Staff Report and Recommendations to the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

TO:        Clark County Historic Preservation Commission
FROM:    Derek Chisholm, Planner
DATE:    August 26, 2002
FILE: HST #2002-0005, Jefferson Davis, National Highway Marker
        Nomination to Clark County Register

I. SUMMARY

Marjorie Ann Reeves of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Washington Chapter, has nominated the Jefferson Davis Monument to be listed on the Clark County Heritage Register. Staff recommends approval of the nomination in accordance with CCC 18.328A.045 (A) and the Rules and Procedures of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission as well as the National Register criteria.

II. Clark County Heritage Register Status

This monument is not on any historic register presently.

III. HISTORIC NAME

Jefferson Davis, National Highway Marker

IV. COMMON NAME

Jefferson Davis, Highway 99, Marker

V. BOARD RESPONSIBILITY

The Historic Preservation Commission has the responsibility for reviewing nominations to the Clark County Heritage Register.

VI. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The applicant states that the Monument's areas of significance are in two areas as identified below and in CCC 18.328A.050.
#1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to
the broad patterns of national, state, or local history. AND

# 4. It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the County's history.

Please see the nomination form for further explanation

VII. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The physical design and appearance of the monument do not play a significant part
of the debate about the historic importance of the movement that brought it into
being. Therefore, its physical description is not part of this staff report. However a
photo is included as exhibit C. The marker is made of granite.

VIII. STAFF REVIEW AND COMMENT

Nomination Criteria
Clark County Heritage Register:

There are four questions to be answered in order to determine the eligibility of
any property/ object. This property must:
1. be at least 50 years old,
2. be significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology,
   engineering, or cultural heritage of the community,
3. have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling
   and association, and
4. fall into at least one of the categories identified in CCC 18.328A.050.

Findings:

1. Erected in 1939, The Jefferson Davis Marker is over 50 years old.
2. The Jefferson Davis Marker is significantly associated with the history,
   and cultural heritage of the community. As the highway and the
   women's movement to commemorate it are part of the County's history;
   the monument is, in staff's opinion, significantly associated with those
   happenings.
3. Though the monument no longer is sited in its original location, it does
   have its original design, materials, and feeling.
4. The monument has not been determined by staff as having been
   associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the
   broad patterns of national, state, or local history. (statement of significance
   #1) While the grassroots efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
   had an impact at the time they were undertaken, and resulted in the
   establishment of a commemorative marker which has outlasted their own
had an impact at the time they were undertaken, and resulted in the establishment of a commemorative marker which has outlasted their own story, the event has not been found to have made a “significant contribution” to the broad patterns of history, even at the local level.

However, regarding statement of significance #4, staff finds that the marker “exemplifies or reflects special elements of the County’s history” The special element of the County’s history that is reflected is that of the Daughters of the Confederacy’s grassroots project for the designation and commemoration of Highway 99. As is stated in Section 8, page one, of the National Register materials; “The Jefferson Davis Highway from coast to coast is the largest project ever accomplished by an American women’s organization...” Regardless of whether it was the largest project ever, it is thought by staff to be of historic significance.

Staff has found that the marker is not associated (statement of significance #5) with the life of Jefferson Davis. Rather, it was commemorative in nature.

IX. STAFF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff finds that the nomination of the Jefferson Davis Monument meets all four of the four criteria of CCC 18.328A.050 and the adopted Rules and Regulations of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission. Staff recommends the listing of the Jefferson Davis Monument on the Clark County Heritage Register.

X. EXHIBITS

A: Application materials (Clark County cover materials used as supplemental to national nomination)
B. Application materials for National Register
C. Photograph of monument in current location
D. Historic Records and Photograph
Clark County Heritage Register
NOMINATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating individual properties or districts. For completing Clark County Heritage Register registration form, see applicable instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in appropriate space or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. Type all entries.

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name Jefferson Davis Highway 99 Marker

Other names/site number

2. LOCATION

Street & number 16th Street & Main not for publication
City, town Vancouver vicinity downtown
State WA code county Clark code 011 zip code 98660

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property Category of Property
 X private building(s)
 public-local district
 public-state site
 public-federal structure

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Non contributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the Clark County Register: 

Exhibit A, Page 1
4a. OWNER CONSENT FOR NOMINATING, DESIGNATING AND LISTING

I (we) consent X do not consent ___ to the nomination, and designation of the above property on the Clark County Heritage Register. I (we) also certify that I am/we are the legal owner(s) of the above property.

[Signature]

[Address]

[Chapter Number]

[Date]

4b. CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In my opinion, the property meets X does not meet ___ the Clark County Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]

[Date]

4c. CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/DECISION

In the opinion of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, the property meets ___ does not meet_______ the Clark County Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]

[Date]

5. Clark County CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the Clark County Register
See continuation sheet
determined eligible for the
Clark County Register
See continuation sheet
determined not eligible for
Clark County Register
removed from Clark County Register
other (explain)

[Signature of the Chair]

[Date of Action]

Clark Co. Historic Preservation Commission
8. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

- X Nationally  
- X Statewide  
- X Locally

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.

The markers are a part of a nationwide highway system that honors an American for his service to both of his countries. The markers provide a visual history lesson for all to learn about the growth of this country and this state.

4. It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history.

The marker was placed by the State Highway Department in agreement with the state government and the Washington Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. May Avery Wilkins, Past President of the UDC Robert E. Lee Chapter #885 in Seattle, WA, and Director of the Jefferson Davis Highway, presented an idea to the National UDC that the Jefferson Davis Highway should be extended from California up the Pacific Coast to the Canadian line. Through her efforts she was able to find many letters from Jefferson Davis referring to the development of the Northwest. Many references were to Governor Stevens, first governor of Washington State. She worked with the five UDC chapters in Washington State to raise funds for the markers and she worked with the political parties in Olympia to have the markers put up.

This was during the period when women were still to be seen only. The women of Washington conceived the idea of extending the Jefferson Davis Highway system to Washington State and worked to achieve it. This marker not only honors the work Jefferson Davis did for the United States and the Confederate States but it also honors the women of Washington to was able to accomplish a major triumph for their time.

5. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history.

The marker is associated with the lives of Jefferson Davis who supported and worked with Governor Stevens to develop the Northwest. Mr. Davis was appointed Secretary of War by President Pierce in 1853. Wanting a road from the Atlantic to the Pacific his first recommendation to Congress was a request for an appropriation of $150,000.00 for surveys for a military route and railroad route from the Mississippi River to the Puget Sound. This appropriation was granted with Mr. Davis put in charge of expending the money. Surveys of five routes were started at the same time, but only three completed-Northern, Central and Southern. The expedition left St. Paul in May 1853 for the Northern Route over the Cascade Mountains. Governor Isaac Stevens, Washington's first Governor was put in charge of this Survey.

EX A, pg 3
In 1853 two surveys were started by Mr. Davis from Vancouver on the lower Columbia by a pass south of Mt. Adams then north to Yakima valley, a distance of 180 miles; the Divide Ridge of the Columbia River to the Okanogan River, 90 miles. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads both almost entirely follow these routes. In October 1853, a survey from Spokane to Walla Walla to Vancouver to Olympia was made. A wagon road was surveyed and constructed over the Cascade Range to Fort Steilacoom to Puget Sound to Walla Walla on the Columbia, a distance of 200 miles.

In 1854, Mr. Davis recommended to Congress that the Government or a Private Party build a Railroad to the Northwest. Mr. Davis procured an additional $150,000.00 for surveys for railroads—called the Northern Pacific Railroad Explorations and Surveys. Governor Stevens was in charge of this survey.

Mr. Davis recommended to Congress the fortification of the entrance to the Columbia River; and appropriations for building Arsenals to the Pacific Northwest Coast of Oregon and Washington; a National Armory for the fabrications of cannons and projectiles; and a larger Army for the Department of the Pacific.

Surveys were made and road completed leading to and from Mt. Ranier, also from Walla Walla to Steilacoom, now known as the Naches Pass Road. Mr. Davis spent $30.00 for a wagon road from Fort Benton to Walla Walla and created the office of “Land Survey and Mail Service,” appointing Governor Stevens in charge. This was the highway across the bitter route and rocky mountains and the only means of communication with the miners and settlers previous to railroads.

In 1855, Mr. Davis requested Congress to preserve peace by giving protection to Oregon and Washington from the Indians. He gave an extra Company, the 6th Infantry of Militia, to Oregon; secured further appropriations for road surveys from Astoria to Salem; Dalles to Columbia City Barracks and thence to Fort Steilacoom; from Great Falls to Missouri River; to road leading to Walla Walla and to Puget Sound.

With the aid of Governor Stevens he fought in Congress to secure the establishment of the Northwestern Boundary line of the United States which was the disputed question of the San Juan Archipelago.

He completed the Military Road from Scotsburg to Maple Creed, costing $7,000.00 and bought a herd of camels to be used for Road work and carrying mail. In 1856, he again asked Congress for Special Appropriation to prepare armaments and fortifications and increase the supply of small arms, especially in the Northwest.

In 1858, then a member of the US Senate, Mr. Davis asked for a new appropriation to build military roads and railroads in the northwest and for fortifications at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Jefferson Davis contributed a large part of his life in service to the United States and was instrumental in the growth of the Northwest.
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 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name  JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY 99 Monument
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  1511 Main Street
not for publication
city or town  Vancouver
vicinity
state  WASHINGTON     code  WA     county  Clark     code 011
zip code  98660

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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
See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register
___ removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper:  Date of Action:

Exhibit B Page 1
5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)
- X private
- public-local
- X public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- X object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

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)
- Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation
- roof
- walls
- other

Granite

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

See Continuation Sheet

EX B, pg 2
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)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X 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.

X 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.

X B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

X E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

X 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)

Exploration/Settlement

Social History

Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance

1939- to present

Significant Dates

June 18, 1939

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Davis, Jefferson

Martin, Clarence D. - WA State Governor

Reeves, Belle - Sec of State

Wilkins, May Avery - Director of Jefferson Davis Highway, Washington Division

Cultural Affiliation

American

Southern

Architect/Builder


Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheet
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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other
Name of repository:
WA State UDC archive

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

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

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___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marjorie Ann Reeves, Historian

organization UDC Robert E. Lee Chapter #885
date 6/1/02

street & number 12340 Roosevelt Drive NE, #103
telephone (206) 367-1112

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98125

Ex B, pg 4
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 Washington State and Washington UDC Robert E. Lee Chapter #885
street & number 12340 Roosevelt Way NE, #103 telephone (206) 367-1112

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 20043-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Narrative Description:

SETTING    Clark County Historical Museum

EXTERIOR

INTERIOR

OUTBUILDINGS

ALTERATIONS AND REHABILITATION PLANS to be placed downtown on old Highway 99 on the site of the Clark County Historical Museum. It has been moved twice by the city of Vancouver since the placement by the state in 1939.

This nomination is one foot eight inches wide, ten inches thick, three feet high granite. Front of stone has fine hammered finish and properly lettered with deep shadow lettering:

JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY No.99
ERECTED BY THE WASHINGTON DIVISION
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

Erected June 1939

The monument was made by Sunset Monument Company, Inc. of Seattle, WA.
The significance of the monument is that it is very much a part of our American history and the history of Washington State. As Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis directed exploration and help secure funds for railroads and roads to move military and civilians for the growth of Washington Territory. Davis served in the US military and US Senate as an outstanding leader in both. He was an intricate part of this country’s growth.

The monument was placed close to the Oregon/Washington border in 1939 making it historically 63 years old this year. The Washington Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy ladies who raised the funds and had this monument put up were daughters of Confederate veterans many who moved to this state and played a role in the development of Washington State. The five divisions that made up the Washington State UDC raised the funds locally by donations and fund raising for the Jefferson Davis Highway 99 system monuments. The Jefferson Davis Highway from coast to coast is the largest project every accomplished by an American women’s organization which in itself is a historical event. It began in 1913 in Virginia and was completed in 1940 with the placement of the Jefferson Davis Highway 99 monument on the Washington American/Canadian border.

The members of the Washington Division of the UDC have supported the concept of the Jefferson Davis Highway by financial support from 1923 as a Division. In 1928, members presented to the Tourist Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle the plan of naming a highway running through the State of Washington. A committee was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce consisting of Mrs. May A. Wilkins, UDC, the Chairman of the State Highway Department and the Secretary of the Automobile Club of Washington to develop this plan. Eleven years later the first marker was erected in Vancouver, Washington on Highway 99, with the cooperation and permission of the Washington Highway Department.

On Sunday, June 18, 1939 at 3 pm, a cool day with skies overcast and rain at intervals, a full military band, the posts and auxiliaries of the veterans of the Spanish American, the World War, and Foreign Wars, many of them in uniform, participated in the ceremony. Governor Martin, Secretary of State Mrs. Belle Reeves, Senator Howard Roup, Dept of Highways and Engineers Mr. Lacey Murrow were some of many dignitaries present. The unveiling was done by the Confederate Veteran Joseph B. Pritchett, Commander John B. Grodon Camp UCV of Seattle and Miss Harrison, member of the Children of the Confederacy.
Bibliography:

UDC Washington Division Conference meeting notes.

Accounts of the Dedication and Unveiling of The Jefferson Davis National Highway Marker by newspaper articles and UDC conference meeting notes.

Agreement letter from the Sunset Monument Company

Letter from the State Highway Department

Newspaper articles
The Washington Division of the
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Cordially Invite You to Attend
The Unveiling
of the
Jefferson Davis National Highway
Marker
Sunday, June 18th 1939, at 3 P. M.
At the City Limits of
Vancouver, Washington, on Highway No. 99

Please Respond:
Mrs. May Avery Wilkins, Highway Director
3701 Beach Drive Seattle, Washington
U. D. C. Pays Tribute to Jeff Davis

YANCOUVER, Wash., June 19. — Dedicated to the memory of Jefferson Davis, statesman, diplomat and president of the Confederacy, an attractive stone monument marking the final link in the Jefferson Davis national highway was dedicated here Sunday afternoon by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The granite marker which stands beside the Pacific highway a quarter of a mile north of the Vancouver city limits, was the last in a series of markers which started from Washington, D.C., in 1919, charting the route of the Jefferson Davis national highway through all of the Southern states to the Pacific Coast and to the state of Washington.

Nearly 200 persons braved intermittent showers to attend the dedication. The ceremonies lasted more than an hour as guests from throughout the state addressed the assembly at the conclusion of the dedication. The marker was given by the Seattle chapter, U. D. C.
JEFFERSON DAVIS BANQUET IS HELD

Project is Force for Peace, Mrs. Woodbury Tells 200 at Dinner

Approximately 200 members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy attended the Jefferson Davis Highway dinner last night at the Francis Marion hotel.

Mrs. John L. Woodbury, of Louisville, Ky., general chairman of the Jefferson Davis highway committee, made the following announcement:

The Jefferson Davis highway was designed to honor the memory of the only president of the Confederate States. It is fitting, because in his generation, he was the only man who realized the potential development of the Western part of the country.

Aiming to make the highway not only as a memorial, not only as a history of the place where it passes, but also as a great force for peace. As the highway passes through various sections of the United States, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in its report, states that the highway, under Franklin Pierce, was one of the first important highways of the country.

Each year at the Jefferson Davis Highway dinner, a legislative session is held to discuss the progress of the highway and its influence on the various state legislatures in the United States and the President of the Confederate States.

The following directors of the Jefferson Davis highway committee were presented by Mrs. Woodbury:

- Mrs. J. R. Parker, of New York
- Mrs. J. A. Taylor, of Pennsylvania
- Mrs. J. H. Anderson, of North Carolina
- Mrs. J. H. Gyles, of South Carolina
- Mrs. J. M. Troutman, of Oregon
- Mrs. Edith B. Brockett, of Washington
- Mrs. J. W. L. Moore, of West Virginia
- Miss Dora Lamar, of Texas

Ex D, pg 3