

PROPERTY INFORMATION

PROPERTY NAME	Hall's Hill Wall (Segregation Wall)
PROPERTY ADDRESS	Rear property line of 17 th Street N.
TAX PARCEL	--
USGS QUAD (S)	WASHINGTON WEST (DC)
COUNTY/INDEPENDENT CITY	Arlington (County)

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

ARCHITECTURE SETTING	Suburban
OWNERSHIP CATEGORY	Private

SITE DESCRIPTION

November 2019: The extant section of Segregation Wall follows the rear property line of the residences that face N. 17th Street at the south end of the Hall's Hill/High View Park neighborhood of Arlington.

FEATURE HISTORY

November 2019: Segregation Wall is a mixed-match agglomeration of fences privately constructed by white residents of Woodlawn Village neighborhood platted along the south boundary of the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHHVP) neighborhood beginning in the 1930s. Section 14 of Arlington's 1930 Zoning Ordinance allowed for the construction of a rear fence or wall to a height not exceeding seven feet (Arlington County Government 1930; Jones 2018:151). Rear property walls and fences made way for racialized building practices. Along the rear property line of the white homes bordering Hall's Hill, including the neighborhoods of Fostoria and Waycroft, residents constructed a seven-foot-tall cinderblock wall (Bestebreurtje 2017:208; Green 2019). At its height, Segregation Wall enclosed the neighborhood to the south behind the residences along N. 17th Street (Green 2019; Jones 2018:151). The only extant section of "The Wall," as the structure is commonly known throughout HHHVP, was constructed by residents of the Woodlawn Villas and Cardwells subdivisions (see Figure 1); portions of it exist behind the homes along 17th Road North between N. Culpeper and N. Edison Streets (Carroll 2002: 26; Jones 2018:151-152). The fence sections are materially disjointed given each resident was responsible for building on their own lot. The Segregation Wall is constructed from wood, brick, metal and concrete.

Glebe Road to the southwest of the neighborhood was a major thoroughfare for services and amenities not provided within the community. Prior to the erection of the wall, residents could walk to Glebe Road unhindered across unbuilt land. Once the wall was complete a one block "short-cut" became a twelve to thirteen block circuitous walk up to Lee Highway and over to Glebe Road. During the era of desegregation, children from HHHVP were to attend Woodlawn Elementary, on the other side of Segregation Wall. After HHHVP parents petitioned the school board, portions of the wall were demolished to allow school children passage to the newly integrated Woodlawn Elementary. Creation of this new accessway between N. Culpepper and N. Abingdon required the acquisition and demolition of two Woodlawn Villa properties circa 1966 (ACHPP 2016: 22; Jones 2018:152).

In February 2017, Arlington County unveiled the historic marker which reads:

This wall is a reminder of racial segregation in the historically African American community of Hall's Hill. During construction of the Woodlawn Village subdivision in the 1930s, a wall of various materials and heights was built here to separate blacks from the adjacent white neighborhood. The only through-street in Hall's Hill at that time was N. Edison St. During the late 1950s, children from Hall's Hill removed a small section of the wall to create a passage to a nearby creek. In 1966, Arlington County removed a larger section of the wall, allowing full access to and from Hall's Hill. Sections of the wall still stand today.

Erected in 2016 by Arlington County, Virginia in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Hall's Hill.

The marker was a collaborative effort between the HHHVP Historic Preservation Coalition and the County's Historic Preservation Program to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the neighborhood. The remnants of Segregation Wall are a sobering reminder of the most literal interpretation and representation of the nation's segregation era. However, "the wall ha(s) become more of an education tool than a racist barrier...a way to teach people about what Jim Crow racism looked like and felt like" according to sentiments of the now more racially diverse HHHVP and surrounding areas (Prior 2019).

SURVEYOR ASSESSMENT/RECOMMENDATION

November 2019: The Halls Hill Wall (Segregation Wall) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A on the local level for its historical association with racial segregation practices in Arlington County exists as a reminder of racial segregation practices that divided communities along every social stratum, in this case a physical barrier that separated the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHHVP) neighborhood from the Woodlawn Villas subdivision. The feature retains its integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. However, due to weather and neglect portions of the wall have deteriorated which impact its integrity of materials and workmanship.

SURVEYOR RECOMMENDATION: NRHP ELIGIBLE

PRIMARY RESOURCE INFORMATION

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Landscape
RESOURCE TYPE	Wall/Fence
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1920-1940s
HISTORIC TIME PERIOD	Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916); World War I to World War II (1917-1945)
HISTORIC CONTEXT (S)	Architecture/Community Planning, Social, Ethnic Heritage (Black)
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	--
FORM	--
NUMBER OF STORIES	--
CONDITION	Fair
THREATS TO RESOURCE	Neglect

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

November 2019: Given construction of the wall was a privately funded endeavor, it is a mix-matched agglomeration of fences constructed from various materials to include concrete block, wood, and metal. The most cohesive element of "Segregation Wall" is material opacity such that the barrier was not only physical but visual in nature.

EXTERIOR COMPONENTS

COMPONENT	COMPONENT TYPE	MATERIAL	MATERIAL TREATMENT
CHIMNEYS	--	--	--
ROOF	--	--	--
WINDOWS	--	--	--
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM/EXTERIOR TREATMENT	--	--	--
FOUNDATION	--	--	--
PORCH	--	--	--

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