



- Within the battlefield district, enduring topographical features including the Potomac River, the steep and deeply dissected Virginia escarpment, the extensive Maryland flood plain, Harrison's Island, and an extant ferry crossing allow for an appreciation and understanding of the battle action and outcome.
- Surviving road corridors and traces in Virginia, together with extensive elements of the historic C & O Canal in Maryland, further illuminate the historic battlefield landscape.
- Extant earthworks in Virginia illustrate the Confederate defensive position and further elucidate the battle's main movements.

Owner of Property:

- Publicly owned land makes up 1,922 acres (58%) of the total property.
- In Montgomery County, Maryland, 436 acres (13%) of the property are owned by seven private property owners.
- In Loudoun County, Virginia, 943 acres (28%) of the property belongs to 57 private land owners.

Acreage of Property: 3,301 acres

Origins of Nomination: Loudoun County, Virginia, used an NPS American Battlefield Protection Program grant (#GA-2287-14-010) to hire a professional consulting firm to expand, update, and amend the original 1984 NHL nomination so that the property more fully incorporates the battlefield as defined by recent scholarship and the period of significance encompasses both the start and end of the four-day engagement.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation of the expanded National Historic Landmark property will more fully incorporate a revised chronological and spatial understanding of the Battle of Ball's Bluff as updated and confirmed by new research.
- Designation of the expanded National Historic Landmark property will also more fully recognize the significant impact of the Federal defeat at the Battle of Ball's Bluff and bring greater awareness to the actions of the 37th Congress, the establishment of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, and its impact and influence on Union military strategy and actions throughout the remainder of the Civil War.
- Designation of the expanded National Historic Landmark property has the potential to increase visitation to, and appreciation of, Ball's Bluff Battlefield and to encourage participation in its care and preservation, currently undertaken by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the affiliated Friends of Ball's Bluff Battlefield.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Mr. Mobaraki, a member of the public and an owner within the proposed boundary expansion, objected to the boundary change. He argued that there is no evidence indicating that the land abutting his property is of any significance to the Battle of Ball's Bluff. He requested that the portion along his property be removed from the boundary.

Dr. Stan Bond from the NPS Archeology Program noted that while the site is an important cultural landscape it is primarily an archeological site and should therefore be considered under Criterion 6. Ms. Henry, staff historian for the NHL Program, noted that Criterion 6 was not considered because the significance of the battle is based on the political impact of the battle and not the battle itself. This does not preclude staff from considering and adding archeology to the nomination at a future date. Dr. Mills noted that Mr. Mobaraki's parcel of land could be excluded from the proposed boundary without any material effect to the nomination, but that archeology should be considered for this nomination. Dr. Mills recommended that the nomination be tabled because of the archeological significance, not the land ownership questions.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Table. Dr. Mills moved to table the nomination, Dr. Allan seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 4/18/16):

Howard Thomas and Joan Pursell Yolken (owners)

Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Fairfax Station, Virginia

James A. Morgan, Chairman, Friends of Ball's Bluff, Lovettsville, Virginia

Wendy Bebie, Chairman, Mosby Heritage Area Association, Middleburg, Virginia

Chris Miller, President, The Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, Virginia

Kristie Kendall, Historic Preservation Manager, The Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, Virginia

Julie Langan, Director & State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Public Comments Opposing Designation (received as of 5/06/16):

G. R. Mobaraki, Poolesville, Maryland (owner of two properties)

Henry H. J. Harris, Trustee and Beneficiary, McLean, Virginia (owner)

Susan V. H. Smith, Trustee and Beneficiary, McLean, Virginia (owner)

Joyce Z. Harris, Beneficiary, McLean, Virginia (owner)

Philip E. Smith, Beneficiary, McLean, Virginia (owner)

Advisory Board Recommendation: