

August 20, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of East Harlem Preservation's efforts to have the statue of J. Marion Sims removed from the park. Until recently I had no idea it was there, and having previously heard of him and his treatment of Black women, I'm horrified to learn that there is a monument to him in my hometown.

There is no place in NYC for a monument to someone who performed surgery on Black women without anesthesia or consent, regardless of the contributions he may have made to the field of medicine. Moreover, there is no explanatory plaque that could ever make this ok.

It's past time to right this wrong, and I stand in support of East Harlem Preservation in their efforts to have it removed.

Thank you,
Spencer Merolla
Brooklyn, NY