Reckoning with History
Confederate Monuments in American Cities
John C. Calhoun monument and steeple of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina
June 23, 2020

Photo by Andrew J. Whitaker
Prayers outside Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, June 2015

Photos by Stephen B. Morton (L) and Jim Watson (R)
Renderings of planned memorial to “Charleston Nine” at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Renderings by DBOX for Handel Architects
Confederate symbols in each state

Symbol counts include: bodies of water, bridges, buildings, city/county/municipality names, schools and colleges, commemorative license plates, flags, road names, holidays, plaques and markers, military bases, monuments and statues, parks, scholarships, seals, official songs

Data Source: Southern Poverty Law Center
Confederate symbol removals per year (as of January 2021)

Following the murder of Heather Heyer (August 2017)

Following the murder of George Floyd (May 2020)

Data Source: Southern Poverty Law Center
Black Lives Matter protesters’ signs on the base of the Calhoun monument in Charleston, June 17, 2020

Photo by Sean Rayford
Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg announces plan to remove Calhoun monument, June 17, 2020

Photo by Andrew Whitaker
Mayor Tecklenburg’s Remarks on Resolution to Remove Calhoun Monument
June 17, 2020

“We are taking this action only after careful consideration of the facts of Mr. Calhoun’s life, the explicit duty of care that our city assumed when it formally accepted ownership of the statue in July of 1898, and the state law known as the Heritage Act, which forbids the removal of war-related markers in South Carolina…

We are confident that, because the statue belongs to the city and rests on ground owned by a private entity, our council has full authority to order its relocation to a setting where it can be placed in its full historic context. We are also confident that it is simply the right thing to do.”
Protesters and counter-protesters separated by a fence in Marion Square. June 22, 2020

Photo by Hunter Musi
Protesters and counter-protesters rally in Marion Square. June 22, 2020

Photos by Hunter Musi
Police confront and arrest protesters and counter-protesters in Marion Square. June 22, 2020

Photos by Hunter Musi
City Council votes unanimously to remove Calhoun monument. June 23, 2020
Barricades at Marion Square, June 23, 2020

Photo by Sean Rayford
Crews work to remove Calhoun monument over seventeen hours. June 23-24, 2020

Photos by Sean Rayford (L) and Meg Kinnard (R)
Calhoun statue removed from pedestal, June 24, 2020

Photo by Sean Rayford
Images


