

Inventory of Historical Resources

Fort Ward Park

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Working Draft as of September 10, 2009

**To be completed under a City contract executed October 5, 2010, in
response to Request for Proposal #00000104--
Documentary Study and Archaeological Evaluation for Fort Ward
Historical Park**

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Inventory of Historical Resources - Fort Ward Park

Preliminary Draft -- September 8, 2009

Introduction

Overview of Fort Ward Park and its Historical Resources

Located roughly between West Braddock Road and the Henry Shirley Memorial Highway (Interstate 395), the 42 acres within Fort Ward Park's boundaries have been home to many peoples and uses through time. The physical evidence of some of these people and their vastly different eras are still present in the park today. The identification, documentation and interpretation of these resources provide a way for visitors to understand the experiences and events that shaped the landscape and the lives of earlier occupants. Evidence of the past that can be found in the park includes traces of Native American activity; the Civil War site known as Fort Ward, which has been the focus of the park since its opening in 1964; and the 19th and 20th Century domestic, educational, religious features, as well as graves, associated with a neighborhood settled by African Americans during Reconstruction that became known as "The Fort."

In addition to the intrinsic value of the historic resources and graves, Fort Ward Park is also used as a place to gather, exercise, play sports, learn about history, engage in passive, recreational activities, listen to music and enjoy nature and open space. The park also serves as the City Arboretum, and during the summer months, the park is a major destination for Alexandria residents, attracting between five and ten thousand visitors per month in addition to those who attend Civil War re-enactments, the Music at Twilight series and Jazz Festival events.

The present is an ideal time to begin planning for Fort Ward Park's future. 2011 marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War, which began in 1861. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the City of Alexandria's acquisition of the land that now makes

up Fort Ward Park, and of the beginning of archaeologist Edward Larrabee's initial excavations and reconstruction efforts at the Fort.

Historical Significance of Fort Ward Park

When placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, Fort Ward was recognized as one of the nation's most significant historic places. The Fort, the three reconstructed military buildings and thirty-five of the park's forty-two acres were nominated to the Register as a result of the role that the Fort played in the Civil War (1861-1865). Fort Ward formed one of the strongest links in a chain of sixty-eight forts and batteries protecting Washington, D.C. from the Confederate Army.

There are other historic resources present on the National Register segment of the park that have either not yet been discovered or were underappreciated at the time of the Fort's initial nomination. In addition to its Civil War history, the presence of ancient Native American cultural remains on the site provides another level of significance for the Park. The Fort was also home to a neighborhood whose presence in that location is still well remembered by many Alexandrians today. The land now recognized as Fort Ward Park was once home to a tightly-knit group of African American families that settled at Fort Ward starting by 1870, if not earlier. Those families remained in control of the land until the City of Alexandria purchased their properties and created the park in the early 1960s. Though that community no longer is present at Fort Ward, the family and social bonds formed in that neighborhood continue. The families' homes, a school/church, roads, landscape features, artifacts and graves are mostly hidden from view or unrecognized, but are likely preserved to varying degrees underground.

The Purpose of Historical Resource Inventory

The purposes of this inventory are to: 1) Identify known resources; 2) Predict probable locations of additional resources predicted from a variety of sources; 3) Assess the significance and integrity of the resources; 4) Recognize the threats facing and

opportunities presented by each resource; 5) Establish best practices for the care, investigation and enhancement of the resources; and 6) Delineate historical zones to assist in park planning.

Alexandria is fortunate to have a wealth of historic resources and residents that appreciate the significance of those assets. The popularity of Fort Ward Park reflects the value that the public places on this type of space. Much has changed in the years since Fort Ward Park was formally opened to the public in 1964. New archaeological investigations, historical research and oral histories have made evident the significance of the site in Alexandria's African American history. Methods and standards for site analysis, mapping, protection and interpretation of resources for the public have evolved, and park management principles and techniques have changed as well. A broader historical inventory can be used in creating a plan that balances historical resources with environmental and recreational uses within a widely used urban park.

The Historical Resource Inventory is divided into sections by three eras in which the known and predicted resources are displayed in GIS maps, identified, documented, evaluated to the extent possible at this time, and their threats, opportunities and treatments outlined:

- **Native Americans (approximately 3500 B.C. – 300 B.C.)**
- **Civil War (1861-1865)**
- **“The Fort” African American Neighborhood (approximately 1870 –1962)**

This is an initial effort to organize documentary, cartographic, photographic and oral history information collected by the Office of Historic Alexandria and curated at the Fort Ward Museum and the /Alexandria Archaeology Museum. The information in the Alexandria Archaeology files has been collected in the 1990s by volunteer Patricia

Knock, and more recently, by members of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, David Cavanaugh and Thomas Fulton. The foundation GIS maps were developed by City archaeologist Francine Bromberg. Doug Appler has produced the series of overlay GIS maps identifying resource locations and written the resource entries by analyzing the series of topographic and aerial maps, historic photographs and descriptive oral histories of individuals who once lived at The Fort or frequently visited there.

Native American Resources

General Description of Native American Resources on Site

Long before the area within Fort Ward Park was used for Civil War defenses, or was home to anyone familiar with the name “Alexandria,” the land had certain geographic characteristics that brought Native Americans here to make or sharpen stone tools. Archaeologists in the Alexandria Regional Conservation Office and the Commonwealth of Virginia working in the late 1970s discovered approximately 10 flakes of milky quartz, left behind by early Native Americans. The flakes were a by-product of the process of stone shaping. Stones were shaped by using a small cobble called a hammerstone to strike a larger cobble, knocking off stone flakes until the stone had developed the desired shape, such as a spear point, or an arrow point. Different tool shapes are diagnostic, in that they can be used to determine the period of occupation of the site. Unfortunately, at Fort Ward, all that has been found so far are stone flakes generated in the manufacturing process, not the actual finished tool itself; thus, the date of manufacture for these artifacts remains undetermined.

The area known as Fort Ward Park sits on an upland terrace near the headwaters of a stream that runs north into Four Mile Run, which itself eventually makes its way to the Potomac River. This type of site, an upland terrace near a stream bed, is known to have offered the sizes and varieties of stone favored by the area’s Native Americans for tool making. Several other Native American sites within Alexandria follow this pattern, including those at Stonegate on Braddock Rd. West of Fort Ward. The artifacts and pottery can be dated to several time periods, ranging from 3500 – 300 B.C.

Fort Ward Park - Native American Cultural Resources



Figure 1

List of Native American Resources

Detailed Description of Native American Resources on Site (for each of this type of resource present)

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

Written Description of Resource at Present

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

Threats to Integrity of Resource

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Significance of Native American Resources present in Park

Civil War Resources

General Description of Civil War Resources on Site

The most visible and prominent historical resources on the grounds of Fort Ward Park today are the remains of the well preserved Civil War fort that was built on site and a number of related structures and features that give historical context to the fort. Fort Ward was the fifth largest of the immense ring of 164 Union forts and batteries known as the Defenses of Washington, a formidable defense system built to protect the Federal capital during the Civil War. The fort was constructed in the late summer of 1861, and named for Commander James Harmon Ward, the first Union naval officer to be killed in the conflict. In 1864-1865, the fort was nearly doubled in size and perfected into a star-shaped bastion plan that reflected ideal standards of earthwork military engineering for the time period. Although the fort was dismantled and abandoned in late November of 1865, much of the structure's remaining earthwork walls survived intact and are still visible.

In the mid 1950s, the City of Alexandria launched efforts to acquire the land that would become Fort Ward Park and to preserve historic Fort Ward as a Civil War Centennial project. A historian and an archaeologist were contracted to direct the work that would result in the excavation and authentic restoration of the fort's Northwest bastion in the early 1960s. To enhance and give interpretive context to the restored bastion and extant fort walls, a replica of the fort's 1865 entrance gate was constructed on its original site, and military buildings of the period were reconstructed to serve as a Museum, furnished Officers' Hut, and restroom/maintenance facility. The site, which opened to the public in 1964, received national recognition from the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission in 1968, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Fort Ward Museum serves as an important interpretive resource, housing an extensive Civil War collection and a research library with specialized materials on the Defenses of Washington, as well as presenting exhibits and educational programs that expand the public's understanding and appreciation of the site's Civil War history.

Today, original Civil War resources on the grounds of Fort Ward Park include: 95% of the fort's 818-yard perimeter earthwork walls; preserved remains of two bombproof shelters; a

substantial impression of the fort's ditch; about 454 feet of original rifle trench line that extended from the North bastion; faint traces of a covered way that connected the Northwest bastion of the fort to an outlying gun battery, the remains of which exist in the northwest corner of the park; and a significant extent of the glacis, a man-made earthen bank that slopes away from the counterscarp of the fort. Additionally, in a 1991 excavation, Alexandria Archaeology discovered post holes and a cobblestone foundation from one of the barracks that was situated in the area near the present-day Officers' Hut. Although these archaeological features are not visible, they have been documented and preserved underground. This excavation confirmed evidence of military structures that no longer exist at Fort Ward, but are documented in Civil War Quartermaster plans for the site: three barrack buildings that were located in the present-day area of the Museum and Officers' Hut, a mess hall that stood in the area of the Museum parking lot, and several officers' quarters that were situated just beyond the Museum lawn, along West Braddock Road.

The extensive presence of visible and non-visible Civil War resources that have been preserved, documented and restored on the grounds of Fort Ward Park suggest the high potential for further archaeological finds on the site, and distinguish Fort Ward as the best preserved and interpreted of the Defenses of Washington forts to date.

Fort Ward Park - Civil War Resources

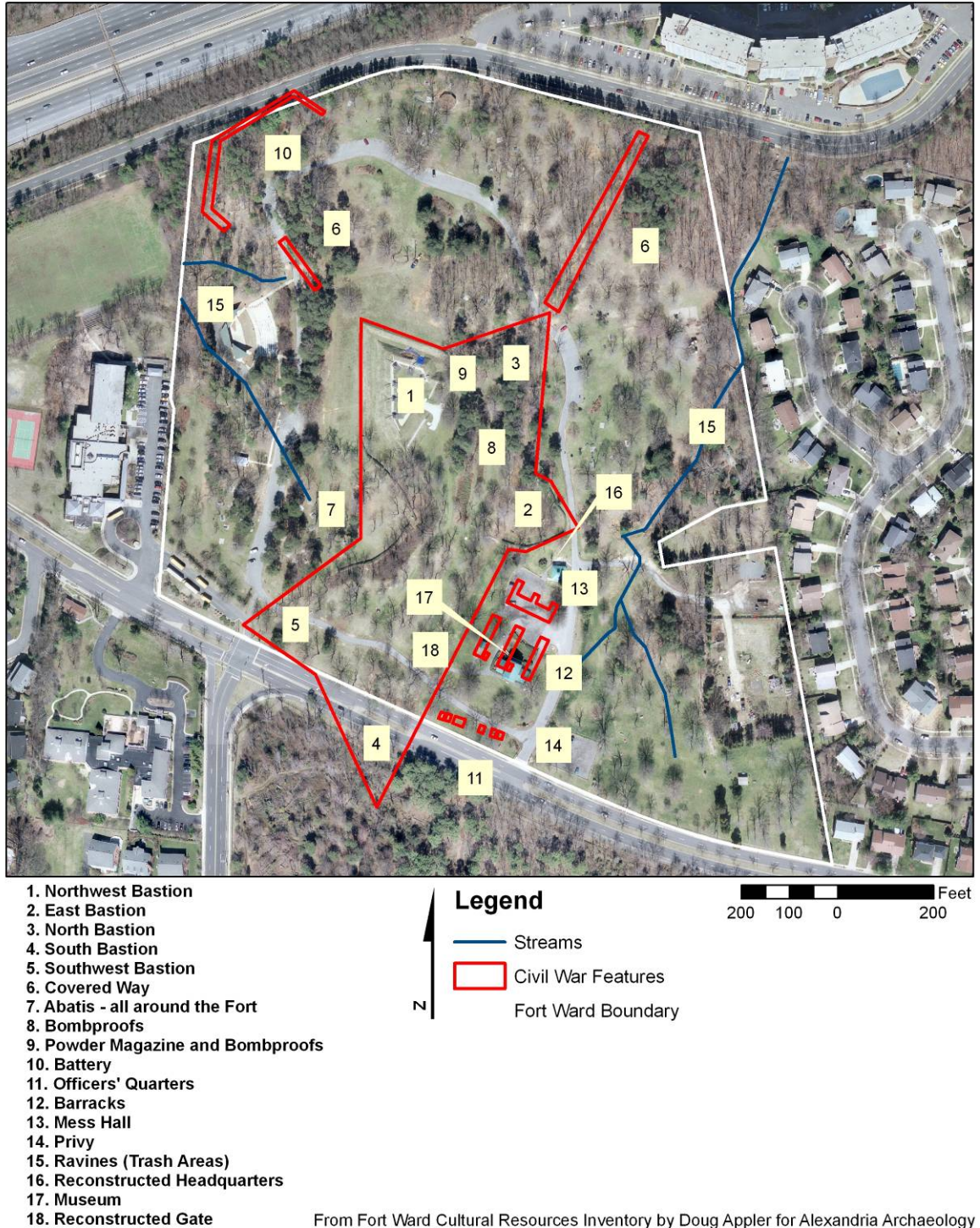


Figure 2

List of Civil War Resources

Civil War Earthworks

- Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
- Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
- Written Description of Resource at Present
- Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
- Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
- Threats to Integrity of Resource
- Recommended Treatment of Resource

Reconstructed Civil War Earthworks

- Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
- Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
- Written Description of Resource at Present
- Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
- Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
- Threats to Integrity of Resource
- Recommended Treatment of Resource

Civil War Building Foundations

- Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
- Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
- Written Description of Resource at Present
- Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
- Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
- Threats to Integrity of Resource
- Recommended Treatment of Resource

Reconstructed Civil War Buildings

- Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
- Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
- Written Description of Resource at Present
- Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
- Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
- Threats to Integrity of Resource
- Recommended Treatment of Resource

Wells, Privies and Roads

- Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

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Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
Written Description of Resource at Present
Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
Threats to Integrity of Resource
Recommended Treatment of Resource

Fort Ward Museum

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
Written Description of Resource at Present
Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
Threats to Integrity of Resource
Recommended Treatment of Resource

Museum Collections

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form
Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts
Written Description of Resource at Present
Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions
Evaluation of Integrity of Resource
Threats to Integrity of Resource
Recommended Treatment of Resource

Significance of Civil War Resources present in Park

African American Community Resources

General Description of African American Resources on Site

After the end of the Civil War in 1865, evidence begins to appear in the historical record that the land formerly used by the Union Army for Fort Ward became home to a community of African American families. Some of those families continued to own the land until the City of Alexandria



Figure 3: Clara Adams

established Fort Ward Park in the early 1960s. Residents of this neighborhood included the Adams, Ashby, Jackson, Javins, Shorts, McKnight and Terrill families, among several others. The experiences of these early Alexandria families, etched into the park's landscape in the form of building foundations, cemeteries, cultivated plants, roads and other features, help to tell part of the story of what life was like for African Americans living in Alexandria from Reconstruction into the Civil Rights era.

Some historic resources, such as the headstones outside of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, are easily identifiable and clearly indicate the presence of previous occupants. Other resources hidden from view, such as burial sites whose markers are gone, and building foundations that are below grade, require archaeological investigation before they can be identified at specific locations and given appropriate investigation, preservation and interpretation.

In addition to the resources present in the park, some of those who lived at the Fort until the early 1960s still live in or near Alexandria and are willing to share their experiences. The memories and histories of these residents and their families help to instill the physical remains of the past with meaning for those using the park today.

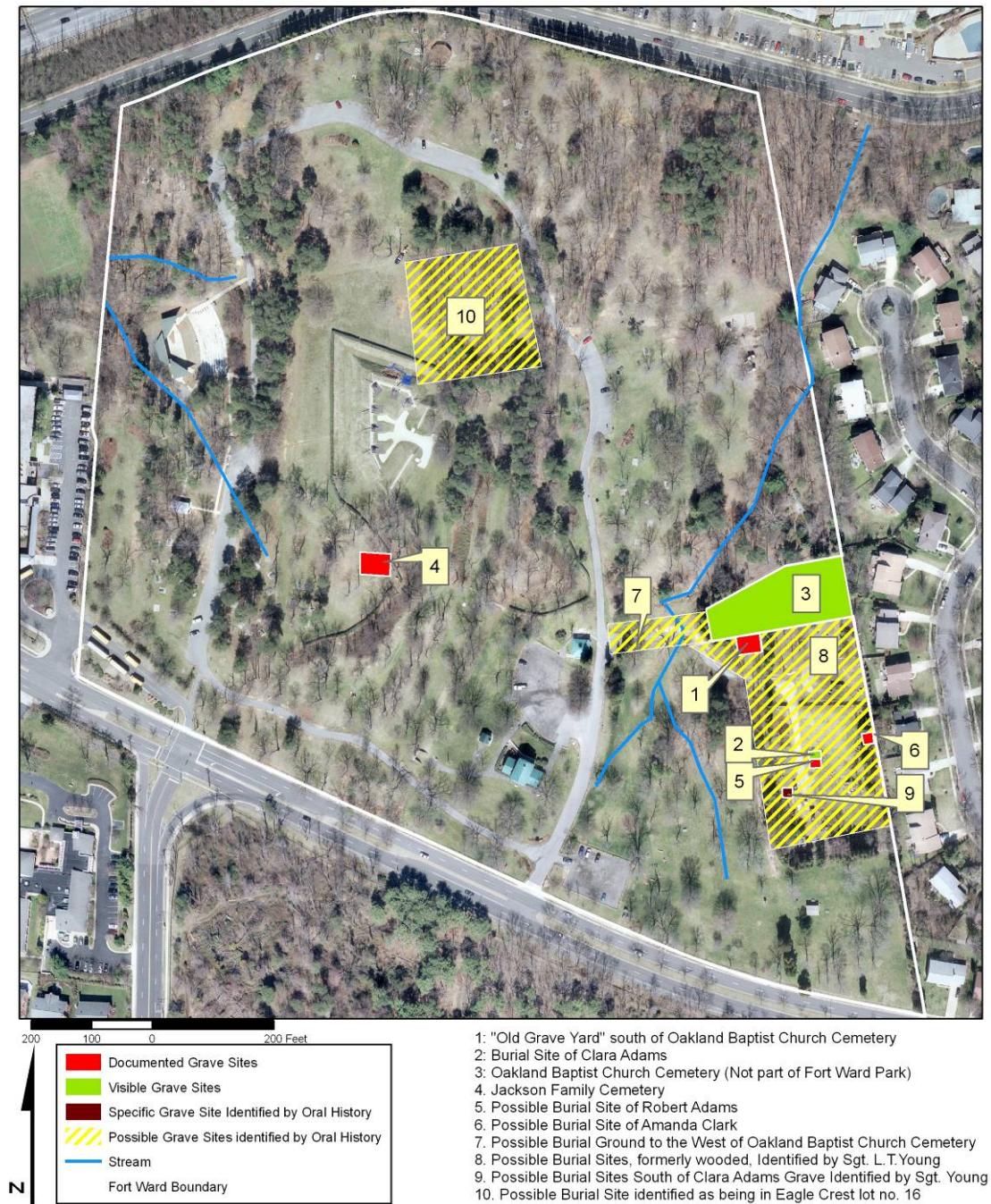
Fort Ward Park African American Burial Sites

The burial sites and cemeteries within Fort Ward Park contain few visible markers, and no known boundaries. What is known of these sites has been gathered by listening to and reading oral histories, assembling public records and examining historic maps. Archaeological investigation offers another way of learning about the potential burial sites within Fort Ward Park and can help to determine whether the graves remain intact, and if so, the extent and boundaries of each burial area. Archaeology can also help to determine whether the burial sites at documented at Fort Ward are a series of separate family plots, or whether these sites represent a continuous burial ground with family and non family members.

Continued exploration of documentary sources remains a crucial part of the overall research agenda for the African American community of The Fort. Future research can help to identify the names of family members and possibly their burial locations within the park. It is, however, important to remember that members of the families known to have lived at the Fort may not be the only individuals buried at the park. Graves encountered may be those of non-family members as well.

The research carried out for the grave sites at Fort Ward Park will be complicated, time consuming, and will be done in stages. When successfully completed, the information gathered may be used to delineate the boundaries of grave sites, mark graves that were previously without identification, and recognize the community and its individuals through the stories of those who have died.

Fort Ward Park - African American Burial Sites and Cemeteries



Note: Graves may exist in other places, but do not have documentation to date.

From Fort Ward Cultural Resources Inventory by Doug Appler for OHA/Alexandria Archaeology

Figure 4

African American Burial Sites and Cemeteries

Visible Cemeteries and Burial Sites

1. “Old Grave Yard” south of Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery
2. Burial Site of Clara Adams
3. Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery (not part of Fort Ward Park, but part of Fort community)

Documented Cemeteries or Burial Sites

4. Jackson Family Cemetery
5. Possible Burial Site of Robert Adams
6. Possible Burial Site of Amanda Clarke

Specific Grave Sites identified through Oral History

7. Possible Burial Sites to the west of Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery
8. Possible Burial Sites identified by Sgt. Young – in woods that were once on his property.
10. Possible Burial Site to the north of Fort Ward

Possible Grave Sites Identified through Oral History

- 9 Possible Burial Sites to the south of Clara Adams identified by Sgt. Young

1. “Old Grave Yard” south of Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery



Figure 5: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the “Old Grave Yard” in this contemporary photo.

Description of original purpose, use or form

The grassy area immediately to the south of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery is the final resting place for three individuals whose identities are known from stone markers, and possibly more whose identities have been lost. The earliest of the three legible headstones in this burial site dates to 1897, although it is possible that the site was used as a cemetery before then.

The burial ground can also be documented through historical sources. The land on which the Old Grave Yard sits was originally part of the Burr Shorts purchase in 1879 (fig.4). This land was passed to Burr Shorts' wife Harriet, and was then deeded to their daughter, Amanda "Mandy" Shorts Clarke. A 1930 deed in which Clarke is selling approximately 1 acre of her land provides the following description and reference to the Old Grave Yard:

"...Beginning at a point on the east side of the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road, at the corner of the real estate of said Amanda Clarke and *the Oakland Church lot* (?), at an Iron Pipe, and running thence in an eastward direction along the lines of said property 200 feet to a pipe driven in the ground; thence in a southward direction along Amanda Clarke's line and the line of the ***Old Grave yard*** 210 feet to another Iron Pipe in the line of Laura Ball; thence in a westward direction along the line of Laura Ball and cutting across the lands of said Amanda Clarke 182 feet to another Iron Pipe in the east side of said outlet road, and thence along the east side of said outlet road in a northward direction 210 to the beginning, containing slightly less than one acre of ground..."¹

From this record it sounds as if the western edge of the cemetery can be found approximately 200 feet east of the common access road (res. no. 22), which was a defining feature of the area until the Park's construction in the mid 1960s. In 1962, the Alexandria Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs department created a topographic map

¹ Fairfax County Deed Book V-10, Page 142

of the land that was to become Fort Ward Park. Included on this map, on what had formerly been Amanda Clarke's land in the location mentioned above, is a small rectangle marked "Grave Area." (fig. 6)

In addition to this evidence, which creates some locational focus and corresponds with the visible headstones, is the oral history of Sgt. Lee Thomas Young. Sgt. Young recalls that there were 17 or 18 grave sites between his house and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, and that they were old and broken by the time he lived at the Fort, beginning in 1947.² That the stones were broken over sixty years ago, and that the remaining stones are in such poor shape, makes it seem likely that more stones may have been removed from the yard through the years. However, it is not clear whether these graves were in the "Old Grave Yard" defined by Ms. Clarke's deed, or whether they joined to the east with the graves mentioned by Sgt. Young in his back yard (res. no. 8), which is approximately the same location as the "grove of trees" mentioned in Clarke's will.³ Archaeological investigation will determine whether there is one continuous burial ground, or whether there are, in fact, multiple burial grounds.

² Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

³ Fairfax County Will Book 14, p. 458.

Historic Photographs, maps, documents, excerpts from oral histories

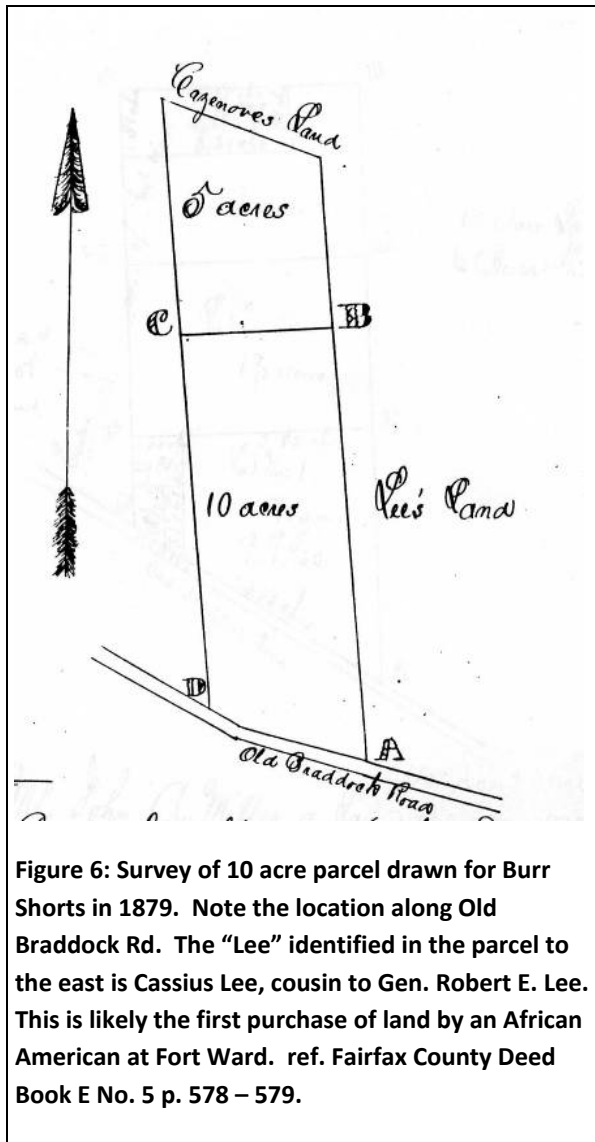


Figure 6: Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879. Note the location along Old Braddock Rd. The “Lee” identified in the parcel to the east is Cassius Lee, cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is likely the first purchase of land by an African American at Fort Ward. ref. Fairfax County Deed Book E No. 5 p. 578 – 579.

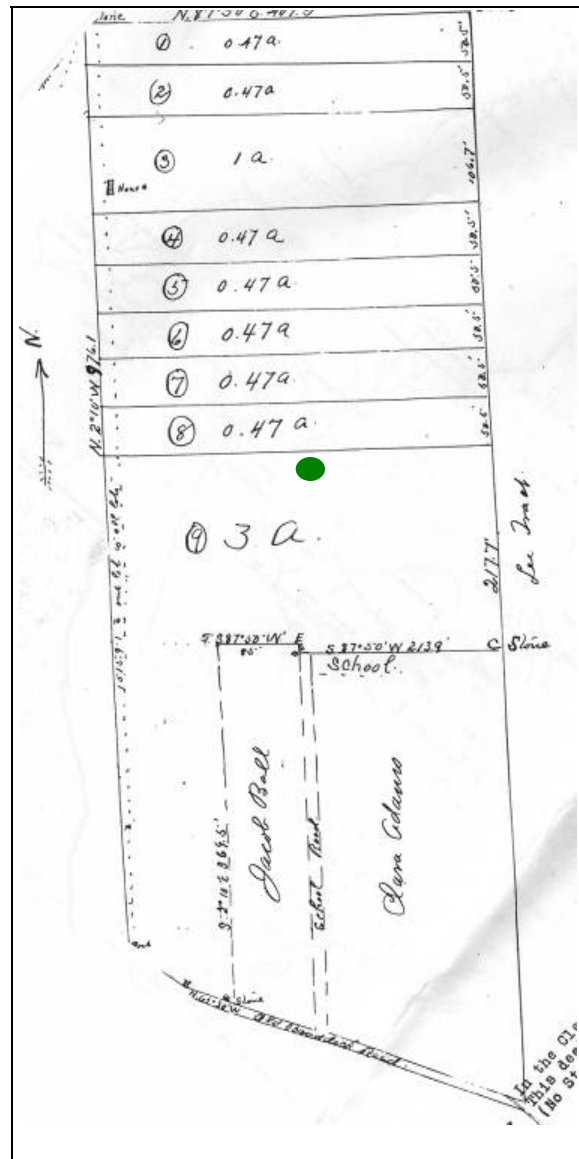


Figure 7: Plat of same property, divided among Burr and Harriet Shorts' heirs in 1919, with the three acre parcel going to Mandy Clarke, and the other assets and land divided among the other children. The approximate location of the “Old Grave Yard” is identified with the green dot. Ref. Fairfax County Deed Book N no. 8 p.404-408



Figure 8: "Grave Area" identified in 1962 RPCA Topographic Map in same location as "Old Grave Yard" mentioned in Amanda Clarke deed. The grave area is marked with a green arrow. The Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery is immediately to the north of the rectangular "Grave Area."

Amanda Clark Deed Referring to “Old Grave Yard” – (Fairfax County Deed Book V-10, Page 142; Deed dated December 2, 1930)

“...Beginning at a point on the east side of the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road, at the corner of the real estate of said Amanda Clarke and *the Oakland Church lot (?)*, at an Iron Pipe, and running thence in an eastward direction along the lines of said property 200 feet to a pipe driven in the ground; thence in a southward direction along Amanda Clarke’s line and the line of the ***Old Grave yard*** 210 feet to another Iron Pipe in the line of Laura Ball; thenace in a westward direction along the line of Laura Ball and cutting across the lands of said Amanda Clarke 182 feet to another Iron Pipe in the east side of said outlet road, and thence along the east side of said outlet road in a northward direction 210 to the beginning, containing slightly less than one acre of ground...”

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sergeant Lee Thomas Young, former property owner and resident at The Fort describes having 17 or 18 graves on his property, many of which were old, broken, and their stones had been moved. Sgt. Young indicates that the path that now leads to the maintenance yard was there when he lived on the property, and that there were graves on either side of the path. Also mentions Clara Adams’ husband being buried first (res. no. 5), and that Clara Adams was buried next to her husband (res. no. 2). Clara Adams’ grave is in the maintenance yard.

Resource at Present

The area now recognized as the “Old Grave Yard,” contains five grave markers, three of which are legible, though they are all in relatively poor condition. The legible headstones belong to:

- Cornelia Spence (1842- October 13, 1897) (fig. 9)
- W.E. Javins (June 15, 1878- February 27, 1907) (fig. 10)
- Virginia Fitzhugh (1853 – January 18, 1918) (fig. 11)

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Of the five stones visible, only two are upright, and three are on the ground or are fragments. The marker belonging to W.E. Javins is made of concrete, and it has begun to crack and spall on the face, obscuring the writing on the marker. The stone belonging to Cornelia Spence is no longer standing upright, and is broken into two pieces. The stone belonging to Virginia Fitzhugh seems to be in relatively good condition, and is upright.

The area containing the visible headstones has been roped off, with a sign asking visitors not to enter the protected area. Recently straw bales have been placed along the southern perimeter of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery to protect that cemetery from stormwater as it leaves the City's property.

Current Photographs of Old Grave Yard



Figure 9: Old Grave Yard from southwest looking toward maintenance yard



Figure 11: Old Grave Yard from northeast looking toward maintenance road



Figure 12: Headstone of Cornelia Spence
"Our Mother/ Cornelia Spence/ Born in/
Jefferson, Texas/ in 1842/ died at the/
Episcopalian School/ Oct. 13, 1897"



Figure 13: Headstone of W.E. Javins
"June 15, 1878-Feb. 27, 1907"

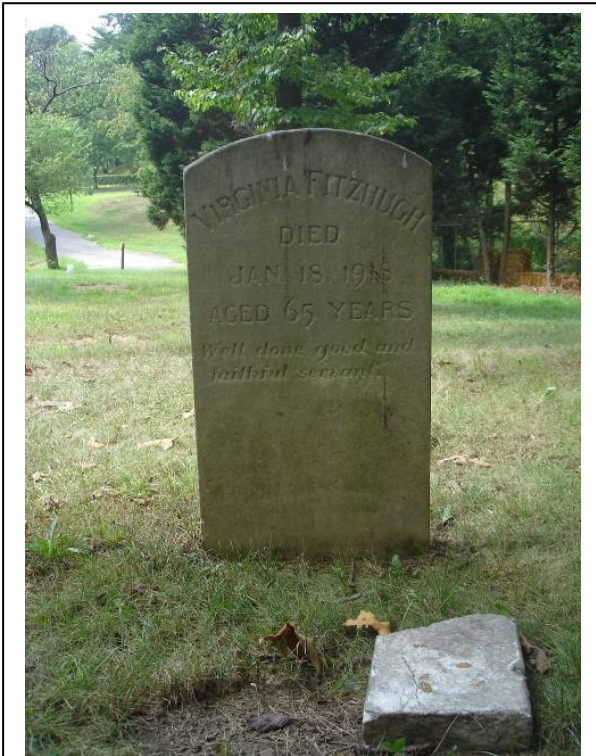


Figure 14: Headstone of Virginia Fitzhugh

"Virginia Fitzhugh/ died/ Jan. 18, 1918/ aged 65 years./ Well done good and faithful servant."

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

Because gravestones are still visible, the "Old Grave Yard" retains more of its historic integrity than any other burial area within Fort Ward Park. However, the gravestones have lost integrity through the breakage and erosion. Within the memory of park employees, fewer stones are present today than 30 years ago. It is likely that more graves exist here than are marked by stones, and the boundaries of the old grave yard are not known or delineated by a fence. Thus, this burial area's above ground integrity has been compromised. The extent of damage or destruction to the graves themselves is unknown. The story of the Fort as a community can be found in the names of the

people who are buried in this area. When headstones break, or are moved from their original locations without being recorded, the individuals are no longer honored and their graves are forgotten.

While the stones themselves have suffered obvious damage, the landscape that surrounds them still bears subtle impressions of the park's past inhabitants. The Old Grave Yard is near two historic roads still partially in use today. The road south to Braddock Road is still lined by cedar trees that pre-date the Fort's use as a park. The surrounding wooded area also echoes the grave yard's past, as it has been surrounded by woods since at least 1927. With the exception of the facilities associated with the maintenance yard, and the nearby houses and chain link fences, the immediate landscape of the area surrounding the cemetery maintains many of its historical associations.

Threats to Historic Integrity

The major threat to the Old Grave Yard stems from not being recognized as a larger cemetery and treated accordingly. This has allowed for headstones to be moved or damaged over the years. At the present, it is impossible to identify the location of all but two of the most likely graves. Without knowing the location of the graves, it is possible that someone could inadvertently disturb a grave when carrying out routine operations. The Old Grave Yard is also threatened by increased stormwater runoff from the southeast. The slowly changing topography along the park's perimeter has resulted in the creation of a shallow channel that brings stormwater runoff into the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. In an effort to prevent this damage, the City has placed a line of strawbales along the southern perimeter of the cemetery. These strawbales may reduce the impact of stormwater runoff on the Cemetery, but it also redirects the water toward the Old Grave Yard, introducing the potential for erosion of the ground within the Old Grave Yard and of the headstones themselves. Stormwater carrying loose gravel can have a scouring effect on the headstones, damaging the bases of the stones and in some cases eroding written inscriptions. Assessments should be conducted

regularly to determine if the recently placed straw bales are negatively impacting the Old Grave Yard.

In addition to the dangers presented from the lack of knowledge about the number and location of graves in the area, and the potential for erosion, a third and very significant threat is that broken headstones can be removed from their original locations without sufficient documentation, thereby forever separating that interred individual from his or her headstone and identity. An additional threat is that the headstones are surrounded by grass that is regularly mowed, and care must be taken to not damage or move gravestones.

Recommended Treatments

Because specific details in the historical record about the Old Grave Yard are sparse at best, archaeological investigation will establish grave locations, the number of burials, and the limits of the grave yard. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not greatly altering the area's existing appearance. A decision can also be made regarding the appropriateness of a fence and proper mowing methods.

Broken headstone fragments currently lying on the ground should be thoroughly documented prior to archaeological investigation and could be temporarily removed before the site is investigated after discussions with descendent family members. They should be returned to their original position after excavation, and re-set, in a new base where necessary, in the ground. No intact headstones should be moved.

Further study should continue by City engineers regarding the cause and effect of the water runoff. With the exception of reseeding the affected area to grow grass, no new

plantings, landscaping or other interventions designed to minimize erosion should be placed over known grave sites, and when installed nearby, they should be as unobtrusive as possible so as to not compromise the integrity of the landscape.

Historical research into the cemetery should continue, with new research focusing on the records of local undertakers, death certificates or permits for exhuming or moving those buried in the cemetery to give additional information about the identities of the people possibly buried here. An interpretive marker can provide this information as can other educational means.

2. Burial Site of Clara Adams



Figure 15: The Yellow outline in the maintenance yard marks the approximate location of the Clara Adams Grave on this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

Clara Adams is one of the central figures in the development of the community at the Fort. She is mentioned as early as the 1870 U.S. Census, when she is identified as Clara Shorts, a child living near Fort Ward with Burr and Harriett Shorts. In 1898 she is deeded two acres of property at the Fort, in



Figure 16: Undated photo of Clara Adams

what would become the Park's southeast corner.⁴ Clara was a founding member of the Oakland Baptist Church, established in 1891, and in 1898 she transferred a small parcel of her land to the School Board of Falls Church for the purpose of building a school for neighborhood children.^{5 6} Clara Adams continued to live at the Fort on her land in a home near Braddock Road (see res. no. 13). She remained a respected community member until her death in 1952. Clara Adams was buried next to her husband Robert Adams, on land to the east of the building that once housed the school that she helped to create (see res. no. 5).⁷ Her headstone is still on that site today.

⁴ Fairfax County Deed Book B-6, p. 512

⁵ Fairfax County Deed Book C-6, p. 139 **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis; "History of the Oakland Baptist Church..." flyer.

⁶ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis; "History of the Oakland Baptist Church..." flyer.

⁷ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Many people recall Clara Adams as being a strong person and a much loved community member. Her great nephew, Charles McKnight, recalls Clara talking about how she took care of her mother, Harriet Shorts near the end of Harriet's life: " '...I powdered her, I bathed her, I would straddle her, I would turn her in the bed.' I know for sure, from all indications I've heard, that she was very close and near and dear to her mother."⁸ Clara also made sure that her family knew that they were First Families of Virginia – FFVs.⁹ Charles remembers Clara saying that while she was a domestic at the Seminary "I never did bite my tongue on what I had to say, even though...I'd be over that stove cooking, if they said anything I didn't particularly like, I let it be known."¹⁰ These stories, combined with what is known about her contribution of land for the education of African American children in the area (see res. no 11), and her role in founding the Oakland Baptist Church (see res. no.3), help to give some idea the strength of Clara Adams' character.

⁸ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Historic Photographs, Maps, Drawings, Excerpts from Oral Histories

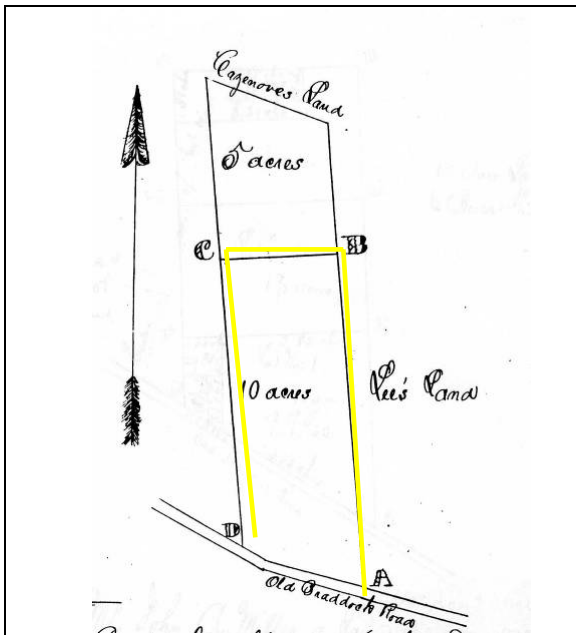


Figure 17: Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879; Shorts property is highlighted in yellow. Note the location along Old Braddock Rd. The “Lee” identified in the parcel to the east is Cassius Lee, cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is likely the first purchase of land by an African American at Fort Ward. ref. Liber E No. 5 p. 578 – 579 Fairfax County DB.

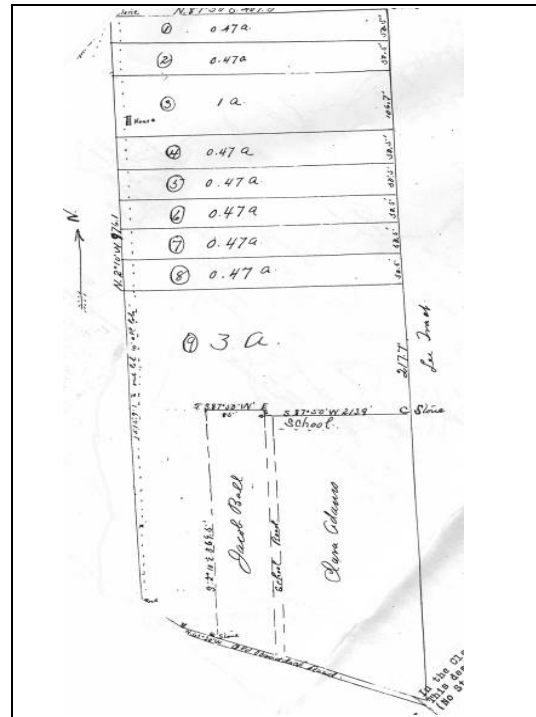


Figure 18: Plat of same property, divided among Harriet Shorts' heirs in 1919. Clara Adams had received two acres of land in 1898, which is identified in the lower right hand corner of the parcel. ref. Liber V no. 8 p. 404-408 FX; ref. D.B.B. no.6 p. 512 FX.

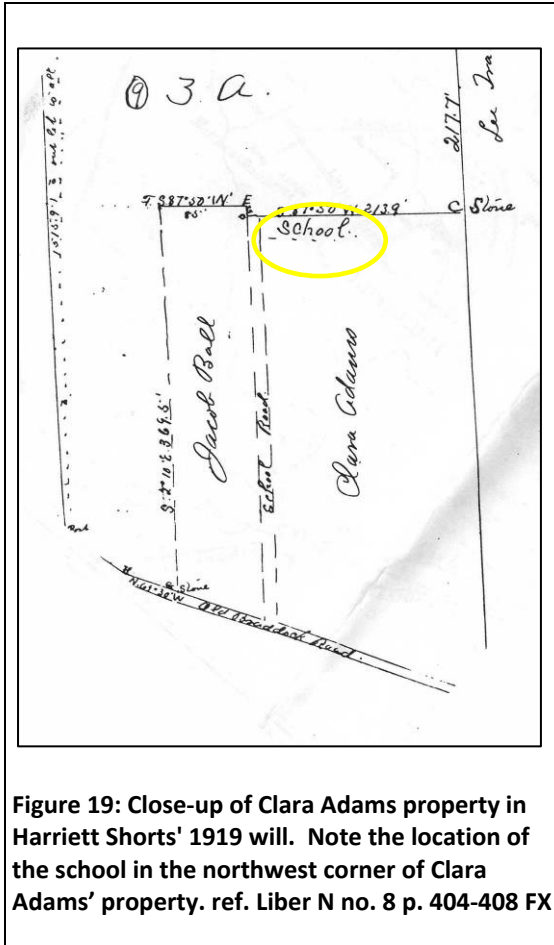


Figure 19: Close-up of Clara Adams property in Harriett Shorts' 1919 will. Note the location of the school in the northwest corner of Clara Adams' property. ref. Liber N no. 8 p. 404-408 FX

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

Clara Adams was Charles McKnight's great aunt. In his interview, he recalls that the school was to the right of Clara's headstone.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young lived in the former school building/ church that sat on what was once Clara Adams' property. He describes having the graves of Robert and Clara Adams on his property. Robert Adams dies first, and then Clara dies while Sgt. Young was overseas. Sgt. Young recalls that Clara was buried next to her husband.

Current Photographs of Resource



Figure 20: 2009 Photograph of Clara Adams' headstone



Figure 21: 2009 Photograph of Clara Adams' headstone, wider angle

Current Description of Site

Clara Adams' burial site is identified with a substantial headstone that reads "Clara W. Adams; June 2, 1865; Feb. 1, 1952; A Tender Aunt and a Faithful Friend." The headstone does not appear to show any significant damage. To the immediate west of the headstone are several small decorative trees, and to the north is a small bed of lilies. The burial site is surrounded by what was until very recently the maintenance yard for Fort Ward Park. To the west of the decorative trees is a path traveled by maintenance vehicles, and behind that is compost and mulch. Areas near the grave have also recently been used as the City's tree nursery. The maintenance yard that contains the headstone and presumed grave site is surrounded by a fence, and the public may access the site when the gate is open, and the staff at the Fort Ward Museum can also provide entry.

Evaluation of Integrity

The headstone of Clara Adams appears to be intact and undamaged. If that is the case, the burial site and headstone retain the spatial relationships with many existing historic landscape elements that contribute to the site's historic integrity. Her grave is mentioned as being in close proximity to the former school for which she gave land, which later became St. Cyprians and then the house of Sgt. Lee Thomas Young.¹¹ Her grave site and headstone are also in relatively close proximity to the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, the cemetery of the church in which she was a founding member.¹² One of the strongest associations with Clara Adams' grave site is that of her husband, Robert Adams. Robert is believed to be buried next to Clara, although there is no headstone to mark his grave (see res. no. 5).¹³ Other existing landscape elements with which the burial site shares historic associations include Fort Ward itself, the potential remains of the house near Braddock Rd. in which she lived at the end of her life (res. no. 13), and the potential remains of the Shorts/Stuart/McKnight House (res. no.15) where she would have lived as a child.

Threats to Integrity

The biggest threat to the grave of Clara Adams comes from the use of the surrounding area as a maintenance yard. The fencing that surrounds the maintenance yard also cuts

¹¹ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown.

¹² **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis; "History of the Oakland Baptist Church..." flyer, available in Alexandria Archaeology Museum, "AX 155 Fort Ward" drawer, "Pat Knock's Notes" folder.

¹³ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez;

the burial site off from visual access to the historic landscape features that give the site much of its historic integrity.

Recommended Treatments

Treatments for the Clara Adams grave site should focus on the re-integration of this area into the landscape of the Fort, making clear the connections between the Adams' grave sites and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, the Clara Adams/ McKnight house near Braddock Road, and the other African American features of the Park. The removal of the chain link fence surrounding the Maintenance Yard will help with this re-integration, although the installation of a smaller, more appropriate fence around the graves themselves may also be appropriate, to help establish the idea that that while a the area should be seen as a cultural resource, it is also a grave site in need of protection.

3. Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery



Figure 22: The yellow outline marks the border of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery in this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

The Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery is not owned by the City of Alexandria nor is it part of Fort Ward Park, but it does play an important role in understanding the development of the community at the Fort. In addition to its historical relationship with the residents of this community, actions taken by the City on land within Fort Ward Park have a direct effect on conditions within the Cemetery. Given that the cemetery can only be accessed by passing through Fort Ward Park, the relationship between cemetery conditions and park operations becomes particularly evident to anyone visiting the cemetery.

On September 15, 1891, the congregation that had first organized in 1888 as the Oak Hill Baptist Mission was formally recognized as the Oakland Baptist Church.¹⁴ Some of the Church's founders were owners of the land at Fort Ward. The founders of the Church were Clara Adams, William Carpenter, John W. Casey, Maggie Hall, Brook Johnson, Nancy Shepherd, Harriet Shorts, Dan Simms and James W. Terrell.¹⁵ Clara Adams, Brook Johnson and Harriet Shorts were all land owners at the Fort. James W. Terrell is buried in the Oakland Baptist Cemetery, as are many other later congregation members, family members and land owners from this neighborhood.

The property records of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery illustrate how land ownership, church membership and family ties are all intertwined at Fort Ward. The cemetery property was deeded to the Oakland Baptist Church in February of 1939 by Samuel Javins.¹⁶ Samuel Javins had become the owner of the land upon the death of his wife, Florence McKnight Javins. Florence was willed the land by her mother and

¹⁴ "History of the Oakland Baptist Church..." flyer, available in Alexandria Archaeology Museum, "AX 155 Fort Ward" drawer, "Pat Knock's Notes" folder.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Fairfax County Deed Book I-13 p. 515

Oakland Baptist Church founder, Harriet Shorts in 1919.¹⁷ Harriet Shorts and her husband Burr Shorts had purchased 10 acres of land at the Fort, including the land that became the cemetery, in what is believed to be the first land purchase by African Americans at Fort Ward in 1879.¹⁸ Although there was some confusion about the ownership of the land as a result of the Civil War, prior to 1861 the land had been owned by Philip H. Hoof.¹⁹ Ultimately, the land that had been bought by Burr and Harriet Shorts came to be owned and used as a cemetery by the Church that Harriet had helped to found.

The earliest of the headstones visible within the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery dates to 1925, fourteen years before the existing cemetery boundaries were established in 1939. The oldest of the three legible headstones in the “Old Grave Yard” immediately to the Cemetery’s south date to 1897, forty two years before the current boundaries were established. A 1930 deed refers to the parcel of land immediately north of Amanda Clarke’s property line as the “Oakland Church Lot” (although its owner was actually Samuel Javins at the time, for some reason it was seen as belonging to the church). This lot includes most of the current cemetery and the land to its west, between the cemetery and the access road that is now the park entrance road. In 1969, the City of Alexandria acquired the parcel of land between the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery and the park entrance road. The land that the city purchased in 1969 included the western half of this “Oakland Baptist Church Lot.” The early dates on the headstones inside and outside of the Cemetery indicate that precedent for using this corner of Fort Ward Park as a burial site was well established before the current Cemetery boundaries were drawn. Given the poor state of the headstones in the “Old Grave Yard,” and the history of using this area of the park as a location for burials, it is

¹⁷ Fairfax County Deed Book N, no. 8 p. 404-8

¹⁸ Fairfax County Deed Book E, no. 5 p. 578-9

¹⁹ Fairfax County Deed Book H no.3, 173-174.

not unreasonable to suspect that the land that the city acquired in 1969 could contain additional unidentified graves.

Historic Photographs, Maps, Drawings, Excerpts from Oral Histories

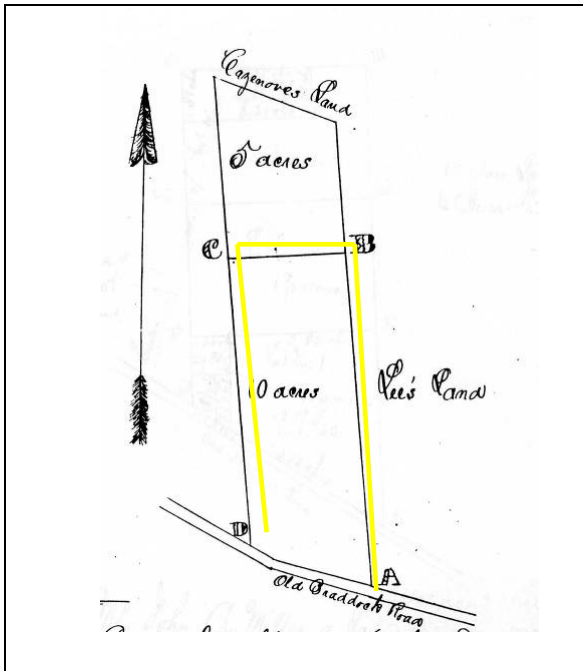


Figure 23: Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879; Shorts property is highlighted in yellow. Note the location along Old Braddock Rd. The “Lee” identified in the parcel to the east is Cassius Lee, cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is likely the first purchase of land by an African American at Fort Ward, although the 1870 U.S. Census does identify Burr Shorts as living on the property. ref. Liber E No. 5 p. 578 – 579 Fairfax County DB.

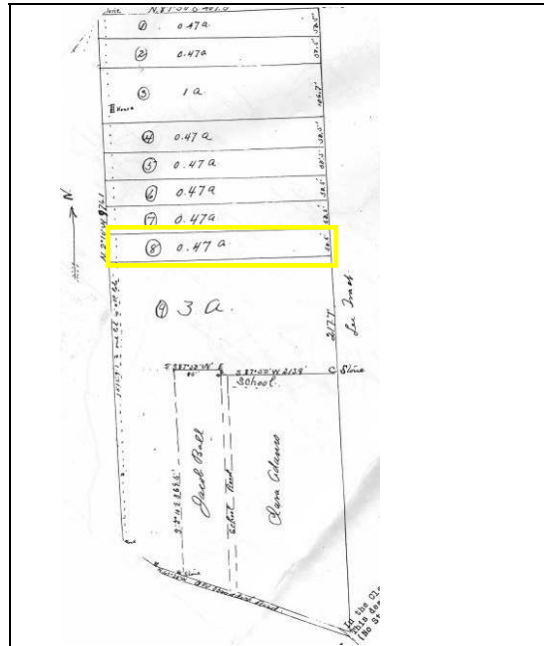


Figure 24: Plat of same property, divided among Harriet Shorts' heirs in 1919. ref. Liber N no. 8 p. 404-408 FX. Clara Adams had earlier received two acres of land, which is identified in the lower right hand corner of the parcel. ref. Fairfax County Deed Book B-6 p. 512

The eastern half of Parcel 8 is purchased by the Oakland Baptist Church as a cemetery in 1939, but graves in the area pre-date this purchase by decades.

Amanda Clark Deed Referring to “Old Grave Yard” and “Oakland Church Lot” – (FFX DB V-10, Page 142; Deed dated December 2, 1930)

“...Beginning at a point on the east side of the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road, at the corner of the real estate of said Amanda Clarke and *the Oakland Church lot (?)*, at an Iron Pipe, and running thence in an eastward direction along the lines of said property 200 feet to a pipe driven in the ground; thence in a southward direction along Amanda Clarke’s line and the line of the *Old Grave yard* 210 feet to another Iron Pipe in the line of Laura Ball; thenace in a westward direction along the line of Laura Ball and cutting across the lands of said Amanda Clarke 182 feet to another Iron Pipe in the east side of said outlet road, and thence along the east side of said outlet road in a northward direction 210 to the beginning, containing slightly less than one acre of ground...”

Current Description of Site

The Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery property covers approximately 20,000 square feet of land, forming a trapezoidal shape along the eastern border of the park. The dimensions of the cemetery are approximately 94 ft. by 150 ft. by 53 ft. by 235 by 100 feet, and the perimeter of the cemetery is secured by a chain link fence. The earliest grave marker within the boundaries of the cemetery shows a death year of 1925, and the most recent date is 1994. The property is owned and maintained by the Oakland Baptist Church. Recently, the City of Alexandria erected a line of straw bales along the southern perimeter of the cemetery. The intent was to reduce or slow stormwater runoff from the south.

Current Photographs of Cemetery



Figure 25: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. 2009



Figure 26: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery 2009



Figure 27: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery 2009



Figure 28: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery 2009

Evaluation of Integrity of Site

Although the formal boundaries of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery were altered in 1969, the historic character and identity of the cemetery remains very much intact. There is no evidence that headstones within the cemetery have been moved, maintaining their original setting, and even the more recent markers are associated with the same story that gives the site its significance. The cemetery is surrounded on three

sides by the park, which preserves some of the feeling of the original landscape, and, perhaps more importantly, the park still contains additional resources that relate to the story of the African American community at the Fort. Some of those resources include the remains of Fort Ward, the presence of the graves of at least two Church founders (Clara Adams and James W. Terrell), potentially the remains of the Harriett Shorts home site and others. The Oakland Baptist Cemetery possesses a high level of historic significance and integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

Because the Oakland Baptist Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Oakland Baptist Church, not the City of Alexandria, and because the Church has erected a chain link fence around the perimeter of the cemetery, the site is not subjected to the same type of heavy foot traffic as may be found within Fort Ward Park.

Because the cemetery is on a slope, stormwater runoff from the south does pose a threat of erosion within the cemetery. This runoff introduces the potential for erosion of the ground within the cemetery, and of the headstones themselves. Stormwater carrying loose gravel can have a scouring effect on fixed surfaces, such as the headstones, damaging the bases of the stones and in some cases eroding written inscriptions. This is true for the Cemetery and for the adjacent Old Grave Yard, which is under the City's care. Review of topographic maps indicates that water erosion became a problem after the subdivision to the east was constructed.

Recommended Treatments for Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery

The city's actions in the park property can influence conditions in this cemetery. Further engineering studies and continued observation and recordation of the condition of the cemetery should be carried out.

4. Old Jackson Cemetery



Figure 29: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Old Jackson Family Cemetery on a contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The recorded presence of the Jackson family in Fort Ward begins with a deed dated February 5, 1894, which indicates that James F. Jackson purchased 11 ½ acres of land at Fort Ward for \$300.²⁰ The deed makes reference to the western slope of a bank of Fort Ward, as well as to John Miller's corner. A survey that was made of an adjacent parcel in 1913 (recorded in 1920) identifies a Burial Ground on the Jackson land, at the corner of the property owned by Samuel Ashby.²¹ Maps drawn during the mid-1960s in conjunction with the redevelopment of the area as Fort Ward Park each identify a small plot of land in approximately this same location as being a "Grave Area."²² Oral history by Edmonia Smith McKnight and Dorothy Hall Smith identify the presence of an "Old Jackson Cemetery" on the Fort property, and also that members of the Jackson family were buried there. Ms. McKnight also thought that the graves had been moved. The death certificate of James Jackson (fig.27) identifies his burial location as "Ft. Ward Cem." although as with several other individuals identified as being buried at Fort Ward, (see res. no.7), they have no marker and their exact location is not known.²³ Elizabeth Henry Douglas has mentioned that two of her brothers were also buried there, so the burial ground may not have been used only by the Jackson family.²⁴

²⁰ Fairfax County Deed Book Q-5, p. 466

²¹ FFX DB No. 8, 1920

²² "Contour Map of Fort Ward Park" Department of Public Works, Alexandria, Virginia, Project no. 6, File no. 251-6, Surveyed by L. Brown, February 2, 1962. ; "General...Fort Ward Park..." Parks Maintenance, 1966. (parts of original scan illegible).

²³ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Dorothy Hall Smith, May 25, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Eleanor White.

²⁴ Dave Cavanaugh, personal communication

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

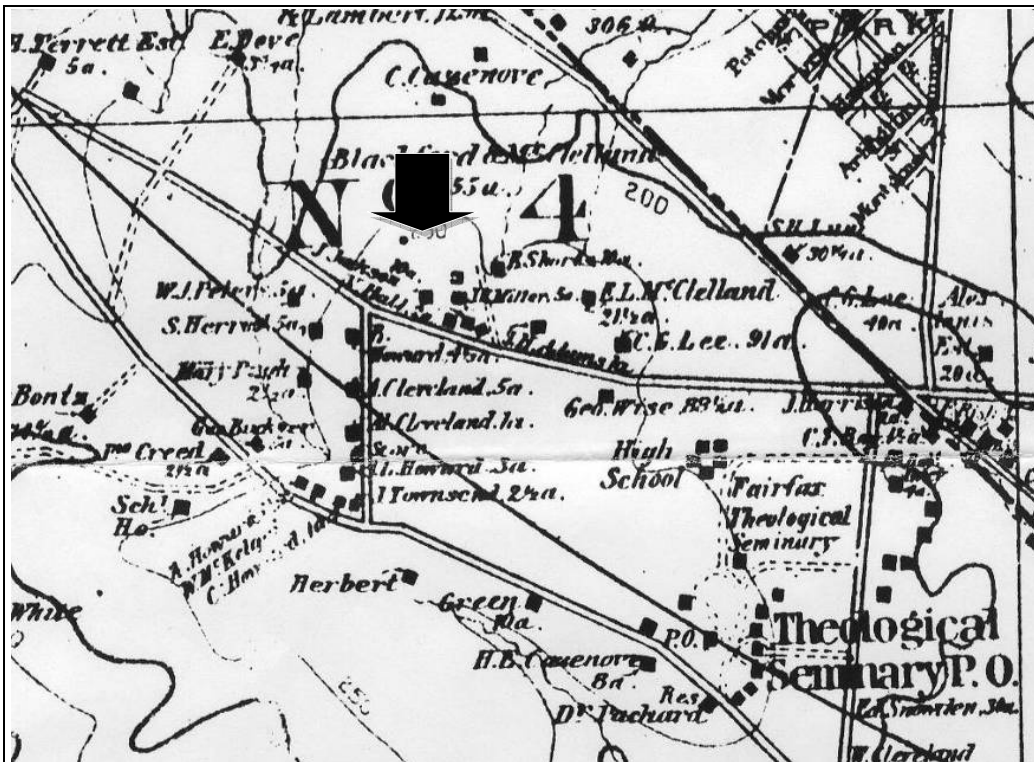


Figure30: 1894 Hopkins Insurance Co. map of Fort neighborhood identifying the presence of the Jackson family in Fort neighborhood.

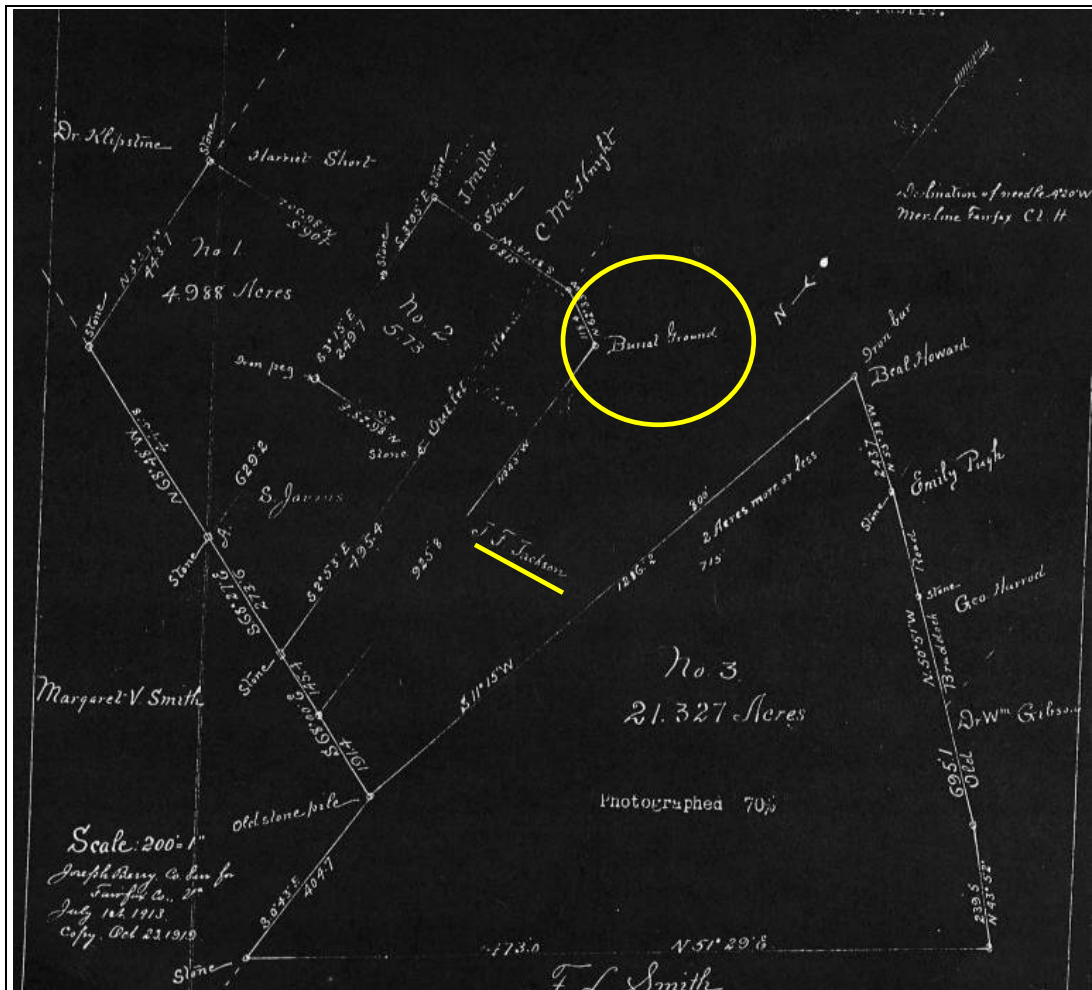


Figure 31: Though the orientation of the image is to the south instead of the north, this 1913 Survey of the adjacent Javins property identifies a burial ground on the property of J.F. Jackson.

Ref. Fairfax County Deed Book P-8, 1920

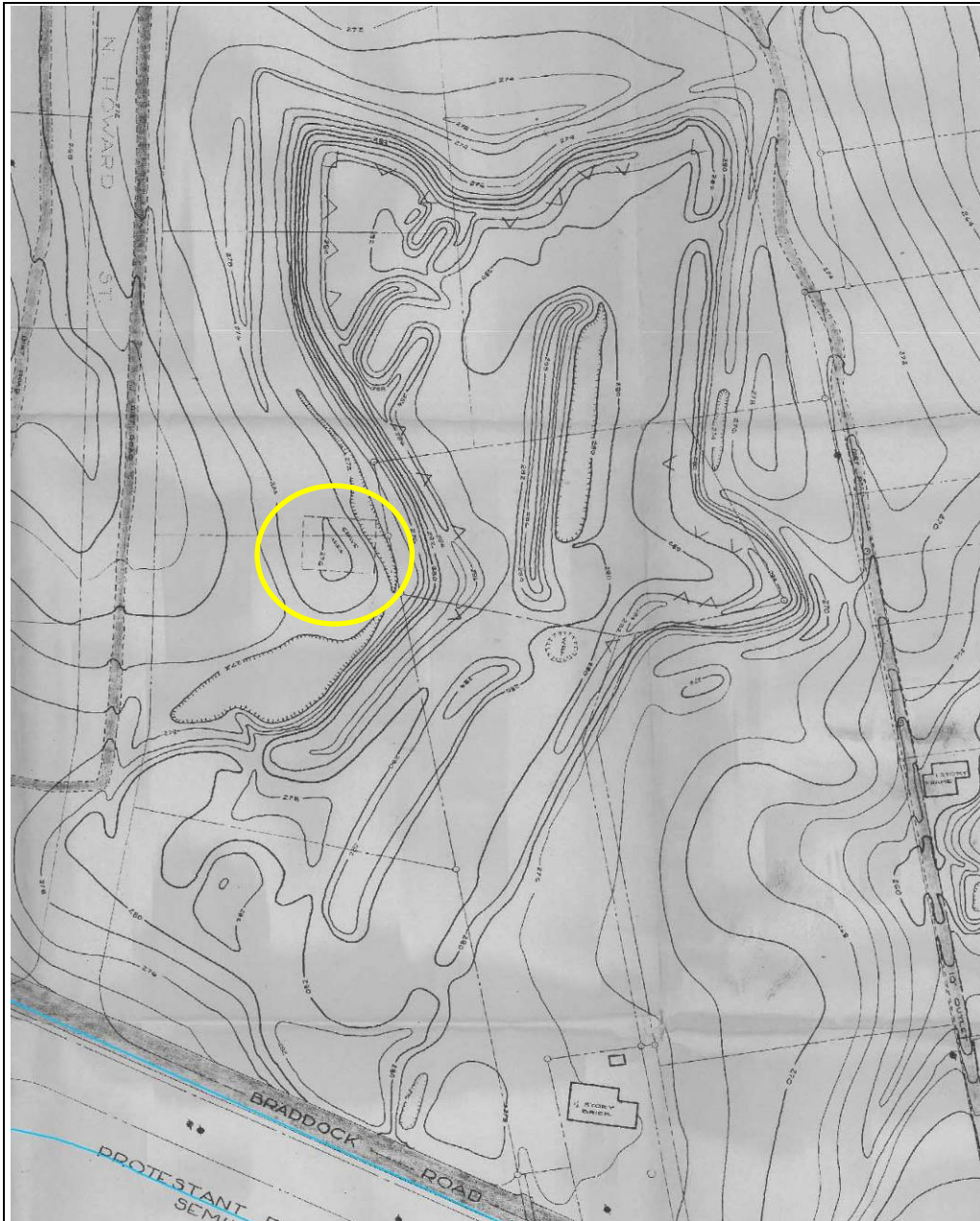


Figure 32: 1962 Public Works Department contour map of Fort Ward identifying a rectangular “Grave Area” immediately to the west of the fort, on land formerly belonging to the Jackson family.

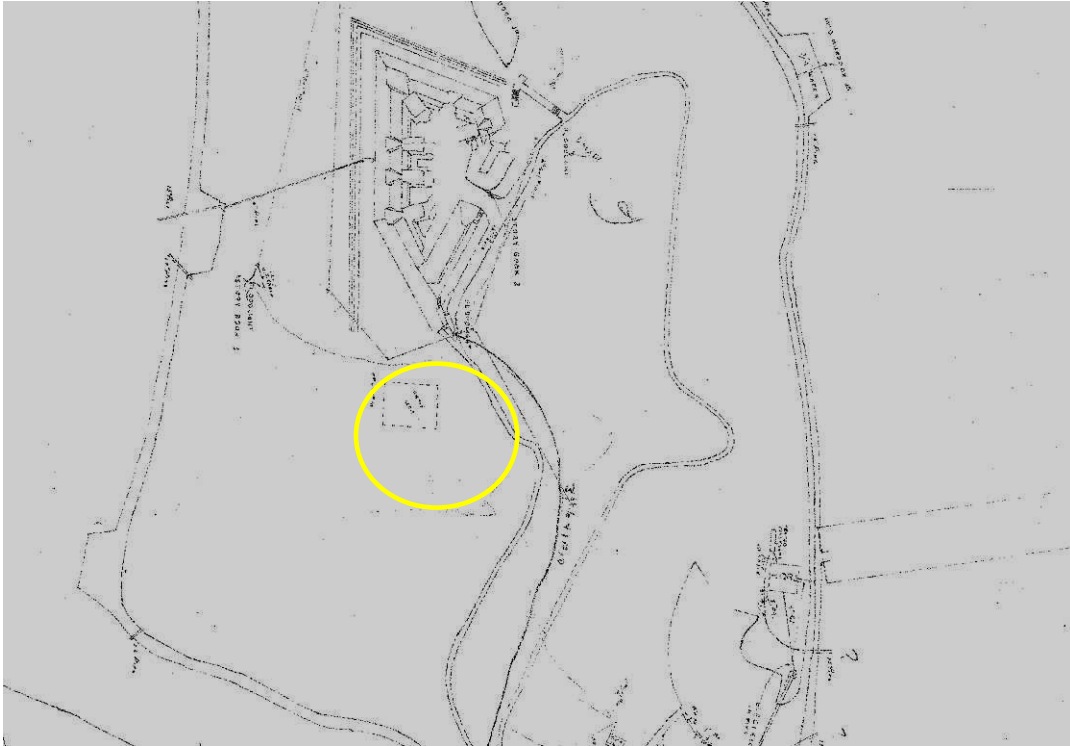


Figure 33: 1966 PRCA map of park identifying same "Grave Area" south of the newly reconstructed bastion.

FORM NO. 18

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

4127

1 PLACE OF DEATH
COUNTY OF Stafford
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF Paul Church
OR
INC. TOWN OF
CITY OF

2 FULL NAME James Jackson
(a) RESIDENCE Paul Church, Va.
(Usual place of abode)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. days

3 SEX Male 4 COLOR OR RACE Colored 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) Married
6A IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OF (or) WIFE OF Catherine Jackson
6 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH) Feb 19 1923
7 AGE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 61? IF LESS THAN 1 DAY, HRS. OR MIN.

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
(a) TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK Laborer
(b) GENERAL NATURE OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYED (or EMPLOYER)
(c) NAME OF EMPLOYER
9 BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Franklin, Va. (STATE OR COUNTRY) Va.
10 NAME OF FATHER Andrew Jackson (CITY OR TOWN) Franklin, Va. (STATE OR COUNTRY) Va.
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) Franklin, Va. (STATE OR COUNTRY) Va.
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Van
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) Franklin, Va. (STATE OR COUNTRY) Va.

14 INFORMANT Catherine Jackson (Address) Stafford Co., Va.
15 FILED Feb 24 1923 S. J. Seaman REGISTRAR

16 DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH) Feb 19 1923
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM 7:00 1923, TO Feb 19 1923
THAT I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON Feb 18 1923
AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED, ON DATE STATED ABOVE, AT 4:40 P.M.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS:
Myocardial Disease of Heart
(duration) yrs. mos. days in 42 years
CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) Most Common
(duration) yrs. mos. days in 10
18 WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH?
DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? no DATE OF
WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? no
WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS?
(Signed) R. M. Slaughter M.D.
Feb 19 23 (Address) P.O. Alexandria, Va.
19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR RE-INTERMENT (State (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF DEATH, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDE, or HOMICIDE)
Stafford Co., Va. Feb 21 1923
20 UNDERTAKER Wm. Alexander & Son ADDRESS 817 King St.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK (WRITING FLUID)—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. EVERY ITEM OF INFORMATION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SUPPLIED. AGE SHOULD BE STATED EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS SHOULD STATE THE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PLAIN TERMS, SO THAT IT MAY BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED, EXACT STATEMENT OF OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Read by one for 274

Figure 34: Death Certificate of James Jackson Place of Burial is identified as "Ft. Ward Cem."

James F. Jackson Deed (Fairfax County Deed Book Q-5, p. 466): Deed dated February 5, 1894 shows James F. Jackson purchasing 11 ½ acres of land immediately to the west of John A. Miller, containing a large portion Fort Ward.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis

Edmonia Smith McKnight refers to the “Old Jackson Cemetery.” Says that “...when they started building Fort Ward, they exhumed...all the bodies out.” Ms. McKnight did not know where they were relocated.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Dorothy Hall Smith, May 25, 1994.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Eleanor White

Dorothy Hall Smith recalls that most of the Jacksons are buried “...up in the Fort”

Written Description of Resource at Present

The area believed to be the Old Jackson Cemetery sits at the top of the a small slope, just outside the abatis of the reconstructed fort. The bastion is to the north of the site, while the historic portions of the fort are generally to the site’s east and south. The area to the west is a lightly wooded picnic area. The site is covered in grass, though as it begins to slope away to the south, grass cover becomes thin and the soil shows some signs of erosion. In addition there are three oval depressions in the area which give the impression that graves still exist. The site is temporarily cordoned off from foot traffic by rope and wooden posts sitting on the ground’s surface, with a sign attached to the rope advising the public that this is a historic burial ground and that the area it should not be entered.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure 35: Old Jackson Cemetery from southwest



Figure 36: Old Jackson Cemetery from southeast



Figure 37: Surface of Old Jackson Cemetery



Figure 38: Sign informing public of cemetery

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

Without knowing more details about the history of the Old Jackson Cemetery, determining integrity is difficult. There are no headstones present in the area today. If

grave markers were once present and have now been removed, the above ground integrity of the site has been severely compromised. Based on current research, this is the oldest recorded cemetery at Fort Ward Park. The cemetery existed by 1913, and may date to the 19th Century. It is also possible that while oral history refers to the site as the Old Jackson Cemetery, others may have been buried on the parcel along with the Jacksons, or that the Jacksons were the caretakers of the cemetery because it was on their property. Historical research can provide some insight, such as Edmonia Smith McKnight's, recollection about the removal of burials, but only archaeological investigation will determine if the graves still exist.

While these are significant doubts, other factors, such as the continued presence of the Civil War fort that was once part of the Jackson family's land and a defining landscape feature for the neighborhood, in addition to the continued rural character of the area, help to maintain the integrity of the site as a whole. While the cemetery itself may have integrity issues due to the loss of headstones, for example, the integrity of the landscape which surrounds it is very much intact.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As with the other unmarked graves in Fort Ward Park, the biggest threats to the Old Jackson Cemetery come from not knowing the burial site's exact location, and not being identified as a burial site. In addition, while the area is not in a densely used recreational area of the park, it is near a stairway leading over the fort to the museum. The erosion that has been noticed on the south side of the burial site introduces the possibility that storm water may compromise the graves themselves if it is left unchecked, and if the affected area does contain a grave.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation to identify possible remainders of headstones and grave-shafts will help to establish whether the site is a cemetery, and if so, determine its boundaries. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone

either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not compromising existing views or the fort's interpretation. Identifying the grave locations will also make it easier for park personnel to make decisions about where new facilities should or should not be located. The area suffering erosion should be assessed by an engineer to identify the cause of the erosion. With the exception of reseeding the affected area to grow grass, no new plantings, landscaping or other interventions designed to minimize erosion should be placed over known grave sites, and when installed nearby, they should be as unobtrusive as possible so as to not compromise the integrity of the landscape. Historical research into the cemetery should continue, with new research focusing on the records of local undertakers, death certificates or permits for moving those buried in the cemetery to give additional information about the identities of the people possibly buried here. A historical marker can provide information on the Jacksons and their early association with the Fort, as well as any others who may be buried here.

5. Potential Burial Site of Robert Adams (see No. 2 – *Burial Site of Clara Adams* for more information)



Figure 39: The Yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Robert Adams grave on this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

Robert Adams was Clara Adams' husband, and oral history indicates that Robert and Clara were buried next to each other on land that they once owned and which was deeded to Clara by her mother, Harriet Shorts. The grave sites are in the area that is now the maintenance yard of Fort Ward Park. Today only Clara Adams' grave is identified by a headstone (res. no. 2). In their respective interviews, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young and Edmonia McKnight each recall that Robert Adams is buried next to Clara.²⁵ A long-time RP&CA employee recalls seeing a headstone on the south side of the Clara Adams grave early in his tenure with the City. Future research will need to determine whether the location of the burial site is actually on the ¼ acre parcel that Clara and Robert sold to the Falls Church School Board for the African American school at the Fort.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis

Ms. McKnight recalls that Clara Adams' husband is "back there somewhere" in the gardner's plot up there at Fort Ward. Mentions that she recalls seeing a sink (hole?) next to Clara Adams' grave, and that it had flowers and shrubs next to it, that that was probably Robert Adams' grave site.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young remembered moving into the school/church building (Non-Cemetery Res. no.2) in 1947. Clara and Robert Adams graves were east of his house. He recalls that Robert died first, and that Clara died later while Sgt. Young was stationed in France. He recalls having to give permission so that she could be buried next to her husband.

Written Description of Resource at Present

²⁵ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.** Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis

As specified in the description of the Clara Adams Grave (res. no. 2), the area most likely to be Robert Adams' burial site is in the Fort Ward Park maintenance yard. The area immediately to the south of Clara Adams' grave is covered in grass, though immediately to the north is a bed of lilies. A gravel road lies to the west of the Clara Adams grave site, along with mulch and compost piles. Although much activity in the maintenance yard has been shifted elsewhere, it is still occasionally the site of heavy equipment traffic.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure 40: Clara Adams Grave. One person recalls Robert Adams' grave being to the south of Clara Adams' grave.

Evaluation of Integrity

It is not known from the oral history transcripts of Sgt. Young's two interviews whether Robert Adams' grave ever had a headstone.²⁶ If there was once a headstone, and it was removed in a subsequent period, then the aboveground manifestation of the grave has lost its integrity. If, however, there never has been a stone on Robert Adams' grave, and

²⁶ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez; **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, November 19, 1996.** Interviewer: Pat Knock. Transcriber: Jo-Ann LaFon.

Clara's was the only one marked, the site likely remains much as it did when they left it during the period of significance before City ownership. In either case, the grave likely retains the spatial relationships with Clara Adams grave and headstone, and with many existing historic landscape elements that contribute to the site's historic integrity. The grassy setting bears some degree of similarity to the area's earlier appearance, and the separation of the Adams' graves from the rest of the park resources provides a sense of solitude and creates a relatively passive context for interpreting the site.

Threats to Integrity

The biggest threat to the grave of Robert Adams comes from not knowing the grave's precise location, and any uses in the surrounding area. Although most of the activities associated with that yard have been moved to other locations, mulch and compost are picked up and delivered in this area, and there remains a higher likelihood that the grave could be damaged by this type of activity than if the burial site were simply surrounded by open space being used by the public for passive activities. The fencing that surrounds the maintenance yard also cuts the burial site off from visual access to the historic landscape features that give the site much of its historic integrity.

Recommended Treatments

The most important treatments that will help to maintain the integrity of the Robert Adams grave site is confirming the location of the grave shaft through archaeological investigation and marking the grave. Discontinuing the remaining maintenance and tree nursery activities from the area will also help to re establish the integrity of the setting. Removing the fence that surrounds the grave site will allow the historic landscape associations which help the grave site to be understood in the context of the larger neighborhood and other graves and cemeteries. A different type of fencing could delineate the Adams' grave or a larger burial area identified through archaeological investigation.

6. Potential Burial Site of Amanda McKnight Clarke



Figure 41: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Amanda Clarke grave site on this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

Upon her death in 1919, Harriet Shorts gave one of her daughters, Amanda (Mandy) Clarke, three acres of property at Fort Ward.²⁷ This land was part of the original parcel purchased by Burr Shorts in 1879, which is believed to have been the first purchase of land at Fort Ward by an African American.²⁸ Harriet Shorts had previously deeded two acres to another daughter, Clara Adams, to the south of the land that was deeded to Amanda Clarke.

In her own will, written in 1923, Amanda Clarke requested that her body be:

“buried in the corner next to Clara Adams Line in the little grove on my property, located on Seminary Hill, in Fairfax County, Virginia.”²⁹

As the map in figure 28 shows, Clara Adams’ property was located to the south of Amanda Clarke’s land. The only part of Amanda Clarke’s property that forms a corner and abuts Clara Adams’ line is the southeast corner of the top section of her property. This location is supported by the mention of a “little grove on my property.” A 1927 aerial photograph of the property shows that this section of Clarke’s property is in a wooded grove.

²⁷ Fairfax County Deed Book N no. 8 p.404-408

²⁸ Fairfax County Deed Book E No. 5 p. 578 – 579

²⁹ Fairfax County Will Book no. 14, p. 458

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

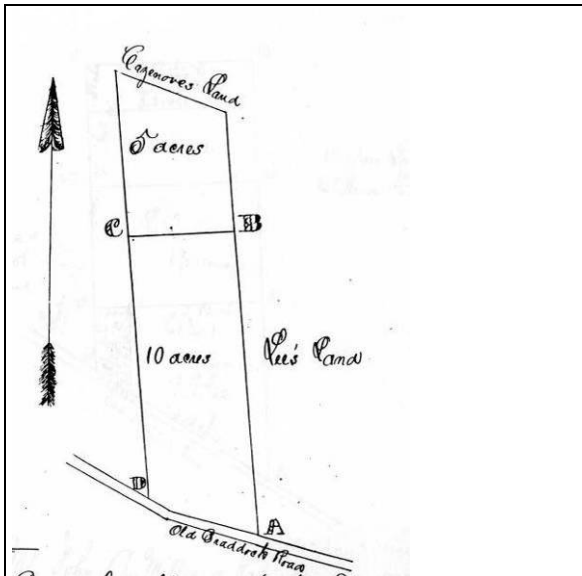


Figure 42, top left: Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879. Note the location along Old Braddock Rd. The “Lee” identified in the parcel to the east is Cassius Lee, cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is likely the first purchase of land by an African American at Fort Ward. ref. Liber E No. 5 p. 578 – 579 Fairfax County DB.

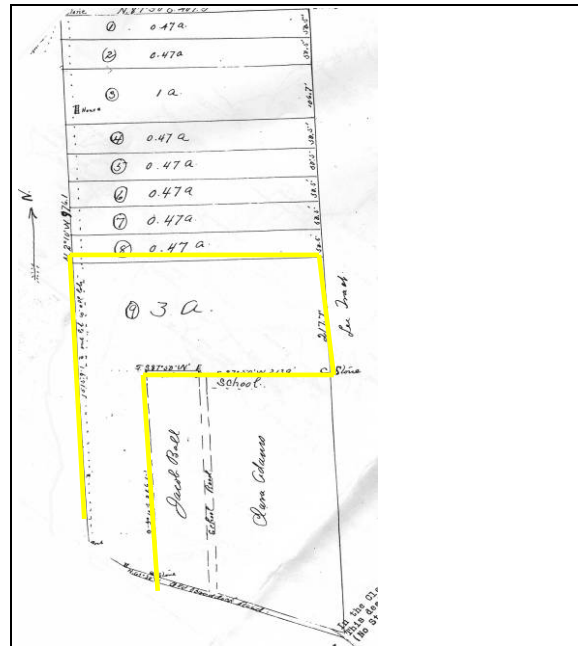


Figure 43: Plat of same property, divided among Harriet Shorts' heirs in 1919. The three acre parcel, highlighted in yellow, is deeded to “Mandy Clarke” and the other assets and land divided among the other children. Ref. Fairfax County Deed Book V no. 8 p.404-408

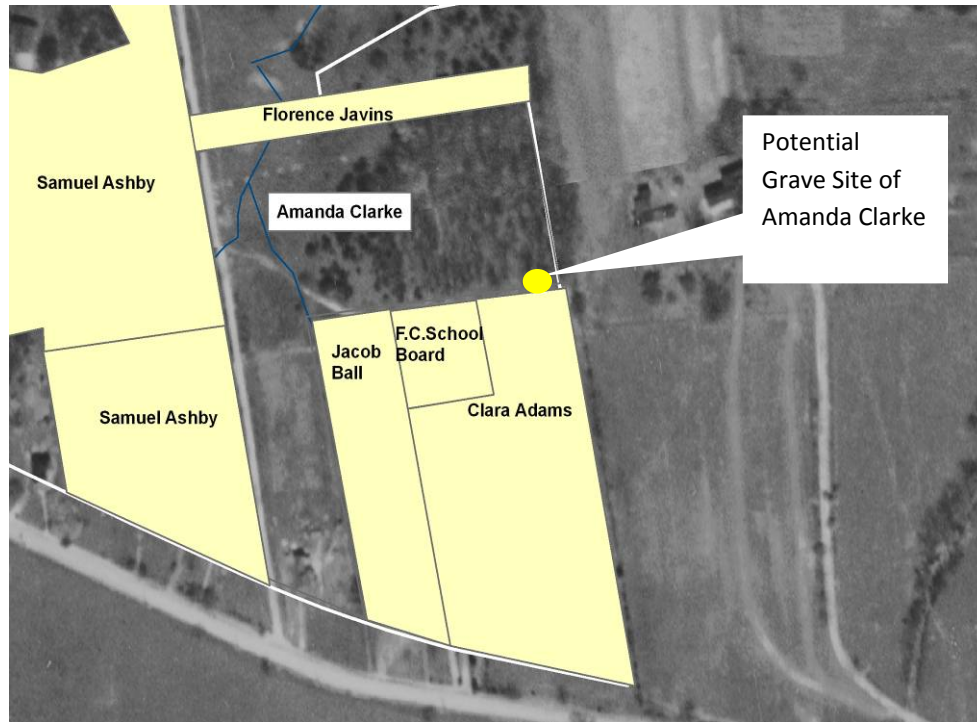


Figure 44: Property boundaries as they were at the time of Amanda Clarke's will, 1923. The underlying image is from the City of Alexandria's 1927 aerial photos of the city.

Amanda Clark Will Requesting Burial Location (FFX WB 14, Page 458; Will written January 20, 1923)

"...my body be suitably and properly buried in the corner next to Clara Adams Line in the little grove on my property, located on Seminary Hill, in Fairfax County, Virginia"

Written Description of Resource at Present

The above document identifies Amanda Clarke's requested final resting place as being inside what is now the maintenance yard for Fort Ward Park. If she was buried according to her will, the potential site appears to still be surrounded by a small cluster of trees, along the yard's eastern fence. The Amanda Clarke site is roughly 70 feet east and just to the north of the Clara Adams burial site (res. no. 2). Because this site is unmarked, it has not been afforded the same level of protection as the Clara Adams site. The location of the site along the fence line of the maintenance yard, just a few steps away from the potting shed and abutting the Marlboro Subdivision, exposes the site to heavy traffic related to the loading and unloading of plants and other maintenance activities.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

As is the case with the Robert Adams' grave site (res. no. 5), the integrity of the Amanda Clarke grave site depends upon this actually being the site of her burial, and the continued existence of the historic relationships between the grave site and the landscape elements which were present during the period of historical significance. If the request in her will was followed, and the grave is intact, the fact that Amanda Clarke is buried along her own property line, 70 feet from her sister Clara Adams, on the property once owned by her mother, adjacent to the Civil War fort that was the defining feature of the neighborhood in which she lived, all help to maintain the site's historical integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

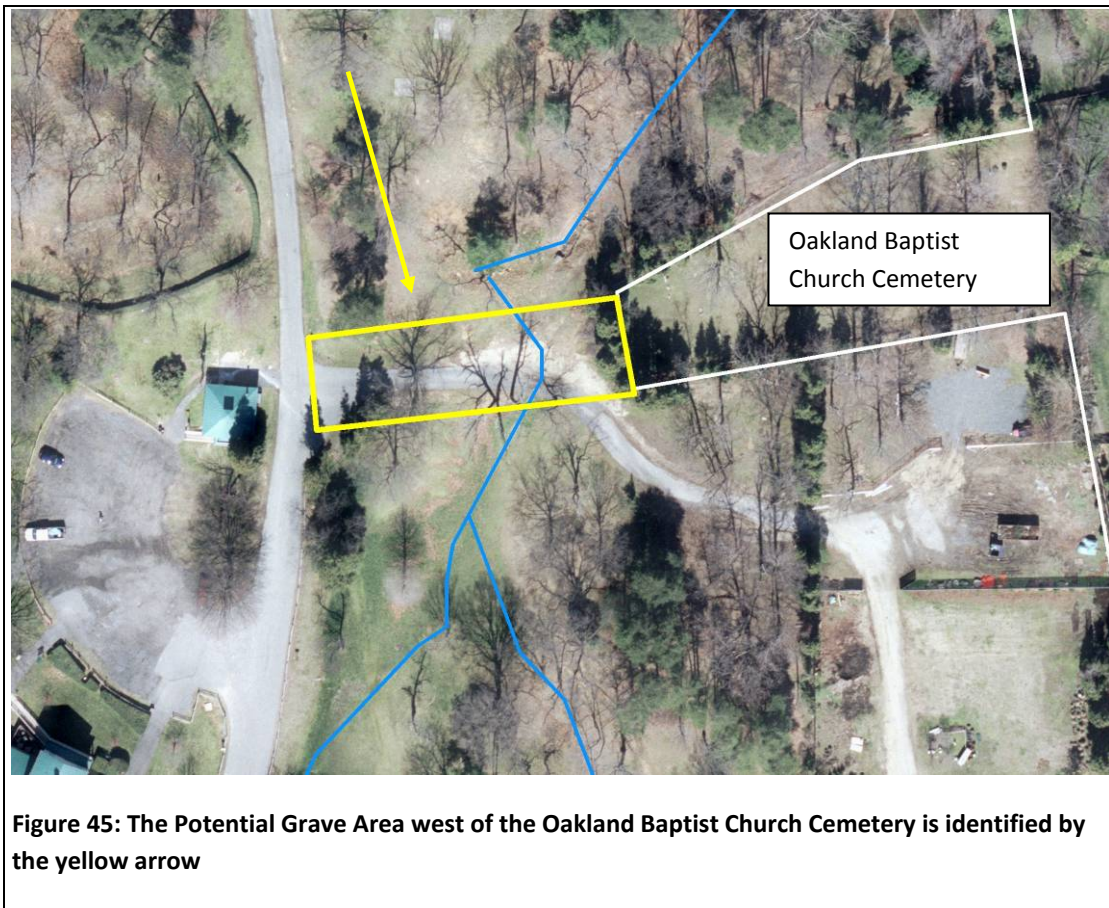
As with the other unmarked graves in Fort Ward Park, the biggest threats to the Amanda Clarke grave site come from not knowing the burial site's exact location, and not being identified as a burial site. In the case of Clara Adams' grave (res. no.2), the presence of a visible headstone encouraged a certain level of protection. Amanda Clarke's grave is unmarked, and as a result conscious protection cannot be provided. There is a great deal of stormwater runoff along the east property line. Planting of trees, erosion control measures and any ground disturbing activities are all potential threats to the grave. The fencing that surrounds the maintenance yard also cuts the burial site off from visual access to the historic landscape features that give the site much of its historic context.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

The most important treatments that will help to maintain the integrity of the Amanda Clarke grave site is confirming the location of the grave shaft through archaeological investigation, and identifying the site with a new marker. Care should be taken to not

excavate in the soil anywhere in the maintenance yard, given the high potential for graves and other resources. Reducing work in this yard will also help to restore the pastoral nature of the Clarke land and final resting place. If the maintenance yard fence is removed, the historic landscape associations will help the grave site to be understood in the context of the African American neighborhood at the Fort.

7. Potential Burial Sites to the west of Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery



Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

In 1969, the City of Alexandria became the owner of a parcel of land between the current Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery (res. no. 3) and the main circular road that runs through Fort Ward Park.³⁰ This is the parcel that contains the road leading to the maintenance yard. There is evidence to suggest that this parcel, like other areas of the park, may also be the site of unidentified graves.

The earliest of the headstones visible within the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery dates to 1925, fourteen years before the existing cemetery boundaries were established in 1939. The oldest of the three legible headstones in the “Old Grave Yard” (res. no. 1) immediately to the Cemetery’s south date to 1897, forty two years before the current boundaries were established. Thus, there was clearly precedent for burying the dead in this section of the park before it was formally owned by the Oakland Baptist Church.

Most of the land in this section of the park was once part of a 10 acre parcel owned by Harriet Shorts, and in her 1919 will, she deeded much of what would eventually become the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery to her daughter, Florence Javins. Florence Javins’ parcel was identified as lot 8 in the 1919 deed (see fig.30).³¹ At the time it was deeded to Ms. Javins, the headstones now visible in the “Old Grave Yard” immediately to the south of lot 8 would have already been present.

A 1930 deed refers to the parcel of land immediately north of Amanda Clarke’s property line (lot 8) as the “Oakland Church Lot” (although its owner was actually Florence Javins’ husband Samuel Javins, it is apparently commonly understood to belong to the church):

“...Beginning at a point on the east side of the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road, at the corner of the real estate of said Amanda Clarke and **the Oakland Church lot, at an Iron Pipe, and running thence in an eastward direction along the lines of said property 200 feet to a pipe driven in the ground;** thence in a southward direction along

³⁰ City of Alexandria Deed Book no. 698, p. 99

³¹ Fairfax County Deed Book N, no. 8, p.404-408

Amanda Clarke's line and the line of the Old Grave yard 210 feet to another Iron Pipe in the line of Laura Ball..."

This lot includes most of the current cemetery and the land to its west, between the cemetery and the access road that is now the park entrance road. When the City acquired this land in 1969, it was purchasing the western half of this "Oakland Baptist Lot."

The early dates of the headstones inside and outside of the Cemetery indicate that precedent for using this corner of Fort Ward Park as a burial site was well established before the current Cemetery boundaries were drawn. The common knowledge that the lot was affiliated with the Oakland Baptist Church years before the Church actually owned the site provides more evidence that the lot could contain grave sites, and a third supporting argument for the possible presence of unmarked graves on this parcel comes from the fact that several death certificates from the 1920s identify Fort Ward or a Fort Ward Cemetery as being the place of burial for the deceased. While one of these individuals is buried within the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, three are not. These three include Mary Casey (d. 1920), James Jackson (d. 1923), and Cassius McKnight (d. 1924). Cassius McKnight was one of the heirs of Harriet Shorts and would have owned property a few lots away at the time of his death (Lot 5 in Harriet Shorts' 1919 will). He may have been buried on the Oakland Baptist Church lot, which was fast becoming an established burial ground. His death certificate (see fig. 30) only identifies his burial location as Fort Ward. His sister, Maria McKnight Blackburn, died the next year, in 1924. Her death certificate also states that the burial place is "Fort Ward Cem." Her gravesite can be found in the eastern Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, now fenced and still owned by the church. Further historical research is needed to identify other individuals who may be buried in unidentified locations at Fort Ward.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, Maps, Oral History Excerpts

Amanda Clark Deed Referring to “Old Grave Yard” and “Oakland Church Lot” – (FFX DB V-10, Page 142; Deed dated December 2, 1930)

“...Beginning at a point on the east side of the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road, at the corner of the real estate of said Amanda Clarke and ***the Oakland Church lot***, at an Iron Pipe, and running thence in an eastward direction along the lines of said property 200 feet to a pipe driven in the ground; thence in a southward direction along Amanda Clarke’s line and the line of the ***Old Grave yard*** 210 feet to another Iron Pipe in the line of Laura Ball; thence in a westward direction along the line of Laura Ball and cutting across the lands of said Amanda Clarke 182 feet to another Iron Pipe in the east side of said outlet road, and thence along the east side of said outlet road in a northward direction 210 to the beginning, containing slightly less than one acre of ground...”

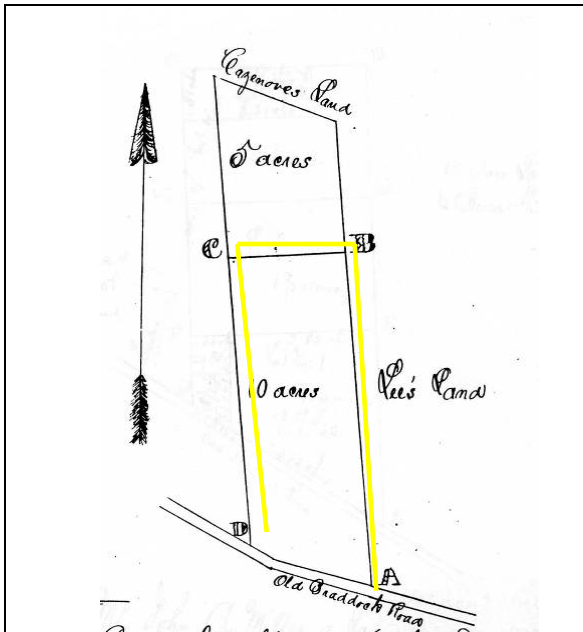


Figure 46: Survey of 10 acre parcel drawn for Burr Shorts in 1879; Shorts property is highlighted in yellow. Note the location along Old Braddock Rd. The “Lee” identified in the parcel to the east is Cassius Lee, cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee. This is likely the first purchase of land by an African American at Fort Ward. ref. Liber E No. 5 p. 578 – 579 Fairfax County DB.

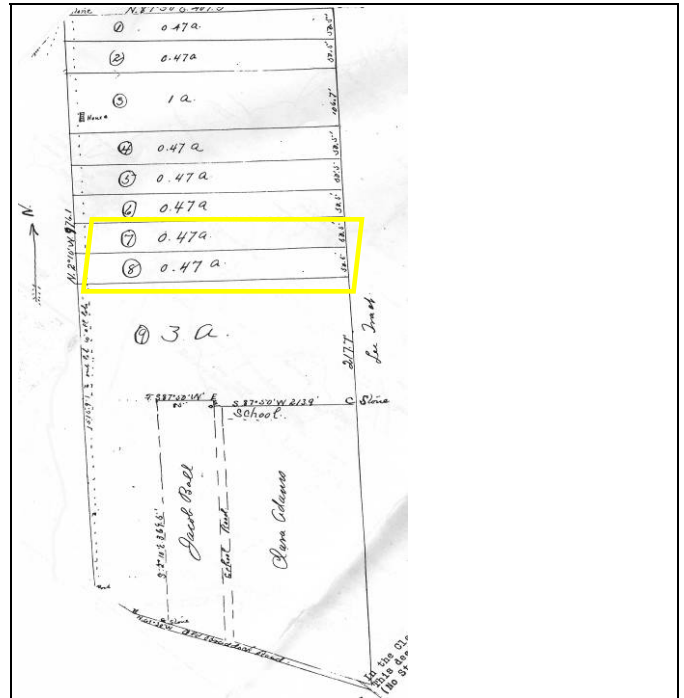


Figure 47: Plat of same property, divided among Harriet McKnight Shorts' heirs in 1919. The two 0.47 acre parcels identified as lots no. 7 and 8 and highlighted in yellow becomes the property of Harriet Shorts' daughter Florence McKnight Javins and Bernice McKnight Terrill. The eastern half of these properties would become the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. The western half of lot 8 is commonly recognized as being affiliated with the Church in 1930, though it is now owned by the City of Alexandria. The three acre lot 9 is the land of Amanda Clarke. Ref. Fairfax County Deed Book V no. 8 p.404-408

100-22, MO. 12

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

607

1 PLACE OF DEATH
COUNTY OF Kanawha
DISTRICT OF Walla Church
OR
INC. TOWN OF
CITY OF (If death occurred in a hospital or other institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME Cassius Mc Knight
(A) RESIDENCE No. Kanawha Co. ST. Ward (If nonresident give city or town and State)
(Usual place of abode)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Male 4 COLOR OR RACE Colored 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) Married
6A IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED
HUSBAND OF (or) WIFE Rachel Mc Knight
6 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH) Jan 17 1924
7 AGE YEARS MONTHS DAYS IF LESS THAN 1 DAY, HRS. OR MIN. 60
8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
(A) TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK Farmer
(B) GENERAL NATURE OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYED (OR EMPLOYER)
(C) NAME OF EMPLOYER
9 BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) Fauquier Co Va (STATE OR COUNTRY)
10 NAME OF FATHER Willis Mc Knight
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) Fauquier Co Va (STATE OR COUNTRY)
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Harriet Stewart
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) Fauquier Co Va (STATE OR COUNTRY)

14 INFORMANT Rachel Mc Knight
(Address) Kanawha Co Va
15 FILED Jan 21 1924 L. T. Seaman REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH) Jan 19 1924
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM Jan 17 1924 TO Jan 19 1924
THAT I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON Jan 17 1924
AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED, ON DATE STATED ABOVE, AT 10 M.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS:
Paralysis of
lower
(DURATION) YRS. MOS. DS. 3
CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) Chorea (DURATION) YRS. MOS. DS. 3
18 WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH?
DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? No DATE OF
WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? No
WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS?
(SIGNED) Wm F bald M. D.
190 1924 (ADDRESS) Alexandria Va
State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or if death from VIOLENT CAUSES state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.
19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR RE-
MOVAL Ft Ward Cem Kanawha Co Va DATE OF BURIAL Jan 21 1924
20 UNDERTAKER Wm A. Klemm + Son
ADDRESS Alexandria Va.

N. E. WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK (WRITING FLUID) - THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. EVERY ITEM OF INFORMATION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SUPPLIED. AGE SHOULD BE STATED EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS SHOULD STATE THE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PLAIN TERMS, SO THAT IT MAY BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED. EXACT STATEMENT OF OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

Figure 48: Death Certificate of Cassius McKnight. Place of Burial is identified in the lower right hand corner as Ft. Ward

Written Description of Resource at Present

The area to the west of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery is currently bisected by the road that leads back to the maintenance yard to the south of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. There is a small seasonal stream that flows across the parcel, perpendicular to the maintenance road, though that stream now runs through a culvert that runs below the asphalt that covers the maintenance road. Comparisons of the topography from the 1960s with elevations today suggest that there could be from 2 to

4 or more feet of fill to the east of the gully and that slight grading may have occurred to the west.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

It is difficult to assess the integrity of this resource area, because although there is the potential for graves to be found on the property, nothing is known about the identity or location of the people who could be buried there. However, if the site is in fact a burial area, its integrity will stem from conditions similar to those of other forgotten burial sites in the park. The site's aboveground integrity is a result of historic spatial relationships remaining intact, and the below ground integrity will depend upon whether the graves are intact and whether they have remained undisturbed. This area is adjacent to the cemetery which once may have been a larger burial ground. In addition, the road leading to the maintenance yard is a continuation of a path that dates to at least 1927, and may actually appear on a Civil War map. The access road to Braddock Rd. is also a historic landscape element that provides this potential burial site with historic integrity. The surrounding wooded area also echoes this potential grave yard's past, as it has been surrounded by woods since at least 1927. With the exception of the facilities associated with the maintenance yard, and the nearby houses and chain link fences, the immediate landscape of the area surrounding this potential burial site seems to have maintained many of its historical associations.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As with the other unmarked graves in Fort Ward Park, the biggest threats to the potential graves in this area come from not knowing the burial sites' exact location, and not being identified as a burial site. In the case of Clara Adams' grave (res. no.2), the presence of a visible headstone encouraged a certain level of protection. In this area any graves are unmarked, and as a result conscious protection cannot be provided.

Planting of trees, erosion control measures and any ground disturbing activities are all potential threats to the grave.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation to identify possible remainders of headstones and grave-shafts will help to establish whether the site was used as a cemetery, and of so, the extent of the area used for burials. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not compromising existing views. Identifying the grave locations will also be important for park planning. The use of a small, visually unobtrusive fence to delineate this burial ground may be appropriate, but this decision can be made after identifying the locations of existing graves. Historical research and oral history related to the area should continue, with new research focusing on death certificates and the records of local undertakers, in the hopes of learning additional information about the identities of the people who may be buried in this and other areas of Fort Ward Park.

8. Potential Burial Area Identified by Sgt. Lee Thomas Young (see res. no. 11)



Figure 49: Approximate location of potential burial area identified by Sgt. Lee Thomas Young

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

In his 1996 and 2009 interviews, Sgt. Young recalls that there were graves in the wooded area between his house and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. In the second interview, he recalls the presence of more grave stones than he does in the earlier interview, and he also mentions “a couple’ of headstones in his front yard, one of which he moved for a flower garden (see res. no. 9). As figure 31 illustrates, there was a wooded area between his house and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery when he occupied the house. Sgt. Young consistently recalls the headstones as being old, broken and worn when he lived on the property between 1947 and 1962. In both interviews, Sgt. Young refers to the graves of Clara Adams (res. no. 2) and Robert Adams (res. no. 5). In addition to these, there is documentary evidence that Amanda Clarke (res. no. 7) may be buried within 70 Feet of Clara Adams’ grave (see fig. 28), also within what is now recognized as the park maintenance yard.

Additional evidence that may point to this general area as being used as a burial ground includes the existence of several death certificates identifying “Fort Ward” or a “Ft. Ward Cem.” as being the place of burial for the deceased. Several of these individuals cannot be accounted for in the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery or in known burial areas. Three of these individuals include Mary Casey (d. 1920), James Jackson (d. 1923), and Cassius McKnight (d. 1924). Cassius McKnight was one of the heirs of Harriet Shorts and would have owned property a few lots away at the time of his death (Lot 5 in Harriet Shorts’ 1919 will). He may have been buried on the Oakland Baptist Church lot, which was fast becoming an established burial ground. His death certificate (see fig. 30) only identifies his burial location as Fort Ward. Amanda Clarke was another of Harriet Shorts’ heirs, and much of the land included in the area once belonged to her. She is believed to be buried on the eastern border of this area (see res. no. 6). Clara Adams and Robert Adams (see res. no. 2 and 5) are also believed to be buried in this area, though closer to its center. Because there are so many known burial sites within a short

distance of the Sgt. Young house, it is reasonable to assume that there are others that are not known. Sgt. Young's interviews give further evidence that there may be a large number of unknown grave sites within or close to the area surrounding his house. Further historical and archaeological research is needed to identify other individuals who may be buried at Fort Ward.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, Maps, Oral History Excerpts

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young recalls that there were graves all over his yard. Specifically, he recalls two broken old headstones in his front yard (see res. no.9), one of which he moved for his flower garden, as well as 17 or 18 headstones in his back yard, all short and broken. He recalls that the graves were behind the house, throughout the wooded area leading back to the Oakland Baptist Cemetery and that the path that led back to the Cemetery from his house might be the maintenance road in use today. His daughter Judy also shares her recollections about graves in the yard:

Sgt. Young:

"There was a very...there was people buried around, but not in that cemetery... All over the yard. **There you can find some graves anywhere...** Yeah, there was one...one or two in my yard, and then the rest of them in the back of the yard... [Interviewer, Pam Cressey: And so....there were many graves behind your house?] Oh, there's plenty of graves here, 18 and 17...and all that kind of carryin' on...on a ...little short graves. Uh huh... They looked something like that, in the ground? Half of 'em covered up, or laid down, all kinds of ways... No, the graves was back in there. We used to cut through them. That's a [unintelligible] right over there, uh huh. **We'd cut right through the woods here and go into the cemetery and uh... Going to Oakland Baptist cemetery. Amen. It was all woods then, you know, but you could stumble all over the graves. Amen. Uh, it was quite a few. You had to watch out, 'cause you'd stumble over them if it was dark...** It was all woods, all this was woods. This lane was through here...not good as this, though. Just a path... Oh yeah uh huh, because...the on'st way they could get to the cemetery was through a lane here, and that looked like the same old lane. That was a lane coming in there, and then they had a path to go to the cemetery...cemetery'... [Unintelligible dialogue]...well we'd give them permission to

come through the yard 'cause they could cut off through there, could go right through the woods...

[Later in the interview, at the same time as Judy below]...back of our house should come about here. The back, all this was trees, all this was woods, and then the graves, the grave you'd stumble over was all in here. So we would cut through to go to the cemetery."

Judy:

"Well I can tell you how many I probably fell in.... **I know for a fact, there's probably ten.... About ten... They had the little stones, a couple...you know some had stones in them and some just...** Mhm. And the only reason why I know they were graves is Daddy said they were. Daddy would tell me they were graves... **Just looked like...like somebody had just buried them and it was sinking... But there was some stones on some of them."**

Alexandria Legacies Project - Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, November 19, 1996. Interviewer: Patricia Knock, Transcriber: Jo-Ann Lafon

In this earlier interview, Sgt. Young specifies that the front of his house faced Braddock Rd. and that to the north of the house, in the wooded area between the house and Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, were five or six headstones, all of which were broken or worn down.

"Yes, it was a set of graves between this and the cemetery. You saw a cemetery back there, right? I was gonna say there was some graves through the woods—that was all woods. All this was woods right back of my house. No, they was old and no one knew who they were... Yes, there was some stones out there. No, the names was worn off somewhat. But there were several graves out there. Oh, there was five or six graves between that and the other cemetery. The kids used to look at them sometimes. I was going to say it would be hard to even find now too, the way— I don't see how they could know 'cause they were old when I was here. They, they are gone; it's just some stones there. We knew someone was there because they had, you know, a little old headpiece, washed out, and the weather wears that down. [pause in recording.]

Written Description of Resource at Present

Sgt. Young's house (res. no. 11) was located along the western edge of what is now the maintenance yard for Fort Ward Park. The potential grave area between his house and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery is the northern portion of the maintenance yard contains the entrance road to the yard, as well as the chain link fence that closes off the

maintenance yard from public access. Most of the area is open and is either grass or dirt, with a large patch of cobbles in the site's northeast corner. It is not known how much of the maintenance yard is included in the description, but the Clarke land extends south to about the midway point in the maintenance yard.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

It is difficult to assess the integrity of this resource area, because although there is the potential for graves to be found on the property, nothing is known about the identity or location of the people who could be buried there. However, if the site is in fact a burial area, its integrity will stem from conditions similar to those of other forgotten burial sites in the park. The site's aboveground integrity is a result of historic spatial relationships remaining intact, and the below ground integrity will depend upon whether the graves are intact and whether they have remained undisturbed. This area is adjacent to the cemetery which once may have been a larger burial ground and is close to the former school building and St. Cyprians Church. In addition, the road leading to the maintenance yard is a continuation of a path that dates to at least 1927, and may actually appear on a Civil War map. The access road to Braddock Rd. is also a historic landscape element that provides this potential burial site with historic integrity. The surrounding wooded area also echoes this potential grave yard's past, as it has been surrounded by woods since at least 1927. With the exception of the facilities associated with the maintenance yard, and the nearby houses and chain link fences, the immediate landscape of the area surrounding this potential burial site seems to have maintained many of its historical associations.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As with the other unmarked graves in Fort Ward Park, the biggest threats to the potential graves in this area come from not knowing the burial sites' exact location, and not being identified as a burial site. In the case of Clara Adams' grave (res. no.2), the presence of a visible headstone encouraged a certain level of protection. In other parts

of this area any graves that are present are unmarked, and as a result conscious protection cannot be provided. Planting of trees, erosion control measures and any ground disturbing activities are all potential threats to the grave.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation to identify possible remainders of headstones and grave-shafts will help to establish whether the site was used as a cemetery, and of so, the extent of the area used for burials. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not compromising existing views. Identifying the grave locations will also make it easier for park personnel to make decisions about where new facilities should or should not be located. Historical research into the area should continue, with new research focusing on death certificates and the records of local undertakers, in the hopes of learning additional information about the identities of the people who may be buried in this and other areas of Fort Ward Park. Consideration in park planning should be given to identifying this as a potential buried ground even if specific graves are not found. If graves are present, a more appropriate landscaping and fence should be considered, as well as interpretation for the public.

9. Potential Burial Sites to the south of School/ Church/ Sgt. Young House



Figure 50: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the potential burial sites to the south of the School/ St. Cyprians/ Sgt. Young House.

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

In his 2009 interview, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young recalled “a couple of gravestones” in his front yard and removing one for his flower garden.³² Based on this recollection, and on the impressions of people who participated in the interview, this resource could be in the approximate area identified in Figure 33.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, Maps, Oral History Excerpts



Figure 51: The yellow area outlined just to the south of the house identifies a potential grave area on this 1937 aerial photo.

³² **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young recalls that there were graves all over his yard. Specifically, he recalls two broken old headstones in his front yard, that did not have anything written on them, one of which he moved for his flower garden.

Written Description of Resource at Present

At present this resource area is part of the maintenance yard for Fort Ward Park. It sits at the western edge of the yard, and appears to be just to the west of the dirt path that forms the yard's major route for vehicle travel. It is important to note that graves may be present throughout the south maintenance yard. Although Mr. Young saw only two gravestones, the other markers may have been removed or deteriorated before the 1940s.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

It is difficult to assess the integrity of this resource area, because although there is the potential for graves to be found on the property, nothing is known about the identity, number, or exact location of the people who could be buried there. However, if the site is in fact a burial area, its integrity will stem from conditions similar to those of other burial sites in the park. The site's aboveground integrity is a result of historic spatial relationships remaining intact, and the below ground integrity will depend upon whether the graves have remained undisturbed. That these potential grave sites are just south of the former school building and St. Cyprians Church, and are close to historic access roads helps to provide historic integrity. The surrounding wooded area also echoes this potential grave yard's past, as it has been surrounded by woods since at least 1927. With the exception of the facilities associated with the maintenance yard, and the nearby houses and chain link fences, the immediate landscape of the area surrounding this potential burial site seems to have maintained many of its historical associations.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

The biggest threat to the integrity of this resource stems from not being able to identify grave locations. Without knowing the locations of any grave sites, any ground disturbing activities could potentially put these resources at risk.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation to identify possible remainders of headstones and grave-shafts will help to establish whether the site was used as a burial place, and of so, the extent of the area used for burials. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not compromising existing views. Identifying the grave locations will also be important for park planning. The removal of the maintenance yard fence, and its replacement with a low, visually unobtrusive fence to delineate this burial ground may be appropriate, but this decision can be made after identifying the locations of existing graves. Historical research and oral history related to the area should continue, with new research focusing on death certificates and the records of local undertakers, in the hopes of learning additional information about the identities of the people who may be buried in this and other areas of Fort Ward Park.

10. Potential Burial Site to the north of Fort Ward



Figure 52: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the potential burial site to the north of Fort Ward.

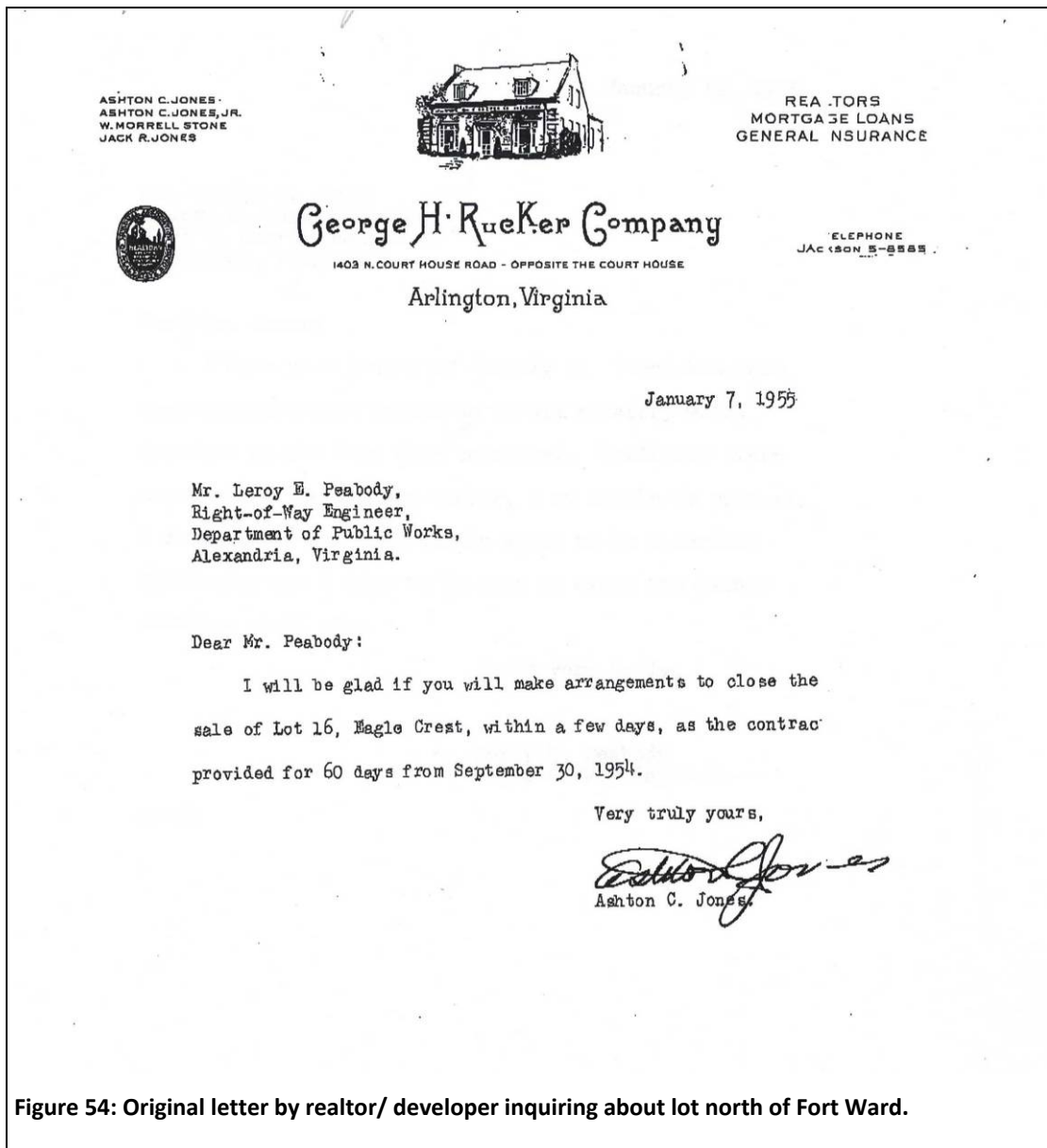
Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

During the development of the Eagle Crest subdivision, concern surfaced that there might be an old cemetery in one of the proposed lots. In a January 1955 letter, Ashton C. Jones, one of the developers involved in the project, asks Leroy E. Peabody in the City of Alexandria's Department of Public Works to make arrangements to close the sale of lot 16 in the Eagle Crest Subdivision. In reply to this letter, Mr. Peabody tells Mr. Jones that there is some question as to an old cemetery which impinges on the Fort Ward territory. Mr. Peabody tells Mr. Jones that he is unable to proceed until the title search has cleared the matter. It is difficult to determine whether Mr. Peabody is stating a concern about a potential cemetery on lot 16 specifically, or whether he is concerned about a cemetery on the Fort property within the subdivision more generally. The Old Jackson Family Cemetery (Res. no. 4), was also within the boundaries of the Eagle Crest Subdivision, and its location can be more easily documented. Assuming that he meant the former, figure 32 identifies the location of lot 16 in the proposed subdivision, and figure 33 shows that lot's location in today's park.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, Maps, Oral History Excerpts



Figure53: The 1937 Eagle Crest subdivision plat with lot 16 identified in yellow.



January 11, 1955

Mr. Ashton C. Jones
George H. Rucker Company
1403 N. Court House Road
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have your letter of January 7. There has been some question with regard to an old cemetery which impinges on the Fort Ward territory. Until our title search has cleared this matter, I am unable to proceed. I do not believe that this is going to be a serious difficulty and I hope to be able to close the matter within a short time.

Yours very truly,

Leroy E. Peabody
Right-of-Way Engineer

LEP:M

Figure 55: Response of City of Alexandria Right of Way Engineer to Ashton Jones letter (see above).

Written Description of Resource at Present

This section of the park is mostly wooded, and sits between the reconstructed Northwest Bastion and the circular road that passes through the Park. The southwest corner of the former lot 16 does just include part of the reconstructed Northwest Bastion, and it may also overlap with some of the North Bastion as well.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure 56: Lot 16 of the Eagle Crest Subdivision in Fort Ward Park

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

If this is in fact the site of a former burial ground, there is a strong possibility that it experienced damage during the reconstruction of the northwest bastion of the fort. The presence of trees keeps the area from being used heavily, though its proximity to the reconstructed fort does draw some foot traffic. However, if the site is a burial place, its integrity will stem from conditions similar to those of other forgotten burial sites in the park. The site's aboveground integrity is a result of historic spatial relationships remaining intact, and the below ground integrity will depend upon whether the graves are intact and whether they have remained undisturbed. The site's proximity to the Fort, and to the historic access road, all add to its integrity. In addition, this is the same area in which the Native American artifacts, (see Native American Res. no. 1) were recorded.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As with other sites in the park, the greatest threat comes from not knowing the precise location of any graves that may be present in this area. There is also significant evidence of erosion at the site.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation to identify possible remainders of headstones and grave-shafts will help to establish whether the site was used as a burial place, and of so, the extent of the area used for burials. When grave locations are found, installing some type of small headstone either flush with the ground or only slightly above ground will make it clear that this area is a cemetery, and is therefore not appropriate for heavy traffic, games, or other intense uses. Keeping the new markers low to the ground will allow the graves to be identified while not compromising existing views. Identifying the

grave locations will also be important for park planning. The installation of a low, visually unobtrusive fence to delineate this burial ground may be appropriate, but this decision can be made after identifying the locations of existing graves. Historical research and oral history related to the area should continue, with new research focusing on death certificates and the records of local undertakers, in the hopes of learning additional information about the identities of the people who may be buried in this and other areas of Fort Ward Park.

African American Structures and other Resources at The Fort

The house sites and other domestic resources identified on the map in figure 57 offer a way of understanding the lives led by the families who once made up the community of The Fort. The Adams, Ashby, Jackson, Javins, Shorts, McKnight and Terrill families, among others, used the land now encompassed by Fort Ward Park to help establish themselves as free people during Reconstruction and into the Civil Rights era.

At least two of the founding families of the community at The Fort, the Jacksons and the McKnights, have roots that extend to Fauquier County, Virginia before the Civil War. Whether they were slaves or free blacks is unknown, as is why both families settled at Fort Ward. These are questions that can only be explained through continued historical and archaeological research.

Over the course of the following 90+ years, the families at the fort intermarried and created large extended families. The effects of the different generations on the landscape of the Fort would have been quite different. While the 1870 census identifies Burr Shorts as a farmer, by the end of the 1950s, members of the Ashby, McKnight and Young families raised gardens and found jobs working for the Federal government (Charles McKnight and Lee Thomas Young were both in military service, while John Ashby worked for the National Park Service). The earlier generations would likely have benefitted from a landscape with fewer trees, facilitating agriculture, while later generations enjoyed the privacy that the then-mature trees provided. Older houses were served by wells with a bucket, while newer or modernized houses had indoor plumbing. Future research, then, can be expected to uncover a wide range of activities at Fort Ward, reflecting the shift of the site from one that was once mostly agricultural in nature to one that was fast becoming integrated into Alexandria's transition into Washington D.C.'s suburban lifestyle.

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. Javins 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. Unknown Building, Only Visible in 1927 Aerial
- 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. Unknown Building, Visible in 1927 and 1937 Aerials
33. Unidentified 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

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

Figure 57

African American Structures and Other Resources

House and Building Foundations

11. School/ Church/ Young House
12. Randall House
13. Adams/McKnight House
14. Ashby/Peters House
15. Shorts/ Randall House
16. Belk House
17. Javins House

Historic Roads and Paths

18. Line of Cedars
19. Lilac Bush
20. Access Road to School
21. Braddock Road
22. Access Road for Harriet Shorts properties

Other Potential Resources

- Wells
- Privies and Trash features

11. Colored School Building at Seminary/ St. Cyprian's Church and Sgt. Lee Thomas Young Home Site



Figure 58: Footprint of Colored School Building at Seminary/ St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church/ Sgt. Lee Thomas Young House

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

The building that came to be owned by Sgt. Lee Thomas Young had already seen use as both a schoolhouse and an Episcopal church before it came into his ownership. The lot on which the building sits was part of what is believed to be the first land purchase at Fort Ward by an African American, Burr Shorts, in 1879.³³ After his death, his wife, Harriet McKnight Shorts deeded three acres to their daughter, Clara Shorts Adams. In 1898, Clara and Robert Adams sold ¼ acre of this parcel to the Falls Church School District for \$35 for the purpose of building a school for African American children (see fig. 38).³⁴ By 1926, the building was no longer needed as a school, and the Falls Church School District sold what the deed refers to as the “Colored School Building at Seminary” to the Diocesan Missionary Society of Virginia to be used as an Episcopal church.³⁵ Charles McKnight, Clara Adams’ grand nephew who lived with her at Fort Ward, acted as the secretary at St. Cyprian’s, and as Sunday school superintendent. St. Cyprians was a small congregation, consisting mostly of the Peters family, the Randall family, Craven family, the Thomas family and the McKnight family.³⁶ David Taft Terry refers to St. Cyprians as a “Mission Parish House” in his 2009 chapter of the history of Meade Episcopal Church. Just a few years later, the land was sold once again, this time by the Diocesan Missionary Society to John Lorenzo Claiborne in 1942 for use as a private residence.³⁷ Mr. Claiborne rehabilitated the house and sold it to Sgt. Lee Thomas Young in 1947.³⁸ While living in the house, Sgt. Young made it his own, but it still retained much of its ecclesiastical nature. He recalls that his bedroom was in what had been the pulpit, and the kitchen was in the “Amen corner.”³⁹ The exterior appearance of the church, shown in figure 37 also reflects the building’s former use, although it now had a porch on the side of the building facing Braddock Rd.

In his description of the house, Sgt. Young recalls having several five small cabins around his house that he rented to soldiers and used for storage, and he remembers a well just behind the steeple, just out of the picture in figure 37.⁴⁰ He says that he had a jet pump

³³ Fairfax County Deed Book E no. 5 p. 578-579.

³⁴ Fairfax County Deed Book C-6, P. 139

³⁵ Fairfax County Deed Book T-9, p. 119

³⁶ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

³⁷ City of Alexandria Deed Book 421 p. 16

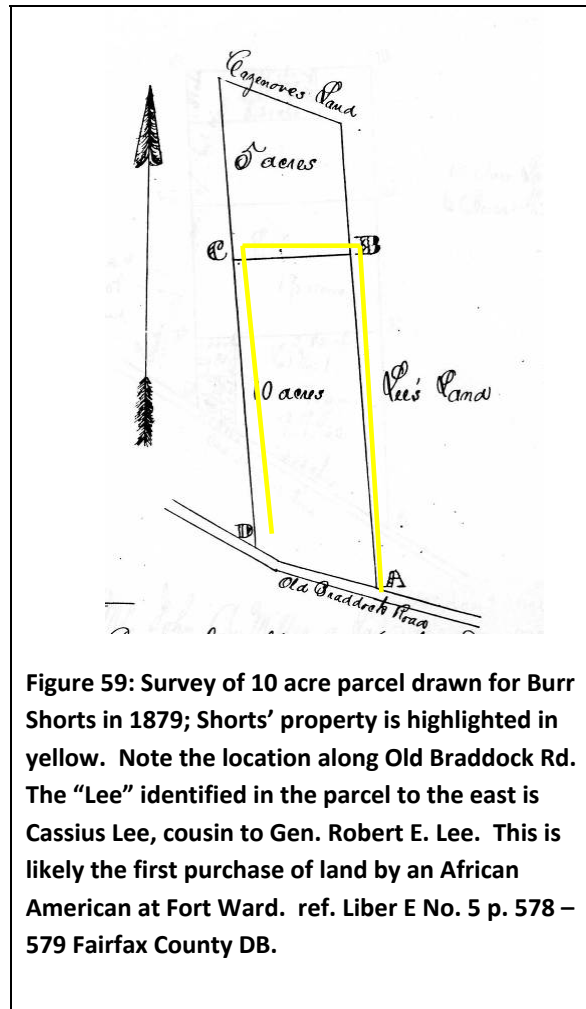
³⁸ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

on his well.⁴¹ A 1962 Topographic Map prepared by the City of Alexandria, figure 43, identifies two possible locations that may match that description. See resource numbers 2, 5, 8 and 9 for more information.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



⁴¹ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, November 19, 1996. Interviewer: Pat Knock. Transcriber: Jo-Ann LaFon

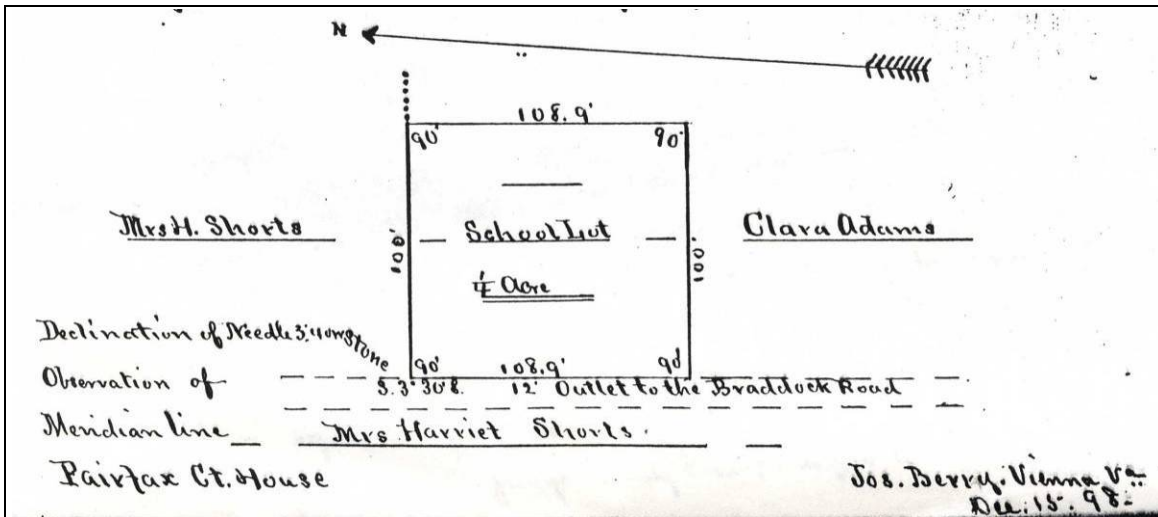


Figure 60: 1898 Plat of the 1/4 acre lot that Clara and Robert Adams sold to the Falls Church School District for the creation of a school. The school, identified in the deed as the “Colored School Building at Seminary” would be turned into a church in 1926, and was later converted into a private residence by John Lorenzo Claiborne. This became the home of Sgt. Young in 1947.

Ref. Fairfax County Deed Book C-6, P. 139; Fairfax County Deed Book T-9, p. 119; City of Alexandria Deed Book 421, p. 16

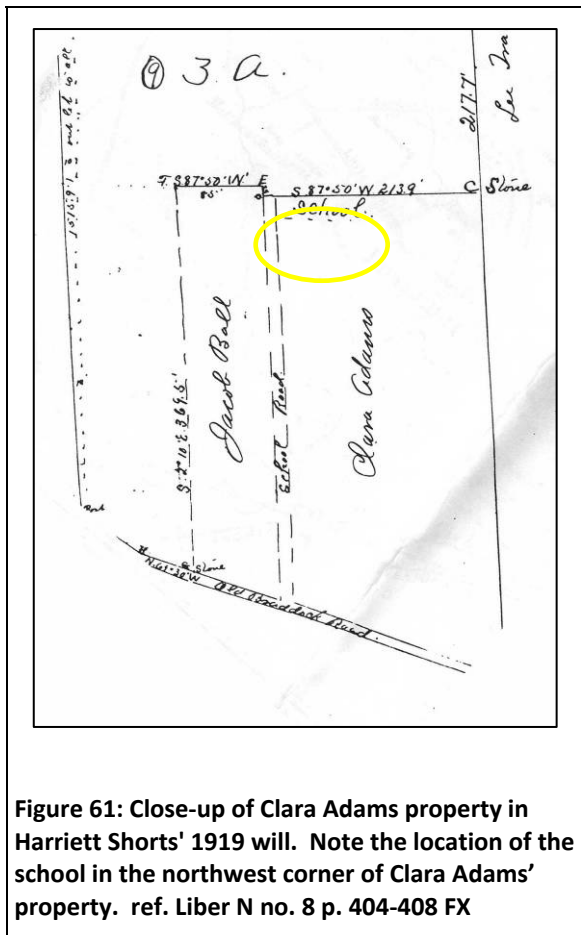


Figure 61: Close-up of Clara Adams property in Harriett Shorts' 1919 will. Note the location of the school in the northwest corner of Clara Adams' property. ref. Liber N no. 8 p. 404-408 FX

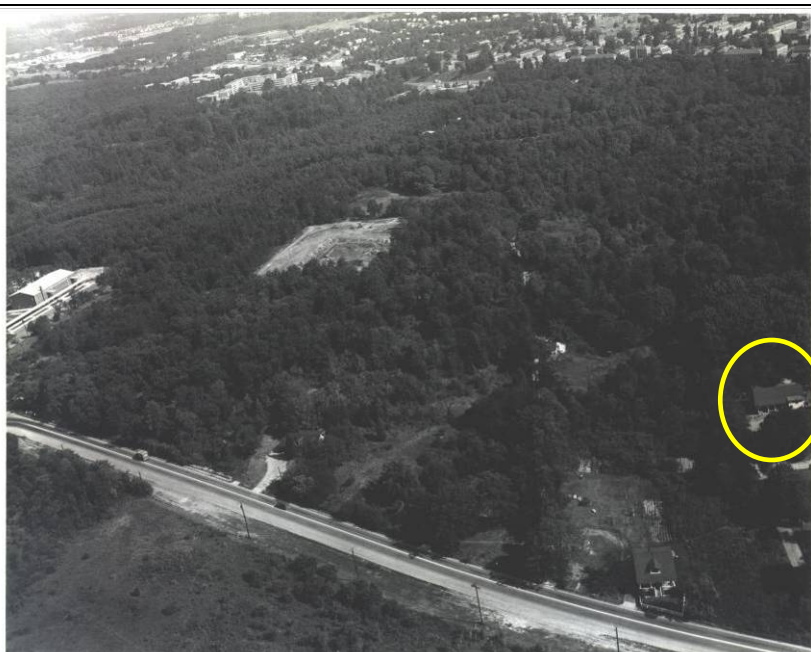


Figure 62: Center left, NW Bastion of Fort Ward in the early 1960s; Sgt. Young's house is visible on the far right

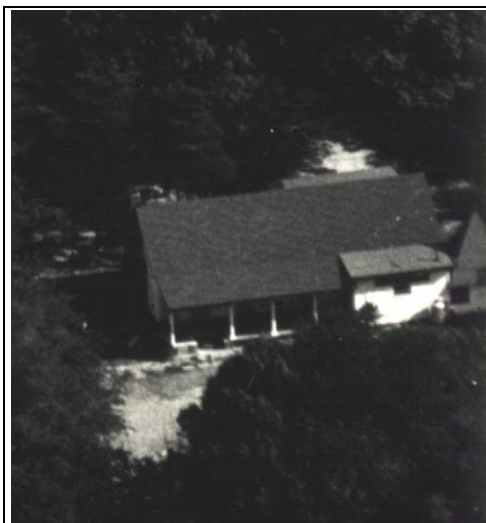


Figure 63: School, St. Cyprian's Church, and Sgt. Young House, in the early 1960s.



Figure 64: 1962 PRCA Topographic map with Sgt. Young house and outbuildings circled

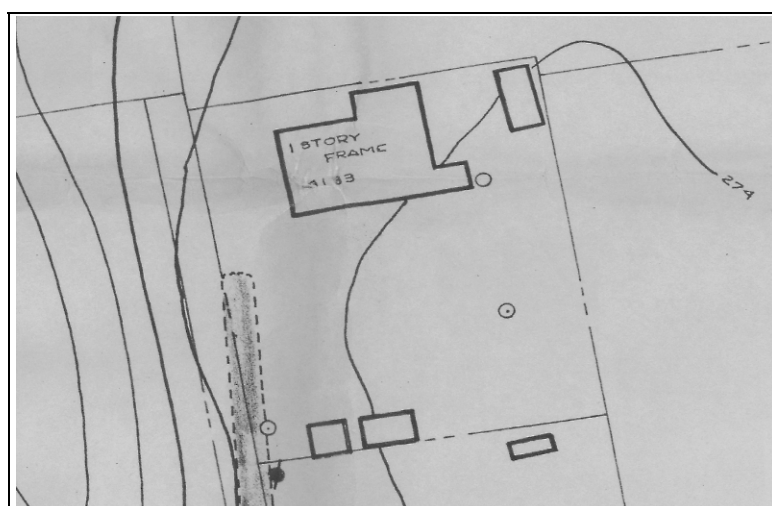


Figure 65: Close-up of Sgt. Young House, outbuildings, driveway and possibly wells

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young describes living in the property that had been a church, Describes the kitchen being in the “Amen corner” of the church, and the bedroom being over the pulpit. Also describes wide front porch, driveway going to Braddock Rd. Describes house as having a septic system:

“It was beautiful to me! Amen! It was an old fashioned. Had a front porch. A long one. Had chairs on it. Amen. Benches...[laughs]... Well, I had the benches before the chairs, because we wasn't even able to buy the chairs at that time. Amen! High ceiling, old fashioned ceiling, hardwood floor.....and running water! You know, from the well, uh huh. And a septic, a septic... I felt at home! Bathtub and everything. Only house up here that had a bathtub I believe. That's the wash house. The wash house. And they got something...and that's the porch I was telling her about. [Unclear]...it is exciting! But the chimney and the fireplace and the patio's out here, Amen! Well, how about this! That's the wash house. That's like a steeple there in the ch – [laughs]... This was the kitchen...this was the... What...no! This was the Amen corner, you know in the old churches, the Amen corner? The ladies sat on one side and the men sat on the other. You remember your parents talking about that? The kitchen was in the Amen corner. Amen! [laugh]... Now the ladies had a Amen corner too, but theirs was on the right hand side of the pulpit. The pulpit right in the center... That was my bedroom...we slept on the pulpit! We had, uh, the out was...one out was through the kitchen, and then, uh, a right turn and back on the porch, and then the other one from the main living room...we called it. Uh huh... The well was on...she had a picture of the steeple, and the well was just the other side of there...cause that was the wash house and the well...Right about... Yeah the well, oh yeah, that's the kitchen though the well, the well was right back here... Behind the kitchen, kinda over that way ...that's kinda back, back there and this is the front, but you can see the steeple. And the well...the well was just back of the steeple and then we had a pump in there...get water into the house, you know? This is, yes, this is the driveway. You could drive right up. This was a grapevine right in there...

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, November 19, 1996. Interviewer: Pat Knock. Transcriber: Jo-Ann LaFon.

In this earlier interview, Sgt. Young describes the house and its relationship to Braddock Rd., having a driveway that came straight up to the house from Braddock Rd.:

“This is the front. This is the porch and this is the roof part. All right, this is the porch. We have an entrance here; an entrance here and another entrance back here. This would be an entrance back here.... Then we had a steeple here and this was a washroom—laundry room—right here. That was separate, but it was tied onto the house. You had to go out of the back door here to go into the laundry room. Then a big well here... To the side of it was a well.....It's facing Braddock Road.... No, looking straight out—straight to the road—had a driveway that come in from Braddock straight into my front yard...”

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

Mr. McKnight recalls the Church having been turned into a house by a barber in Alexandria named Claiborne, who later sold the house to Sgt. Lee Thomas Young. Also recalls having been a member of the church when it was St. Cyprians.

The old frame schoolhouse, I would venture to say, was ah, I guess, like old schoolhouses looked like that time of the year. I want to refer to it as this. When I was stationed in Freeport, Louisiana, they had like a home, they called it a shotgun home, you look in the front door and straight through to the back door. That is correct by all means. That's exactly how this old school was established. It had a front door directly in the front and I can't make any of it. [Interviewer: Facing the road was the door, and what's this little thing in the back?] I would venture to say that was the outdoor privy, because that was there even when the church, when the school was converted into an Episcopal chapel. That's how we used this outdoor privy, both male and female... [Okay, this school was made into a chapel?] Exactly... St. Cyprian's... The school would be to the right, to the right, and I'd like to make corrections here. The entrance to the schoolhouse did not face Braddock Road. The school now, and did at that time faces the area where the library is now, in that general area... [Interviewer: How large of a congregation was it at St. Cyprian? Do you remember?] At that time we had the Peters family, we had the Randall family, we had the Craven family, and the McKnight family. We had the Thomas family, and I would venture to say that was the gist of the congregation, made up of those families there. [Interviewer: When I was reading in the Diocesan journal at the Seminary, I found that Charles McKnight was the secretary, and also the Sunday school superintendent.] I am he.... Eventually it was purchased by a barber who lived in Alexandria. His name was Claiborn. He bought the property and he had the school totally refurbished into a beautiful home somewhat like a bungalow like, and I don't recall how long, they—this was during the tenure when I was in the military. And I'm on leave, and they were still living there. Eventually, I don't know whether he passed away or his wife passed away, so they decided to leave the area and go back to Alexandria—that's where they came from. Then after the war, more or less, then Sergeant Young and who the park belongs to, I don't know, unless it was still with the Claiborn family. But it was Sergeant Young, who was a retired master sergeant, he bought it, and then when the turn came as far as refurbishing Mudtown and those of us who lived or had property at the Fort were allowed to buy down here. That's why we're down here now."

Written Description of Resource at Present

There are no above ground remnants of the Colored School Building at Seminary/ St. Cyprian's Church/ Sgt. Lee Thomas Young House itself. There is potential to identify artifacts that relate to the three different periods of building use: the School, St. Cyprians, and the Young house. The site of the house is now occupied by the maintenance yard for Fort Ward Park. A dirt path runs between the site of the house and the Clara Adams grave site, which sat just to the house's east. This dirt path may be the same path that was identified by the Young. The maintenance yard is fenced off from the rest of the park, including the house site. There is strong potential that the building foundation can be located and artifacts, paths, and landscaping may be

identified through archaeological investigation. See also the School access road and the row of cedar trees(res. no 18 and 23), which were landscape features of the building when it was a school, church, and house.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Sgt. Young House is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. As such, the above-ground elements of the house are no longer available to help tell the story of the community that lived in this area. The foundation of the house may still have maintained its historic integrity. Other features and artifacts may also have maintained their integrity, as they have not been moved from their historic location and they still maintain the spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements, thus communicating something of the life lived by the people in the neighborhood at the Fort.

The preservation of the surrounding area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that provide context for the foundation elements, should they be intact. The continued presence of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence of Braddock Road, the location of the nearby cemetery and grave sites, the access road and line of cedar trees and other domestic features that were present when the house was occupied. All of these features combine to maintain the setting, feeling and associations that give the landscape its historic integrity. This is one of the most significant resource areas associated with the African American community at the Fort. The use of the land for educational and religious purposes clearly points to the freedom experienced by 20th Century Fort families and other black community members not available in earlier times. The goal of educating the young to write and to know scripture was an important strategy for negotiating and succeeding in the 20th Century. Testimony to the fulfillment of the educational goal can be seen in the records of census takers in which children living at the Fort were literate even though their parents were not. Additional significance of

this area comes from its Episcopal connections and the 1932 merger with the Mead Memorial Episcopal Church celebrating its 140th anniversary in 2009.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape, or the insensitive installation of park infrastructure. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability of park managers to make informed decisions about how the site can be used.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation will provide the city with more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help interpret the site for Park users. The School/ St. Cyprians/ Sgt. Young House is one of the most significant sites in Fort Ward Park for telling the story of the African American community at the Fort. Interpretive efforts could easily tie this house site in with the Clara Adams/ McKnight Family House (res. no. 13), the Shorts/Stuart/Randall House (res. no. 15), the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery (res. no. 3) and the graves of Clara and Robert Adams (res. no. 2 and 5).

12. Randall Family Home Site



Figure 66: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of Randall House.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The Randall family maintained a large presence at the Fort during the mid-20th century. In addition to this house, members of the Randall family also lived in the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall house (res. no 15) to the north. During the March 3, 2009 interview of Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, several of Sgt. Young's friends and family members were along to participate in the interview. Some had memories of the neighborhood in the 1950s. In the course of conversation, Judy, Sgt. Young's daughter, recalled that the Randalls lived along Braddock Rd. in a house with a fence. Judy also confirmed that the McKnight house (res. no. 13) and the Randall House were one right after the other on Braddock Rd. There was also a conversation about the Randall house being associated with a semi-circular driveway. As the 1937 aerial photo (fig. 47) indicates, there was once a second house just to the west of the Randall house, between the house and the access road, but by the time of the 1962 city drawn topo map, which was drawn the same year that Sgt. Young told his land to the City for the Park, there was only one house standing, and that is the one that the family and friends identified as being the Randall house.



Figure 67: Randall House and unidentified house to its east in the City of Alexandria's 1937 aerial photo

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



Figure 68: House identified by descendant community member as being Randall House, photo from early 1960s.

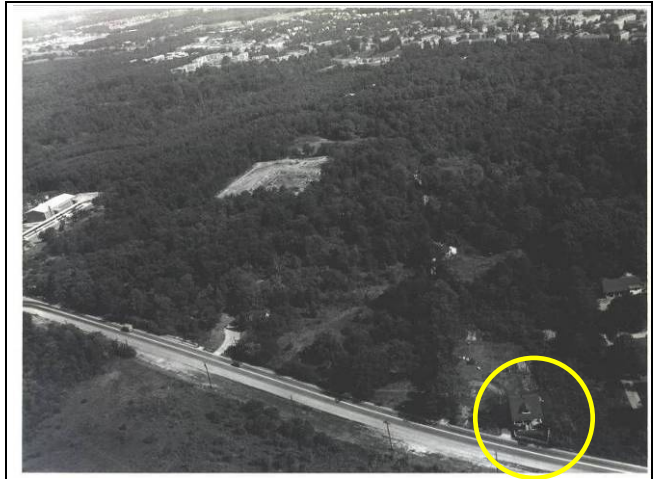


Figure 69: Randall House, bottom right; northwest bastion of Fort Ward in process of reconstruction, top left. Photo from early 1960s.



Figure 70: 1962 Topographic Map made by the City of Alexandria's Public Works Department identifying a building in the location of the Randall House.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young and his daughter recall that the McKnight house and the Randall house were one after the other on Braddock Rd. when he lived at the Fort in the late 1940s and 1950s. In the same interview, Sgt. Young's daughter recognized the Randall house by the fence shown in the photos from the early 1960s. Adrienne Randall, granddaughter of Jesse Randall, recalled her uncle Billy having a house up close to the road.

Written Description of Resource at Present

There is no visible evidence of the Randall house on the landscape today. The site is grassy and lightly treed, and is located approximately 150 feet east of the first parking lot on the right as one enters Fort Ward Park. The site is roughly 50 feet north of Braddock Road, which was farther south before it was widened in recent decades.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure 71: Picture of Randall House Site facing west, toward the parking lot

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Randall House is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. As such, the above-ground elements of the house are no longer available to tell the neighborhood's story. What may potentially remain of the house will exist under ground and will likely consist of foundation elements or other structural features such as a chimney base. If they are present, these features may very well have maintained their historic integrity, as they have not been moved from their historic location and they still maintain the spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements, providing a major source of integrity.

While the house itself is no longer available to tell the story of the Fort, the preservation of the area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that help to provide context for the foundation elements, should they be present. The continued presence in the landscape of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence of Braddock Road, the location of the nearby cemetery and grave sites, the line of cedar trees and other domestic features that were present when the house was occupied. All of these features combine to maintain the historic setting, feeling and associations that give the landscape its historic integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape, or any ground disturbance. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability of park managers to make informed decisions about how the site can be used.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation will provide the city with more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help interpret the site for Park users. While archaeological investigation will likely help to understand the scope of the resources present, extensive surface interpretation may or may not be necessary for future park operations. The City may decide to simply

preserve the resources in situ, and focus interpretive efforts on other more visible landscape elements.

13. Clara Adams/McKnight Home Site



Figure72: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Clara Adams/ McKnight House

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The Clara Adams/ McKnight house was the house that Clara Adams owned and occupied, first with her husband Robert McKnight and then in the later years of her life, with her nephew, Willis Robert McKnight and his family.⁴² The McKnights lived with Clara in her house for several years, and Clara then deeded the house to the McKnights upon her death.⁴³ Charles McKnight, Clara's great nephew, remembers living in the house, and remembers it as having three rooms downstairs, and two rooms upstairs. When the McKnights moved in, they had a new kitchen built onto the back of the house.

The Clara Adams/ McKnight house is frequently remembered by residents in the 1940s and 1950s as being part of group of three houses that also included Sgt. Young's house and the Belk House. The Adams/ McKnight house was the closest of the three to the road.⁴⁴ These three houses were entered from



Braddock Road by the access road that led back to the old school building for which Clara had sold land in 1898, and which was home to Sgt. Young between 1947 and 1960.⁴⁵ Charles McKnight remembers that Robert Adams had planted a row of trees

⁴² Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

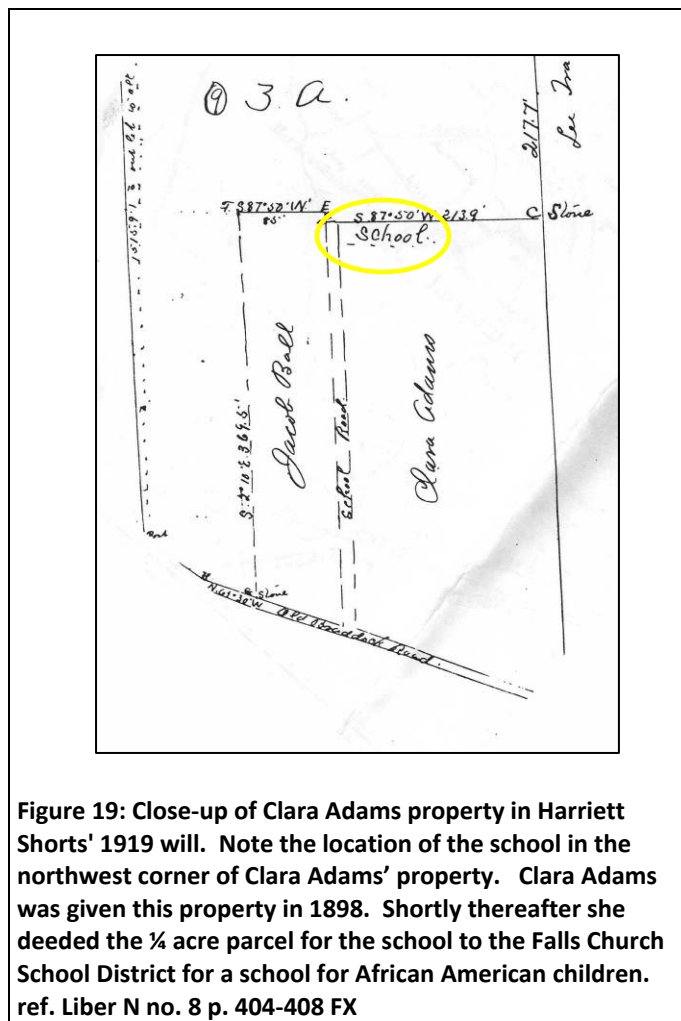
⁴³ **Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.** Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez; Alexandria Deed Book 612, page 199 shows Mr. Willis McKnight deeding the land to the City of Alexandria in 1964.

⁴⁴ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Maydell Casey Belk, Date Unknown (1990s). Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Patricia Knock; Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez; Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown.

⁴⁵ Fairfax County Deed Book C-6, P. 139; City of Alexandria Deed Book 421, p. 16

along the walkway to the house.⁴⁶ Those trees could very well be the row of cedar trees (res. no 18) that are still in the park today, identifying the entrance to the property where Clara and Robert Adams once lived and identifying the entrance to the school building.

Charles McKnight also recalls having to gather water from the well with a chain and bucket, and Sgt. Young remembers the McKnights occasionally coming up to his house to get their water, because he had indoor plumbing rather than a well served by a chain and bucket or a hand pump.⁴⁷ Willis and Rebecca McKnight deeded this land to the City of Alexandria in 1964.



⁴⁶ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown.

⁴⁷ Ibid; Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



Figure 73, left: 1927 aerial photograph showing the earliest image of the Clara Adams/ McKnight house circled in yellow. Ms. Adams would have been about age 62 at this time, and may have lived her entire life at “The Fort” until passing away in 1952 and being buried next to her husband Robert on the land she once owned.



Figure 74, right: 1937 aerial photograph showing the Clara Adams/ McKnight house, circled in yellow, with the Belk house immediately behind, and the old School Building/ St. Cyprians/ Sgt. Young house behind that, both circled in blue. It is just possible to see the row of trees along the entrance way, identified by the arrow.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

In the interview, Charles McKnight shares his recollections of his great aunt, Clara Adams, and of the layout of her house. Mr. McKnight identifies the Adams house as one of a group of three houses: the old Church/Sgt. Young's house, Maybell Belk's house, and Clara Adams' house being the third and closest house to the road. Mr. McKnight also recalls how his father, Willis Robert McKnight, came to be living in the house owned by Clara Adams, Willis Robert's aunt. He recalls the layout of the house as follows:

“Facing Braddock Road. And as you entered, you entered like a hall and on the left was a stairway going up to two rooms upstairs. On the right was what you considered her living room.... Still downstairs. Straight to the back was a kitchen, and then when after uh, Clara Adams took my father in, because he lost his old home place. I guess [unintelligible] deed or the property tax [unintelligible], and anyway, we moved into Clara's house and... .. therefore, during that time, my father had what they considered like a lean-to room put on what became the kitchen, so therefore we had the dining room, and so that gave us three rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. She had her bedroom and in the back of the house, was just one large room, say about a room this size. So we had two rooms upstairs, her bedroom at that time, and the large room in the back, the one room downstairs which was the living room, and at that time the kitchen and the dining room [unintelligible] until such time we put the new kitchen on...”

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009.

Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

Sgt. Young identifies the same three houses, and the same order, and recalls that Clara Adams willed the house to the McKnights.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Maydell Casey Belk, Date Unknown (1990s). Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Patricia Knock

In the interview, Maydell Casey Belk identifies the same three houses in order: Sgt. Young in the converted church, her house (the Belk house), and Clara Adams' house close to the road. Also states that the McKnight family lived in the house as well.

Alexandria Deed Book 612 p. 199.

Willis McKnight and Rebecca McKnight deed the land to the City of Alexandria in 1964.

Written Description of Resource at Present

The area that was once occupied by the Clara Adams and McKnight Family still retains much of its pastoral setting, though any above-ground reminders of the house have long since been removed. There are several picnic tables and a small picnic pavilion sitting in the vicinity of the house site, as well as several shade trees. The house site is currently approximately 100 feet from Braddock Road.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure75: Image of Clara Adams/ McKnight Family house site, with row of cedar trees in foreground, looking northeast.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

There is no above ground evidence of the Clara Adams/ McKnight Family house itself. What may remain of the house is likely to be in the form of a buried foundation, foundation piers, other structural elements and artifacts associated with the families. Additional outlying features may also be present. If those resources are present, they have great potential to help tell the story of Clara Adams and the families that lived at the Fort. The oral history of Mr. McKnight that gives evidence of Robert Adams planting trees along the entrance to the house is very helpful, because it helps to explain how a specific person associated with the era of significance altered the landscape to create what is visible in the Park today. The relationship between the school access road (res. no. 20), the row of cedars (res. no. 18), any building foundation elements that remain, and the graves of Clara and Robert Adams (see res. no. 2 and 5) remains very strong. Through these elements, we can begin to understand the story of the people who lived on the land, helped to create a school and a church, planted trees, and were buried all within sight of Fort Ward. At present there is a small area that appears to be very close to the home site that is covered in stone pavers. Although this is not an interpretive effort and is not large enough to cover a house foundation, part of the foundation may actually be underneath the pavers.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

Because whatever remains of the Clara Adams/ McKnight house is underground, surface activities will not likely cause damage to the resources. Activities that disturb the soil may, however, cause damage to the resources, if archaeology is not conducted first to identify the location of foundation materials. The biggest threat to the resources comes from not knowing their precise location, and thus, not being able to plan accordingly.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Precise measurements should be made to place this house feature on a contemporary map and to indicate its presence in the field. It is possible to mark the location by map prior to archaeological study for public interpretation, and to prepare signage.

Archaeological investigation will provide the city with more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help interpret the site for Park users. The Clara Adams/ McKnight Family House site is one of the more significant sites in Fort Ward Park for telling the story of Clara Adams and the other community members who lived in the Fort community. Interpretive efforts could easily tie in with neighboring home sites, the school access road (res. no. 20), the row of cedar trees (res. no 18), the site of the school for African American children (res. no. 11), and the sites of Clara and Robert Adams graves (see res. no. 2 and 5).

14. Ashby Home Site



Figure76: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Ashby House on this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The Ashby family has a long history at Fort Ward. Samuel Ashby purchased much of John Miller's original parcel in 1895.⁴⁸ The original 1883 Miller survey is shown below (fig. 54). The 1994 interview with Barbara Ashby Gordon and her cousin Dorothy Hall Smith provides a great deal of insight into the lives of the Ashby family and the appearance of their house. Both Ms. Ashby Gordon and Ms. Hall Smith describe the Ashby house as standing out somewhat from other houses in its appearance.⁴⁹ The photos below (figs. 56 and 57) show the Ashby house both before and after a major renovation.

Ms. Hall Smith recalls the Ashbys as being somewhat better off than other families, but also sharing what they had with others in the community, loaning equipment, and feeding people. Ms. Ashby Gordon recalls her grandfather driving a Model T Ford, working as an elevator operator in the Washington Monument, and maintaining a place in Washington, D.C. that was always open to "stray cousins and nephews" in need of a meal.⁵⁰

There was a great deal of food production at the Ashby house. String beans, squash, sweet potatoes, corn, apples, peaches, pears and grapes were all grown by the Ashbys at Fort Ward.⁵¹ Much of what was produced was canned and stored in an underground storage space that was later turned into a bomb shelter during World War II.⁵² Ms.

⁴⁸Fairfax County Deed Book D no. 6, p. 267

⁴⁹ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Dorothy Hall Smith and Barbara Ashby Gordon. May 25, 1994. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Eleanor White and Valerie Davison.

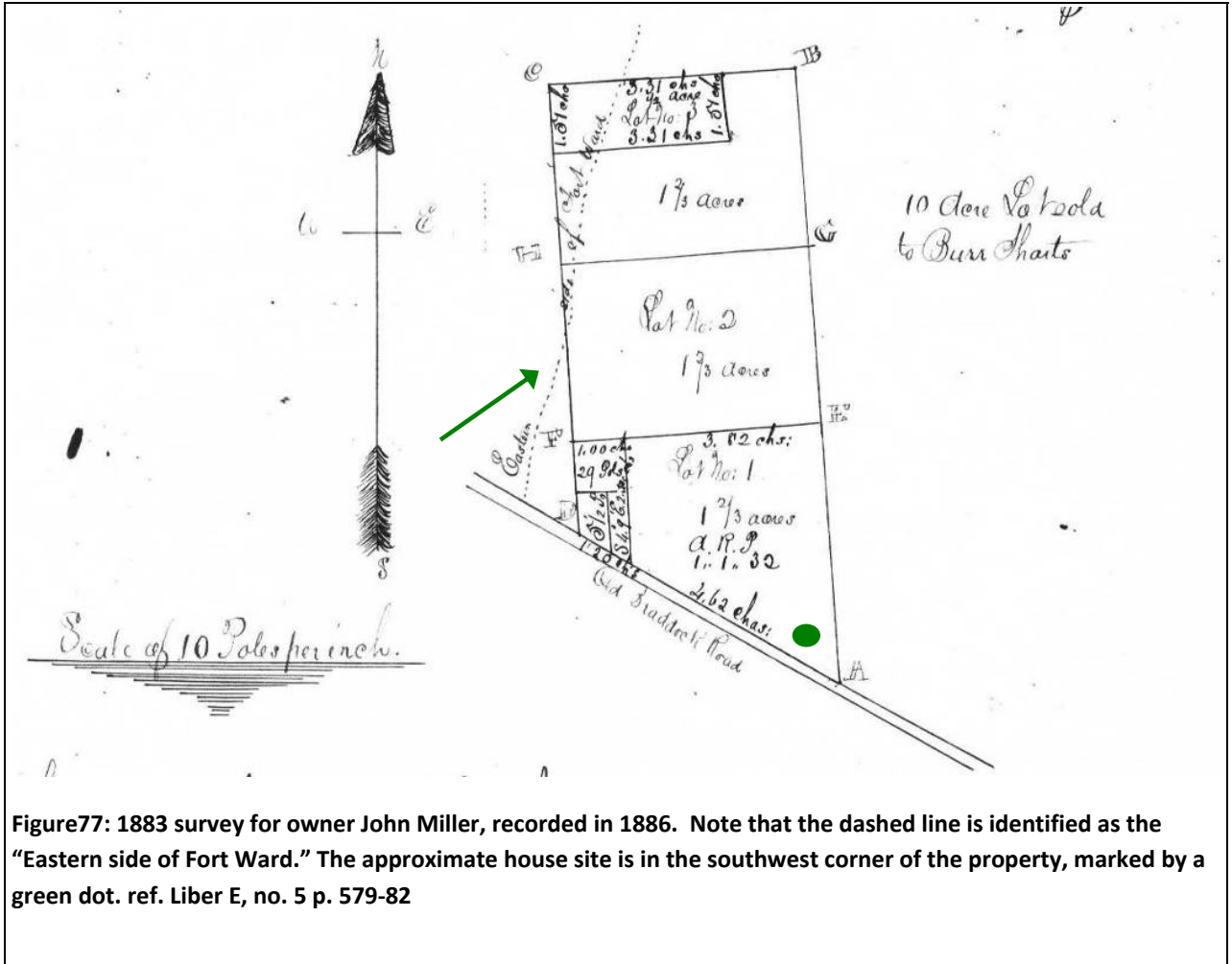
⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

Ashby Gordon recalls her grandfather, John Ashby, raising between 10 to 30 hogs, with the slaughtering process being a neighborhood affair lasting two or three days.⁵³

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



⁵³ Ibid.



Figure 78: Side view of Ashby house.

John L. Ashby left; Barbara Ashby Gordon right



Figure 79: Ashby House before renovation



Figure80: Ashby house after extensive renovation c. 1955



Figure81: Ashby house in 1949 City of Alexandria Aerial Photo

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Dorothy Hall Smith and Barbara Ashby Gordon. May 25, 1994. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Eleanor White and Valerie Davison.

In this interview, Barbara Ashby Gordon gives a very detailed description of what she calls her grandfather's house, and later the Ashby house:

"...had a front porch. Steps on the porch... Oh, six. No more than eight... the front porch was across the whole front of the house... Then you open up the front door and you go in and... We're standing in the hall... The hall goes straight back to the kitchen... You come to the back door at the kitchen and then the back porch and then the back door... To the right are steps going upstairs... the door is to the right of the houses... We go in a little three or four steps to your left, a huge sitting room.... It's open to the hall...where the children were not allowed, in this sitting room...there's: A sofa, old furniture, I think like an old phonograph. Old pieces... A wind-up phonograph, Pictures on the walls, Photographs... You couldn't even walk in it. And...you walk into, there was an opening from the dining room—... I mean from the sitting room, to the dining room... you could walk through to the kitchen and go in the dining room... the kitchen was right in the middle of the house...(to the right side) That would be the wall. And then the dining room you could go through the kitchen to the dining room, and that's a huge room, and that had a big ornate furniture in it, china closet, chandelier, and everything, but you were allowed in there... Huge back porch the length of the house. The width of the house... Open. Screened... I can't remember what furniture was on the back porch. I know there was a big huge tub where you took your baths on Saturday night in a tin tub on the back porch... And in the dining room there was a pot-bellied stove... and we also had a pot-bellied stove upstairs...went up the steps, which were narrow, wooden banisters kind of curved... at the top of the steps. A bedroom to the right...steps are on

the east wall of the house. There's 3 bedrooms upstairs... It was—there was two bedrooms and then they took part of the largest one when we got indoor plumbing and made a bathroom out of it...bedroom to the left of the stairs was were grandparents slept... The half bedrooms had front windows, and the side bedrooms had five windows... Then you could go up in the attic... I don't remember anything being up there. Just a big, empty room... We could go up there and play... Yes. Just a big, empty room, the full area of the house, the whole house... Then you would come out of the house, around to the side...out the front or back door... **And Daddy had a cellar... East side.** You could not go to the cellar from inside the house. You had to go out, and go in the cellar. That was the area where he stored all of his tools—the lawn mower and whatever—... You went down steps to get to it."

At a different point in the interview, Barbara recalls the family digging and using a deep hole in the ground for cold storage, and then turning that cold storage space into a bomb shelter during World War II (probably because of Alexandria's proximity to Washington D.C.).

Written Description of Resource at Present

The location of the Ashby house is difficult to pinpoint, in part because Fort Ward's major access road shifted during the creation of the Park. The eastern boundary of the Ashby property was originally the shared access road that went along the western edge of the Burr and Harriet Shorts property, and dates back to at least the Civil War. Aerial Photographs from the 1927 to 1949 show the location of a large house just to the west of the access road, facing Braddock Road. This house appears to have a hipped roof, which matches the later photos of the Ashby house after its renovation. Based on this, the location of the house would now be to the east of the access road that runs through the park, in the northeastern corner of the first parking lot on the right.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Ashby House is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. What remains of the house may exist under ground and will likely be the cellar, foundation elements or other structural features such as a chimney base. The

underground cold storage space that was turned into a bomb shelter may be identified archaeologically. If these features are present, they may very well have maintained their historic integrity and spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements. Given the number of Ashby activities, areas and artifacts may also be able to be identified.

While the house itself is no longer available to tell the story of the Fort, the preservation of the area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that provide context for the below ground elements, should they be present. The continued presence in the landscape of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence of Braddock Road (although Braddock Road has been widened and moved closer to the Ashby Home), the location of the nearby cemetery and grave sites, the line of cedar trees and other domestic features that were present when the house was occupied. All of these features combine to maintain the historic setting, feeling and associations that give the landscape its historic integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, possibly under a parking lot, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape involving significant earth moving in or near the parking lot. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability to make informed decisions about how the site can be used and interpreted.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation would provide more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If an excavation is conducted, and building elements are found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers to help interpret the site for Park users. Additional historical

research is needed to identify the people who lived in the household, when the house was constructed, as well as to learn about the earlier Miller family period of occupancy. Research is also needed on the Ashby's use of the area, occupations, community activities, and contributions and memberships in various social and religious organizations. More oral history can help delineate the activities and personalities of family members.

15. Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall House



Figure82: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall Home site in this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall Home played a central role in the lives of several families and individuals at Fort Ward, and it may have been the first African American home on The Fort. This first house was built by Burr and Harriet Shorts on what is believed to have been the first purchase of land at Fort Ward by an African American, the 10 acre parcel purchased by Burr shorts in 1879.⁵⁴ However, the house may date to at least 1870, since the Shorts were living somewhere near here according to the U.S. Census of that year. Ten people were living in the Shorts household in 1870, including seven children: Clara Shorts (age 5), John Shadnick (6 mo.) Florence, Kittie, Marion and Robert McKnight, One other child (Mary B), and one other adult (Lavonia Peekins). An 1894 Hopkins map (see fig. 61) identifies “B. Shorts” and the house, located to the east of a path going north from Braddock Rd. Upon his death, the property was passed to Burr’s wife Harriet McKnight Shorts in 1898. While living here, Harriet Shorts helped to found the Oakland Baptist Church with her daughter, Clara Adams, and seven other community members. In her will executed twenty one years later, Harriet Shorts stated her desire that “...the executors [are] to give unto my daughter, Kate Stuart, the house I am living in, with one acre of land.”⁵⁵ Figure 61 below illustrates how the land was divided among the other heirs, and the one acre lot (lot 3), is the house and parcel that was deeded to Ms. Stuart. The house is visible in the City of Alexandria’s 1927 aerial photo (see fig. 62), and several subsequent aerial photos (figs. 63, 64).

Oral history indicates that the Stuarts were still living in the house years later. In the 1992 interview with Charles McKnight, he remembers that two Stuarts, Dan and his

⁵⁴ Fairfax County Deed Book E-5 p. 578-579

⁵⁵ Fairfax County Deed Book V-8 p. 404-408.

father, lived in the house that was before the Javins house heading back on the access road.⁵⁶ Mr. McKnight also recalls that there was a spring on the Stuarts land.⁵⁷

The Randall Family also is associated with this house. Family history indicates that Barbara and Earl Anthony Randall are standing in the doorway of the Randall house in fig. 65, below.⁵⁸ In addition, Clara Adams may be standing in front of the Shorts house in figure 1, as Mary Crozet Wood Johnson has suggested might be the case when making this image available for study.⁵⁹ Sgt. Lee Thomas Young remembers Jessie Randall “a hell of a good neighbor” and as having an orchard of pear and apple trees while living in the house.⁶⁰ The Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall House is believed to have burned down before the City bought the land for Fort Ward Park.⁶¹

More research is needed to chronicle the Shorts family’s extended tenure here. Particularly important to know is where Burr Shorts and Harriet McKnight Shorts were born, and when they arrived at Fort Ward. Harriet was earlier married to Willis McKnight and was the mother to several McKnight Children mentioned above. However, it is possible that she was not the biological mother to all these children, since Maria McKnight Blackburn’s death certificate identifies Maria McKnight as mother and Willis as father. All the McKnight children studied to date note that Fauquier County was their birthplace. There is some evidence that Burr Shorts may have come from Charlottesville.⁶² Burr and Harriet Shorts had several additional children. Clara, only 5

⁵⁶ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992. Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Adrienne Smith Washington. “The Fort: Snapshots of an African American Neighborhood” Unpublished list of captions accompanying family photographs, submitted to Alexandria Archaeology, 2009.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

⁶¹ Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 7, 2009. Interviewer: Pam Cressey. Transcriber: Gabby Faundez

⁶² Personal communication, Dave Cavanaugh.

years old in 1870 may have been born on the property and after marrying Robert Adams, lived 87 years at the Fort until 1952 (see res. no. 2).

Although more research is needed about all the Shorts and McKnights, the 1870 Census does provide a great deal of information. Burr, age 36, worked as a farmhand while Harriet was keeping house and was 44 years old. Lavonia Peekins was 24 years old with 3 year old Mary and worked as a washer woman. She is probably Harriet's daughter by Willis McKnight. Lavonia married John A. Miller, who was one of the original Fort property owners in the next decade. Several of the children worked as "domestic servants" and farm hands, although only 12, 13 and 21. Two other McKnight children, Bernice (age 25) and Samuel (age 18), lived in the Cassius Lee household to the east, and were working as a domestic servant and a farm hand. Another relative, perhaps, Lucy Shorts (age 26) lived in a separate household nearby and was also a domestic servant. This extended family was the only one noted by the 1870 census taken and appears to be the oldest African American family associated with the founding and development of the Fort.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

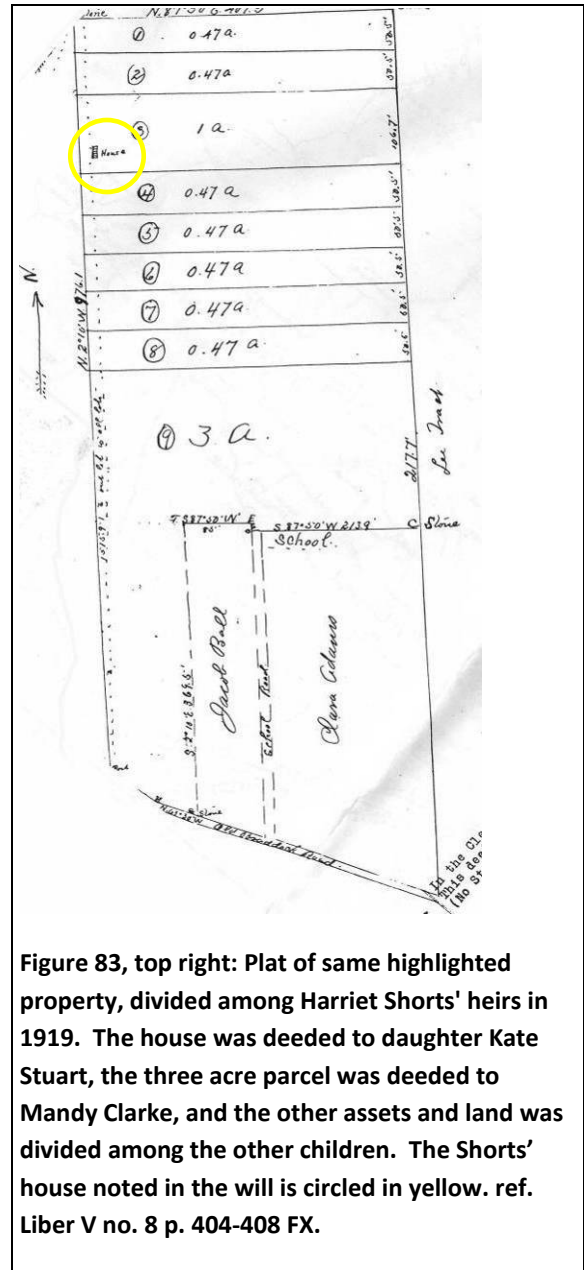
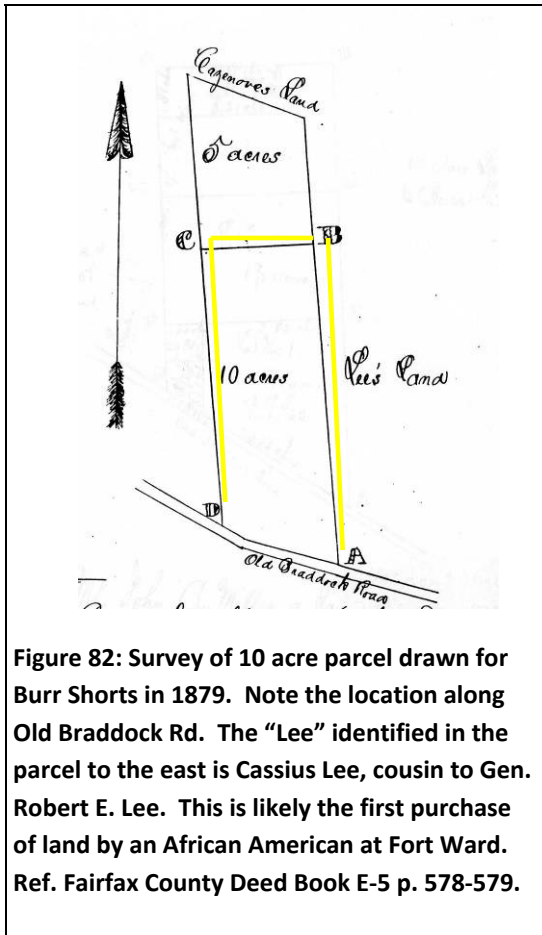




Figure84: 1894 Hopkins Insurance Co. map of Fort neighborhood. Note the house of B. Shorts, circled in yellow, to the right of the dashed-line path.



Figure 85: 1927 aerial photo showing a structure in the same location as the house identified in the 1919 plat. The star shaped feature to the west is Fort Ward.

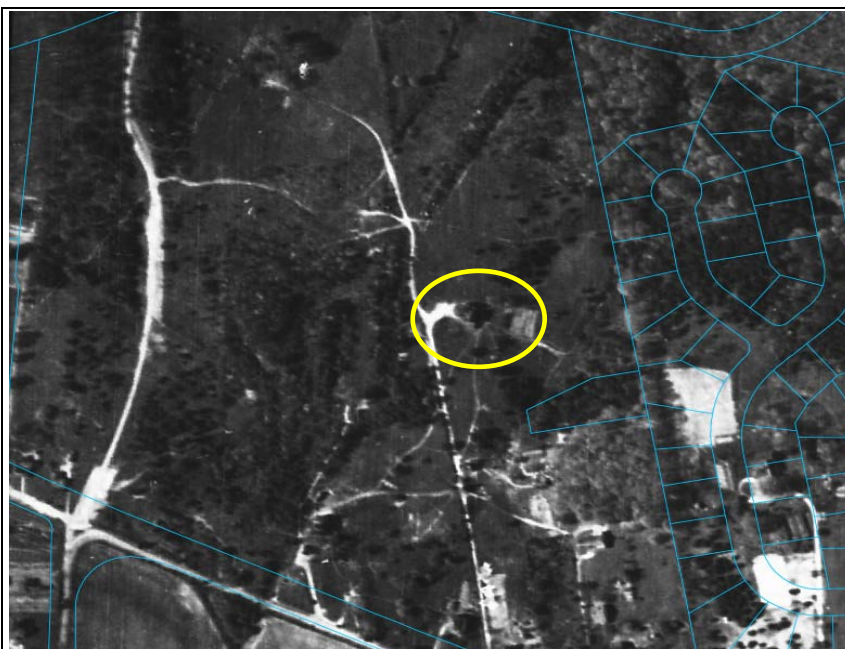


Figure86: 1937 aerial photo appearing to show a structure and a cleared garden on the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall property



Figure87: 1949 Aerial photo showing the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall property



Figure88: Barbara and Earl Anthony Randall in front of Shorts/Stuart/Randall house. Note the shed/ partial porch, an element described in the Sgt. Young interview below.
Photo courtesy of Adrienne Washington

Alexandria Legacies Project - Interview with Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, November 19, 1996. Interviewer: Patricia Knock, Transcriber: Jo-Ann Lafon

Sgt. Young recalls the Randalls living in an older style house, with a shed or lean-to structure that had been added on in order to provide additional living space:

“The Randalls was in this area—right in here... That was an older looking house. You might have that on—... Because it looked old. And was close to the ground, you know? They didn’t have basements too much back in those days if it was built kind of cheap that way... It did have a shed seems like—a shed and like a partial porch... It was a good-size family. And the house was a good size because they had a shed like. You know, house and then you know, an extra little—... Added on, uh huh... Yeah, the same old

road. That was the entrance to the property here. Uh huh. That's probably the road there; they just re-did it I think. Yeah, that's the road, uh huh."

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

Mr. McKnight recalls that heading down the drive that ran through the Fort property, the Stewarts came after the stream, and that the Javins house was farther back.

Identifies a spring as being behind the Stewart house.

"Other than the Stewart residence that was somewhere in that general area... I would say to the left of the creek... That could very well be. Was there anything under that shows there was a spring? I know of the spring, because Dan Stewart's residence had the spring, and they had no well."

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis

In this interview, Ms. Smith McKnight identifies the Stewarts' "old home" as being the farthest back, and then identifies the Javins family as being in back of the Stewarts.

Identifies a spring behind the Stewarts' house.

"...We had the spring... Well, everybody needs a spring but we went right down between this house here [Pointing at map] and then right down between here, was the lane. This is the highway, looks like this is highway, and between here there was the lane. And we went down a little street, I guess you could call it a road. It was dirt. We went on down in there and we lived and played down in there... [Interviewer: ... but the spring was farther down the road?] Oh yes. It was down in back of us, back of the Stewart's old home. You have any place you call the Stewart's?"

Written Description of Resource at Present

The site of the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall house today is simply a grassy meadow east of the park access road and north of the road leading to the maintenance yard. There are several trees near by, but the house site itself is clear. Fort Ward is visible on the other side of the access road, looking west.

Photographic Documentation of Existing Conditions



Figure 89: Approximate location of the Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall House, looking west from park access road

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Shorts/ Stuart/ Randall House is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. What remains of the house will exist underground and will likely consist of foundation elements or other structural features such as a chimney base. If these features are present, they may very well have maintained their historic integrity and spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements. It is important to remember that because this was a home and the site of many related activities, the larger area surrounding the house should be understood to be part of the home site as well. This larger area may contain other resources, such as wells, privies, garden areas and other reflections of domestic life.

Given that this house site is very likely home to the first African American land owners at The Fort, and that it played such a vital role in the establishment of the community, it should be recognized as a site of major historical significance. While the above ground elements of the house are no longer available to tell the story of the Fort, the preservation of the area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that help to provide context for the foundation elements, should they be present. The continued presence in the landscape of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence of the park access road, much of which is in the same location as it was when it marked the Shorts' property line. The spring mentioned by Charles McKnight should also be able to be identified. These and other features combine to maintain the historic setting, feeling and associations within the park that give the landscape its historic integrity. The rural land to the west of the creek (or ravine) helps to maintain the rural quality that can be seen on the 1927 aerial photo. Since Burr Shorts was a farmer in the 19th Century, agricultural activity areas and outbuildings may also be found.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape, or the installation of park infrastructure in the vicinity of the house site. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability to make informed decisions about how the site can be used.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation can provide more details about the house site and the larger Shorts home site. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ,

and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help interpret the site for Park users. This is one of the most significant buildings within the park in terms of telling the story of the African American community at the Fort, and if building remnants are found to exist, they will present a unique opportunity for interpretation. Such interpretation might include different forms of reconstruction and living history. Active recreational uses should be avoided in this area. Additional historical research is needed to identify the people who lived in the household, and when the house was constructed. Research is also needed on the Shorts, McKnights and Stuarts use of the area, their occupations, community activities, and contributions and memberships in various social and religious organizations. More oral history can help delineate the activities and personalities of family members.

16. Belk Home Site



Figure90: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Belk House in this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

Several of the oral histories regarding the mid 20th century in this part of the park identify the Belk house, usually in the same context as the Lee Thomas Young house and the Clara Adams/ McKnight family house. The house was served by the same access road that led back to the old school building/ St. Cyprians/ Sgt. Young house. It was located in between that building and the Clara Adams house.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



Figure91: Close up image of the southeast corner of Fort Ward Park in 1964. The Belk House is identified with the yellow arrow.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Maydell Casey Belk, Date: Mid-1990s.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Patricia Knock

In this interview, Mrs. Belk describes the house in which she lived in the 1950s. She describes her house as being located between the McKnight/ Clara Adams house and the schoolhouse that was turned into a residence. She also describes a large yard, and that the side of the yard that had the best grass was reserved by her grandfather for playing croquet with his friends. The children usually used the other side of the yard.

Ms. Belk also describes her and her mother's experience with the steps taken by the city to acquire land for the park.

"...Yeah. It was right up from the graveyard. It was up from the graveyard, it was their house that they turned over from the school, and then the house that I lived in was the middle, and Clara Adams' house was in the front.... Everybody looked out for everybody. We didn't have to pay for no babysitter. You would just sit for each other... If the parents say, 'Don't leave the yard, you don't leave the yard.' And, when our family owned, we had a large yard and most of the...like my grandfather and all his friends, they would play croquet everyday. So on one side of the house was the good grass, and you couldn't get on that side because...

Wanted the land for the park and my mother –she was forty, and she didn't want to sell hers. That's when the City told her that if she didn't sell it she would lose out because they were going to condemn the houses because they didn't have any bathrooms, no running water and stuff, so that is when she gave in, and that's when...they told her to see if anybody had a purpose for a house down here. Anybody that sold the land up at Ford Ward, they put the name of the list down here for a house. So my mother already had her house, so she put her name down and that's how I got it here, through my mother. Anybody that sold these houses –anybody that lived in these houses right here had land. That's how they got the houses. Yep –all that was land, and we had homes on it, and we didn't have the running water on the inside. The City was going to cut down on all this too, if they didn't sell. So they finally got T.C. Williams High School and 29 homes. So, everybody that in this section of the 29 homes had lived around in this area."

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

Mr. McKnight identifies the Adams' house as one of a group of three houses: the old Church/Sgt. Young's house, Maybell Belk's house, and Clara Adams' house being the third and closest house to the road.

Written Description of Resource at Present

There are no visible remnants of the Belk house, and the site itself is now largely occupied by the southwest corner of the maintenance yard.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Belk Home is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. What remains of the house will exist underground and will likely consist of foundation elements or other structural features such as a chimney base. If these features are

present, they may very well have maintained their historic integrity and spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements. Given that this was a home site, not simply a house, the larger area surrounding the house should be understood as part of the home site. This larger area may contain other resources, such as wells, privies, garden areas and other reflections of domestic life.

While the above ground elements of the house are no longer available to tell the story of the Fort, the preservation of the area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that help to provide context for the foundation elements, should they be present. The continued presence in the landscape of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence of Braddock Road, the line of cedar trees marking out the route of access to the house site, and other domestic features that were present when the house was occupied. All of these features combine to maintain the historic setting, feeling and associations that give the landscape its historic integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape, or new installation of park infrastructure or plantings. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability to make informed decisions about how the site can be used.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation may provide the City with more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help

interpret the site for Park users. Little is known about this property, and substantial research is needed to understand the family, the age of the house, and its significance. The removal of the maintenance yard fence and signage can increase public knowledge and relate the Belk Home site to its neighboring and associated resources.

17. Javins House



Figure92: The yellow outline marks the approximate location of the Javins House in this contemporary aerial photo.

Description of Original Purpose, Use, and Form

The Javins name can be associated with many of the major stories and events that define the Fort Ward community. One of the earliest headstones in the area to the south of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, in the area known as the “Old Grave Yard (res. no. 1) belongs to W.E. Javins, who lived from June 15, 1878-February 27, 1907 (see fig. 4). In 1894, Samuel Javins purchased 2 ½ acres of land at the north end of what is now Fort Ward Park.⁶³ Several years later, Samuel Javins’ wife, Florence, received .47 acres of land following the death of her mother, Harriet Shorts.⁶⁴ In 1939, Samuel Javins deeded that land to the Oakland Baptist Church, although the property had already been affiliated with the church for some time (see res. no. 1).

Oral histories and documentary sources continually put the Javins family at the end of the access road that entered the area from Braddock Rd. in the 1930 deed in which Amanda Clarke divides some of her property, the access road is described as “...the general outlet road for the use of all abutting properties running from the Javins property into said Old Braddock Road...”⁶⁵ In his description of the Fort neighborhood, Mr. Charles McKnight remembers the Javins house as being “farther down” past where the Stewarts lived.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.
Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

⁶³ Fairfax County Deed Book R-5 p. 413-4.

⁶⁴ Fairfax County Deed Book N, no. 8 p. 404-8

⁶⁵ Fairfax County Deed Book V no. 10, Page 142

In this interview, Charles McKnight describes the Javins family as being the farthest down the road that led through the Fort, after the Stewart family.

““Let me make this clear here—this driveway here that was all the way back, I don’t know how far it goes, but there was a small house—it may not have been there, uh, when these houses were standing—the one where my wife’s people live—there was a house where the Stewarts, Dan Stewart and his father, lived there, and on down was another house farther down where the Javinses lived.”

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight, June 2, 1994.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: Wendy Miervaldis

In this interview, Ms. Smith McKnight identifies the Javins family as living down past the Stewarts, as being the last house goint to the back of the Fort.

“[Interviewer asks about the well used by Ms. McKnight...] Oh yes. It was down in back of us, back of the Stewart's old home. You have any place you call the Stewart's? [Interviewer: Was the Stewart's the house that was the furthest back?] ...Yes. And there was a Javens. You hear anything about the Javens?”



Figure93: 1927 City of Alexandria Aerial map with the Javins house circled in yellow.

Written Description of Resource at Present

The Javins house site is just north of the circular road that passes through the park. The image above (fig. 69), shows the Javins house and a segment of the old access road that was later paved and turned into the park's main thoroughfare. Because the house site was so close to the road, part of the site may have been paved over during the creation of the park. Just north of the paved drive, however, is mostly grass with a few trees.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The Javins Home is no longer a standing, visible feature of the Fort Ward Park landscape. What remains of the house will exist underground and will likely consist of foundation elements or other structural features such as a chimney base. If these features are present, they may very well have maintained their historic integrity and spatial relationships with the surrounding landscape elements. Given that this was a home site, not simply a house, the larger area surrounding the house should be understood as part of the home site. This larger area may contain other resources, such as wells, privies, garden areas and other reflections of domestic life.

While the above ground elements of the house are no longer available to tell the story of the Fort, the preservation of the area as a park has helped to maintain certain historic landscape features that help to provide context for the foundation elements, should they be present. . The continued presence in the landscape of Fort Ward helps to maintain the house site's historic setting, as does the presence and use of the park's main access road. While the location of the access road's point of entry on to Braddock Road changed to reflect the park's needs, the upper segment still appears to follow the path that was a part of the Fort community since the very beginning (see fig. 20). These features are among those that were present when the house was occupied and all of

these features combine to maintain the historic setting, feeling and associations that give the landscape its historic integrity.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

As the house itself has already been destroyed, and what may remain is buried underground, the most significant threats to the house site would be radical alterations of the park's landscape, or new installation of park infrastructure or plantings. As with other sites within the park, the lack of knowledge about the exact nature, extent and condition of the resource presents a threat to site integrity because it hampers the ability to make informed decisions about how the site can be used.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Archaeological investigation may provide the City with more details about the house site as a cultural resource. If found, the house foundation elements may be left in situ, and identified on the park's surface with appropriate markers or stones in order to help interpret the site for Park users. Little is known about this property, and substantial research is needed to understand the family, the age of the house, and its significance. The removal of the maintenance yard fence and signage can increase public knowledge and relate the Javins Home site to its neighboring and associated resources.

18. Line of Cedars



Figure 94: The yellow outline marks the location of the row of cedar trees believed to have been planted by Robert Adams

Description of Original Purpose, Use and Form

At some point between 1927 and 1937, a row of trees was planted along the access road that led to the old school building/ St. Cyprians Church. The school building had been built on the ¼ acre parcel sold by Clara Adams to the Falls Church School Board for the purpose of educating African American children in the area in 1898. The school building was turned into St. Cyprian's church in 1926. In his 1992 interview, Charles McKnight, the former Fort resident and Secretary of St. Cyprian's church, remembers Clara Adams' husband, Robert Adams, planting a row of trees "...straight down the walkway." The row of trees first appears along the access road to the former school building in the city's aerial photographs in 1937. Four old cedar trees still stand in a straight line following the path that led to the school building/ Church. When standing at the edge of Braddock Road today and looking into the park along the line of trees it is still possible to see the remains of the school access road that once led to the school building.

Historic Photographs, Drawings, maps, oral hist. excerpts



Figure 95: 1937 Aerial photo showing the row of trees that is believed to have been planted by Robert Adams. The dots along the school access road appear to be in the same position as the cedar trees in the park today, illustrated in figure 94.

Alexandria Legacies Project: Interview with Charles McKnight, March 28, 1992.

Interviewer: Patricia Knock. Transcriber: unknown

“Beautiful, beautiful. It was really a picture. Her husband, Bob Adams, planted trees straight down the walkway. And those, Clara Adams and people would come out there, even families in later years would come from Washington, D.C., out there to have picnics and just to sit out there...”

Written Description of Resource at Present

The row of cedars is one of the few above ground, non-grave resources that remains in the park from the era of African American community at the Fort. The experience of being able to look down the row of cedars and still see the path that led to the school, constructed in the 1890s for the neighborhood's African American children is one of the most vivid experiences the Park offers to help explain the goals and aspirations of the community members living on this land in an earlier era of American history.

Current Photographs



Figure 96: Current view along the former school access road. The row of cedar trees is visible on the right.

Evaluation of Integrity of Resource

The row of cedar trees retains a high level of historic integrity. They clearly have not been moved, and the fact that the access road that they were planted to line is still visible makes their integrity that much stronger. Like other landscape elements in the park, the integrity of the row of cedar trees stems from its ability to tell the story associated with the era of significance, in this case the African American community at the fort. With the exception of the fort itself, this combination of landscape features may be the most significant above ground resources in Fort Ward Park for the purpose of communicating fundamental ideas about life at The Fort.

Threats to Integrity of Resource

Like all living things, the trees themselves are not permanent landscape features and they will eventually die. This is an obvious eventuality, but actions of park visitors can hasten the demise of the trees if they are not careful. Vandalism is a threat to the trees if their bark is cut or carved. Park maintenance, particularly around the base of the trees, can be hazardous if care is not taken to avoid damaging the bark with string trimmers or lawn mowers. And the possibility of someone planting new landscaping or new park facilities within the old access road that leads back to the former school site is also a threat to the experience offered by the line of cedars.

Recommended Treatment of Resource

Future park facilities planning should make sure that no new features block the sight line along the row of cedar trees. Landscape maintenance procedures should be reviewed to make sure that they do not introduce the potential for harming the trees. Some type of interpretive programming should direct visitors to look down the line of

trees and see the access road that leads to the former school site, without creating a new visual distraction within the field of view. Future interpretation might invite visitors to walk down the old access road and stop at the school site for additional interpretive information.

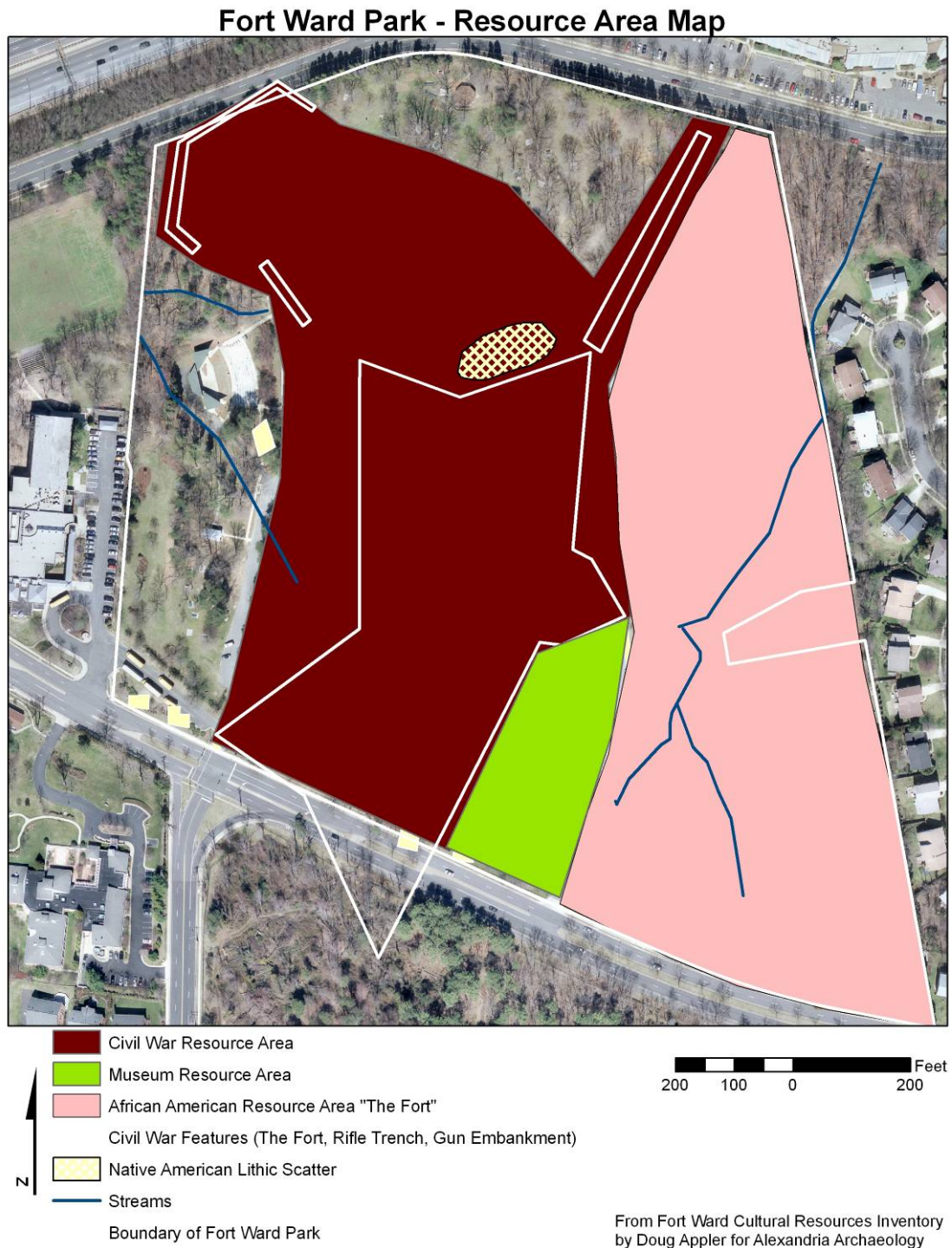


Figure 94

Appendices

Appendix 1: General Information

- a. Map of City identifying Fort Ward
- b. Current aerial photo of Fort Ward Park
- c. National Register Nomination
- d. Timeline of activities and major events at Fort Ward Park
- e. Current map of recreational facilities and designated spaces in Park
- f. Map of trees planted as part of Arboretum
- g. Matrix of Fort Ward Park Issues and Priorities Identified by Community and presented in March 18th, 2009 public meeting

Appendix 2: Fort Ward

- a. Historic Plans of Fort
- b. Civil War maps showing fort in relation to other forts in system
- c. Other items as Fort Ward Museum identifies and provides

Appendix 3: African American Settlement

- a. Chains of title for fort properties (as available)
- b. Maps showing major property ownership events – Burr Shorts subdivision, parcel subdivision for Jackson, Javins, Miller, McNight etc... Clara Adams gift of school property, scans of property deeds etc...
- c. Maps and Aerial Photos
- d. Kinship Charts
- e. Oral Histories of Community Members
- f. Family Photos, Photos of Houses and Buildings
- g. Documentation related to Oakland Baptist Church and Cemetery if available

Appendix 4: Fort Ward Park

- a. Copies of City Resolutions Creating Park
- b. Family reunion/ gathering stories and newspaper clippings
- c. Programs of events held at park
- d. Photos of Park in use
- e. Other items as RPCA identifies and provides

Appendix 5: Museum

- a. Photos of early archaeology, of museum events and activities
- b. Museum collections catalog