

**DOCUMENTARY STUDY, ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FACULTY HOUSING,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**



JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES, INC.

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ABSTRACT

Cole and Denny, Inc., retained John Milner Associates, Inc., (JMA) to conduct documentary and archeological investigations on an approximately 3.4-acre parcel of land belonging to the Virginia Theological Seminary (Seminary). The Seminary proposes to construct two faculty residences and associated storm water detention areas within this parcel. The purpose of the investigations was to determine whether significant cultural resources were present in the areas to be disturbed by new construction. The project area is wooded with heavy underbrush, and contains over 30 years of cut tree debris, mulch, construction debris, and soils removed from other areas of the Seminary. In order for the archeological investigation to precede, Seminary groundskeepers, under the direction of JMA archeologists cleared some of the accumulated debris from the ground surface.

Fieldwork consisted of a walkover, a systematic shovel test survey, and a metal detection survey. The walkover determined that a large portion of the area to be affected by the proposed undertaking was disturbed in the past. One hundred and three shovel tests were excavated on a 30-ft. (ft.) interval grid.

A metal detection survey was undertaken and resulted in the identification of a Civil War period site (44AX173a). This approximately 60-by-230-ft. site, is situated along the north side of a private access road. The southwest end of the site will be destroyed by the construction of a storm water detention area; the central portion of the site is extensively disturbed; and the north end is within a tree retention area. The north end is also disturbed from long-term use of this area as a landscape dump.

In order to assess 44AX173a, the topsoil was mechanically stripped from the area to be disturbed by the storm water detention area. Although a small number (4) of Civil War artifacts were recovered from the subsoil, no features dating to the Civil War were found.

The Civil War site is associated with an intensive Federal occupation of the Seminary grounds and with earthworks associated with the Defenses of Washington, D.C., located west of the project area. The investigations resulted in a determination that the site is likely to have been used as a rest area, staging area, or a short-term camp. The majority of the site area lacks stratigraphic integrity because of ground disturbance caused by past Seminary activities. No features were encountered. Further investigations would not contribute significant information on the Civil War period at the Seminary or in Alexandria. Therefore, site 44AX173a is not recommended as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. No additional investigations are warranted, and the proposed construction will have no impact on significant archeological resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JMA wishes to thank David Mutsceller (Physical Plant Director, Virginia Theological Seminary) and his staff for their efforts to make this project a success. The Seminary graciously provided the equipment and manpower to clear selected portions of the project area.

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PUBLIC SUMMARY

Cole and Denny, Inc., retained John Milner Associates, Inc., (JMA) to conduct documentary and archeological investigations on an approximately 3.4-acre parcel of land belonging to the Virginia Theological Seminary (Seminary). The Seminary proposes to construct two faculty residences and associated storm water detention areas within this parcel. The purpose of the investigations was to determine whether significant cultural resources were present in the areas to be disturbed by new construction. The project area is wooded with heavy underbrush, and contains over 30 years of cut tree debris, mulch, construction debris and soils removed from other areas of the Seminary. In order for the archeological investigation to proceed, Seminary groundskeepers, under the direction of JMA archeologists cleared some of the accumulated debris from the ground surface.

JMA reviewed the history of the Seminary property to gain understanding of the types of cultural resources that might be present. The research revealed a history reaching back into the seventeenth century. The Seminary purchased a 59-acre parcel of land, which would later become the grounds of the modern Seminary, from Jonah Thompson in the early nineteenth century. The southern part of Thompson's land had been part of a land grant given to John Carr and John Simpson in 1678 (Mitchell 1977). The northern part of Thompson's land purchased by the Seminary had been part of a tract of 1,261 acres granted to Francis Awbrey in 1729 (Mitchell 1977:116). Both parcels of Thompson's land had changed owners several times before he acquired it.

The Virginia Theological Seminary was approved by the general convention of the Episcopal Church in 1817. It was established in 1823 at St. Paul's Church in Alexandria but soon moved to a house at the

corner of King and Washington Streets because of the increase in enrollment to 14 students (Booty 1995). By 1827, the need for more space dictated a move to a newly acquired 59-acre parcel located approximately three miles west of what was Old Alexandria. The first buildings were constructed on the new seminary grounds between 1827 and 1835. This land was partially cleared, had some forest and meadow, and included a brick house and outbuildings, and another house. After the Seminary purchased the land, these houses became the faculty residences (Goodwin 1923:163).



Figure 1. The Seminary settled in the “Wilderness” west of Alexandria in 1827 and soon built a classroom and dormitory building and a chapel (from Goodwin 1923).

In 1838, the Seminary purchased an additional 10-acre parcel, adjoining the south boundary of the original parcel, from Augusta Lockwood. A house may have existed on this property or was soon built on the property and was occupied by faculty (Goodwin 1923:159, 163). The following year the Seminary purchased a 100-acre parcel of land from William Alexander and his wife. This land is where the Protestant Episcopal High School was built. The southwest corner of this parcel, approximately 23 acres, was transferred from the High School to the Seminary in 1913 (Westover 1991); the project area is located on this parcel.

During the 1850s the Seminary experienced a period of steady growth. Many new buildings were constructed, in 1855 the Chapel was expanded and in 1856 St. George's Hall was built for more dormitory space. The original buildings were replaced by Aspinwall Hall, which was flanked by Meade and Bohlen Halls on the north and south, and the new fireproof library for 8,000 volumes was finished by 1860 (Booty 1995:91-96).

The Civil War had a tremendous impact on the Seminary. The Seminary's faculty was from the north and financial support came from both the north and the south (Booty 1995:87). During the 1860-1861 semester, half of the student body was from the north; these students left the Seminary to return to their homes and join the Union Army. Only one professor and seven students remained. Finances became a serious problem, and the remaining professor and students left the campus. Classes were conducted at a professor's home in Staunton, Virginia, from 1862 until 1865 when the war ended (Booty 1995:104-105).

In June 1861, the campus and buildings of the Seminary and the high school were commandeered for a hospital and campground for Northern troops. Tent camps were set up, and barracks and other buildings were erected on the Seminary grounds. Seminary buildings and professors' houses were broken into, property stolen, and a great deal of damage done (Booty 1995:110). One professor's house was converted into a bakery and the library was used as an office for the Surgeon in Command (Booty 1995:110).

The Seminary was occupied by the troops of Kearny's Division in autumn of 1861 through the winter of 1862. Other troops using the Seminary grounds included the 8th and 19th Maine, 121st Pennsylvania, 137th and 186th Pennsylvania (Jirikowic et al. 2004). The camp of the 15th New York is shown on the triangular-shaped piece of land

that the Seminary bought from Lockwood in 1838. Fort Ward is located just to the north of the Seminary, and Fort Worth is just to the south. A series of infantry trenches and field artillery positions connected the two forts. These trenches were just west of the Seminary.



Figure 2. Tents and barracks were constructed on the Seminary grounds as it was turned into a hospital at the beginning of the Civil War (Encampment of Troops at the Seminary, Strother 1866).

After the war, the Seminary needed money for restoration. Many buildings were damaged; all the fences and most of the trees were gone, cut up for firewood, and the high school buildings were unusable (Booty 1995:122-123). Slowly things improved and by 1867 conditions were almost normal. Finances improved and a new chapel was built in 1881. The faculty increased to five full-time professors by 1894.

In the twentieth century, funds were raised for capital improvements and salaries were increased. The student population increased steadily and, in the mid-twentieth century, blacks and women were admitted. There were changes in the composition of the faculty, and the student body began to have greater participation in the affairs of the Seminary. The institution adjusted to changing circumstances, yet kept the essential Episcopal traditions (Booty 1995).

The archeological investigations consisted of a walkover, a systematic shovel test survey, and a metal detection survey. The walkover determined that a large portion of

the area to be affected by the proposed new construction was disturbed in the past. Ninety-three shovel tests were excavated on a 30-ft. (ft.) interval grid. Two shovel tests contained artifacts. A shattered yellowware vessel was discovered in one shovel test, and an isolated quartz flake was found in the other. Additional testing adjacent to the two artifact locations did not find more artifacts.

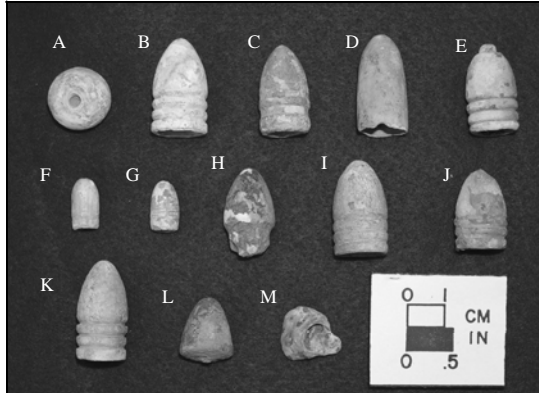


Figure 3. Range of Civil War ammunition from Site 44AX173a: (A) pulled .69 caliber round ball [MD 21/1]; (B) .58 caliber minié ball [MD 30/1]; (C) .52 caliber Sharps carbine [MD 1/2]; (D) Pressed and turned .54 caliber, no grooves, six-spoke conical base [MD 8/1]; (E) .58 caliber minié ball [MD 23/2]; (F) .31 caliber pistol [MD 5/1]; (G) .31 caliber pistol [MD 2/2]; (H) carved .58 caliber minié ball [MD 3/1]; (I) .58 caliber minié ball [MD 16/1]; (J) .54 caliber Burnside carbine [MD 28/1]; (K) .54 caliber minié ball [MD 27/1]; (L) carved .58 caliber [MD 14/1]; and (M) possible minié ball base [MD 11/1].

A metal detection survey was undertaken across the entire project area. The majority of the metal detector hits were late twentieth-century debris including fence wire, aluminum cans, and pop-tops, and bottle caps. These artifacts were not retained. Three isolated historic artifacts, a horseshoe for a draft horse, a door hinge, and a rain gutter support were found in the west end of the project area. Metal detection adjacent to the where artifacts were found in shovel tests did not encounter any artifacts.

The metal detection survey resulted in the identification of a Civil War period site (44AX173a). This, approximately 60-by-

230-ft. site, is situated along the north side of a private access road. Metal detector hits revealed 16 bullets, 2 buttons, 3 pieces of melted lead, and a possible gun part from the Civil War.

The southwest end of the site will be destroyed by the construction of a storm water detention area; the central portion of the site is extensively disturbed; and the north end is within a tree retention area.

In order to investigate the portion of 44AX173a to be disturbed by the construction of the storm water detention area, the topsoil was mechanically stripped from the area. Although a small number (4) of Civil War artifacts were recovered from the subsoil, no features dating to the Civil War were found. Six modern planting features were uncovered.

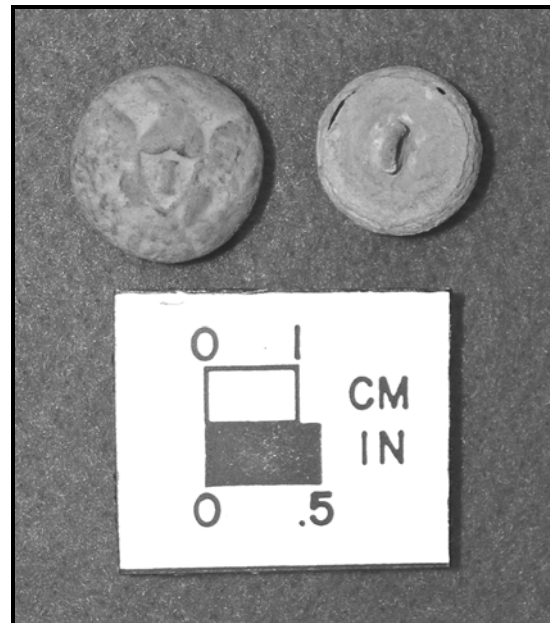


Figure 4. Civil War buttons from Site 44AX173a: (A) two-piece brass Federal Eagle I button [MD 24/1]; (B) three-piece brass button back [MD 2/1].

The Civil War site is associated with an intensive Federal occupation of the Seminary grounds and with earthworks associated with the Defenses of Washington, D.C., located west of the project area. The

investigations resulted in a determination that the site is likely to have been used as a rest area, staging area, or a short-term camp. The majority of the site area has been disturbed by past Seminary activities. No features were encountered. Further investigations would not contribute

significant information on the Civil War period at the Seminary or in Alexandria. No additional investigations are warranted, and the proposed construction will have no impact on significant archeological resources.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

John Milner Associates, Inc., (JMA) was retained by Cole and Denny Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia, to conduct an archeological investigation on a 3.4-acre area on the Virginia Theological Seminary grounds. The project area is located at the northeast corner of North Frazier Street and Seminary Road. The Staff at Alexandria Archeology reviewed the proposed development of the area for faculty housing and determined that archeological investigations were warranted. Alexandria Archeology determined that the project area had a potential for containing both prehistoric and historic cultural resources. The project's goal was to determine if significant archeological resources existed in the parts of the project area affected by the proposed new construction and make management recommendations. During the course of the investigations, the project area was changed to include the entire 3.4-acre parcel on which two residence will be constructed. This investigation consisted of background research, a shovel test (ST) survey, a metal detector survey, and mechanical stripping to clarify the nature of discovered archeological resources. Investigations were consistent with the *City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards* (Alexandria Archaeology 1996) and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area is in the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Figure 1). The project area is within the Coastal Plain physiographic province and the Potomac/Shenandoah River drainage. The project area, approximately 3.4 acres, is located north of Seminary Road between the intersections of North Frazier Street and Seminary Road, a private access road, and Seminary Road (Figure 2). Modern roads, athletic facilities, and residential housing surround the project area.

The archeological investigations considered the entire 3.4-acre project area, not just those parts of the project area that are to be disturbed. Within the project area, the Seminary will construct two faculty residences. Ground disturbance associated with this construction will be concentrated at five locations in the project area.

- Housing unit 1 bordering the private access road is approximately 19500 square (sq.) ft.
- Housing unit 2 bordering North Frazier Street is approximately 19500 sq. ft.
- An utility/sidewalk corridor connecting the housing units is approximately 2400 sq. ft.
- Storm water detention area 1 bordering Seminary Road about half way between the private access road and North Frazier Street is approximately 1800 sq. ft.
- Storm water detention area 2 in the northwest corner of the intersection of Seminary Road and the private access road is approximately 1500 sq. ft.

The Seminary has used the project area itself for over 30 years as a dumping ground for log and wood debris along with discarded soils and construction debris (Figure 3). This has resulted in extensive ground disturbance to the project area.

1.3 PROJECT SCHEDULE AND TEAM

The background investigations were conducted during August 2004. Fieldwork was conducted between 16 August and 15 October 2004. Joseph Balicki served as project manager. Project archeologist James W. Embrey assisted by Kerri Holland, Bryan Corle, and Joseph Balicki

conducted the fieldwork. Lynn D. Jones and Kerri Holland performed the laboratory work. Lynn D. Jones conducted the documentary research. Sarah Ruch and Mary Paradise prepared the graphics, and V. Casey Gonzalez prepared the manuscript.

Following this introduction, the report includes sections addressing the research design; results of the documentary research; results of the fieldwork and artifact analysis; and management recommendations. Photographs and maps illustrate this report. References cited in the text are included in the final section. The artifact catalog, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) site forms, and qualifications of the investigators are appended (Appendices I-III).

Figure 1. Location of project area on USGS *Alexandria, VA.-D.C.-MD.* quadrangle, USGS 1965, photorevised 1983..

Figure 2. Virginia Theological Seminary proposed faculty housing project area.



Figure 3. Project area, facing west.

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1 RESEARCH TOPICS

The project is designed to determine whether significant cultural resources, prehistoric or historic, are present and to make management recommendations concerning those resources. The Seminary grounds are a significant historic property, and it was the location of a major Federal military hospital complex during the Civil War. There are no known historic structures in the project area, but there is potential for archeological resources to be present. The staff at Alexandria Archaeology reviewed the proposed development of the project area and determined that the area has potential for both prehistoric and historic cultural resources. Research questions pertaining to the project area include:

- What is the extent of modern disturbance to the project area?
- What physical evidence can be discerned pertaining to past occupations and land use of the project area?
- Are there artifacts or features present that represent the project area's use during the Civil War?
- Is there any evidence that local collectors have searched the project area?

2.2 ARCHIVAL AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH METHODS

Documentary research was mainly limited to an existing collection on the Seminary held at Alexandria Archaeology. Their collection includes historic maps, Civil War military records, photographs, and archeological reports. Additional resources were consulted at the Fort Ward Museum, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress.

2.3 FIELD METHODS

An initial walkover of the project area was undertaken to determine if there were any observable archeological remains present and to identify disturbed and undisturbed areas. A systematic shovel test survey was conducted in the locations that are to be disturbed by new construction and at locations where modern disturbance was not evident (Figure 4). Shovel tests were spaced at 30-foot (ft.) intervals and each shovel test was 1 ft. in diameter and was excavated by natural soil layers to the level of culturally sterile subsoil. All soil excavated was screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth, and artifacts were bagged according to stratigraphic level. A standardized data form was used to record the location, soil profile, and any artifacts discovered for each ST. Any recovered artifacts were bagged by stratigraphic level. Cut timber, wood chip piles, and push piles of soil and debris obscured parts of the project area. Archeologists monitored removal of these overburden piles to expose the ground surface for the ST excavations.

A metal detector survey was conducted across the entire project area. Archeological approaches have changed over the years, and new problems require new or refined techniques (Espenshade et al. 2002:59). Civil War sites are difficult to locate, but metal detection is a proven way to find traces of camp activities, provided Civil War relic hunters have not extensively metal-detected the site (Espenshade et al. 2002:59). There are no indications this has occurred in the project area. Civil War camps were policed (cleaned up) at the time of their occupation with trash deposited below ground (Espenshade et al. 2002:41). A large camp area may only contain a few such refuse deposits, and a conventional archeological shovel test survey would probably miss those features

(Espenshade et al. 2002:41). Stripping offers the best possibility of finding those isolated features (Espenshade et al. 2002:41).

A sweep of the project area by metal detectors centered in 5-ft.-wide transects spaced 5-ft. apart was completed. An intensive metal detector sweep was conducted around all historic metal detector discoveries. All modern metal detector hits were discarded, but historic finds were bagged by location and mapped.

The metal detector survey identified a Civil War occupation on the west side of St. Stephens Road. The southwest portion of the site falls within storm water detention area 2. In order to further investigate this portion of the site, the topsoil was mechanically stripped and the underlying subsoil scraped to determine if Civil War features were present.

2.4 LABORATORY METHODS

Artifacts were processed according the guidelines set forth in the *City of Alexandria Archaeological Standards* (1996). Processing included cleaning and cataloging. Artifacts were identified by type, time period, and function where possible. Potentially diagnostic historic and prehistoric artifacts were identified whenever possible using current identification guides. Two hundred and seventy-one artifacts were recovered from the field investigations, and the artifact inventory is included in Appendix II of this report. Artifacts were labeled with catalogue numbers, bagged, and boxed following current professional standards. JMA completed state site forms, and a copy is included in Appendix I of this report. Field records and artifacts are curated by JMA until the project is completed, when all artifacts, original photographs, negatives, slides, field notes, and other field records will be delivered to Alexandria Archaeology.



Figure 4. Shovel testing in progress, facing west.

3.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

3.1 PREHISTORIC CONTEXT

The prehistoric cultural sequence for the Coastal Plain of Maryland and Virginia parallels that identified for other areas of the Middle Atlantic region. It consists of seven time periods divided as follows: Paleo-Indian (11,000 to 8000 BC), Early Archaic (8000 to 6500 BC), Middle Archaic (6500 to 3000 BC), Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC), Early Woodland (1000 to 500 BC), Middle Woodland (500 BC to AD 900), and Late Woodland (AD 900 to 1600) (Griffin 1967). Paleo-Indian and Early and Middle Archaic sites in the area are very rare and poorly documented. More intensive occupation began in the Late Archaic period when people associated with the Savannah River culture moved into the area. The exploitation of anadromous fish during the spring and early summer was the focal point of the subsistence and settlement rounds of these people.

Technological innovations, such as the invention or adoption of pottery and the bow and arrow, mark the Early and Middle Woodland periods. Intensive exploitation of floral resources in floodplain environments led to increased sedentism during these periods. The Late Woodland period is characterized by the introduction of agriculture and a shift in settlement locations. Hunting, fishing and the gathering of plant foods still contributed much to the diet.

Native Americans first encountered Europeans in the very early 1600s. By the late seventeenth century, European settlement had reached well into the Tidewater area of the Potomac and its influence had reached further into the interior. Introduced European diseases and the increased hostilities between groups led to the disruption of the Native American populations and the abandonment of many areas. By the early 1700s, the native populations were little barrier to European settlement (Feest 1978).

3.2 HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first permanent English settlement in North America was established by the Virginia Company of London at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 (Salmon 1983). By 1625, the Virginia Company charter was revoked by the King and the land became a royal colony. Increasing population made the creation of counties and county governments necessary. In 1645, Northumberland County was established between the Rappahannock River and the Potomac River, enabling settlement in Northern Virginia (Jirikowic et al. 2004).

Land in the colony was granted to individuals by the governor on the authority of the king. Much of the land became farms and larger plantations growing tobacco as the main crop. By 1730, Fairfax County was formed from the part of Prince William County north of the Occoquan River (Jirikowic et al. 2004).

In 1749, the town of Alexandria was formed on the west bank of the Potomac River on land that had been granted to Margaret Brent and to Richard Howson who sold his land to a Scotsman named John Alexander (Voges 1975). There had been sheds and a wharf near the mouth of Great Hunting Creek for some time; this small community was called Belhaven (Figure 5, Henry 1770). Plantation owners, import-export agents, and owners of ships petitioned for a public warehouse at the mouth of the creek. The General Assembly directed that a town be established, with a public warehouse for the inspection, storage, and shipping of tobacco, on the north bank of Great Hunting Creek. In 1749, by official act, a 60-acre tract of land belonging to Phillip Alexander, John Alexander, and Hugh West was appropriated to form the town named Alexandria (Voges

1975). The town was surveyed and marked off into lots that were sold at public auction. The town grew so rapidly that the trustees asked permission of the General Assembly to enlarge the town area and 46 additional lots were surveyed and sold at auction (Voges 1975). In 1779, Alexandria was incorporated as a town, thus able to exercise some self-government; its area extended west to include Washington Street.

This was a period of economic growth and development for the town. There was extensive shipping and the attendant maritime trades, and manufacturing and retail operations expanded. In 1795 the Fairfax and Loudoun Turnpike Company was established to build a better road between Alexandria and the farms of western Fairfax County. This road, Little River Turnpike, was finished in 1806 and ran from the waterfront in Alexandria to the Little River in Aldie, Virginia, a distance of 34 miles (Daugherty et al. 1989). Within the boundary of Alexandria the road kept its eighteenth-century name, Duke Street. It became the main transportation artery into Alexandria and was vital to development on the west side of town (Figure 6).

In 1789 Virginia ceded ten square miles of land to the Federal Government to be used as the permanent seat of the government (Mitchell 1977). Boundaries for the new District of Columbia were set by President Washington. Alexandria became part of the District in 1801 and the boundary crossed Duke Street at Hooff Run (Figure 6) (Cheek and Zatz 1986). Alexandria was returned to Virginia in 1846 as Alexandria County, no longer part of Fairfax County. Alexandria was chartered as a city in 1852, making it politically and administratively independent of the county in which it was located, and the boundaries were extended again to the north and west (Salmon 1983; Cheek and Zatz 1986).

At the beginning of the Civil War, Virginia voted to secede from the Union. Confederate leaders thought that Alexandria was not defensible (Daugherty et al. 1989). On 24 May 1861, Federal regiments crossed the Potomac River, entered Virginia and occupied Alexandria with little resistance. Confederate troops were posted to guard Alexandria but abandoned their posts and retreated toward Manassas.

The Union Army built a circle of forts around Washington, D.C., to protect the capital city. Three forts, Ft. Williams, Ft. Worth, and Ft. Ward, and a number of connecting infantry trenches and batteries for field artillery were constructed around the outskirts west of the city of Alexandria. The extent of the works associated with some of these forts is shown in Figure 7. West of the city and north along Quaker Lane near its junction with Seminary Road, southeast of the project area, was Fort Williams, constructed in 1863 by detachments of the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery (Figure 8). The fort was built on land owned by Confederate General Samuel Cooper who resigned his commission in the United States Army and joined the south at the beginning of the Civil War. Union forces referred to his home and land as “Traitor’s Hill” and destroyed his house to build Fort Williams (Cooling and Owen 1988:64).

Fort Worth was constructed in 1861 south of the land owned by the Seminary (called the Fairfax Seminary at that time). This fort is approximately 2,500 ft. directly south of the project area (Figure 8). After the war, a member of the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery wrote a history of his unit’s service saying, “Fort Worth . . . was situated above a quarter of a mile in the rear of Fairfax Seminary, overlooking the broad valley of Hunting Creek, and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and mounting some twenty-four guns of all kinds . . .” (Cooling and Owen 1988:70, 73).

An important fort located along Braddock Road, northwest of the Seminary and the project area, was Fort Ward. Constructed hastily after the first battle of Bull Run in 1861, it was improved

Figure 5. Before the town of Alexandria was officially formed, the area where it would be located, at the mouth of Great Hunting Creek, was known as Belhaven. On this map, Belhaven is mistakenly shown on Difficult Run (Detail, *Map of Virginia*, Henry 1770).

Figure 6. Little River Turnpike and the District of Columbia boundary line are shown on this nineteenth century map (Detail, *Plan of the Town of Alexandria, D.C.*, Ewing 1845). The project area is west of the area depicted on this map.

Figure 7. The extent of the batteries and trenches associated with forts south and west of the project vicinity are shown on this map detail, *Defenses of Washington*, U.S. Engineers Bureau, 1865).

Figure 8. The 15th New York camped on the south corner of the Seminary grounds (Detail, *Map of the ground of O*

over time with knowledge gained during the war (Cooling and Owen 1988:31). It was claimed to be one of the most important defenses of Alexandria. A long series of infantry trenches were constructed between Fort Worth and Fort Ward (Figure 7); these trenches are located just west of the project area. Batteries for field artillery were constructed at strategic positions along the infantry trench. In practice, the infantry trench and batteries were unmanned, except by an occasional picket. At no time was Alexandria threatened where the forts fired their guns or the infantry trenches manned.

By 1915, the city annexed 866 acres from Alexandria County and 450 acres from Fairfax County as development and the need for land grew. The city continued to expand in the early to mid twentieth century through further annexations (Cheek and Zatz 1986).

3.3 HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Virginia Theological Seminary was approved by the general convention of the Episcopal Church in 1817. The Seminary was established in 1823 at St. Paul's Church in Alexandria but soon moved to a house at the corner of King and Washington Streets because of the increase in enrollment to 14 students (Booty 1995). By 1827 the need for more space dictated a move to an area located approximately three miles west of what was Old Alexandria. The Seminary referred to the area as "the Wilderness" (Booty 1995).

The Board of Trustees purchased 59 acres of land from Jonah Thompson on which to construct the new Seminary buildings. This land was partially cleared, had some forest and meadow, and included a brick house and outbuildings, and another house. After the Seminary purchased the land, these houses became the residences of the two professors who taught classes at the Seminary, Reverend Dr. Keith and Professor Lippitt (Goodwin 1923:163).

The south portion of the initial 59 acres of land had been part of a land grant given to John Carr and John Simpson in 1678 (Mitchell 1977). It passed through several ownerships before the Seminary purchased it from Thompson. The northern part of the parcel purchased by the Seminary had been part of a tract of 1,261 acres granted to Francis Awbrey in 1729 (Mitchell 1977:116). It, too, had changed owners several times before the Seminary purchased it from Thompson. This 59-acre property was where the Seminary constructed its first buildings between 1827 and 1835 (Figure 9).

In 1838, an additional 10-acre parcel adjoining the south boundary of the original parcel was purchased from Augusta Lockwood. A house may have existed on this property or was soon built on the property and was occupied by Dr. Joseph Packard, who joined the faculty in 1836 (Goodwin 1923:159, 163). The following year the Seminary purchased a 100-acre parcel of land from William Alexander and his wife. This land is where the Protestant Episcopal High School was built. Episcopal High School was founded as a preparatory school for young men going into the ministry, to prepare them for entrance into the Seminary (Booty 1995). This parcel of land had also been part of Francis Aubrey's land grant (Mitchell 1977:116). The southwest corner of this parcel, approximately 23 acres, was transferred from the High School to the Seminary in 1913 (Westover 1991); the project area is located on this parcel adjacent to Seminary Road.

During the 1850s the Seminary experienced a period of steady growth. Many new buildings were constructed, in 1855 the Chapel was expanded and in 1856 St. George's Hall was built for more dormitory space. The original buildings were replaced by Aspinwall Hall, which was flanked by

Meade and Bohlen Halls on the north and south, and the new fireproof library for 8,000 volumes was finished by 1860 (Booty 1995:91-96).

The Civil War had a tremendous impact on the Seminary largely because of its strategic location on a hilltop west of Alexandria, and its proximity to Washington, D.C. In addition, the faculty was from the north and financial support came from both the north and the south (Booty 1995:87). During the 1860-1861 semester, half of the student body was from the north; these students left the Seminary to return to their homes and join the Union Army. Only one professor and seven students remained. Finances became a serious problem and, with the Seminary in the path of the military occupation, the remaining professor and students left the campus. Classes were conducted at a professor's home in Staunton, Virginia, from 1862 until 1865 when the war ended (Booty 1995:104-105).

In June 1861, the campus and buildings of the Seminary and the High School were commandeered for a hospital and campground for Northern troops. Tents were set up, and barracks and other buildings were erected on the Seminary grounds (Figure 10). Seminary buildings and professors' houses were broken into, property stolen, and a great deal of damage done (Booty 1995:110). One professor's house was converted into a bakery and the library was used as an office for the Surgeon in Command (Booty 1995:110). A soldier who was living in one wing of the main building, Harrison W. Jones, wrote to his father describing the use to which some of the Seminary buildings were put (Figure 11) and some of the new construction:

. . . in reference to this hospital At either end is a wing called the north and south wing (I am in the north wing). . . . North of the north wing is a brick building that was the library now used as a dispensary, north of that is another large building now used as a cook and dining room for the Drs. . . . South of the south wing is the chapel, south of that is still another building for students now used as a wash house for the hospital; this last summer 7 barracks were built 200 ft. long for the sick, and one for the commissary department and one for a cook room . . . (Jones 1863).

A patient at the hospital, Pvt. Edward T. Tobie, 1st Maine Cavalry, described the hospital as "a grim place" (Booty 1995:111). After his recovery, he stayed on as a hospital clerk. However, the hospital at the Seminary was considered by most troops and by relief agents to be the cleanest and best organized of any (Barber 1977).

The Seminary was occupied by the troops of Kearny's Division in autumn of 1861 through the winter of 1862 (U.S. Army Medical Corp 1991). Other troops using the Seminary grounds included the 8th and 19th Maine, 121st Pennsylvania, 137th and 186th Pennsylvania (Jirikowic et al. 2004). The camp of the 15th New York is shown on the triangular-shaped piece of land that the Seminary bought from Lockwood in 1838 (Figure 8).

After the war the Seminary needed money for restoration. Many buildings were damaged, all the fences and most of the trees were gone, cut up for firewood, and the high school buildings were unusable (Booty 1995:122-123). Slowly things improved and by the second year after the end of the war conditions were almost normal. Finances improved and a new chapel was built in 1881. The faculty increased to five full-time professors by 1894.

In the twentieth century, funds were raised for capital improvements and salaries were increased. The student population increased steadily and, in the mid-twentieth century, blacks and women



Figure 9. The Seminary settled in the “Wilderness” west of Alexandria in 1827 and soon built a classroom and dormitory building and a chapel (from Goodwin 1923).

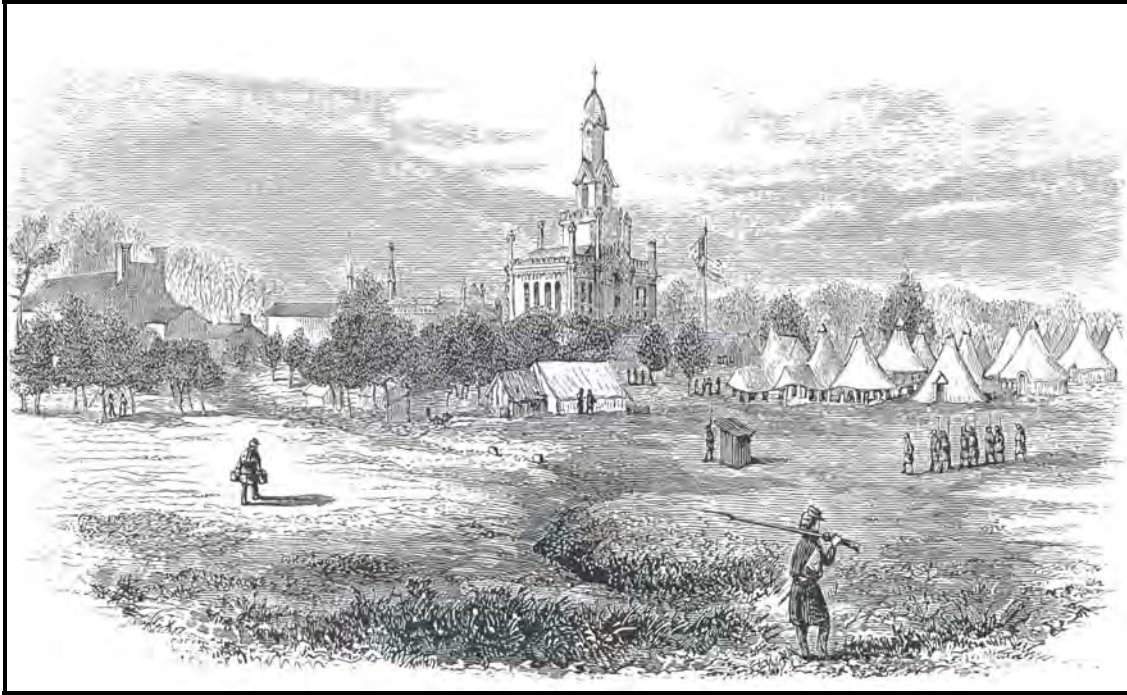


Figure 10. Tents and barracks were constructed on the Seminary grounds as it was turned into a hospital at the beginning of the Civil War (Encampment of Troops at the Seminary, Strother 1866).

Figure 11. Seminary buildings were used as wards, dispensary, and wash house for the. hospital, and a number of new wards and a kitchen constructed (Fairfax Seminary Hospital 1865). The project area is west of the area depicted on this map.

were admitted to the Seminary. There were changes in the composition of the faculty, and the student body began to have greater participation in the affairs of the Seminary. The institution adjusted to changing circumstances, yet kept the essential Episcopal traditions (Booty 1995).

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Several archeological investigations have been undertaken in the project vicinity (Daugherty et al. 1989, Feidel and Corle 2001, Jirikowic et al. 2004, Miller and Westover 1990, and Westover 1991). In general, these surveys did not identify a significant prehistoric occupation of the area. Civil War sites were identified by several of the investigations (Feidel and Corle 2001, Jirikowic et al. 2004, and Miller and Westover 1990). In 1990 Tellus undertook a survey of the location of the Episcopal High School Tennis Courts (Miller and Westover 1990). This project area is located directly adjacent to the north side of the project area. Investigations included the stripping of a 375-by-215 ft. area and surface collection. Four Minié balls were found, suggesting a sparse scatter of Civil War artifacts. No features were identified and the no site was defined (Miller and Westover 1990).

There are seventeen archeological sites within one mile of the project (Figure 12; Table 1), four prehistoric, twelve historic, and one multi-component site. The prehistoric sites were primarily small camps represented by lithic scatters (44AX31, 44AX36, 44AX166, 44AX174, 44AX176), a corner-notched point (44AX174), and a Brewerton point (44AX166). The historic sites are varied in nature, consisting of four cemeteries, one church, three dwellings, a time capsule, Civil War earthworks, Civil War encampment with a brick feature used to heat a tent, and the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary. A time capsule was placed in a concrete vault with a stone marker above it in 2000 for Alexandria's anniversary and it was designated an archeological site and given a VDHR site number. The multi-component site (44AX174) was a prehistoric camp represented by a corner-notched point and fire cracked rock, overlain by a mid-nineteenth-to-twentieth-century domestic site.

The Civil War earthworks, site 44AX186, consisted of a battery and rifle trench associated with Fort Williams (Fiedel and Corle 2001). The Civil War encampment, 44AX193, occupied an area approximately 150 by 250 ft. along Quaker Lane where Union soldiers had camped during the winter of 1861-1862. A feature found during archeological investigation at this site was the remains of a large brick heating device probably used to heat a hospital tent during the winter (Jirikowic et al. 2004). The feature consisted of an external firebox and an underground brick-lined flue; there may have been a chimney but no evidence of one was found.

The archeological site (44AX173) consists of all the Seminary grounds. Previously, an area was tested and excavated in 1991 where a new academic building was to be constructed (Westover 1991). Excavation recovered nineteenth- and twentieth-century container glass, ceramics and other domestic artifacts, architectural artifacts, and hardware. In 1993, Alexandria Archaeology staff members observed nineteenth-century glass and ceramics, brick and coal fragments scattered in other areas of the Seminary grounds (Shephard 2004).

Table 1. Archeological Sites within One Mile of Project Area.

Site Number	Type	Period	Function	Artifacts
44AX31	Prehistoric	Prehistoric	Camp	Projectile point, flakes
44AX36	Prehistoric	Prehistoric	Camp	Flakes

Site Number	Type	Period	Function	Artifacts
44AX118	Historic	19 th century	Dwelling	Ceramics
44AX130	Historic	1843-1919	Cemetery	
44AX138	Historic	Unknown	Cemetery	
44AX150	Historic	Late 19 th to early 20 th century	Oakland Baptist Church	Present structure built in 1931
44AX151	Historic	Late 19 th to early 20 th century	Oakland Baptist Cemetery	
44AX152	Historic	mid-19 th to 20 th century	Dwelling & outbuilding	brick, glass
44AX153	Historic	1897-1918	Cemetery	
44AX166	Prehistoric	Late Archaic	Undetermined	Brewerton projectile point
44AX167	Historic	20 th century	Dwelling	Glass
44AX173	Historic	19 th & 20 th centry.	School and domestic	glass and ceramics
44AX174	Prehistoric/ Historic	Prehistoric; mid-19 th to 20 th century	Camp; domestic	Corner-notched projectile point, fire cracked rock; stoneware, bottle glass
44AX176	Prehistoric	Prehistoric	Small camp	Projectile point fragments, flakes
44AX184	Historic	20 th century.	Time capsule	Stone marker
44AX186	Historic, near Ft. Williams	19 th century	Civil War battery and rifle trench	earthworks
44AX193	Historic	19 th cenutry	Civil War encampment; Crimean oven	Crimean oven, glass, ceramics, bullets

Historic structures near the project area include the Seminary buildings, five houses, and the Seminary Post Office (Figure 12; Table 2). The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (Loth 1999:29), the National Register of Historic Places, and with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR historic standing structure #100-0123). Individual buildings that contribute to the significance of the institution include two houses, Oakwood and Maywood that were part of the original land purchase in 1827. Maywood was referred to as “Melrose” and “The Abbey” in Goodwin’s history of the Seminary (Goodwin 1923:165). The Chapel, built in 1840, the Library (1855), the Meeting Hall (1858), and the dormitory buildings (Aspinwall, Meade, and Bohlen Halls, 1859-1860) are also contributing resources (VDHR form 100-0123).

Hoxton Hall, first known as Mt. Washington, was constructed in 1805 by Elizabeth Parke Custis Law, a granddaughter of Martha Washington, after her divorce from Thomas Law (VDHR form 100-0252). It was standing on the property purchased by the Seminary in 1839 to be used for the Protestant Episcopal High School. The house became the first building used as residence and classrooms by the High School.

Figure 12. Cultural resources in the vicinity of the project area are shown on this map (Detail, *Alexandria, VA.-D.C.-I*

Table 2. Historic Structures Near Project Area.

Structure Number	Name	Date	Style	Comments
100-0123	Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary	1827-1860	Several	
100-0226	Muckcross	1830	Classical Revival	
100-0252	Mt. Washington, Hoxton Hall	1805	Federal; Classical Revival	Protestant Episcopal High School
100-0268	House	1850	Queen Anne	
100-0269	House	1885	Queen Anne	
100-0270	Howard Hall	1910	Neo-Classical	
100-5001	Seminary Post Office	1850	Greek Revival	

Muckcross (structure number 100-0226), a residence belonging to Col. Arthur Herbert, C.S.A., was built around 1830 and is located south of the project area. According to one source, Muckcross was demolished during the Civil War, along with all the outbuildings, fences, and trees, and Ft. Worth was constructed on the hilltop where the house had stood in 1861 (Cooling and Owen 1988). When Col. Herbert returned after the war, he built a new house on the masonry walls of the south powder magazine of Ft. Worth (Cooling and Owen 1988). Another source states that Muckcross was seized by the Union Army early in the Civil War and Fort Worth was constructed on the grounds. The house was used by Union staff and officers. Col. Herbert regained possession of the property after the war and lived there until his death in 1923 (Templeman and Netherton 1966:49). The VDHR form (100-0226) seems to indicate that the core of the house is much smaller than what exists today and dates to ca. 1830, but that “further onsite survey and building permit research is necessary to determine the original parts of the house.”

Three other houses, located along Seminary Road immediately west of the project area, include a Queen Anne style house built in 1850, a Queen Anne style house built in 1885, and Howard Hall, a Neo-Classical house built in 1910 that overlies a Civil War landmark (VDHR forms 100-0268, 100-0269, and 100-0270).

The Seminary Post Office is a Greek Revival structure, built in 1850, located on Seminary Road east of the project area. It was moved to this location so that residents of the surrounding communities could use it and avoid having to go into Alexandria to post their mail (VDHR form 100-5001).

4.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The proposed Seminary Housing project is composed of five parts that will result in extensive ground disturbance: housing unit 1 on the east side bordering a private access road, housing unit 2 on the west side bordering North Frazier Street, a corridor between the two housing units for utilities and a sidewalk, a storm water detention area 2 in the northwest corner of the intersection of Seminary Road and a private access road, and a storm water detention area 1 bordering Seminary Road approximately half way between North Frazier Street and a private access road (Figure 2). A large part of the project area is disturbed (Figure 13).

The Seminary has used the project area itself for over 30 years as a dumping ground for log and wood debris along with discarded soils and construction debris. This has resulted in numerous push-piles, grading of the ground surface, and extensive disturbance to the ground surface from heavy machinery. An initial walkover of the project did not produce any observable archeological remains. Grading, soil and debris deposits that include a graveled parking area and road have heavily disturbed the housing unit 1 area and the utility/sidewalk corridor (Figure 13). The debris piles consisted primarily of large cut tree sections, tree roots, mulch, and building materials. Push piles consisted of soil, gravel, rocks, and concrete and asphalt chunks. The utility/sidewalk corridor was so disturbed and overgrown it was impassable from east to west. Housing unit 2 is covered in woods and heavy undergrowth with approximately 500 sq. ft. of its eastern end heavily disturbed with push piles of soil and debris deposits (Figure 13). Storm water detention area 1 is a heavily overgrown existing drainage bordering a storm pipe under Seminary Road (Figure 2). Storm water detention area 2 is a cleared, grass and tree covered, gentle southern sloping area bordering the private access road. The south end of storm water detention area 2 was graded during road constructions.

4.1 SHOVEL TESTING

Ninety-three shovel tests were excavated across the project area at 30-ft. intervals, and 10 radial shovel tests were excavated to investigate artifact discoveries. Four shovel tests were excavated in each of the storm water detention areas, and 5 shovel tests were excavated in the utility/sidewalk corridor area (Figure 13). In housing unit 1's area, 29 shovel tests were excavated, and in housing unit 2's area, 34 shovel tests were excavated (Figure 13). Additionally, 27 shovel tests were excavated in the undisturbed area between the proposed residences and Seminary Road. The purpose of these shovel tests were to investigate for cultural resources prior to landscaping improvements.

Soils in storm water detention area 1 exhibit a .5-in. or deeper A-horizon over subsoil (Figure 14) except ST 8.4 where the A-horizon was deflated to .1 in. All of the STs in the storm water detention area 1 were negative.

All of the STs in the storm water detention area 2 area were negative. The soils in this area show an A-horizon and an Ab-horizon (Figure 15). ST 7.5, which was excavated to the west of the storm water detention area 2 to help define the edge of the site in that area, did not exhibit the Ab-horizon.

Figure 13. Project map showing disturbances, roads and parking area, shovel test locations, and metal detector hit locations.

Figure 14. Select shovel test profiles from Transects 8, 9, and 10.

Figure 15. Select shovel test profiles from Transect 7.

The utility/sidewalk corridor area connects housing unit 1 to housing unit 2. Debris and push piles heavily disturb the utility/sidewalk corridor area and these piles are covered by dense undergrowth. The corridor area was so obstructed by debris piles that a backhoe was utilized to clear debris from areas where shovel tests (STs) were excavated. Only ST 13.1 exhibited a plowed .5-in. Ap-horizon over subsoil. The other STs in the corridor all showed a fill layer directly over subsoil (Figure 16). All of the STs in the sidewalk/corridor area were negative.

In housing unit 1's area, the eastern 75 ft. has been graded and approximately 6-inches of gravel has been laid for use as a road and parking area. The graveled road area extends approximately 120 ft. along this area's southern edge (Figure 13). Most of the STs in this area showed a disturbed modern A-horizon overlaying fill (Figure 17). The presence of large landscape debris and push piles added to the disturbed nature of housing unit 1's area. ST 3.2 was not excavated, as the ground was impenetrable below .05 ft. due a large area of large asphalt or macadam. All of the STs in the housing unit 1 were negative.

In housing unit 2, 24 STs (in transects 9-12 and 14) were tests on grid, and another 10 were radials around positive STs 11.2 and 12.4. The STs in the housing unit 2 area exhibited an O-horizon (a humus layer) overlying an A-horizon that overlaid an E-horizon on overlying subsoil (Figures 14, 18-19).

In ST 11.2, 192 pieces of a yellowware vessel were recovered from the A-horizon. ST 11.2 and its radials exhibited the same soil profile as the rest of housing unit 2's STs, an O-horizon overlying an A-horizon in which the artifacts were found and an E-horizon overlying subsoil (Figure 18). All of the radial shovel tests were negative.

A possible quartz flake was recovered from ST 12.4 (Figure 19). ST 12.4 was located at the northeastern edge of the housing unit 2. The soil profile in ST 12.4 and its radials exhibited an A-horizon overlying an E-horizon, where the artifact was found, that overlaid subsoil. All of the radial shovel tests were negative.

4.2 METAL DETECTION

A metal detector survey was conducted across the entire project area. The project area is enclosed by a deteriorating chain link, and there are remains of an older wire fence throughout the area. The property also borders roads on three sides, and is wooded, covered by dense undergrowth. The dense undergrowth hampered the metal detector survey. A large number of metal detector hits were late twentieth-century debris like fence wire, aluminum cans and pop-tops, and bottle caps, all modern artifacts.

Housing unit 2 is the least overgrown, and most of its area is undisturbed. A shoe for a draft horse, a house gutter hanger, and a hinge from the late nineteenth or twentieth century were recovered from this area. The finds were unrelated and scattered and are interpreted as isolated finds.

In housing unit 1 and storm water detention area 2, two clusters of metal artifacts and associated non-metal artifacts dating to the Civil War (44AX173a) were recovered (Figures 20 and 21). The metal detector hits in those two areas recovered 16 bullets (Figure 22), 2 buttons (Figure 23), a possible gun part from the Civil War era, and 3 melted lead objects (Table 3).

Several artifacts, when cleaned, were determined to be modern or unidentifiable. One nail and a phillips-head screw along with 5 unidentifiable iron and 3 other metal objects were recovered. Nine

pieces of olive green bottle glass were also recovered in association with the discovered metal objects. The northeast side of housing unit 1 revealed numerous roofing nail from the residence adjoining the project area. The area between the two discovery sites has been heavily disturbed by grading and gravel distribution preparing it as a road and parking area (Figure 13).

Table 3. Civil War Artifacts Recovered from Metal Detection Survey.

Location	Description	Count
Storm water detention area 2	.52 caliber Sharps carbine	1
	Brass loop shank 3-piece cast button, missing face and no legible back mark, coat or cuff button	1
	Pistol bullet, .31 caliber, three impressed bands	2
	Minié Ball, .58 caliber, carved	1
	Minié Ball, .54 caliber; pressed and turned; six spokes in conical base	1
	Minié Ball, .58 caliber, halved and/or carved	1
	Minié Ball, .54 caliber	4
	Minié Ball, .58 caliber	3
	Possible Burnside, .54 caliber; solid base	1
	Lead, melted	3
Housing Unit 1	Brass flat head screw	1
	Round Ball, .69 caliber, pulled	1
	Minié Ball, .58 caliber, nose cast	1
	Brass two-piece with loop shank button; Eagle with I (infantry) shield on face; no legible back mark, coat button	1
	Melted Lead	1

4.3 STRIPPING

In order to further investigate Site 44AX173a, storm water detention area 2 was mechanically stripped to subsoil. Stripping was not used in the disturbed area (the gravel road) and the northern part of the site. The northern part of the site is in a tree retention area and will not be disturbed by construction. In storm water detention area 2, the topsoil was stripped from approximately 1,200 sq. ft. and the subsoil shovel-scraped in an attempt to identify features (Figures 24 and 25). Five modern circular features (1, 3, 4-6) and one oval feature (2) were discovered (Figure 21). The circular features were approximately 2-ft. in diameter and about 1-ft. deep (Figure 26). The oval feature was 2-ft. east to west and 4-ft. north to south and less than 1-ft. deep filled with pea gravel (Figure 26). All of these features were bisected and are interpreted as modern planting features. The only artifacts recovered from the features were modern wire nails from Features 3, 4, and 5 and bailing wire from Feature 4. This storm water detention area was also metal detected again after being shovel scraped resulting in the recovery of an additional 5 bullets (included in Table 3).

Figure 16. Select shovel test profiles from Transect 13.

Figure 17. Select shovel test profiles from Transects 1, 2, and 4.

Figure 18. Select shovel test profiles from Transect 11.

Figure 19. Select shovel test profiles from Transect 12.

Figure 20. Metal detector finds in the housing unit 1 area of Site 44AX173a.

Figure 21. Metal detector finds and features in the storm water detention area of Site 44AX173a.

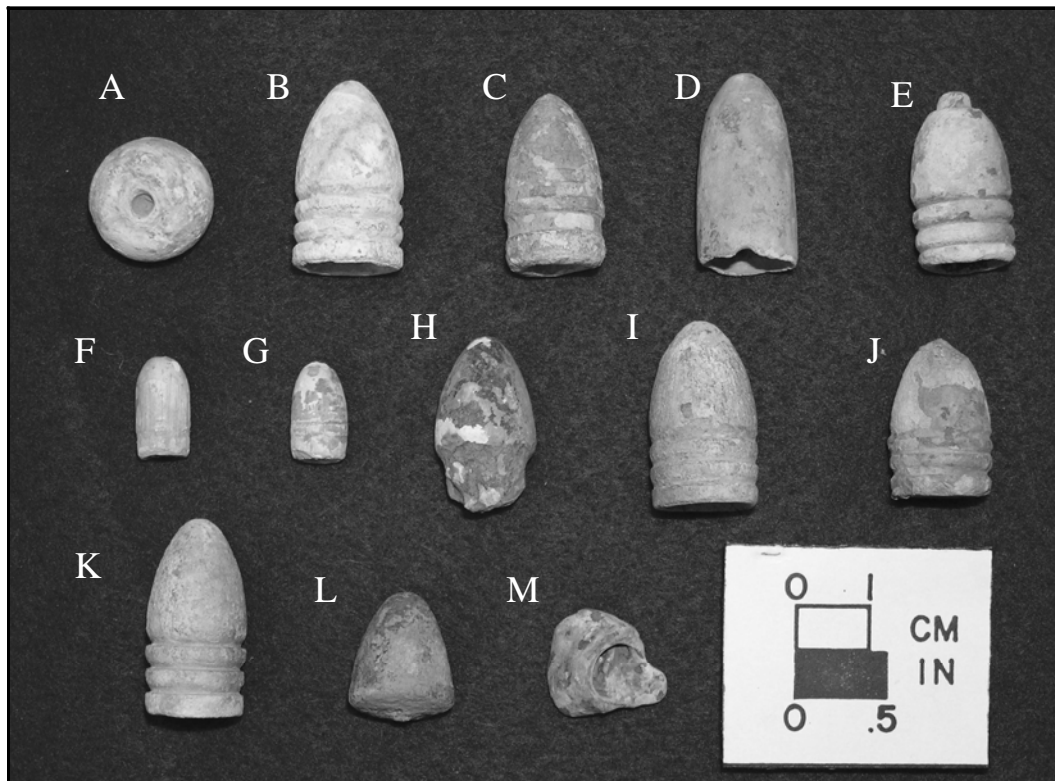


Figure 22. Range of Civil War ammunition from Site 44AX173a: (A) pulled .69 caliber round ball [MD 21/1]; (B) .58 caliber minie ball [MD 30/1]; (C) .52 caliber Sharps carbine [MD 1/2]; (D) Pressed and turned .54 caliber, no grooves, six-spoke conical base [MD 8/1]; (E) .58 caliber minie ball [MD 23/2]; (F) .31 caliber pistol [MD 5/1]; (G) .31 caliber pistol [MD 2/2]; (H) carved .58 caliber minie ball [MD 3/1]; (I) .58 caliber minie ball [MD 16/1]; (J) .54 caliber Burnside carbine [MD 28/1]; (K) .54 caliber minie ball [MD 27/1]; (L) carved .58 caliber [MD 14/1]; and (M) possible minie ball base [MD 11/1].



Figure 23. Civil War buttons from Site 44AX173a: (A) two-piece brass Federal Eagle I button [MD 24/1]; (B) three-piece brass button back [MD 2/1].



Figure 24. Mechanically stripping storm water detention area (Site 44AX173a).



Figure 25. Shovel scraping the stripped site area

Figure 26. Plan views and profiles of Features 1 and 2.

5.0 INTERPRETATION

A large part of the project area is disturbed, used as a dump for discarded materials, and overgrown with dense underbrush. Three historic metal objects were recovered from the housing unit 2 area, adjacent to North Frazier Street, along with a quartz flake and 192 pieces of an Annular/Banded yellowware vessel (1830-1930). The areas around these finds were investigated, but no additional discoveries were made. These isolated artifacts were probably either discarded or lost, and do not appear to represent either a prehistoric or historic site.

Metal detection identified a Civil War site along the north side of a private access road. This area, approximately 230 ft., north to south, by 60 ft., east to west, revealed numerous Civil War artifacts and has been designated archeological Site 44AX173a. An area that has been graded and disturbed separates two clusters of Civil War artifacts discovered in storm water detention area 2 and housing unit 1 area. The site consists of a sparse scatter of Civil War materials including 16 bullets, 2 buttons, a possible gun part, 3 melted lead objects, and 9 bottle-glass sherds.

The disturbed area in housing unit 1 between the two artifact clusters was probably a part of the site, but the grading and fill have obliterated any remains within it. In consultation with Alexandria Archeology, it was decided to strip and shovel scrape storm water detention area 2 to search for possible features related to the Civil War. Although a small number (5) of Civil War artifacts were recovered from the subsoil in the stripped area, no features dating to the Civil War were found. Six modern planting features were uncovered and tested.

The entire 180-acre campus of the Seminary property has been previously designated Site 44AX173 by VDHR. Consequently, VDHR made a determination to designate the Civil War site as a sub-site, hence the 44AX173a designation. The artifacts recovered during this project represent objects that appear to have been dropped as none of the bullets have been fired. The only identifiable button is a General Services Eagle I button. The scatter of Civil War artifacts indicates a possible rest area, staging area, or a short-term camp. The interpretation that this portion of the Seminary was peripheral to the main Federal occupation is supported by the 1990 findings in Episcopal High School Tennis Courts project area, located just north of the project area (Miller and Westover 1990). The absence of a notable number of artifacts may reflect the methodology used, but the absence of features indicates that the location was not used as a campground. It is possible that 44AX173a represents the periphery of a larger site that extends to the east, on the opposite side of St. Stephen's Road. The south side of the private access road was not examined during this project.

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Seminary proposes to construct two faculty residences, an utility/sidewalk corridor connecting the residences, and associated storm water detention areas within the 3.4-acre project area. The project area is wooded with heavy underbrush, and contains over 30 years of cut tree debris, mulch, construction debris and soil.

Fieldwork consisted of a walkover, systematic shovel test survey, metal detection, and the mechanical stripping of storm water detention area 2. The walkover determined that there are no visible archeological remains present, and in the recent past a large portion of the project area has been disturbed by landscaping activities. One hundred and three shovel tests were excavated including ten radials. Radial shovel tests excavated around the two positives were all negative.

A metal detection survey was undertaken. The majority of the metal detector hits were late twentieth-century debris including fence wire, aluminum cans and pop-tops, and bottle caps. These artifacts were not retained. Three isolated historic artifacts, a horseshoe for a draft horse, a door hinge, and a rain gutter support were found in the west end of the project area, these artifacts are considered isolates. Further, metal detection adjacent to the positive shovel tests did not encounter any artifacts.

The metal detection survey resulted in the identification of a Civil War period site (44AX173a). This approximately 60-by-230-ft. site is situated along the north side of a private access road. Sixteen bullets, two buttons, three pieces of melted lead, and a possible gun part were found. Nine pieces of green bottle glass were also recovered in association with the discovered metal artifacts. All shovel tests excavated across this area were sterile.

The Civil War site is associated with a Federal occupation of the Seminary grounds and with earthworks associated with the defenses of Washington, D.C., that are located west of the project area. The site is likely to have been used as a rest area, staging area, or a short-term camp for some of the many Federal troops occupying the area. The majority of the site lacks stratigraphic integrity because of ground disturbance caused by past Seminary landscape waste disposal activities. No features were encountered. The southwest end of the Site 44AX173a will be destroyed by the construction of a storm water detention area; the central portion of the site is extensively disturbed; and the north end is within a tree retention area. Further investigations would not contribute significant information on the Civil War period at the Seminary or in Alexandria. Therefore, site 44AX173a is not recommended as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. No additional investigations are warranted, and the proposed construction will have no impact on significant archeological resources.

The north portion of 44AX173a will be preserved as a tree retention area. This location was not investigated for the presence or absence of features because the area will not be disturbed. Although this portion of the site will not be disturbed by the construction of the two residences, the future integrity of the site is uncertain. The Seminary should mark the site boundaries on a general site plan. The Seminary should consider any ground-disturbing activity within the boundaries of 44AX173a to have a high potential for disturbing the site's resources. Therefore, ground disturbances, including ornamental gardening, in the site should not be allowed. If ground-disturbing activities are to occur within the boundaries of the preserved section of 44AX173a, the Seminary should consult with Alexandria Archeology

prior to initiating such activity. This strategy will help preserve a part, albeit a small one, of the Civil War heritage of the Seminary and of Alexandria.

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APPENDIX I

SITE FORM

APPENDIX II

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

APPENDIX III

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATORS