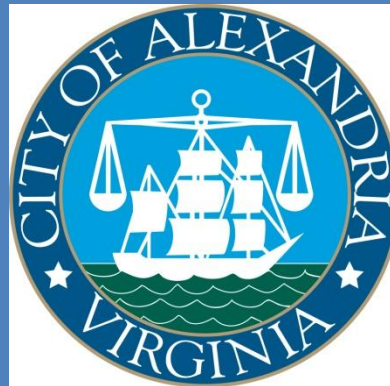


Archaeological Investigation of Fort Ward / “The Fort” 1961-2011

Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology
Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group
October 12, 2011





Fort Ward Park

1927

190 95 0 190 Feet



Fort Ward Park

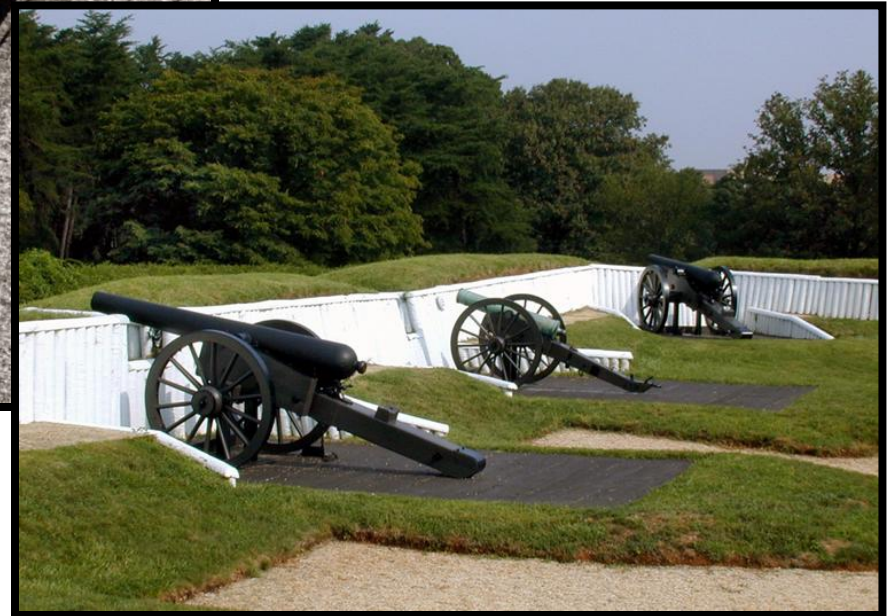
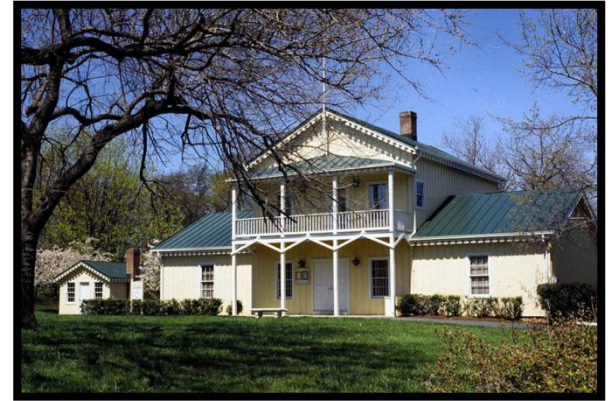
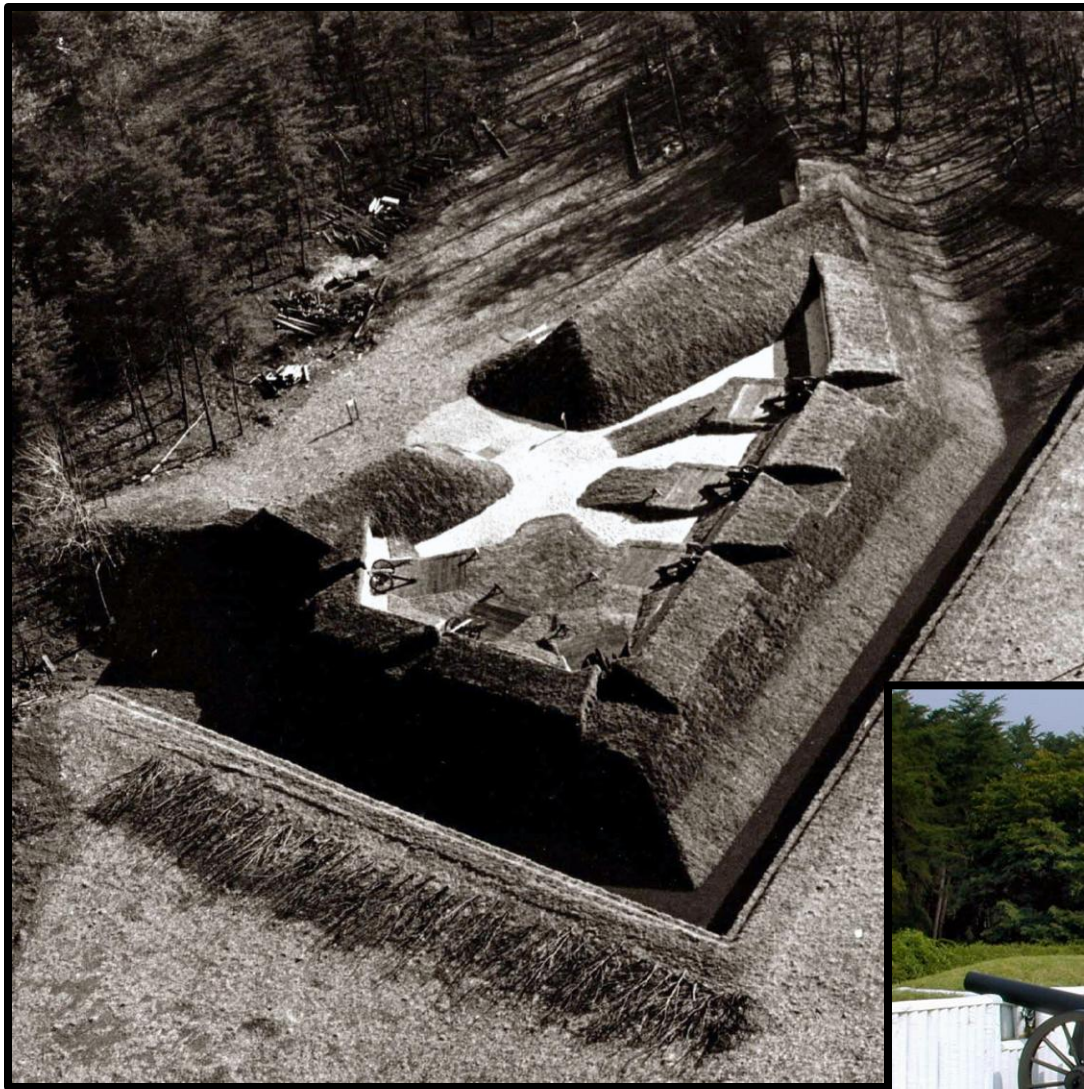
2009

200 100 0 200 Feet

1961

Goal: Reconstruction of Northwest Bastion



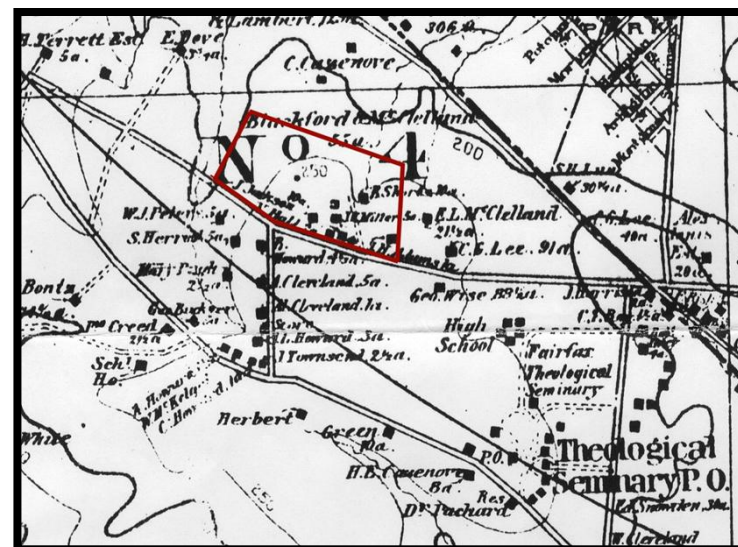


1991

Goal: Investigations Beyond the Fortification







1991

Rediscovering “The Fort”



Fort Ward Park

1927

190 95 0 190 Feet



Oral History and Documentary Research

Alexandria Reflections

The Seminary Area and Macedonia

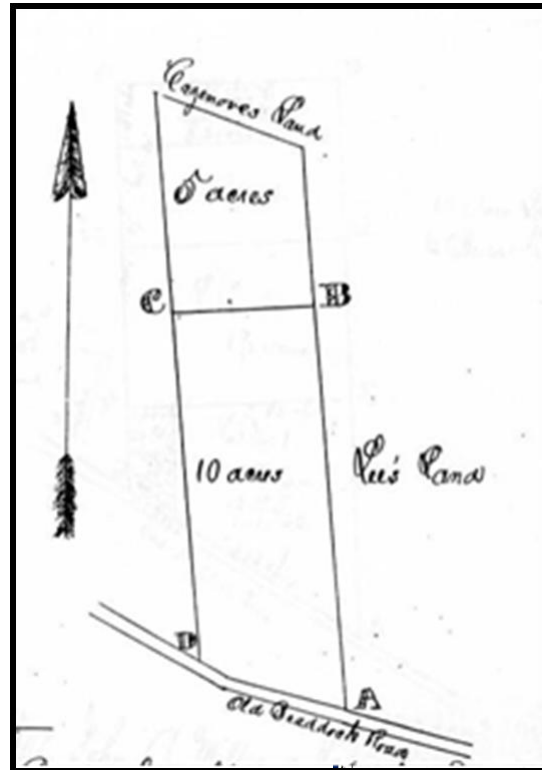


Mrs. Elizabeth Douglas

by Patricia I. Knock



Alexandria Archaeology • Oral History 2
Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 327
105 North Union Street
Alexandria, Virginia, 22314
703-838-4399/fax 703-838-6491





Scale of 20 feet per inch.

Survey for Burr Shorts for a lot of land in Fairfax County, Virginia, being part of a tract of 10 acres lately J. H. Coffey beginning at A a stone on the north side of the Old Piedmont road a corner claimed by J. H. Coffey thence with the line as claimed by him and a line of 100 feet to B 10 to 17 30 chains to C a stone in said line thence S 80° 30' 00" E 6.18 chains to D a stone on the West side of said road thence S 81° 10' 00" E 14.79 chains to A a stone on the North side of said road thence with the road and bridge thence S 60° 41' 00" E 1.46 chains to 7th 1.60 chains to the beginning containing ten acres (10 acres)

December 16th 1879.
Proved for J. H. Coffey
J. H. Coffey

Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879

Research Continues 1990s—Web Site Postings 2000s

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | City of Alexandria Office of Historic Alexandria <i>Alexandria Legacies</i> Oral History Program |  |
| <p>Project Name: <i>Alexandria Legacies</i></p> <p>Title: <i>Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young</i></p> <p>Date of Interview: <i>November 19, 1996</i></p> <p>Location of Interview: <i>Fort Ward Neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia</i></p> <p>Interviewer: <i>Patricia Knock</i></p> <p>Transcriber: <i>Jo-Ann LaFon</i></p> <p>Abstract: Sgt. Lee Thomas Young lived in the Fort Ward neighborhood before the fort was established as an historic Civil War and recreational park. He reflects what it was like living in the neighborhood and describes some of the houses and recalls his neighbors. His Fort Ward home, originally a church, was adjacent to one of the family graveyards that are still there. He was one of the last people moved from the Fort Ward area to new housing to make way for the park. This interview was videotaped; Sgt. Young and interviewer, Patricia Knock walked through the areas as they talked about them.</p> | | |

Maydell Belk interviewed by
Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer Pat Knock
1994

2009

Goal: Inventory of Historic Resources



Fort Ward Park - African American Burial Sites and Cemeteries



Legend

- Fort Ward Boundary
- Visible Grave Sites
- Specific Grave Site with Weak Documentation
- Suspected Grave Sites

OHA/Alexandria Archaeology

- 1/6: Headstones / Old Grave Yard mentioned in Amanda Clark Deed
- 2: Burial Site of Clara Adams
- 3: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery (Not part of Fort Ward Park)
- 4: Jackson Family Cemetery
- 5: Suspected Burial Site of Robert Adams
- 7: Suspected Burial Site of Amanda Clark
- 8: Suspected Burial Ground to the West of Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery
- 9: Suspected Burial Sites, formerly wooded, Identified by Sgt. L.T. Young
- 10: Suspected Burial Sites South of Clara Adams Grave Identified by Sgt. Young
- 11: Suspected Burial Site identified as being in Eagle Crest lot no. 16

Fort Ward Park- African American Structures and Other Resources



- 11: School/ St. Cyprian's Church/ Sgt. Young House
- 12: Randall House
- 13: Clara Adams/ McKnight Family House
- 14: Ashby House
- 15: Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall House
- 16: Belk House
- 17: Jarvis House
- 18: Line of Cedar Trees
- 19: Lilac Bush
- 20: Entrance Road to School
- 21: Braddock Road
- 22: Access Road to Harriet Shorts Property
- 23: 24, 25, 26, 27 Unknown Building, Only Visible in 1927 Aerial
- 28: 29, 30, 31, 32 Unknown Building, Visible in 1927 and 1937 Aerials
- 33: Undersized Building Visible only in 1937 Aerial
- 34: Large rectangular garden plot appearing in 1937 and 1949 Aerials
- 35: Outbuildings or small structures visible on 1949 Aerial and 1962 Topographic Map
- 36: Outbuilding or small structure visible on 1962 Topographic Map
- 37: Unknown Building Visible in 1927-1949 Aerials, Driveway visible in 1962 Topographic Map
- 38: 39: Unknown Building Visible in 1937 and 1949 Aerials and 1962 Topographic Map
- 40: 41, 42: Unknown Building Visible in 1927, 1937 and 1949 Aerials
- 43: Unknown Building Visible in 1937, 1949 and 1962 Topographic Map
- 44: High concentration of footpaths radiating from a square, but no apparent building. Only visible in 1927 Aerial
- 45: Unknown Brick Building identified in 1962 Topographic Map

- Possible Wells or Privies
- Buildings with strong family associations
- Buildings with unknown family associations
- Fort Ward Boundary
- Streams

Note: Resources may be present in other locations but do not have documentation to date
From Fort Ward Cultural Resources Inventory by Doug Applier for OHA/ Alexandria Archaeology

GIS overlay maps created to identify
Known and potential resource locations.



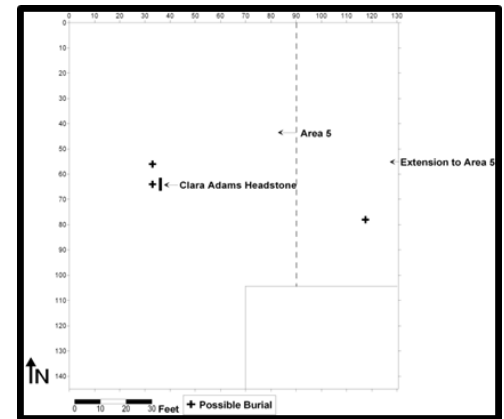
Additional oral history interviews for information
on schoolhouse/church and burial locations

2010-2011

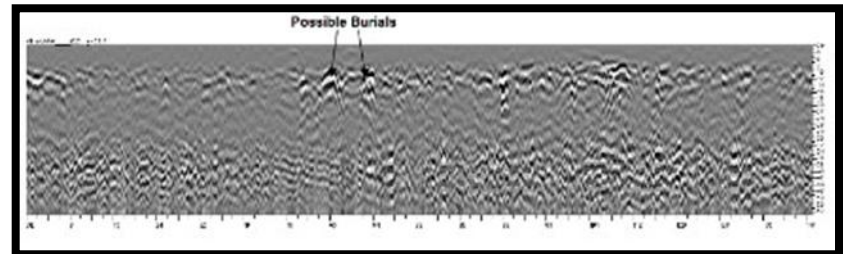
Stage 1 Archaeology Investigation

- Goal 1: Identify unmarked graves and test methods for locating burials through use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) and verification by traditional archaeological methods
- Goal 2: Identify other potentially significant resources through traditional archaeological methods
- Goal 3: Complete Stage 1 Inventory of Historic Resources

2010-2011 Goal 1: Identify Burial Locations and Test Methods



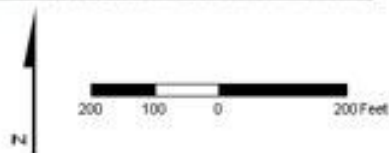
Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
Sarah Lowry, Consultant

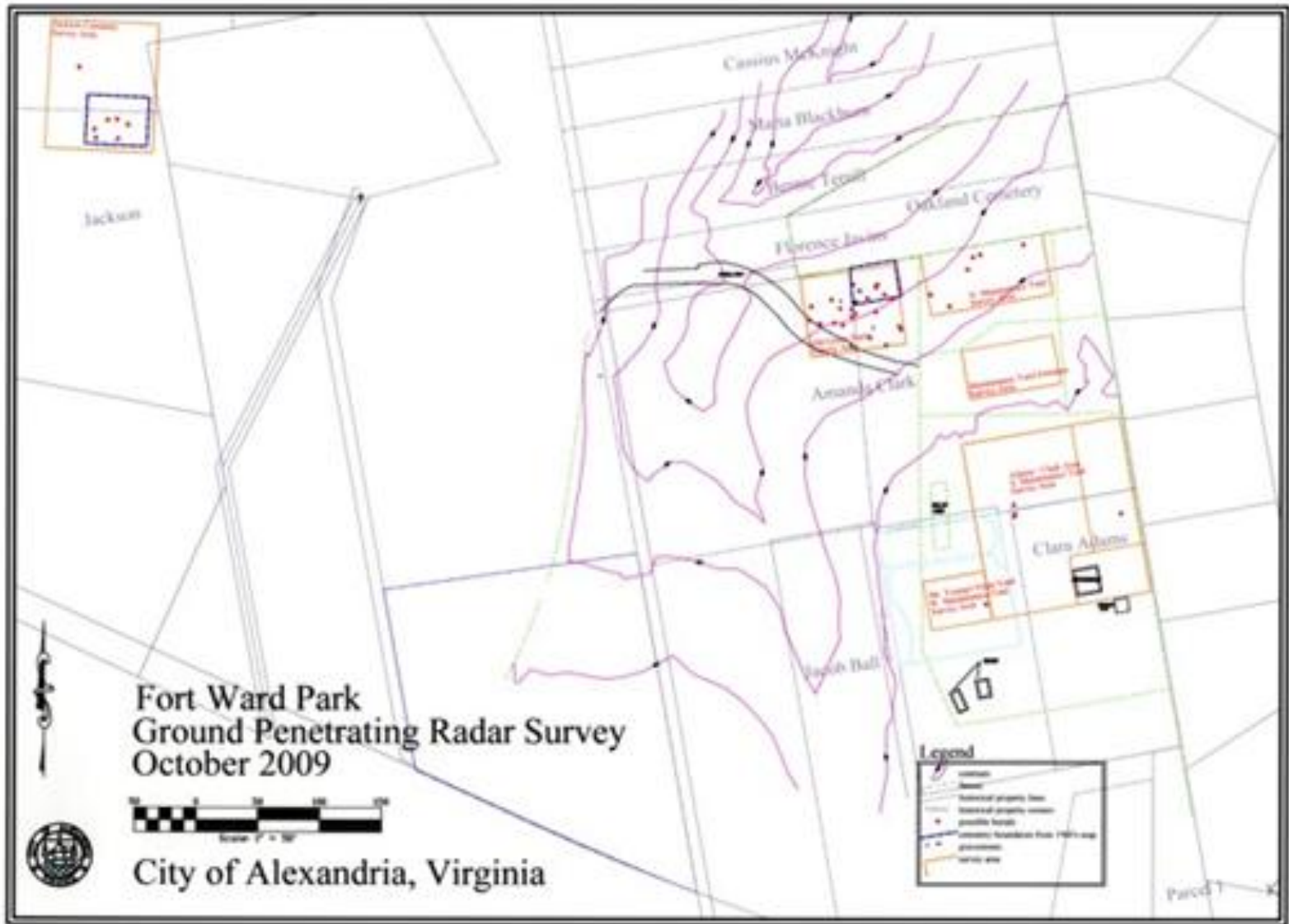




Ground Penetrating Radar
Survey Areas
Fort Ward Park

OHA/Alexandria Archaeology





GPR Results: 38 Possible Grave Locations

Sources of Grave Information To Verify by Archaeological Investigation

- GPR
- Documents
 - Amanda Clark's Will
 - 1960s City Engineer's Drawing
 - Eagle Crest Plat
- Oral History Accounts of Grave Locations
- Gravestones

Archaeological Methods for 2010-2011 Goals 1 and 2 To Verify/Identify Graves and Other Resources



Shovel Testing



Backhoe Scrapping
Followed by Trowel
Scrapping

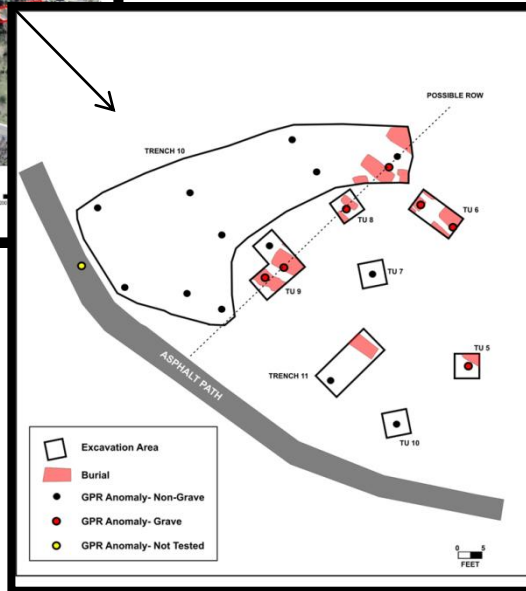
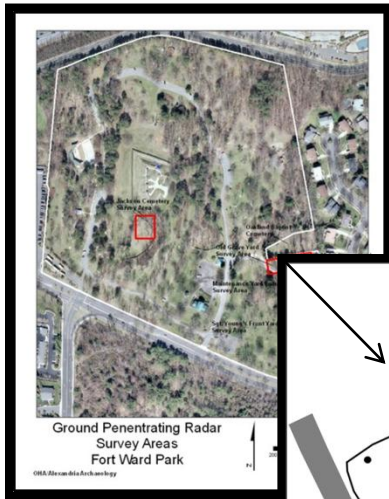


Metal Detection



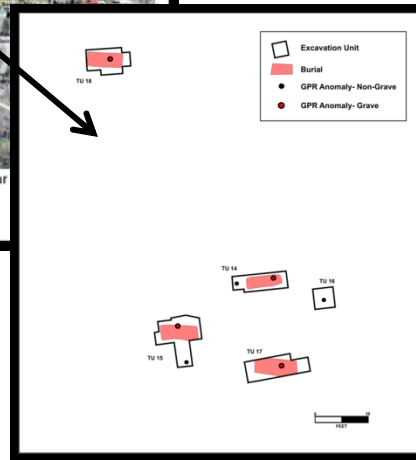
Hand Excavation

Old Grave Yard Area Grave Verification



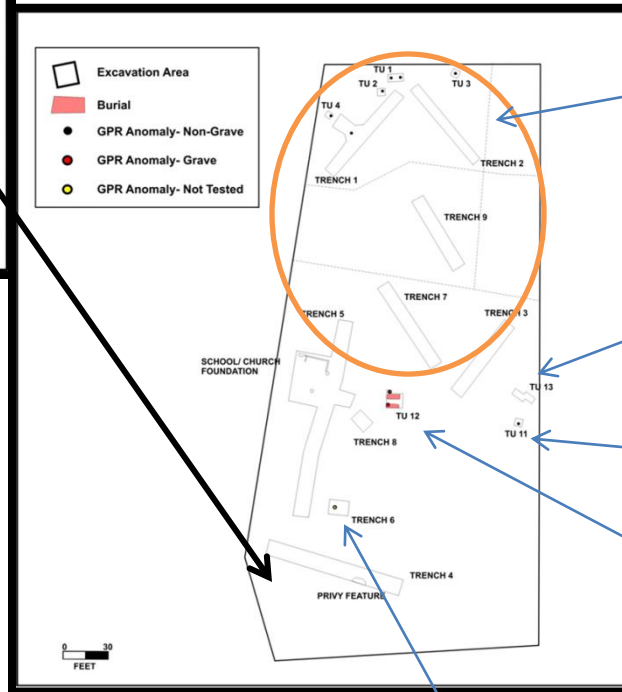
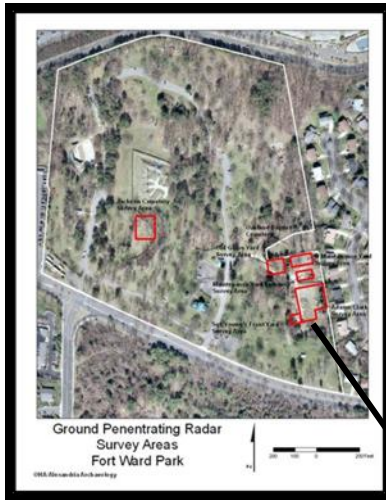
| | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------|
| GPR Finds | 21 | |
| Positive | | 8 |
| False | 12 | |
| Unexplored | 1 | |
| Add'l Graves From Exc. | | <u>8</u> |
| TOTAL BURIALS | | 16 |

Jackson Cemetery Grave Verification



| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| GPR Finds | 7 | |
| Positive | | 4 |
| False | 2 | |
| Other Feature | 1 | — |
| TOTAL BURIALS | | 4 |

Former Maintenance Yard Area Grave Verification



Grove of Trees Possible Grave Locations Based on Oral Histories
6 GPR Finds—0 Positive

Amanda Clark Possible Grave Location Based on Will
0 GPR Finds—1 Feature Found

1GPR Find—0 Correct

Clara and Robert Adams Graves
2GPR Finds—2 Correct



Gravestones Moved from Area Based on Oral History
1GPR Find—Unexplored; frozen ground

| | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| GPR Finds | 10 | |
| Positive | | 2 |
| False | 7 | |
| Unexcavated | 1 | — |
| TOTAL BURIALS | | 2 |

Overall Results—22 Grave Locations Identified

19 Unmarked

3 With Gravestones

Verification of GPR Grave Locations

Percentage of Positive and False GPR Finds

Total GPR Finds Excavated 36

| | | |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Positives | 14 | 39% |
| False | 22 | 61% |

Recommendations for Use of GPR

1. GPR has limited use. It is not 100 % accurate and results in both false positives and false negatives. Results vary dependent upon conditions. (39% overall accuracy; 57% in Jackson; 40% in Old Grave Yard; 20% in former maintenance yard)
2. GPR should not be used in wooded areas; tree roots cause false positives.
3. GPR may be useful as a first step in known cemetery areas, but verification by excavation is necessary.

Verification of Other Sources of Grave Information

Documents:

- Graves found in Jackson Cemetery location as shown on Eagle Crest plat.
- Graves found outside of both Old Grave Yard and Jackson Cemetery boundaries as shown on 1960s Engineering Drawing; boundary determinations needed
- Feature found in location of Amanda Clark's desired burial location; needs additional excavation

Oral History:

- GPR find to south of school church unexplored; needs additional excavation
- Robert Adams grave confirmed north of Clara Adams
- Graves present in Jackson cemetery
- No graves found to date in grove area north and east of the school/church; none associated with GPR finds; none in archaeological excavations; not all areas investigated

Gravestones:

- Virginia Fitzhugh, W. Javins, and Clara Adams burial locations confirmed in alignment to the east of their gravestones

Recommendations for Other Sources of Grave Locations

Documents:

- Continue research to examine all deeds and other records

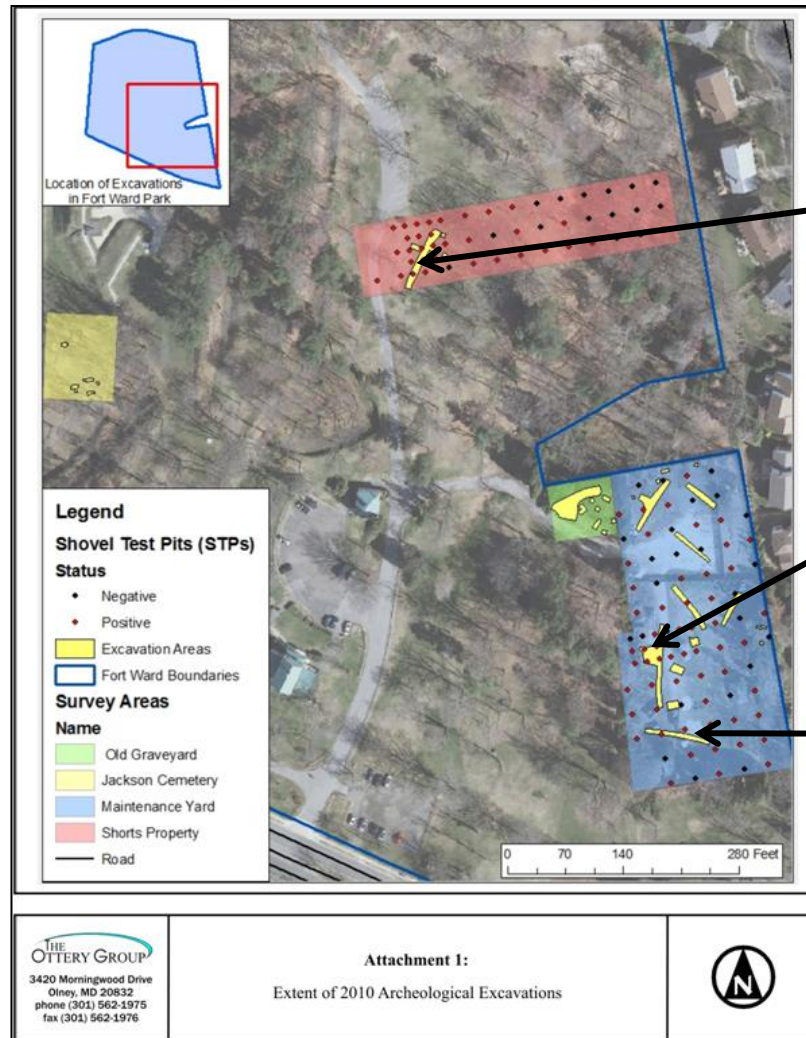
Oral History:

- Continue to interview individuals familiar with Fort Ward

Gravestones:

- No additional work. Only three gravestones in original locations

2010-2011 Goal 2: Locate and Identify Other Potentially Significant Resources



Excavation Results

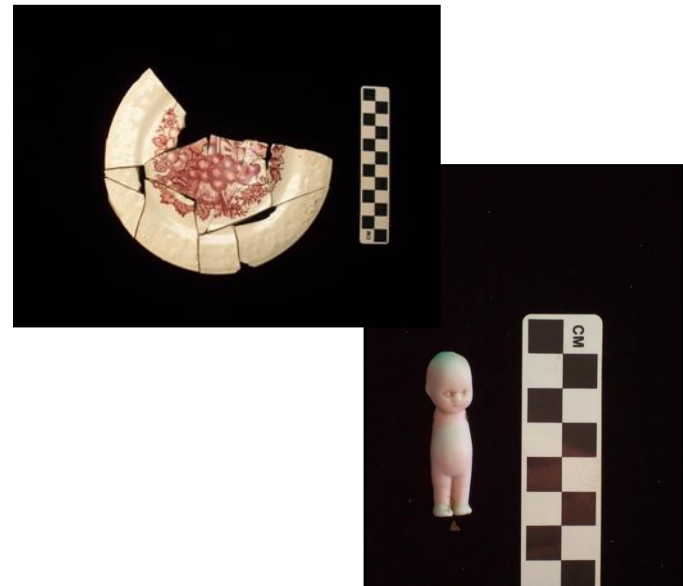
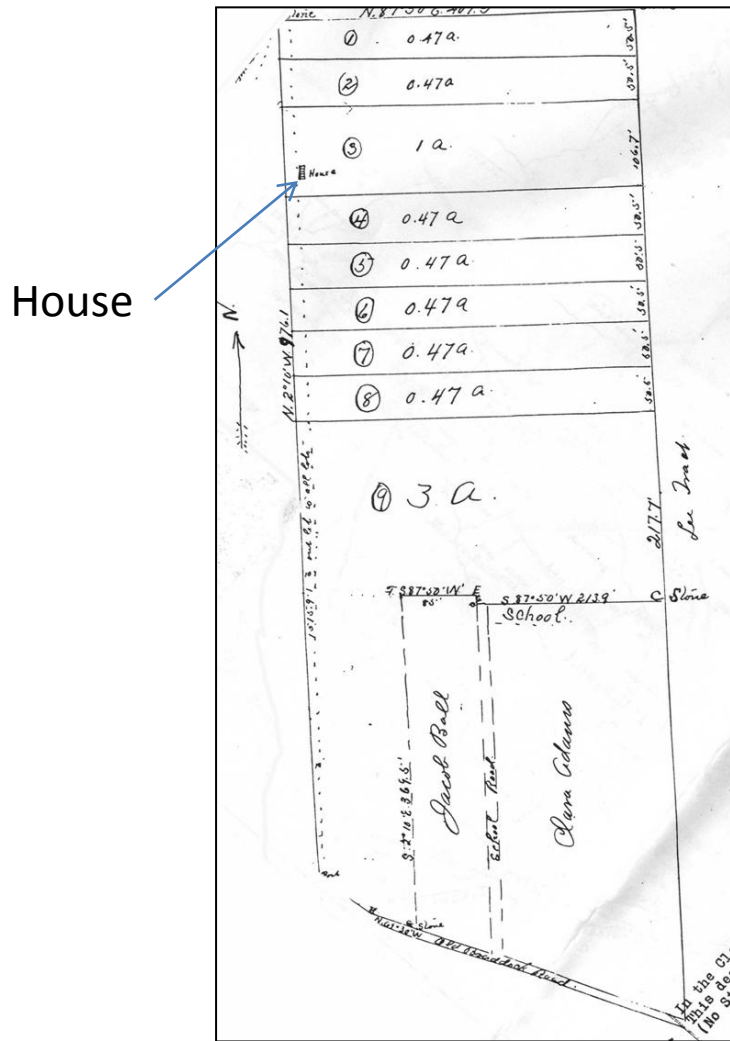
Shorts Lot: Concentration of artifacts on western side; piers and foundations of chimney

School/Church/Home: Concentration of artifacts; cinder block foundation of addition

“Privy” in southwest corner

Artifacts associated with Civil War and late 19th-mid-20th century

Shorts' Lot Excavations



2011-2012 Stage 2A Fort Ward History & Archaeology Investigation

Goal 1: Complete historical research & oral history; write history report.

Goal 2: Identify graves & boundaries of Jackson Cemetery and Old Graveyard with machine & hand excavation methods.

Goal 3: Identify resource areas in park by conducting archaeological survey (shovel test pits (STPs), hand-excavated units etc.)

Survey includes:

- Re-investigation of Amanda Clark “grave” area given Stage 1 findings.
- Investigation of area south of school/church which once had gravestones (not complete in Stage 1).
- STPs in areas of Indian, Civil War, and African-American resources using a sampling strategy based upon GIS overlays, oral histories, documents, photographs.
- Investigation of additional grave areas based upon new oral histories and documentary sources.
- Additional investigation of school/church (west side) and Shorts home lot (if funds left from above).

Goal 4: Produce Stage 2 Archaeology Report with recommendations for further work.

Goal 5: Update Cultural Resource Inventory to delineate Resource/Sensitivity Areas & outline stewardship needs.

Stage 2B--Interim Drainage Project



Archaeology Stage 2/Interim Drainage

Goal 1: Identify graves and resources in proposed drainage alignment to insure protection.

Goal 2: Inform drainage plan so changes made to protect graves and resources

Archaeology Stage 2B Drainage/Interim Plan Results

½ coffin discovered under and near park access road

- Grave was not dug as deeply as those in Old Graveyard
- Grave probably cut into by park road post-1980
- Hexagonal coffin shape, but date of burial unknown

1 Dog burial discovered—unknown date

Total Human Graves Discovered to Date 23

Fort Ward Archaeology
Status Reports
October 12, 2011

Status: Archaeology Stage 1

| | Submitted | Complete | Approved | Paid |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| GPR Report | x | x | x | \$ 1,750 |
| Archaeology Excavation Report | x [2 drafts] | | | \$ 21,910 \$ 8,734 |
| Resource Inventory | x [Working Draft] | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Funds Expended | | | | \$ 32,394 |
| Funds Unexpended | | | | \$ 13,101 |
| (Ottery Contract) | | | | |
| <u>Funds moved to Stage 2</u> | | | | <u>\$ 4,505</u> |
| TOTAL STAGE 1 | | | | \$50,000 |

Status: Archaeology Stage 2A

No funds expended \$75,000

Status: Archaeology Stage 2B—Drainage Improvements

| | Submitted | Complete | Approved | Paid |
|--|-----------|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Archaeology Excavation: Interim Plan | | x | x | \$ 16,880 |
| Archaeology Report Interim Plan | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | | | Funds Expended | \$ 16,880 |
| | | | Funds Unexpended | |
| | | | <u>(Ottery Contract)</u> | <u>\$16,880</u> |
| | | | TOTAL INTERIM PLAN | \$33,760 |
| | | | Funds Remaining for | |
| | | | <u>Final Drainage</u> | <u>\$41,240</u> |
| | | | TOTAL DRAINAGE ARCHEOLOGY | \$75,000 |