

# **Special Committee on Diversity**



**Board of Visitors  
February 21, 2014**

**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON  
SLAVERY AND THE UNIVERSITY  
PCSU**

# PCSU History

- Interested Groups
  - MEL (Memorial for Enslaved Laborers) Committee
  - UCARE (University & Community Action for Racial Equity)
  - U.Va. IDEA Fund
  - Office of the VP & Chief Officer for Diversity & Equity
  - Office of the Architect
  - Peer Review Committee for the Cultural Landscape Report
  - Gravesite Commemoration Committee
  - Office of African American Affairs
  - University Library
  - Carter G. Woodson Institute
  - University Guide Service
- Presentation to President's Cabinet (Spring 2013)
- Formation of PCSU by President Sullivan (Fall 2013)

# Commission Members

- Derrick Aldridge
- Andrea Douglas
- Ishraga Eltahir
- Tierney Fairchild
- Dorrie Fontaine
- Ben Ford
- Gertrude Fraser
- Gary Gallagher
- Patrice Grimes
- Walt Heinecke
- Mary Hughes
- Petrina Jackson
- Alex Johnson
- Ervin Jordan
- Pat Lampkin
- Khalifa Lee
- Deborah McDowell
- Maurie McInnis
- Matt Reeves
- Tamika Richeson
- Susan Stein
- Edna Turay
- Liz Varon
- Richard Wilson

Co-chairs Dr. Marcus Martin and Kirt von Daacke  
Meghan Faulkner, Staff

# President's Charge to Commission

Provide advice and recommendations to the President on the commemoration of the University of Virginia's historical relationship with slavery and enslaved people

# Initiatives of the Commission

- Investigate the interpretation of historically significant buildings/sites related to slavery at U.Va.
- Discuss mutual interests with Monticello and Montpelier
- Assist with interpretive/interactive media in the Rotunda Visitor's Center

# Initiatives of the Commission

- Propose projects (similar to the Henry Martin plaque) that would educate students, faculty, staff, and visitors about free and enslaved individuals who worked on Grounds
- Consider appropriate memorialization including the African American gravesite site adjacent to the University cemetery
- Organize symposia

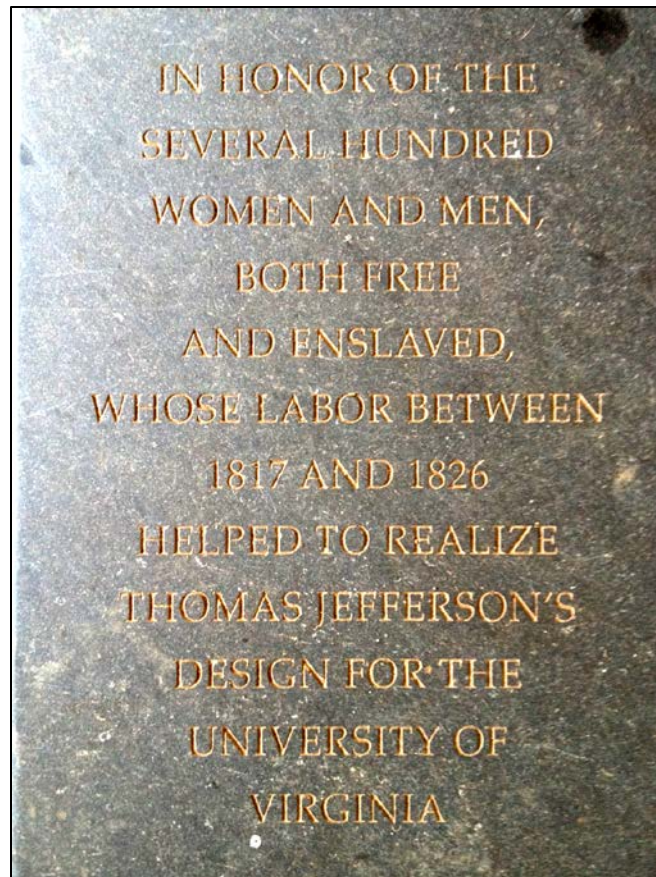
# Working Groups

- Architecture
- Collaboration with External Partners
- Daily Life
- Memorialization
- Gravesites/Commemoration



# Existing Memorials: Slate Marker at Rotunda

- Small slate memorial honoring the service of free and enslaved workers during the construction of U.Va.'s original buildings.
- In-ground memorial located in the passage under the south terrace of the Rotunda.
- Installed in 2007.



# Existing Memorials:

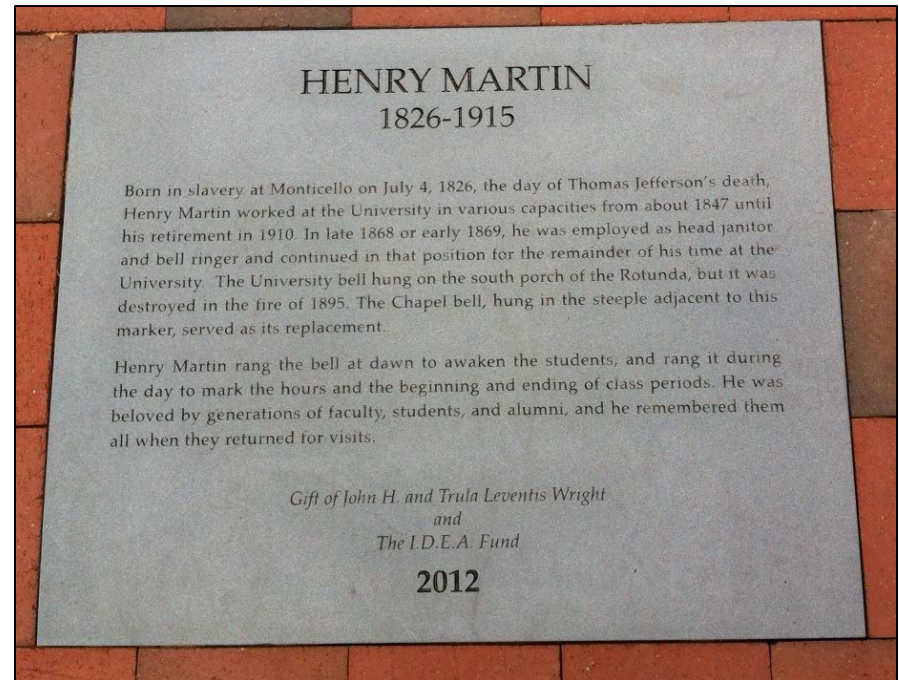
## “Canada” Community – South Lawn

- Tells the story of a community of free African Americans and their business and social relationships with the University community.
- Site of Kitty Foster homestead and adjacent African American burial grounds are preserved in a one-acre park.
- Completed in 2010.



# Existing Memorials: Henry Martin Plaque

- Honors bell-ringer and custodian Henry Martin, born in slavery at Monticello in 1826.
- In-ground plaque located near the U.Va. Chapel.
- Proposed and supported by John and Trula Wright and the U.Va. IDEA Fund.
- Installed in 2012.





# AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVESITE



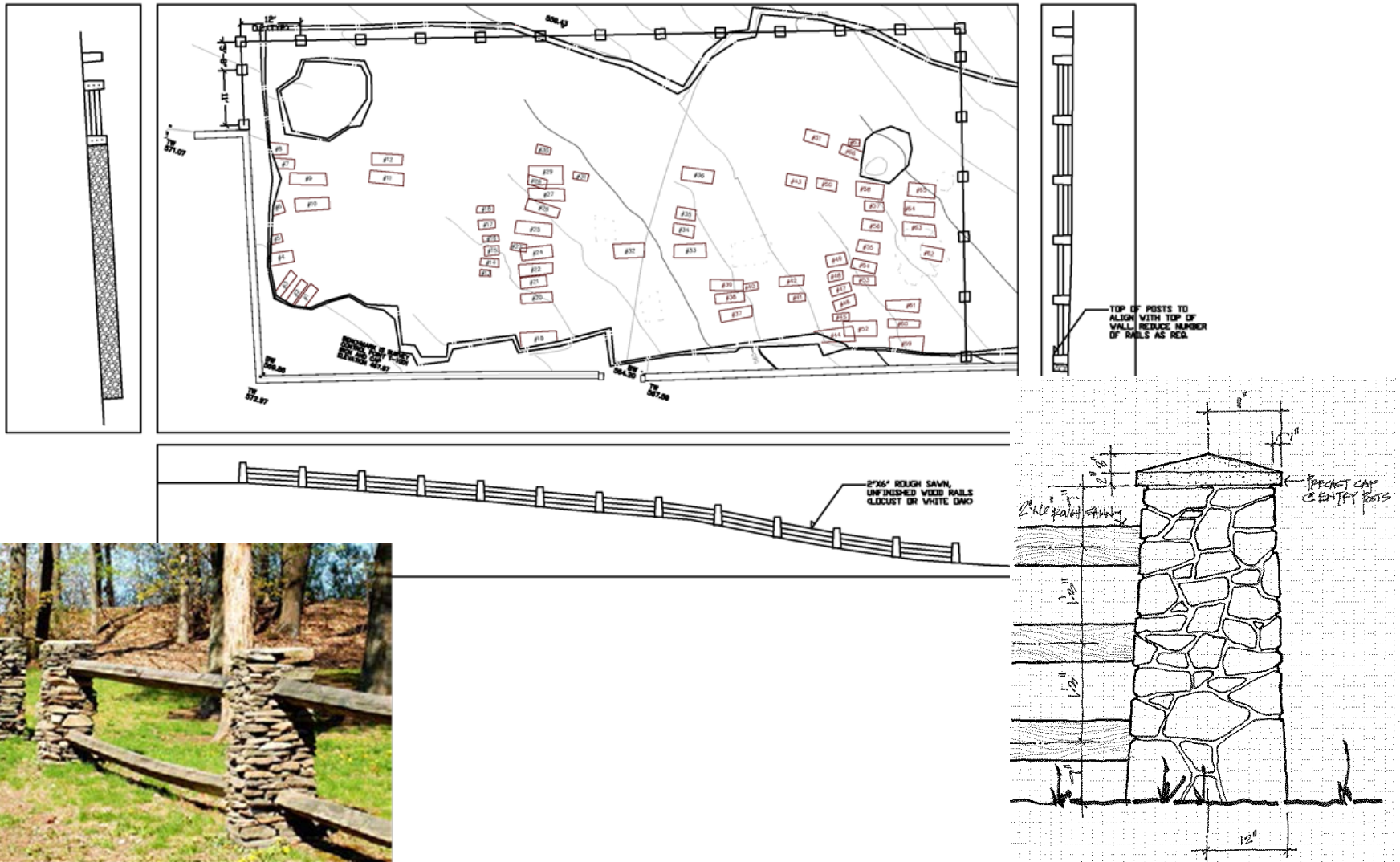
# AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVESITE





# FENCING PLAN

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVESITE COMMEMORATION



# Communications and Research

- Website Developed
- POST-DOC Research Position

# PCSU Advisory Boards

- National Advisory Board
  - Invited faculty institutions:  
Brown, California Berkeley,  
Dartmouth, Emory,  
George Mason University , MIT,  
University of Central Florida,  
University of Alabama, Stanford,  
William and Mary
- Local Advisory Board



## Symposium:

# Universities Confronting The Legacy of Slavery

- National experts invited
- African American Gravesite Commemoration
- October 16 and 17, 2014