



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

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November 20, 2023

Ms. Caitlin Smith  
Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Avenue  
Arlington, VA 22211

Re: Confederate Memorial Removal  
Revised Area of Potential Effects & Assessment of Adverse Effects  
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia  
DHR File No. 2022-0201

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received the document referenced above dated November 2, 2023 prepared by Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) and Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). This document has been revised to reflect consideration of comments from consulting parties and the public as offered through written and verbal comments during the scoping period and at public and consulting parties' meetings. ANC has been directed to remove the bronze elements of the Confederate Memorial by January 1, 2024. Our comments are provided to ANMC as assistance in meeting its responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

Based on the information provided, we concur with the revised Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE contains the following historic properties which are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): Arlington National Cemetery Historic District (DHR ID #000-0042) and its contributing resources, Arlington National Cemetery Confederate Memorial (DHR ID #s 000-1235; 000-0042-0029), Arlington House Historic District (DHR ID #000-0001), and Fort Myer Historic District (DHR ID #000-0004). The Fort Myer Historic District is also recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

We concur that the removal of the bronze elements of the Confederate Memorial will adversely affect the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District, Arlington National Cemetery Confederate Memorial, and Arlington House Historic District as described in the Assessment of Adverse Effects document. ANC should take necessary steps to minimize the potential effect to the Confederate Memorial, the possible memorabilia box, and surrounding area during disassembly, transport, and storage. These steps along with appropriate

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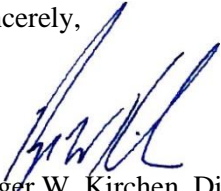
mitigation for this effect should be memorialized in an agreement document among ANMC, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), DHR, and any other invited signatory.

In finalizing its finding of effect and determining appropriate steps to minimize and mitigate any adverse effects, ANMC must not only seek concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office, which in Virginia is DHR, but also consider any views concerning such effects and mitigation from consulting parties and the public. We encourage ANMC to continue consultation with stakeholders as it moves to conclude the Section 106 process.

Although DHR serves only in an advisory capacity within the Section 106 process with no regulatory decision-making authority, should there be any change to the directive for removal, we encourage ANMC and ANC to consider retaining the Confederate Memorial in its current location as an opportunity to create a contextualized and contemplative site within the setting of a national cemetery that solemnly reflects America's military history.

Please continue to consult with DHR, other consulting parties, and the public to develop appropriate strategies to minimize and mitigate the adverse effects. If you have any questions at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me at [roger.kirchen@dhv.virginia.gov](mailto:roger.kirchen@dhv.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,



Roger W. Kirchen, Director  
Review and Compliance Division

c. Megan Borthwick, ACHP

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