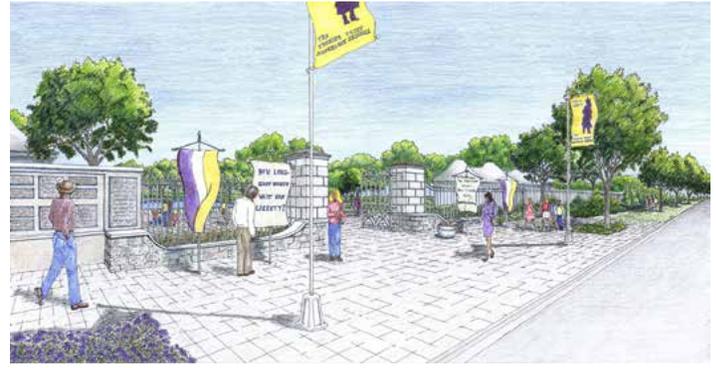


On the Boards

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Robert E. Beach Architects, LLC
Lorton, Virginia

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial commemorates the suffrage struggle, focusing on the suffragists whose brutal imprisonment at the Occoquan Workhouse served as a significant turning point in achieving a woman's right to vote. It is designed to educate, inspire and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for equal rights.



The memorial site is located within Occoquan Regional Park and the National Register listed DC Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District. It is adjacent to the historic workhouse where the women were imprisoned, now serving as the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. The memorial will be the cornerstone of the planned park redevelopment.

The design allows visitors to experience the memorial from successive points of view, beginning within an urban archetype and progressing through natural forms. The journey starts at a replica street side plaza, reflective of the White House where the suffragists stood as “silent sentinels” demanding the right to vote. Inside the gates, across the plaza, visitors view a waist-high linear wall and water feature – the memorial cascade – which signifies the change generated by the suffragists.



The courageous efforts of the suffragists are expressed along the path with pocket plazas and 19 informational stations that curate the American women's suffrage movement, leading to ratification of the 19th Amendment. The plan of the path outlines the foundation profile of the brick yard beehive kilns that were used to fire brick for construction of the Lorton Reformatory in 1910. Two open pavilions with tensile fabric roof structures provide space for interactive kiosks, small lectures, digital media and a seasonal gift shop.

The memorial is designed to stimulate thought and foster dialogue to promote humanitarian and democratic values through connections between the history of the suffragist movement and its contemporary implications. Honoring the past, empowering the future.

