

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 6/19/8
NRHP draft

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic/name: Proctor Creek, Jefferson Davis Highway Marker


other/names/site/number/ VDHR# 020-0561 and #127-6150-0009

2. Location

street&number 9300 Block Jefferson Davis Highway not for publication N/A
city or town Richmond vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Chesterfield County code 041 Zip 23237

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally x statewide locally. (See continuation Sheet for additional comments.)

 Date 7/25/05.
Signature of certifying official _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register Signature of Keeper _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register Date of Action _____
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

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Proctor Creek, Jefferson Davis Highway Marker
Chesterfield County, VA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

UDC Commemorative Highway Markers along the Jefferson Davis Highway in Virginia

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Monument/Marker

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Monument/Marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
 roof N/A
 walls N/A
 other Granite

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Social History

Period of Significance 1931-1947

Significant Dates 1931, 1933

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	284830	4	14	1660
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ruth D. Snead
 Organization: Elliott Grays Chapter UDC #1877 date 4/20/08
 street & number: 1318 Devers Road telephone 804- 285-3690
 city or town Richmond state Va. Code 23226

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Richmond -Stonewall Jackson Chapter UDC
 street & number 328 North Blvd. telephone 804- 355-1636
 city or town Richmond state Va. zip code 23220-4009

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Proctor Creek, Jefferson Davis Highway Marker
Chesterfield County, VA**

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Summary Description:

The Proctor Creek Jefferson Davis Highway Marker is located in Chesterfield County, Virginia, on Jefferson Davis Highway, U.S. Route 1, 6.5 miles south of Richmond. The marker is one of sixteen erected in Virginia along the Jefferson Davis Highway between 1927 and 1946. The Jefferson Davis Highway was a nation-wide memorial project of the United Daughters of the Confederacy beginning in 1913 and continuing until 1947 when the highway's terminal marker was placed in Arlington, Virginia.

Detailed Description:

The Proctor Creek marker is a gray granite boulder with rough-cut edges. The granite boulder is 52" tall, 28" wide, 20" thick and rests on a 11" granite base. The sloped face at the top of the marker carries a bronze plaque "Jefferson Davis Highway -Virginia." Engraved text on front face of the stone reads "ERECTED BY THE FIFTH DISTRICT VIRGINIA DIVISION UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY 1931." The inscription is blown in on the granite, and the letters are one and three-quarters inches in height.

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**Proctor Creek, Jefferson Davis Highway Marker
Chesterfield County, VA**

8. Statement of Significance

The Proctor Creek Highway Marker is one of sixteen markers erected along the Jefferson Davis Highway in Virginia between 1927 and 1947 as a memorial to Jefferson F. Davis, first and only president of the Confederate States of America. All sixteen markers remain standing and despite the minor relocation of several markers to increase highway safety or traffic flow, all retain their historic relationship to U.S. Route 1, which for the most part constitutes the route of the Jefferson Davis Highway through Virginia. The markers were paid for, erected and maintained by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) through local UDC Chapters, the Virginia Division of the UDC and the General Organization of the UDC. This activity was replicated in the other former Confederate States and was a part of a cross-country route mapped as the Jefferson Davis Highway and promoted by the UDC through educational brochures and travel publications. The establishment of the Jefferson Davis Highway, the erection of the markers honoring the Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and the publications of maps and educational brochures about the locations through which the cross-country route passed is considered by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to be one of its greatest undertakings. The period of significance runs from the construction of the Proctor Creek Marker until the last marker was placed (1931-1947).

Criteria Statement

The Proctor Creek Jefferson Davis Highway Marker is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, The Commemorative Markers Placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on the Jefferson Davis Highway in Virginia 1913–1947. The markers included in the MPD meet criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Social History because they are associated with the period of “named highways” in U.S. history from 1913 through 1925 and because they represent a significant achievement for a women’s organization. The MPD and the markers included within it have statewide significance in the area of transportation and social history.

Criteria Consideration

As a commemorative marker, the Proctor Creek Marker meets Criteria Consideration F. The marker is primarily commemorative, yet it possesses symbolic value and its own historical significance as part of this early attempt to mark a cross-country highway as a memorial to the first and only President of the Confederate States of America.

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Chesterfield County, VA**

Detailed Background:

Mrs. Alexander B. White, President General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, conceived the idea for the Jefferson Davis Highway in 1913, following the establishment of the Lincoln Highway earlier that year. From 1913 until about 1925, it was common for private organizations to identify a route, give it a name and promote its use and improvement. The Jefferson Davis Highway extends coast to coast from Arlington, Virginia to San Diego, Ca. and a distance of 3,417 miles. The highway then continues north up the Pacific coast to the Canadian border.

The Virginia section of the highway extends from the Potomac River Bridge at Arlington, south through Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Petersburg to the North Carolina boundary, a distance of 235 miles. Virginia's General Assembly designated U.S. Route 1 as the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway in March of 1922.

The Proctor Creek Marker is one of sixteen in Virginia. It retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Proctor Creek Highway Marker is in its original location along U.S. Route 1, the Jefferson Davis Highway. Although the surroundings of the marker have changed since 1931 it retains its historic association with the highway. The design of the marker has not changed in the years since its erection and there has not been any loss of its original fabric or features so that its integrity of materials is also intact. The workmanship of the marker has not been altered in the years since 1931. The marker's integrity of feeling is intact; it retains a simple dignity and the feeling of an earlier age of travel when markers by the side of the road were more easily seen and appreciated by the passing public. Finally, the marker retains its integrity of association, conveying its origins as a historical memorial.

As a commemorative property the Proctor Creek Marker is associated with the period 1913 through 1947 corresponding with the dates when the UDC first proposed the idea for a Jefferson Davis Highway and when the highway's terminal marker in Arlington, Virginia was erected.

The Proctor Creek Jefferson Davis Highway Marker is near the site of the May 16, 1864, Battle of Proctor's Creek which is considered part of the second Battle of Drewry's Bluff. Confederate troops under the command of General P.G.T. Beauregard attacked the Federal Army of Major-General B.F. Butler and forced its withdrawal to the Bermuda Hundred defenses, where they remained "bottled up" until the Confederate forces withdrew in April of 1865.

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On the night of May 15, 1864, the Federal Army of 30,000 was in place under the cover of darkness south of Proctor Creek. The night was clear and the Federals reached their positions in the heavily wooded terrain without too much confusion. Just before dawn the situation changed when a heavy dense fog overspread the area creating so opaque a pall that horsemen were not visible at a distance of ten yards. Taking the advantage of surprise, Beauregard moved to the attack with an army of 18,000. Divisions under Confederate Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke and Maj. Gen. Robert Ransom, Jr. opened an attack on the Federals' right flank, routing many units. Subsequent attacks lost direction in the fog, but the Federals were disorganized and demoralized. By midmorning the Federals began retreating one half mile south to the Half-Way House. After the severe fighting, Butler extricated himself from battle, withdrawing again to his Bermuda Hundred Line. This battle halted Butler's offensive against Richmond. The ground was drenched with the blood of nearly 7,000 men.

In a 1918 letter to her grandchildren, Mrs. Judith Ann Robertson Foster (1845-1924), age 74, wrote an informal autobiography. The Robertson house is still standing on the west side of Salem Church Road in eastern Chesterfield County and is presently surrounded by a medium-density housing development. Judith's father died when she was thirteen and shortly after that her mother sent her to a female boarding school at Fork Union, Virginia. With the outbreak of the war in 1861, her brothers joined the Chesterfield Court House Infantry. Her mother, in poor health, recalled her from school. Her brother Joseph died of typhoid fever while on duty at Jamestown Island and in 1862 her half-brother, John Nunnally, was killed at the Battle of Seven Pines. Foster writes "After this great sorrow my Mother gave her time to care for the sick in the Hospitals and in our own home. Two young men from North Carolina died and were buried in the family grave yard. I spent my time doing all I could for our suffering soldier boys. I went time and again with my Mother to the Hospitals in Richmond, where we took many gallons of milk, eggs, meat, in fact everything we had which was suitable to nourish the dear boys. It makes my heart ache even now when I recall the suffering I saw...."

In May 1864, heavy fighting took place in the vicinity of Centralia and Drewrys Bluff, and Union Troops staged frequent raids on the surrounding farms. During the height of the fray, the widow Robertson packed off her three young children to a house outside the area of conflict. Foster recalls: "After the severe fighting we started back home, not knowing if the house was standing, or Mother living. On our way home we crossed the battlefield, where the dead men were laying like cattle, many wounded still living, whose lives were fast ebbing away. This was the only time I had seen human brains."

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The Proctor Creek Highway marker is located on the west side of Route U.S. 1, one-half mile north of the Half Way House, which was conscripted as the Headquarters for Union Major General

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Benjamin F. Butler during May of 1864. The cost of the boulder was \$160.00, the bronze plate on top cost \$25.00 and the inscription on the front cost \$20.00. Members of the Jefferson Davis Highway Committee were: Chairman, Mrs. B. A. Blenner, Richmond, Virginia, Miss Lillie Rice, Mrs. J.B.T. Thornton, Mrs. Daniel Stansbury, Mrs. J. A. Hurt, Mrs. C. B. Mason, and Mrs. H. F. Hutchinson. Miss A. Blohmer Rudd was the 5th District Chairman. The Proctor Creek Marker was erected by the 5th District of the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Richmond Chapters in the 5th District are Elliott Grays, Janet Randolph, Lee, Richmond, and Stonewall-Jackson. The remaining chapters comprising the 5th District are Bowling Green, Capt. Sallie Tompkins, Chesterfield, Essex, Goochland, Hanover, Harrison-Harwood, Lancaster, Lee-Jackson, Louisa, Middlesex, Mineral, New Kent, Stuart, West Point and Williamsburg.

The Proctor Creek Marker was dedicated May 24, 1933 at 3 P.M. Rev. R.M. White, pastor of Berryman Methodist Church, offered the prayer.

The first verse of "America" led by Mrs. Andrew N. Roberts, Director for music, was sung. Mrs. Blenner, Chairman, introduced Judge Edwin P. Cox, of Chesterfield County. He told of the Battle of Drewrys Bluff. He then presented Dr. H. J. Eckenrode, Historian of the State of Virginia. Dr. Eckenrode spoke on the life of President Jefferson Davis.

The Richmond – Stonewall Chapter UDC currently maintains the marker.

Proctor Creek took its name from the Proctor family plantation that was located just north of the creek in the early 17th century.

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Major Bibliographical References

Lutz, Frances Earle, *Chesterfield An Old Virginia County, Volume 1, 1607-1957*

Weaver, Bettie W, *History and Geography of Chesterfield County Virginia*

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Odell, Jeffrey M., *Chesterfield County Early Architecture and Historic Sites*

The History of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Vol. 1 and 11. Reprinted under the authority granted in Convention assembled at Orlando, Fl, 1993

Jefferson Davis Highway Marker 1998, Vol. 11 Jan Hobbs, General Chairman Jefferson Davis Highway Committee

Report of Chairman Jefferson Davis Highway, Mrs. B.A. Banner, Virginia Division Minutes Oct, 1932-1933, page 108

Report of 5th District Chairman, Miss A. Bohmer Rudd, Virginia Division Minutes Oct, 1932-1933, page 83

The United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine, July 1947 and September 1994

Virginia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy Markers. October 2001

Weingroff, Richard F., Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway, Information Liaison Specialist in the Federal Highway Administration Office of the Associate Administrator for Program Development

Richmond News Leader - Honor Memory of Jefferson Davis, 2 April 1930, Column 1

Richmond Times Dispatch-Boulder on Pike to be Dedicated to Confederacy, 21 May 1933, Sec V, Page 2

<http://www.nps.gov/rich/historyculture/drewrys-bluff.htm>

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Geographical Data

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes only the marker itself at UTM zone 18, point

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284830E, 4141660N.

Verbal Boundary Description

The marker is one-quarter mile south of Willis Road in Chesterfield County, Virginia, on an embankment on the west side of the Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. 1).

Photographic Data

All photos of the Proctor Creek Marker, Chesterfield County, #020-0561

Photos taken by Ruth Snead in April 2008

Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Photo 1 of 4

Front of marker

Photo 2 of 4

Rear of marker

Photo 3 of 4

Left side of marker

Photo 4 of 4

Right side of marker

