



OFFICE of
ARMY CEMETERIES



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Arlington National Cemetery Confederate Memorial Removal

Entitled Parties Meeting
March 1, 2024

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Confederate-Memorial-Removal>



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Overview



- Project Description: To remove the Confederate Memorial bronze elements in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC).
- The Naming Commission, established by Congress, recommended removal of the bronze elements of the monument, leaving the granite pedestal in place. This became law in 2022.
- There are no remains under the memorial. The remains of those buried near or in the section were protected throughout the process.
- ANC mandated to comply with the law by Jan.1, 2024.
- Removal occurred from December 17 - 22, 2023.
- Project website:
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Confederate-Memorial-Removal>



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Day 1

Sunday, December 17:

- Contractor arrived on-site
- Equipment mobilized: crane, aerial manlift, telehandler forklift, ground protection mats, crating materials
- Construction fencing installed around Section 16
- Hi-vis barrier installed around the government markers
- ANC Interment Operations removed four (4) grave markers adjacent to the base and installed temporary markers





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Day 2

Monday, December 18:

- Contractor carpenters constructed crates throughout the first day
- Three (3) bolts removed from the base of the top sculptural element
- High wind gusts stopped disassembly work





Tuesday, December 19:

- Carpenters continued crate construction
- Portable mast light towers installed to illuminate Section 16
- Conservator and architectural historian documented the existing condition of the bronze sculpture





Wednesday, December 20:

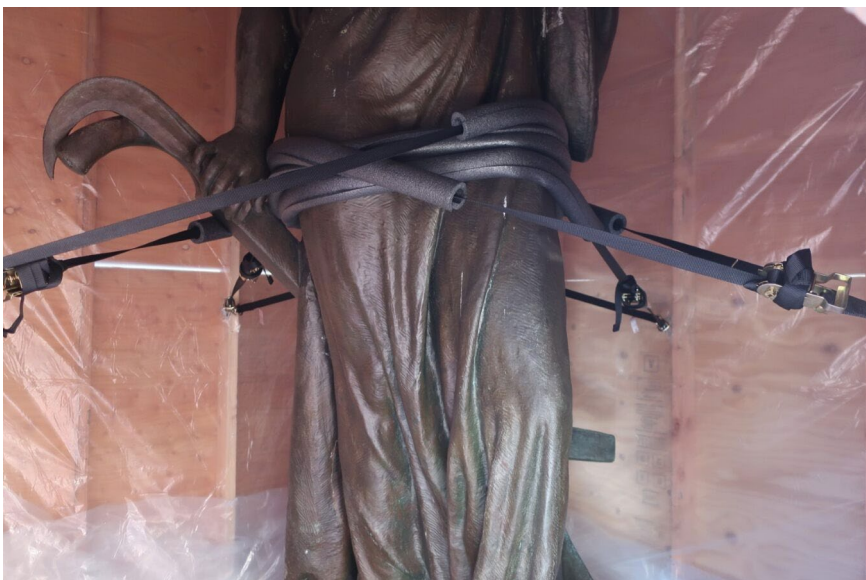
- Riggers in the aerial manlift removed bolts and rigged the bronze elements for lifting
- 300-ton crane parked on the roadway boomed out to lift the bronze elements from the center of Section 16 to their respective crates, guided with taglines by riggers on the ground
- Statue of the South, bronze element ANC-01, removed and crated





Wednesday, December 20:

- Architectural historian marked each bronze element interior with a number, attached an ID tag, documented the condition, and completed the inventory form
- All bolts collected and documented
- Each bronze element individually secured in the crates with nylon rigging straps, metal bolts, and polyethylene foam





Wednesday, December 20:

- Architectural historian documented sculpture interior existing conditions, including internal structure and connections
- Pedestal of cinerary urns, bronze element ANC-02, removed and crated
- Bronze element ANC-04 (consisting of the wreath plinth, biblical circle inscription, and frieze of shields) removed and crated





Wednesday, December 20:

- Figural frieze, bronze element ANC-05, removed and crated
- Three (3) steel I-beams removed, documented, and crated
- The bronze sculpture had become a self-supporting, load-bearing structure; the steel I-beams were so deteriorated they no longer carried and distributed the bronze load.





Thursday, December 21:

- Documentation and crate building continue
- Eight (8) bronze pieces resting directly on the granite base remain





Thursday, December 21:

- Eight (8) bronze base pieces (ANC 06-ANC 13) removed, documented, and crated





Thursday, December 21:

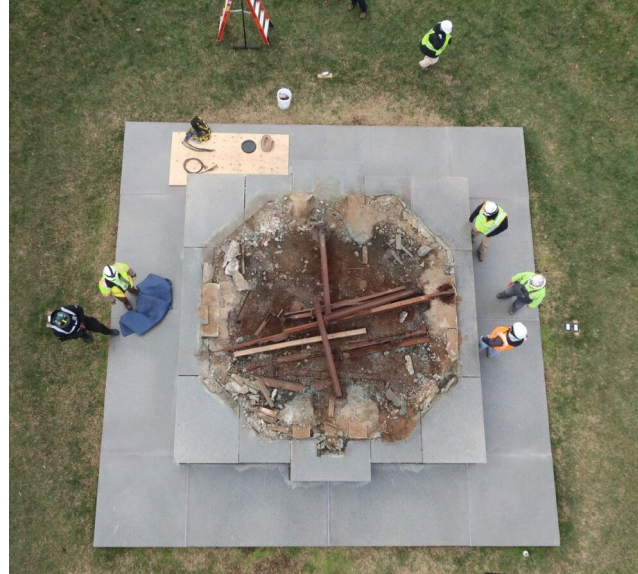
- Eight (8) bronze base pieces (ANC 06-ANC 13) removed, documented, and crated





Thursday, December 21:

- Steel I-beams numbered and labeled, documented, removed, and crated
- The east and west torches (ANC-03) removed, documented, and crated





Thursday, December 21:

- All crates loaded onto flatbed trailers, secured and staged for delivery the next morning





Friday, December 22:

- Confederate Memorial sculptural elements delivered to a federally owned storage facility
- Crates inspected by USACE and transfer documents signed
- All contractor equipment removed from ANC
- ANC staff inspected, cleaned, and secured the granite base
- ANC Interment Operations re-installed the four (4) grave markers adjacent to the granite base





Granite Base Protection Project:

- In compliance with the Programmatic Agreement (PA) between ANC, the Virginia SHPO, and the ACHP, ANC evaluated the condition of the granite base and provided recommendations for short and long-term preservation of the granite.
- ANC staff found the following conditions, post bronze removal:
 - Granite block base infilled in the center with a rough, uneven concrete fill. Steel I-beams embedded in the concrete surface were cut-off near their bases, leaving three sharp, corroded metal protrusions.
- ANC staff implemented short-term preservation treatments:
 - Documentation of the as-found conditions.
 - Sifted through the debris for potential historic properties or unanticipated effects.
 - Cleared the debris, cleaned the surface, and documented the conditions.
 - Due to safety hazards, the area immediately around the base was temporarily fenced and screened.
 - The protruding I-beams were covered with buckets and the entire surface covered with heavy duty polyethylene tarps.





Granite Base Protection Project:

- For long-term preservation of the base, in the next five months, ANC will:
 - Create a weather-resistant, smooth surface at the top of the base. This will shed water, prevent water intrusion into the structure, and provide a stable walking surface, in the event visitors or staff attempt to climb the base.
 - Clean the base, document the condition, cut down the concrete below the granite surfaces, fill any voids, pour a new smooth layer of concrete (slightly domed to shed water), with a sealant joint at the perimeter as a barrier between the concrete and granite surfaces.
 - After the concrete is cured, remove fencing and restore the site.
 - Document the final conditions.





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Thank You for Your Time

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