the city-owned Calhoun Park. This memorial will be a counterpoint to the Thomas McKie Meriwether Monument located prominently in Calhoun Park. The text on the Meriwether Monument focuses on Anglo-Saxon heritage (Attachment 1). This text is incongruous and offensive to present day residents of North Augusta.

The City believes a new sculpture installed in Calhoun Park as a key part of the memorial is the appropriate way to achieve the stated objective. The City also believes that designing the memorial requires persons with special talents and is soliciting design proposals. The City has budgeted \$50,000 for memorial design, fabrication and installation.

This document provides the history, project objective, design requirements, submission requirements and selection process for persons interested in making a proposal.

HISTORY

In the now-extinct town of Hamburg, SC (near present-day North Augusta), events which occurred over the course of six days in July 1876 influenced the outcome of the Presidential Election of 1876 between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden, and ultimately led to the end of Reconstruction in the United States. The events in Hamburg began on July 4 and culminated in a gun battle over several hours that ended in the early morning hours of July 9.

Mr. Meriwether, a white man, was killed early in the fight between the town militia composed of African-Americans and a militant group of local white citizens. His death enraged the white citizens, and by daybreak on the morning of July 9, seven African-Americans were dead. Three died while trying to escape from the second floor of the Sibley Building where they had gathered prior to the gunfire beginning. Four African-Americans were shot after being selected from 25-30 who had been captured and held in a group. Three died immediately and the fourth died the next day in a hospital in Augusta, Georgia, across the Savannah River from Hamburg. This event is referred to today as the Hamburg Massacre.

In 1916, under an act of the South Carolina general assembly, an obelisk was erected by the state in memory of Mr. Meriwether in North Augusta's Calhoun Park. Calhoun Park is prominently located in the North Augusta; it is triangular in shape, and bounded by Georgia, Carolina, and Forest Avenues. Today, there are two prominent features in Calhoun Park; the statue of the City's founder, James U. Jackson, and the obelisk in remembrance of Thomas McKie Meriwether (Figure 1). There is also a fountain within a small water feature.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to create a memorial in reverence, respect, honor, and veneration for the African-Americans who died in the Hamburg Massacre. The intent is not to simply present information about the Hamburg Massacre, but to be a destination for visitors to recognize and contemplate the profound influence that the Hamburg Massacre had on our Nation.

While the memorial will incorporate many aspects, a sculpture honoring the seven African-American men who were killed at Hamburg be the primary aspect. The sculpture should be the focal point of the memorial. Other aspects of the memorial should include light and historical information.

DESIGN

The following guidelines are set forth for memorial design:

1. The existing Meriwether Monument's location, structure, and text will remain unchanged.
2. The new memorial shall:
 - a. Be within a defined, distinct area in the park.
 - b. Include a sculpture designed as a counterpoint to the Meriwether Monument; it must be of a size, character and setting to not give the impression the Meriwether Monument is dominant.
 - c. Include lighting: as either a focal point or supporting effects.
 - d. Include permanently-installed features (sculptures, kiosks, plaques, etc.), separate from the sculpture, to convey historical information.
 - e. Present the historical information to visitors providing a counterpoint to the text on the Meriwether Monument. The information should include, at minimum:
 - i. a summary of the events which transpired at Hamburg,
 - ii. the names of the African-American men killed during the incident, with acknowledgement of the circumstances of their deaths,
 - iii. the accomplishments of the African-American citizens during that period, to include the founding of Aiken County.
 - iv. information connecting the events at Hamburg in the context of the Nation's Reconstruction experience. (Attachment 2)

ELIGIBILITY

This request for proposals is open to United States-based designers – artists, sculptors, architects, landscape architects, etc. Proposals may be submitted from individuals or a collaborative team. Proposals will be accepted from designers of all levels: students, amateurs and/or professionals.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Effectiveness in honoring the African-Americans who died at Hamburg
2. Creativity and originality
3. Use of lighting
4. Provision of historical information providing a counterpoint to the Meriwether Monument
5. Location of the memorial within Calhoun Park
6. Appropriateness of scale to the Meriwether Monument and Calhoun Park

SUBMISSION, REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS

Persons or teams wishing to submit a proposal must indicate their interest to STAFF PERSON at EMAIL ADDRESS by DATE.

Questions regarding memorial design should be submitted by DATE; responses to questions will be emailed to all interested parties by DATE.

Preliminary designs should be submitted to STAFF PERSON at EMAIL ADDRESS by DATE. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

Preliminary design submissions should include: 1) sketch of the memorial layout within Calhoun Park, 2) sketch and description of a sculpture or monument proposed, 3) sketch and/or description of historical information pieces, and 4) sketch and/or description of how light will be incorporated. Budget proposals are NOT required for preliminary design submissions. Photos of another memorial serving as inspiration are acceptable.

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. Three finalists will be selected and provided further instructions to prepare a full proposal with details of the proposed memorial, sketches, a scale mode layout, specifications (with component materials identified), and budget for design, fabrication and installation. Submission date for full proposals is yet to be determined.

The full proposals will be publically displayed at the North Augusta Municipal Building for residents to view and provide comments.

Resident comments will be collected and considered by the review committee. The review committee will select two proposals for Council review. North Augusta City Council will make final determination regarding the winning proposal.

All design submittals remain the intellectual property of the submitter and will not be used or shared in any way, other than as specified in this document, without the written permission of the submitter.

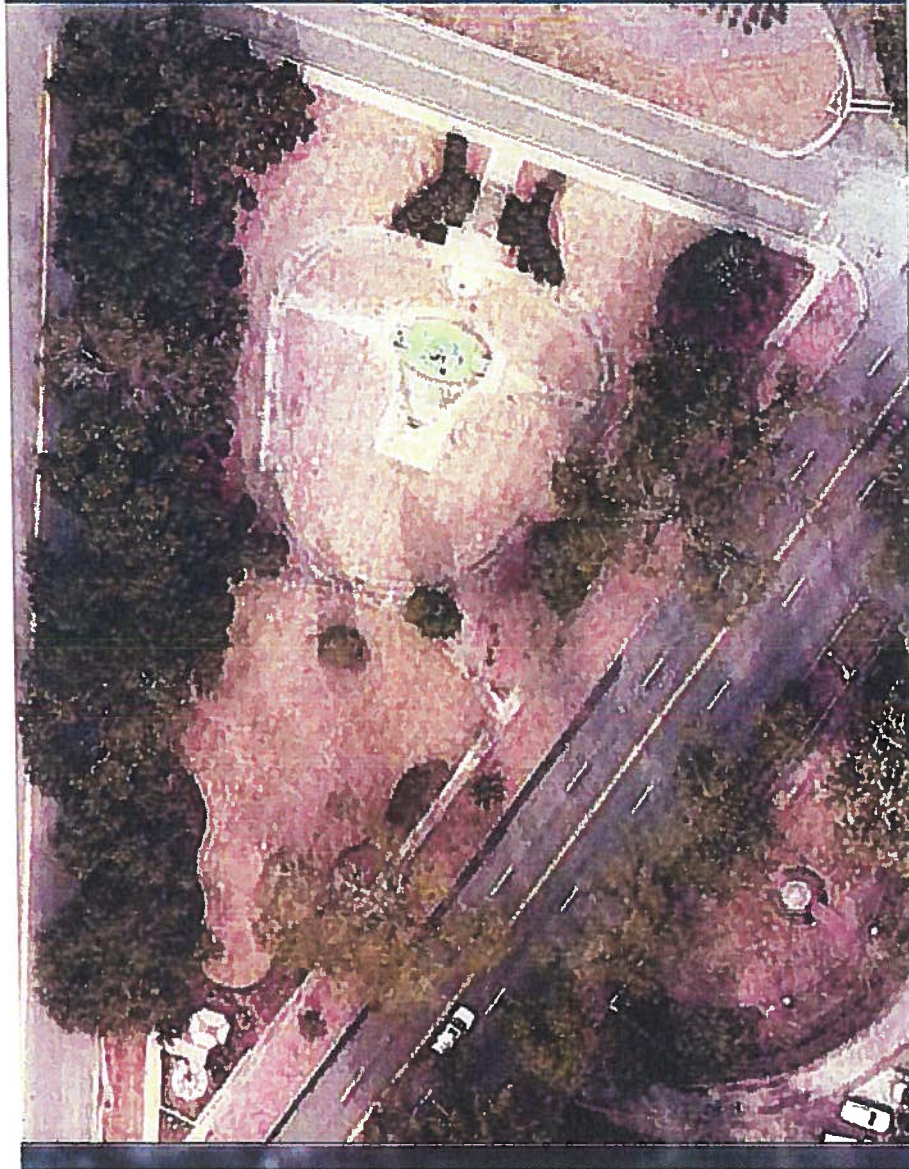
Following conclusion of the final selection process, models not selected will be available for submitted pick-up.

TIMELINE

Request for Proposals Issued	Start Date
Deadline for preliminary proposal	+ Six Weeks from Start Date
Finalists Selected and Notified	+ Eight Weeks from Start Date
Full Proposals Due	+ Twelve Weeks from Start Date
Public Display of Presentations	+ Thirteen Weeks for Start Date
Final Design Selected by City Council	+ Sixteen Weeks from Start Date
Notice to Proceed Issued	+ Twenty Weeks from Start Date

FIGURE 1

Calhoun Pak



Total area is one acre.

ATTACHMENT 1

Text on the Meriwether Monument.

Dec 4, 1852 – July 8, 1876
In Memory of THOMAS McKIE MERIWETHER

Who on 8th July 1876, gave his life that the civilization builded by his fathers might be preserved for their childrens children unimpaired.

Second Panel

In youths glad morning the unfinished years of manhood stretching before him, with clear knowledge and courageous willingness, he accepted death and found forever the grateful remembrance of all who know high and generous service in the maintaining of those civic and social institutions which the men and women of his race had struggled through the centuries to establish in South Carolina.

What more can a man do than to lay down his life.

Third Panel

In life he exemplified the highest ideal of Anglo-Saxon civilization. By his death he assured to the children of his beloved land the supremacy of that ideal.

“As his flame of life was quenched, it lit the blaze of victory”

Fourth Panel

This memorial is erected to the young hero of the Hamburg Riot, by the state, under an act of the general assembly, with the aid of admiring friends.

ATTACHMENT 2

- v. a summary of the events which transpired at Hamburg,
- vi. the names of the African-American men killed during the incident, with acknowledgement of the circumstances of their deaths,
- vii. the accomplishments of the African-American citizens during that period, to include the founding of Aiken County,
- viii. information connecting the events at Hamburg in the context of the Nation's Reconstruction experience.

i. & ii.

Hamburg, located on the banks of the Savannah River was a prosperous town as the western-most terminus of the Charleston-Hamburg Railroad, completed in 1833.

Hamburg declined economically after 1854 when the railroad line crossed the river and directly connected Augusta, Georgia with the coast.

Following the end of the Civil War, the town was predominantly populated by African-Americans.

The African-Americans in Hamburg were celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1876. The militia was executing series of precision drills on the main thoroughfare, 100-150 feet wide and overgrown with grass, except the part used as a carriage-road.

Thomas Butler and Henry Getzen came along in a carriage and demanded the marchers move aside to allow them to pass.

Doc Adams, Commander of the militia halted the company, and he expressed his displeasure with Butler and Getzen for interfering. He told them there was plenty of room on each side to pass by. When it became apparent they were unwilling to go around the militia, Adams opened ranks and allowed them to drive through.

The next day, Thomas Butler returned and requested a warrant against Doc Adams for blocking the street. The hearing was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, July 8th 1876.

The attorney for Thomas Butler, Matthew C. Butler (previously a Confederate General), initiated talks between both sides. While the talks were going on a crowd of 200-300 armed white men assembled in Hamburg and demanded the militia should surrender their arms.

The militia gathered in the second story of the Sibley building. The militia refused to give up the arms.

The armed white men, gathered on the river bank, soon began to fire toward the Sibley Building. The militia returned the fire, and McKie Meriwether was shot through the head, and instantly died.

An artillery piece from Augusta fired four charges of canister at the building without injuring any one. While activity around the cannon attracted the attention of many of the white men, the men in the armory escaped from the rear by means of ladders, and hid anywhere they could find shelter. One African-American man, James Cook, was hit by five or six bullets as he exited from the rear of the Sibley building and died.

The white men took about twenty-five African-American men as prisoners following their escape from the Sibley building and placed them within a circle of armed men. Six of these men were subsequently murdered.

Allen T. Attaway was the first one taken out of the "ring" and shot to death. David Phillips was similarly killed. Albert Myniart, Moses Parks, and Hampton Stephens were also similarly killed.

Corporal Nelder John Parker was captured and taken to the prisoners' location and later wounded by a shot in the back. He was taken to a hospital in Augusta where he died the next day.

Three African-American men were wounded, but survived. Butler Edwards was shot in the head after being told to run. Willis Davis was shot in the arm near the elbow. Pompey Curry was called out from the "ring." He was shot in the leg as he ran, but also survived.

The next morning, July 9, Prince Rivers, the African-American judge in Hamburg convened a coroners' inquest. When the inquest was over, Rivers issued arrest warrants for eighty-seven white men, including Mathew C. Butler, future South Carolina Senator, and Ben Tillman, future South Carolina governor.

No one was ever convicted of the murder of the African-Americans.

iii.

To be added.

iv.

To be added

ATTACHMENT #5

Meriwether Monument Committee Report to Council

The Calhoun Park Committee

This report is submitted in accordance the directives within City Council *Resolution 2019-10, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FINDINGS ABOUT THE HAMBURG INCIDENT OF 1876 AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR AN ADDITIONAL DISPLAY IN JOHN C. CALHOUN PARK.*

Overall considerations and premises explored by the Committee:

- The Committee was well represented with a variety of elected and volunteer community leaders of different backgrounds to complete our assigned task.
- City Council has previously decided the Meriwether Monument should remain unaltered in Calhoun Park.
- Historical markers relevant to Hamburg are already positioned at various locations in the city.
 - The Carrsville area (on Barton Road) is the location of both the roadside marker about the Hamburg Massacre and the Hamburg Granite Memorial (Figure xx) to the eight men who died. These were dedicated in March 2016.
 - Roadside markers providing information about the City of Hamburg and the Hamburg-Charleston Railroad are located within the cloverleaf at Route 1 and Martintown Road.
- The residents of Hamburg moved uphill to Carrsville following the flood of 1929, which essentially destroyed Hamburg.
- First Providence Baptist Church, founded in 1860 in Hamburg, was relocated to Carrsville following the flood of 1929, about the same time the Society Building was constructed (1930).
- Having informational markers about the Hamburg Massacre in two locations (Carrsville and Calhoun Park) makes it difficult to provide a complete presentation at either location.
 - Calhoun Park is a well maintained and centrally located public space and is the logical place to present information about the events of July 8th and 9th, 1876. The primary basis for this conclusion is the Meriwether Monument is located in the park.
 - Carrsville is the appropriate location within the City of North Augusta to be designated as an African-American historical district, with emphasis on African-American accomplishments, especially those during and after Reconstruction. The Society Building and First Providence Baptist Church are well suited to be focal points of the district.

Discussion

1. The stories of the African American achievements and of the Hamburg Massacre and represent diametrically opposite experiences. To attempt to create an educational experience about both within Calhoun Park would do justice to neither. Therefore, this committee believes there are two areas within the City suitable for the displays and experiences: Calhoun Park for the Hamburg Massacre and Carrsville for African American achievements.
2. The Carrsville area of the City became the home of African-Americans who relocated following the flood of 1929. The First Providence Baptist Church and Society Building are suited to be the nucleus of what could become an African-American Historical District.
3. Educational features and exhibits about the accomplishments by African-Americans during Reconstruction could key elements of the display incorporated within the existing structures of First Providence Baptist Church and the Society Building.
4. Both the First Providence Baptist Church and the Society Building are privately owned, necessitating discussions with the owners. The Society Building would be an ideal facility to serve as a museum with information about African-American leaders of the Reconstruction era and their accomplishments. It may also be a suitable location for displays of Hamburg artifacts and exhibits.
5. Calhoun Park is inextricably linked to the Hamburg Massacre as a result of the Meriwether Monument being at a prominent location within the park. The committee focused jointly on the educational opportunity to counter the message on the Meriwether Monument and the need for a display or sculpture acknowledging and honoring the seven African-American men killed in the Hamburg Massacre.
6. The Meriwether Monument has stood in the center of Calhoun Park since 1916, honoring the one white person who lost his life in the Hamburg Massacre. This words on the monument reflect the attitudes of the citizens of North Augusta when it was dedicated in 1916, but they clearly do not reflect the opinions and attitudes of North Augusta and its citizens in 2019. This committee of citizens believes permanent changes to Calhoun Park are necessary to affirm today's attitudes differ from those expressed on the Meriwether Monument. and explain the events that took place in nearby Hamburg in July 1876.

Recommendations

The committee recommends a two-phased approach to enhance Calhoun Park as an educational display concerning the Hamburg Massacre of 1876. Phase One includes actions which can be taken almost immediately. Phase Two, as recommended, will invite participation by persons and groups inside and outside the City and may necessitate a public/private partnership to raise funds.

Phase One encompasses positioning five Historical Markers and the Granite Hamburg Memorial at the perimeter of the Meriwether Monument to provide historical context of the events of July 1876. There are two options for placing the markers. One alternative is at the corners of the pavement installed around the monument, in the ground. The other alternative is replacing the four small granite pyramids with the markers. (Figure XX). Regardless of the location, the angle of installation of the markers is crucial to give each its own sense of importance. This initial phase could be completed with a small expenditure, in the range of ~~\$10,000 to \$15,000~~ \$6,000 to \$8,000, primarily to purchase and erect 2 additional markers. Moving the existing markers and memorial could be done by City employees.

Two markers will be relocated to new positions at the periphery of the monument. “*The Hamburg Massacre*” marker which is now located on Barton Road at the Carrsville Community (Society) Building, adjacent to the Granite Hamburg Memorial. The “*North Augusta*” marker is installed at the boundary of Calhoun Park, but shrubbery restricts visibility.

The Granite Hamburg Memorial would be located on the side opposite the fountain.

Two new Markers, identical in design to the existing markers in the park, with text to reflect today’s attitudes will have to be commissioned.

a. One new Historical Marker would have the following text:

“In 1914, the S. C. Legislature passed a bill authorizing \$400 for a monument to Thomas McKie Meriwether the one white person killed in the Hamburg Massacre. An amendment, passed in 1915 authorized placement of the monument at a suitable place within the town of North Augusta. Local leaders chose Calhoun Place (as it was then called) as the site for the monument, Private funds were raised to supplement the amount authorized by the S.C. Legislature. The monument was dedicated February 16, 1916.

Inscriptions on the monument reflect attitudes of people during that period. The words on the Meriwether Monument do not represent the attitudes of the people of North Augusta in 2020. We are a community represented by people of different races and ethnic backgrounds, bonded together by unity and common rights of citizenship. We choose to learn from our past and ensure that North Augusta’s future reflects a high standard for all of its citizens. The events and legacy of Hamburg do not define us.”

b. The second new historical marker would have the following text:

“After the Civil War, nearby Hamburg, SC became a town where free blacks and freed slaves settled. Important local government positions were held by African-American leaders from the Town of Hamburg. Prince Rivers was Trial Judge, Mayor of Hamburg, and a Commissioner of Aiken County. Samuel Lee was an attorney, Aiken County Commissioner and became Speaker of the House in the SC Legislature. John Gardner established a school, was a teacher, and principal. He also later became Mayor of Hamburg.

The 1868 South Carolina elections produced the first majority black state legislature in U.S. history. A new South Carolina constitution was drafted, and Aiken County was formed from parts of Edgefield, Lexington, Barnwell, and Orangeburg counties. It was the only county formed in South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). March 10, 1871 is celebrated as Founders Day in Aiken County.”

Phase Two envisions the installation of a new sculpture in Calhoun Park, whose theme would be *“Unity to embody the conviction that our community consists of many races and cultures enjoying full rights of citizenship.”*

Committee members believe it is important that the African-American victims of the Hamburg Massacre are honored in Calhoun Park with an appropriate sculpture. This would be in addition to the Historical Markers discussed in Phase One.

The Committee recognizes it does not have the experience or qualifications to create such a sculpture and to place it appropriately within the park.

The Committee believes this presents an opportunity for issuing a request for proposal (RFP) inviting any interested group or individual to submit a proposal encompassing design a sculpture, its placement within the park and any additional features to enhance Calhoun Park. The design concept would necessarily include a sculpture honoring the African-American victims. Including educational concepts, landscaping, and other improvements that would enhance the overall setting would be encouraged. It is hoped that, with proper advertising, a sizeable number of parties would take advantage of this opportunity to create an iconic focal point at the most prominent location within the City. A proposed RFP is attached for consideration for this competition.

Text, titles, or educational material added within Calhoun Park must only state verifiable facts about the Hamburg Massacre, without expressing conclusions or opinions about the events which took place. Providing an opportunity for the viewer simply to become knowledgeable of, and reflective about, the incident is the objective.

The City of North Augusta will have full responsibility for, and control of, any permanent additions to Calhoun Park This includes final decision authority for accepting any of the design concepts submitted through this RFP for implementation.

The committee believes the funds, perhaps in the range of \$200,000, will be necessary to construct a suitable sculpture at Calhoun Park. While this certainly would be a Capital Project, the committee believes there would be an opportunity for shared public and private funding for the display. Raising the funds necessary for this would take time and require an organized campaign.

Finally, the Committee recommends the City actively support, including a financial commitment, development of an African-American historical district in Carrsville. This does not necessarily mean formal establishment of such a district, but that possibility should not be prohibited. As an initial step, the roadside markers providing information about the City of Hamburg and the Hamburg-Charleston Railroad (now located within the cloverleaf at Route 1 and Martintown Road) should be relocated to Carrsville.

Respectfully,

Charles Allen,

David McGhee,

Pat Carpenter,

Milledge Murray,

Tony Carr,

Mandy Nelson,

John Felak,

Mark Newell,

Trina Mackie,

Bob Pettit,

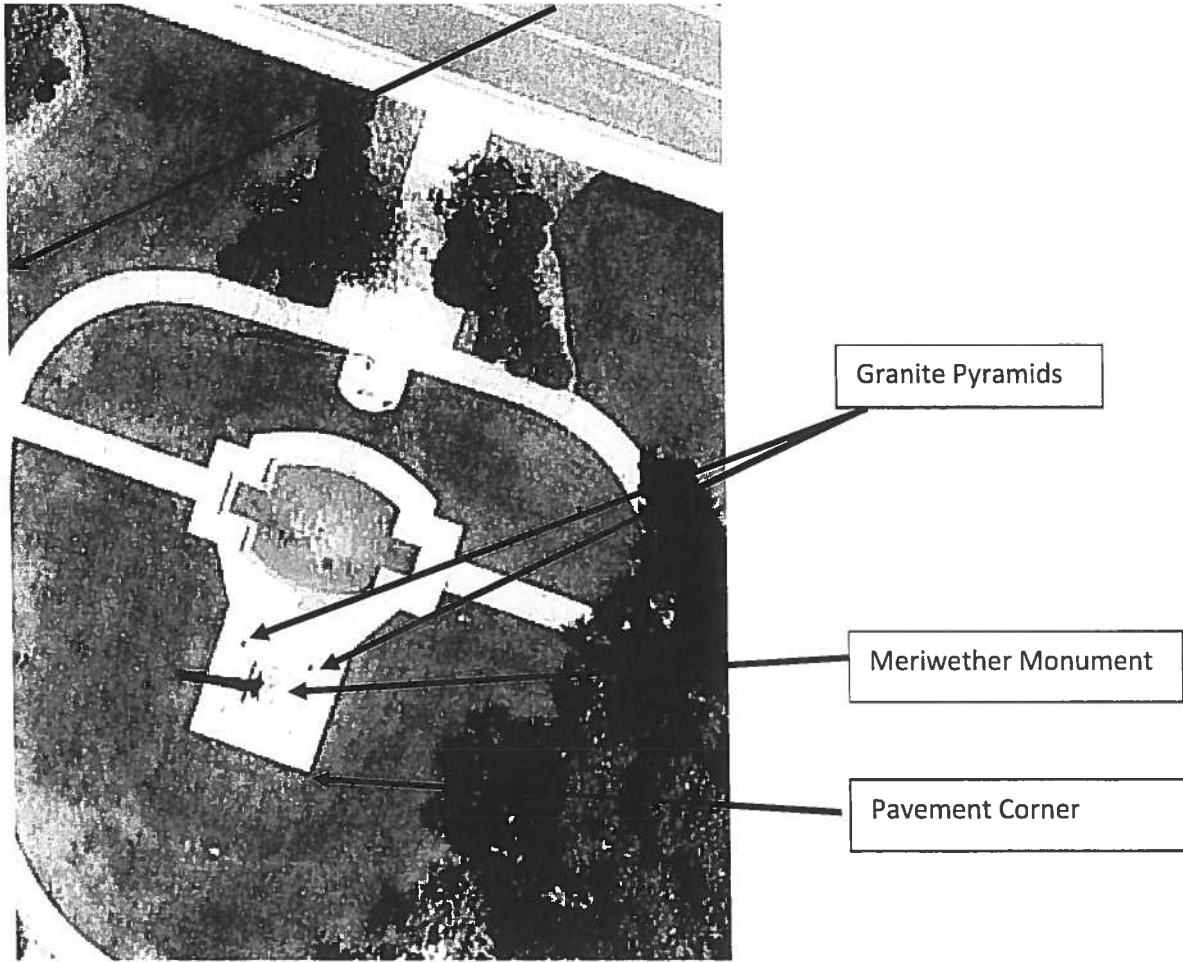


Figure XX. Calhoun Park