

# Chatham For All

A presentation to the Commissioners from residents of Chatham County

April 15, 2019

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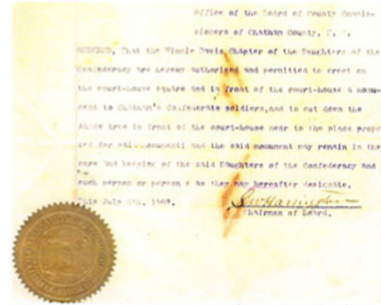
## I. Introduction

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- Overview of Confederate monuments in general and this monument in particular
- Impacts of monuments on people and communities
- Specific legal parameters for the Chatham statue
- NC General Statutes, section 100-2.1(c)(2)

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## Agreement

- Gave permission for the UDC to “erect on the court-house square and in front of the court-house a monument to Chatham’s Confederate soldiers, and to cut down the shade tree in front of the court-house near to the place proposed for said monument; and the said monument may remain in the care and keeping of the said Daughters of the Confederacy and such person or persons as they may hereafter designate.”
- **The monument is neither state nor county property (and thus not subject to state jurisdiction); it is owned by the Winnie Davis chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.**



**Description:** Authorization from the Chatham County Commissioners to the Winnie Davis Chapter UDC, to erect a Confederate monument in front of the courthouse. July 8, 1907.  
**Source:** Winnie Davis Chapter UDC Records, ORG 121.3, NCDAAH

Office of the Board of County Commissioners of Chatham County, N.C.  
 ORDERED, That the Winnie Davis Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy are hereby authorized and permitted to erect on the court-house square and in front of the court-house a monument to Chatham's Confederate soldiers, and to cut down the shade tree in front of the court-house near to the place proposed for said monument; and the said monument may remain in the care and keeping of the said Daughters of the Confederacy and such person or persons as they may hereafter designate.  
 This July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1907.

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## Agreement

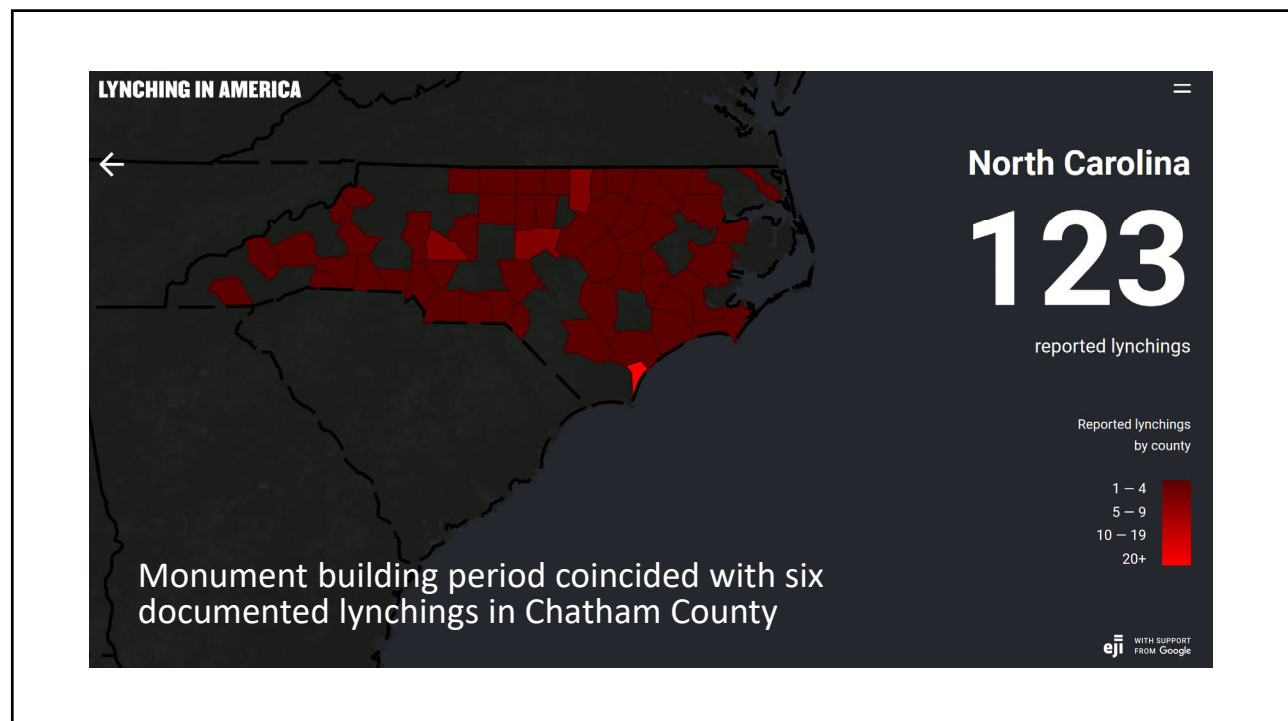
- The County Commissioners have the authority to rescind the 1907 license agreement between the County and the owner of the monument, which would also require it to be removed from public property. The property owner's First Amendment rights are fully protected as they are free to place it on private unofficial property.
- The continued presence of private property on public land forces the county government and every person in the County to endorse the values the monument embodies and promotes. This is in violation of the First Amendment free speech rights of every member of the community.

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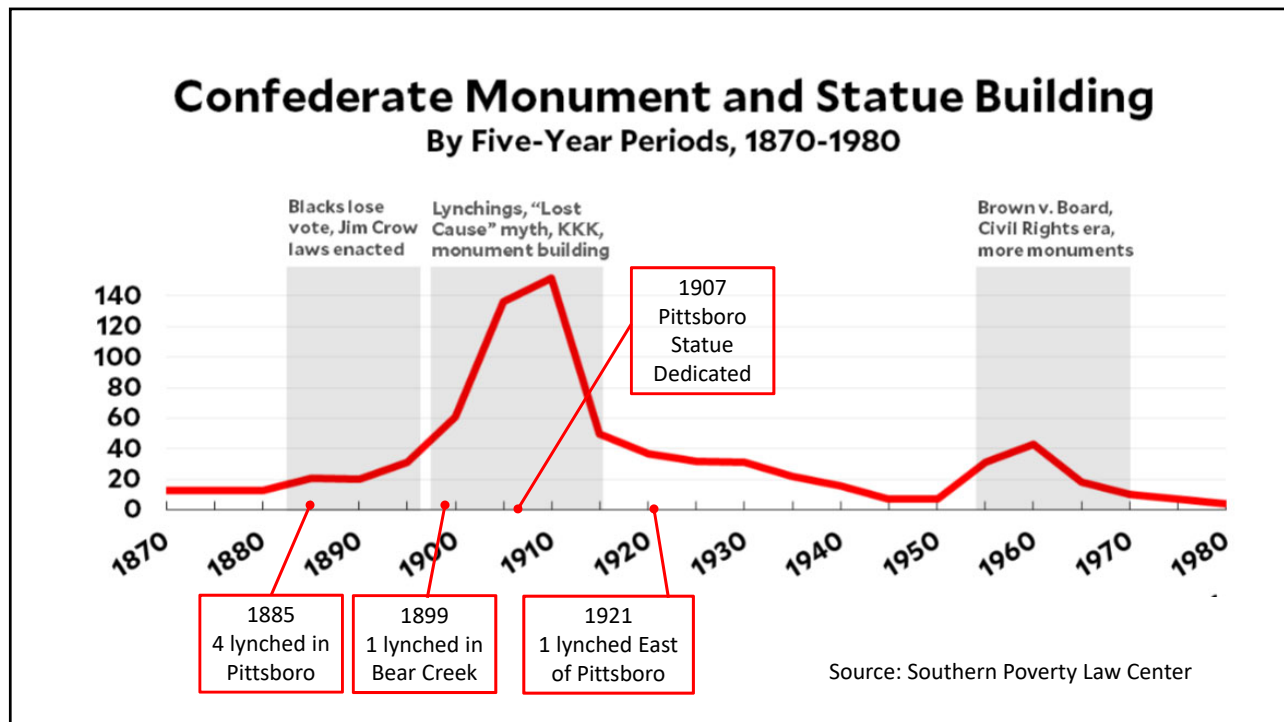
## II. Historical Context

- Historical context in which Chatham's statue was erected
- United Daughters of Confederacy Campaign
- Lost Cause narrative
- 20<sup>th</sup> century efforts to disenfranchise non-white voters
- Acknowledging a more complete and honest history

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## Statue Dedication Speeches

"We have seen the white man come in contact with the brown man of the tropics and the brown man went down. We have seen him knock at the gates of the yellow man in the East, and they opened at his will. We have seen him face the black man in his native African home, and the black man gave him the path. We have seen him press the red man and the red man is disappearing from the face of the Earth. You see what the whole country is beginning to recognize, that it is not the power of all the armies ever drilled or of all the constitutions ever written to make the white man and black races equal."

NC Governor W.W. Kitchin, 1909 dedication in Granville County, NC

"One hundred yards from where we stand [on Franklin Street], less than ninety days perhaps after my return from Appomattox, I horse-whipped a negro wench until her skirts hung in shreds, because upon the streets of this quiet village she had publicly insulted an maligned a Southern lady, and then rushed for protection to these University buildings where was stationed a garrison of 100 Federal soldiers. I performed the pleasing duty in the immediate presence of the entire garrison, and for thirty nights afterward slept with a double-barrel shotgun under my head."

Julian Carr, 1913 dedication of "Silent Sam" in Chapel Hill, NC

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### III. Community Perspective

- Why we are here
  - On behalf of a large group of Chatham residents, we request that you return Confederate statue to its owner, the United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Who is bringing this request today
  - Residents of Chatham County: Democrats, Republicans and Independents, young and old, white, black, Latinx, new and old residents, all over the County, veterans and non-veterans, descendants of the Confederacy
- Our values
  - Human rights, free speech, equality, nonviolence, civil discourse, equal protection under the law, justice, fairness, safety, equality, diversity, integrity, accountability, truth
  - Values that commissioners committed to uphold when elected
  - Statue is in direct conflict with these values
- What it represents personally and to our community
  - Impact of the statue's symbolism

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### What These Statues Mean Now

“These statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments purposefully celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy, ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement and the terror that it actually stood for.”

Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans

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## IV. Chatham Monument and Our Request

- Chatham County in the Civil War
- Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Nature of Agreement
- The Case for Removal
- Our Request



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## The Statue in Chatham: Dedication



Chatham Record, 1907

“Courage and fidelity to duty were inborn in this Southern race.”

“Their memory is a rich legacy for your children’s children and the whole race wears the honor you have conferred upon it.”

“In the long centuries that are to come, legend and song in this fair Southland will keep right the story of the confederate soldier.”

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Walter Clark, August 23, 1907 Pittsboro dedication speech

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## Our Request

Uphold the American values of liberty and justice for all:

Rescind the agreement with United Daughters of the Confederacy and ask them to remove their statue from our civic space.

