

**RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL METAL DETECTOR SURVEY  
FOR THE  
EPISCOPAL HIGH SCHOOL NEW FACULTY HOUSING PROJECT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

**COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE GROUP, INC.  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA  
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The Episcopal High School (EHS) is proposing to build six additional faculty homes in an approximately 2.34-acre project area at the end of Goodwin Road in the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Figures 1 and 2). Alexandria Archaeology has determined that the location has the potential for containing cultural resources associated with the Civil War and has recommended a metal detector survey. On behalf of EHS, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth) performed a reconnaissance level metal detector survey within the 2.34-acre proposed limits of disturbance. The fieldwork was conducted on 19-20 April 2018 by Joseph F. Balicki and Charles E. Goode, metal detectorists with a combined experience of over 33 years. Artifacts were processed and analyzed by Cynthia V. Goode and Erin Godwin. Sarah Ruch prepared the graphics.

Commonwealth performed a previous reconnaissance level metal detector survey in July 2017 for two new faculty homes to be constructed within an approximately 0.5-acre project area (Arnold 2017). This project area is directly west of the current 2.34-acre project area and it also overlaps with a small portion of the current project area (Figure 2). Those two new faculty homes were under construction while the current survey was undertaken. The previous survey resulted in the recovery from the plow zone of 10 artifacts including two pieces of lead ammunition (MD1 and MD3) that date to the Civil War. Other artifacts included one cooking vessel fragment (MD2), one cut metal spike (MD4), one copper alloy caster wheel (MD5), one unidentified copper alloy flat fragment (MD6), one 1937 silver half-dollar (MD7), one metal lock part (MD8), one unidentified copper alloy bar fragment (MD9), and one metal horseshoe (MD10). All the artifacts recovered were secondary deposits of mainly unrelated origin that ranged between the mid nineteenth century through to the early twentieth century. Because of this, Commonwealth did not assign them to a new archaeological site. No further work was warranted.

The current project area is mainly situated within a wooded area that included predominately gum and loblolly pine trees. The understory contained smaller holly trees and thick stands of greenbrier. A drainage swale was present at the edge of the wooded area in the southern portion of the project area, and to the north, a narrow drainage ditch was present (Figure 2). A small eastern section of the project area is situated within an open area covered in maintained lawn. This area appears to have been graded and is set slightly lower than the wooded area to the west.

Low push piles at the edge of the wooded area is perhaps more evidence of prior grading of this area. A 1949 aerial photograph and a 1951 USGS map appears to show a large artificial pond in this area, which likely accounts for its graded/modified appearance (NETR 2018, USGS 1951). The pond is no longer depicted on the 1958 USGS map and is shown to be drained in a 1962 aerial photograph (USGS 1958, NETR 2018). The earlier 1949 aerial photograph shows the project area west of the pond consists of an open field or pasture, however the 1962 aerial photograph shows the area transforming into woods with the growth of small trees. Later USGS maps and aerial photographs shows that no structures were built in the project area vicinity until the mid 1990's with the construction of nine faculty homes along Goodwin Road.

The project area has likely been part of the EHS and Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) campus since 1839. This is when the Seminary purchased the 77-acre Howard tract adjacent to the Seminary from Dr. William Alexander for the building of the high school (Booty 1995:68). The school operated under the Seminary's board of trustees until 1923, when it became independent. During the Civil War, the VTS, then named the Fairfax Theological Seminary, was occupied by the Federal Army and used as a hospital and military camp. Military camps were also probably erected on the EHS campus. The VTS and EHS campuses have been designated as an archaeological site, 44AX0173, by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). Fort Ward was constructed to the northwest on the opposite side of the current W. Braddock Road. A number of connecting infantry trenches and batteries for field artillery were constructed between Fort Ward and Fort Worth to the south.

The survey included an initial walkover and metal detection by two operators using a White's MXT, MineLab CTX 30/30 and a MineLab E-Trac. All work was designed to conform with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources *Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Survey in Virginia* (VDHR 2017) and Alexandria Archaeology's *City of Alexandria Archeological Standards* (Alexandria Archaeology 2005). Metal detection was conducted in overlapping transects where possible. All signals were investigated. Modern trash was noted and discarded. Positive metal detector hits and other pertinent features were mapped with a GPS capable of sub-meter accuracy.

The survey resulted in the recovery of 31 artifacts from 29 metal detector hits (Figure 2, Table 1). All artifacts were recovered from the Apb horizon or plow zone. Twelve of the metal detector hits were located outside the project area (MDs 1, 2, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 18-21). Five Civil War-related artifacts were recovered that include one carved bullet (MD9), one New York State Militia cuff button (MD10), one canteen spout (MD18), one fired Minié Ball (MD23), and one small lead ball projectile (MD29). The one piece of melted lead (MD17) is also very likely Civil War related. Because they were recovered near the canteen spout, the two flat brass buttons (MD19 and MD21) may also be from a Civil War occupation. The one small burned whiteware sherd found with the cuff button (MD10), the one blown-in-mold prescription bottle (MD14), the buckle (MD16), and the one metal tablespoon (MD27) may possibly also be Civil War-related artifacts.

**Table 1. Artifacts recovered during survey.**

<b>Provenience</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>
MD1	Metal hook	1
MD2	Metal horseshoe fragment	1
MD3	Cut metal spike	1
MD4	Unidentified copper alloy flat fragment	1
MD5	Metal horseshoe fragment, possibly for draft horse	1
MD6	Cut metal spike	1
MD7	Large metal ring	1
MD8	Metal horseshoe fragment, possibly for draft horse	1
MD9	Carved lead bullet, dome shaped	1
MD10	Brass military uniform button, New York State Militia cuff button	1
MD10	Plain whiteware sherd, burned (1810-2018)	1
MD11	Large brass/copper alloy ring	1
MD12	Unidentified coin, likely a penny	1
MD13	Threaded metal cap (modern)	1
MD14	Clear blown-in-mold bottle glass fragment, oval prescription bottle	1
MD14	Necklace, brass/copper alloy square pendant	1
MD15	Unidentified metal flat circular object (modern)	1
MD16	Ferrous metal buckle	1
MD17	Melted lead	1
MD18	Metal military canteen spout	1
MD19	Flat brass button	1
MD20	Unidentified copper alloy flat twisted fragment	1
MD21	Flat brass button	1
MD22	Cut nail	1
MD23	Minié Ball, fired, smashed	1
MD24	Unidentified copper alloy flat fragment, possibly melted	1
MD25	Large round tack	1
MD26	Cut nail	1
MD27	Metal tablespoon, flattened	1
MD28	Necklace, brass/copper alloy cross-shaped pendant	1
MD29	Lead ball projectile, small	1
		<b>31 total</b>

Two cut nails (MD22 and MD26) and two cut spikes (MD3 and MD6) were recovered. Machine-made cut nails were commonly used from the 1830s to the 1890s, when wire nails became prevalent (Fontana 1965:89). Three horseshoes were recovered, two of which may have been used by a draft horse. These artifacts could be associated with Civil War-related activities or with activities related to the agricultural use of the land during the nineteenth century.

Other items were recovered that are likely related to use of the area during the twentieth century. These include one metal hook (MD1), two large metal rings (MD7 and MD11), one small cent that's likely a penny (MD12), two necklaces (MD14 and MD28), one tack (MD25), and one modern metal threaded cap (MD13). Three unidentified brass or copper alloy items (MD4, MD20, and MD24) and one silver-colored metal item (MD15) were also recovered.

Civil War-related and probable Civil War-related artifacts were recovered from two locations. These include the southern portion of the project area along either side of a narrow drainage ditch (Figure 2). This location also corresponds with where the two pieces of lead ammunition (MD1 and MD3) were recovered during the previous 2017 survey. The other location of Civil War-related artifacts is near the northern portion of the project area close to W. Braddock Road.

The Civil War-related artifacts are associated with the use of the EHS campus and Site 44AX0173 by Federal troops during the war. A large number of Federal units occupied this area over the course of the war. It is known that between fall of 1861 and March 1862, Kearney's Brigade (mainly New Jersey infantry) along with the 1st New York Cavalry camped on the VTS and EHS grounds. The rest of Franklin's division that included New York infantry and cavalry were camped north of Leesburg Pike. Evidence for a Federal campsite has been identified south of the project area. Previous survey along Main Drive identified a sparse scatter of Civil War artifacts probably associated with a summer camp (Balicki and Corle 2006). The Civil War artifacts within the project area may be associated with this occupation. During the Civil War, the project area appears to have been poorly drained, which is its current condition. Due to this it was likely not the main focus of the Civil War occupation, which appears to have been adjacent to Main Drive. Therefore, no additional investigations are warranted, and the proposed construction will have no impact on significant archaeological resources.

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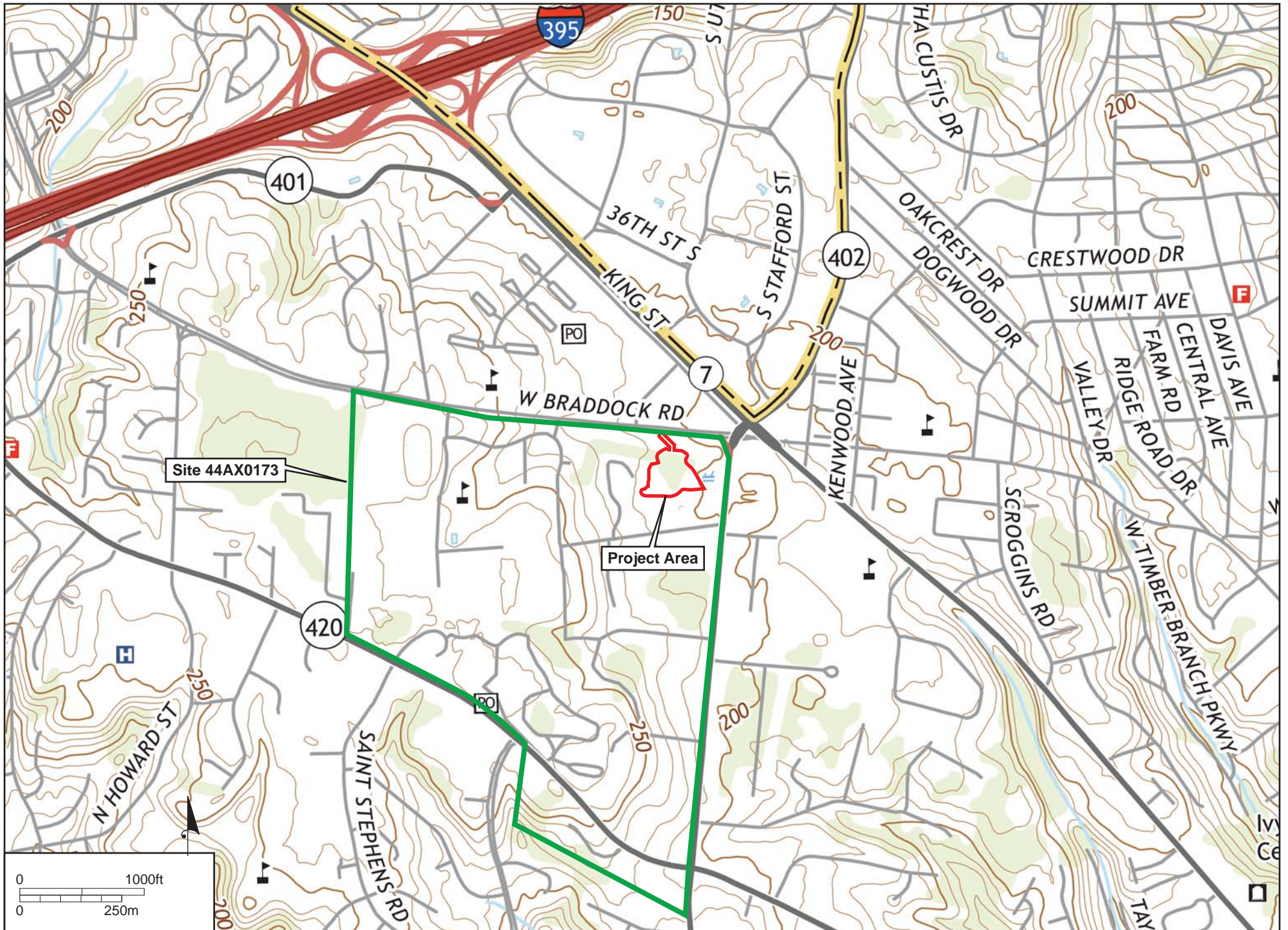


Figure 1. Project area location and Site 44AX0173 on a detail of the 2016 USGS Alexandria, VA-DC-MD 7.5-minute quadrangle (USGS 2016).



Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the location of metal detector finds within the project area.

**Episcopal High School Faculty Housing**  
Metal Detection Survey  
Artifact Inventory  
April 2018

Lot Number	Field Designation	Provenience	Depth (in)	Date; Initials	Artifact Number	Artifact Description	Count	Comments	Date Range
1	MD CG1	MD 1	4	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Miscellaneous, Metal: Hook	1		
2	MD CG2	MD 2	3	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Stable, Metal: Horseshoe	1	Fragment	
3	MD CG3	MD 3	4	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Fastener, Metal: Spike	1	Cut spike	
4	MD CG4	MD 4	7	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Unidentified Metal Object: Brass/Copper Alloy	1	Flat fragment	
5	MD CG5	MD 5	3	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Stable, Metal: Horseshoe	1	Fragment, thick, possibly for a draft horse	
6	MD CG6	MD 6	3	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Fastener, Metal: Spike	1	Cut spike	
7	MD CG7	MD 7	2	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Miscellaneous, Metal: Large Ring	1		
8	MD CG8	MD 8	8	CEG; 4/20/18	1	Stable, Metal: Horseshoe	1	Fragment, thick, possibly for a draft horse	
9	JB 1	MD 9	6	JB; 4/19/18	1	Projectile: Lead Bullet	1	Carved bullet, dome shaped	
10	JB 2	MD 10	6	JB; 4/19/18	1	Military Uniform, Metal: Button	1	New York state militia cuff button, 1.3 cm diameter hollow brass button broken into two pieces,	
10	JB 2	MD 10	6	JB; 4/19/18	2	Whiteware: Plain	1	Burned, tiny body sherd	1810- 2000



Lot Number	Field Designation	Provenience	Depth (in)	Date; Initials	Artifact Number	Artifact Description	Count	Comments	Date Range
11	JB 3	MD 11	4	JB; 4/19/18	1	Miscellaneous, Metal: Large Ring	1	Brass/copper alloy ring	
12	JB 4	MD 12	7	JB; 4/19/18	1	Domestic Coin: Small Cent	1	Unidentified coin, probably a penny, illegible date	1856- 2000
13	JB 5	MD 13	4	JB; 4/19/18	1	Miscellaneous, Metal: Other	1	Threaded cap, modern	
14	JB 6	MD 14	7	JB; 4/19/18	1	Blown-In-Mold Bottle: Clear	1	Prescription bottle, oval base, 4" tall, with oil finish	
14	JB 6	MD 14	7	JB; 4/19/18	2	Jewelry, Metal: Necklace	1	Brass/copper alloy square pendant with two peacocks, paste gemstone missing from center	
15	JB 7	MD 15	6	JB; 4/19/18	1	Unidentified Metal Object: Unidentifiable	1	Unidentified flat circular object, corroded, with silver-colored modern metal underneath	
16	JB 8	MD 16	6	JB; 4/19/18	1	Fastener, Metal: Ferrous Belt or Other Buckle	1		
17	JB 9	MD 17	4	JB; 4/20/18	1	Unidentified Metal Object: Melted Lead	1		
18	JB 10	MD 18	2	JB; 4/20/18	1	Military Object, Metal: Canteen Spout	1		
19	JB 11	MD 19	4	JB; 4/20/18	1	Button, Metal: Brass	1	Probable flat brass button or coin	
20	JB 12	MD 20	6	JB; 4/20/18	1	Unidentified Metal Object: Brass/Copper Alloy	1	Flat fragment, twisted	
21	JB 13	MD 21	6	JB; 4/20/18	1	Button, Metal: Brass	1	Flat with loop shank	
22	JB 14	MD 22	9	JB; 4/20/18	1	Cut Common Nail: Complete	1		1805- 2000

Lot Number	Field Designation	Provenience	Depth (in)	Date; Initials	Artifact Number	Artifact Description	Count	Comments	Date Range
23	JB 15	MD 23	8	JB; 4/20/18	1	Projectile: Minié Ball	1	Fired, smashed	1849-
24	JB 16	MD 24	10	JB; 4/20/18	1	Unidentified Metal Object: Brass/Copper Alloy	1	Flat, possibly melted	
25	JB 17	MD 25	5	JB; 4/20/18	1	Fastener, Metal: Tack	1	Large, round tack	
26	JB 18	MD 26	10	JB; 4/20/18	1	Cut Common Nail: Fragment	1		1805- 2000
27	JB 19	MD 27	10	JB; 4/20/18	1	Utensil, Metal: Tablespoon	1	Flattened spoon bowl only	
28	JB 20	MD 28	3	JB; 4/20/18	1	Jewelry, Metal: Necklace	1	Brass/copper alloy cross-shaped pendant	
29	JB 21	MD 29	6	JB; 4/20/18	1	Projectile: Lead Ball	1	Small	
						<b>Total Count: 31</b>			