A Roadmap

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

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

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
November 7, 1922.

Mrs. Robert E. Lee,
Lynchburg, Va.

My dear Mrs. Lee:-

Remembering that you had not seen one of the bulletins issued by the University, I am enclosing herewith 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.

Virginia, Apr. 16, 1909

Sirs:

I got the design for the Chapel out of a book of Churches in the U.S. with some other books, to Williams C. Rich may possibly now be in Lexington. He designed it there was a spire resting on the present belfry (the roof being simply, something better can be devised. I don’t see the Chapel without taking down the two sides and the farther apart; when that is to be done, it will be better to build a new Chapel altogether, as the work in the patch ready already. Remember that the new building intersects the brick work of the tower, high up, cutting it in a recess (panel).

There will be no objection, I am sure, on the part of General Lee’s family to anything the authorities may desire to mention in the proper place that the new building was made for enlargement; the towers afterwards, and somewhat spoil the auditorium.

Sincerely yours,

O. W. C. Lee
Intended to alter the road for a memorial plaza dedicated to Lee.
3-D Models

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

Twitter

Lee Chapel DH @lee_chapel · 22h
What a great day to be a chapel.

Facebook

Lee Chapel DH
A Digital Humanities project by undergraduate students at Washington and Lee.
Visit us at www.lee chapel.academic.wlu.edu or on Twitter @lee_chapel
Why DH?

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

Lee Chapel