



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 23, 1996)

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HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD AUTHORIZES NEW HIGHWAY MARKER FOR JOHN MERCER LANGSTON BIRTHPLACE

RICHMOND: The Virginia Historic Resources Board has approved a new historical highway sign for Louisa County. Meeting in Richmond last December, the Board voted to authorize a marker entitled JOHN MERCER LANGSTON BIRTHPLACE.

Langston, born of a freed slave, became the first black congressman elected from Virginia. He was the founder and first dean of the Law Department of Howard University, and first president of what is now Virginia State University.

The new sign was proposed and will be paid for by The African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc. in Washington, D.C. The Virginia Department of Transportation will install and maintain the new marker which will be located at the courthouse square on Rte. 22/33 in Louisa, Virginia. The unveiling ceremony will take place on Friday, 7 June 1996 at 1:00 P.M.

Virginia's historical marker program is one of the oldest in the nation. Funds for all new markers come from private organizations, individuals and local jurisdictions. The inscriptions on the markers explain historical sites, events and people that have been important to the history of the Commonwealth.

Currently there are more than 1500 official state historical markers in Virginia. The Virginia Historic Resources Board oversees the program.