

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Utilities Infrastructure Project | Memorial to the
Enslaved People of George Mason

CONTENT:

- I TEAM
- II FIGURE PANELS
- III STATUE BASE
- IV FOUNTAIN

GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY

PERKINS+WILL
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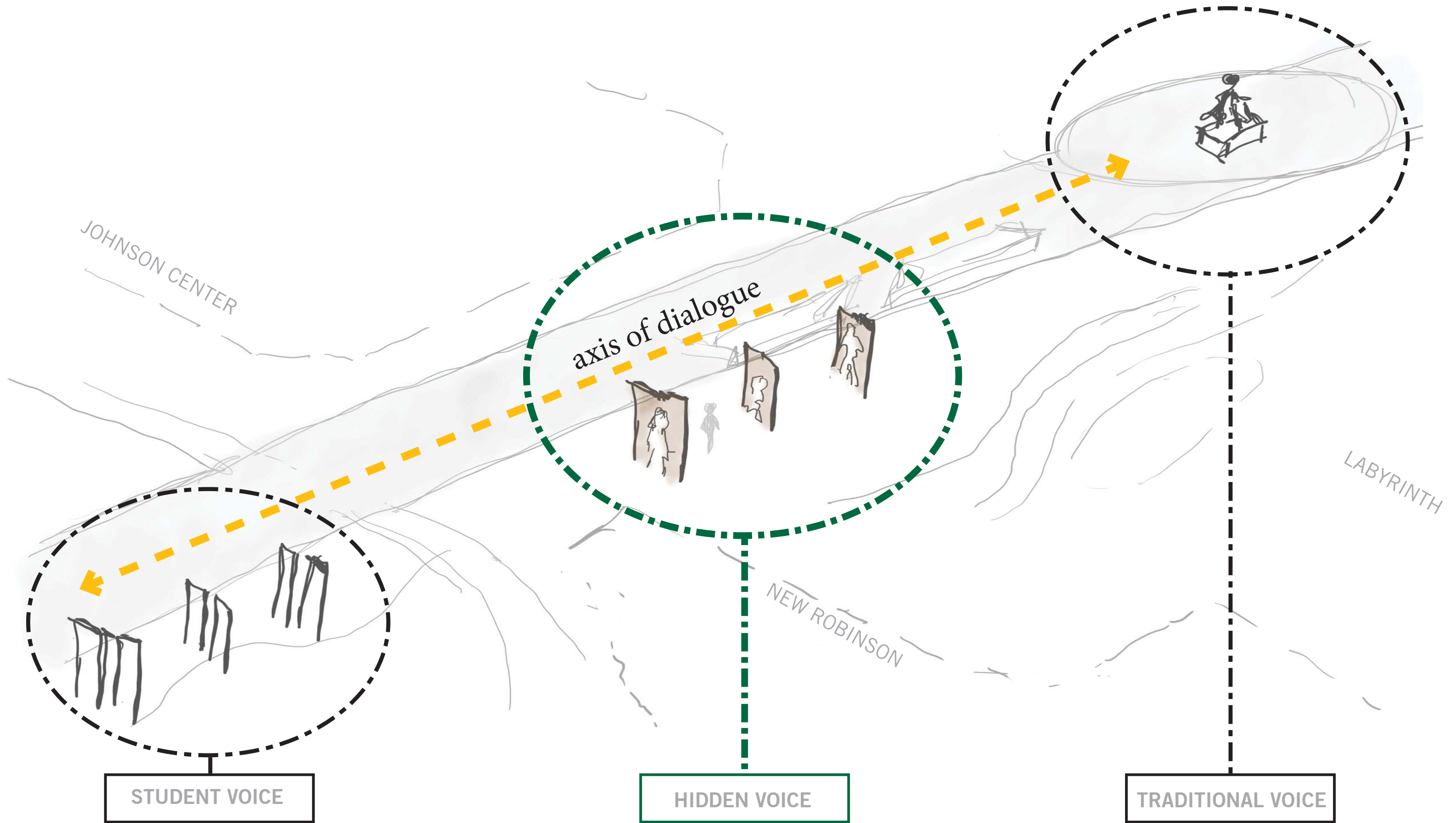
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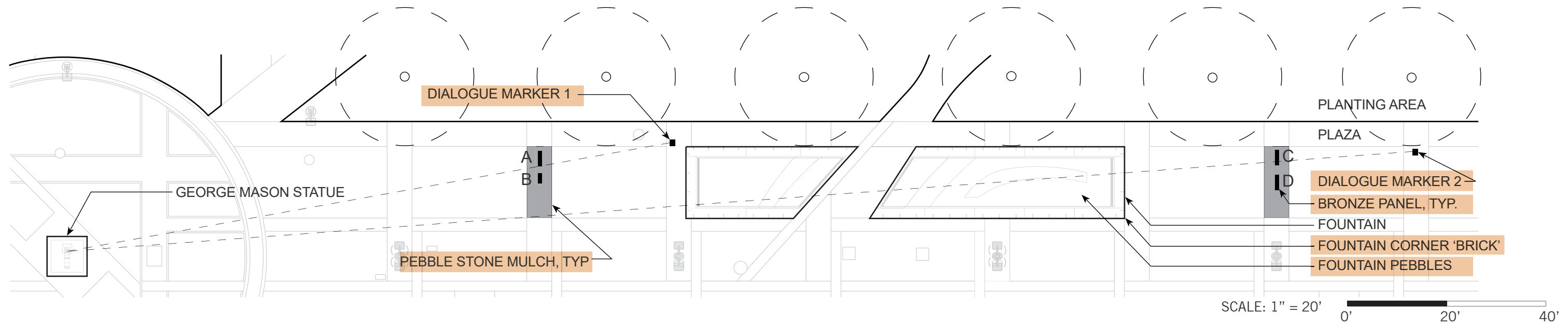
FIGURE PANELS

GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | MEMORIAL LOCATION



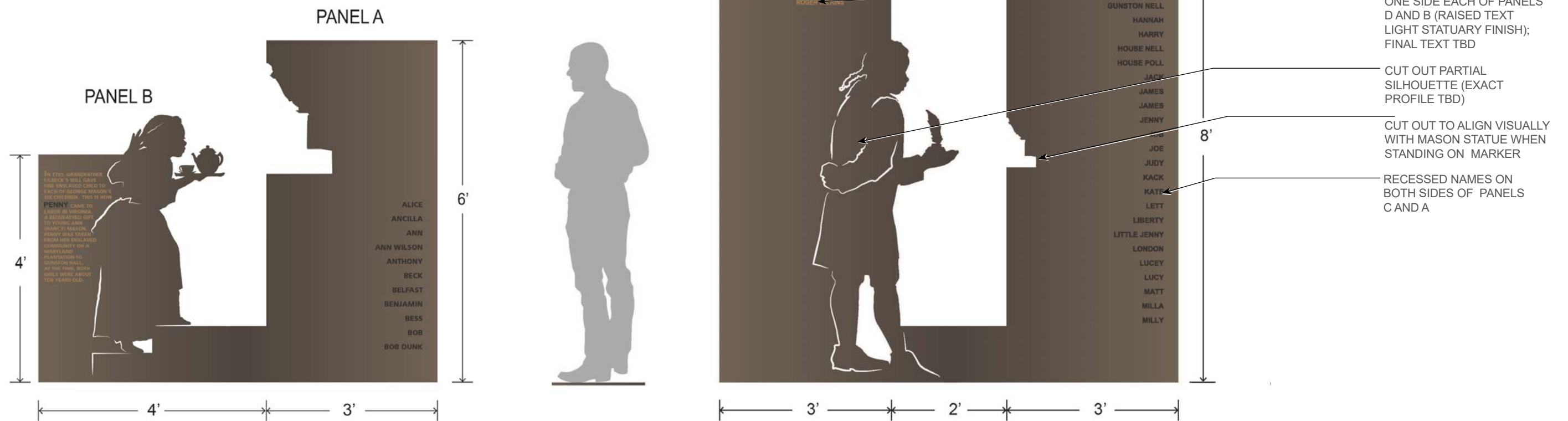
GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | PANEL ORIENTATION

= COMPONENT TO BE PRICED WITH MEMORIAL



BRONZE FIGURE PANEL CONCEPTS

- Figures the on left represent two enslaved individuals about whom we know some details of their lives and roles at Gunston Hall.
- Each panel relates back to the Mason statue and prompts viewers to consider power balances. The panels also relate back to the statute through materiality.
- The panels opposite the figures list the names of all the know individuals enslaved at Gunston Hall.



GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | PENNY PANEL - PERSPECTIVES

LOOKING EAST TOWARDS FOUNTAIN



PANEL A

PANEL B

STANDING ON MARKER LOOKING WEST TOWARDS MASON



PANEL B

PANEL A

PENNY PANEL RELATIONSHIP

- The position of Penny represents a relationship of subservience to Mason; her serving tray is aligned with the base of George's statue in perspective. Enslaved children were often assigned to household roles.

TEXT

In 1795, Grandfather Eilbeck's Last Will and Testament gave one enslaved child to each of George Mason's six children. This is how Penny came to labor in Virginia. A bequeathed gift to young Ann (Nancy) Mason, Penny was taken from her enslaved community on a Maryland plantation to Gunston Hall. At the time, both girls were about ten years old.

GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | JAMES PANEL - PERSPECTIVES

LOOKING EAST TOWARDS STUDENT VOICE WALLS



PANEL C

PANEL D

TEXT

James was George Mason's personal attendant who worked long hours in the distinctive "livery," or service, uniform. James would have stood by the proprietor of Gunston Hall, ready to fulfill any order or duty. James prepared his master's wigs, waited table for the Mason family, opened the front door for gentry, and traveled with his owner.

On the plantation, many enslaved people labored outside the house. They cultivated the soil, producing two primary cash crops, tobacco and then wheat.

STANDING ON MARKER LOOKING WEST TOWARDS MASON



PANEL D

PANEL C

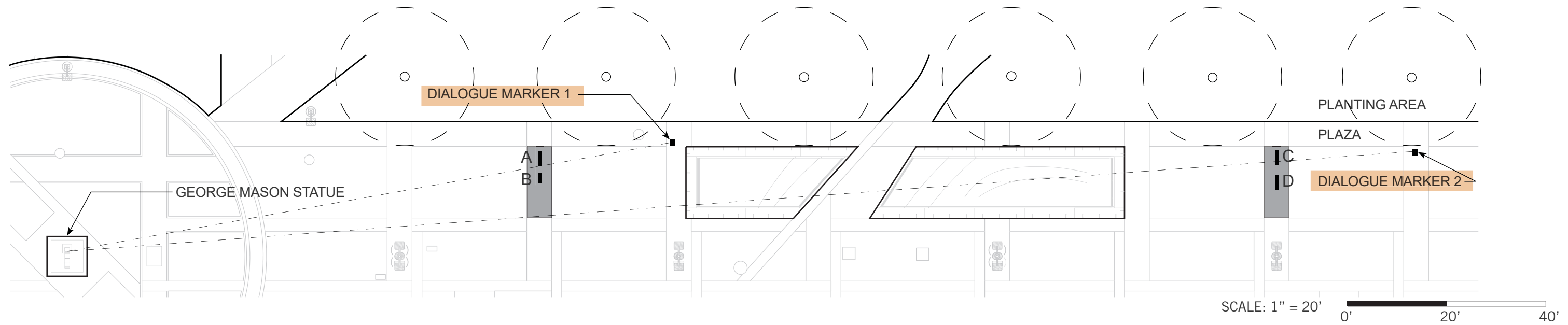
TEXT

They did not just endure: they lived and created and passed down strength and power and hope and love. Roger Wilkins

JAMES PANEL RELATIONSHIP

- The position of James represents a relationship of challenge to Mason; he looks down towards the statue cut out as he presents a quill (an important GMU's branding element). This change in relationship nods to how society has evolved and reminds students of the power of their own words.

GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | DIALOGUE MARKERS



DIALOGUE MARKER 1 (PAST)

- Indicates where a person should stand to see alignment between memorial panel and Mason's statue.
- Text provides prompt for considering power balances in Mason's time.
- Bare footprint used to emphasize standing in the place of those from the past.



TEXT

Consider how slavery and freedom coexisted in America.

DIALOGUE MARKER 2 (TODAY)

- Indicates where a person should stand to see alignment between memorial panel and Mason's statue.
- Text provides prompt for considering power balances have changed since Mason's time.
- Outline footprint used to suggest current reflection on time change/progress.



TEXT

Consider how rights have changed since Mason's time.

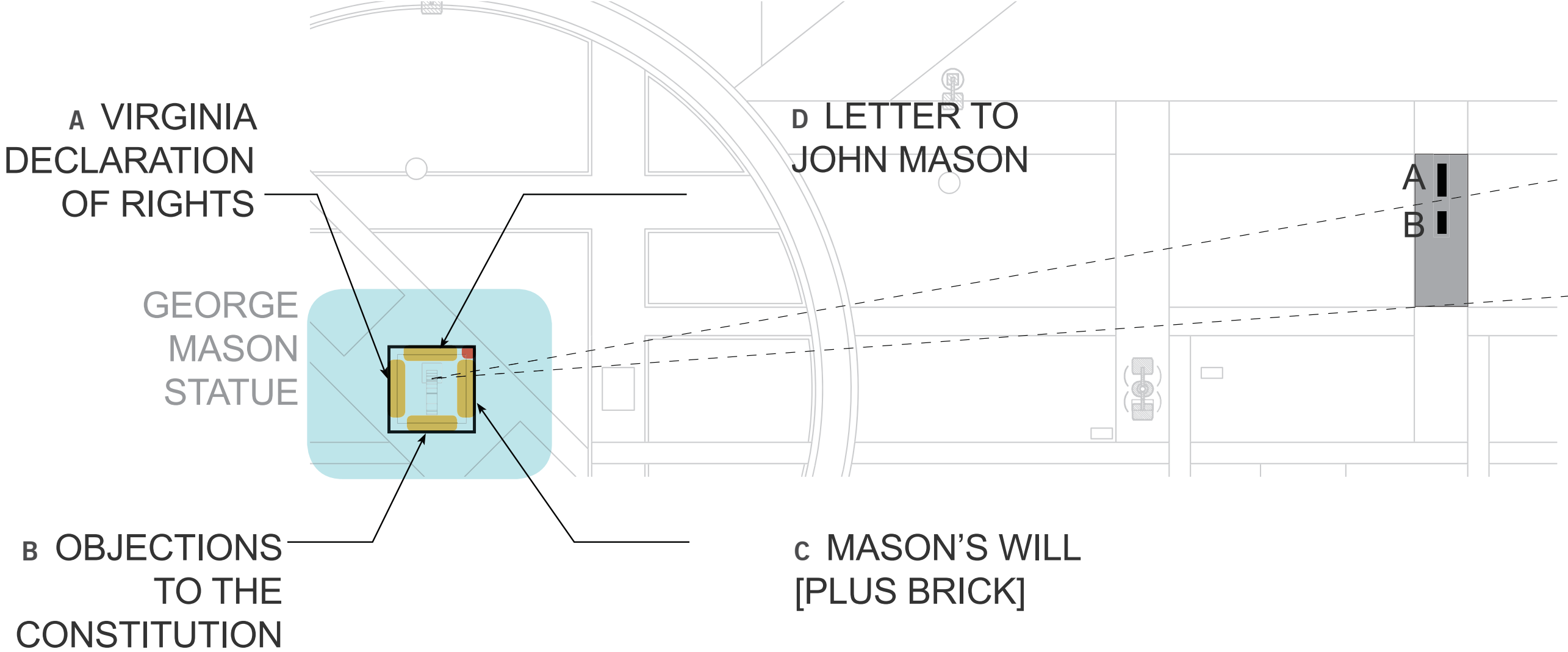


INCORPORATION INTO STATUE BASE

STATUE BASE | THE GEORGE MASON LEGACY



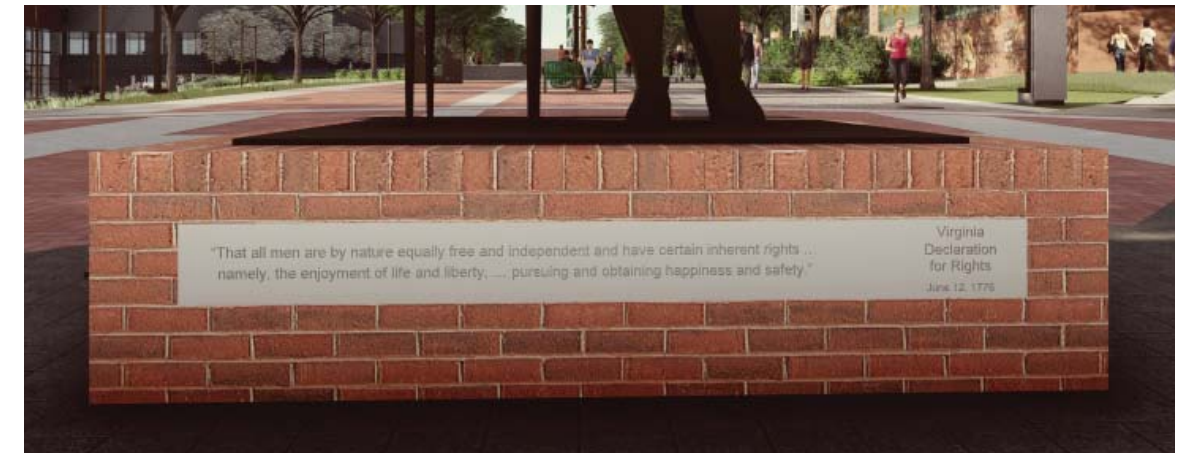
GMU ENSLAVED PEOPLE MEMORIAL | NARRATIVE ORGANIZATION



STATUE BASE MASON LEGACY SELECTED QUOTES

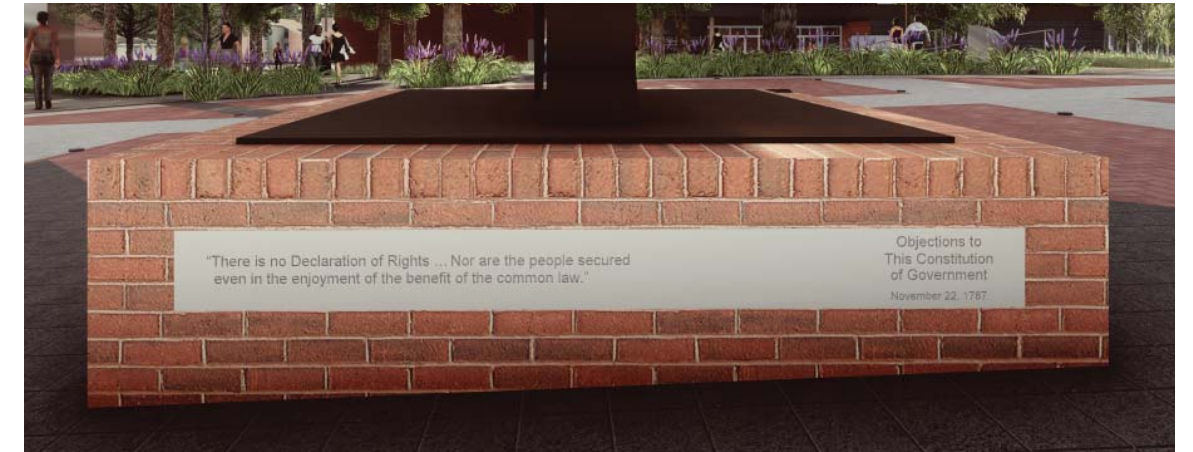
Virginia Declaration of Rights (June 12, 1776)

“That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights...namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty,... pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”



Objections to This Constitution of Government (November 22, 1787)

“There is no Declaration of Rights...Nor are the people secured even in the enjoyment of the benefit of the common law.”



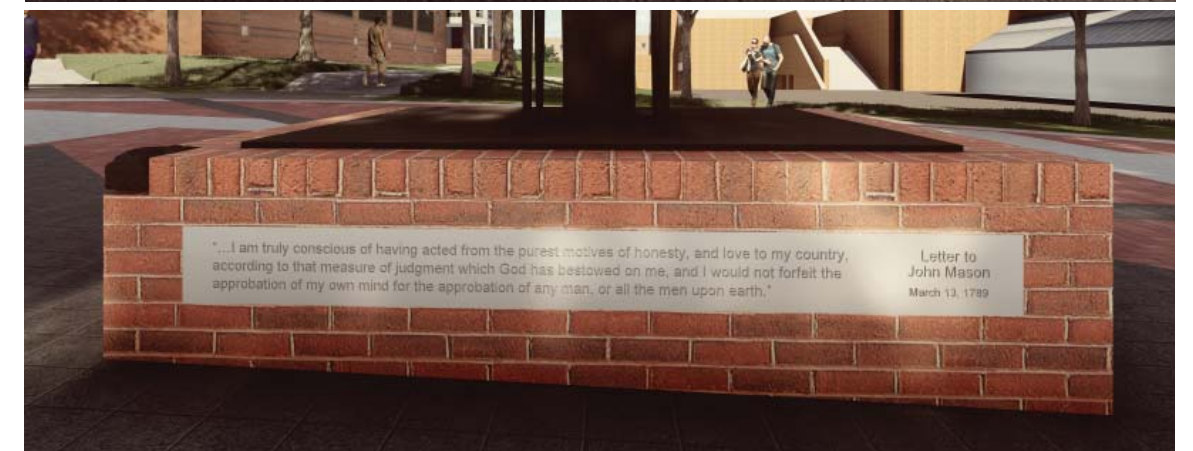
Last Will and Testament (March 20, 1773)

“I give and bequeath unto each of my four Daughters, Ann Mason, Sarah Mason, Mary Mason, and Elizabeth Mason, and to each of their heirs for ever, ... the following Slaves with their Increase respectively from the date of this my Will.... I confirm ...a Negro Girl named Penny to my Daughter Ann.”

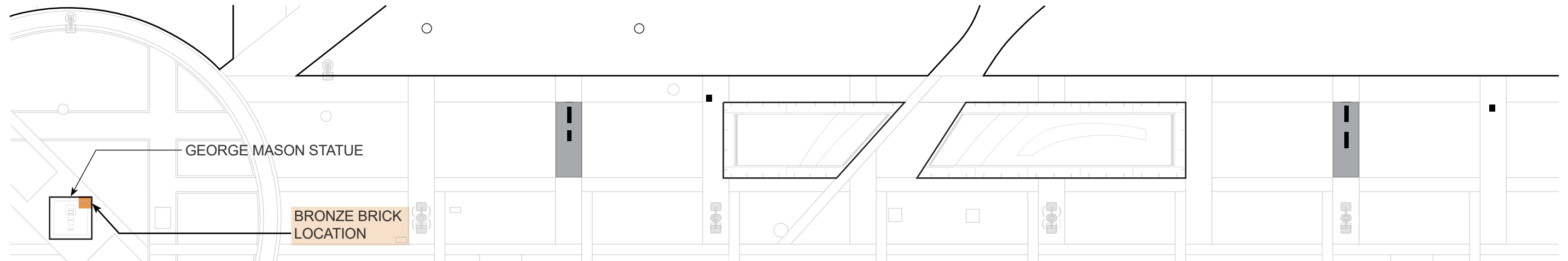


George Mason Letter to John Mason (March 13, 1789)

“...I am truly conscious of having acted from the purest motives of honesty, and love to my country, according to that measure of judgment which God has bestowed on me, and I would not forfeit the approbation of my own mind for the approbation of any man, or all the men upon earth.”



STATUE BASE I GUNSTON HALL BRICK REPLICA CASTING LOCATION



BRICK CONCEPT:

Single bronze brick (created from 3D scan of original brick) is placed at the corner of the base of the Mason statue.

- The brick with enslaved person's thumb print is a facsimile of an uncovered artifact from Gunston Hall plantation. The actual brick (ca. 1700s) was found near an old building site.
- The bronze brick sits within the brick base of the statue, so would sit nestled in amount a brick context. However the bronze material sets this brick apart from the other clay bricks as an act of disruption.
- Bronze brick serves as the literal foundation for Mason himself, calling to mind the fact that Mason could not have had his standing in society without the institution of slavery to stand upon.
- Physical touching of the fingerprint indentations in the bronze brick will result in a patina over time, similar to that of Mason's foot.



INCORPORATION INTO FOUNTAIN

WILKINS PLAZA | FOUNTAIN PERSPECTIVE (CURRENT DESIGN)



QUOTATION

We have no hope of solving our problems without harnessing the diversity, the energy, and the creativity of all our people.
Roger Wilkins

STONE
PEBBLES

PRECAST
CONCRETE

FOUNTAIN | STONE PEBBLE MODIFICATION

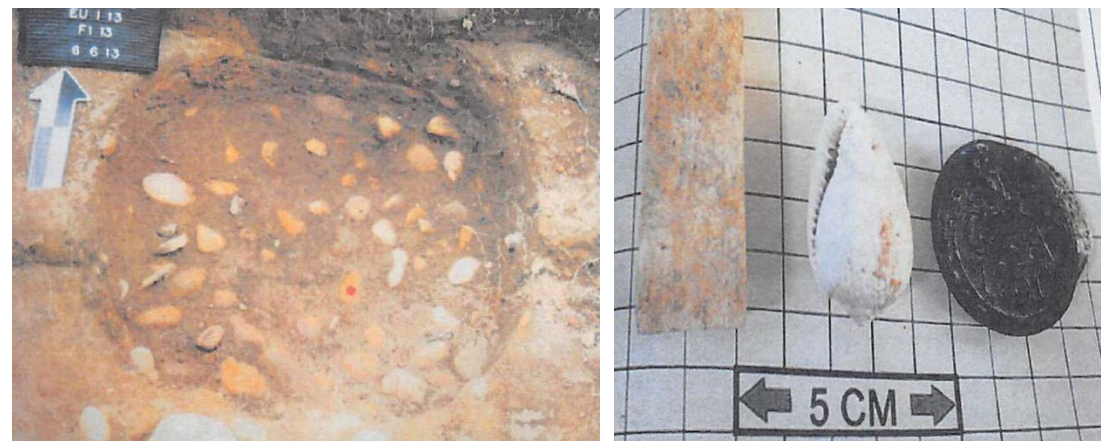


Reorient pebbles (currently in the GMP) to be set vertically, orienting into spiraling patterns.

- Final pattern to be determined during the mock-up process, but shall relate to the idea of wake, as it relates to transatlantic slave trade, mourning, and being awake/ present.

RESEARCH

- Pattern relates back to GMU's research into rock and shell deposits found beneath slave cabins.



REFERENCE IMAGERY

