

Assessing Virginia's Monument Landscape

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As a result of the reaction to the murder of George Floyd, 2020 witnessed an unprecedented level of protests and the questioning and often removal of longstanding monuments, many but not all celebrating the Confederacy and the "Lost Cause." Yet many such monuments remain standing today throughout Virginia, including in Lynchburg. For this project we will speak with political, cultural, and religious leaders throughout the Commonwealth to understand the changes in the monument landscape, their involvement with the changes, how their communities have responded to them, and plans for the future. Augmenting these oral accounts with site visits, secondary sources, and primary materials found in local archives, we will be able to assess the history and historical context of Virginia's monument landscape and the current views on these monuments, with the goal of contributing to the ongoing conversations about what could be done with them.

