



MEMO

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Jacqui Kamp, Planner III
DATE: Aug. 29, 2017
SUBJECT: Jefferson Davis Highway Marker

In the wake of violence after an Aug. 12 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Clark County received several comments and questions about the Jefferson Davis Highway Marker listed on the Clark County Historic Register. The county gets such inquiries occasionally, but the number spiked after events in Charlottesville.

The comments include requests that the marker to be removed from the website and heritage register. In addition, The Columbian reported Aug. 18 that the marker had been vandalized. I am sending articles and comments to the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission because the commission maintains the Clark County Heritage Register.

Background

The Jefferson Davis National Highway Marker was nominated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and listed on the Clark County Heritage Register by the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission in 2002. The 2002 nomination and staff report stated its significance was the United Daughters of the Confederacy's grassroots effort to designate and commemorate Highway 99 in 1939.

According to documents in nomination packet, the marker originally was placed on Highway 99 (Main Street) just west of the Covington House in 1939. Documents indicate it was moved in 1951 when Highway 99 was widened. According to a 2002 article in The Columbian, it was moved into storage by the city of Vancouver in 1997 or 1998. In 2002, the marker was moved to the Clark County Historical Museum, and soon after, it was nominated to and placed on the Clark County Heritage Register. In 2007, the marker was moved from the museum grounds to its current location on private property fronting the southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near Ridgefield.

Process

According to Clark County Code Title 40.250.030 (F)(4), there are two ways a property can be removed from the Heritage Register:

4. *Removal of Property(ies) from the CCHR.*

- a. A property owner may request a review of a property for possible removal from the CCHR. A written request may be submitted to the commission and considered at a public meeting. However, there is no automatic right to have a property removed from the register.*
- b. In the event that any property is no longer deemed appropriate for designation to the CCHR, the commission may initiate removal from such designation by the same procedure as provided for in establishing the designation, Section [40.250.030\(F\)\(2\)](#), except that a property may be removed from the CCHR without the owner's consent.*

Staff is providing the attached comments, articles and information to bring the marker issue to the commission's attention. The commission's options at the Sept. 5 Clark County Historic Preservation Commission meeting include:

1. Directing staff to schedule a public hearing to consider removing the marker from the Clark County Heritage Register
2. Tabling the discussion to a future date
3. Status quo

Attachments:

Comments received up to Aug. 28, 2017

Aug. 2017 local newspaper articles-social media posts and comments

2002 Jefferson Davis Highway Marker Nomination Packet