



VIRGINIA TECH.®

RECKONING WITH HISTORY

The Historical Markers at Virginia Tech

Stacey Wilkerson, April Goode, Jesse Tuel, Shanin Glenn





STACEY WILKERSON, Ph.D.

Stacey Wilkerson serves as chief of staff and assistant provost for administration in the Office for Inclusion and Diversity at Virginia Tech. In this role, she works with the communications team and other operations units. Her research centers around the stories of minoritized people within the history of higher education.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan Peoples' homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the Commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in Western states and territories.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local white families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also enslaved hundreds of people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

ADDRESSING UNIVERSITY HISTORY

- Provides a narrative of the complete history
- Centers histories of excluded groups
- Counters the majority narrative
- Moves toward inclusivity
- Impacts the present

UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING THEIR HISTORY

- Call to Action (Florida State University)
- Thorough examination of history (Clemson University)

President's Council on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING THEIR HISTORY

- Acknowledgement of history (University of South Carolina- Desegregation Commemorative Garden)



UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING THEIR HISTORY

- Iterative and ongoing process (William & Mary)



UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING THEIR HISTORY

- Growing and sharing the work

1872 Forward: Celebrating Virginia Tech



EXAMPLES OF UNIVERSITIES EXAMINING THEIR HISTORY

- [Clemson University](#)
- [University of South Carolina](#)
- [Florida State University](#)
- [University of Virginia](#)
- [William & Mary](#)
- [Virginia Tech](#)



APRIL GOODE

April Goode serves as operations and communications manager for the Virginia Tech Office for Strategic Affairs, working closely with the university's strategic planning processes as well as collaborating with the Office of Inclusion and Diversity on a variety of projects.

Additionally, she splits her time in the same role for the Council on Virginia Tech History, planning, promoting, and executing events; providing support for the Council's long-term projects; and collaborating on the next phase of the Council.



COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY



- Formed in 2015 and charged by President Tim Sands with developing and producing projects that would highlight the broad history of Virginia Tech in preparation for the university's 150th celebration, 2021-22.
 - VT Stories
 - From Orange to Maroon
 - Voices in the Stone
 - Visualizing Virginia Tech History
 - Commissioning of Public Art
 - Historical Markers
 - 1872 Forward: A Celebration of Virginia Tech

Executive Council



Bob Leonard
Professor



Dr. Menah Pratt
Vice President



Dr. Peter Wallenstein
Professor

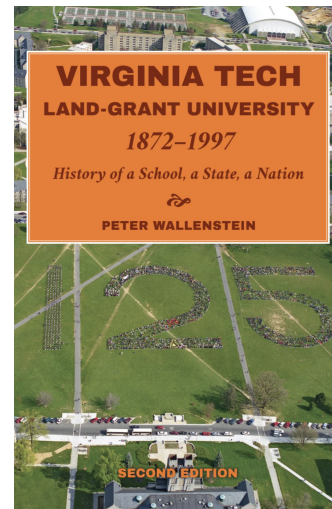
PROJECTS

VT STORIES



VOICES in the STONE

COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY



FROM ORANGE
to MAROON

PROJECTS

VISUALIZING VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY -
<https://historylab.squarespace.com/>

Projection Mapping



Augmented Reality

PROJECTS

PUBLIC ART



THRESHOLDS by CARRIE GAULT

PROJECTS

PUBLIC ART



THINK on THESE THINGS by CHARLIE BROUWER



HISTORIC MARKERS

THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE:

Commemorative Signage Committee Chair: Jack Rosenberger

VT History Council Commemorative Signage Committee Members: Denny Cochrane, Clara Cox, Jenni Gallagher, Bob Leonard, Meghan Marsh, Paul Quigley, Emily Satterwhite, Peter Wallenstein

Quinn Evans Team: Brenda Williams (Principal-in-Charge), Addison Warren, Jillian Columbus (Explorers Studio), Syd Knight (SK) – QE, landscape architect

Communications and Marketing Team: Shanin Glenn, Tiffany Pruden, Jesse Tuel

Contributors: Kenny Barnes, Theresa Rocha Beardall, Bing Bingham, Letisha Brown, LaTawnya Burleson, Tamara Cherry-Clarke, Mary Kate Claytor (illustration), Sam Cook, Tom Ewing, Melissa Faircloth, Victoria Ferguson, Betty Fine, Desiree Shelley Flores, Annabelle Fuselier, Ellington Graves, April Goode, Rosemary Goss, Jean Haskell, Khaled Hassouna, Shew Heflin, Pat Hyer, Thomas Klatka, Shernita Lee, Barbara Lockee, Anna LoMascolo, Shaila Mehra, Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, Najla Miranda Mouchrek, Juan Pacheco, Anita Puckett, Stewart Scales (map), Ashley Martina Svyantek, Jessica Taylor, Dan Thorp, Tremayne Waller, Rachel Lin Weaver, Laura Wedin, Kimberly Williams

University Libraries and Special Collections: Marc Brodsky, Kira Dietz, Antonio Wright de Hernandez, John Jackson, Aaron Purcell

Images: Susan Anderson, Marc Brodsky, Adrian Compton, Betty Fine, Quatro Hubbard, Kenna Jewell, Juan Pacheco Irene Leech, Peter Potter, Mike Pulice, Heather Rousseau, Ryan Spencer, Michael Stowe, Randy Turner

Support Team: Alexa Briebl (Communications), Joe Cooley (Accessibility Review), Larissa Gimmy (Communications Graphic Designer), Joy Manning (Construction Project Manager), Liza Morris (University Architect, Site Selection)

COUNCIL ON VIRGINIA TECH HISTORY

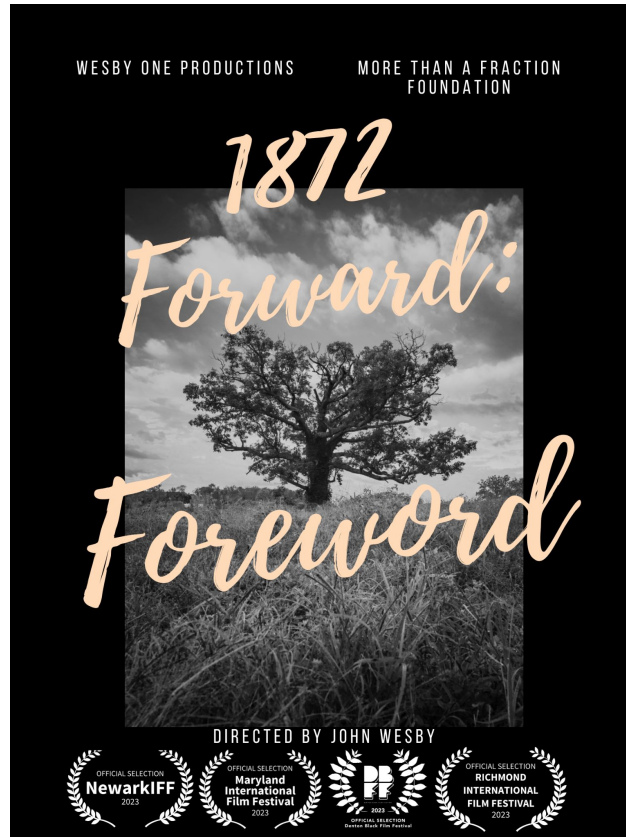
1872 FORWARD: A Celebration of Virginia Tech

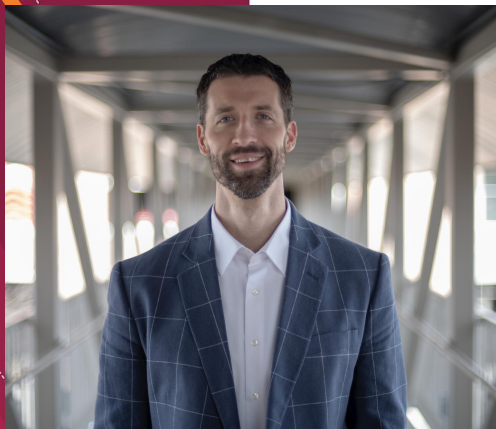


- Three days of programming sponsored with More Than a Fraction Foundation:
 - Two book launches
 - Formal dedication for the renaming of two dorms
 - Honoring the Monacan Nation and unveiling the historical markers
 - A cultural arts celebration - poetry, storytelling, song and dance
 - Sacred ceremony at the historic Merry Tree
 - Contested Spaces: A Tri-Racial Conversation
- Many visitors to campus for the events:
 - Pioneering alumni
 - Members of Monacan Nation
 - Descendants of the Fraction Family - people who were enslaved at Solitude and Smithfield Plantations
 - Descendants of the Preston Family - ancestors owned Solitude and Smithfield
 - Members of the Wake Forest community

1872 FORWARD: A DOCUMENTARY

COUNCIL ON
VIRGINIA TECH
HISTORY






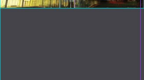
JESSE TUEL




As the senior director for units in the Communications and Marketing division, Jesse Tuel collaborates with leaders in a range of university units, including the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, and he was the primary editor on the historical markers.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Timeline
- Stakeholders
- Approval
- Cost

CONTENT: LENGTH

<p>2013 The Mass Arts Center (2013, Lou Marso)</p> <p>understanding, and, in partnership with the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, enables experimentation across disciplines.</p>	<p>University establishes online distance learning, reaching students regardless of their physical location.</p> <p>2008</p> <p>2008</p> <p>2013</p>	<p>Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute (today's Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine) is chartered, creating the basis for the future health sciences and technology presence in Roanoke, Virginia.</p> 
<p>The Smart Farm Innovation Network launches, drawing on Virginia Tech researchers and Virginia Cooperative Extension to aid local producers and develop new technologies that enhance agricultural and natural resource production.</p> <p>2019</p> <p>Virginia Tech approves an updated Climate Action Commitment that pledges to use 100 percent renewable electricity, build carbon neutral buildings, and operate as a Zero-Waste campus by 2030.</p>	<p>Most Arts Center, a focal point for the arts at Virginia Tech, opens. The center presents renowned artists, with a spotlight on experiences that expand cultural awareness, dialog.</p>	 <p>VT VIRGINIA TECH.</p>

 <p>Norris Hall. His wife, Fannie Vaughn Oliver, and at least one of their children, Andrew Jackson Oliver, also worked at the school. Andrew the younger later became one of the first Black lawyers in West Virginia and then in Roanoke. But neither he nor any other Black Virginia could enroll in VPI before the 1950s.</p>	 <p>All the presidents of VAMC—from Charles L. C. Minor through John M. McIrvine—and many of the early professors had served in the Confederate States Army or the Confederate government during the Civil War. The commandant in the 1870s, James W. Lane, for example, had been a Confederate brigadier general. Whatever their backgrounds, together they laid the foundation, and more, for the school that would become Virginia Tech.</p> <p>As the former academy transitioned into the new land-grant college, William Lancaster was one of the VAMC students who simply continued his studies begun at Preston and Olin. His daughter, Lucy Lee Lancaster would enroll in 1921 as another pioneer, in the first cohort of female students at VPI.</p> <p>Andrew Oliver, employed until 1865 by a member of the Black family (after whom Blackburg is named), worked as a free man for the Preston and Olin Institute and then, beginning in 1872, for VAMC. His family lived at that time near today's</p>  <p>Andrew Oliver (from photograph courtesy of the Westover House)</p>
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CONTENT: TONE



CONTENT: TONE

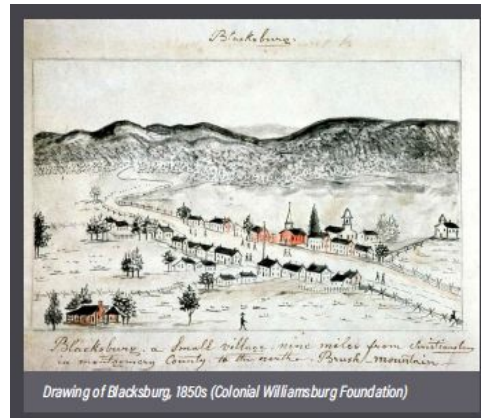
- Original copy: “The original land-grant focus on nonelite young white men...”
- Revised copy: “Framers of the land-grant act mostly had nonelite young white men in mind, but the states had implied discretion beyond that.”

CONTENT: STYLE

- Black and white
- Maiden names
- Degrees and class years

CONTENT: IMAGES

- Permissions
- Quality
- Public domain



DEBUTING THE MARKERS

- 1872 Forward events
- Messaging
- Impact



DEBUTING THE MARKERS



DEBUTING THE MARKERS



HOW TO RECKON WITH YOUR HISTORY

- Leadership
- Faculty
- Alumni
- Library
- Designers
- Accessibility
- Time



SHANIN GLENN

Shanin Glenn was the principal designer on the historical markers. Being CPACC-certified, she was able to ensure that the markers were accessible. She is a graphic designer within the Marketing and Communications division, art director for the Virginia Tech Magazine, and an adjunct instructor in the School of Visual Arts at Virginia Tech.



Scans from Virginia Tech Special Collections





Word Documents with Content

READY FOR DESIGN

Sign 1, Side 1: The Early Years

IMAGE #1 across top 1B-Top-Preston Olin
Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC), today's Virginia Tech, was established in 1872 in the former home of the Preston and Olin Institute, an academy for white male youth that had opened in the 1850s. The original name honored lawyer, politician, and Smithfield plantation owner William Ballard Preston and Methodist minister and educator Stephen Olin.

Without the Preston and Olin building, no land-grant school Blacksburg. Moreover, VAMC students not only took class completion of Barracks No. 1 (now Lane Hall) in 1888. F 1913. If it still existed today, it would block North Main S 1A. 1908 map drawing.

IMAGE #2 1A-Middle_EarlyCampusView

New as VAMC was, continuity as well as change characterize academy to land-grant college. Harvey Black, the last president, became the first rector of the VAMC Board of Visitors continued their studies as the school changed identities. 33 Andrew Oliver, formerly enslaved nearby, was school custodian. Black Virginian could enroll before the 1950s.

IMAGE #3 1A-Middle_Harvey_Black

IMAGE #4 1A-Bottom_AndrewJacksonOliver

All the presidents of VAMC, from Charles L.C. Minor in the 1890s, had served during the Civil War in the Confederate of the early professors. The commandant in the 1870s, Jan Confederate brigadier general. Whatever their background, grand school that would become Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Images and captions (4):

1. The Preston and Olin building as seen from Main Street downtown, c. 1900 (Virginia Tech Special Collections)
2. Harvey Black (Virginia Tech Special Collections)
3. Andrew Jackson Oliver, an attorney in Roanoke, had campus with his parents, Andrew Oliver and Fanny History of the American Negro." 1921).
4. Drawing of VAMC, c. 1882 (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

NOTE FOR DESIGNER: the map as-is, will not be legible if approved to crop out the left side in order to increase fit adjust numbering sizes, etc. on map.

READY FOR DESIGN

Sign 7 Side 1 Timeline of Women's History—pw 12/12—c. 285 words

Until 1921, only men could seek degrees from Virginia Tech. Yet women had been present since the college's founding in 1872. Women supported as laundresses and cooks. Professional positions held by women before librarian, and instructor.

[1902] The first woman listed in the school's annual catalog is Frances superintendent of the large new infirmary.

[1903] Mary G. Lacey is appointed the first female librarian, and Margie secretary.

[1914] Ella G. Agnew becomes a home demonstration agent under that Lever Act. 7a-top-Agnew-Davis-Wallace

[1921] Female students enroll, five of them as full-time degree candidates.

[1923] Breaking two cadet traditions, two-time alumna Mary Ella Carr (biology) becomes the first female graduate, and Ruth Terrett Earle '25 engineering student, dons a cadet uniform and climbs the school's water tower.

[1925] Female students produce a handmade yearbook, *The Tin Horn*, and cadets' Bugle. Editions also appeared in 1929, 1930, and 1931. 7a-middle-patricia-ann-miller

[1929] After repeatedly being denied admission to the Corps of Cadets, Hodges '59 becomes the first female graduate of VPI to obtain an ROTC commission. 7a-middle-patricia-ann-miller

[1960] Laura Jane Harper, named dean of the School of Home Economics at Blacksburg, becomes the first female academic dean at Blacksburg. 7a-bottom-hudsonHall

[1966] Six Black women enroll at Blacksburg (Linda Adams Hoyle '66 and 1964 at the VPI branch campus in Clifton Forge). 7a-bottom-hudsonHall

[1973] Women are admitted to the Corps of Cadets. The "L Squadron" the first women's unit in a military cadet corps in the nation. 7a-bottom-hudsonHall

[1994] The Women's Center is established.

[1995] Peggy S. Meszaros is appointed provost and senior vice president.

READY FOR DESIGN

Sign 7 Side 2: Women on Campus

Female students, though enrolling from 1921 on, for many years found themselves excluded from such key aspects of campus life as the Corps of Cadets, the Upper Quad, and the yearbook, *The Bugle*. They formed their own clubs, from biology to basketball, in which they gained leadership experience and created community.

7b-top-middleHall
But a chronic shortage of on-campus housing curbed even their enrollment. "Girls' dormitory" No. 1 and No. 2, former private homes, supplied some housing, and, beginning in 1937, as female enrollment reached a new high, Ella Taylor White served as "director of women's dormitories." 7b-top-billcrestHall

Hillcrest opened in 1940 and for nearly three decades provided a substantial campus home for female undergraduates. Among them were the first two female students from China, sisters Shiran Tung Lam '49 (home economics) and Yvonne Rohran Tung Feig '50 (horticulture). Later, two of the first Black women to enroll, Linda Edmonds '70 (clothing, textiles, and related art) and LaVerne Hairston Higgins, lived at Hillcrest in 1966-1967. 7b-middle-yvonneTungFeig

7b-middle-billcrestParty
From 1944 to 1964, though, many female students who might otherwise have enrolled at the Blacksburg campus were living and studying instead at Radford College, the "Woman's Division" of VPI. After the Radford merger ended, conversion of some men's residence halls to women's housing, together with the opening of Slusher Hall in 1972, enabled a sharp rise in female enrollment.

The years that followed brought the development of female students' intercollegiate sports, for example, and more women on the faculty and in administration. Yet full and safe inclusion of women on campus remains elusive. The Women's Center, established in 1994, became a key source of support. An annual "Take Back the Night" rally and march has for many years constituted one organized effort to curtail gender-based violence.

Buildings on the Blacksburg campus commemorating women honor Ella Graham Agnew, Maude Emma Wallace, Clarice Slusher, Laura Jane Harper, Peggy Lee Hahn, and Janie Elizabeth Paterson Hoge.

Images and captions:

- Hillcrest Hall, 1941 (Virginia Tech Special Collections)
- Mildred Thurrow Tate, first dean of women (Virginia Tech Special Collections)
- Yvonne Rohran Tung Feig '50 (1950 Bugle)
- Linda Edmonds '70 (Virginia Tech Bugle, 1970)
- "Take Back the Night"

LANE HALL



Today's cadets continue a 120-year-old tradition by standing retreat in front of the hall each evening, and its bricks and mortar still bear hundreds of scratched signatures, some dating back more than 100 years.

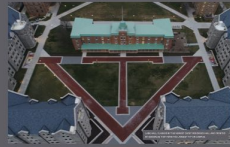
Barracks No. 1 was renamed Lane Hall in the 1950s to honor Gen. James H. Lane, commandant of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and professor of military tactics from the college's opening in 1872 until 1881.



Lane Hall continues to serve as the majestic centerpiece of the upper quad. In 2015, its addition to the National Register of Historic Places underscored the vital role of the Corps of Cadets in the history of Virginia Tech. The brick masonry and orange sidewalk in front of the hall forms the largest "Y" on campus.

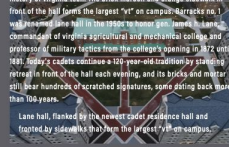
PROTOTYPE 1

LANE HALL



PROTOTYPE 2

LANE HALL



PROTOTYPE 3

ORIGINAL ADA REQUIREMENTS

Lettering has to be a minimum of 40 inches from the ground no matter the viewing distance. Viewing distance is then combined with the minimum height off the ground of your text to determine the character height.

The viewing distance for each of these designs is 0-3 ft.

FROM BASELINE OF CHARACTER	HORIZONTAL VIEWING DISTANCE	MINIMUM CHARACTER HEIGHT
40 inches to less than or equal to 70 inches	less than 72 inches	5/8 inch
	72 inches and greater	5/8 inch, plus 1/8 inch per foot of viewing distance above 72 inches
Greater than 70 inches to less than or equal to 120 inches	less than 180 inches	2 inches
	180 inches and greater	2 inches, plus 1/8 inch per foot of viewing distance above 180 inches
Greater than 120 inches	less than 21 feet	3 inches
	21 feet and greater	3 inches, plus 1/8 inch per foot of viewing distance above 21 feet

Table 703.5.5 Visual Character Height

ORIGINAL ADA REQUIREMENTS

Stroke thickness of the uppercase letter “I” shall be 10 percent minimum and 30 percent maximum of the height of the character.

Character spacing shall be measured between the two closest points of adjacent characters, excluding word spaces. Spacing between individual characters shall be 10 percent minimum and 35 percent maximum of character height.

Spacing between the baselines of separate lines of characters within a message shall be 135 percent minimum and 170 percent maximum of the character height.

LANE HALL



19th-century barracks accommodations

Brig. Gen. James H. Lane



Lane Hall, framed by academic buildings, 1896



Corps formation, Lane Hall, undated photo

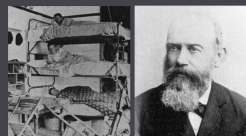
Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, Lane Hall anchors the Upper Quad, which is the original center of Virginia Tech and home to the university's Corps of Cadets. The brick sidewalk in front of the hall forms the largest "VT" on campus. Today's cadets continue a 120-year-old tradition by standing retreat in front of the hall each evening, and its bricks and mortar still bear hundreds of scratched signatures, some dating back more than 100 years.



- 1 LANE HALL
- 2 CORPS OF CADETS
- 3 FRANK STONE
- 4 VIRGINIA TECH
- 5 UPPER QUAD

PROTOTYPE 4

LANE HALL



Top Left: 19th-century barracks accommodations, Top Right: Brig. Gen. James H. Lane

Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, Lane Hall anchors the Upper Quad, which is the original center of Virginia Tech and home to the university's Corps of Cadets. The brick sidewalk in front of the hall forms the largest "VT" on campus. Today's cadets continue a 120-year-old tradition of assembling for morning formation to raise the flag each day, and its bricks and mortar still bear hundreds of scratched signatures, some dating back more than

Bottom Left: Lane Hall, framed by academic buildings, 1896, Bottom Right: Corps formation, Lane Hall, undated photo



PROTOTYPE 5

LANE HALL



Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, Lane Hall anchors the Upper Quad, which is the traditional center of Virginia Tech and home to the university's Corps of Cadets. The brick sidewalk in front of the hall forms the largest "VT" on campus. Today's cadets continue the longstanding tradition of assembling for morning formation to raise the flag each day, and its bricks and mortar still bear hundreds of scratched signatures, some dating back more than 100 years.



PROTOTYPE 6

SMITHSONIAN GUIDELINES - VIEWING DISTANCE

A male adult who uses a wheelchair has an average eye level of between 43 in. and 51 in. above the finished floor. Objects placed above 40 in. will be seen only from below by most seated and short viewers.

When calculating distance, consider also the effects of crowds on actual viewing distance. Type on signs mounted 80 in. above the floor should have upper case letters at least 3 in. high. Minimum type size, at even the shortest distance, is an x-height 3/16 in.

Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design (SGAED)

SMITHSONIAN GUIDELINES - TYPE

Use typefaces that are readily legible. The typefaces that are easiest for people who have low vision, language problems, or cognitive disabilities are sans serif or simple serif.

Type set in all caps is more difficult to read and should be limited to items such as titles and decorative heads.

Avoid use of script and italic type for essential information. These styles are inaccessible to people with low vision. Oblique type is, however, generally legible.

Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design (SGAED)

SMITHSONIAN GUIDELINES - TYPE

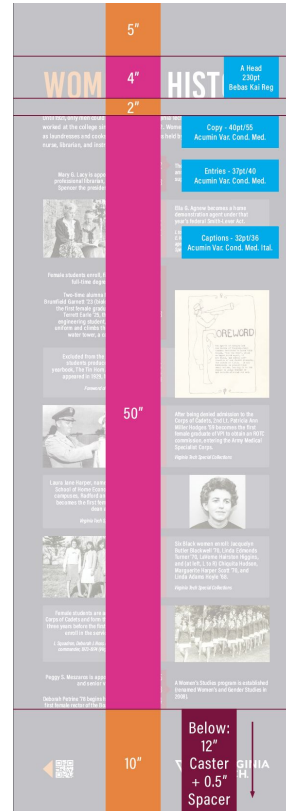
Leading, the space between lines (measured from baseline to baseline) should be at least 20 percent greater than the font size used. Wide column widths and typefaces with a high x-height usually require a higher ratio of type size to leading.

Provide high contrast between text and background. Contrast is an essential element for people with low vision. For outdoor signage, light type reversed out of a dark field may be desirable to offset glare.

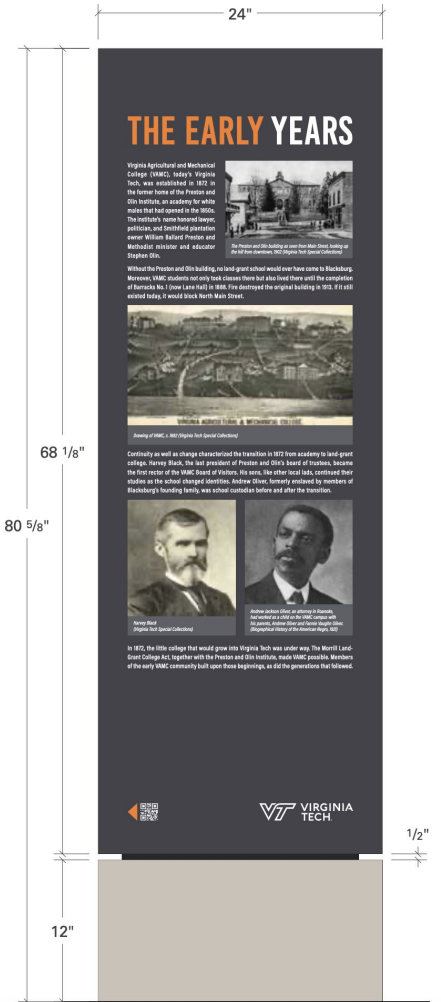
Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design (SGAED)



FINAL PROTOTYPE



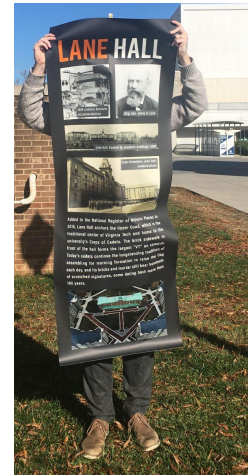
TEMPLATE



Final Printer Proofs



Visibility Check



Installation



Completed



QUESTIONS

bit.ly/VirginiaTechHistoricalMarkers



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