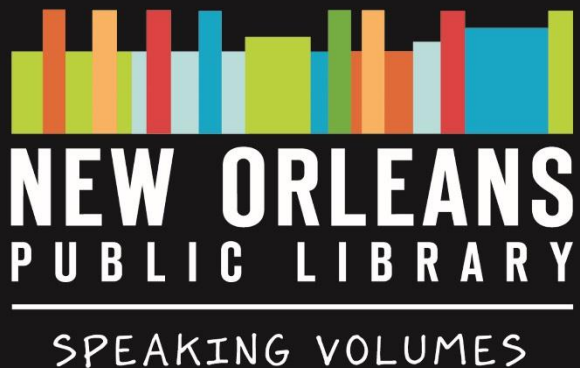

Monumental Records: A Timeline



Christina Bryant, MLIS, CA
Louisiana Division/City Archives
& Special Collections
New Orleans Public Library

1769-Present

Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections

- 250 years worth of municipal records
- 120 years worth of Orleans Parish civil court records
- Over 100 years worth of Orleans Parish criminal court records
- Largest and deepest collection of genealogical materials in the city
- Newspapers/Serials
- Manuscripts and Special Collections
- Rare and regional book collection



Canal Street, New Orleans, LA
City Archives Photograph
Collection

1946-Present

Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections

- 1946
 - The City Archives are designated by City Ordinance to become a part of the Public Library system
- 1954
 - The new Home Rule Charter specifies that a duty of the library board is to “maintain the archives”
- Despite this records were often retained by their agency of origin
- The records have moved multiple times
- We work with the State Archives on Records Management



City Archives Photograph
Collection

1946-Present

How Does the Archives Fit Into the Monument Discussion?

Our primary role was to serve as a resource rather than an active participant. Initially, the requests seemed within our standard operating procedure, but soon we realized that there was more pressure and we were conscious of the role that we were playing in this historic event.

On a more practical level, the Archives is situated across a small park from City Hall. There are no real barriers to building access besides parking. We are open 7 days a week, do not require ID and charge a very small copying fee.

Our active role will become clearer as the contemporary records begin to be collected and processed.



1884-2017

1891 - May 2, 2017
1911 - May 11, 2017
1915 - May 17, 2017
1884 - May 19, 2017

Liberty Place
Jefferson Davis
P.G.T. Beauregard
Robert E. Lee



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June 24, 2015

An Emotional Response

As a part of a discussion surrounding the city's tricentennial, and the increasing violence and racial tensions in the city; the Mayor called for the removal of not just flags and other emblems of the confederacy but of the statues representing its leaders as well. The first statue publically discussed was that of Robert E. Lee.

1870-1874

Battle of Liberty Place

An insurrection of the Crescent City White League, a group of all white, mostly Confederate veterans, who battled against the City's racially integrated metropolitan police and state militia. There were casualties on both sides.



VIEW OF CANAL STREET.

Jewell's New Orleans,
1873

1877

Ordinance 4064 AS

Ordinance 4064 AS, granted the use of Tivoli Circle to The Lee Monumental Association for the purpose of erecting a monument to General Robert E. Lee, and changing the name of the center green space to Lee Place.

Mayorality of New Orleans,
City Hall, July 31, 1877.

No 4064 Administration Series.

An ordinance to grant the use of Tivoli Circle to the Lee Monumental Association, for the purpose of erecting therein a monument to Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That the public park in the First District of this city known as Tivoli Circle, be and the same is hereby confided to the charge of the Lee Monumental Association, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining therein a monument to the memory of Gen. Robert E. Lee, subject to such police regulations as may be adopted and approved by the City Council, and provided that the erection of said monument shall begin within one year and be completed within five years from the passage and promulgation of this ordinance.

Municipality of New Orleans,
City Hall, July 31, 1877.

Ordinance Administration Series.

An ordinance to grant the use of Twoli Circle to the Lee Monumental Association for the purpose of erecting thereon a monument to Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, that the public park in the First District of this city known as Twoli Circle, be and the same is hereby conferred to the charge of the Lee Monumental Association, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining thereon a monument to the memory of Gen. Robert E. Lee, subject to such police regulations as may be adopted and approved by the City Council, and provided that the erection of said monument shall begin within one year and be completed within two years from the passage and promulgation of this ordinance.

Sec. 2. Be it further ordained, That said Association, through its president, or authorized agents, shall have the right to enter upon the ground within the present inclosure and prosecute such works as may be considered necessary for preparing the foundations of the monument, laying out and planting shrubbery, and performing all such work according to plans as may be adopted to carry out the object in view. The Association also, shall have the right to make such rules, with regard to the admission of people within the inclosure during the progress of the work as will not interfere with the prosecution of the same; provided, however, that said rules are not in conflict with the present city laws, or if so shall be especially approved by the City Council and provided further, that the property in and about said circle be not disturbed.

Sec. 3. Be it further ordained, etc., That the ground within the inclosure to be so improved shall be dedicated to the memory of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and as soon as the work is commenced shall thereafter be known as "Lee Place"; but the name of the entire or street portion shall still be preserved under the designation of Twoli Circle.

Adopted by the Council of the city of New Orleans,
July 31, 1877.

J. E. Davis,
Mayor pro tem.

Wm. J. Higgins,
City Secretary.

1882

Ordinance 8151 AS

Repealed ordinance 8137 AS, which designated a portion of ground to be called Whitney Place, and then rededicated as Liberty Place. This piece of ground was “to be used exclusively in the erection of a monument”

The ordinance reads as follows:
AN ORDINANCE repealing ordinance No. 8137, A. S., adopted November 9, 1882, and dedicating that certain portion of the “neutral ground” on Canal street, between Wells and Delta streets, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for monumental purposes, in honor of the heroic dead of the 14th of September, 1874.
Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That ordinance No. 8137, A. S., adopted November 9, 1882, be and the same is hereby repealed, and that all that portion of the “neutral ground” situated on Canal street, between Wells and Decatur streets, or as much thereof as may be necessary, to be specifically defined and laid out by the City Surveyor, be and the same is hereby set apart and dedicated by the city of New Orleans as a public place or site, to be known and styled as the Liberty Place, and is to be used exclusively in the erection of a monument in honor of those who fell in defense of civil liberty and home rule in that heroic and successful struggle of the 14th of September, 1874.

1884

Lee Monument is Completed and Unveiled



The monument was unveiled on February 22, 1884.

“The Inauguration of a bronze statue of a Great Soldier”

“Audience of 15,000 People”

“Honors paid to the Daughters of the Great Chieftan”

Lee Monument, New Orleans, LA

1890

Wilson S. Howell Photograph

Collection



NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1884.—TRIPLE SHEET.

S. Vests, der far... more Serge... very... fancy... fall... Un-... and... sold... y... A... LIBERMAN

MOUQUETAIRE GLOVES,
Opera shades, 8 Butt. Length.
At \$1 00 a Pair,

—AT—
VIPLE & PERET'S,
IMPORTERS,
No. 10 Bourbon street, near Canal.
222-221-27

LATTER END.

It is getting the latter end of the Winter Season and we wish to reduce our Stock, and offer bargains in **HEAVY WINTER SUITS and OVERCOATS.** Our stock is made up of all-wool goods and they must be sold to make room for Spring Goods. Have received New Lot of Black French Diagonal Four-Button Outaway Frocks and Vests, warranted to fit. Also, New Stock of Black Cloth Dress Spiketail Coats and Vests for Balls and Mardi Gras. Prices Moderate and Fit good.

We sell the O. and M. Shirt, that fits No. 1. Price of good Shirt \$1 50. Late style high-cut Collars, New lot White satin and Lawn Puffs Bows, Fancy Scarfs, White Kid Gloves, Fancy Half Hose, etc. Black and blue Corkscrew Dress Suits at low prices. Shaker and Red Flannel Underwear, warm Merino Socks, warm Gloves, Silk Umbrellas.

PREMIUM BONDS TAKEN AT PAR!
P. O. — No Sunday work done at our store.
WM. H. PIERSON,
13 and 15 Camp street.
222-221-27

LIBERMAN

THE LEE MONUMENT

The Inauguration of the
Bronze Statue of the
Great Soldier.

An Audience of 15,000 People.

The Exercises at Lee Place and
Washington Artillery Hall.

Judge Fenner's Oration—Mr. Esquier's
Poetical Tribute.

The State Troops and Visiting Military

Honors Paid to the Daughters of the
Great Chiefs.

An immense audience assembled yesterday afternoon in Lee Place to participate in the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Rarely has there been witnessed such

shelter afforded by the canopy which covers, was not impervious to the water.

The stern brought dismay to the hearts of the military in their garb uniforms, which soon presented a bedraggled appearance. The company of veterans stationed on the steps of the monument stood to their posts, notwithstanding the elemental war.

For twenty minutes, or more, the rain continued to fall heavily. When it had somewhat abated the directors of the Monumental Association concluded to proceed with the

Unveiling of the Statue.
This affair was to be performed, according to the suggestions of Gen. Lee's daughters, as already mentioned in the Pleasure, by a private in the army which had served immediately under that commander. Gen. P. T. Nicholas, President of the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia, had been requested to select a member for this service, but he preferred to submit the question of the choice to the association. This was done at a meeting held yesterday and the lot fell to Messrs. John Harley and Charles Meyer, married veterans of the Virginia army. These members were present at the opening of the exercises, but were unavoidably absent when the unveiling was ordered, and this duty was performed by Messrs. Edward Fitzpatrick and John Dunlap, also married soldiers who had served under Lee. As the canopy covering was withdrawn from the superb figure of bronze which crowns the monument, and the statue of

The Great Confederate Leader
stood forth grandly against the dark background of the lowering sky, a mighty shout went up from the soldiers of the Confederacy, and the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic joined in these loud acclamations, and cast up their hats as enthusiastically as the men who had worn the gray.

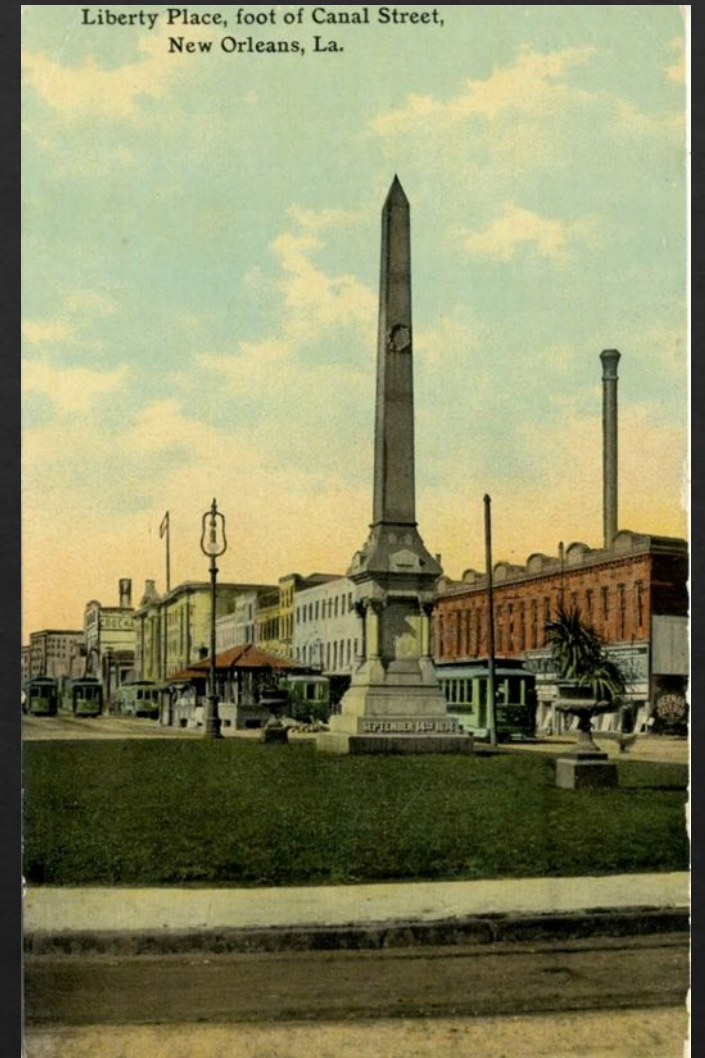
The Daughters of Gen. Lee.
Standing at the windows of Mr. May's house, were spectators of the scene. As the Veteran Association of the Army

the... water... The... 'and... 'and... All... time... with... state... each... has... An... hours... by... On... Ar... ing... ing... up... An... Asso... on... Dick... to... prep... red... direc... the... Free... Un... at... Fr... Grad... Nov... My... of... How... care... the... and... saw... war... sal... Liv... 4... 7... O... Nov... 1884... Feb...

1891

Liberty Place Monument

Despite the original Ordinance having been passed in 1882, it was almost ten years until the monument could be built. The original placement of the monument prominently displayed it at the foot of Canal Street. It would later be moved.



Liberty Place Monument, New Orleans, LA
Postcard Collection

1896

Lee's Blueprints

Ordinance 12829 CS states that the City of New Orleans is not in possession of a copy of the plans and specifications of Lee Statue, and whereas same can be purchased for \$25.00

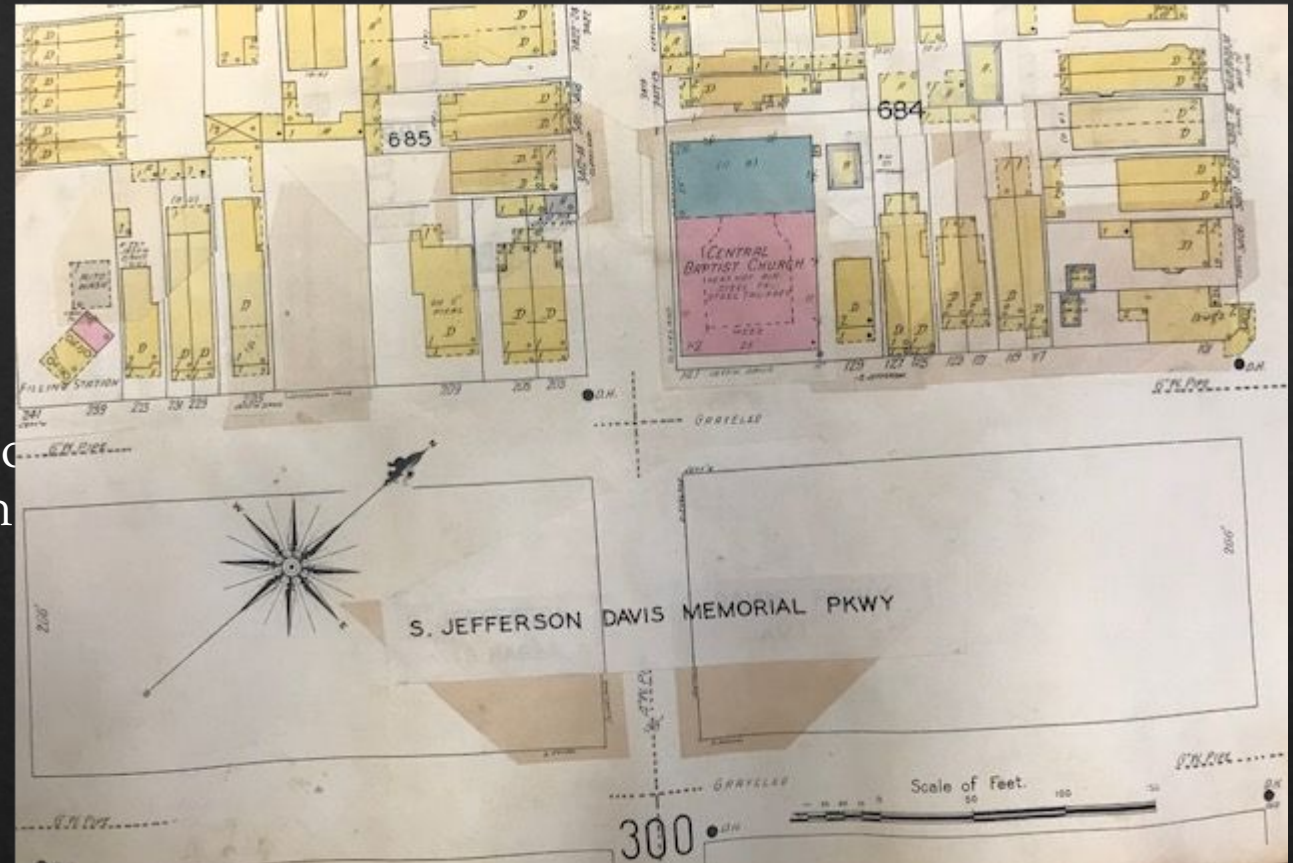


Lee Monument, New Orleans, LA
1906
Postcard Collection

1910

Jefferson Davis

Ordinance 6737 NCS
Dedicating site for a statue of Jefferson Davis
on the neutral ground between Canal Street
and Cleveland Avenue. The Ordinance also changed
the name of the street it was situated on to Jefferson
Davis Memorial Parkway.



Sanborn Map, 1908.

1911

Jefferson Davis Monument

Funds were raised by the Jefferson Davis Monument Association to erect the statue and it is said that a portion of the funds came from the then Mayor and City Council.



Jefferson Davis Monument, New Orleans, LA
Postcard Collection

Benjamin Ory, examined the work. The statue is of heroic size, and is the work of E. V. Valentine, the noted sculptor. It was cast in bronze in the Gorham Foundry in Providence, and has been declared by keen critics to be a masterpiece. The statue shows President Davis in a picturesque pose, standing erect, with right arm extended, apparently in the attitude of delivering a fiery speech. The statue is eight feet six inches in height. The granite base or pedestal is completed, and is the work of Albert Weiblen, the New Orleans granite worker. The base is South Carolina granite, and has been declared to be as fine a piece of stone as was ever cut in this city. The seal of the Confederacy adorns the base. There is a bronze column within arm's reach of the statue. It represents the foundation of the government, and the year "1776" is cut above. An open book representing the Constitution is carved in the center, and beneath is carved the year "1861," the date on which President Davis was inaugurated to the permanent presidency of the Confederate States at Richmond.

1893

P.G.T. Beauregard

The Beauregard Monument has the distinction of being the only one to represent a native New Orleanian and the only one on horseback.

The Beauregard Monument Association was created shortly after his death in 1893. By 1895 they began to make a public request for funds to build a monument.



Harry D. Johnson Photograph
Collection

1915

It would be another twenty years before the monument became a reality. New Orleans had a number of monuments honoring Confederate soldiers, and circumstances in New Orleans had not been favorable for fundraising. After an appeal to the State Legislature the needed funds were obtained.



P.G.T. Beauregard Monument, New Orleans,
LA
Postcard Collection

1953

The Robert E. Lee Monument had begun to suffer the ravages of time and New Orleans' sinking ground. The monument had to be removed from the base for repair work.



Robert E. Lee Restoration, 1953
Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison Photograph
Collection

1993

Liberty Monument was moved from its place at the end of Canal Street due to a streets project in 1989. When the project was over, the monument remained in its new less prominent home. The monument was rededicated in 1993. Until its removal it was the subject of almost constant vandalism.



Photo from
Times-Picayune

June 2015

After the Mayor made his announcement, things began to move quickly and all of the sudden we had a lot of patrons all looking for the same types of things.

- Who
 - City Officials
 - City Attorney
 - Pro Monument
 - Anti Monument
- What
 - Ordinances
 - Books
- Why
 - Subject of the Statues
 - Funding
 - Ownership
 - Legality
 - Context



Ordinances

Access and Identification

The New Orleans Municipal Government has functioned under several Charters. Each of these Charters has created Ordinances, which are given a letter designation and then numbered in sequential order. The numbering begins again for each new Charter.

For example:

Ordinance 4046 AS – which designated the land for Lee Circle is the 4046th Ordinance passed under the Administration Series (1870-1



July 2015

In July, Mayor Mitch Landrieu appeared before the New Orleans City Council to begin the "legal and public hearing processes" of relocating the monuments.

The hearings are part of the 60-day period of discussions and public meetings that Landrieu outlined during his meeting with the council.

July - December, 2015

- Who
 - City Attorney
 - City Council Offices
 - Department of Public Works
 - Pro Monument
 - Anti Monument
 - Reporters
- What
 - City Council Official Proceedings
 - Ordinances
 - Department of Public Works
 - Mayoral Papers
 - Newspapers
- Why
 - Precedent
 - Feasibility
 - Legality



New Orleans Public Library Photograph Collection

August - September, 2015

Approvals and Recommendations

The Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) is the City's regulatory agency for locally designated Historic Districts and Landmarks. The Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor with City Council Approval

In a vote of 11-1 they voted that the four monuments in question could be removed.

The Vieux Carré Commission which regulates the Vieux Carré (French Quarter), also approved the removal of the monuments, as the Liberty Place Monument was in their jurisdiction.

The Chief Administrative Officer, the City Attorney, the Superintendent of Police, and the Director of the Department of Property Management all submitted recommendations for the removal of the monuments

December 17, 2015

Ordinance 31082 MCS

The City Council passed Ordinance 31082 MCS on the grounds that the monuments were a nuisance. The Ordinance passed with a vote of 6-1. The decision was based on Section 146-611 of the Code of the City of New Orleans as laid out in the Home Rule Charter of 1954.



December 17, 2015

Impact of Research

“...the council may conduct a hearing to determine whether or not any monument, statue, or similar thing honoring or commemorating any person or event that is located on property owned or controlled by the city should be removed from public outdoor display. The council may, by ordinance, cause the removal of the monument, statue, or other thing located outdoors on city property covered by the provisions of this section upon a finding that the thing constitutes a nuisance...”

Section 146-611 of the Code of the City of New Orleans as laid out in the Home Rule Charter of 1954.

December 17, 2015 – March 7, 2017

The Ordinance is fought in Court

January 26: The Federal Court rules that there will be no injunction and that the monuments can be removed.

January 28: The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds the decision and affirms that due process was followed and that the monuments are not owned by specific groups simply because they cleaned them.

March 25: The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals halts the removals

March 7, 2017: The City is finally told that the monuments can be removed

December 17, 2015 – March 7, 2017

What is happening at the Archives

- Who
 - City Attorney
 - Private Attorneys
 - Reporters
 - Private Citizens
 - Academic Researchers
- What
 - Ordinances
 - Property Records
 - Maps
 - City Agency Records
- Why
 - Precedent
 - Legality
 - Irregularities
 - A Story



May 2017

The Monuments are Removed

The monuments were primarily moved at night, by workers wearing masks. Protesters had to be held back from the work areas and there was a strong police presence. The City paid almost 220,000.00 in police regular and overtime hours over the course of the removals.

Despite Open Carry Laws in Louisiana, protesters were unable to carry guns at the protests. Police were able to enforce City Code: Sec. 54-342. - Illegal possession of weapons at *demonstrations*

“It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a law enforcement officer, to have in his possession or to have in any vehicle any weapon while participating in or attending a *demonstration* being held at a *public* place.”

May 2017

The Monuments are Removed

- Who
 - Pro Monument
 - City Attorney
 - Department of Public Works
 - Police
- What
 - Ordinances
 - Newspapers
 - Blueprints
 - City Code
- Why
 - Irregularities
 - Procedures
 - Ownership
 - Removal
 - Fate of the Monuments



May 2, 2017

Liberty Place



May 2, 2017



May 2, 2017



May 11, 2017

Jefferson Davis



May 11, 2017

Jefferson Davis



May 11, 2017

Jefferson Davis



May 8, 2017

Ownership of City Park is Questioned

- Beauregard Ownership is called into question
- Protests begin at monuments
- Who
 - City Attorney
 - Private Attorneys
 - Abstractors
 - Reporters
- What
 - Ordinances
 - Property Records
 - Maps
- Why
 - Precedent
 - Legality
 - Irregularities
 - Ownership



City Park and Lakeview
E.S. Martin Photograph
Collection

May 8, 2017

Ownership of City Park is Questioned

- The ownership of the land on which the Beauregard statue sat and thus the basis for the nuisance ordinance was questioned
- Researchers came to now look at a new set of documents involving the park and its board rather than the monument itself
- The requested injunction was denied as the court cited a 1983 Louisiana Supreme Court Case in their decision said, "there is no question that the property of City Park, which was laid out by the city of New Orleans as a public park after the 1852 donation of the land in the succession of John McDonough, has always belonged to the city of New Orleans, even though the park's operations are governed under state law."



May 17, 2017

P.G.T. Beauregard



May 17, 2017

P.G.T. Beauregard



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May 17, 2017

P.G.T. Beauregard



May 17, 2017

P.G.T. Beauregard



May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



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May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



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May 19, 2017

Robert E. Lee



2015- Present

Staff and Patrons

- A politically charged topic with opinions on all sides
- Patrons who want to talk and be heard
- Ethical duty as archivists and librarians
- Equal Access and Assistance
- Position as employees of the City of New Orleans



2017-2018

Gone and forgotten for now?

- The initial task was completed to much fanfare and discussion
- Hurricane Season
- Mayoral Race
- Tricentennial
- Long Transition Period
- Exiting Mayor
- New Mayor sworn in on May 8



2018

New Sheriff in Town

- Mayoral Election in Fall 2017
 - Latoya Cantrell
 - First African American Female Mayor
 - Former City Council Member
 - Supported removal
 - Transition Report
- New City Council
- Challenge to the Removals
- Change to the final decisions on the removed monuments
- Continue discussion of other debatable items



Beyond

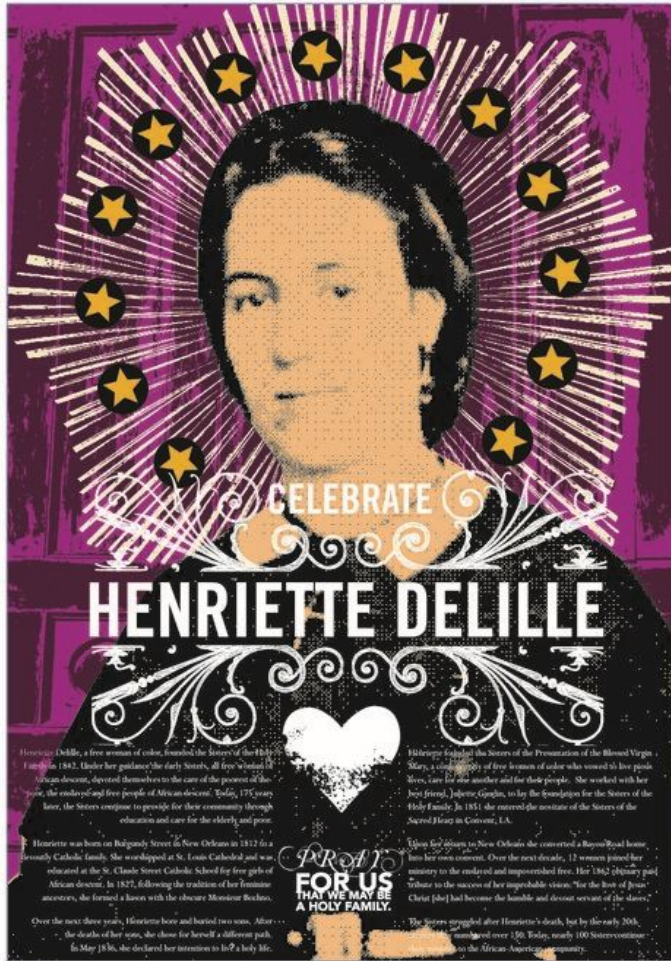
Archives Involvement

- *City Council Official Proceedings (2020)*
- *Mayor's Records*
- *City Council Members*
 - *Mayor Cantrell*
- *Police*
- *Department of Public Works*
- *Finance*
- *Annual Reports*
- *Transition Reports*
- *Manuscript Collections*
- *City Documents*
- *Statistics*
- *Newspapers*
- *Books*



City Officials Greet Pan Am
Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison Photograph
Collection

Alternatives



ARTIST: DANIELA MAXX WRITER: VIRGINIA GOULD

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Images

- Louisiana Division/City Archives and Special Collections
- Times Picayune / NOLA.com
- Daily Picayune
- Advocate / Advocate.com
- Gambit New Orleans
- Jewell's New Orleans, 1873
- Paper Monuments



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