

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MARCH 1, 2017

**TO:** CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF OLD AND HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA  
DISTRICT BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

**FROM:** HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF

**SUBJECT:** APPOMATTOX STATUE DRAFT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

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As a Certified Local Government (CLG) in the National Park Service program, the Boards of Architectural Review are asked to review and comment upon draft National Register nominations and to relay any comments or concerns to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). Staff will forward the BAR's comments from the public hearing on March 1, 2017 to VDHR in preparation for the March 16, 2017 joint quarterly meeting of the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources.

A draft National Register nomination has been prepared by Deborah A. Mullins, President of the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to nominate the Appomattox Statue, located at the intersection of Prince and Washington streets, to the National Register of Historic Places (see Attachment). The statue is a privately owned object located in the City's public way. The bronze Appomattox statue was created by M. Casper Buberl based on a depiction in a painting of the same name by John Adams Elder. The nomination proposes that the statue be found eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C, in the area of Art as the work of a master and because it possesses high artistic value. Additionally, the statue is also subject to consideration under Criteria Consideration F: commemorative properties whose significance comes from their value as a cultural expression at the date of creation and also possessing significance based on its own value, not on the value of the event or person being memorialized, according to National Park Service Guidance.

As has occurred in many communities throughout the South, the City has recently re-examined memorials and symbolism related to the Confederacy. Over the course of the past year, the City convened a group of community members, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, to consider the appropriateness of such names in our modern and diverse city. On September 17, 2016, Alexandria City Council made a motion, that carried unanimously, to direct city staff to initiate a discussion with the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) regarding the possibility of moving the Appomattox statue to the nearby corner lawn of the Lyceum (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Greek Revival building now operated by the City as a museum), to add contextual information, to request permission from the General Assembly for the statue's relocation, and to monitor the results of the Governor's Monuments Work Group and report back with the recommendations. The City has reached out to UDC but there is no further update on relocation at this time.

As a reminder, listing a place or object on the National Register of Historic Places is an honorific designation that does not preclude future changes or, in extreme cases, demolition. Although context and setting are important aspects for understanding a historic place or object, there are situations that may warrant changes to a setting or relocation of an object. Historic photographs show that the current setting is far from the original park-like setting the statue (Figure 1). Therefore, staff finds that shifting the statue's location onto an adjacent lawn where there is the opportunity to provide additional appropriate and contextual information about the statue, per the direction of City Council, will not affect the statue's overall integrity. However, to be clear, the BAR is not being asked to opine on relocation of the statue, only on the merits described in the nomination form for inclusion of the statue itself on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Figure 1. Appomattox Statue, looking north west taken, prior to 1930. Source: Library of Congress.*

### **Staff Recommendation**

Therefore, after reviewing the draft National Register nomination for the Appomattox Statue, staff recommends that the BAR support the designation of this object for its artistic and commemorative significance according to nationally accepted preservation criteria with the understanding that the City is actively pursuing relocation of the object.

Attachment: *Appomattox Statue National Register Nomination (DRAFT).*



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan  
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

January 19, 2017

Mr. Mark Jinks  
City Manager, City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Suite 3500  
Alexandria, VA 22314

City Manager's Office  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

JAN 25 2017

**Re: Appomattox Statue, City of Alexandria**

Dear Mr. Jinks:

The Department of Historic Resources, Virginia's historic preservation office, has received a completed nomination for the above referenced resource. The DHR is planning to present the proposed nomination to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Because this resource is within your Certified Local Government, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) is entitled to a sixty-day comment period during which the ARB may review the draft nomination and relay any comments or concerns to the DHR. For your review and comment, **enclosed** is a copy of the draft nomination as it is to be presented to the Boards on **Thursday, March 16, 2017**. A copy of the nomination has also been sent to your local CLG coordinator. Your comments will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the Boards along with the nomination for consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the nomination or the register process, please call me directly at 804-482-6445.

Sincerely,

James Hare  
Director, Survey and Register Division

cc: Mayor Allison Silberburg; Al Cox

Enclosure

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033

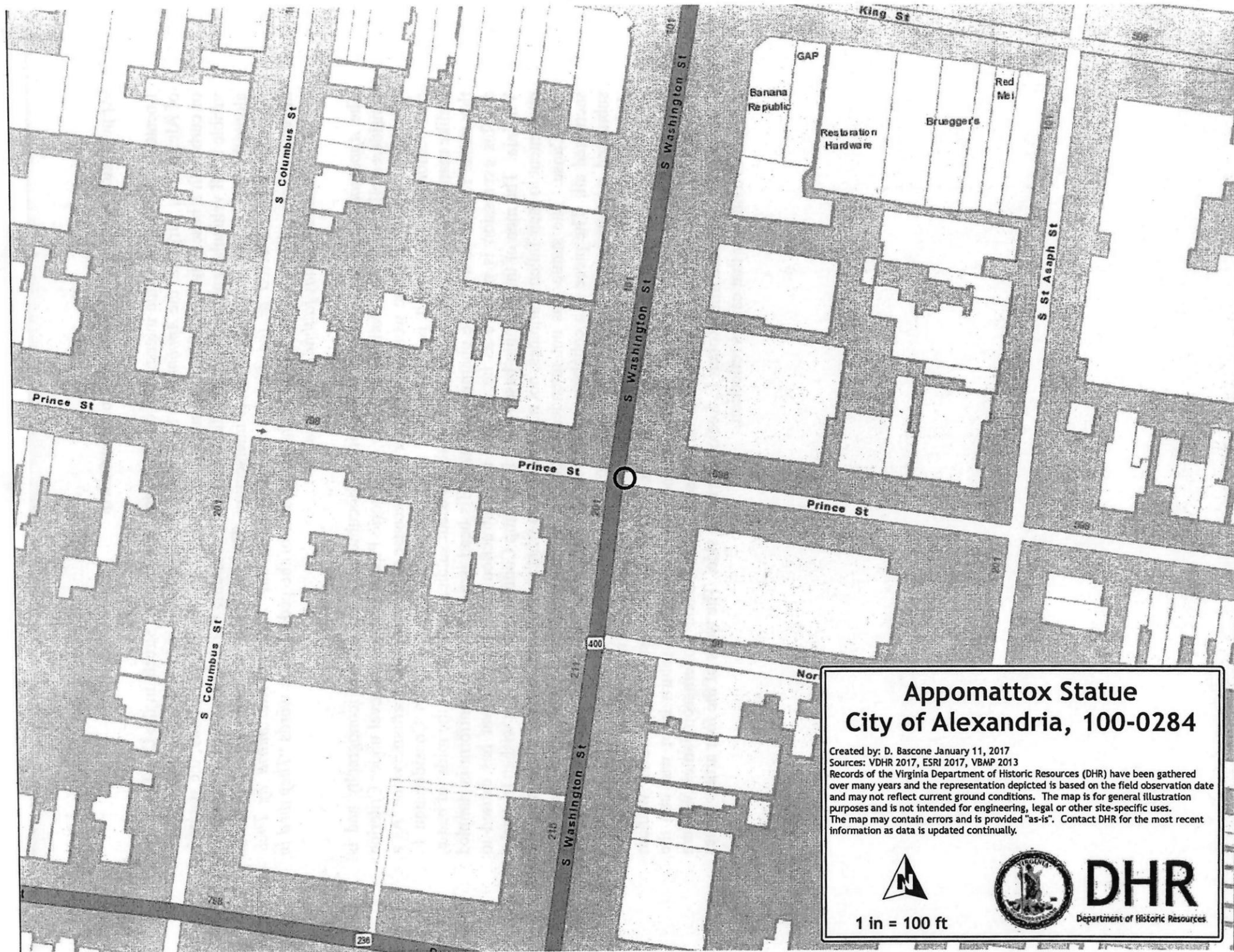
Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

## **Appomattox Statue, #100-0284, City of Alexandria**

Located at the center of the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets in the Old Town area of Alexandria, Virginia, the *Appomattox* Statue sits atop a rounded concrete section of sidewalk or curb with a base height of 10' and a sculpture height of 7'6". Dedicated in 1889, the statute is visible to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from the surrounding buildings, roads and sidewalks along the Prince and Washington Street intersection. The south side of the granite pedestal is inscribed with "*Erected to the Memory of the Confederate Dead of Alexandria by Their Surviving Comrades May 24, 1889.*" On the north side of the pedestal the words "*They died in the Consciousness of duty faithfully performed.*"

The *Appomattox Statue* is unique in Virginia's documented Confederate iconography and is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Art as the work of a master and because it possesses high artistic value. As a commemorative property it is also subject to consideration under Criteria Consideration F. Unlike many mass-produced or stock statues that present soldiers armed or in the midst of battle, this statue represents a simple unarmed private. His head is downcast, his uniform is rumpled and his expression is pensive as he surveys the destruction four years of war has caused to Virginia. The men of the Virginia-based R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans wished to erect a monument to their fallen comrades, not a monument to what was already becoming known as the Lost Cause. The statue was not intended to glorify an ideology, but to remember those who sacrificed all. The piece is a collaboration of several masters in their fields. John Adams Elder submitted a proposal to the R. E. Lee Camp based on the central figure in his painting, *Appomattox*. M. Casper Buberl was responsible for taking Elder's work and making it three-dimensional. The Henry Bonnard Bronze Company of New York cast Buberl's work. William Leal of Richmond cut the names of the Alexandrians who did not return from war into the granite base, as well as the inscriptions on the south side. Local stonemason James William Chauncey cut the quote from Robert E. Lee on the north side. The work of the four artists comes together in a manner that causes reflection.





## Appomattox Statue City of Alexandria, 100-0284

Created by: D. Bascone January 11, 2017  
Sources: VDHHR 2017, ESRI 2017, VBMP 2013  
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.



1 in = 100 ft



**DHR**  
Department of Historic Resources

## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources (DHR), 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

### Key Points about the National and State Register Process for Property Owners

- Listing in the national and state registers is honorary. It recognizes a historic property's importance to its community, the State, and/or the Nation as well as encouraging good stewardship of the historic property.
- National and state register listings do not place restrictions on private property owners. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.
- Under Federal and State laws, private property owners can do anything they wish with their Register-listed property, provided that no Federal or State license, permit, or funding is involved.
- If a listed property is destroyed or its integrity is greatly altered, it is removed from the registers.
- To ensure public participation in the nomination process, property owners and local officials are notified of proposed nominations to the National Register and provided the opportunity to comment. In addition, once a nomination is submitted to the National Park Service another public comment period is published in the *Federal Register*. Further details about the public participation process are available at [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/GuidanceMaterials/LegalNotificationForm\\_2016.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/GuidanceMaterials/LegalNotificationForm_2016.pdf)
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed property must give DHR (Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office) an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property. Further details are provided below.
- Federal and State Investment Tax Credits for rehabilitation and other provisions are available, should a property owner choose to use them. Further details are provided below.
- Owners may also qualify for Federal grants for historic preservation when funding is available. Refer to the National Park Service web site for Federal grant information. Currently, Virginia has no grants available for privately owned properties.

### National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the national historic preservation program is a partnership between the Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; private organizations; and the public. The Act and its provisions establish the framework within which citizens plan, identify, evaluate, register, and protect significant historic and archeological properties throughout the country. Central to this framework is the NRHP--the Nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior. Properties listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Historic places are nominated to the NRHP by nominating authorities: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor of the State in which the property is located; the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control; or by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Anyone can prepare a nomination to the NRHP, at which time the SHPO, FPO or THPO reviews the proposed nomination, and notifies property owners and local officials of the intent to nominate. Nominations submitted through the State must first be approved by a State Review Board (SRB) before being reviewed by the NPS. The members of the SRB, who are appointed by the SHPO, use the same criteria as the National Register to evaluate properties and then recommend them to the NPS for listing in the NRHP.

The NRHP continues to reflect the desire of Americans, as expressed in the NHPA, that "the historical and cultural foundation of the nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."

### Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR)

In 1966, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, now the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office responsible for managing



the VLR, the state's official list of properties important to Virginia's history. The Historic Resources Board (HRB), appointed by the Governor of Virginia, is responsible for listing properties to the VLR. Just as the same evaluation criteria are used for the National and State registers, the same register form is also used for both the VLR and the NRHP. Nearly 2300 historic properties are listed in the VLR. This number does not include the tens of thousands of properties within each listed historic district.

### **Federal and State Tax Provisions**

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984, and, as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings. The former 15% and 20% ITCs for rehabilitations of older commercial buildings are combined into a single 10% ITC for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner.

Owners of properties listed in the VLR may be eligible for a 25% ITC for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing and non-income producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental or non-rental residential buildings. Owners who rehabilitate an income-producing building listed in both the National and State registers may use both Federal and State ITCs. Tax Credits are only available if a property owner chooses to use them and individuals should consult the appropriate local IRS office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. Refer also to 36 CFR 67 at the Heritage Preservation Services web site or to the Tax Credit Program on the DHR web site.

### **Results of Federal and State Listing**

Historic District sponsoring organizations, local governments, and/or owners of listed properties may purchase an attractive official plaque noting designation. Owners of recognized historic properties are also eligible for the Virginia Preservation Easement Program, as well as technical assistance from the staff of DHR. Professional architects, architectural historians, and archaeologists are available to provide technical guidance in the care and maintenance of buildings and sites.

Planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects includes consideration of historic properties. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that Federal agencies allow the SHPO an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ([www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)) oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal planning process. Buildings listed in the VLR may also be considered as part of a state-funded project, such as highway planning. Register listing also requires consideration in issuing a surface coal mining permit. In accordance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201-1328; 91 Stat. 445), there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. Staff at DHR are available to provide more information about these requirements.

Local governments may have laws to encourage the preservation of their historic places. Such programs are established at the local level and therefore are entirely separate from the Register process managed by DHR. Some local governments have enacted their own identification procedures; some use listing in the National and State registers as an indicator of historic significance. Local historic preservation programs can provide some protection against the possible harmful effects of State-funded, -licensed, or -assisted projects. Some provide limited financial assistance to owners in the form of grants, loans, or tax benefits. They may establish other protections or reviews for preservation purposes. Your local government's planning department can provide more information.

### **Websites with Additional Information**

[www.nps.gov/history](http://www.nps.gov/history) - National Park Service's main website for Historic Preservation and History programs

[www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/) - National Register of Historic Places main website

[www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm) - Provides the full text of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov) - Department of Historic Resources (DHR) main website

[www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/register.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/register.htm) - Registers Homepage of DHR's website

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources (DHR), 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221  
(804) 482-6446; [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

## Rights of Private Property Owners to Comment and/or Object to a Nomination for Listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) is Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). DHR administers the Virginia Landmarks Register on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia and, as the SHPO, administers Virginia's participation in the National Register of Historic Places, which is managed by the National Park Service. DHR is your primary point of contact for all matters related to the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### Supporting and/or Commenting on a Nomination

A private property owner who supports a nomination for listing in either or both the VLR and the NRHP is invited to send a letter of support but is not required to do so in order for the nomination to proceed. Private property owners also are welcome to comment on a nomination even if they do not seek to go on record with either a vote of support for or an objection to a nomination. Copies of letters of support and/or comment are provided to the State Review Board (SRB) and the Board of Historic Resources (BHR) for review, along with the nomination to which they refer, and are included with the nomination if the SRB has recommended it to proceed to the NRHP.

### Objecting to a Nomination

A private property owner has the right to object to listing in either the VLR or the NRHP, or object to listing in both registers. For a private property that is being individually nominated, each owner or partial owner of the private property may object to listing regardless of the portion of the property that party owns. For a historic district that is being nominated, each owner of private property in the proposed historic district is counted as one individual regardless of how many properties that party owns, and regardless of whether the properties contribute to the significance of the district.

The private property owner's objection to listing must be provided to DHR in writing. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing shall submit to DHR a written statement of objection that has been attested and notarized by a notary public and that references the subject property by address and/or parcel number and certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate. Only upon such submission shall such objecting owner be counted by DHR in determining whether a majority of private property owners has objected to a nomination. An objection to both the VLR and NRHP designations can be submitted in the same letter. However, in order for an objection to listing in the VLR to be counted, it must be submitted to DHR a minimum of 7 business days prior to the scheduled Board meeting listed in the notification letter. An objection to NRHP listing will stand even if the letter arrives too late for consideration of the VLR listing.

For an individually nominated private property, if a **majority** of the private property's owners object according to the process described herein, the nomination will not proceed. For a historic district nomination, if a **majority** of the private property owners within the historic district boundary object according to the process described herein, the nomination will not proceed. In both types of cases, as the SHPO, DHR shall submit the nomination to the National Park Service's Keeper for a determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the NRHP. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property.

Letters of objection must be addressed to the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221.

Letters of objection received a minimum of 7 business days prior to the Board meeting will be copied to the members of the SRB and BHR for review, along with the nomination to which they refer. If, at the Board meeting, the nomination is approved to proceed to the NRHP, all letters of objection will be forwarded to the National Park Service to consider with their review of the nomination, along with any letters of support or comment that DHR has received. Letters of objection to listing in the National Register of Historic Places may be submitted to DHR even after the Board meeting at which the nomination is approved. DHR will forward any letters of objection to the National Park Service. The National Park Service continues to accept letters of objection up to the date of listing in the NRHP. The National Park Service typically concludes review and approval of a nomination within approximately 55 days of receipt of the nomination from DHR.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Appomattox StatueOther names/site number: DHR No. 100

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/a

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

**2. Location**Street & number: Intersection Prince and Washington StreetsCity or town: Alexandria State: VA County: Independent CityNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

    A     B x C     D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government



Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 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

☒

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

0

Noncontributing

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

1

0

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL: Bronze; STONE: Granite

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Located at the center of the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets in the Old Town area of Alexandria, Virginia, the *Appomattox* Statue sits atop a rounded concrete section of sidewalk or curb with a base height of 10' and a sculpture height of 7'6". Dedicated in 1889, the statute is visible to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from the surrounding buildings, roads and sidewalks along the Prince and Washington Street intersection. The south side of the granite pedestal is inscribed with "*Erected to the Memory of the Confederate Dead of Alexandria by Their Surviving Comrades May 24, 1889.*" On the north side of the pedestal the words "*They died in the Consciousness of duty faithfully performed.*"

#### Narrative Description

The Appomattox Statue is a bronze commemorative statue that sits atop a Georgia granite base at the intersection of Washington Street (George Washington Memorial Parkway) and Prince William Streets in Old Town Alexandria. The cast bronze figure of an unarmed private was executed by sculpture M. Casper Buberl of New York City and cast by the Henry Bennard Bronze Company. The soldier, still dressed in uniform, is unarmed, his head is downcast and his expression is one of contemplation. His arms are crossed with his left arm extending towards his right shoulder with his hand grasping at his shirt sleeve and his right arm tucked under the left

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

clutching his slouch hat. Draped across his body is a water canteen and his haversack, with the canteen resting on top of the bag. The figure stands with his left foot slightly turned outward making it appear that most of his weight has been shifted to the right foot. The bronze figure is exceptionally and realistically detailed from the curls and waves in the soldier's hair, to his mustache, to the wrinkles in his clothes and the slack in his knee-high boots. The bronze statue sits on a simple pedestal of granite produced by William Leal of Richmond, Virginia. The granite is inscribed on the south side with:

ERECTED  
TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
CONFEDERATE DEAD  
OF ALEXANDRIA  
BY THEIR  
SURVIVING COMRADES  
MAY 24, 1889

The plinth below is inscribed:

THIS MONUMENT MARKS THE SPOT FROM  
WHICH THE ALEXANDRIA TROOPS LEFT TO  
JOIN THE CONFEDERATE FORCES  
MAY 24, 1861.

The names of the members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry who did not return home and those of Alexandrian who served in other commands are inscribed on the west and east sides of the granite base. The inscription on the north side of the base was not done until after the statue's dedication. It was done by local stonecutter James William Chancey. The inscription is a quote from Robert E. Lee:

THEY DIED IN THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF DUTY  
FAITHFULLY PERFORMED

Today, the *Appomattox Statue* still sits in the middle of a busy intersection. At one time, there was green space measuring 40 feet by 60 feet around the statue with an iron railing and lanterns and decorative urns. These have given way to the automobile. The statue now sits in a 12 foot diameter traffic circle.

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

## 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 grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☒ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ART

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1888-1889

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1889

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Artist: Elder, John Adams

Sculptor: Buberl, M. Casper

Casting: Henry Bonnard Co.

Stonecutting: Leal, William

and Chauncey, James William

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The *Appomattox Statue* is unique in Virginia's documented Confederate iconography and is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Art as the work of a master and because it possesses high artistic value. As a commemorative property it is also subject to consideration under Criteria Consideration F. Unlike many mass-produced or stock statues that present soldiers armed or in the midst of battle, this statue represents a simple unarmed private. His head is downcast, his uniform is rumpled and his expression is pensive as he surveys the destruction four years of war has caused to Virginia. The men of the Virginia-based R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans wished to erect a monument to their fallen comrades, not a monument to what was already becoming known as the Lost Cause. The statue was not intended to glorify an ideology, but to remember those who sacrificed all. The piece is a collaboration of several masters in their fields. John Adams Elder submitted a proposal to the R. E. Lee Camp based on the central figure in his painting, *Appomattox*. M. Casper Buberl was responsible for taking Elder's work and making it three-dimensional. The Henry Bonnard Bronze Company of New York cast Buberl's work. William Leal of Richmond cut the names of the Alexandrians who did not return from war into the granite base, as well as the inscriptions on the south side. Local stonemason James William Chauncey cut the quote from Robert E. Lee on the north side. The work of the four artists comes together in a manner that causes reflection.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

On May 23, 1861, Virginia voted to secede from the Union. At 2:00 AM on May 24, 1861, Federal forces entered the city via the Long Bridge (present day 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge) and the Aqueduct Bridge (near the present day Key Bridge).<sup>1</sup> It was demanded that the local militia commander, Col. George Terrett, surrender his troops. Terrett refused, but said he would evacuate. At 6:50 AM, the five local militia companies gathered at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets and marched out of town to take the train to Manassas Junction, where they would band with five companies from the Shenandoah Valley to become the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry.<sup>2</sup> Alexandria remained under martial law until the end of the Civil War. Ninety-nine of the men who marched out of town that day, would die in service. James Jackson, proprietor of the Marshall House, had been killed by Col. Elmer Ellsworth when Ellsworth entered Jackson's home and torn down a Confederate flag.<sup>3</sup>

Following the Civil War, during the period of Reconstruction, former Confederates were not allowed to assemble in groups of more than two. Once the policies of Reconstruction were lifted, Confederate Veterans' Camps began to spring up. (Some find the word "camp" confusing in this

Appomattox Statue

Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA

County and State

context. The word "chapter" could be equated to it). The R.E. Lee Camp #2 Confederate Veterans was formed in Alexandria on July 7, 1884.<sup>4</sup> Many of the members had served in the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry.

At a Camp meeting in 1885, Edgar Warfield proposed a committee be formed,

To examine into the expediency of raising a fund for the erection of a Monument in Alexandria to the Confederate dead and to report a plan for the furtherance of the object.<sup>5</sup>

A committee of five was selected and plans for fund raising began. The Camp set a maximum amount to be spent of \$4,000.00.<sup>6</sup> Many methods were used to raise funds. These included fairs and lectures by famous Confederate heroes including John S. Mosby<sup>7</sup> and Rev. Frank Stringfellow.<sup>8</sup> Mosby, "The Gray Ghost," was known for his partisan rangers operating in the Shenandoah Valley. Stringfellow had been a spy and personal scout to J.E.B. Stuart. Both had ties to Alexandria. Montgomery Dent Corse had been a colonel in the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia before being elevated to brigadier general. He was local banker, California gold rush prospector, and militia leader who had served in the Mexican War. Corse donated his entire Mexican War pension of \$8.00 a month to the project, saying, that the Federal government should have a hand in paying for the Confederate statue.<sup>9</sup>

At some point, a contest was announced and artists began sending proposals. One came from Fredericksburg artist John Adams Elder.<sup>10</sup> He submitted a plaster model of the central figure in his painting, *Appomattox*, which depicted the scene immediately following Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865. The painting was so popular, that Elder did several versions of it. One was purchased in 1889 by the Virginia State Library and another by the Virginia Historical Society. Reportedly, Confederate courier John Archer Cullen posed for the painting.<sup>11</sup> The original plaster model submitted by Elder is on display at the R. E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, operated by the Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Alexandria, Virginia.

The R.E. Lee Camp felt Elder's submission was just what they were looking for. Montgomery Dent Corse, chairman of the Monument Committee, recommended the Camp accept Elder's proposal at a cost of \$3,500.00. The main feature was a heroic sized bronze figure. It was to be erected on an appropriate pedestal. The entire monument would be pyramid 20 feet tall. The figure to be 8 feet, and the base to be 12 feet.<sup>12</sup> The Camp notified Elder by letter on 4 September, 1888.<sup>13</sup> The Camp adjutant was instructed to compile a list of Alexandria's war dead.<sup>14</sup>

Elder gave the job of sculpting the work to his friend M. Casper Buberl. Beginning in 1879, this Bohemian immigrant had sculpted several Civil War monuments, including ten on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Additionally, Buberl sculpted the A.P. Hill Monument in Richmond, the Raphael Semmes Monument in Mobile, Alabama, *Columbia Defending Science and Industry* at the Art and Industries Building in Washington, DC.<sup>15</sup> He is perhaps most famous for sculpting the 1,200

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

foot on the Pension Building in Washington, DC consisting of twenty-eight different scenes with 1,300 figures.<sup>16</sup>

The issue of where to place the monument arose. Several sites were considered. Ultimately, the Camp decided to petition to the Alexandria City Council for permission to place the monument at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets.<sup>17</sup> This location was symbolic, as it marked the exact spot from which the Alexandria companies of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry.

The *Appomattox Statue* was dedicated with great fanfare on May 24, 1889, exactly twenty-eight years after the local militia companies marched out of town. The entire city closed down for the afternoon. There was a huge parade and numerous speakers. Virginia Beverly Corse, daughter of Montgomery Dent Corse, pulled the rope which caused the drape to fall, presenting the monument.<sup>18</sup>

### **John Elder Adams and Caspar Buberl**

Born in Fredericksburg, the son of bootmaker, John Adams Elder exhibited artistic potential from an early age. He was encouraged by John Minor, a wealthy art patron. Minor introduced the young man to Emanuel Leutze, who would become famous for romantic representations of historic events, especially his "Washington Crossing the Delaware." Elder studied under Leutze in Germany and then returned to America to open a studio in New York in 1856. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

During the Civil War, Elder enlisted in the Confederate Army and was frequently assigned to render sketches for the Ordinance Department. On July 30, 1864, he was a member of Caskie's Battery at the Battle of the Crater. He sketched the scene that day and in 1869 created a large-scale painting. The work was purchased by former Confederate general William Mahone, who beat out the head of the Corcoran Gallery, who was very eager to acquire it.<sup>2</sup> William Corcoran then commissioned Elder to paint portraits of Robert E. Lee (who he painted no less than eight times) and Stonewall Jackson.<sup>3</sup>

Elder's painting "Appomattox" may have been his most popular work. He painted four versions of the scene.<sup>4</sup> One of the versions was purchased by the Library of Virginia and another by the Virginia Historical Society. Elder had been present at the surrender. Captain Raleigh T. Daniel (who would represent Elder at the dedication of the *Appomattox Statue* in Alexandria on May 24, 1889) described the painting:

"It represents in one typical figure the South in its overthrow—not in the persons of its leaders, but in one of that 'honored file,' who in thousands returned to their ruined homes to face the future, with no ray from the past to inspire or guide them. The imposed figure stands alone on a desolate battlefield—cast down, but not destroyed."<sup>5</sup>



Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

When the R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans was searching for someone to create a monument for Alexandria's Confederate dead, John Adams Elder submitted a proposal and a plaster model of the central figure in the painting. The plaster model still exists and is housed at the R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. Elder's selection for the project was quite a victory. Several well-known sculptors had been in the running for the award.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, the names of those other competitors have been lost to history.

The R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans felt this depiction of a reflective, downcast simple soldier captured the emotions they were feeling. The Camp voted to accept Elder's submission on September 3, 1888. Monument Committee chairman Montgomery Dent Corse notified Elder by letter the next day. The Camp paid \$3,500.00 for the work. On September 7, 1888, Elder wrote to Casper Buberl giving him the contract for sculpting the work at a price of \$2,000.00. As per the letter, Buberl was to have "cast in standard statuary one figure of a Confederate Soldier." The figure was to be 7 feet 6 inches tall on a 6 inch plinth. Workmanship of the first order was expected.<sup>7</sup>

The choice of Buberl for the sculptor was predictable. Elder and Buberl were well acquainted. Buberl was a Bohemian immigrant and the son of a prominent sculptor. He studied in Prague and Vienna before coming to the United States. After working with others and having works exhibited at the National Academy of Design, he opened his own studio in New York in 1881.<sup>8</sup>

Buberl's most famous work locally is the frieze at the Pension Building in Washington, DC. It was commissioned by Gen. Montgomery Meigs in 1882. The frieze is 3 feet high and runs for 1,200 feet around the building. It depicts scenes of the all branches of the Union Army during the Civil War.<sup>9</sup>

In bringing Elder's concept to three dimensional form, Buberl lost none of the spirit of the original painting. The solitary figure captures defeat and weary resignation, but not despair. The folded arms suggest pensive reflection on what had been lost to the South. This contrasts with the open stance of the feet, with weight resting on one leg suggested impending action. The bare head suggests vulnerability and (to some) defeat.<sup>10</sup> The members of the R.E. Lee Camp saw in the work, "all the life and purpose which have restored our overturned country."<sup>11</sup>

The job of actually casting the bronze work went to the Henry Bonnard Bronze Co., of New York. With the casting of John Quincy Adams Ward's statue of George Washington that stands in the Sub-Treasury Building, the firm became the preeminent bronze foundry in the United States in 1883. Two French immigrants Edouard Henri and Pierre Bonnard had established the firm in 1872. Eugene F. Aucaigne joined the firm in 1884 as a supervisor. Whether he personally oversaw the casting of *Appomattox* is unknown. In addition to Ward's work, the firm cast bronze for many 19<sup>th</sup> century American sculptors— Augustus Saint-Gaudens, George Grey, Barnard, Frederick Remington, and Daniel Chester French.<sup>12</sup> The inscription "The Henry-Bonnard Bronze Co., New York" is on the plinth of the *Appomattox Statue*, on the north side on the right hand corner.



Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

The south side of the *Appomattox Statue* has the inscription:

ERECTED  
TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
CONFEDERATE DEAD  
OF ALEXANDRIA  
BY THEIR  
SURVIVING COMRADES  
MAY 24, 1889

The plinth below is inscribed:

THIS MONUMENT MARKS THE SPOT FROM  
WHICH THE ALEXANDRIA TROOPS LEFT TO  
JOINS THE CONFEDERATE FORCES  
MAY 24, 1861

The names of the members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry who did not return home and those of Alexandrians who served in other commands are inscribed on the west and east sides of the granite base. That work was done by William Leal of Richmond. A Scottish stonecutter, he came to America in 1871. First working in Rhode Island and Maine, he eventually made his way to Richmond. Leal "put up many monuments to mark Confederate sites: the big column in Alexandria is a piece of his work."<sup>13</sup>

The inscription on the north side of the base was not done until after the statue's dedication. It was done by local stonecutter, James William Chauncey. The inscription is a quote from Robert E. Lee:

THEY DIED IN THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF DUTY  
FAITHFULLY PERFORMED

Chauncey's brother had served in the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry and Chauncey himself served on the Alexandria City Council.

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### Books

Barber, James G., Alexandria In The Civil War, 1998, H.E. Howard Co., Lynchburg, VA.

Goode, James M., Washington Sculpture, A Cultural History of Outdoor Sculpture in The Nation's Capital, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2005, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

Reinis, J. G., and Barye, Antoine-Louis, The Founders and Editors of the Barye Brothers, 2007, Polymath Press.

Wallace, Lee A., Jr., 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, 1990, H.E. Howard Co., Lynchburg, VA.

### Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia of Virginia, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA.

### Newspapers

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### Periodicals

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Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 16, No. 4. Spring 1967.

### Unpublished Sources

McDaniel, Joyce L., *The Collected Works of Caspar Buberl: An Analysis of a Nineteenth Century American Sculptor*, Wellesley, MA., MA thesis, Wellesley College, 1976.

Minutes of the R.E. Lee Camp #2 Confederate Veterans, possession of the Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Alexandria, VA.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

- ☐ 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; City of Alexandria, VA; R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, Alexandria, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 100-0284

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** n/a

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 77 2'49.9'W | Longitude: 38 48'14.1'N |
| 2. Latitude:             | Longitude:              |
| 3. Latitude:             | Longitude:              |
| 4. Latitude:             | Longitude:              |

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The *Appomattox Statue* sits in the middle of a busy street at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets, in Alexandria, Virginia. The nearest buildings are: The Lyceum (southwest corner), United States Bankruptcy Court (southeast corner), National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (northeast corner), and TD Bank (northwest corner). The monument sits in a 12 foot diameter circle. It is recessed from the curbing 36 inches (18 inches at the corners).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected best orient someone to the location of the statue and the nearest structures. There are no property lines.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Deborah A. Mullins, President  
organization: Mary Custis Lee-17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment Chapter #7, United Daughters of the Confederacy  
street & number: 6017 Clairemont Drive  
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e-mail: dmullins@erols.com  
telephone: 301-938.4421  
date: November 15, 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Appomattox Statue

City or Vicinity: Alexandria

County: n/a

State: Virginia

Photographer: Richard Fickling

Date Photographed: September 3, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 21 South side Full image

2 of 21 South side Full image

3 of 21 South side Inscription

4 of 21 South side Close of inscription

5 of 21 South side Figure

6 of 21 East side Full image

7 of 21 East side Inscription

8 of 21 East side Figure



Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

9 of 21	North side Full image
10 of 21	North side inscription
11 of 21	North side Figure
12 of 21	West side Full image
13 of 21	West side Inscription
14 of 21	West side Figure
15 of 21	West side Figure
16 of 21	West side Figure
17 of 21	West side Inscription
18 of 21	South side Full image
19 of 21	South side Inscription Lower Base
20 of 21	South Side Full Image

Photographer: Nancy J. Olds

Date Photographed: May 24, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

21 of 21 West side Full image

**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. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

## Endnotes:

### Section 7

1. Alexandria Virginia in the Civil War, Barber, James G., p. 14, (1988, H.E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, VA.
2. 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Wallace, Lee A., Jr., p. 11, (1990, H.E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, VA.
3. Barber, p. 13.
4. Minutes, R.E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 7 July 1884.
5. Minutes, R.E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 6 April 1885.
6. Minutes, R.E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 4 June 1888.
7. Washington Sculpture, A Cultural History of Outdoor Sculpture in the Nation's Capital, Goode, James M., p. 716 (2008, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD).
8. Minutes, R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 24 May 1887.
9. Goode, Ibid.
10. Alexandria Gazette, September 5, 1888.
11. "A Portrait of His Times, John Elder's Paintings Reflect People and Events During a Critical Period in Virginia History," Coons, Margaret, Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 16 #4, Spring 1967, p 23.
12. Minutes, R.E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 3 September 1888.
13. Letter, M.D. Corse to John Elder, 4 Sept, 1888.
14. Minutes, R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans, 3 September 1888.
15. Goode, p. 250.
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17. Alexandria City Council notes, 13 November 1888.
18. Alexandria Gazette, May 24, 1889, p. 2.

### Section 8

Appomattox Statue  
Name of Property

City of Alexandria, VA  
County and State

1. Coons, Margaret, "A Portrait of His Times," *Virginia Cavalcade* Vol. 16 #4 Spring 1967, p. 15.
2. Appomattox, Encyclopedia of Virginia, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA.
3. Coons, p. 17.
4. Coons, p. 22.
5. Ibid.
6. Alexandria Gazette, September 5, 1888.
7. Letter from John A. Elder to Casper Buberl, 7 September 1888.
8. McDaniel, Joyce L., *The Collected Works of Caspar Buberl: An Analysis of a Nineteenth Century American Sculptor*, Wellesley, Massachusetts, MA thesis, Wellesley College, 1976, p. 11.
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10. Coons, pg. 42-43.
11. Alexandria Gazette, May 23, 1959, p. 7
12. Reinis, J.G., and Barye, Antoine-Louis, The Founders and Editors of the Barye Brothers, 2007 Polymath Press, p. 102.
13. American Architect and Architecture, Vol. 87, 1905, p. 71.

