

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

☒ Monument ☒ with Sculpture ☐ without Sculpture ☐ with Cannon ☐ standalone Cannon
☐ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque ☐ Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

☐ GAR ☐ MOLLUS ☐ SUVCW ☐ WRC ☐ ASUVCW
☐ LGAR ☐ DUVCW ☒ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

Original Dedication Date September 22, 2021 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

Intersection of 5th St Footbridge and Canal Walk - Brown's Island

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location _____ GPS Coordinates 37.534617 N 77.443283 W 

City/Village &/or Township Richmond 

County _____ State VA  Zip Code _____

The front of the Memorial faces: ☒ North ☐ South ☐ East ☐ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Richmond

Dept./Div. Parks & Recreation

Street Address 2401 W. Leigh Street

City Richmond State VA Zip Code 23220

Contact Person Chris Frelke Telephone (804) 646-5733 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes ☒ No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☒ Stone ☐ Concrete ☒ Metal ☐ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) gray granite foundation with bronze base

Material of the Sculpture ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☒ Metal ☐ Other Is it hollow or solid? unknown

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ Yes _____ No

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial _____

Materials of the Memorial _____

Complete for All Memorials**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points16' Height 8' Width 8' Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found sculptor Thomas Jay Warren

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

{north face of base}

FREEDOM

{west face of base, bas relief figures with caption:} Virginians Who Fought Against Slavery

Gabriel (ca. 1770s-1800) / Enslaved, literate blacksmith who in 1800 / orchestrated one of the most important attempted / revolts in the history of North American slavery. / The plot, inspired by international revolutionary / movements, was betrayed and suppressed before it could / be set in motion. The execution of Gabriel and many / of his followers starkly laid bare the contradictions / of American freedom and American slavery.

Nat Turner (1800 - 1831) / Leader of the most famous slave revolt in American / history, he shattered the myth of the contented slave. / The bloody Southampton Revolt of 1831 and the / widespread repression and violence against African / Americans that followed revealed dark truths about / slavery and haunted America until the Civil War.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

☐ Cemetery ☒ Park ☐ Plaza/Courtyard ☐ "Town Square" ☐ Post Office
☐ School ☐ Municipal Building ☐ State Capitol ☐ Courthouse ☐ College Campus
☐ Traffic Circle ☐ Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

☒ Rural (low population, open land) ☐ Suburban (residential, near city) ☐ Town ☐ Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☒ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☐ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) ☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 18 September A.D. 2025
 Your Name Sumner G. Hunnewell
 Address 2030 San Pedro Dr.
 City Arnold State MO Zip Code 63010
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

SUVCW, Dept. of Missouri, Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher #47, US Grant Camp #68

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT'S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (Look for signs of exterior rust)	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? (Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____	_____

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	_____	_____
White crusting	_____	_____
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	_____	_____
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	_____	_____
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	_____	_____
Chalky or powdery stone	_____	_____
Granular eroding of stone	_____	_____
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	_____	_____
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	_____	_____
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	_____	_____

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ____ Yes ☒ No ____ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? ____ Yes ____ No ☒ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

____ Gilded ____ Painted ____ Varnished ____ Waxed ☒ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

☒ Well maintained ____ Would benefit from treatment ____ In urgent need of treatment ____ Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Additional bronze statue of symbolic emancipated slave in plaza: approximately 8' high, 10' width, 2' depth

Inspector's Name Sumner G. Hunnewell Date 27 November A.D. 2025

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Intersection of 5th St Footbridge and Canal Walk - Brown's Island

Street/Road address or site location _____ GPS Coordinates 37.534617 N 77.443283 W 

City/Village and/or Township Richmond 

County _____ State VA  Zip Code _____

TEXT

Dred Scott (ca. 1799 - 1858) / Enslaved man from Southampton County / whose lawsuit for his freedom led to the 1857 / Supreme Court decision Dred Scott v. Sandford, / declaring that persons of African descent had / no rights under the U.S. Constitution, helping / to trigger the Civil War and Emancipation.

William Harvey Carney (1840 - 1908) / Escaped slave from Norfolk who fought with / the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment of / the United States Colored Troops. For his heroism / at Fort Wagner in 1863, he was the first person / of African descent to earn the Congressional / Medal of Honor. Carney and his fellow / soldiers fought for the emancipation / of many of their brothers and sisters.

Mary Jane Richards Bowser (fl. 1846 - 1867) / Born into slavery, she gained an education and / went as a missionary to Liberia. She returned / to Richmond and served as a key member of a / pro-Union spy ring during the Civil War, / gathering intelligence helpful to the United / States from the household of Jefferson Davis, / president of the Confederacy. After Emancipation, / she dedicated herself to educating the formerly / enslaved, lecturing and teaching in freedmen's / schools in Virginia, Florida, and Georgia.

{south face of base}

Throughout the period of slavery in Virginia, enslaved people sought freedom / through acts of resistance, self-liberation, and rebellion. At the start of / the Civil War, enslaved people sought to aid United States troops at Fort Monroe. / On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people only in areas / "in rebellion" against the United States. In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the / Constitution of the United States abolished slavery across the nation. / In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment established the formerly enslaved as / citizens of the United States and promised equal protection under the law for all. / The struggle to make that promise a reality continues.

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission dedicates this monument / to African American Virginians who made significant contributions to the fight / for the emancipation and freedom of formerly enslaved persons and for civil rights / in the Commonwealth of Virginia through the twentieth century.

{east face of base, bas relief figures with caption:} Virginians Who Fought for Equality

Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker (1929 - 2018) / An architect of the strategies of peaceful protest / that ended segregation. He was a Petersburg / minister, a civil rights activist, chief of staff to / Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a co-founder of / the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

John Mercer Langston (1829 - 1897) / Born to a free woman of color and a white planter / in Louisa County, he gained an education and became / an active abolitionist in Ohio before the Civil War. / Returning to Virginia during Reconstruction, he was Virginia's first African American member / of Congress in 1888, the first dean of the law school / at Howard University, and the first president of / what is now Virginia State University.

Inspector's Name Sumner G. Hunewell Date 19 November A. D. 2025
ADDENDUM FORM CWM #61 >This form may be photocopied.< ©2007-2023 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a Corporation

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

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City/Village and/or Township Richmond 

County _____ State VA  Zip Code _____

TEXT

John Mitchell, Jr. (1863 - 1929) / Born into slavery and educated in the freedmen's / schools during Reconstruction, he became the / editor of the Richmond Planet newspaper. / He exposed and campaigned against lynchings, / segregation, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. / A fearless activist and community builder, he / was a leader of the 1904 Richmond Streetcar / Boycott, founded a bank, and in 1921 was the / first African American to run for Governor / of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Rosa Dixon Bowser (1855 - 1931) / Educator, women's rights activist, and social / reformer who founded the first African American / teachers association of Virginia and co-founded the / Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs / and the National Association of Colored Women's / Clubs. She played a major role in African American / reform organizations, groups supporting universal / women's suffrage, and associations publicly / opposed to lynchings and racial segregation.

Inspector's Name Sumner G. Hunewell Date 19 November A. D. 2025
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SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 · NEWS 24/7 AT RICHMOND.COM · FINAL



Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney touched a bronze sculpture following the dedication of the Emancipation and Freedom Monument on Wednesday. The figure is a newly freed man, his chains broken from his wrists. PHOTOS BY SHABAN ATHUMAN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Monument to freedom, emancipation is unveiled

Memorial dedicated in ceremony on Richmond's Brown's Island



An audience listened as the Levitical Priests performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the event in Richmond on Wednesday to unveil the monument.



Ronald Carey (from right) and Ricardo Brown looked at the new monument, which is located on Brown's Island near the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge.

BY HOLLY PRESTIDGE
Richmond Times-Dispatch

It's as if the ancestral spirits of the men and women whose names were called out into the thick, muggy air cupped their protective hands over Brown's Island on Wednesday morning, just long enough to shield from the steady rain Richmond's newest symbol of freedom.

Nearly a decade in the works, the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission unveiled its Emancipation and Freedom Monument to an enthusiastic, if not soggy, poncho-wearing crowd Wednesday morning.

Created by Oregon-based artist Thomas Jay Warren, the monument features two 12-foot bronze figures: one of a newly freed man, his chains broken from his wrists; the other a woman holding an infant in one arm and her other hand holding a page that reads "January 1" and the Roman numerals for 1863, when Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect, freeing slaves in the South.

The base displays the names of five African American Virginians who fought against slavery — Gabriel, Nat Turner, Dred Scott, William Harvey Carney and Mary Jane Richards Bowser — and five who fought for equality: the Rev. Wyatt

MONUMENT, Page A6

Monument

From Page A1

Tee Walker, John Mercer Langston, Lucy Simms, John Mitchell Jr. and Rosa Dixon Bowser.

The monument stands at the end of the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge.

The morning's rain lifted moments before the unveiling, but not before speakers welcomed the crowd and the rhythmic drum beats of the Elegba Folklore Society led an introductory ceremony honoring the men and women whose sacrifices were memorialized in towering bronze.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, in 2012 the Virginia General Assembly got the project off the ground with a \$500,000 appropriation. In the following years, Warren was selected as the featured artist and throughout 2016 and 2017, the commission sought public comment on the individuals who should be featured on the base. Warren's artwork was approved in 2019 and created in 2020.

Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney spoke Wednesday, saying that Richmond and Virginia have come a long way and while there's work left to do, "we are moving in the right direc-

Monument honorees

Richmond's Emancipation and Freedom Monument honors 10 people, including those who fought against slavery and others who fought for equality.

Honored for fighting against slavery are:

◆ Gabriel, an "enslaved and literate blacksmith" who in 1800 orchestrated an attempted revolt in the Richmond area that was betrayed. He and many of his followers were hanged, which "starkly laid bare the contradictions of American freedom and American slavery."

◆ Nat Turner, who in 1831 led "the most famous slave revolt in American history." The monument says the bloody uprising in Southampton County and the violence and the widespread repression against African Americans that followed "revealed dark truths about slavery and haunted America until the Civil War."

◆ Dred Scott, from Southampton, whose lawsuit seeking his freedom led to a notorious 1857 U.S. Supreme Court decision that held that people of African descent could not be U.S. citizens. The

monument says Scott's suit helped trigger the Civil War and emancipation.

◆ William Harvey Carney, an escaped slave from Norfolk who fought with the famed 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored Troops. He received the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the 1863 assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina.

◆ Mary Jane Richards Bowser, who was born into slavery and became a missionary to Liberia before returning to Richmond, where she became a key member of a pro-Union spy ring, gathering intelligence at the household of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Honored for fighting for equality are:

◆ Wyatt Tee Walker, a Petersburg minister, civil rights activist, chief of staff to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was "an architect of the strategies of peaceful protest that ended segregation." Walker was senior pastor at Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem for 37 years before returning to Virginia. He died in 2018.

◆ John Mercer Langston, born in Louisa County, was an abolitionist in Ohio before he became Virginia's first African American to serve in Congress. He became the first dean of Howard University's law school and the first president of what would become Virginia State University.

◆ Lucy Simms, who was born a slave, graduated from Hampton Institute and taught three generations of African Americans in the Harrisonburg area in a career that spanned more than 50 years.

◆ John Mitchell Jr., who was born into slavery and later became editor of the Richmond Planet newspaper, in which he reported on and fought against lynching, segregation and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. Mitchell helped lead a streetcar boycott in 1904 and ran for governor in 1921.

◆ Rosa Dixon Bowser, an educator, women's rights activist and social reformer who founded or co-founded a number of key organizations that supported universal suffrage and opposed lynching and racial segregation.

tion ... moving forward to a more inclusive and more equitable future."

"We do so not just by erecting powerful symbols of bronze and granite," he continued, "but by taking concrete steps in our commonwealth and in our city to reform the laws and the systems that institutionalized the racism and oppression that dimmed the American dream and bound people of color for generations and generations."

What better place to do that work, Stoney said, than Richmond, "once the capital of the Confederacy and the capital of the Lost Cause, [but] no longer is that Richmond — together we are building a capital of compassion, a capital of opportunity, a capital of hope."

He added: "The enslaved built this city with their hands. We will rebuild this city with our hearts."

Commission member

Lauranett Lee, a historian and visiting lecturer at the University of Richmond, said slavery denied many generations of people the decency of basic human rights, but cautioned that there are many today who still feel fear because they're seen by others as "marginalized."

"We hear so much about freedom now, but how many of us still do not have that freedom?" she said. "We know so many who live with fear

and want — they are considered marginalized," citing such examples as people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, women, the poor, homeless people, children, the illiterate and others.

"But those of us who others consider marginal don't think of ourselves as marginal — we, too, deserve all that America has promised," Lee said. "As we remember this past, we have to remember that

we must move beyond that past to a better day ... [and] we have to work continuously to make sure that that freedom is afforded to all of us."

After the unveiling, commission member Ronald L. Carey stood by the monument with tears in his eyes.

Years of planning and discussions — how the monument would look, how it would be received, how everyone would feel about upon actually seeing it — led to Wednesday, he said, and a moment that "means that there is some level of recognition with regard to the changes that we have come through, the changes that are now taking place after hundreds of years ... and it's not over."

"Be concerned about the entire history ... be concerned about the entire history of mankind," he continued. "There are those of us here who are related in more ways than one that we don't know about ... because our families were destroyed or separated."

He said he encourages everyone to take a broader look at history's narratives, as he's learned to do through his work with the commission.

"The monument," Carey said, "is just one visible presentation of that." hprestdge@timesdispatch.com (804) 649-6945







REVEREND WYATT TEE WALKER (1929-2018)
AN ARCHITECT OF THE STRATEGIES OF PEACEFUL PROTEST THAT ENDED SEGREGATION. HE WAS A PETERSBURG MINISTER, A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CHIEF OF STAFF TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND A CO-FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON (1829-1897)
BORN TO A FREE WOMAN OF COLOR AND A WHITE PLANTER IN LOUISA COUNTY, HE GAINED AN EDUCATION AND BECAME AN ACTIVE ABOLITIONIST IN OHIO BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. RETURNING TO VIRGINIA DURING RECONSTRUCTION, HE WAS VIRGINIA'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS. IN 1868, THE FIRST DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, AND THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF WHAT IS NOW VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

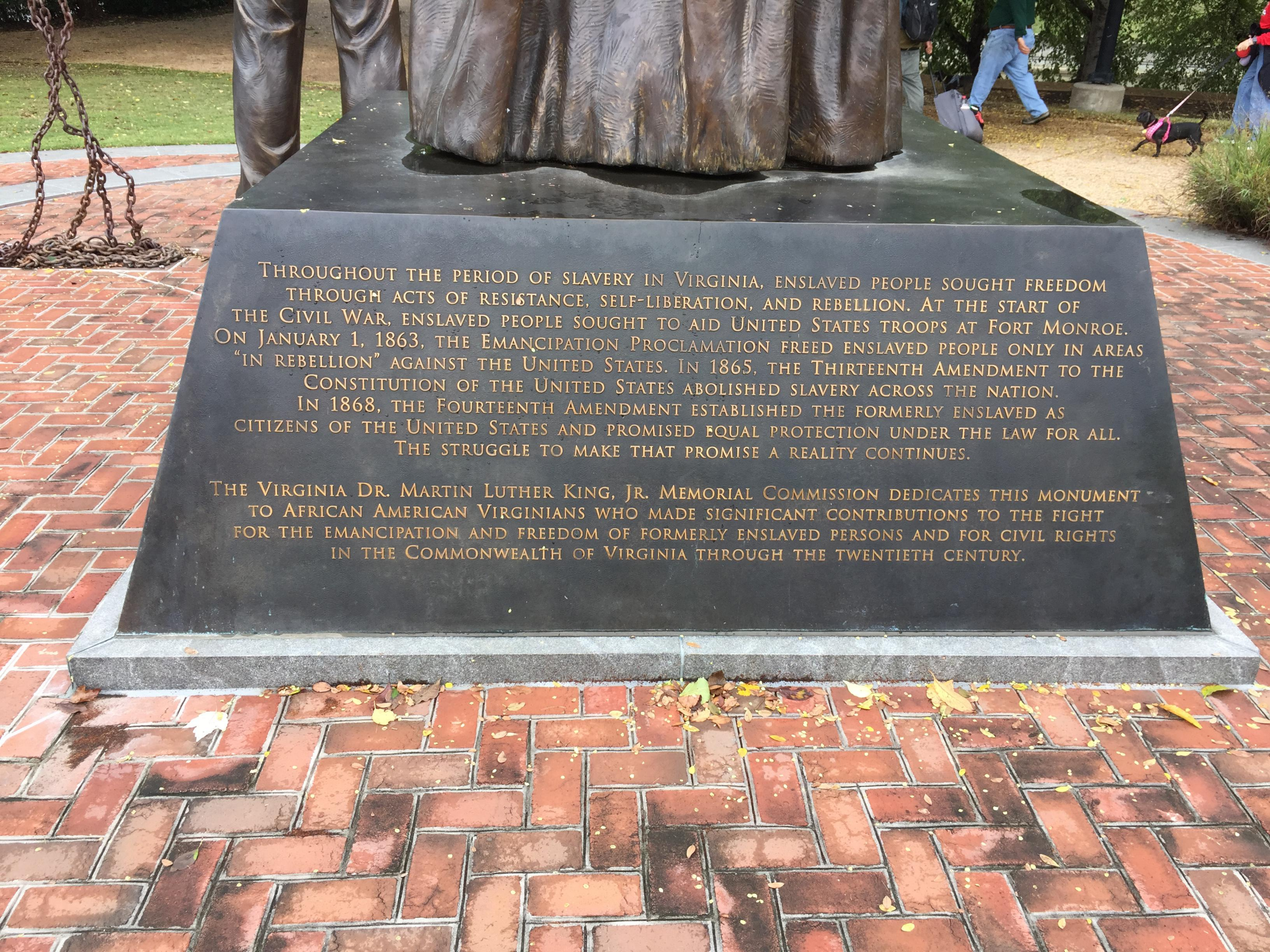
LUCY SIMMS (1855-1934)
BORN A SLAVE, SHE BEGAN TEACHING AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AT AGE 17. A GRADUATE OF HAMPTON INSTITUTE (NOW HAMPTON UNIVERSITY), SHE TAUGHT THREE GENERATIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS IN THE HARRISONBURG AREA OVER A 36-YEAR CAREER. DURING SEGREGATION SHE ORGANIZED THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR TEACHERS AND ADVOCATED FOR UNIVERSAL EDUCATION.



JOHN MITCHELL, JR. (1863-1929)
BORN INTO SLAVERY AND EDUCATED IN THE FREEDMEN'S SCHOOLS DURING RECONSTRUCTION, HE BECAME THE EDITOR OF THE RICHMOND PLANET NEWSPAPER. HE EXPOSED AND CAMPAIGNED AGAINST LYNCHINGS, SEGREGATION, AND THE RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN. A FEARLESS ACTIVIST AND COMMUNITY BUILDER, HE WAS A LEADER OF THE 1904 RICHMOND STREETCAR BOYCOTT, FOUNDED A BANK, AND IN 1921 WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

ROSA DIXON BOWSER (1855-1931)
EDUCATOR, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AND SOCIAL REFORMER WHO FOUNDED THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA AND CO-FOUNDED THE VIRGINIA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS. SHE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN REFORM ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND ASSOCIATIONS FULLY OPPOSED TO LYNCHINGS AND RACIAL SEGREGATION.

VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY



THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT FREEDOM THROUGH ACTS OF RESISTANCE, SELF-LIBERATION, AND REBELLION. AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT TO AID UNITED STATES TROOPS AT FORT MONROE. ON JANUARY 1, 1863, THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FREED ENSLAVED PEOPLE ONLY IN AREAS "IN REBELLION" AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IN 1865, THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ABOLISHED SLAVERY ACROSS THE NATION. IN 1868, THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT ESTABLISHED THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROMISED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL. THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THAT PROMISE A REALITY CONTINUES.

THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION DEDICATES THIS MONUMENT TO AFRICAN AMERICAN VIRGINIANS WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION AND FREEDOM OF FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSONS AND FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THROUGH THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

GABRIEL (ca. 1770s-1800)
ENSLAVED, LITERATE BLACKSMITH WHO IN 1800 ORCHESTRATED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ATTEMPTED REVOLTS IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN SLAVERY. THE PLOT, INSPIRED BY INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS, WAS BETRAYED AND SUPPRESSED BEFORE IT COULD BE SET IN MOTION. THE EXECUTION OF GABRIEL AND MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS STARKLY LAID BARE THE CONTRADICTIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM AND AMERICAN SLAVERY.

NAT TURNER (1800-1831)
LEADER OF THE MOST FAMOUS SLAVE REVOLT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. HE SHATTERED THE MYTH OF THE CONTENTED SLAVE. THE BLOODY SOUTHAMPTON REVOLT OF 1831 AND THE WIDESPREAD REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS THAT FOLLOWED REVEALED DARK TRUTHS ABOUT SLAVERY AND HAUNTED AMERICA UNTIL THE CIVIL WAR.

DRED SCOTT (ca. 1799-1858)
ENSLAVED MAN FROM SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY WHOSE LAWSUIT FOR HIS FREEDOM LED TO THE 1857 SUPREME COURT DECISION DRED SCOTT V. SANDFORD, DECLARING THAT PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT HAD NO RIGHTS UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, HELPING TO TRIGGER THE CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION.



WILLIAM HARVEY CARNEY (1840-1900)
ESCAPED SLAVE FROM NORFOLK WHO FOUGHT WITH THE 54TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS. FOR HIS HEROISM AT FORT WAGNER IN 1863, HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT TO EARN THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. CARNEY AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS FOUGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF MANY OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

MARY JANE RICHARDS BOWSER (fl. 1846-1867)
BORN INTO SLAVERY, SHE GAINED AN EDUCATION AND WENT AS A MISSIONARY TO LIBERIA. SHE RETURNED TO RICHMOND AND SERVED AS A KEY MEMBER OF A PRO-UNION SPY RING DURING THE CIVIL WAR, GATHERING INTELLIGENCE HELPFUL TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE HOUSEHOLD OF JEFFERSON DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACY. AFTER EMANCIPATION, SHE DEDICATED HERSELF TO EDUCATING THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED, LECTURING AND TEACHING IN FREEDMEN'S SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA, FLORIDA, AND GEORGIA.

VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST SLAVERY









THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT FREEDOM THROUGH ACTS OF RESISTANCE, SELF-LIBERATION, AND REBELLION. AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT TO AID UNITED STATES TROOPS AT FORT MONROE. ON JANUARY 1, 1863, THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FREED ENSLAVED PEOPLE ONLY IN AREAS "IN REBELLION" AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IN 1865, THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ABOLISHED SLAVERY ACROSS THE NATION. IN 1868, THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT ESTABLISHED THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROMISED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL. THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THAT PROMISE A REALITY CONTINUES.

THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION DEDICATES THIS MONUMENT TO AFRICAN AMERICAN VIRGINIANS WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION AND FREEDOM OF FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSONS AND FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THROUGH THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.