

Preservation Arlington

Protecting and Promoting Arlington's Unique Character

Memorandum

To: Arlington County Board

RE: Benjamin Elliott's Coal Trestle, W&OD, Item #36

We support the RTA for the local historic district designation of the Benjamin Elliott's Coal Trestle. The trestle was included in both our 2013 and 2014 lists of Arlington's Most Endangered Historic Places.

HALRB supports the designation.

NVRPA, the owner of the land, supports the designation.

The recently adopted East Falls Church Plan calls for this designation.

The unfortunate events of June 5, which saw the demolition of part of the remaining trestle, should not preclude protection of the substantial portions that remain of this important piece of Arlington's history.

The W&OD railroad was an integral part of the growth of Arlington as a suburb of Washington, D.C. The rails carried freight that provided the building materials for our homes and the coal to heat them. Our collection of Sears homes, in particular, was made possible by this railroad. It is an important part of our story and this is our last opportunity to tell it with the original resources in a real location.

The staff report for this designation is an excellent documentation of the importance of this site. After reading that report, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion than to ultimately designate this a local historic district.

Preservation Arlington supports the RTA to designate the Benjamin Elliott's Coal Trestle a local historic district in Arlington County.

Preservation Arlington is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of Arlington's distinct architectural heritage. Through education and advocacy, Preservation Arlington brings together people and organizations to influence the future of Arlington's historic buildings, landscapes and communities. Preservation Arlington was originally founded in 1989 as the Arlington Heritage Alliance.

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