

Civil War Trails – Draft Language and Images for New Fort Ethan Allen Park Sign

The 107th's March to for Freedom Two years into the Civil War, African American men were not officially allowed to enlist in the Union Army. On May 22, 1863, that changed when the United States War Department issued General Orders No. 143. The order formally permitted African American men to enlist into segregated regiments designated as "United States Colored Troops" or USCT. However, enlistment was not always easy or safe for the would-be soldiers.

During the war, Kentucky had been the largest slave state to remain loyal to the Union. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people in Confederate states, but excluded Union slave states like Kentucky. Enlistment in the USCT guaranteed freedom for Kentucky recruits, but required the consent of individual enslavers. This policy remained until July of 1864, when USCT recruitment in Kentucky was opened to "all who present themselves." Many early recruits joined the 107th USCT regiment under these circumstances; some were free men who enlisted by choice or were drafted, while others were enslaved and enlisted by their enslavers. Still others escaped from bondage and secured freedom through enlistment.

The 107th was used for recruiting and anti-guerrilla actions in Kentucky, and later as a reserve regiment for field armies in the east. In October of 1865 they were deployed to the forts of Arlington, where they would become one of the last Union regiments stationed in the county. Eventually they were mustered out from service on Nov 22, 1866 from Washington, D.C. as free men.

Image: Guard Company of the 107th USCT at Fort Corcoran, Arlington (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Image: The deployment of the 107th USCT in Arlington, as posted in the Alexandria Gazette after their arrival. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Image: Charles Singer was drafted in the late spring of 1864, and later sent to the 107th. While the regiment was stationed in Arlington, he held the rank of Sergeant Major, then one of the highest ranks available to USCT recruits. (Courtesy of Gettysburg National Military Park)

***ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATION - Reprint the following letter:**

Camp of the 107th U.S.C.T.

Morehead City, No Ca

August 15, 1865

[Major] Clinton A. Cilley

[Assistant Adjutant General, Department of North Carolina]

Sir,

I have the honor to request a furlough of (30) thirty days for Private Charles Ashcraft of my company to enable him to visit his family in [Kentucky]. His wife was sold into Slavery - ten years ago - and until recently has never lived where it would have been safe for a United States soldier to visit.

Very Respectfully,

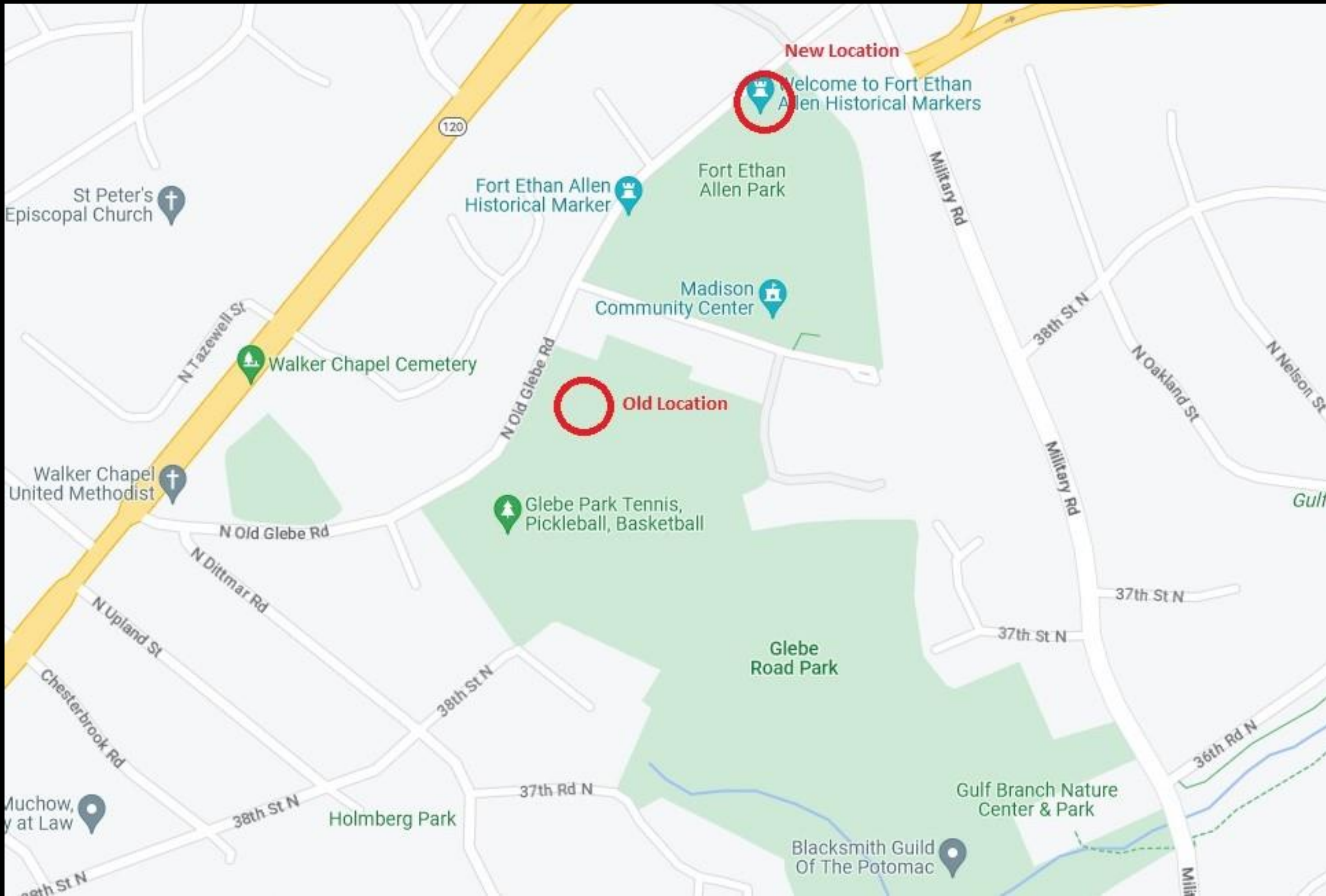
[Your Obedient Servant]

Frank E. Little

[Captain Commanding] Co. E,

107th U.S.C.T."





New Location



Welcome to Fort Ethan Allen Historical Markers



Old Location

St Peter's Episcopal Church

Fort Ethan Allen Historical Marker

Fort Ethan Allen Park

Madison Community Center

Walker Chapel Cemetery

Walker Chapel United Methodist

Glebe Park Tennis, Pickleball, Basketball

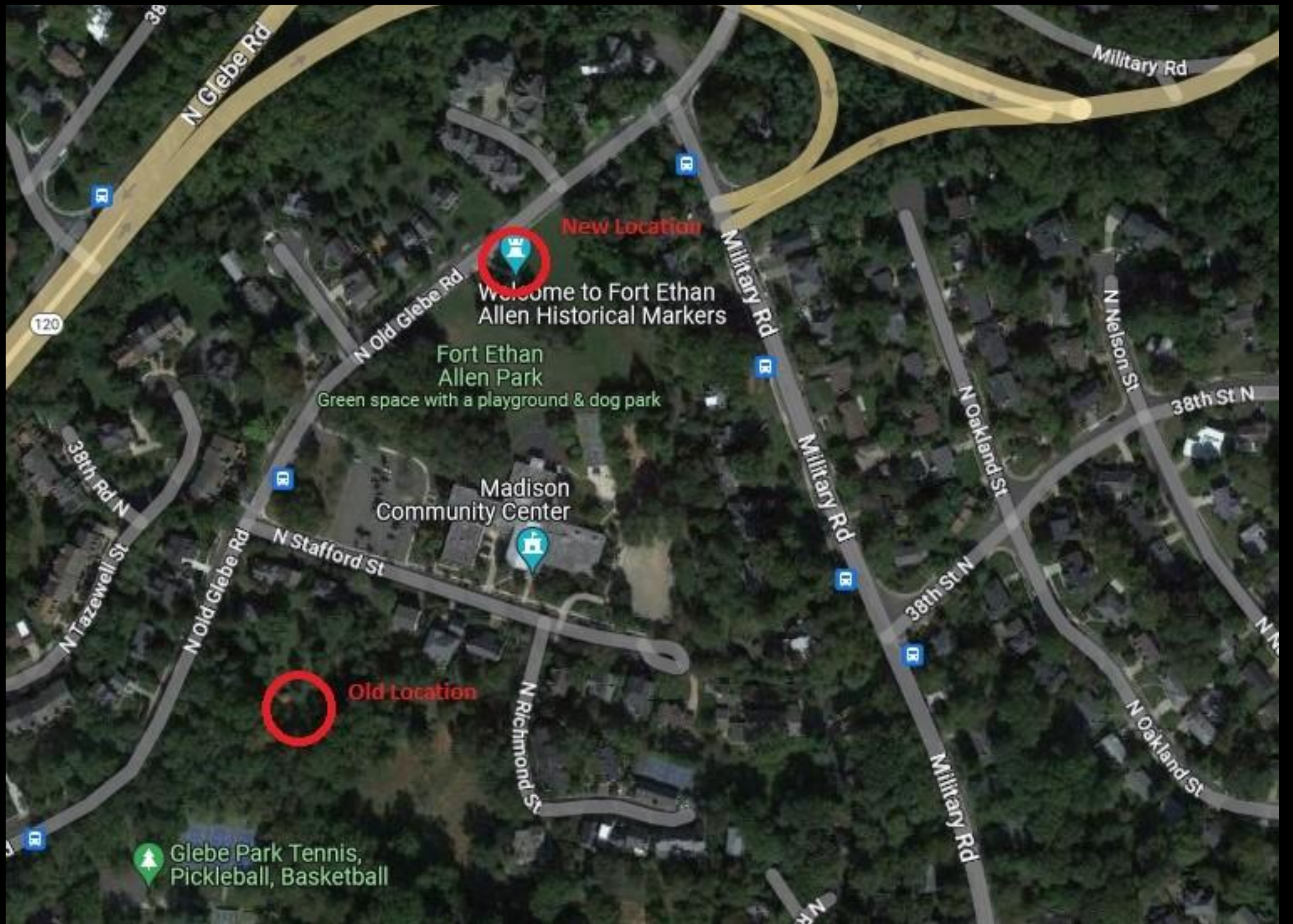
Glebe Road Park

Muchow, at Law

Holmberg Park

Blacksmith Guild Of The Potomac

Gulf Branch Nature Center & Park



New Location



Welcome to Fort Ethan Allen Historical Markers

Fort Ethan Allen Park

Green space with a playground & dog park

Madison Community Center



Glebe Park Tennis, Pickleball, Basketball

Old Location

THE TRAIL GUIDE



New Sign Procedures



Civil War Trails, Inc.
P.O. Box 1862
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

CivilWarTrails.org

757-378-5462

Civil War Trails, Inc., is a 501(3)(c)
not-for-profit educational corporation.

Adding a Site to the Civil War Trails (CWT) Program

STEP 1: Submitting Your Application

The following will be provided by the applicant:

- Proposed text of no more than 275 words, see page 5.
- Media to be included on the sign, see page 5. (photographs, sketches, draft maps, etc).
- List of community stakeholders that contributed to the text (including contact information).
- Sponsor and property owner forms, pages 3 and 4.
- Explanation of significance of proposed site. Why is the guest standing here?

STEP 2: Review by CWT Staff and Board

- CWT reviews the proposed content and media.
- The CWT team returns an edited text to the applicant and stakeholders.
- After applicant and stakeholders approve final text, the CWT team will move to design.
- The final design/layout is provided to the applicant and stakeholders as a PDF file for minor feedback/edits.

Best Practices

Civil War Trails puts the traveller in the footsteps of history. Is the reader standing where the event took place?

With a limit of 275 words, detailed troop movements can be streamlined by drafting them onto a map. Please include a rough draft of any maps that might be necessary for your panel.

STEP 3: Final Steps

- Once the PDF is approved, the CWT team schedules the installation.
- Prior to the installation, the applicant calls in utilities marking at the proposed site.
- CWT installs and coordinates any DOT work necessary.
- CWT updates all relevant fulfillment pieces to reflect the new site.
- CWT helps coordinate a press release after the installation.

Maintenance Procedures

STEP 1: Partner informs the Civil War Trails (CWT) team of needed maintenance

- Partner provides current image of CWT sign/site in question, as well as a description of the needed work.
- For signs needing revised content, partner provides suggested new text including:
 - Proposed new text of no more than 275 words or line edits to current text.
 - New media to be included.
 - List of community stakeholders consulted, including contact info.
- Partners update sponsor and property owner forms, pages 3 and 4.

STEP 2: Content Review

- The CWT team reviews the proposed updates.
- The CWT team returns comments to partner.
- After partner approves revised text, the CWT team designs the new panel.
- The final design/layout is provided to the applicant and stakeholders as a PDF file for minor feedback/edits.

Perks of Membership

The annual CWT membership fee covers both maintenance and marketing.

Maintenance requests cover both the interpretive and directional signage.

STEP 3: Final Steps

- Once the PDF has been approved, the CWT team schedules maintenance.
- Prior to the site visit, the partner calls in utilities marking at the proposed site (if the sign is being moved).
- CWT performs required maintenance.
- CWT updates all relevant fulfillment pieces to reflect any changes.
- CWT helps coordinate a press release after the work is complete.



State

CIVIL WAR TRAILS, INC.

Municipality

P.O. Box 1862, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

Membership Form

(Please type or print neatly)

LOCATION INFORMATION

Name of proposed sign(s):

Location (physical address, GPS, and/or landmarks):

SPONSOR INFORMATION FOR INITIAL COSTS (\$3,000)

INITIATING ORGANIZATION

PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME)

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

SIGNATURE

DATE

SPONSOR INFORMATION FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$200)

MEMBER ORGANIZATION

PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME)

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

SIGNATURE

DATE

3



State

CIVIL WAR TRAILS, INC.

Municipality

P.O. Box 1862, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

Property Owner Agreement

(Please type or print neatly)

Permission is hereby granted this _____ day of _____, 20____, by:

to Civil War Trails, Inc., and its contractors to enter upon that portion of my/our land to install and/or maintain sign(s) as part of the Civil War Trails program. I/we understand that I/we will be contacted prior to said installation and that I/we will have the final authority as to the marker's placement and location.

I/we understand that Civil War Trails, Inc., or its contractors will maintain those sign(s) as long as it remains on my/our property, is sponsored, and that the sign(s) will be moved or removed by the Civil War Trails team at anytime in the future if so requested by me/us or my/our successors.

SIGN TITLE

LANDOWNER SIGNATURE DATE

LANDOWNER ADDRESS

LANDOWNER PHONE EMAIL

INITIATING ORGANIZATION SIGNATURE DATE

INITIATING ORGANIZATION ADDRESS

INITIATING ORGANIZATION PHONE EMAIL

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR/MEMBER DATE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CIVIL WAR TRAILS DATE



Sign Style Guide

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CIVIL WAR TRAILS SITE/SIGN

- Are you standing where the event took place? If not, can you see the historic location from the proposed site?
- Why is the visitor standing here?
- Is the site welcoming?

TEXT SPECIFICATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS.

- Sign text should be 275 words maximum, including main text and any captions, sidebars, or quotes. Submitted in Microsoft Word.
- Whenever possible, start with a sentence that places the sign in context for the reader: ie., "You are standing in the heart of 19th-century Staunton ..." or "Early in the afternoon of November 23, 1862, the river in front of you was filled with celebrating Union sailors"
- Use active voice: For example: "The cavalrymen charged the artillery battery." is preferable to: "The artillery battery was charged by the cavalrymen."

MEDIA, IMAGES

- Images should be 300ppi or better.
- Civil War Trails does not pay for image rights.
- Images that are not from a public domain source may be used with permission of owner.
- Credits for images should be included: ie., "Courtesy Library of Congress" or "Courtesy Dana B. Shoaf Collection."

GENERAL BEST PRACTICES

- Does the sign fuel your imagination?
- Does it give the reader a sense of place? Does it make you look up?
- Does the stakeholder group who helped write the sign represent your entire community?
- Is the site ADA compliant?

Text Guidelines

Civil War

(not War Between the States, etc.)

African American and **Black** are both acceptable

Battle of Gettysburg, etc.

(Capitalize "B")

Siege of Chattanooga, etc.

(Capitalize "S")

Capt., Col., Lt., Maj., Pvt., Lt. Col.

are the proper use

Gen. is the proper use for any rank of general

Eastern Theater, Western Theater, etc.

C.S., Confederate, Southern

(not Rebel, unless in a quote)

U.S., Federal, Northern

(not Yankee, unless in quote)

U.S. Colored Troops first reference, **USCT** thereafter



THE FORTS IN VIRGINIA.—The 107th United States colored infantry, Major E. C. Ford, commanding, garrisons the forts on this side of the Potomac:

Companies C and H garrison Fort Ethan Allen.

Companies B and G, Fort Corcoran.

Companies K and F, Fort Richardson.

Company E, Fort C. F. Smith.

Company D, Fort Morgan.

Company I, Fort Tillinghast.

This regiment was recruited in Kentucky, and has been in active service in the field from its first organization.

Brev. Brig. Gen. W. H. Revere, late Colonel of this regiment, died a few weeks since at Morehead city, North Carolina.—*Alex. Journal.*



HFC 13791 - 0178

GETT 00038243

10 - 17 - 2006

BT

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P.O. Box 1862, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CIVIL WAR TRAILS DATE



FORT ETHAN ALLEN



Mr. Lincoln's Forts



DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, 1861-1865

Fort Ethan Allen was constructed during the Civil War to provide one of the last lines of defense against possible Confederate attacks aimed at Washington. The fort commanded approaches to Chain Bridge (over the Potomac River) from south of Pimmit Run. Built by troops from Vermont in September 1861, the fort was named in honor of Ethan Allen, Vermont's famous Revolutionary War commander.

Fort Ethan Allen was a large earthwork garrisoned by as many as 1,000 men. The fort's perimeter was 736 yards with emplacements for 36 guns. The armament included three 6-pounder guns, four 24-pounder guns, three 32-pounder guns, two 8-inch howitzers, three 32-pound howitzers, three 10-pounder Parrotts, eleven 30-pounder Parrotts, six 12-pounder Napoleon guns, four 10-inch mortars and two 24-pounder Coehorn mortars. Military Road linked Fort Ethan Allen with Fort C.F. Smith to the south. The nearest fighting to Fort Ethan Allen occurred

July 11-12, 1864, at Fort Stevens, just six miles to the northeast.

Segments of the south face, gun platforms, one bombproof, traces of a stone magazine and a guardhouse still can be identified. A portion of the original rifle trench can be seen at the south end of Fort Ethan Allen Park adjacent to Glebe Road Park. The officers' quarters, barracks, cookhouses and mess houses – none of which remain – were located to the east of the fort.



**"Battery M, 2nd New York Heavy Artillery
at Fort Ethan Allen, August 1865."**

