



PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

16 July 2018

New Kent County Planning Commissioners
and Board of Supervisors
co: Ms. Kelli Le Duc at killeduc@newkent-va.us

Dear Members of the New Kent County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissioners:

On behalf of Preservation Virginia, the nation's oldest statewide preservation organization, I write to express our concern about the consideration of a proposal (CUP-02-18) which has been submitted to build a military combat training facility in Barhamsville. We have been contacted by numerous residents of New Kent County concerned about the impact on this facility.

On the route that Lafayette and Washington-Rochambeau rode to Yorktown, Barhamsville is a close knit community noted for the integrity of its scenic, rural, agricultural and historic character. Large and small farms, vineyards, horse farms and a wild life refuge dot the landscape. Well-preserved houses and structures dating to the late-eighteenth, nineteenth and early-twentieth century including Poplar Springs (1789) and Barhamsville Schoolhouse (1900) attract and retain residents in the area. These attributes of Barhamsville were recognized with Rural Lands or Hamlet designation in the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Staff acknowledges that this combat training facility is out of character with this designation.

As a voice for historic places since 1889, Preservation Virginia understands the role historic places and landscapes play in the economic vitality of a community. In a three-part economic analysis undertaken by VCU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, we examined heritage tourism, the historic tax credit and the Main Street Programs program. With regards to heritage tourism, the study states heritage tourism visitors spend more than \$7.7 billion annually. They are attracted to Virginia because of the authenticity of the experience and the well preserved roadways, agricultural vistas and historic places. If this facility is built in Barhamsville, those characteristics may be lost forever.

We encourage you to carefully consider the impacts to the integrity of the historic, scenic and agricultural resources of Barhamsville and vote no on CUP-02-18. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Kostelny
Chief Executive Officer