



Twin Memorials

at Emory University

Report on Community Engagement
and Memorial Design Workshops

December 15, 2022

Baskervill

Continuing to examine the Emory story

Acknowledgments

Office of the President

Twin Memorials Working Group Co-Chairs

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- **Carol Henderson**
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- **Molly McGehee 07PhD**
Associate Professor of English and American Studies, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and Director of the Center for Teaching and Scholarship, Oxford College

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- **Nakita Soukoury**, Campus Services
- **Rev. Avis Williams 78Ox 98C 08T 18T**, Alumna
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Executive Summary

Charged in June of 2021 by President Fenves, the Twin Memorials Working Group was asked to implement a plan for memorials that will “articulate and interconnect the shared history of the Emory and Oxford campuses.” In the fall of 2021, then co-chairs Douglas Hicks, Ph.D. and Gregory Ellison II, Ph.D. undertook a learning journey, visiting a number of campuses committed to similar projects.

As part of that process, the working group engaged Baskervill and partner Brocade Studio to conduct a multiphase public-engagement process aimed at both educating community members about the project, as well as hearing their thoughts, concerns, and overall vision for the Twin Memorials.

Phase 1 engagement sessions were held in both Oxford and Atlanta, as well as virtually, in February and March 2022, totaling more than 225 participants across 16 in-person and two virtual sessions. It was critical that engagement take into consideration all stakeholders, including current students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and the descendant community. The outcome of this phase produced the “Collective Vision” (see page 43), created from community responses to the question “What messages must these memorials convey?”

Phase 2 visioning sessions were held in both Oxford and Atlanta, as well as virtually, in September 2022. The engagement team presented broad concepts developed around four themes (Scars, Scattered Moments, Sentinels, and Assemblage) derived from the Collective Vision. The outcome of this phase are the recommendations to the university.



An Acknowledged History

Emory College owned slaves, including Bishop Emory for whom the college was named. The history of these two communities and the building of the two campuses is both rich and complex.



The Rev. Dr. Avis Williams 780x 98C 08T 18T is a central voice in the Twin Memorials dialogue. Born and raised in Covington, Dr. Williams is a descendant of enslaved persons who lived and worked in Oxford and Covington; she has been a community leader for more than 40 years. Today she serves as both a member of Emory’s Twin Memorials Working Group and as a liaison to the engagement and design teams. Her in-depth exploration of the history of enslaved persons in Emory’s story has been a critical part of the education surrounding this project.

Recommendations

1. The principles of the **Collective Vision** shall guide the design of the memorials on the Oxford and Atlanta campuses.
2. Memorial designs should prioritize the intentionality of the sites as presented, which allows the selected artist and design team to refine any one of the four themes to align with the Collective Vision.
3. Final site selection shall incorporate comprehensive analysis and survey, including existing utilities and regulatory requirements that may conflict with proposed memorial construction.
4. The university should establish and/or maintain a memorial steering committee through the design and construction process that is composed of diverse members of both the university and descendant communities to ensure continuity of the principles set forth in the Collective Vision.
5. The university should develop and maintain a continuous communication strategy to inform and engage the community throughout the design and construction process.
6. The university should consider development of ongoing and/or recurring programs, events and educational opportunities that engage the memorial space.

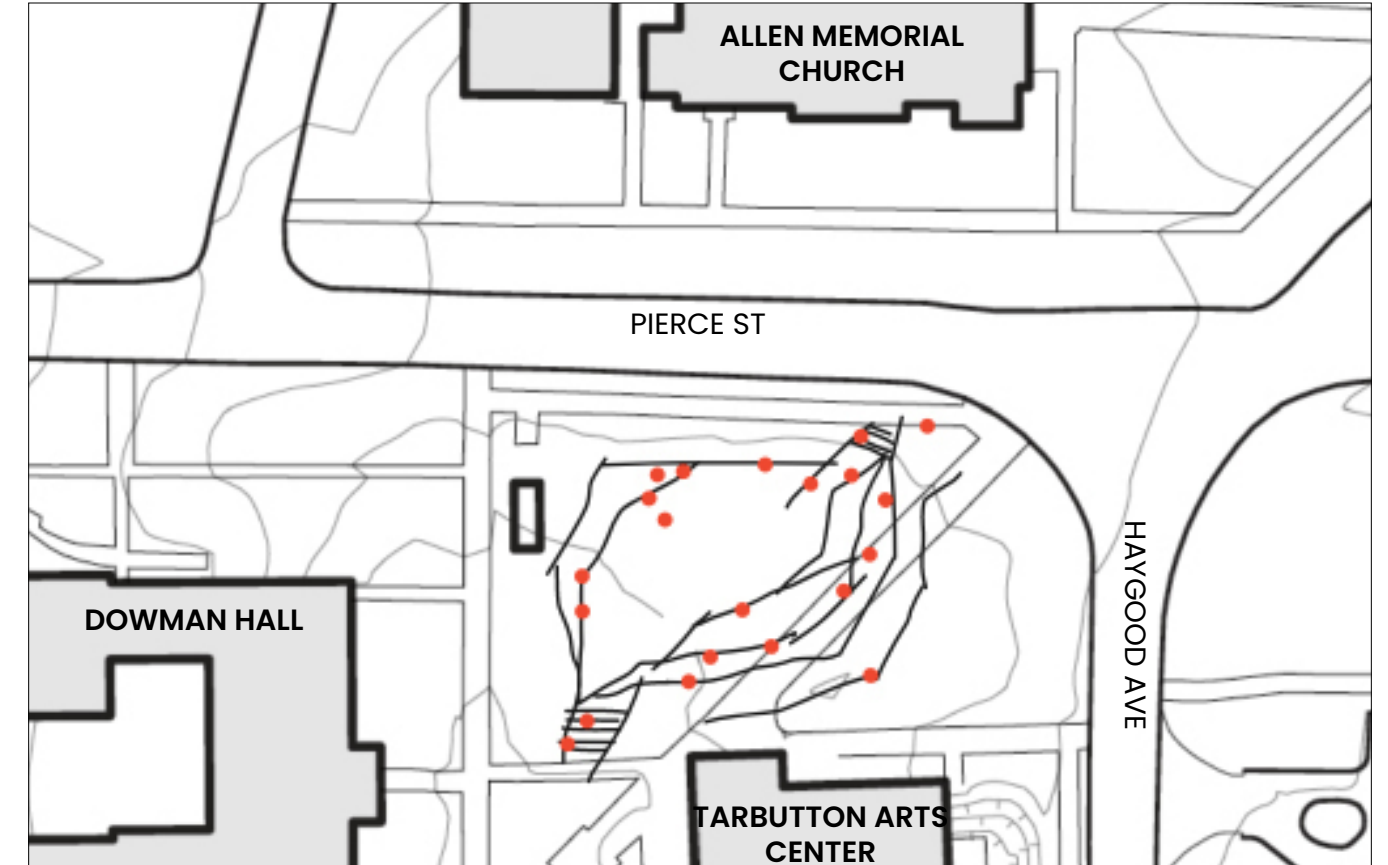
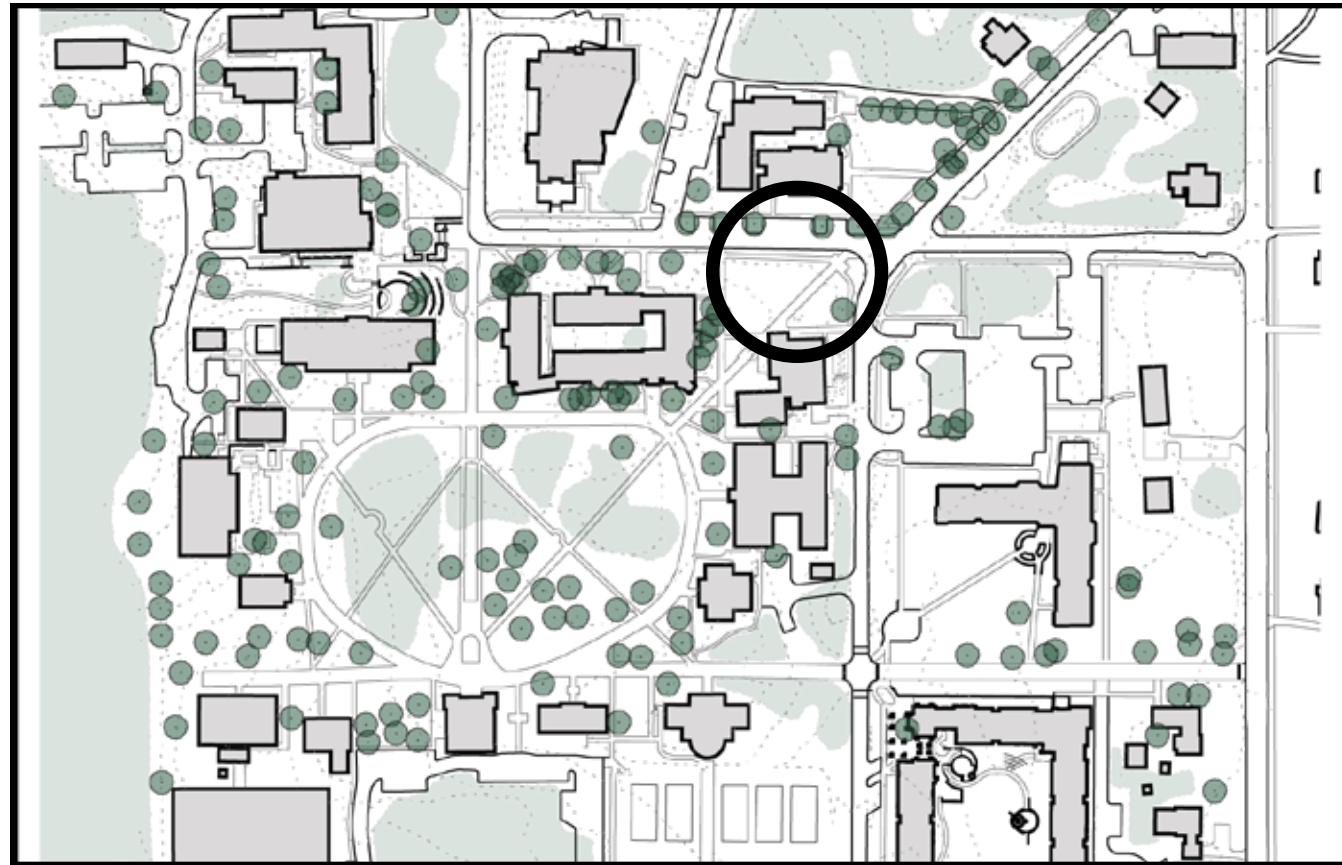
Site Recommendations

Sites proposed on the following pages are identified as “preferred” and “alternative,” and are based on the characteristics of the memorial identified by engagement participants as critical to project success.

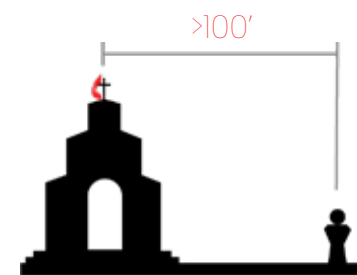
It is intended that an interpretation of any one of the four themes could be located on the selected site(s) as the permanent artifact. Memorial art should consider the governing principles of the Collective Vision and the intentionality of the recommended sites (both preferred and alternate) as the framework for development.

Oxford Campus

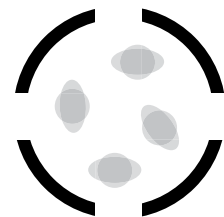
PREFERRED SITE



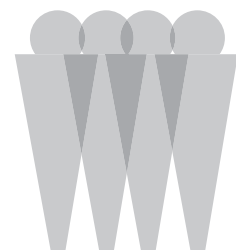
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS FEEDBACK



PROXIMITY TO CHURCH
 "Where are the stories of Black church that remain in the United Methodist Church?"



GATHERING SPACE
 "I like the path and the figures and the quiet contemplative embankment where people can sit alone and in community."



ANCESTRAL PRESENCE
 "It is powerful to see the figures all together."

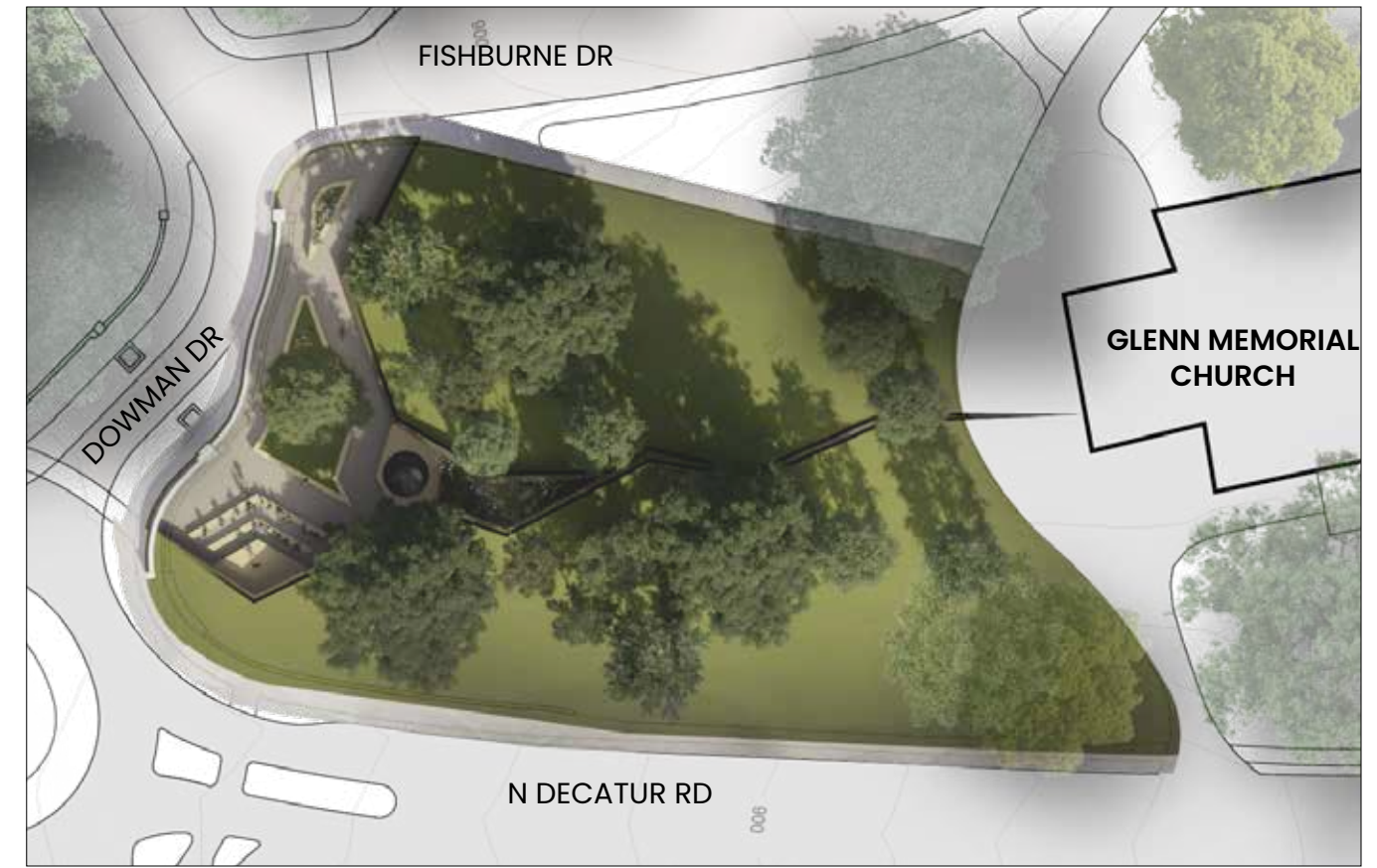
WHY THIS SITE? WHY HERE?

The preferred site on the Oxford campus for the Twin Memorial is located just south of the Allen Memorial United Methodist Church, across Pierce Street on the northern lawn of the Tarbuton Center for the Performing Arts. Locating the memorial within close proximity to the church will allow for physical, visual and spiritual connection between the memorial and the church. This connection speaks to the larger intersection of the Methodist Church, Emory University, and the institution of slavery. This location also creates the opportunity for the church to utilize the space as well, strengthening the bond between the university and the church communities. This spatial relationship lays a framework for answering the question:

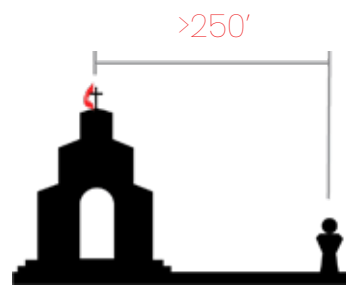
"Where are the stories of the Black church that remain in the United Methodist Church?"

Atlanta Campus

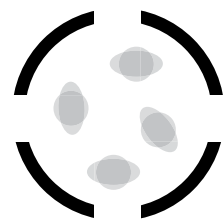
PREFERRED SITE



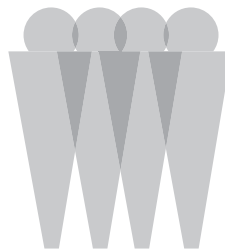
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS FEEDBACK



PROXIMITY TO CHURCH
 "The Methodist Church South engagement is slavery in north Georgia. The stories of black Methodist."



GATHERING SPACE
 "A place for classes, communities, churches, etc. to use the space actively. Actively pursuing the healing through learning."



ANCESTRAL PRESENCE
 "I love the concept of being surrounded by many in a large scale in a reflective oasis. The scale has impact to me, kind of similar to the terracotta warriors exhibit."

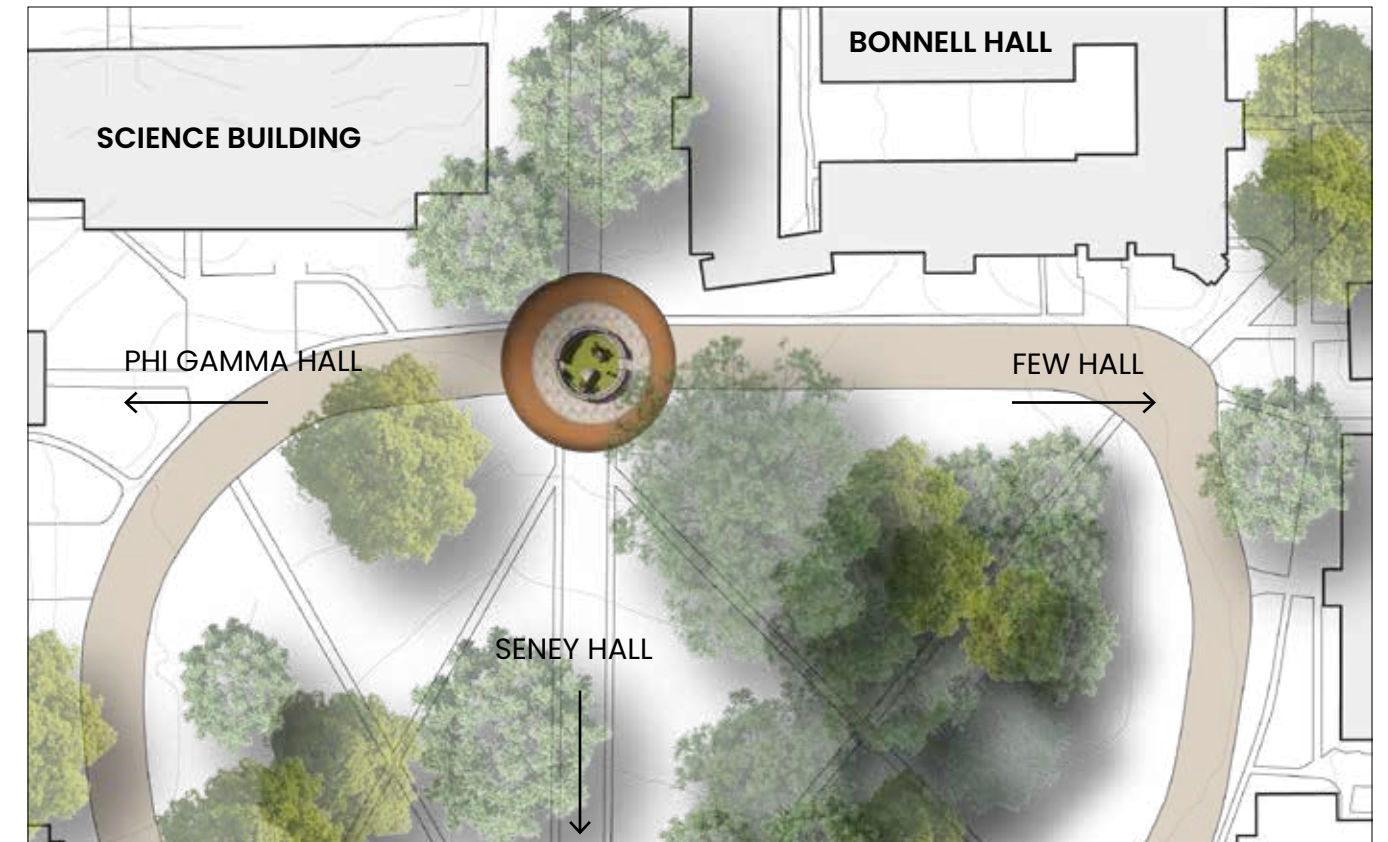
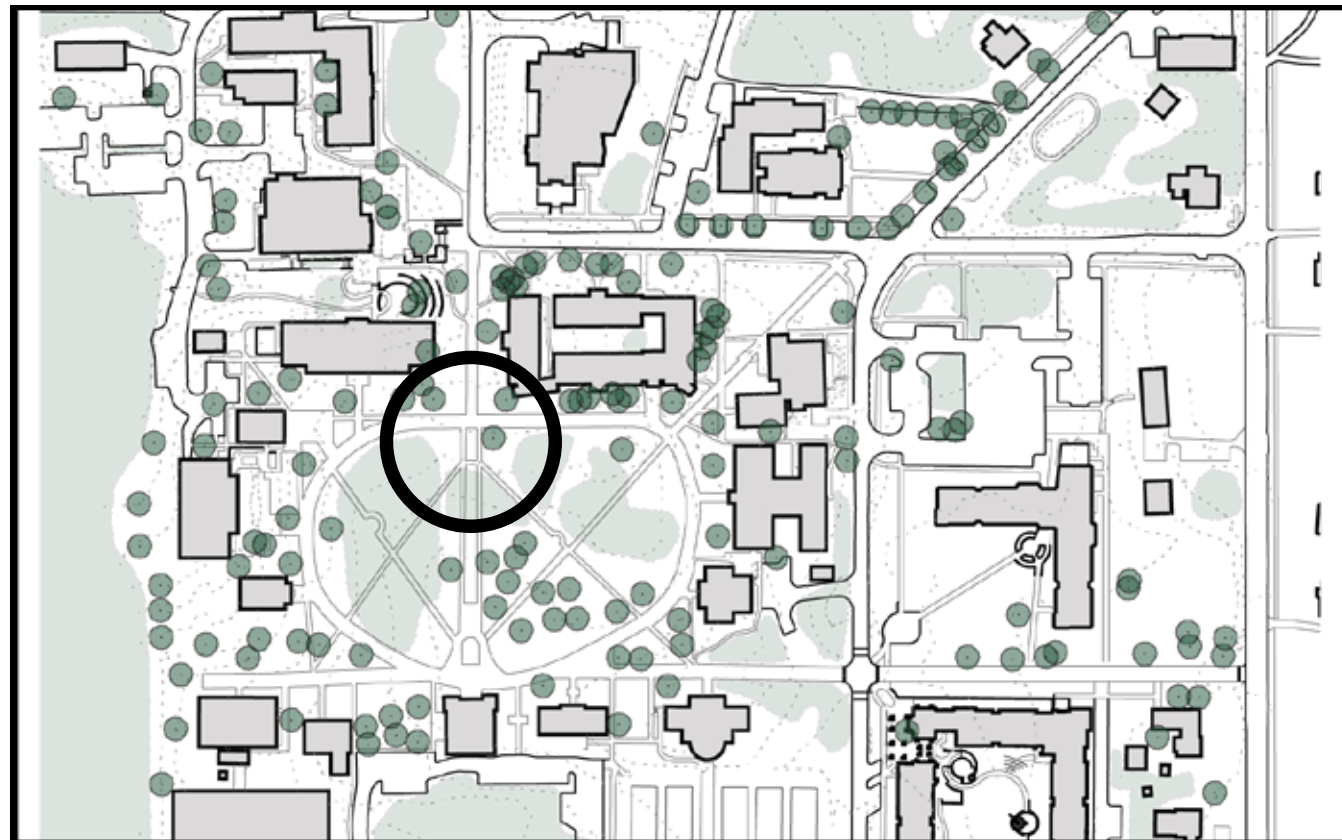
WHY THIS SITE? WHY HERE?

The preferred site on the Atlanta campus for the Twin Memorial is located at the very southern edge of the campus, at the intersection of North Decatur Road and Oxford Road near Emory Village Plaza. Like the preferred site at Oxford, and picking up on the same connections, this site is located adjacent to the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church. Locating the site within close proximity to the church will create physical, visual, and spiritual connections between the university and church communities.

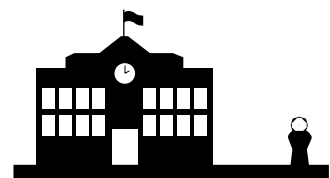
This site is also located close to a high-traffic public entrance into the Atlanta campus creating the opportunity to engage with local communities not traditionally considered part of the Emory community. Being located along a highly visible public entrance also presents the memorial more externally facing than internally, sending a message of reconciliation and healing to more than just the Emory communities.

Oxford Campus

ALTERNATIVE SITE

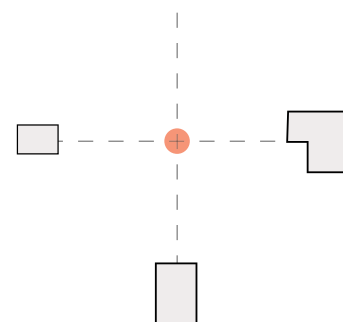


ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS FEEDBACK



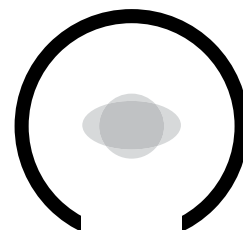
PROXIMITY TO STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTERS

"I like this being unavoidable. It's in a central place that can't and shouldn't be ignored."



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

"I love the idea of locating this at the nexus of buildings constructed by enslaved people."



SPACE TO REFLECT

"Nice—Like that people have to walk through the space and reflect if they wish to use seating."

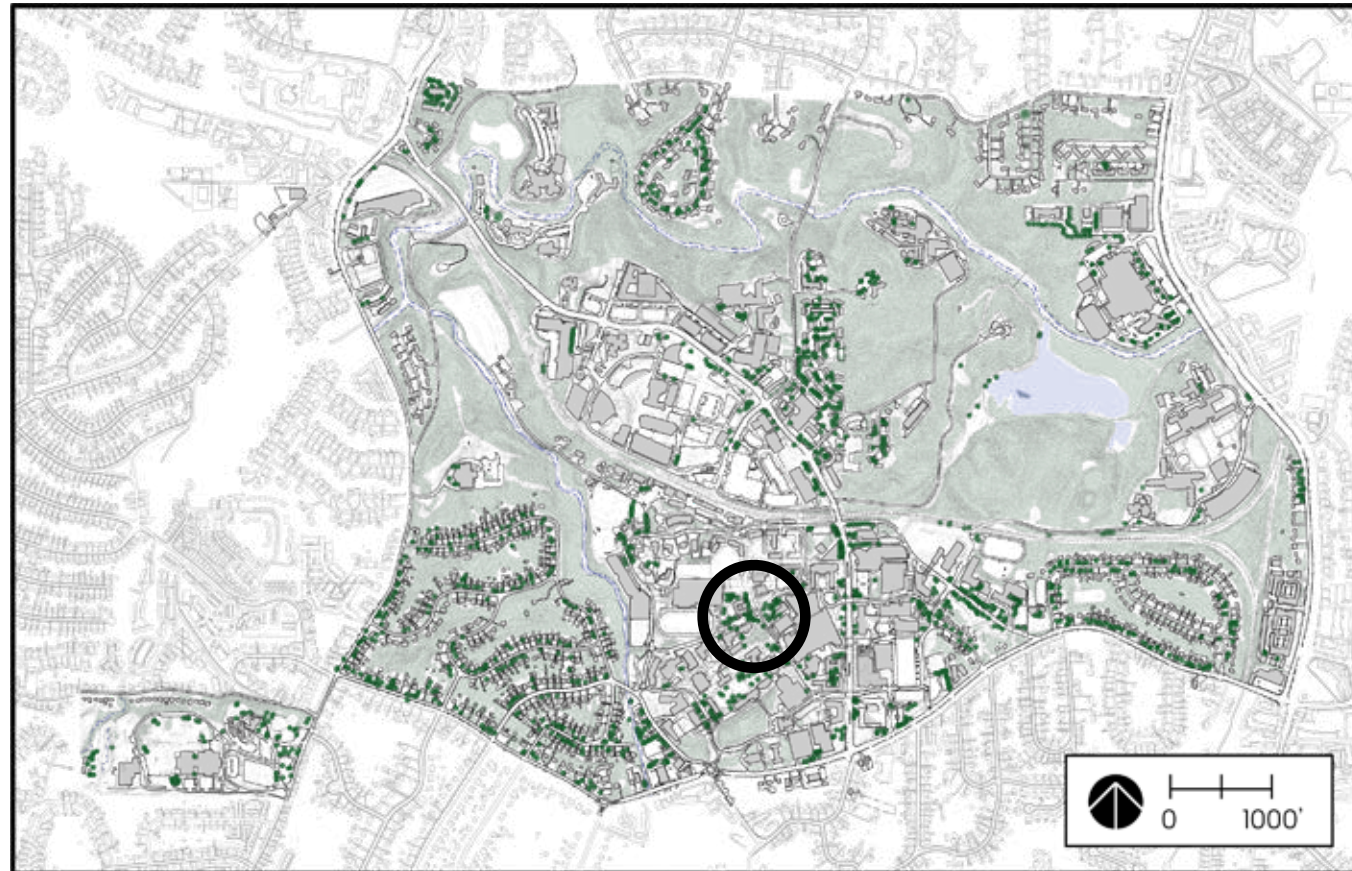
WHY THIS SITE? WHY HERE?

The alternative site on the Oxford campus for the Twin Memorial is located at the axial intersection of Phi Gamma, Few, and Seney Halls on the north side of Oxford's historic quad. This location places the memorial within visual sightlines of buildings on campus known to have been built by enslaved people. This location situates the site within a known historical context specific to Oxford College, as well as creating immediate visual connections between those being memorialized and the architecture of the campus. Locating the memorial directly on a pathway that see high-student-traffic makes the site more present and available, nearly unavoidable in the everyday lives of students.

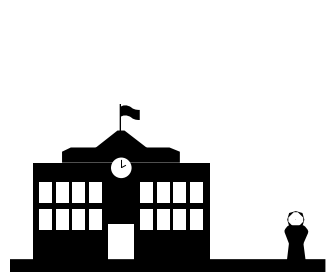
This site is also centrally located within the interior of the Oxford campus. Visitors to the site will be required to venture deep into the heart of Oxford College, offering a more expansive tour of the campus as well as the memorial.

Atlanta Campus

ALTERNATIVE SITE

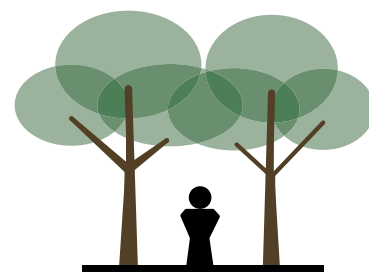


ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS FEEDBACK



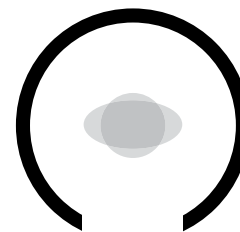
PROXIMITY TO STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTERS

"This use of space is everything! Would really want to draw the community into this."



NATURAL ELEMENTS

"Interesting opportunity to add usable space for humans, but is it eliminating habitat for nature?"



SPACE TO REFLECT

"Individual statuary allows the viewer to see enslaved persons as the individuals that they were."

WHY THIS SITE? WHY HERE?

The alternative site on the Atlanta campus for the Twin Memorial is located near the center of campus, adjacent to Asbury Circle, across the street from Cox Hall and just north of the Quad. It is a secluded ravine right next to the beloved Dooley Statue. Locating the memorial in close proximity to the Emory Student Center and the Cox Dining Hall places it in the center of student activity, allowing students to feel and take more agency over the life and care of the space.

This location offers the opportunity for a more expansive and secluded site allowing for more flexibility and interaction among multiple and varied spaces within the memorial space itself. The topography at this location also offers the opportunity for a more secluded and private memorial experience for visitors. Engaging with the existing natural environment of this site becomes a prime ecological opportunity. Utilizing existing tree cover for shading creates an inviting natural density. Utilizing existing waterways to bring into the memorial site builds on the metaphor of being the first and last witness to the atrocities of slavery.

Phase 1 Engagement

February 2022 - March 2022

During the course of 16 in-person and two virtual sessions, the engagement team heard the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of students and faculty, alumni, staff, community members and descendants with one goal: to learn 'what does memorialization mean to you?'



Engagement Dates and Locations

1 February 3, 2022
Oxford Campus Staff
 2:30-3:45p.m.
 Oxford College, Phi Gamma Hall

2 February 3, 2022
Descendant Community
 5:30-7:00p.m.
 Mt. Zion First Baptist Church

3 February 4, 2022
Oxford Campus Students
 11:30a.m.-12:50p.m.
 Oxford College Student Center

4 February 4, 2022
Oxford Campus Faculty and Staff
 3:30-5:00p.m.
 Oxford College Phi Gamma Hall

5 February 17, 2022
Descendant Community
 2:00-3:30p.m.
 Oxford College Student Center

6 February 17, 2022
Oxford Campus Students
 8:00-9:30p.m.
 Mt. Zion First Baptist Church

7 February 18, 2022
Atlanta Campus Life Staff
 2:00-3:30p.m.
 Emory Student Center

8 February 18, 2022
Atlanta Campus Students
 Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional
 3:30-5:00p.m.
 Candler School of Theology

9 March 3, 2022
Virtual [ZOOM] Open
 6:00-7:30p.m.

10 March 16, 2022
Emory Alumni and More
 12:00-1:30p.m.
 Ebenezer Baptist Church

11 March 16, 2022
Atlanta Campus Students
 Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional
 7:00-8:30p.m.
 Cox Hall

12 March 17, 2022
Atlanta Campus Faculty
 3:30-5:00p.m.
 Woodruff Library

13 March 17, 2022
Atlanta Campus Services
 8:00-9:30p.m.
 Emory Student Center

14 March 24, 2022
Virtual [ZOOM] Open
 6:00-7:30p.m.

15 March 30, 2022
Atlanta Campus Services
 2:00-3:30p.m.
 Emory Student Center

16 March 30, 2022
Emory Alumni and More
 6:00-7:30p.m.
 Manuel's Tavern

17 March 31, 2022
Atlanta Campus Students
 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.
 Emory Student Center

18 March 30, 2022
Atlanta Campus ALL
 3:30-5:00p.m.
 Woodruff Library



Presentation and Discussion

The presentation was designed to share history, research, and context to center conversations around shared knowledge. For many, information regarding Emory's intersection with enslavement is new and, as a result, difficult to comprehend or absorb. As an integral part of this process, we left space in the room for navigating the complex emotions that can result.

Throughout the 90-minute session, participants were encouraged to react and ask questions.

The engagement team shared representative examples of memorialization across the world, aiming to spark conversation about what the Twin Memorials *could* be.

At the end of the presentation, participants were organized into smaller break-out sessions to discuss what they had seen and heard, as well as to share their own ideas and visions for the Twin Memorials.

What does memorialization mean to you?



Phase 2 Visioning

April 2022 – September 2022

Following the engagement sessions, the design team distilled and analyzed feedback, comments, and input from participants. From that, a “Collective Vision” was created to provide overarching guidance to future design work. The design team then developed four themes for memorial design, followed by conceptual design work for each theme. The vision and conceptual designs were presented in eight community meetings for input and feedback. The recommendations herein encapsulate the entirety of this process.





Workshop Dates and Locations

1 September 12, 2022
Oxford Campus
1:30-3:30p.m.
Oxford College Student Center

2 September 12, 2022
Oxford Campus
5:30-7:00p.m.
Oxford College Student Center

3 September 13, 2022
Oxford Campus
1:30-3:30p.m.
Oxford College Student Center

4 September 13, 2022
Descendant Community
5:30-7:30p.m.
Mt. Zion First Baptist Church

5 September 14, 2022
Atlanta Campus
1:30-3:30p.m.
Emory Student Center

6 September 14, 2022
Atlanta Campus
5:30-7:30p.m.
Ackerman Hall, Carlos Museum

7 September 15, 2022
Atlanta Community
Noon-2:00p.m.
Ebenezer Baptist Church

8 September 15, 2022
Atlanta Community
4:30-6:30p.m.
The Hatchery at Emory Point

Collective Vision

Messages of acknowledgment, reconciliation, and remembrance center four distinct themes being explored for the Twin Memorials on the Oxford and Atlanta campuses. At the root, these memorials tell the story of a people. They must be both contemplative spaces for reflection and meditation as well as welcoming, interactive plazas that invite activity and engagement. They must inspire hope for the future while remaining truthful to the painful history imbued in this land. They must convey an inherent humanity and connection that welcomes conversation. Utilizing natural and tactile materials, sound, and technology, we envision an immersive exploration that is most profoundly experienced as a set (Twin Memorials) yet remain dynamic and powerful individually.

Memorial Themes and Design Concepts Examples

Scattered Moments

The complex history of Emory's intersection with slavery is not borne of a single event. Neither then, is the memorial. Instead, it is envisioned as a collection of purposeful moments sited across both campuses that cannot be hidden from view, nor hidden from. Taken individually, they provide context and insight; experienced together, create a tapestry of acknowledgment and healing.

Scars

Like all trauma, this history has left its scars: literal and physical, emotional, metaphorical, cultural, and institutional, we all remain marked by the shared wounds of the past. In this iteration, we confront the duality of healing by both examining those scars and embracing the scar tissue, reclaiming the narrative as not just something that happened but as healing that is actively happening.

Sentinels

As guardian to the legacy of those enslaved, the sentinel is intended as a powerful site of conscience. Oversized in scale, and purposefully placed in the historic parts of each campus, they are conceived as essentially impossible to ignore and inherently tied to the university's founding fathers. Dynamic in their expression, the individual installations are meant to speak to one another in their form but experienced separately, tell a unique story.

Assemblage

Utilizing repetitive pattern and scale, this interpretation presents a grouping of human-scale figures oriented toward one another and a central location—representing the named and unnamed souls of the ancestors. Taken as a collective, intentional gaps allude to where a body should be, reminding us of loss, and creating space to be filled by the living and possibilities for the future.

SCATTERED MOMENTS



SCATTERED MOMENTS



SCARS



SCARS



SENTINELS



SENTINELS



SENTINELS



SENTINELS



ASSEMBLAGE



ASSEMBLAGE



ASSEMBLAGE

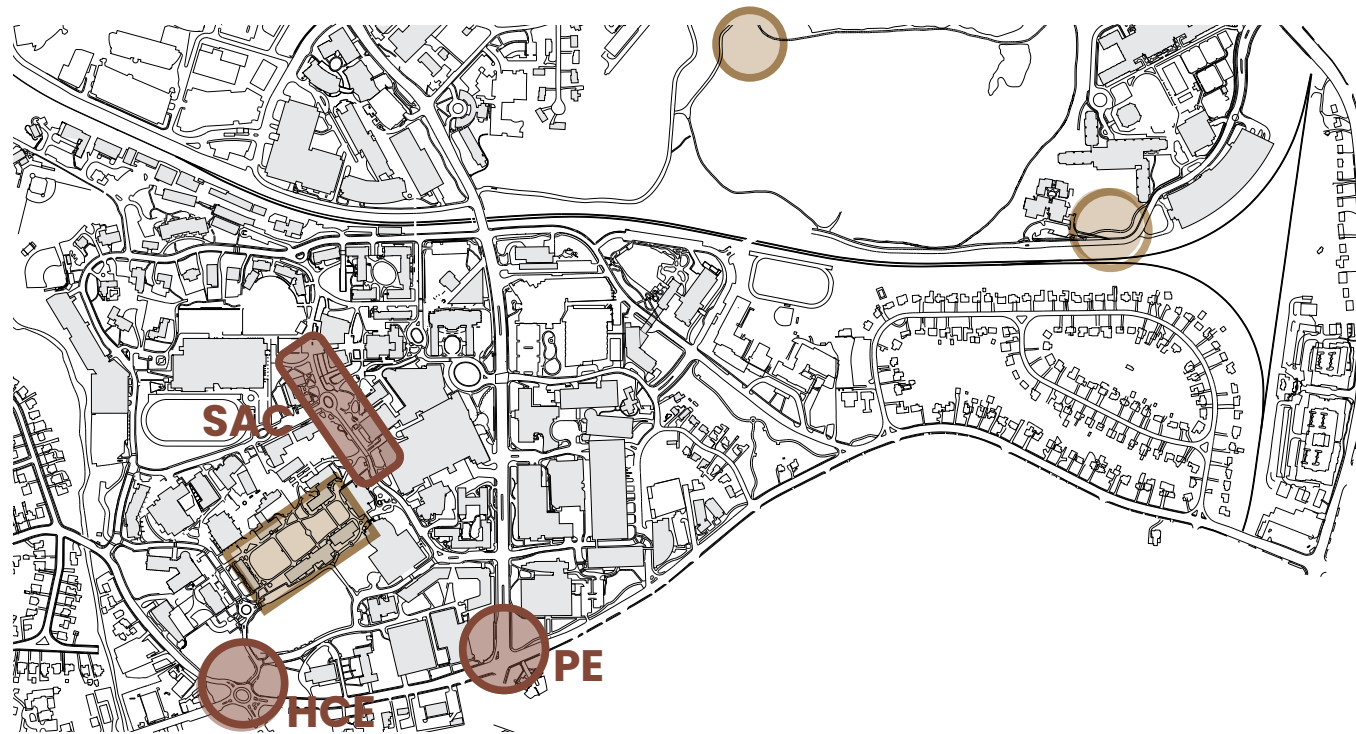




Site Considerations

Based on input by participants from the spring engagement sessions, the design team and Campus Services and planning recommend the areas below for further consideration as sites for the memorial and concept development. It is intended that the selected areas at both campuses have similarities (contextual, topographical, historical, etc.) to reinforce the relationship between the memorials.

Atlanta Campus



PREFERRED SITES FOR CONSIDERATION:

(HCE) Historic Campus Entrance—near Glenn Memorial Church and Dowman Drive.

(SAC) Student Activity Center—Asbury Circle, “hub” of student activity. Presents a challenge for public access outside the Emory community.

(PE) Public Entrance @ N. Decatur and Clifton Roads—highly visible site at an intersection with a high volume of traffic and with potentially high visibility to the public.

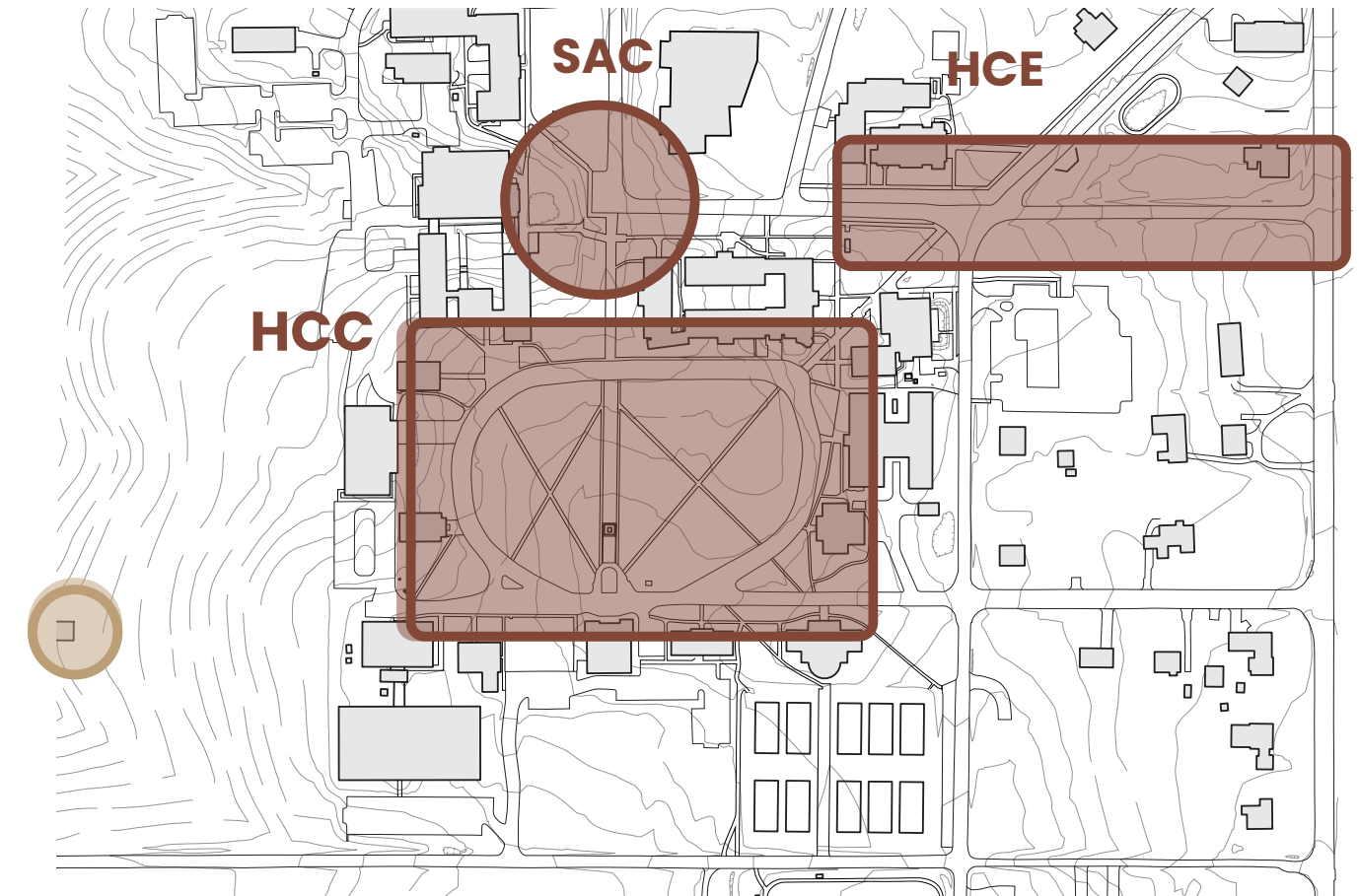
OTHER SITES CONSIDERED:

(HCC) Historic Campus Center | The Quad—highly symbolic. *Removed from consideration due to the quantity and type of events currently held on the Quad rendering it less appropriate than the preferred sites.*

Historic Burial Ground (HBG)—Cemetery on Starvine Way behind Clairmont Campus Residential Center. *Removed from consideration due to the lack of pedestrian traffic by the site and lack of broader Emory community engagement thus not meeting the programmatic objective.*

Lullwater Preserve adjacent to Hill Loop Trail and Candler Lake. *Removed from consideration due to the lack of pedestrian traffic by the site and lack of broader Emory community engagement thus not meeting the programmatic objective.*

Oxford Campus



PREFERRED SITES FOR CONSIDERATION:

(HCC) Historic Campus Center | The Quad—Pedestrian Campus Walkway. This “corridor” is also tangent to Seney Hall and historic campus center, including Phi Gamma Hall and Few Hall.

(HCE) Historic Campus Entrance—vicinity of Allen Memorial United Methodist Church. Intersection of Whatcoat Street, Pierce Street and Haygood Avenue and Intersection of Highway 81 and Pierce Street. Highly visible site.

(SAC) Student Activity Center—Hub of student activity around Student Center and Dining Hall.

OTHER SITES CONSIDERED:

Historic Burial Ground (HBG)—Soldiers Cemetery. *Removed from consideration due to the lack of pedestrian traffic by the site and lack of broader Emory community engagement, thus not meeting the programmatic objective.*

