

Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board

Arlington County, Virginia

HALRB Case 17-02 (HP1700003)



A request by Peter Connell (on behalf of the Arlington County Board), owner of 2411 24th Street North in the Fort C.F. Smith Historic District, to remove three trees.

For DRC (circle those present): **Robert Dudka, Charles Craig, Andrew Wenchel, Tova Solo, Joan Lawrence, John Peck**

For Arlington County (circle those present): **Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Rebecca Ballo, John Liebertz**

Case # 16-20A Agenda Item # 2

Application Complete

Application Incomplete

Applicant(s): Peter Connell, Arlington County DES

For Applicant(s): David Farner, Arlington County

(See attached application for applicant, address, name of property and property description, drawings, photographs, and proposed scope of work.)

Design Recommendations:

1. Age of trees to be removed.
2. Confirm number and location of replacement trees.
3. Note that the applicant will confer with the forester.

Findings:

Return to next DRC meeting

Send to HALRB

If sent to HALRB, recommended action is:

Place on consent agenda

Recommend approval of CoA, with DRC design recommendations and/or additional information provided

To: HALRB
From: John Liebertz, Historic Preservation Planner
Date: February 9, 2017
Subject: 2411 24th Street North, CoA 17-02, Fort C.F. Smith Historic District

Background Information

Between 1863 and 1865, Fort C. F. Smith was a second-generation fort, built mid-war to bolster the existing defenses of the nation's capital. Most of the perimeter fits the typical Civil War fort profile of a flat central section, known as the terreplein, surrounded by a raised-earth rampart that enhanced views of the enemy. It was first called the Fort at Red House or Fort McDowell, but in June 1863, it was named to honor Major General Charles Ferguson Smith. The fort was abandoned and dismantled in the fall of 1865. Fort C.F. Smith is the best preserved Civil War fort in Arlington. It lies within the 19-acre Fort C.F. Smith Park, along with a late-19th and early-20th century estate with embedded Civil War-era ruins. The fort was designated as a local historic district in 1987 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. The local historic district is comprised of numerous non-contributing resources including a 1920s cottage and a modern tractor barn.

Proposal

The applicant proposes to remove three pine trees from the earthworks.

DRC Review

The DRC heard this case at its February 2017 meeting. The committee asked for additional details regarding the number of replacement trees. In addition, the application should note the replacement trees' species and that the location would be coordinated with the Arlington County Forester. The DRC requested that this application be placed on the consent agenda for the February 15, 2017, HALRB meeting.

Discussion and Recommendation

The County Board designated Fort C.F. Smith as a local historic district to protect the historically significant earthworks. The primary goal for preservation of the earthworks should be to reinforce the essential qualities of the earthworks themselves. The National Park Service's "Sustainable Military Earthworks Management" recommends the removal of trees that are approximately twelve inches (dbh) or larger. If uprooted during a storm event, trees of this size have the ability to cause significant damage to the earthworks by displacing soil. HPP staff recommends the removal of these three trees and replacement with eight canopy trees as per the Arlington County Tree Replacement Calculation. Per the County Forester, 24 smaller trees could be planted instead of eight canopy trees. The trees are proposed to be planted in the Natural Conservation Area at Fort C.F. Smith Park. Staff finds that the request meets the intent of Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Restoration.