



Becci Davis



Source:
<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2013/10/14/the-atlanta-cyclorama/>

Interrogating Home

IN THE SHADOW OF DIXIE

OLD SLAVE MARKET, BUILT 1758, LOUISVILLE, GA.





LOUISVILLE, GEORGIA

"Thousands of slaves were bid off under its shelter and to it were carried directly many a shipload of negroes freshly landed from Africa on the Georgia Coast. Since the abolition of slavery the building has been used for various purposes, and for several years past has been a marketplace for beef and pork instead of human flesh."

– from "A Famous Old Slave Market" in *Leslie's Weekly* on December 30, 1897

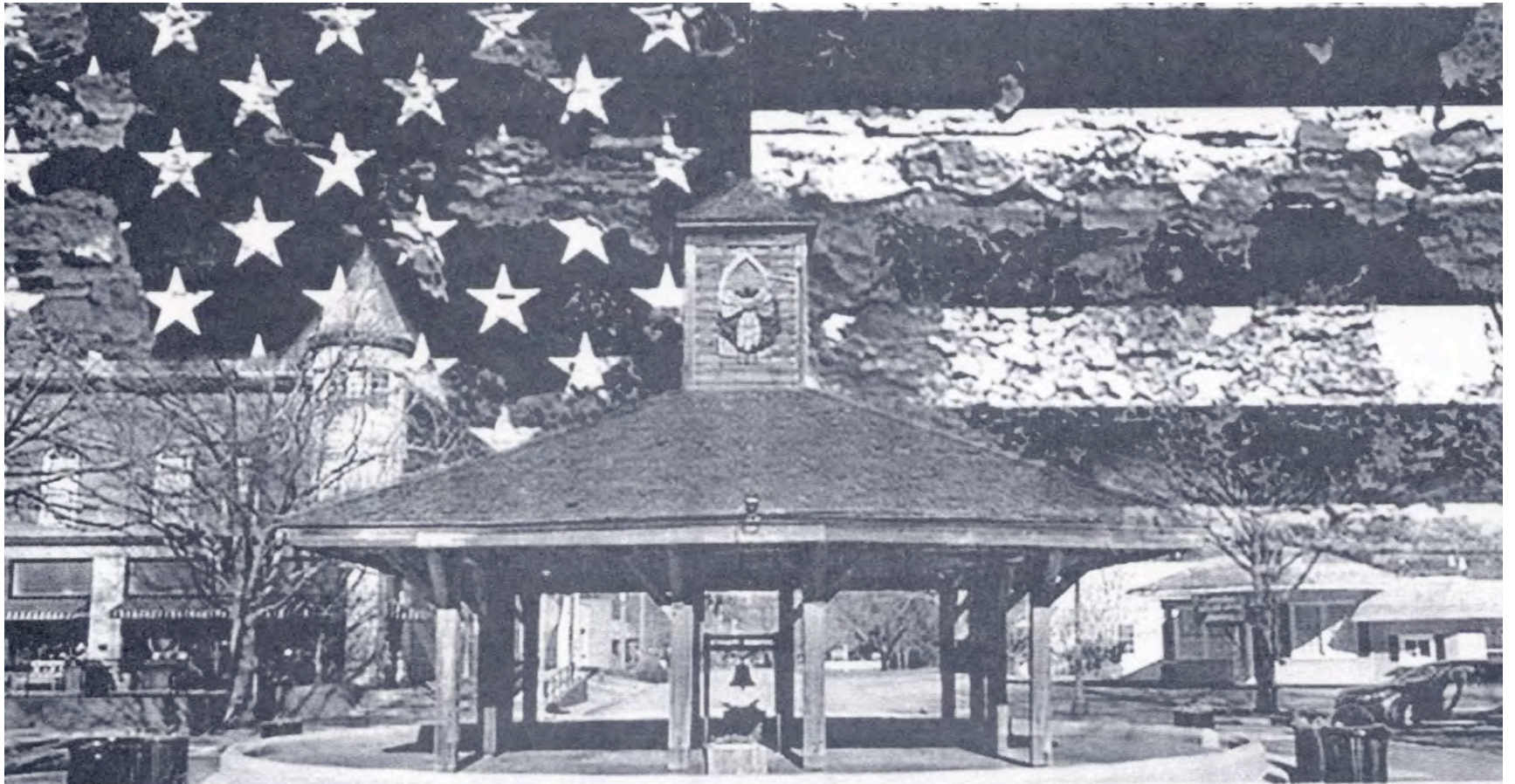
This structure was built sometime between 1796 and 1799 while Louisville served as Georgia's first state capital.

Although local histories and oral traditions have always maintained that this market was used as a meeting point for slave traders at the crossroads of three, well established trails, and the primary location for sheriff sales to settle estate and tax disputes; historical plaques and the official website for Georgia travel and tourism minimize or outright deny its connection to the slave trade.

The **Old Market House** as it is now called, or **Old Slave Market** as it was referred to formally, has long been considered a symbol of the town. It has been featured on numerous postcards for nearly 100 years. It is also the central element depicted on the town's only mural.

The structure was restored in 1923 during an upswing in the construction of commemorative structures and public dedications to the Confederacy. The **Old Market House** was listed as a monument on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1978 and renovated in 1997.





**“They are in effect still stuck in a history
which they do not understand; and until they understand it,
they cannot be released from it.”**

then, I have learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. By not being honest about one's past, the possibility for healing and growth is stifled. That being said, I believe that the historic plaques and presentation of this market do not adequately reflect the horrors of slavery and its legacy. Please revise them with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for the enslaved Americans who were sold there and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Matt Hodges
Office of the City Council
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Councilmember Sapp,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. Since then, I have learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. To that end, I believe that the presentation of this market and tone of its historical plaques are inappropriate and do not reflect the horror of the site's history. Please revise it, using deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for the enslaved people who were sold there and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Richard T. Sapp
Office of the City Administrator
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Councilperson Bilhill,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. My parents owned land. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. Since then, I have learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a descendant of enslaved Americans and the Confederate veteran who owned them, I feel that this market's historical plaques and presentation do not adequately reflect the horror of slavery and its legacy. Please revise it, using deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who were sold here and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Phil Bilhill
Office of the City Council
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Councilperson Dixon,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black woman, American and former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not adequately reflect the horror of slavery and its legacy. Please revise it, Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for the

Robert Dixon
Office of the City Council
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

and graduated from high school here. Since then, I have learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. By being dishonest about one's past, the possibility for healing and growth is stifled. That being said, I believe the presentation of this market and its historical plaques do not reflect the horrors of slavery and its legacy. Please revise them with deeper honesty and respect for the enslaved Americans who stood in the shadow of this structure as well as their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Sherry Combs
Office of the City Council
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Councilmember Atkins,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. My parents owned land. I learned to drive and graduated from high school here. In the years since, I have learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black American, former constituent and descendant of enslaved Americans and the Confederate veterans who owned them, I feel that the tone of this market's presentation and historical plaques do not adequately reflect the horror of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, using deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who were sold here, and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Larry Atkins
Office of the City Council
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Mayor To Tem Hodges,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black woman, American and former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not adequately reflect the horror of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who suffered trauma, death, or separation from their families as a result of slavery, and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Matthew Hodges
Office of the Mayor To Tem
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

Dear Mayor Morgan,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, a black woman, an American, and a former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not reflect the horror of the practice of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for the

Mayor Larry Morgan
P.O. Box 527
Louisville, GA 30434

enslaved Americans during the despicable period when our country's economic wealth was built with the blood, sweat, and toil of its enslaved populations. If you are elected governor, you would do well to remember that over 30% of your constituents are black Americans. The wealth and power that our state currently enjoys was established by the exploitation of our ancestors who have not yet been granted the dignity of a public apology from the state that enslaved them or honored by a public space, memorial or monument. This structure is an opportunity to begin the work to right these wrongs. Thank you, Beci Davis

Mr. Brian Kemp
P.O. Box 5486
Athens, GA 30607

Dear Candidate Apantaku,
This open air market in Louisville, Georgia was once used as a space to buy and sell enslaved Americans during the despicable period when our country's economic wealth was built with the blood, sweat, and toil of its enslaved populations. If you are elected governor, I urge you to consider establishing a state monument in this space to honor the memory of the enslaved populations of Georgia. As it stands, its current presentation and historical plaques do a poor job of reflecting the horrors of slavery and its legacy. Thank you, Beci Davis

Stacy Abrams for Governor
1210 Cantline Street D-10
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear Lt. Governor Caple,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black woman, American and former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not reflect the horror of the practice of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who suffered trauma as a result of slavery and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Lt. Gov. Casey Caple
Office of the Lt. Governor
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black woman, American, and former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not reflect the horror of the practice of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for the

Gov. Nathan Deal
200 Washington Street
Ste. 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, a black woman, an American, and a former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and its presentation do not reflect the horror of the practice of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it. Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who suffered trauma as a result of slavery and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Rep. Rick W. Allen
426 Canon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Trump,
This open air market in Louisville, Georgia was once used to buy and sell human beings during the despicable practice of slavery when our country's economic wealth was built with the blood and sweat of enslaved black Americans. This structure and the ground beneath it should be considered hallowed to honor the lives of the individuals and families that were forever changed after passing in its shadow. As president you only have the power to establish a national monument on Federal land. I request that Trumps you could persuade Georgia lawmakers to monumentalize this space to honor enslaved Americans with greater empathy. Thank you, Beci Davis

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Sen. Jacksons,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. My parents were also landowners. As an adult, I've learnt that the tone for human interaction is set by the way history is remembered. As a mother, black woman, American and former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and presentation do not reflect the horror of the practice of slavery or its legacy. Please revise it, Recontextualize the structure with deeper honesty, empathy, and respect for those who suffered trauma as a result of slavery and their descendants. Thank you, Beci Davis

Sen. Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Padine,
I lived in Louisville for a good part of my adolescence. I learned to drive here and graduated from high school. My parents also owned land. As an adult, I've learnt that the way history is remembered sets the tone for human interaction in the present and future. As a mother, black woman, an American and a former constituent, I feel that the tone of this market's historical plaques and presentation do not reflect the horror of the

Sen. David Padine
United States Senate
455 Russell Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

THE MONUMENT TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED IN 1890. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH. THE MONUMENT IS A LARGE, WHITE, GRANITE STRUCTURE WITH A CENTRAL COLUMN AND FOUR CORNER COLUMNS. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A WALKWAY AND A FENCE. THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY SINCE THE 1960s.



ATHENS, GEORGIA

THE MONUMENT TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN ATHENS, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED IN 1890. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH. THE MONUMENT IS A LARGE, WHITE, GRANITE STRUCTURE WITH A CENTRAL COLUMN AND FOUR CORNER COLUMNS. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A WALKWAY AND A FENCE. THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY SINCE THE 1960s.



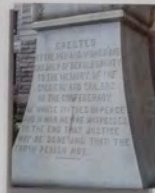
MONUMENTS & MYTHMAKING

THE MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH ARE A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY AND DEBATE. THEY ARE A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND SHAME SINCE THE 1960s. THE MONUMENTS ARE A PART OF THE AMERICAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE, BUT THEY ARE ALSO A REMINDER OF THE SLAVE SYSTEM AND THE BATTLE OF SECESSION.



LOUISVILLE, GEORGIA

THE MONUMENT TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN LOUISVILLE, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED IN 1890. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH. THE MONUMENT IS A LARGE, WHITE, GRANITE STRUCTURE WITH A CENTRAL COLUMN AND FOUR CORNER COLUMNS. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A WALKWAY AND A FENCE. THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY SINCE THE 1960s.



DECATUR, GEORGIA

THE MONUMENT TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN DECATUR, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED IN 1890. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH. THE MONUMENT IS A LARGE, WHITE, GRANITE STRUCTURE WITH A CENTRAL COLUMN AND FOUR CORNER COLUMNS. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A WALKWAY AND A FENCE. THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY SINCE THE 1960s.



POWERS MONUMENT

THE POWERS MONUMENT IN DECATUR, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED IN 1890. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT MONUMENTS TO THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN THE SOUTH. THE MONUMENT IS A LARGE, WHITE, GRANITE STRUCTURE WITH A CENTRAL COLUMN AND FOUR CORNER COLUMNS. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A WALKWAY AND A FENCE. THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL OF THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE AND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY SINCE THE 1960s.



"Politically, slavery is a conservative institution. The mass of laborers not being recognized among citizens, every citizen feels that he belongs to an elevated class. It matters not that he is no slaveholder; he is not of the inferior race; he is a freeborn citizen; he engages in no menial occupation. The poorest meets the richest as an equal... and stands on the same social platform."

Topping seventy-two feet, this monument is one of Georgia's tallest and most grand. It is also one of the oldest, erected one year before the monument in nearby Athens. Like most Confederate monuments in the state, it was organized and funded by a local chapter of the Ladies Memorial Association.

The LMA raised \$17,331 for the construction of this monument, which would be the equivalent of nearly \$366,500 today. It is located in the very heart of downtown Augusta's business district. A Confederate private presides over the city from the top of the monument's central pillar. Four Confederate generals posed heroically, guard the base of the structure; Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and native sons, Thomas Rodes Rodes Cobb and William H. T. Walker.

General Walker was a hero of the Mexican American War and son of a U.S. Senator. General Cobb was a lawyer and policymaker who was born in Jefferson County, the home of the Louisville Market House. He was the uncle of Mildred Lewis Rutherford, a leader of the LMA and the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Athens, Georgia. He was also a staunch secessionist and white supremacist.



"I am not here to defend slavery. I would not have it back if I could, but I do say I rejoice that my father was a slaveholder, and my grandfather, and great grandfathers were slaveholders and had a part in the greatest missionary and educational endeavors that the world has ever known."

This Confederate monument, dedicated in 1872, is among the oldest in the state of Georgia. It was originally located near City Hall. Currently, it resides at the corner of Broad Street and College Avenue, marking the entrance to the University of Georgia campus and the heart of downtown Athens.

In order to erect this structure, Clarke County's chapter of the Ladies Memorial Association raised \$4464. Today, that would be the equivalent of nearly \$93,700.

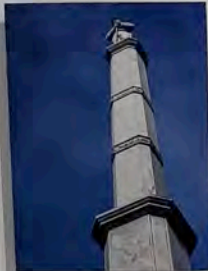
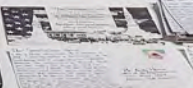
The organization was founded and led by Laura Rutherford. Later, Laura's daughter Mildred took over leadership of the organization. Mildred Lewis Rutherford was a prolific writer and speaker. She also served as the historian general for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was a strong proponent of *The Lost Cause*.

The Lost Cause was the idea that the Civil War was fought over a misinterpretation of the Constitution. This theory frames the people of the South as victims of Northern aggression and minimizes the role of slavery as the South's primary motivation.



Ladies Memorial Associations were groups of women that formed immediately after the Civil War. They used race and class privilege to change the narrative concerning the South's reason for secession.

They spread the mythology of heroic Confederate patriots called **The Lost Cause** through the construction of monuments in carefully chosen public spaces, advocating for holidays to honor Confederate figures and veterans, and the adoption of history textbooks in public schools that viewed the Confederacy in a favorable light.

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Where are our monuments?

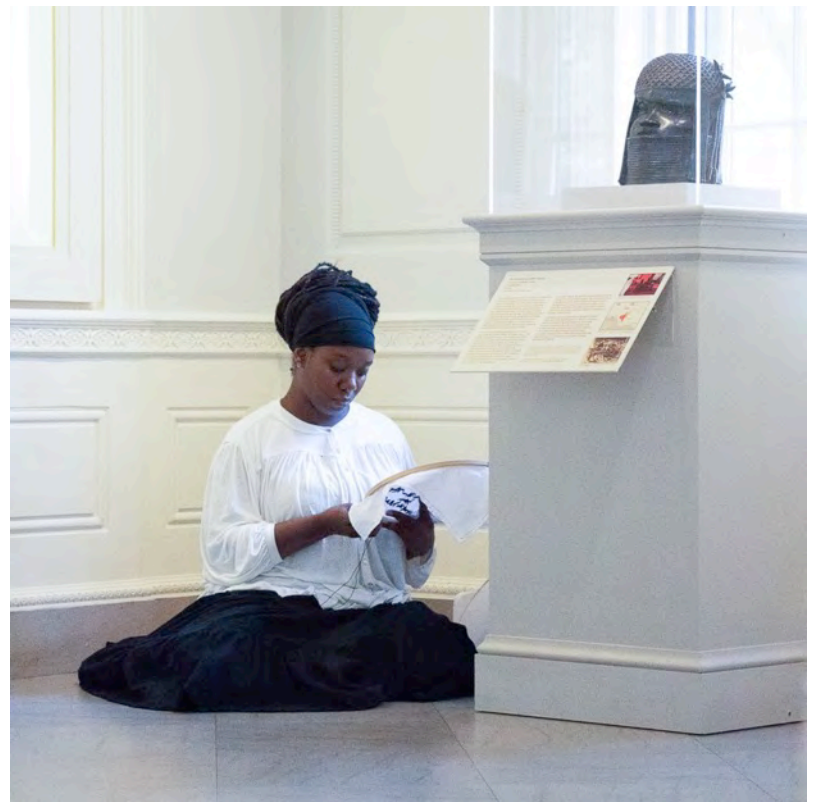
A COUNTER MONUMENT

FUBU



Click below for more information on *A Counter-Monument FUBU*

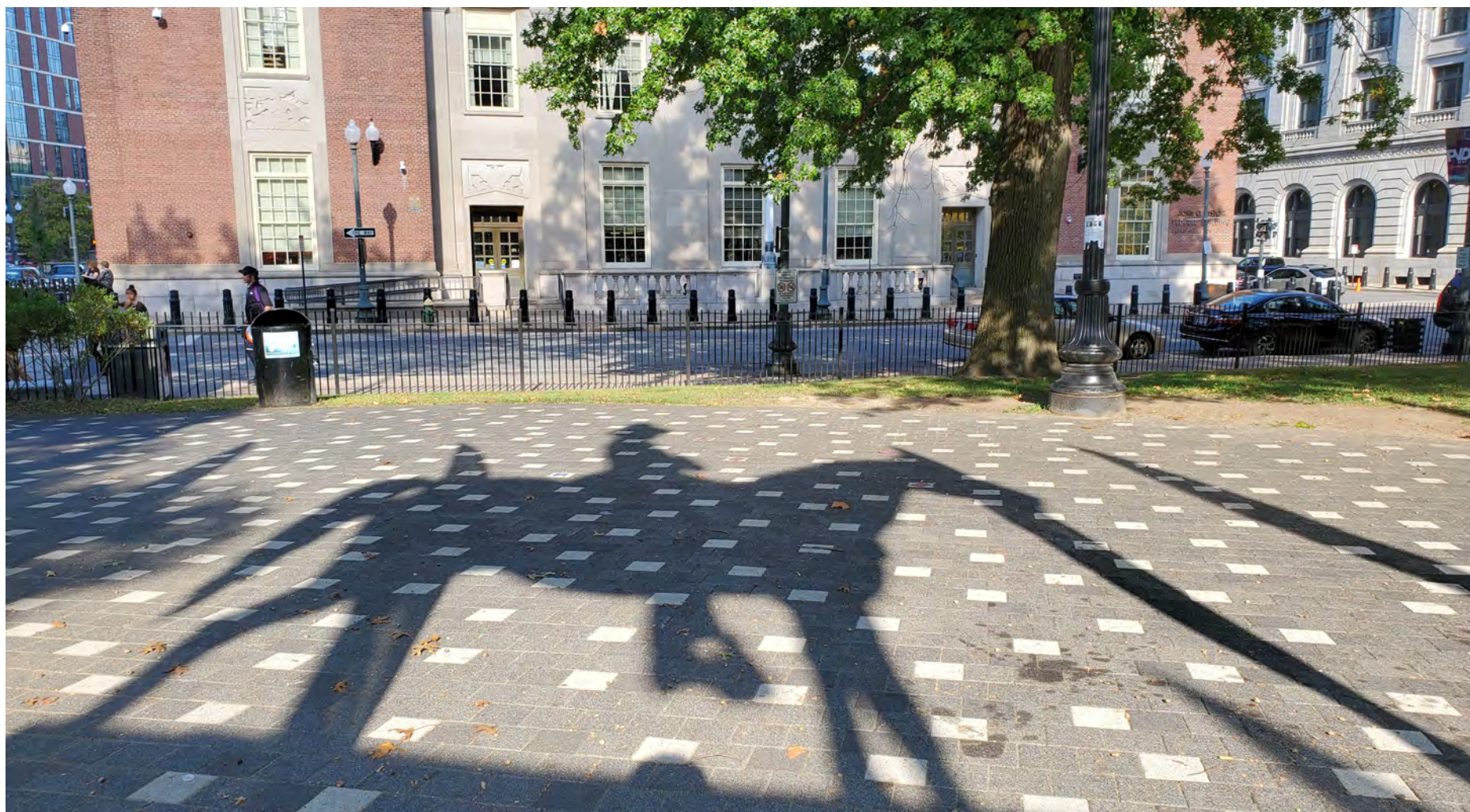
photo documentation by Nafis White
<https://www.beccidavis.com/fubu>

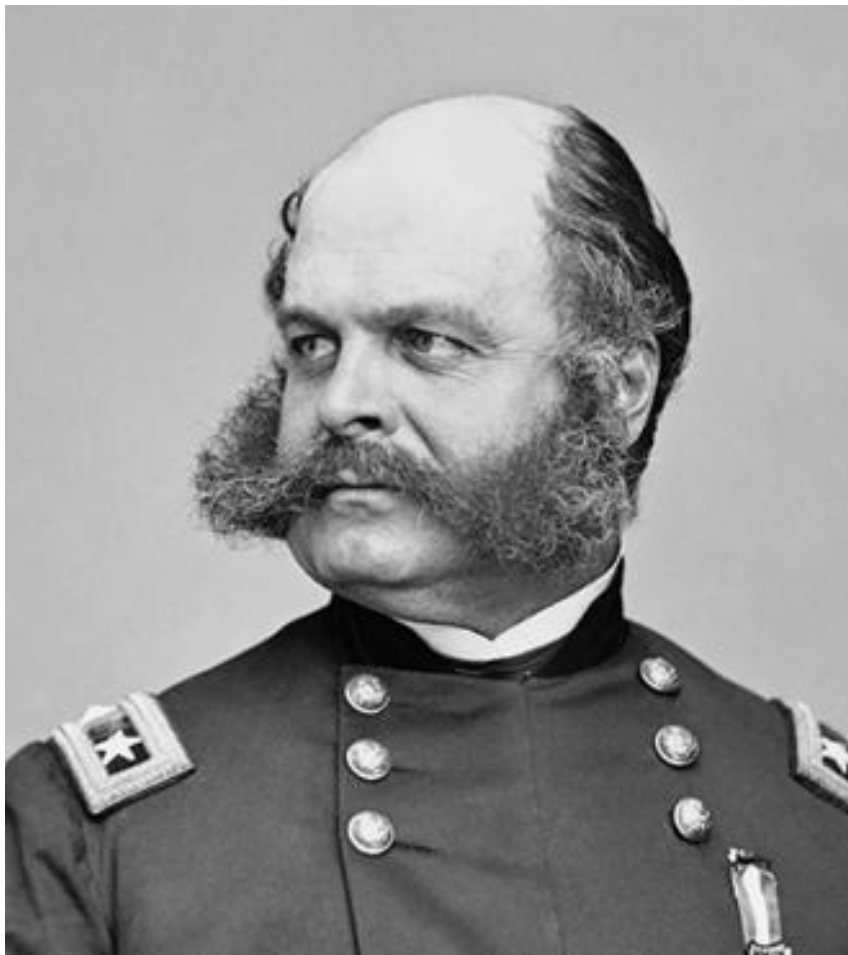




"Thus monuments are lasting incentives, to those who view them, to imitate the virtues they commemorate, and attain, by their life and spirit, glory and honor."

– Chief orator at the dedication of the Mary Washington monument at Mount Vernon

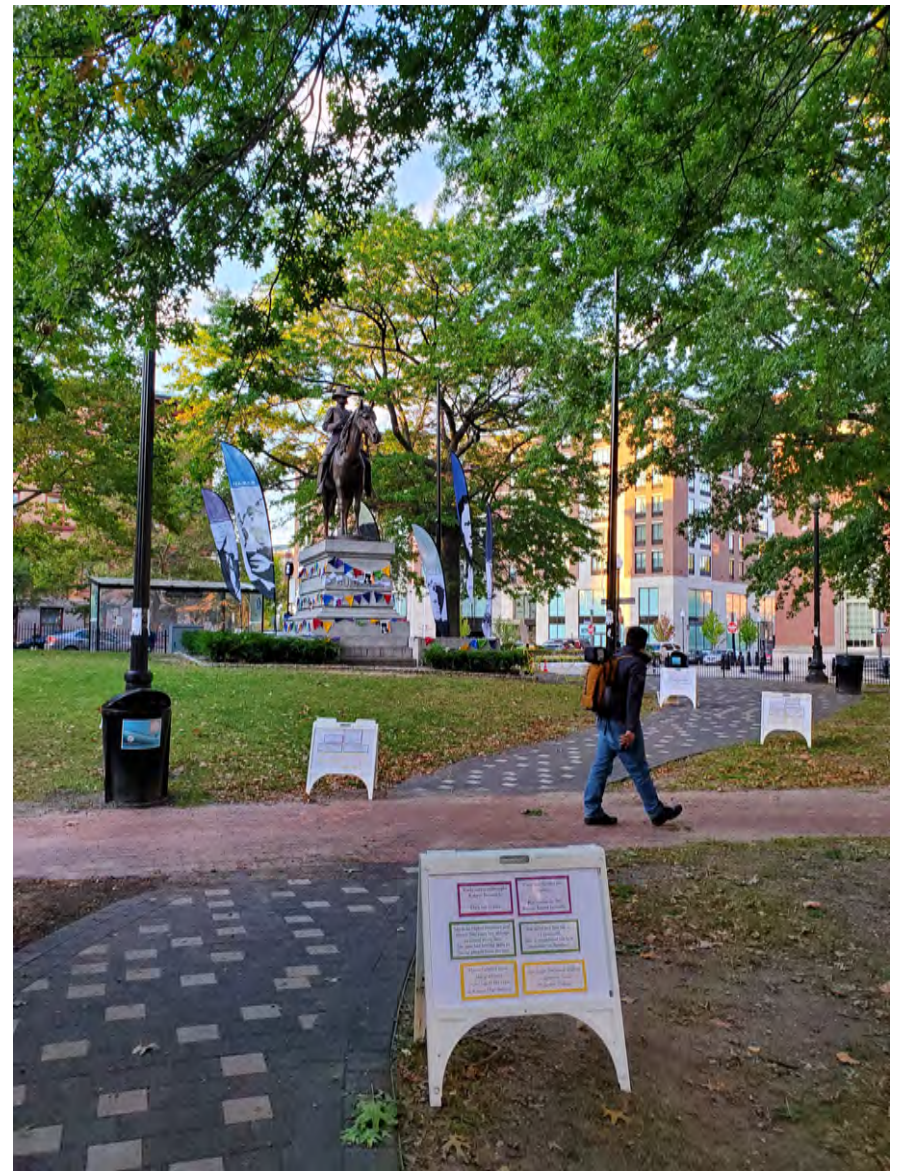




- Railroad executive
- Military leader of dubious reputation
- Inventor of the Burnside Carbine
- U.S. Senator
- Governor
- 1st president of the NRA, sideburn enthusiast

Ambrose Burnside

- Revision and Repair
- Reclaiming Public Space
- Democratizing the practice of monument building



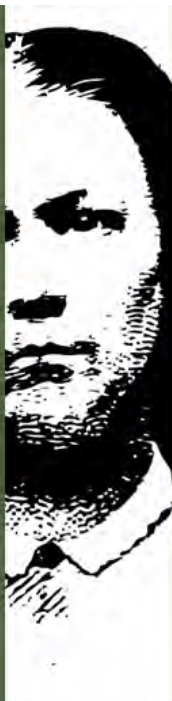
My Living Monument



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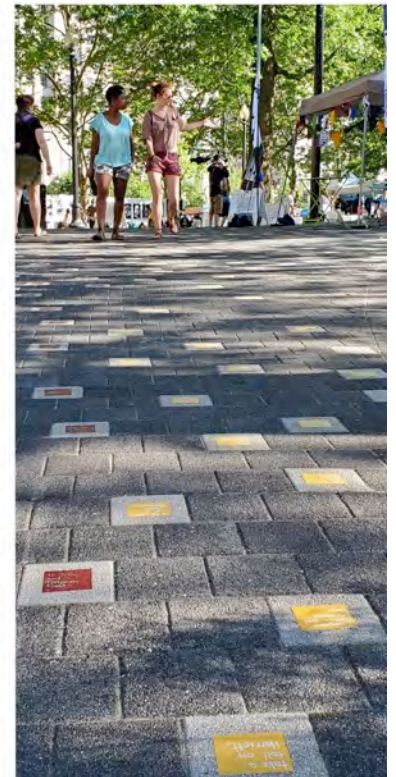
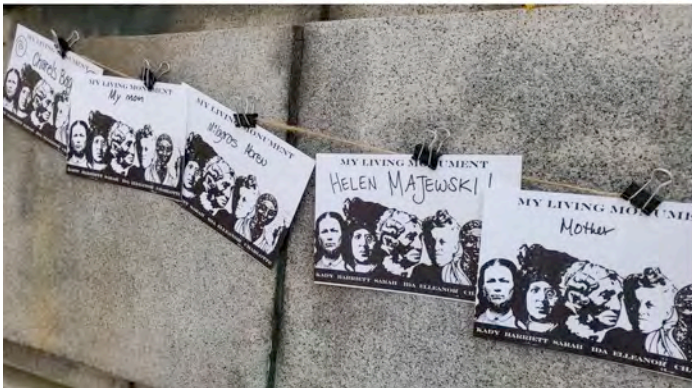
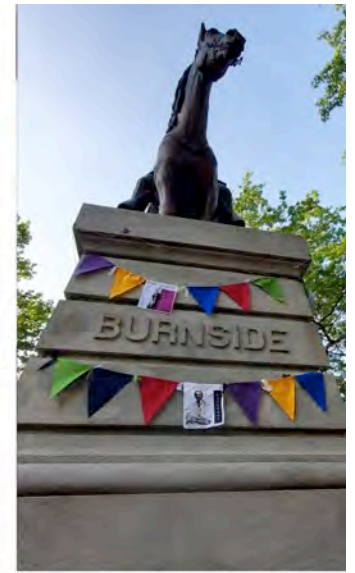
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THANK YOU