



HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT

TO: Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)
FROM: Mical Tawney, Historic Preservation Associate Planner
DATE: February 12, 2024
SUBJECT: CoA 24-03, 4311 N. Old Glebe Rd., Fort Ethan Allen Trench Local Historic District (LHD)

Background Information

Fort Ethan Allen Trench, a part of Fort Ethan Allen, was built in September 1861. The man-made earthwork trench was an essential part of the outer protection fortifications for Fort Ethan Allen, a large bastion-style fort. Originally, the site was surrounded mostly by farmland and forests which were cut down to allow for clear lines of sight toward other fortifications and approaches to Washington, D.C. The fort was connected by a long series of trenches, like this one, and earthworks to nearby Fort Marcy and the Potomac River. Fort Ethan Allen Trench is located to the southwest of the fort. The trench measures about 25 feet wide and about 220 feet long; the other portions of trench that this segment was once connected to were destroyed by road and building construction.

The Fort Ethan Allen Trench was designated a Local Historic District (LHD) in 1995 which was after Fort Ethan Allen, which became a LHD in 1978. It is not entirely clear why the Trench was not included in the original Fort Ethan Allen LHD boundaries, but they are technically two separate LHD sites. In August 1997, the HALRB approved a CoA for the installation of a split-rail fence in the LHD boundaries. Around 2003, a Civil War Trails (CWT) marker was installed at Fort Ethan Allen Trench.

Proposal

The current proposal is for the retroactive removal of the CWT marker located at Fort Ethan Allen Trench. In June 2023, the HALRB approved CoA 23-14 for the relocation of this CWT marker to a new location at Fort Ethan Allen and to change the interpretation of that marker to tell the story of the 107th United States Colored Troops (USCT) in Arlington. CWT staff members removed the marker in response to the approval of that CoA. Given that Fort Ethan Allen Trench is a separate LHD from Fort Ethan Allen, which CoA 23-14 was attributed to, a separate CoA should have been issued at the time to approve the removal of the marker from Fort Ethan Allen Trench.

Design Review Committee (DRC) Review

The DRC reviewed the subject application at its February 7, 2024, hybrid meeting. The commissioners did not have any issues or questions and placed the item on the Consent Agenda for the February 21, 2024, HALRB hybrid public hearing.

Recommendation

The Historic Preservation Program staff recommends approval of this application as submitted. The removal and relocation of the marker has not impacted the historic integrity of the site. As such, the project meets the intent of Standard #10 of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*:

Standard #10: New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.