Lee Chapel

Intro to Digital Humanities
A Roadmap

- Introduction
- Methodology
  - Website
    - Photographs, timeline, 3D models
- Conclusion
- Demo
Statement of Problem/Motivation

- Robert E. Lee
- School icon
  - Unknown History
- Ambiguous function
Overarching Question

- What was Lee’s intent for the purpose of the chapel, and how has that purpose changed over time, especially from its construction starting in 1867 through the 1920’s?

Supporting Questions:

- How did Lee’s family perceive the Chapel’s purpose during the time of the 1920s proposed renovations?
- How would the renovations have altered the Washington and Lee campus?
Hypotheses

- Physical structure of Lee Chapel is similar to Lee’s vision.
- Through the passage of time, the function of Lee Chapel has changed.
- Proposals of renovations in the 1920’s were rejected to preserve Lee’s vision.
Methodology

- Photographs
- Timeline
- Letters and Correspondence
- Blueprints and Sketches
- 3D models
- Social Media Launch
Photographs

- Special Collections
- Gallery
  - Lee Chapel
  - The Colonnade
- Designs
Lee Chapel

Lee Chapel Converted to a Museum
Restorations/Modernizations to Lee Chapel
Debate Over Proposed Chapel Expansion
Family Mausoleum to Lee Chapel

Lee Chapel is Named a National Historic Landmark
Sun, 01 Jan 1961 00:00:00 GMT
Washington & Lee University.
Lexington, Virginia.
Office of the President.

November 7, 1922.

Mrs. Robert E. Lee,
Roanoke, Va.

My dear Mrs. Lee:-

Remembering that you had not seen one of the bulletins issued by the University, I am enclosing hereewith one copy each of the three bulletins issued on the subject of the chapel.

I wish to emphasize also, as I told you on Sunday, that the one overwhelming reason to me for enlarging the chapel is not the fire risk, nor any utilitarian purpose whatever, but to enable future students to sit during all our solemn gatherings in the very presence of General Lee and subject to the uplift and inspiration which radiate from his tomb and statue.

Most cordially yours,

(Signed) Henry Louis Smith,
President.
Blueprints and Sketches

“Recumbent Lee” Statue

Intended to alter the road for a memorial plaza dedicated to Lee

General S. E. Lee

LEE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

PROPOSED APPROACH TO LEE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Scale in feet
3-D Models

- Ed Triplett
- Blueprints
- SketchUp
- John Watkins
Social Media Launch

Twitter

@lee_chapel

https://twitter.com/lee_chapel

Facebook

Lee Chapel DH

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lee-Chapel-

DH/291746221001273
Why DH?

- Visuals: 3D models, gallery, and timeline
- Dynamic
- **No one would care**
- Intimacy with primary sources
- Availability
Demo

Lee Chapel