



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
National Military Park
120 Chatham Lane
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405



IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.A.1 (FRSP)

May 30, 2018

Patrick White
Spotsylvania County Planning Department
9019 Old Battlefield Blvd., Suite 320
Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for consulting with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on the Special Use Permit (SUP 17-0006) for the expansion of the Saint Patrick Church and School, located on Ely's Ford Road north of National Park Service (NPS) lands at the Chancellorsville Battlefield in Spotsylvania County.

As you have noted, the project area does share a boundary with NPS lands. The property is also historic land associated with significant Civil War events within Spotsylvania County. The property is part of the "Hooker's Last Line" zone, a Priority Three area of Spotsylvania County's *Related Areas Data Base*. It is the site of Union defensive positions occupied during the May 3-4, 1863 phase of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Extensive Union earthworks and trenches survive on the property within the proposed expansion area. These earthen defenses were constructed and occupied as a final line of defense following the Union army's abandonment of the Chancellorsville intersection. Under "Desired Conditions" for this zone, the *Related Areas Data Base* states:

*"To maintain an opportunity to commemorate and interpret the Union troop positions.
To preserve the earthworks..."*

The property also falls within the "Core Area" of the Chancellorsville Battlefield, as defined by the 1993 congressionally authorized Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

The park supports the recommendations of the County's *Related Areas Data Base* that efforts be made to preserve the surviving earthworks. Since the earthworks exist in the area along our shared boundary with the church and school, avoidance of construction in the area of the earthworks would also help us to protect our own lands.

Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding
Superintendent