

January 23, 2024

On April 19, 2023, Civil War Trails, Inc. removed the interpretive sign located at the Fort Ethan Allen Trench, 4311 N Old Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. The sign was removed following the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Historic Affairs Landmark Review Board, which approved a new location for the sign within Fort Ethan Allen Park, located at 3829 N Stafford St, Arlington, VA. The new location was set to the right of the Fort Ethan Allen Park directional sign at the entrance to one of the park's pedestrian walkways. The sign is owned by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, with an annual membership fee paid to Civil War Trails, Inc. by the Conservation and Interpretation Unit of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the sign's continued involvement in the Civil War Trails program. Sign maintenance, including removal and installation, is included in the membership fee. As such, Civil War Trails removed the sign with permission from the Conservation and Interpretation Unit once the new location had been approved.

John McNair
Park Historian, Fort C.F. Smith Park
2411 24th St N
Arlington, VA 22207
(703) 228-4775
jmcnair@arlingtonva.us

Pre-Removal



Post-Removal



FORT ETHAN ALLEN



Mr. Lincoln's Forts



DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, 1861-1865

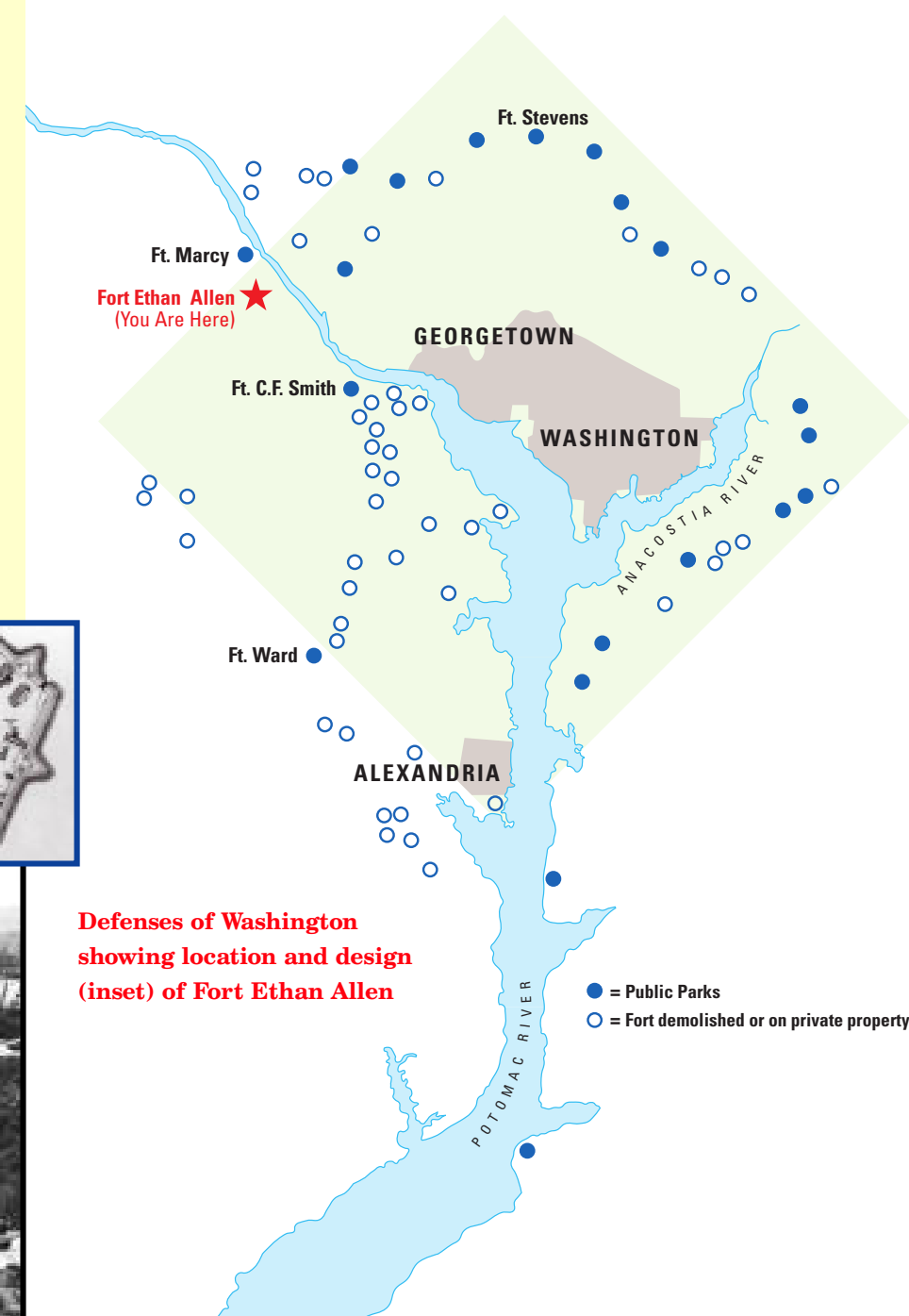
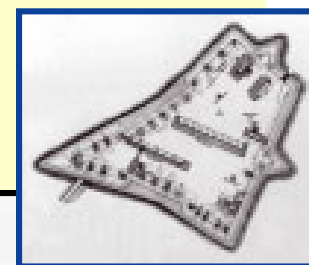
Fort Ethan Allen was constructed during the Civil War to provide one of the last lines of defense against possible Confederate attacks aimed at Washington. The fort commanded approaches to Chain Bridge (over the Potomac River) from south of Pimmit Run. Built by troops from Vermont in September 1861,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



Defenses of Washington showing location and design (inset) of Fort Ethan Allen

- = Public Parks
- = Fort demolished or on private property