September 9, 2019

To President Ryan and the members of the Board of Visitors at UVA,

My name is Justin Greenlee and I am currently enrolled in the Graduate Program in Art & Architectural History at the University of Virginia. I write to you ahead of your meetings on 9/12 and 9/13 to provide a list of opportunities when it comes to art and the commemorative landscape of UVA.

Some suggestions pertain to signs and stones and the simple addition of educative material. Others involve the re-dedication or removal of a monument. I hope you will consider each proposal carefully for the sake of a broader awareness of the history of UVA.

With the right leadership we could:

1 Re-contextualize and re-dedicate the Frank Hume Memorial Fountain, also known as the Whispering Wall (Fig. 1, below), in honor of Louisa Ware (Fig. 2). Ware was born into slavery in 1807 and worked as a nurse maid to Hume in his father's home. Hume is not an alumnus and had few ties to the University beyond sending his children to UVA. However, he was a Confederate soldier and spy. The Hume Memorial is currently located beside Monroe Hall, the UVA Undergraduate Admissions Building.

2 Acknowledge and address, in financial repayment to African American and Asian students, the money that was earned during fundraisers at UVA that included amateur minstrel shows with performers in blackface and yellowface.

3 Attach a plaque to the front door of Memorial Gym that acknowledges the promise of support from the KKK for the building fund of 1921.

4 Put up historical markers and design digital content that: a) tell the history of the Anatomical Hall at UVA (Fig. 3), related to but separate from the infamous Theater next to Alderman Library; and b) ensure that all students know about the history of graverobbing at UVA and a cadaver market that brought black bodies from Richmond to Charlottesville for dissection.

5 Replace the stone marker for the Anatomical Theater. The current marker looks like a storm drain and needs to be accessible and visible from the sidewalk that leads to/ from Alderman Library.

6 Devote more resources (be it time, money, and/or materials) to learn about the history of Lee Street, the Gospel Hill neighborhood, and the Venable Lane community, all south of what is now Jefferson Park Avenue.

7 Come up with strategies to draw attention to the plaque to enslaved laborers in the pavement at the intersection of the east and north porticoes of the Rotunda. The marker is trampled every day without a second thought.

8 Put a simple sign beneath the (currently unmarked) Founder's Day Tree, planted on the Lawn in 2015 to honor enslaved African Americans at the university.

9 Build on past and present research to tell a more complete history of the Gooch Dillard cemetery, located near the undergraduate dorm and across from Scott Stadium.

10 Announce that the area outside of Trinity Pub where Martese Johnson bled in the early morning of March 18, 2015 is a site of conscience.

11 CREATE A BLACK HISTORY TRAIL AT UVA.

12 Put up a marker to tell A more complete history of the Monument to the Confederate Dead outside the wall of the Confederate cemetery at UVA (Fig. 4) (and do this before the Rotunda plaque to Confederate soldiers is installed on site, should that ever take place!).

13 Remove the monument to George Rogers Clark (Fig. 5). It depicts violence against Native Americans while introducing UVA Hospital and Grounds.

Very little can be accomplished without strong partners, so I ask that you use your influence and work alongside the UVA Facilities Historian, the Office of the Architect, the leaders of the President's Commissions on the University in the Age of Slavery/ Segregation, the Provosts for Academic Outreach, the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights to bring about these important interventions.

Please feel free to respond via email, and all the best,

Sincerely,

Justin Greenlee
PhD candidate in Art History, University of Virginia
Email: jgg3mb@virginia.edu



Figure 1



Figure 2

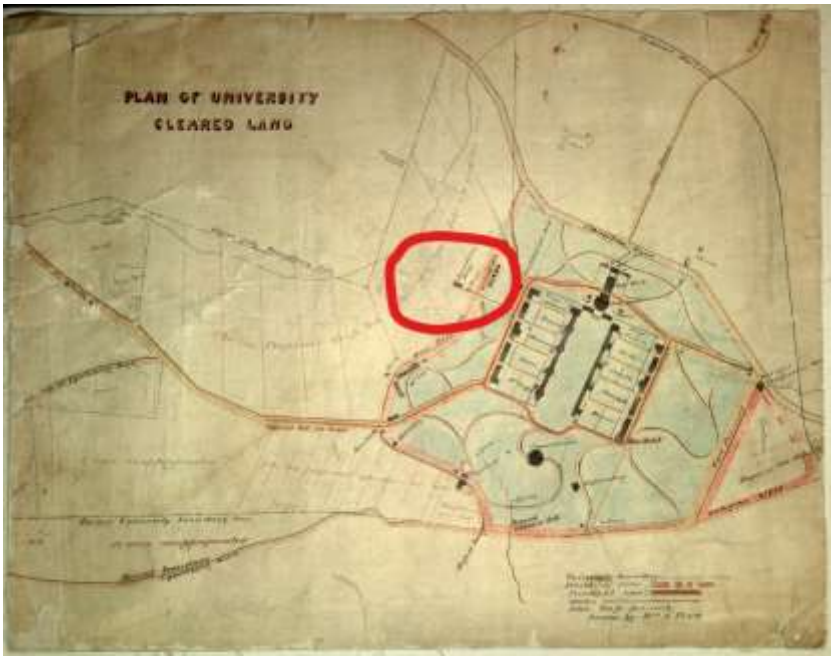


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5