

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:

VLR 09/30/2010  
NRHP 01/23/2013

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

### 1. Name of Property

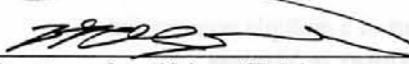
historic/name: Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker  
other/names/site/number: DHR #127-6150-0003

### 2. Location

Street & number U.S. Route 1 - Jefferson Davis Highway at Falling Creek Wayside not for publication  
city or town Richmond vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Chesterfield County code 041 Zip 23237

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 Date 11/27/12  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_



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Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker  
Chesterfield County, VA

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

  n/a    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   n/a    
roof   n/a    
walls   n/a    
\_\_\_\_\_  
other   Granite    
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheets.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

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Chesterfield County, VA

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation  
Social History

**Period of Significance** 1933-1934

**Significant Dates** \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** n/a

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

See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file** (NPS)

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

**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

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one acre

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

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

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1 18 4146150 284186 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Ruth D. Snead  
Organization: Elliott Grays Chapter UDC #1877 date May 2010

street & number: 1318 Devers Road telephone 804- 285-3690

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23226

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Richmond -Stonewall Jackson Chapter UDC

street & number 328 North Blvd. telephone 804- 355-1636

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23220-4009

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

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

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker  
Chesterfield County, VA**

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**Summary Description:**

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

**Detailed Description:**

The Falling Creek marker is located in the Falling Creek Wayside Park on Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. Route 1). The park is within the highway median between the northbound and southbound lanes of Route 1. The marker is a gray granite boulder with rough-cut edges. The granite boulder is 49 inches tall, 30 inches wide, 20 inches thick and sits on an 8-inch granite base. The sloping top on the slanting face has a bronze plaque inscribed with the words "Jefferson Davis Highway—Virginia." Engraved text on the western (front) face of the stone reads, "ERECTED BY THE FIRST DISTRICT VIRGINIA DIVISION UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY 1933."

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**Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker  
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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Summary:**

The Falling Creek marker is being nominated under the “UDC Commemorative Highway Markers along the Jefferson Davis Highway in Virginia” Multiple Property Documentation Form, which was listed in the National Register in 2004. The marker is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Social History. As a commemorative marker that has gained traditional and symbolic value in its own right, the property meets Criteria Consideration F. The period of significance for the marker is 1933-1934, the period in which it was ordered, erected, and dedicated by the UDC.

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

**Criteria Statement:**

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

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**Criteria Consideration:**

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

**Integrity:**

The Falling Creek marker retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The marker is in its original location in the median between the northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Route 1. Although the surroundings of the marker have changed since the early 1930s, it retains its historic association with the highway and its historic setting within a highway wayside is retained. The design of the marker has not changed in the years since its erection and there has not been any loss of its original fabric or features so that its integrity of materials is also intact. The workmanship of the marker has not been altered in the years since 1934. The marker's integrity of feeling is intact; it retains a simple dignity and the feeling of an earlier age of travel when markers by the side of the road were more easily seen and appreciated by the passing public. Finally, the marker retains its integrity of association, conveying its origins as a historical memorial.

**Detailed Background:**

Mrs. Alexander B. White, President General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, conceived the idea for the Jefferson Davis Highway in 1913, following the establishment of the Lincoln Highway earlier that year. From 1913 until about 1925, it was common for private organizations to identify a route, give it a name and promote its use and improvement. The Jefferson Davis Highway extends coast to coast from Arlington, Virginia, to San Diego, California, and covers a distance of 3,417 miles. The highway then continues north up the Pacific coast to the Canadian border. The Virginia section of the highway extends from the Potomac River Bridge at Arlington, through Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Petersburg to the North Carolina border, a distance of 235 miles. Virginia's General Assembly designated U.S. Route 1 as the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway in March 1922. In 1947, the Virginia portion of the highway's terminal marker in Arlington, Virginia, was erected.



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The Falling Creek Jefferson Davis Highway Marker is in Chesterfield County, just north of the site of the May 15, 1862, Battle of Drewry's Bluff when five Federal gunboats, including the ironclads *Monitor* and *Galena*, steamed up the James River to test Richmond's defenses. They encountered submerged obstacles in the James and deadly accurate fire from the Confederate batteries at Drewry's Bluff high above the river. The *Galena* sustained severe damage and the *Monitor* was unable to elevate its guns enough to strike the gun emplacements on the bluffs. The Federal Navy was turned back.

The Falling Creek Marker was ordered by Mrs. B. A. Blenner, State of Virginia Director of the Jefferson Davis Highway Committee from J. Henry Brown and Son, Richmond, Virginia. The marker is made from Burkeville, Virginia, granite and at the time cost \$165.00. While many of the Virginia markers were placed with great fanfare and speeches, the report in the 1935 Virginia Division minutes on the Jefferson Davis Highway states, "It was with regret the Dedication of our Boulder placed in the name of the First District, at Falling Creek, on the Jefferson Davis Highway, had to be abandoned, last October, due to weather conditions."

The State Landscape engineer had recommended that the marker be placed at the Falling Creek Wayside Park in Chesterfield County, halfway between Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia. Falling Creek presented an ideal site because a small park was then being developed primarily to help preserve the Stone Bridge, which is the oldest in Chesterfield County. Mountain laurel, dogwood and redbud had been planted there by the Chester Garden Club through the efforts of Mrs. A. J. Hurt. Dedicated in 1934, the wayside park was the first such highway wayside park in Virginia.

The Falling Creek Wayside is a grassy area established to preserve and permit access to the old stone bridge built between 1826 and 1828. The bridge is the only remaining major evidence of one of Virginia's earliest toll roads. The double-arched bridge was built of granite ashlar and rubblestone by William Carter, a Richmond builder, at a cost of \$2,043.00. A report to the Board of Public Works in 1829 provides a detailed description of the bridge:

The bridge over Falling Creek is considered in this part of the world to be a structure of some elegance. It consists of two twenty foot arches, springs from a pedestal of four feet, is twenty-four feet wide outside the parapets, and is founded on a solid mass of rock. It extends together with the wing walls one hundred and forty feet, and fills up to a level with adjoining ground a deep chasm occasioned by the bed of the creek.

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The Falling Creek Bridge was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, and the Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker is a contributing resource in that nomination.

The Richmond-Stonewall Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy currently maintains the Falling Creek Jefferson Davis highway marker.

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**Major Bibliographical References**

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

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

Report of Chairman Jefferson Davis Highway, Mrs. B.A. Banner, Virginia Division Minutes Oct, 1932, 1933, and 1935.

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

Virginia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy Markers. October 2001.

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

Chester Village News- Falling Creek Iron Works Gateway to Chesterfield, 24 October 2002, Vol. 5, #9, Pg. 1 & 3.

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

United States Dept. of Interior National Park Service- National Register of Historic Places  
“Bridge at Falling Creek,” VDHR File # 20-135 – NRHP 10/12/95.

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

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The marker is located 5 miles south of Richmond in the Falling Creek Wayside Park on Jefferson Davis Highway (U.S. Route 1). The park is within the highway median between the northbound and southbound lanes of Route 1. The marker is placed on a stone base that is set into the ground. The historic boundary conforms to the measurements of the marker, 49 inches tall, 30 inches wide, and 20 inches thick, and the 8-inch thick granite base

**Boundary Justification**

The historic boundary includes only the marker itself and the stone base on which it rests as these comprise the historic property.

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The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: Falling Creek UDC Jefferson Davis Highway Marker

City or Vicinity: Richmond

County: Chesterfield County, VA

Photographer: Ruth Snead

Date Photographed: May 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 4: West side of marker, camera facing east.

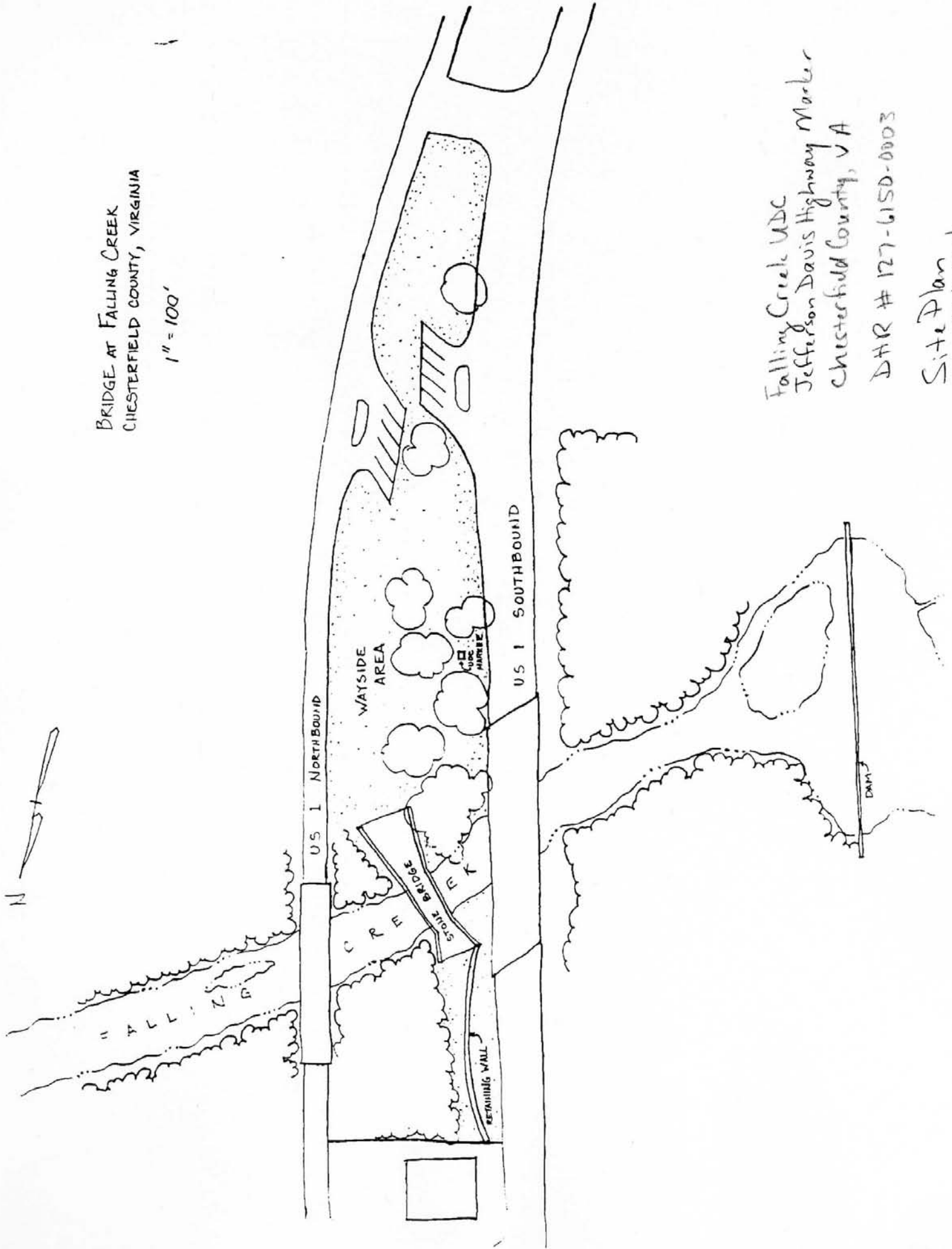
2 of 4: North side of marker, camera facing south.

3 of 4: North and west sides of marker and setting within wayside, camera facing southeast.

4 of 4: South and east sides of marker and setting within wayside, camera facing northwest.

BRIDGE AT FALLING CREEK  
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

1" = 100'



Falling Creek UDC  
Jefferson Davis Highway Marker  
Chesterfield County, VA

DHR # 127-6150-0003

Site Plan  
not to scale

