

Confederate Memorial Task Force Final Report



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Confederate Memorial Task Force

- Members
 - Preservationists
 - Historians
 - Administrators of local monument/marker programs
- Purpose
 - To make simple and sensible recommendations that address ways to make the Confederate Memorial more representative of Savannah's community while also preserving Savannah's unique history
- Methodology
 - Thoughtful and deliberative process
 - Included historical research, observational fieldwork, and public survey
 - Explored a range of options from complete removal to leaving memorial as is, weighing pros and cons of each option
 - Considered Savannah's memorial in context of the broader national discussion of monuments, but with an eye towards this monument's specific history and narrative

Confederate Memorial History



- 1867: Savannah Ladies Memorial Association started with efforts focused on care of Confederate graves in Laurel Grove North
- 1868: Memorial Association began planning memorial to Confederate dead
- **1874: City Council granted permission to erect memorial** to Confederate dead in Forsyth Park Extension
- **1875: Memorial dedicated**

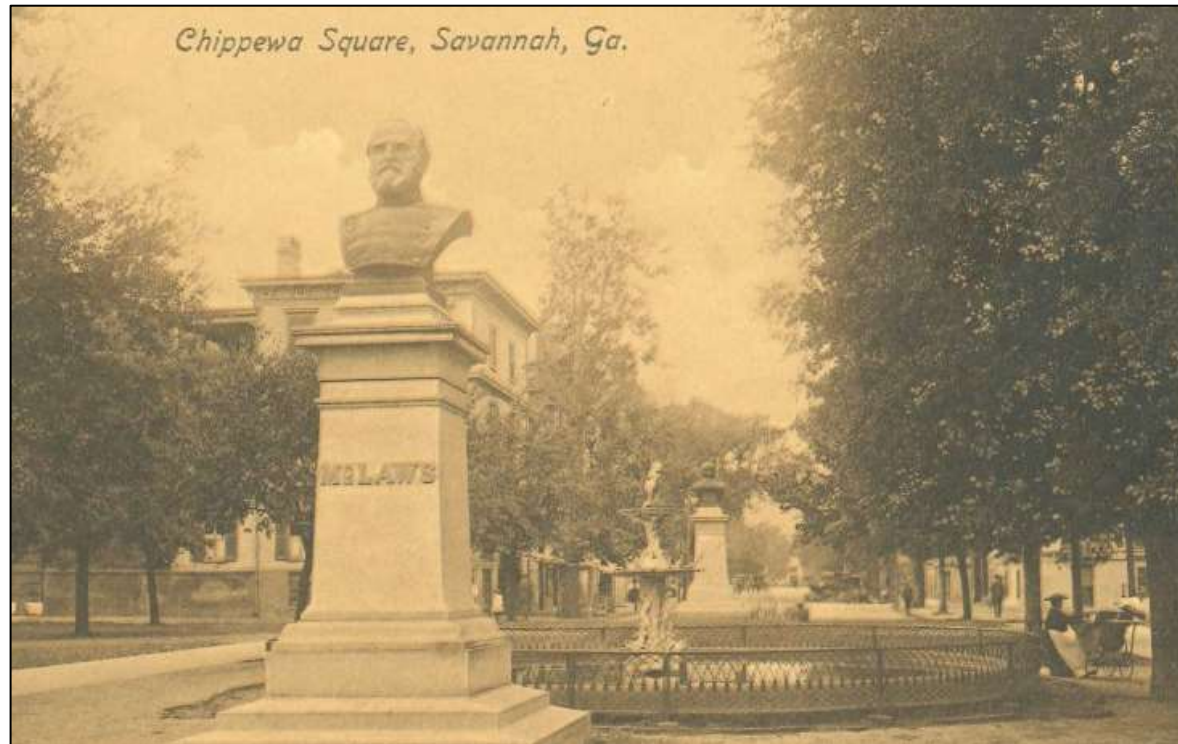
Confederate Memorial History

- **1879: Memorial altered** with the removal “Judgment” and “Silence” statues, enclosure of canopy, and installation of bronze statue titled “Confederate Soldier”; “Judgment” donated to Thomasville Memorial Association (placed in Laurel Hill Cemetery) and “Silence” placed in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Gettysburg section
- **1882:** Square wrought **iron fence installed** around memorial
- **1897:** Upon petition of the Memorial Association, **City agreed to become custodian** of the memorial



Bartow & McLaws Monuments

- **1902:** City Council granted permission to the United Confederate Veterans Association to **erect Bartow and McLaws monuments in Chippewa Square** (Park and Tree Commission advocated for placement in Laurel Grove Cemetery)
- **1910:** **Bartow and McLaws monuments relocated** to Confederate Memorial site and fence altered (Park and Tree Commission again advocated for Laurel Grove Cemetery location)



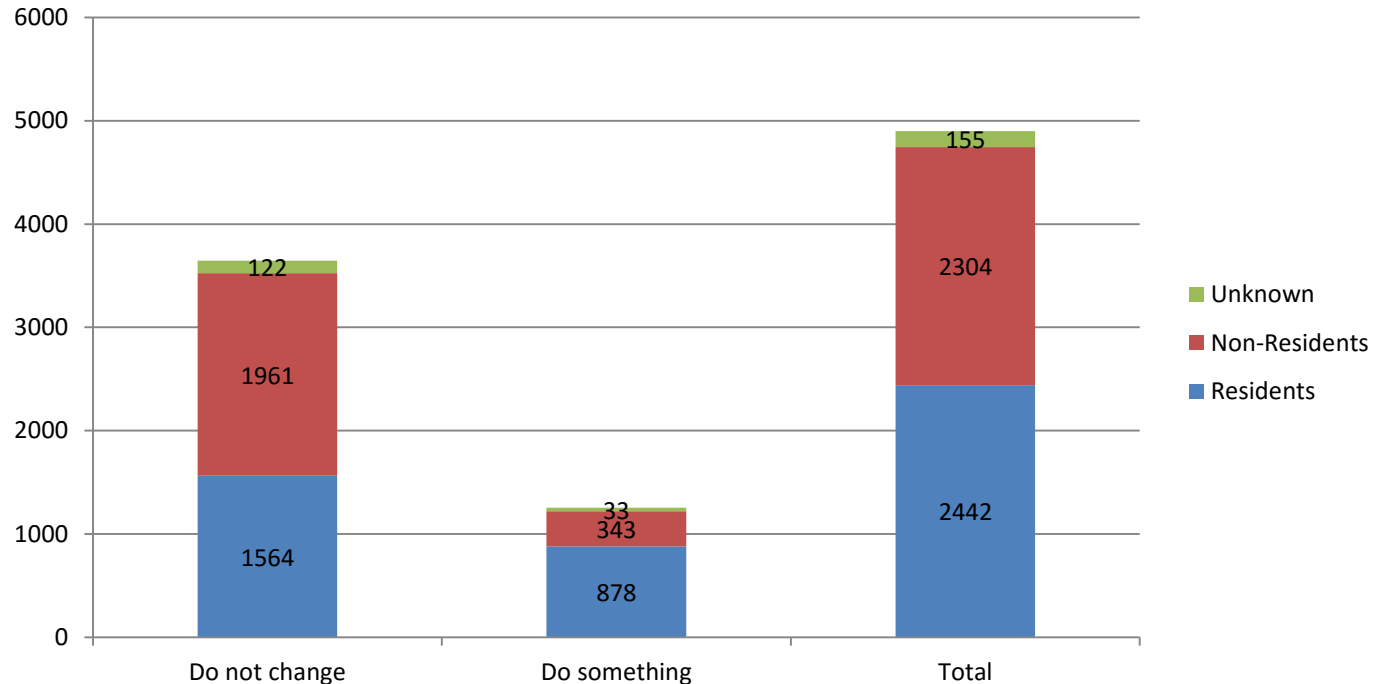
Public Survey Summary

2 week survey, October 30-November 13, 2017

4,901 unique responses via online survey, emails and postal mail

2,442 respondents identified as Savannah residents, of those:

- **1,564 (64.05%)** selected “do not change” [slightly less than 2/3]
- **878 (35.95%)** selected either “relocate,” “modify,” or “add interpretation” (do something) [slightly more than 1/3]



Note: The categories of “Relocate” and “Modify” and “Add Interpretation” have been added together to indicate the desire to “Do something” to the memorial as opposed to “Do not change” anything.

Task Force Recommendations

- Intent is to make memorial more representative of Savannah's entire community (both current and during the Civil War), while preserving the memorial as an artifact and part of Savannah's unique history
- Recommendations are in keeping with the spirit of Savannah, her dedication to the principles of preservation, and her recognition of history
- Recommendations address Savannah's Confederate Memorial and the memorial's history, not the history of the Civil War in general
- Memorial and its site have already been altered to meet the needs of shifting community ideals, demonstrating it is not a static object, but one that can adjust to the community
- Task Force acknowledges there is room for future generations to tell additional stories and expand on the lessons from Savannah's history
- Recommendations are presented as individual items, but Task Force believes that collectively they are the best solution

Task Force Recommendations

1. Rename from “Confederate Monument” to “Civil War Memorial”
2. Preserve all historical material on the memorial
3. Install a new bronze plaque on the blank horizontal panel on the south side of the memorial with this text:

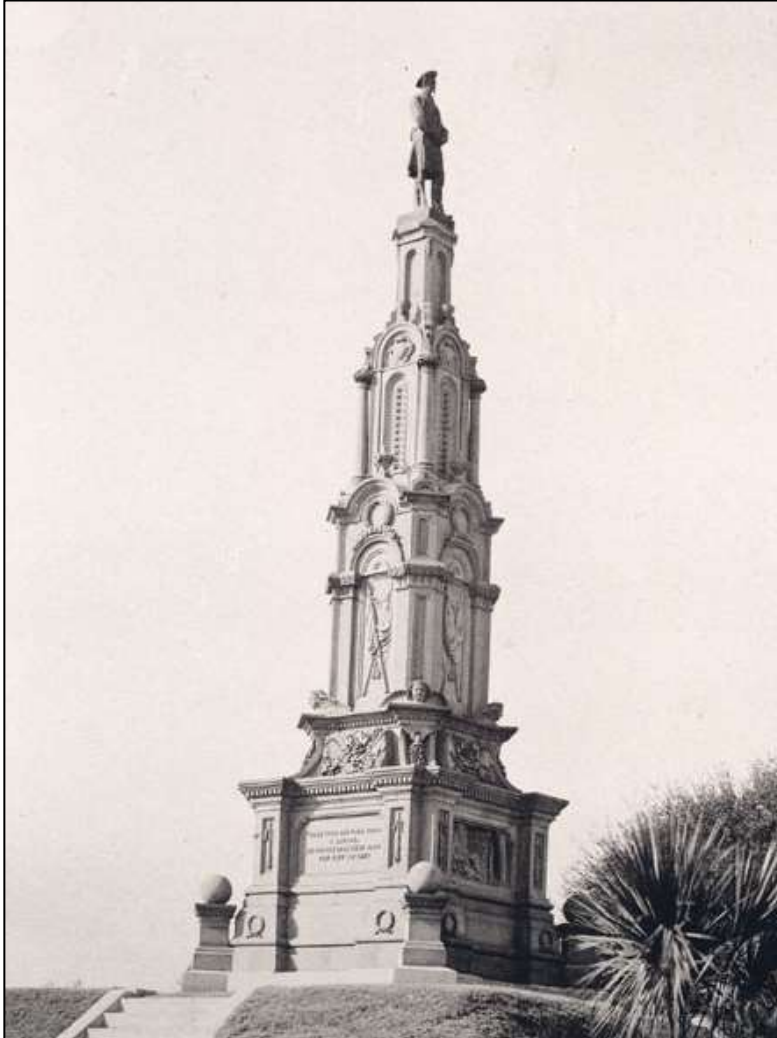
“This memorial was originally erected in 1875 to the Confederate dead, redesigned in 1879, and rededicated in 2018 to all the dead of the American Civil War.”
4. Do not alter the blank vertical panel on the south side of the memorial



Task Force Recommendations

5. Relocate the McLaws and Bartow monuments to Laurel Grove North Cemetery
6. Do not replace the Bartow and McLaws monuments at the memorial site
7. Preserve the fence around the memorial in the current elliptical shape
8. The community expands the story of the Civil War, its causes, and its effects throughout Savannah, other than at the Forsyth Park Confederate Memorial site





Thank You

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