
PUBLIC SUMMARY

DOCUMENTARY STUDY, ARCHEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 1323 DUKE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Harambee Community and Economic Development Corporation, an affiliate of the Shiloh Baptist Church, retained John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA), to conduct documentary study, archeological evaluation, and a resource management plan on a project area within Alexandria, Virginia. The approximately 3,500-square-foot (sq. ft.) project area is a house lot (1323 Duke) located at the northeast corner of Duke Street and West Street. The project area included the rear yard and side yards of the house lot.

The project area had the potential for containing cultural resources associated with the Civil War L'Ouverture Hospital and Contraband Barracks. The hospital treated African-American and Native American soldiers and continued operating until 1867.

The goal of the documentary research was to provide a history of the project area, 1323 Duke Street; a general history of the L'Ouverture Hospital; and a history of the early years of the Shiloh Baptist Church, to determine if there were any connections between the church and L'Ouverture Hospital.

The project area is a lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of Duke and West Streets, 1323 Duke Street. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, this lot was part of a much larger parcel that included the southern half of the block bounded by Duke, West, Payne, and Prince Streets. This large lot was also associated with part of the block immediately to the west, which now

includes the Shiloh Baptist Church property at 1401 Duke Street, across West Street from the project area.

Robert Young purchased these two unimproved lots from John Mills, Sr. in February 1812 for \$115 annual ground rent. At this time, these two lots were outside the boundary of the town of Alexandria, but in 1796 the boundary was extended to West Street, encompassing the project area. Soon after purchasing these lots, Robert Young built a three-story brick house, now 1315 Duke Street.

Isaac Franklin and John Armfield purchased these three lots at public auction on April 16, 1835, for \$24,000. This purchase marked the beginning of this property's association with slave trading, which continued until 1861. Franklin and Armfield had formed a slave-trading partnership in 1828. Armfield was based in Alexandria, living and working out of the house at 1315 Duke Street. He would purchase slaves from local farmers and planters and then ship these slaves to his partner Franklin in New Orleans where the slaves were sold. These partners annually transported thousands of slaves from Virginia to deep south plantations. Franklin and Armfield expanded the building on the lot between West and Payne Streets, adding walled yards for holding male and female slaves, as well as numerous outbuildings.

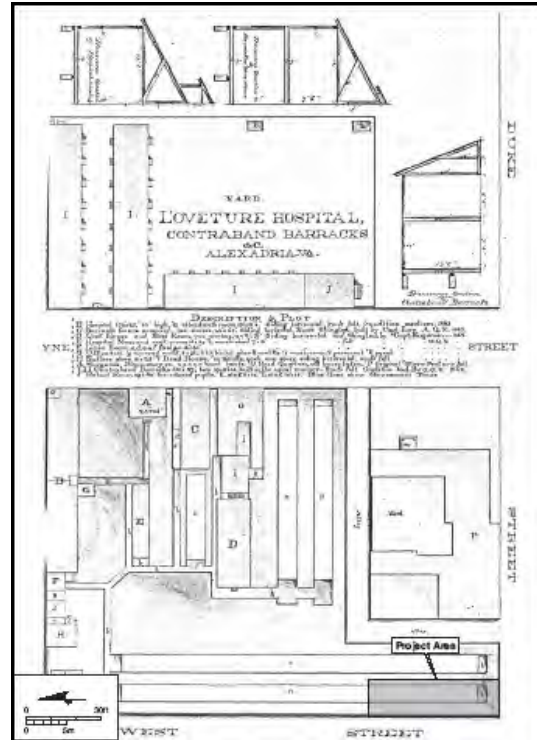
This property continued to serve as a slave trading quarters under two additional owners: George Kephart who purchased the property for \$9,000 on March 12, 1846, and Charles Price and John Cook who paid \$7,000 for the property in May 1858. At the time of Price and Cook's purchase, the property was described as improved with a three-story brick dwelling, a jail, and other improvements. Price and Cook continued to use this property for slave trading until May 14, 1861, when they fled Alexandria before Union troops took control of Alexandria.

The Union army confiscated the former slave pen upon its abandonment, renovating the buildings to serve as a prison. This prison was run by the Union army, and most of the prisoners held here were Union soldiers, being held for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, desertion, and insubordination, although some local residents and Confederate soldiers were also held here.

By 1862, thousands of African-American refugees, known as contrabands or freedmen, had begun to arrive in Washington, D.C., and Union-controlled Alexandria. The number of contraband continually arriving in Alexandria, seeking work, food, clothing, and housing, overwhelmed the city's resources.

Between late 1863 to early 1864, the Union army built L'Ouverture Hospital for African-American soldiers in the city block surrounding the jail/former slave pen at 1315 Duke Street. This hospital was named in honor of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who led the Haitian slave rebellion in the 1790s.

The L'Ouverture Hospital received its first patient on February 15, 1864. The hospital closed as a military institution on October 7, 1865. The remaining military patients were transferred to Slough General Hospital. Slough General Hospital operated from 1864 until January 1866; it was the last military hospital in Alexandria.



1865 Quartermaster Department plan of L'Ouverture Hospital.

The L'Ouverture Hospital was built and operated under the authority of the Quartermaster Department, which had the responsibility for providing medical care to the troops. Based on their experience in the first years of the Civil War, in July 1864 the Quartermaster Department issued guidelines for the construction of general hospitals. These hospitals were to be made up of detached pavilions (rather than a single large building), with a separate building for each 60-bed ward. Other buildings to be included were a "general administration building, dining room and kitchen for patients, dining-room and kitchen for officers, laundry, commissary and quartermaster's storehouse, knapsack-house, guard-house, dead-house, quarters for female nurses, chapel, operating-room, and stable." This use of many small, separate buildings was due to the need for good ventilation and the ability to quarantine parts of the hospital as needed. The Quartermaster Department did not stipulate a plan for hospitals, as the

variations in site size and characteristics made each hospital unique.

The L'Ouverture Hospital includes most of the buildings stipulated by the Quartermaster's guidelines. The plan of L'Ouverture Hospital is not as symmetrical or regular as other hospitals, such as Sickel Hospital six blocks north of L'Ouverture and also built in 1863. This greater irregularity is due to the restrictions on the building site due to existing buildings, including the Slave Pen Prison and an existing dwelling which was used as the L'Ouverture Hospital headquarters.

The 600 beds of L'Ouverture Hospital were divided among a varying number of ward tents. These ward tents had timber frames with canvas walls and roof. Two of the ward tents were reserved for the care of freedmen. One of these ward tents extended for almost the entire length of West Street, including the project area.

While the overall configuration of L'Ouverture Hospital remained the same throughout its use, there were some minor changes to its layout. By 1865, one of the ward tents had been replaced with a military barracks, and the dead house and sink were moved from near the center of the block to the corner of West and Prince Streets. The ward tents in the project area and vicinity were not changed.

Surgeon Edwin Bentley was head of L'Ouverture Hospital from December 1864 until the army left the hospital. Bentley was well regarded by his patients and his fellow staff. He received a gold watch from grateful patients,

Other hospital staff under surgeon Bentley would have included three to four hospital stewards in each hospital. Most large hospitals also had a chaplain. Each ward of approximately 75 patients was the responsibility of a ward physician. There were also numbers of attendants, cooks, and other

staff. The number of nurses needed depended upon the type of patient being cared for. Most hospitals also had a corps of guards to secure the facility. Convalescents often served as nurses or guards until they were able to return to active duty.

By January 1865, L'Ouverture Hospital had begun to treat African-American civilians. By the time L'Ouverture Hospital closed as a military institution on October 7, 1865, it had treated more civilians than soldiers, as many as 66 civilian patients a day. As the numbers of military personnel being cared for declined, the hospital was able to care for more civilians, including women. The first record of women being admitted to the hospital was in July 1865.

After L'Ouverture Hospital was released from army oversight in October 1865, the facility continued operating as a hospital and barracks under the Freedmen's Bureau oversight. By this time, the hospital buildings had deteriorated and had reduced in capacity.

On March 3, 1865, Congress formed the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau). One aspect of the Bureau's mission "was to provide relief and help freedmen become self-sufficient" so that they could become full participants in the new free-labor economy of the South. To fulfill this part of its mission, the Bureau issued clothing and rations to freedmen, ran hospitals and refugee camps, oversaw labor contracts, helped establish schools, and transported freedmen to reunite families or relocate to other parts of the United States. The Bureau also supervised abandoned and confiscated property and assisted white refugees. The Bureau was active in Virginia until 1869, after which it was only involved with establishing schools and pursuing existing claims.

In February 1867, the L'Ouverture Hospital was described as having 14 buildings in

“old” condition. In October 1867, only 12 buildings were listed as part of the L’Ouverture Hospital.

The same 12 buildings were listed for L’Ouverture for the month of November 1867. L’Ouverture Hospital appears to have closed by late November 1867 (Morrison 1997:6).

After the closure of L’Ouverture Hospital in late 1867, the property was returned to its owner, Solomon Stover. Stover, a former business partner of Charles Price, purchased the property for \$6,000 from Price on June 3, 1861, soon after Price had fled Alexandria. The property appears to have been unoccupied from the time it was returned to Stover and until Thomas Swann bought it in November 1869 for \$3,100. Swann bought the property as an investment and proceeded to demolish all of the former hospital and jail, except for the three-story house built by Robert Young. Swann built six townhouses east of this house in 1870, and continued subdividing the lot into smaller parcels.

On October 16, 1884, Swann sold the unimproved southwest corner of the lot to [Em]manuel Jones for \$400. The 1870 Alexandria Directory lists Emmanuel Jones, a colored laborer, as living on Payne Street. By 1888, Jones had built the present house at 1323 Duke Street, as a city directory from the same year gives that as his home address. Emmanuel Jones had died by 1900, as a city directory for that year lists his widow, Susan, as living at 1323 Duke Street.

Susan Jones remained at 1323 Duke Street until December 1904 when she sold the property for \$400 to Henry Scott. Scott retained the property until June 1919 when Thomas and Elizabeth Harlow purchased the property. James H. and Mary Ballard purchased the property less than a year later, in August 1920. The Ballards had financial difficulties, as they transferred the property in trust to secure a \$1,600 debt, defaulted on

this debt, and repurchased the property at a public sale in July 1929. The Ballards owned the house until May 1957, when Mary Ballard, widow of James, sold the house and lot to the Shiloh Baptist Church.

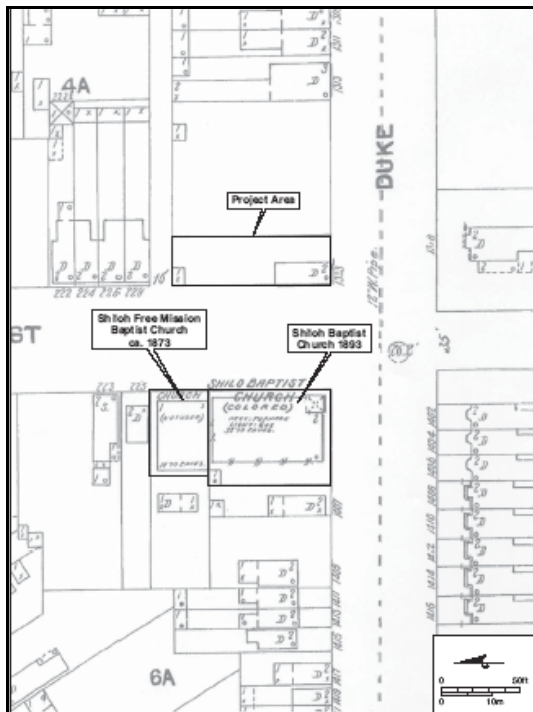
The Shiloh Baptist Church has early ties to the L’Ouverture Hospital property. This church was founded in 1863. The church’s first pastor was the Rev. Charles H. Rodgers. The Rev. E. Owens succeeded him and Rev. Owens was followed by the Rev. Leland Warring. Reverend Warring was a contraband who had arrived in Alexandria by November 1862, when he was running a school for African-Americans in the former Lancastrian School. Reverend Warring’s Shiloh congregation began with 50 other contra- band meeting in a mess hall at the L’Ouverture Hospital. As Warring’s congregation grew, it moved into the barracks north of L’Ouverture Hospital, and after these were destroyed by fire, moved temporarily into the Staunton School. Rev. Warring remained pastor at this Alexandria church, even as he founded other Baptist churches throughout Virginia, including Middleburg’s 1867 Shiloh Baptist Church.

The first church building for the Alexandria Shiloh congregation was dedicated on September 26, 1865. This was a frame building on West Street near Duke Street. This 1865 church was likely the church noted as being destroyed by fire on January 26, 1872. This was “a frame building near the intersection of Prince and West Streets, known as Shiloh Chapel, a colored Baptist meeting house.”

It is unclear where the Shiloh Church worshipped after their church was destroyed, but on May 24, 1873, the trustees of the Shiloh Free Mission Baptist Church: William Johnson, John Woods, and Martin Thompson, purchased a lot on the west side of West Street, between Duke and Prince Streets for \$175. The low purchase price seems to indicate that this lot was unimproved at the time of purchase. A

church, “Shiloh Col’d. Bapt. Ch.,” is shown on this lot in an 1877 map of Alexandria.

At least one family associated with the early history of Shiloh Baptist church lived in the Prince Street Barracks associated with the L’Ouverture Hospital. From before January 1866 through November 15, 1866, the Leland Warring family lived in two-room Barracks No. 1. Leland’s occupation was listed as “preacher” and his family composed of 3 males, one presumably his son Henry, and one female. Leland Warring lived “rent free” in his barracks [another person listed in these records as living rent free in the Prince Street barracks was a laundress who presumably worked for the Bureau].



1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.

Reverend Warring officiated at freedmen funerals in Alexandria, as recorded in “*The Gladwin Record*.” This document lists Rev. Warring as officiating at six funerals between May 23, 1863 and March 6, 1864 (Pippenger 1995).

Other records show that the trustees listed in the 1873 deed could have come to Alexandria as contraband during the Civil War.

Civil War records state that a Martin Thompson, husband of Rosette Jennings, was collecting rations from the Freedman’s Bureau in Alexandria in September 1865. A Martin Thompson is listed in the 1870 census as a 36-year-old colored railroad worker, who lived in Falls Church Township with his wife Rosetta and his son Arthur. In 1888, a Martin Thompson, colored, was living in Alexandria at the south end of Washington Street, working as a gardener.

A “John Wood” was a waiter living at the Sickie Barracks from July 1, 1866, through November 12, 1866. John Wood was the name of a Shiloh Baptist Church trustee listed on an 1873 deed for the church. The John Wood waiter and John Woods, church trustee, may be the same person. The John Wood living at Sickie Barracks had a 7-member family: 2 males and 5 females. His family lived in Barracks 58 & 59, the rent of which was \$3.00/month, but which was much in arrears. In 1870, a John Wood, colored laborer, is listed in the Alexandria Directory as living at the corner of Queen and Fayette Streets. The 1888 directory lists a John Wood, colored, as residing at 1303 Queen Street.

William Johnson, a wood cutter, lived in the Construction Barracks from July 1, 1866, through March 31, 1867. William Johnson was the name of another Shiloh Baptist Church trustee listed in an 1873 deed for the church. The William Johnson living in the Construction Barracks, and William Johnson, church trustee, may be the same person. William Johnson’s two-person family consisted of himself and a female. They lived in a one-room barracks, Number 11, for \$2 monthly rent, which was mostly in arrears through his period of residency. The 1870 Alexandria Directory lists two men named William Johnson as living in the

city. Both worked as laborers, one living at Fayette Street near Queen Street, and the other in Maxwell Alley.

No names matching or similar to the names of early trustees listed in the land records were found in the 1860 census of Alexandria.

Reverend Leland Warring retired from the ministry in 1889, leaving his son Henry to assume his duties as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. Reverend Henry Warring oversaw the construction of the former Shiloh Baptist Church building at 1401 Duke Street. The lot for this building, adjoining the south edge of the lot purchased by the church in 1872, was purchased on July 1, 1884, for \$300 by church trustees H. H. Warring, W. Jackson, and Martin Thompson. L. W. Clark was the architect for this church and construction began in May 1891 under contractor V. F. Vincent. This building was dedicated with great ceremony on October 23, 1893. Both this 1893 church and the ca.

1873 church are both shown on a 1902 Sanborn map of Alexandria.

Archeological investigations identified the presence of fill deposits and a modern ground surface related to the construction and occupation of the house at 1323 Duke Street. Mechanical excavation exposed approximately 1,530 sq ft. of the rear and side yard within the project area. Examination of the stratigraphic sequence within the rear and side yards at 1323 Duke Street indicate that the original ground surface was removed prior to the construction of the building on the lot. Five shovel tests were excavated outside of the lot wall along West Street. The shovel tests revealed a modern stratigraphic sequence associated with the sidewalk, curbs and street. Archeological investigations did not identify any artifact deposits or subsurface features related to the site's former use as a Civil War hospital. Therefore, no further work is recommended.