

Monuments and Markers

on the Alabama State Capitol
Building and Grounds

Division of Historic Sites
Alabama Historical Commission
March 2001



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original report by

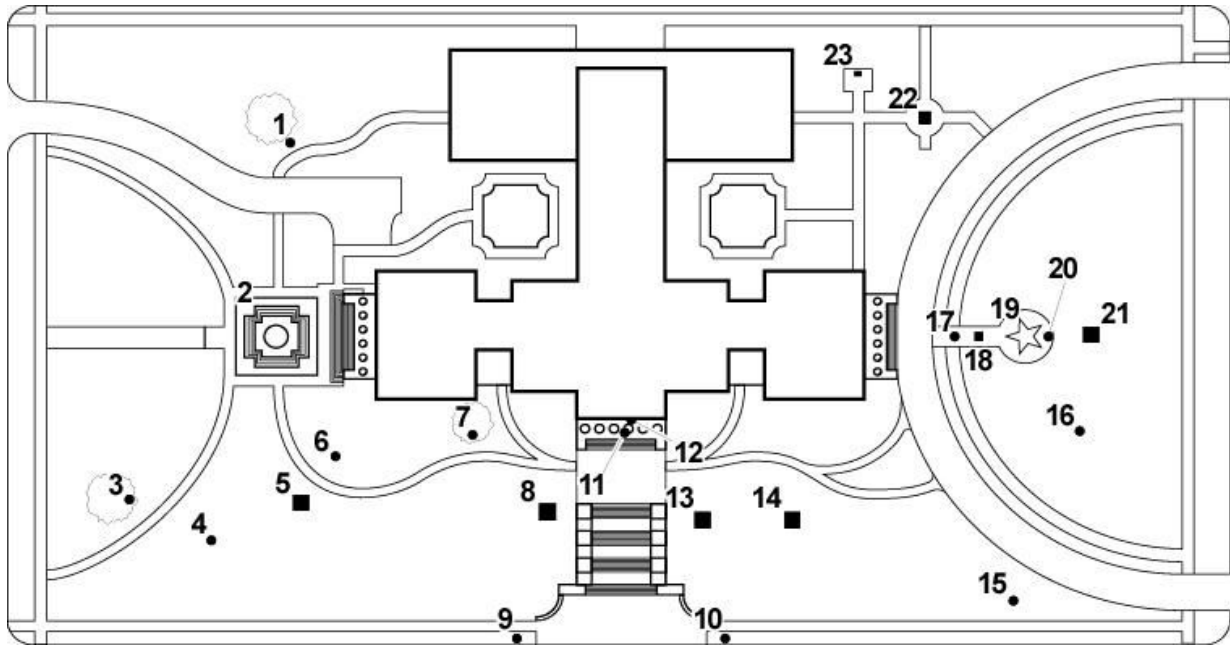
Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama State Capitol · 1997

Rodger Williamson

Updated August, 2015

MONUMENTS and MARKERS

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- 3) BATTLEFIELD OAK
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INTRODUCTION

When the present Capitol Building was completed in 1851, there was not a comprehensive plan to landscape the grounds about the building. Most early notations regarding the landscape referenced the installation of gas lamps, cisterns, and the maintenance of a wooden fence around the building. The first attempt at improving the appearance of the buildings grounds did not occur until 1868 when “native forest evergreens” were planted. Many more trees were added in the ensuing years, including several elms. Fund raising for the first monument on the grounds did not begin until the summer of 1879; however, work would not begin until 1886. In the interim, the grounds around the building were “disfigured by small and not beautiful structures” which included a well house, a cistern house, a coal house, “summer” houses, and privies. Improvements came slowly, with the first major renovation being the replacement of the wooden fence with a brick, stone and wrought iron fence in 1885. In addition to the 23 monuments and markers now on the grounds, there were also at one time a cannon from Fort Barrancas at Pensacola, FL, and a flag pole from a Spanish Ship destroyed in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. While most of the monuments and markers are self explanatory, the purpose of this work is to record their inscriptions, and give some background information when it is available. They are listed in numerical order, beginning with the North Wing of the building, and continuing to the West, or around the front of the building, on to the South Wing.

1) LIBERTY TREE MONUMENT

Inscription:

LIBERTY TREE
IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM BARTRAM
1739 - 1823
PIONEER, NATURALIST AND BOTANIST
PLANTED BY
THE GARDEN CLUB OF ALABAMA
MARCH 24, 1976



2) CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Description:

The Confederate Monument is the largest and oldest monument on the Capitol grounds. It took 12 years to complete and cost \$46,000.00 to build. The cornerstone was laid on Confederate Memorial Day in 1886 by Jefferson Davis, the former President of the Confederacy. It is 35' across, 82' high, and made predominately of limestone from Colbert County, Alabama. The four granite figures around the base represent the four primary branches of the Confederate armed forces, i.e.: Infantry soldiers who marched and carried muskets; Cavalry soldiers who rode horses, and fought with revolvers, carbines, and sabers; Artillery soldiers who manned cannons; and finally the Navy sailors who operated in sailing ships, steamers, ironclads, and submarines. The initials below each inscription belong to the author of that inscription. The bronze base relief is representative of any southern battlefield, and the bronze figure atop the 70' shaft is symbolic of southern womanhood and patriotism. At one time, it was suggested that a representation of Jefferson Davis replace the figure atop the monument; and on more than one occasion, plans were developed to relocate the monument to either the front of the building, or the intersection of Dexter and Decatur.

Inscription Around Base of Shaft:

CONSECRATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN.
1861 – 1865

Inscription Below Cavalryman, West Face:

“THE KNIGHTLIEST OF THE KNIGHTLY RACE
WHO SINCE THE DAYS OF OLD:
HAVE KEPT THE LAMP OF CHIVALRY
ALIGHT IN HEARTS OF GOLD.”

F.O.T.

Inscription Below Infantryman, South Face:

“FAME’S TEMPLE BOASTS NO HIGHER NAME,
NO KING IS GRANDER ON HIS THRONE:
NO GLORY SHINES WITH BRIGHTER GLEAM,
THE NAME OF “PATRIOTS” STANDS ALONE.”

G.T.R. [or C.T.R.]

Inscription Below Artilleryman, East Face:

“WHEN THIS HISTORIC SHAFT SHALL CRUMBLING LIE
IN AGES HENCE, IN WOMANS HEART WILL BE,
A FOLDED FLAG, A THRILLING PAGE UNROLLED,
A DEATHLESS SONG OF SOUTHERN CHIVALRY.”

I.M.P.O.

Inscription Below Sailor, North Face:

“THE SEAMAN OF CONFEDERATE FAME
STARTLED THE WONDERING WORLD:
BRAVER FIGHT WAS NEVER FOUGHT,
AND FAIRER FLAG WAS NEVER FURLED.”

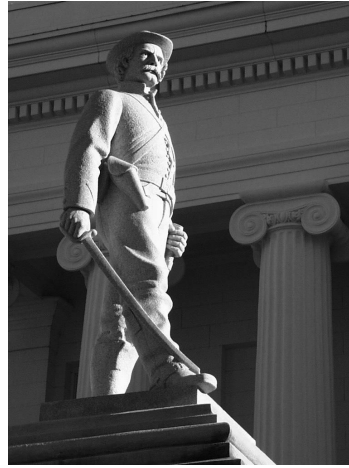
ANON.

Inscription On North East Corner:

THIS CORNERSTONE WAS
LAID BY



JEFFERSON DAVIS
PRESIDENT OF C.S.A.
APRIL 29, 1886.



2A) FLAGS AROUND CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

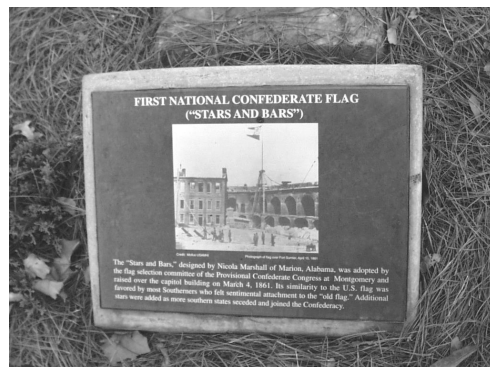
Description:

In 1963, during the centennial celebration of the War Between the States, Governor George Wallace issued an executive order to have the Confederate “Battle flag” flown below the State flag atop the Capitol Dome. This flag continued to fly above the Capitol building for nearly 30 years until the flagpole above the dome was replaced during the recent restoration of the building. During the period of time when the flags were not being flown, several legislators (who considered the flag a symbol of racism) sued then Governor Guy Hunt to disallow the return of the battle flag to the Capitol Dome. The Federal Judge presiding ruled that since the state’s constitution did not mention the battle flag, it was thus a violation of the constitution for it to fly above the State Capitol Building. Governor Hunt initiated an appeal of the decision, stating that while the constitution did not mention the battle flag, it did not prohibit it either, however, before his appeal could be heard, he was removed from office due to an ethics conviction in early 1993. Although he was later pardoned, Governor Hunt was replaced by Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom Jr., who, a day after being sworn into office, issued orders to have both the U.S. and State Flags returned to the Alabama Capitol Building. In compliance with the court ruling, the battle flag was notably absent, however Gov. Folsom offered to give the battle flag “a place of honor.” These four flags of the Confederacy around the base of the Confederate Monument were dedicated on Confederate Memorial Day in 1994. The flags were removed at Governor Robert Bentley’s order on June 24, 2015.

Plaque On NW Corner:

FIRST NATIONAL CONFEDERATE FLAG (“STARS AND BARS”)

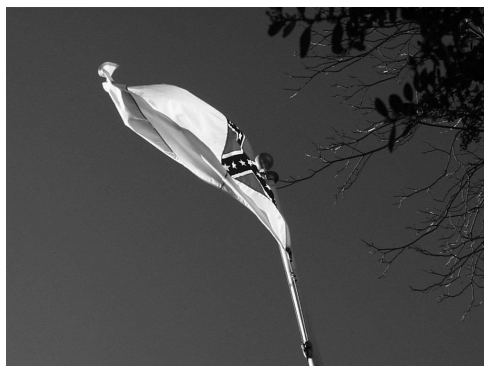
The “Stars and Bars,” designed by Nicola Marshall of Marion, Alabama, was adopted by the flag selection committee of the Provisional Confederate congress at Montgomery and raised over the capitol building on March 4, 1861. Its similarity to the U.S. flag was favored by most Southerners who felt sentimental attachment to the “old flag.” Additional stars were added as more southern states seceded and joined the Confederacy.



Plaque On NE Corner:

SECOND NATIONAL FLAG

The intensity of the war caused the desire for a new national flag that was in no way similar to the U.S. flag. The "Stainless Banner" was adopted by the Confederate Congress on May 1, 1863. The canton was in honor of the cross of St. Andrew, which had been consecrated on the battlefield when variations of its design had been carried as a "battle flag" by many Southern units. The white field stood for the purity of the cause of independence.



Plaque On SE Corner:

THIRD NATIONAL FLAG

Upon an outpouring of complaints that the 2nd National flag was too similar to a flag of truce, a red bar was added by act of the Confederate Congress on March 4, 1865. Very few of these flags ever flew, however, the war ended shortly thereafter.



Plaque On SW Corner:

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

The Confederate Congress never issued regulations specifying which type of flag should be carried by regiments in the field. Early in the war, flags were made at home for presentation to individual companies. At first, national flags replaced these as regimental colors. Eventually, the designs for regimental colors were left up to the commanding generals and various flag manufacturers. Pictured here are a number of battle flags which were carried by Alabamians.

Note: Flags on this pole are periodically rotated to exemplify the wide variety of battle flags which were used by Southern forces during the war.



3) BATTLEFIELD OAK

Description:

After his election in 1890, Governor T.G. Jones, returned to the battlefields of Virginia where he had both fought bravely as an Officer in the Confederate Army, and been four times wounded. With his return to Alabama, he brought with him several small saplings, and had them planted about the Capitol grounds. Most of these trees were cut down to make room for the North Wing in 1911-12. This, and other "Battlefield" trees were marked by the U.D.C. in 1942. (See also #7)

Inscription:

THIS LAUREL OAK TREE
FROM BATTLEFIELDS OF VIRGINIA, 1861-65
PLANTED BY GOV. THOMAS G. JONES, 1893



4) WASHINGTON ELM

Note: This tree no longer exists on the Capitol grounds.

Inscription:

WASHINGTON
TOOK COMMAND OF THE
AMERICAN ARMY UNDER
GRANDPARENT OF THIS ELM
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., JULY 3, 1775

RAISED AND GIVEN BY MARYLAND D.A.R.
AND ALICE PARET DORSEY AS PART OF
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF
1732 - WASHINGTON - 1932
MARKED 1938, BY ALABAMA D.A.R.



5) PATTERSON STATUE

Inscription - Front:

TO THE MEMORY OF
ALBERT L. PATTERSON
1896 1954

SOLDIER, EDUCATOR, ATTORNEY,
STATE SENATOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL-ELECT

AN HONORABLE LIFE DEDICATED TO
HIS FELLOWMAN AND TO THE CAUSE OF
GOOD GOVERNMENT. SHOT DOWN BY
AN
ASSASSIN'S BULLET JUNE 18, 1954
IN PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA

ERECTED BY
MT. EAGLE LODGE #185 F & A M OF ALABAMA
1961

Inscription - Rear:

ALBERT L. PATTERSON
1896 - 1954



6) OKLAHOMA CITY DOGWOOD

Note: This tree no longer exists on the Capitol grounds.

Inscription:

“PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD
IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS”

PSALM 116:15

THIS DOGWOOD WAS PLANTED BY
THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA IN HONOR
OF THOSE KILLED IN THE OKLAHOMA

CITY BOMBING ON APRIL 19, 1995



7) BATTLEFIELD SYCAMORE

This, and other "Battlefield" trees were marked by the U.D.C. in 1942. (See also #4)

Inscription:

THIS SYCAMORE TREE
FROM BATTLEFIELDS OF VIRGINIA, 1861-65
PLANTED BY GOV. THOMAS G. JONES, 1893



8) JEFFERSON DAVIS STATUE

Description:

This monument to Jefferson Davis was originally intended to be a part of the Confederate Monument. The legislature passed a bill for its erection in front of the Capitol in 1907, but did not appropriate funds to give to the U.D.C. to aid in its erection until 1937. Total cost was \$20,000.

Inscription on Bronze Plaque on rear:

JEFFERSON DAVIS
JUNE 3, 1808 - DECEMBER 6, 1889
SOLDIER SCHOLAR STATESMAN

A GRADUATE OF WEST POINT
MILITARY ACADEMY. HE SERVED
THE UNITED STATES AS COLONEL
OF MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEERS,
MEXICAN WAR, MEMBER OF HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, SENATOR,
AND AS SECRETARY OF WAR

INAUGURATED PRESIDENT OF THE
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, CONFEDERATE STATES
OF
AMERICA, FEBRUARY 18, 1861.

Inscriptions On Granite Base:

PRESENTED TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA
BY THE
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
NOVEMBER 19, 1940

SOUTH CAROLINA
MISSISSIPPI FLORIDA
ALABAMA
GEORGIA LOUISIANA
TEXAS VIRGINIA ARKANSAS
NORTH CAROLINA TENNESSEE



9) ALABAMA CAPITOL'S MARKER

Inscription on Front:

ALABAMA'S FIRST CAPITOLS

On March 3, 1817, Congress designated the town of Saint Stephens on the Tombigbee River North of Mobile as Capitol of the newly formed Alabama Territory. There in 1818, the territorial legislature named Huntsville as the temporary seat of government and Cahaba (near present-day Selma) as the first permanent capitol. The constitutional convention and legislature met in Huntsville and on December 14, 1819 Alabama was admitted into the Union. Meanwhile a suitable building was erected at Cahaba. Cahaba was prone to flooding which resulted in another change of locale in 1826 -- this time to Tuscaloosa. An elegant state house erected there served until 1846 when Montgomery became the capitol of the state-

(continued on other side)

Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
Historical Preservation and Promotion Foundation
Alabama Historical Association

1995



Inscription on Rear:

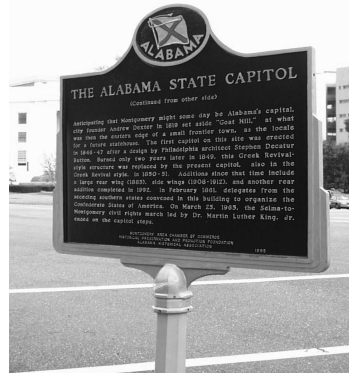
THE ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL

(continued from other side)

Anticipating that Montgomery might some day be Alabama's capitol, city founder Andrew Dexter in 1819 set aside "Goat Hill," at what was then the eastern edge of a small frontier town, as the locale for a future statehouse. The first capitol on this site was erected in 1846-47 after a design by Philadelphia architect Stephen Decatur Button. Burned only two years later in 1849, this Greek Revival - style structure was replaced by the present capitol, also in the Greek Revival style, in 1850-51. Additions since that time include a large rear wing (1885), side wings (1908-1912), and another rear addition completed in 1992. In February 1861, delegates from the seceding southern states convened in this building to organize the

Confederate States of America. On March 25, 1965, the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ended on the capitol steps.

Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
 Historical Preservation and Promotion Foundation
 Alabama Historical Association 1995



10) U.S. FLAG - 1865 MARKER

Inscription:

UNITED STATES FLAG RAISED OVER ALABAMA CAPITOL APR. 12, 1865

MG J.H. Wilson's Cavalry Corps raised U.S. flag over Alabama's and the Confederacy's first capitol on 4/12/65, three days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Wilson had defeated LTG N.B. Forrest's depleted and vastly outnumbered troops at the Confederate Arsenal city of Selma. Before fleeing Montgomery, BG D.W. Adams, CSA ordered 85,000 bales of cotton and 40,000 bushels of corn set afire to deny them to the Federals. But for the winds's change and the heroic Montgomery firefighters, the city would have burned. Wilson left Montgomery for Columbus, GA on Friday, 4/14/65, the day Lincoln was shot by Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington.

Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
 Historical Preservation and Promotion Foundation
 Alabama Historical Association 1995



11) DAVIS' STAR

Description:

This Brass Star marks the approximate spot where Jefferson Davis stood when he was inaugurated in 1861 and was placed on the steps of the building in conjunction with the completion of the Confederate Monument in 1898.

Inscription:

PLACED BY
 SOPHIE BIBB CHAPTER
 DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
 ON THE SPOT WHERE
 JEFFERSON DAVIS
 STOOD WHEN INAUGURATED
 PRESIDENT OF C.S.A.
 FEB. 18, 1861



12) LANDMARK PLAQUE

Inscription:

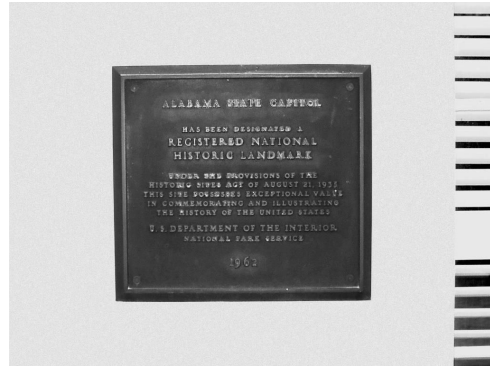
ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A
REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE
HISTORIC SITES ACT OF AUGUST 21, 1935
THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
IN COMMEMORATING AND ILLUSTRATING THE
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1962



13) WYETH STATUE

Inscription:

JOHN ALLEN WYETH M.D.L.L.D.

CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
SURGEON AND AUTHOR

BORN
MARSHALL COUNTY, ALA. 1845

DIED
NEW YORK CITY 1922

FOUNDER OF THE
NEW YORK POLYCLINIC
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL
AND OF GRADUATE MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL TEACHING IN AMERICA



14) SIMS STATUE

Inscription:

JAMES MARION SIMS

1813-1888

FATHER OF MODERN
GYNECOLOGY

MONTGOMERY 1848-1849 OPERATIONS
HE DEvised CURED A THEN CONSIDERED
HOPELESS MALADY - GAINING HIM FAME
AS A BENEFACOR OF WOMEN

FOUNDED - WOMAN'S HOSPITAL - CITY
OF NEW YORK - 1885 DECORATED BY
EMPEROR OF FRANCE - KINGS OF
BELGIUM, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND ITALY

ERECTED BY THE MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA 1939



15) LA FAYETTE MARKER

Inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF
GENERAL
MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF
HIS VALIANT SERVICE AND IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE
HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
VISIT TO OUR CITY

* * *

PLACED BY THE FRANCES MARION CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

- APRIL 3, 1925

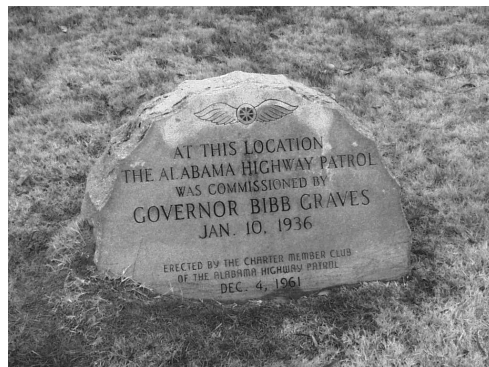


16) HIGHWAY PATROL MARKER

Inscription:

AT THIS LOCATION
THE ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL
WAS COMMISSIONED BY
GOVERNOR BIBB GRAVES
JAN. 10, 1936

ERECTED BY THE CHARTER CLUB
OF THE ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL
DEC. 4, 1961



17) BICENTENNIAL REPLICA OF THE LIBERTY BELL

Description:

In 1950, at the end of the Independence Drive of the US Savings Bonds program, the US Department of the Treasury presented replicas of the Liberty Bell to each of the states and territories. The Liberty Bell was accepted by Governor Folsom and immediately transferred to the south lobby of the Department of Archives and History building. In 1976, during the Bicentennial, the bell was placed in front of the south portico of the Capitol.

Inscription on Bell:

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND
UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF LEV.XX/VX

BY ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVENANCE OF
PENNSYLVANIA
FOR THE STATE HOUSE IN PHILAD.A

PASS AND STOW
PHILAD.A
MDCCLIII



18) U.S. FLAG POLE and AVENUE OF FLAGS

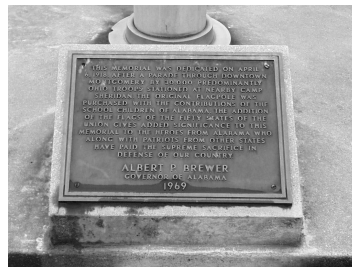
Description:

The U.S. flag Pole was erected in 1918, while the Avenue of Flags was erected in Feb./Mar. and dedicated in May of 1969, during the celebration of Alabama's 150th Birthday.

Inscription on Front:

THIS MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED ON APRIL
6, 1918, AFTER A PARADE THROUGH DOWNTOWN
MONTGOMERY BY 30,000 PREDOMINATELY
OHIO TROOPS STATIONED AT NEARBY CAMP
SHERIDAN. THE ORIGINAL FLAGPOLE WAS
PURCHASED WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
SCHOOL CHILDREN OF ALABAMA. THE ADDITION
OF THE FLAGS OF THE FIFTY STATES OF THE
UNION ADDED SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS
MEMORIAL TO THE HEROES FROM ALABAMA WHO,
ALONG WITH PATRIOTS FROM OTHER STATES
HAVE PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN
DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY.

ALBERT P. BREWER
GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA
1969



Inscription on Rear:

THESE FLAGPOLES ARE MADE
OF ALUMINUM PRODUCED IN
NORTHWEST ALABAMA WHERE
THE FIRST REYNOLDS ALUMI-
NUM WAS MADE, MAY 18, 1941



19) SERVICE STAR FLOWER BED

Inscription:

*In Memory of
THE WORLD WAR HEROES
who made the supreme sacrifice
for their country*

*Gold Star placed by
Montgomery Service Star Legion
April 6, 1921*



20) SENATOR HILL BUST

Inscription:

JOSEPH LISTER HILL
1894 1984

U.S. Congress	U.S. Senate
1923-1938	1938-1969





21) FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE MONUMENT (“DUTY CALLED”)

Inscription on Front:

DUTY CALLED

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS:
“THAT HE GIVES HIS LIFE TO SAVE A FRIEND.”
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DO EVEN MORE,
SOMETIMES THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES TO SAVE
A STRANGER

BRANKO MEDENICA
SCULPTOR

Inscription on Rear:

ERECTED BY THE ALABAMA STATE
LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
AND ALL OF ITS MEMBERS
MAY 9, 1986



22) FLAME OF FREEDOM

Inscription on SW Face:

FLAME OF
FREEDOM

HONORING
ALABAMA
WAR
VETERANS

ERECTED IN
COMMEMORATION
OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA

MARCH 15, 1969

Inscription on SE Face: NO GREATER
LOVE HAS MAN
PROCLAIMED -
THAT PATRIOTS
WILL DIE FOR
FREEDOM'S
CAUSE

Inscription on NE Face: FOR GOD
AND COUNTRY
WE ASSOCIATE
OURSELVES
TOGETHER

Inscription on NW Face: PATRIOT, HOLD
HIGH YOUR
TORCH, LEST
LIBERTY IN
TYRANTS HANDS
SHOULD FALL



23) SOUTHEAST ASIA MARKER

Note: This tree no longer exists on the Capitol grounds.

Inscription:

A LIVING TRIBUTE TO THOSE
WHO SERVED WITH HONOR
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
DEDICATED DEC. 7, 1973

