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PHASE IA DOCUMENTARY STUDY OF 10.67 ACRES AT 4840 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

by

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase IA background and archival study and a walkover reconnaissance of a 10.67 acre parcel at 4840 Eisenhower Avenue in the City of Alexandria, Virginia (Figure 1). The study was conducted by Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc. (TAA) of Woodstock, Virginia, for KSI Services, Inc. of Vienna, Virginia. The research was carried out in October, 1999. William M. Gardner, Ph.D., was principal investigator on the project. William M. Gardner, Tammy Bryant and Gwen J. Hurst conducted the walkover reconnaissance. The background research was conducted by Gwen J. Hurst, who also authored the report.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies in the Inner Coastal Plain. The landforms in the immediate and surrounding areas have been shaped by a series of marine transgressions which have occurred over the past several million years leaving behind terraces of different ages. Erosion over the tens of thousands of years since these terraces were cut has not only altered the original elevations but has changed the composition of the surface soils. Gravels and cobbles, for instance, now often appear on the surface and they are common in the creeks and streams. Soil has moved along and down the slopes, both by wind and rain. Some of this soil entered the streams and the river. All the watercourses underwent alterations in relationship to climatic events. Downcutting and valley incision was rapid during times of glacial advances when much of the earth's water supply was locked up in glacial ice and sea level was lowered. During glacial retreats, streams were drowned and valley widening occurred. Both events created and removed terraces. The overall result was to leave behind a heavily dissected landscape.

Many of the environmental changes which have gone on since during the past 18,000 years can be related to the expansion and retreat of the last Pleistocene glaciation and subsequent short term climatic events.

Tracking these events, around 35,000 years ago (y.b.p.), during an interglacial, the climate in the northern hemisphere reached one of its hottest periods during the one million-plus years of the Late Pleistocene (also known as the Ice Age). The northern and southern glacial caps had virtually all melted bringing sea level well above its present position. Significant portions of the current shoreline in the Alexandria and adjacent parts of the District and Maryland shorelines up to about 30 feet above sea level would have been underwater. All of the stream mouths were drowned well beyond the historic limits of the tide and large bays would have formed. The Chesapeake was the largest of these bays with its major Coastal Plain tributary, the Potomac, forming another large bay. A cypress swamp existed in front of where the White House now sits. The flora and fauna of the entire region had a marked southern cast. For instance, the forests would have been thick with deciduous trees and southern pines with a high canopy and very little lower story trees or underbrush.

Between 35,000-16,000 y.b.p., the climate grew increasingly cooler and the so-called Late Wisconsin glacier began its slow southward advance. At the end of this span, the ocean was lowered by some 350 feet which meant the Atlantic shoreline was well removed from its present position. The Potomac, struggling to keep up with the changing sea level, cut down into its valley dragging all the tributary streams with it. Now, instead of extensive embayments, the Potomac and streams such as Four Mile Run, Cameron Run/Hunting Creek were characterized by steep valley walls with rapidly flowing waters. The tide extended up the Potomac but far down river from Georgetown, its current upper limits. Climatic and life zones were depressed southward.



FIGURE 1
Portion of U.S.G.S. 1994, Alexandria, VA-DC-MD 7.5' Quadrangle
Showing Project Area
(Scale: 1" = 2000')

A typical landscape of circa 20,000-16,000 y.b.p. included extensive areas of open grassland with patchy areas of trees--in essence an open parkland. While some deciduous trees grew in the uplands, most of the arboreal species consisted conifer such as spruce and northern pines. Deciduous forms were largely restricted to the stream valleys. Analogs with contemporary plant associations were probably rare.

Within this mosaic of vegetation was a variety of animal forms, many of which are extinct or now have an entirely different range. Grazers in the grassland included the mammoth, caribou, musk ox and horse while coniferous browsers such as the mastodon and camel pulled pine needles into their maws. The mammoth and mastodon, both elephant forms, were the largest of the mammals. Deer, elk and moose, and even smaller mammals also were present but in lesser numbers than the so-called "megafauna". In a sense, these "modern" types were in a refugee situation. The dominant flora and fauna were cold adapted; the climate cooler than present with winters extending for several months. The other seasons were correspondingly compressed or non-existent.

Change began to set in soon after 16,000 y.b.p. With a few false starts and brief returns to cold conditions, an overall warming trend was initiated. The northern glaciers retreated and deciduous trees underwent a rebound at the expense of the open grasslands. The northern adapted conifers and numerous animal species became extinct or moved their ranges northward. Deer expanded into the void provided by the abdication of the larger herbivores. The deciduous expansion was accompanied, or caused by, the appearance of seasonally and the long winters and short summers of the previous era were replaced at least by 9000 y.b.p. by the four seasons as we now know them. The mast of the deciduous forest which included a variety of acorns, as well as hickory nuts, walnuts, and chestnuts provided a significant source of food for humans and smaller mammals. By around 5000 y.b.p., an oak, hickory, pine climax was attained.

Sea level rise was rapid with consequent drowning of the major tidewater rivers and their tributaries below the Fall Line. It is estimated that by 5000 y.b.p., sea level rise decelerated to something near what it is now, circa 10 inches per century. With the drowning and subsequent slowing of flow, the biota of the water courses changed. It is known, for instance, that the Potomac was saline enough to support oysters toward its mouth by approximately 3500 y.b.p. and at Popes Creek, on the Maryland side, a thousand years later. The upstream creep of salinity pushed anadromous fish (those saltwater piscines seeking freshwater in which to spawn) migration increasingly further upstream. Archeology suggests this had occurred around 4000 y.b.p.

The time period around 5000 y.b.p. plays an important role in the history of ecological succession in our area. This was the peak of the so-called Xerothermic, the hottest and driest period since the inter-glacial of 35,000 years ago. Following that, climate cools and drifts toward more short term changes with waxing and wanings between cool and warm and wet and dry. The last two climate events to seriously affect the area were the Little Climatic Optimum from circa 1100-750 years ago and the Little Ice Age of approximately 600-200 y.b.p. In the former, conditions were warm and moist and this coincides with the spread into the east from the southwest and west of corn, beans and squash agriculture. During the cool and dry climate of the Little Ice Age, considerable stress was placed on prehistoric agriculture and the forests became more open resembling, on a lesser scale, the parkland of the Late Pleistocene.

Thus, at about A.D. 1608, at the time of the first recorded appearance of Europeans in the Washington area, the area's upland landscape consisted of rolling hills with forests of little understory dominated by huge white oaks with a broad high canopy. Within this, deer

would have grazed and browsed and even bison, which had expanded east of the Mississippi a century before, were present in small numbers. On the stream side forests, more wetland adapted species such as willow and sycamore graced the banks. During the months from mid-March to late June, the rivers and tributary streams teemed with masses of spawning fish including sturgeon, different varieties of shad, striped bass and herring. The waters were clean and clear. The estuaries were placid embayments. Tides reached up Four Mile and Cameron Runs, two miles beyond where they extend today and the fish ran well up these streams looking for spawning grounds. Passenger pigeons, geese, swan and ducks filled the skies during their migration periods. Truly a bountiful wilderness with sparse population most of whom lived along the river banks where the land was easily tilled.

The next landscape alteration, and all subsequent ones, was culturally induced. The English settled in the upper Potomac Coastal Plain at or just before the beginning of the 18th century. With them they brought an insatiable desire for wood and land to cultivate. The harmonious balance of nature achieved by plants and soil and the low density population of the Indians was disturbed. Deforestation and cultivation induced a massive erosional cycle which was repeated frequently over the next 290 years. Fertile soils from the uplands of the Coastal Plain and the adjacent Piedmont washed away, filling and clogging the streams. The silt filled streams provided soil for the invasion of terrestrial plants. Introduced alien vegetation, such as water hyacinth, crowded out the native plants and cut down navigation. Pollutants were introduced into the hydrological cycle, particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries. The siltation and pollutants coupled with overharvesting drove the native fish to extirpation. The fragile soils of the Piedmont were wasted in the face of the careless practices of tobacco farming. The fertility of many areas was reduced. Successional forests replaced climax forests.

The landscape continued to be transformed as wooded uplands gave way to cultivated fields. While intensive agriculture was going on, most arboreal vegetation was confined to the streams and untillable gulleys or steep banks, in poorly drained areas, along fence rows, in wood lots and in yards. When a field was abandoned, ecological succession was initiated and the field would go from brambles and weeds, noxious vines such as poison ivy and escaped domestics such as honeysuckle and wisteria, pioneer trees such as juniper and locust then into pine, hickory and oak. None of the trees reached the size proportions of the pristine forests and few trees made it to one hundred years in age.

Erosion and stream channel clogging continued unabated. Through time, settlement spread out from the urban centers and plantations, except rarely, broke down into smaller holdings. Roads and railroad tracks spread across the landscape. It was along these transportation corridors that most residences spread. Places like Franconia and Lincolnia grew up around railroad stops or highway crossroads. By and large, however, the area remained relatively rural until the World War II period. Suburban sprawl began then in earnest, accelerating in the post-World War II period as houses, apartment complexes, high rises, parking lots, and industrial plots moved across the landscape.

Modern (2,760-Present)	Sand temper (Accokeek)	2,750
	Middle Woodland	
	Crushed rock/grit temper (Popes Creek)	2,500
	Shell temper (Mockley)	2,100
	Late Woodland	
	Shell temper (Townsend/Rappahannock)	1,100
	Grit temper (Potomac Creek)	700

The major prehistoric time periods of import are: the Paleoindian-Early Archaic (circa 9200-6700 B.C.); the Archaic, circa 6800-1800 B.C.; the Transitional/Early and Middle Woodland, circa 1800 B.C.-A.D. 900; and the Late Woodland, circa A.D. 900-1600.

The first of these represents the period of initial human occupation of the region. Sporadic Paleoindian finds are reported on the Potomac, particularly around Bennings in the District of Columbia, just above the junction of the Anacostia and the Potomac, and along the Accotink and the Occoquan, but, overall, spearpoints of this time are uncommon in the local area (Gardner 1985). Early Archaic components show a slight increase in numbers, but it is during the Middle Archaic (Morrow Mountain and later) that prehistoric human presence becomes relatively widespread (Gardner various; Johnson 1986; Weiss-Bromberg 1987). Whereas the earlier groups appear to be more oriented toward hunting and restricted to a limited range of landscapes, Middle Archaic populations move in and out and across the various habitats on a seasonal basis. Diagnostic artifacts from upland surveys along and near the Potomac show a significant jump during the terminal Middle Archaic (e.g. Halifax) and beginning Late Archaic (Savannah River).

The most intense utilization of the region begins circa 1800 B.C. with the advent of the Transitional Period and the Savannah River Broadspear derivatives, which include the Holmes and other related points. In models presented by Gardner, this is linked with the arrival of large numbers of anadromous fish. These sites tend to be concentrated along the shorelines near accessible fishing areas which are up the tributaries to points above where these tributaries begin to constrict. The adjacent interior and upland zones become rather extensively utilized as adjuncts to these fishing base camps. In some instances, (c.f. Gardner et al 1995), cobble quarry and cobble quarry reduction stations prevail. The pattern of using seasonal camps continues. The same essential settlement pattern continues throughout the Early and Middle Woodland. The post-A.D. 900 Late Woodland change is precipitated by the advent of agriculture and, between A.D. 1350 and 1600, scattered agricultural hamlets coalesce into larger sites such as that found at Accokeek Creek (Stephenson et al 1963) and at Potomac Creek (Schmitt 1965).

The cultural diagnostics listed in the table above are simplified. For instance, Early Archaic side notched points are more common in the western part of the Middle Atlantic. There is also a formal overlap between terminal Middle Archaic side notched forms such as Brewerton and Halifax and the Early Archaic side notched types. The possibility also exists of overlap between either of these, particularly Halifax/Brewerton, and the presumed Early Woodland Vernon Side Notched. Indeed, it is not even clear if the latter exists. Projectile point types certainly become more diverse in the Late Archaic. For instance, the large Savannah River Stemmed point can have an expanding stem, a straight stem, or a contracting stem. The same holds true for the derivative and later Holmes or small Savannah River Stemmed. By this latter period, circa post-1800-1200 B.C., the Fall Line of the Potomac appears to be a stylistic divide between the Piedmont oriented Susquehanna-Dry Brook-Fishtail-Vernon (?) sequence and the Savannah River Stemmed-Holmes-Calvert evolution.

Another mis-identification can occur between smaller versions of the contracting stem Morrow Mountain point and the Early Woodland Rossville/Piscataway. A similar error in identification can happen between the contracting stem large Savannah River (which seems to be post-1800 B.C.) and Morrow Mountain.

Ceramics present less of a complex scene. The earliest ceramic series in the Piedmont and Upper Potomac Coastal Plain are the steatite tempered Marcey Creek Plain followed by Selden Island Cordmarked, which is also tempered with steatite particles. The third phase of the Early Woodland is marked by the sand tempered Accokeek ware. Point styles vary, but include the Holmes point and other stemmed variants descending from Savannah River Stemmed, as well as Orient Fish Tail and Hellgrammite which develop out of the Susquehanna Broadspars. The previous stylistic boundary in projectile points at the Fall Zone seems to continue although all of the ceramics cross this boundary. Shell middens become evident by Early Woodland III in the Lower Potomac Coastal Plain where the water was of sufficient salinity to support oyster populations.

The period after 500 B.C. is marked by the appearance of Albemarle Net Marked in Potomac Piedmont and Ridge and Valley and the related Popes Creek Net Impressed in the Coastal Plain. Shell tempered Mockley ware marks the Coastal Plain circa A.D. 200. The Potomac Piedmont may have been all but abandoned at this juncture. Point styles associated with the earlier ceramic phases are in the Rossville-Piscataway contracting stemmed genre. These are succeeded by small stemmed and notched points.

By A.D. 900, refined crushed rock tempered ceramics in the Albemarle/Shephard ware category show up in the Potomac Piedmont. In the latter part of the Early Agriculturalist period, limestone tempered and shell tempered (Keyser series) pottery successively dominate the areas along the Potomac from the Ridge and Valley through to the mouth of the Monocacy and the Fall Zone. In the Upper Potomac Coastal Plain, the Townsend/Rappahannock series evolves out of the Mockley series to be replaced circa A.D. 1350 by Potomac Creek. The groups associated with the Potomac Creek ceramic series appear to have evolved out of the Montgomery Focus in the Piedmont, only to have been pushed out by expansionistic groups in the interior. Triangular points are the norm for the entire Early Agriculturalist period. These groups appear to have been full time residents practicing agriculture. Village and hamlet locations were around the mouths of creeks contiguous with broad floodplain locations; in this area, at the mouths of streams with good agricultural soil along the Potomac. The non-riverine or non-estuarine Woodland sites were short term occupations related to general foraging components of the subsistence system (c.f. Gardner 1982, 1985, Weiss-Bromberg 1987, Cissna 1990).

In early historic times, Indians were no longer resident, even along the Potomac, in most of the area at the time of Euroamerican settlement, although they were present in the area for the period up to circa A.D. 1700. The Dogue, who were related to the Piscataway, are generally considered to be the indigenous occupants of the Northern Virginia shoreline.

Prehistoric Predictive Model

Most of the functional categories of sites away from major drainages are those of small base camps, transient camps, limited purpose camps and quarries. Site frequency and size vary according to a number of factors, e.g. proximity to major river or streams, distribution of readily available surface water, and the presence of lithic raw materials (Gardner 1987). The pattern of seasonally shifting use of the landscape begins circa 7000 B.C., when seasonal variation in resources first becomes marked. By 1800 B.C., runs of anadromous fish occur and the Indians spent longer periods of time along the estuarine Potomac

(Gardner 1982, 1987). It is possible that some horticulture or intensive use of local resources appears between 1200-500 B.C. for, at this time, the seasonal movement pattern is reduced somewhat (Gardner 1982). However, even at this time and during the post A.D. 900 agriculture era, extension of the exploitative arm into the upland and inter-riverine areas through hunting, fishing and gathering remained a necessity.

The project area is located on top of a marine terrace overlooking Cameron Run which contains varying amounts of cobbles and gravels. Springheads are present. The location has two of the major variables, a nearby high order stream and lithic raw material, to place it in a category of high probability for prehistoric site occurrence. In addition, a first order stream did, and may still, flow just to the east of the site; at least this is depicted on the 1971 photorevised U.S.G.S. Alexandria 7.5 minute quad.

Historic Background

The 10.67 acre parcel located on Eisenhower Avenue contained an estate known as Bush Hill. Bush Hill was formerly located in the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County, Virginia, until 1950 when this portion of Fairfax County was annexed to Alexandria. Fairfax County was created from the upper part of Prince William County, formerly a part of Stafford County, on 1 December, 1742 (Hening 1819:207-208). Documents for the early land owners of Bush Hill, prior to the creation of Fairfax County in 1742, are located in the circuit courts of Stafford and Prince William counties.

Bush Hill mansion (Plate 1), a sixteen room colonial Georgian brick house laid in Flemish bond, is claimed to have been built in 1763 (Springfield Independent 1954:1, 5, Cump ND), which is within three or four years of the first brick house, Gunston Hall, built in the northern area of Virginia by George Mason. The earliest documented existence of the mansion house at Bush Hill, and the first appearance of the name of Bush Hill, is found in a Mutual Assurance Policy issued to Josiah Watson, owner-resident of the property, in 1796 (Mutual Assurance Policy No. 46). Bush Hill was burned by an arsonist, or arsonists, on 13 March 1977 (The Washington Post 1977).

Early Land Owners

The project area containing the Bush Hill estate is located within a 4,639 acre Northern Neck land warrant from Marguritte, Lady Culpeper to William West, William Harrison, Thomas Pearson and Thomas Harrison of Stafford County on 12 April 1706. The annual rental fee for this grant was one shilling sterling for every fifty acres. The property is described in the land grant as being below the great fork on a branch of Dogues Run, and on Indian Branch adjoining Colonel William Fitzhugh [Ravensworth] (Northern Neck Grants 3:153). In 1714, the grant was divided in eight parcels between [Major] John West, Thomas Harrison, William Harrison, Thomas Pearson and Michael Regan (Figure 2). The acreage of each parcel in the 1714 division is unknown. When this property was sold by John West's grandson in 1787, that part of the grant above Backlick Run was surveyed at 460 acres, and that part below Backlick Run (Bush Hill) was surveyed at 272 acres.

Colonel John West, the son of Major John West and Susanna Pearson, married his cousin, Margaret Pearson. In 1749, Colonel John West was elected to the Truro Vestry, he served as Lieutenant of the Virginia Regiment during the French-Indian Wars in the late 1750s, and was a Fairfax County Justice of the Peace for many years. In 1755, he was seated in the Virginia Assembly at which time he was residing in the town of Alexandria (Harrison 1987:138-139). At the time of his retirement from the Virginia Assembly in 1776, John



Plate 1

Photo of Bush Hill Prior to 1977 by Bush Hill School and Edith Moore Sprouse
(Courtesy of Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library, Fairfax, Virginia)

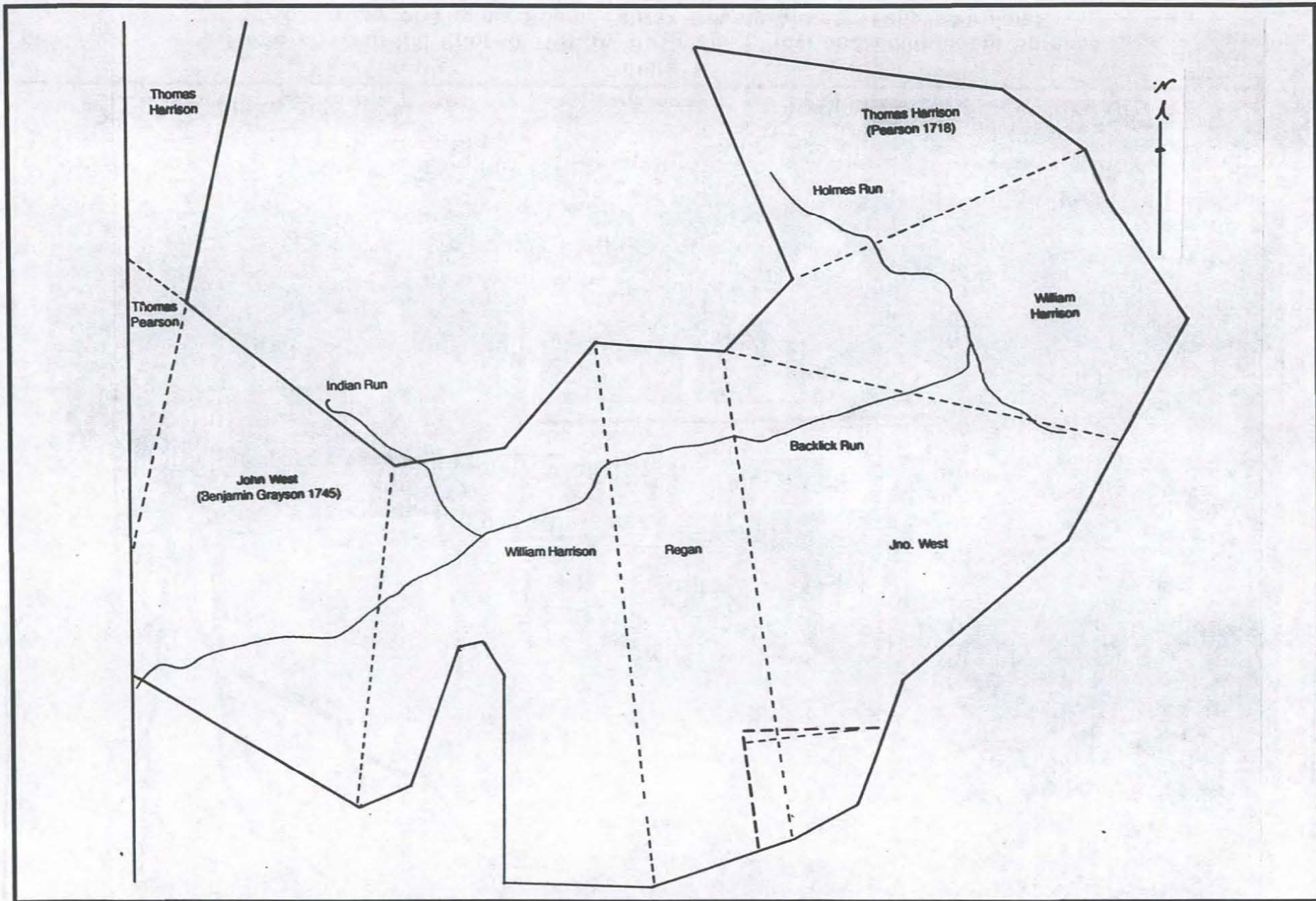


FIGURE 2
West, Harrison and Pearson Division Of 4,639 Acres, 1714

West was living on his plantation on the south side of Great Hunting Creek known as West Grove (ibid.).

The will of Colonel John West written in 1776, and probated in 1777, mentions land and money given to his married daughters Ann Talbot and Hannah Aston, and annuities for his minor daughter Ann West, and provisions for his wife Margaret. Roger West, apparently his only son, was given the bulk of his estate including his dwelling plantation and 205 acres of land, two contiguous tracts of land containing 295 and 500 acres each with eleven slaves, "my old quarter and the land whereon Benjamin Boylston is now over seer" containing 450 acres with ten slaves, and a "new Quarter of 450 acres lying on the mane road where Connor Maguire now teaches school." Ten slaves were to go with the new quarter. The specific locations of the two quarters called the "old quarter" and the "new quarter," devised to Roger West by his father's will in 1776/1777, have not been identified (Fairfax County Wills D1:25-44).

All of John West's stock of horses, mares, colts, carts, plows, hoes, and plantation utensils for making a crop of Indian corn, wheat and tobacco, also two iron pots and hooks, two frying pans, two feather beds and furniture, four work oxen, and one-fourth part of the residue of his cattle, sheep, hogs and geese were to be kept upon the several plantations given to his son Roger. Executors of his will were to keep in good repair two seines and one boat or scow "to carry on the fishing business for Roger's estate." The remaining three-quarters of his stock and other personal properties were to be sold and divided among his children, in the meantime placing his son Roger under "the sole guardianship, management, care and tuition" of his "very good friend George Washington, Esq." (ibid.).

An appraisalment of John West's personal property estate in March 1778 allotted Roger West, twenty eight slaves, livestock including seven horses, the farming utensils and hand tools, two beds and bedding, an iron pot and hooks, and two frying pans. Total value of the personal estate set aside for Roger was assessed at £3,678.2.8 (approximately \$16,330.00). The total value of the residue of Colonel John West's estate, including the remaining three quarters of his livestock, household and kitchen furnishings and tableware, books, clothing, fabrics, liquors, lumber and cash "left in the house by Colo. John West," was assessed at £1,256.14.9 (approximately \$5,576.64). A listing of the remainder of John West's slaves do not appear in this inventory and there is no indication that inventories were taken at either the old or new quarters (Fairfax County Wills D1:50-55).

Roger West of West Grove, a planter and a gentleman, was a Fairfax County Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1787, Roger West appears in the Fairfax County Personal Property Tax List "A" with fourteen slaves over the age of 16, eleven slaves under the age of 16, two horses and thirty-five head of cattle. His mother, Margaret, presumably still residing at West Grove, was taxed for twenty six slaves, eight horses, and twenty-three head of cattle (Schreiner-Yantis and Love 1987:1059, 1060). It is unknown whether Roger West was residing at this time at West Grove with his mother, on contiguous property, or on one of the two quarters.

In 1787, Roger West deeded 272 acres inherited from his father, John West, on the south side of Holme's, or Back Lick Run, to James Hendricks of the town of Alexandria for £1,360 (approximately \$6,038.00). The sale price of this tract of land indicates that there were major improvements on the property. This property later became known as the Bush Hill plantation. The remaining portion of this tract, 460 acres on the north side of Holme's Run, was sold to Charles Lee who was to share in "one half of the water of Holmes's or Back lick run" (Fairfax County Deeds Q1:515-518).

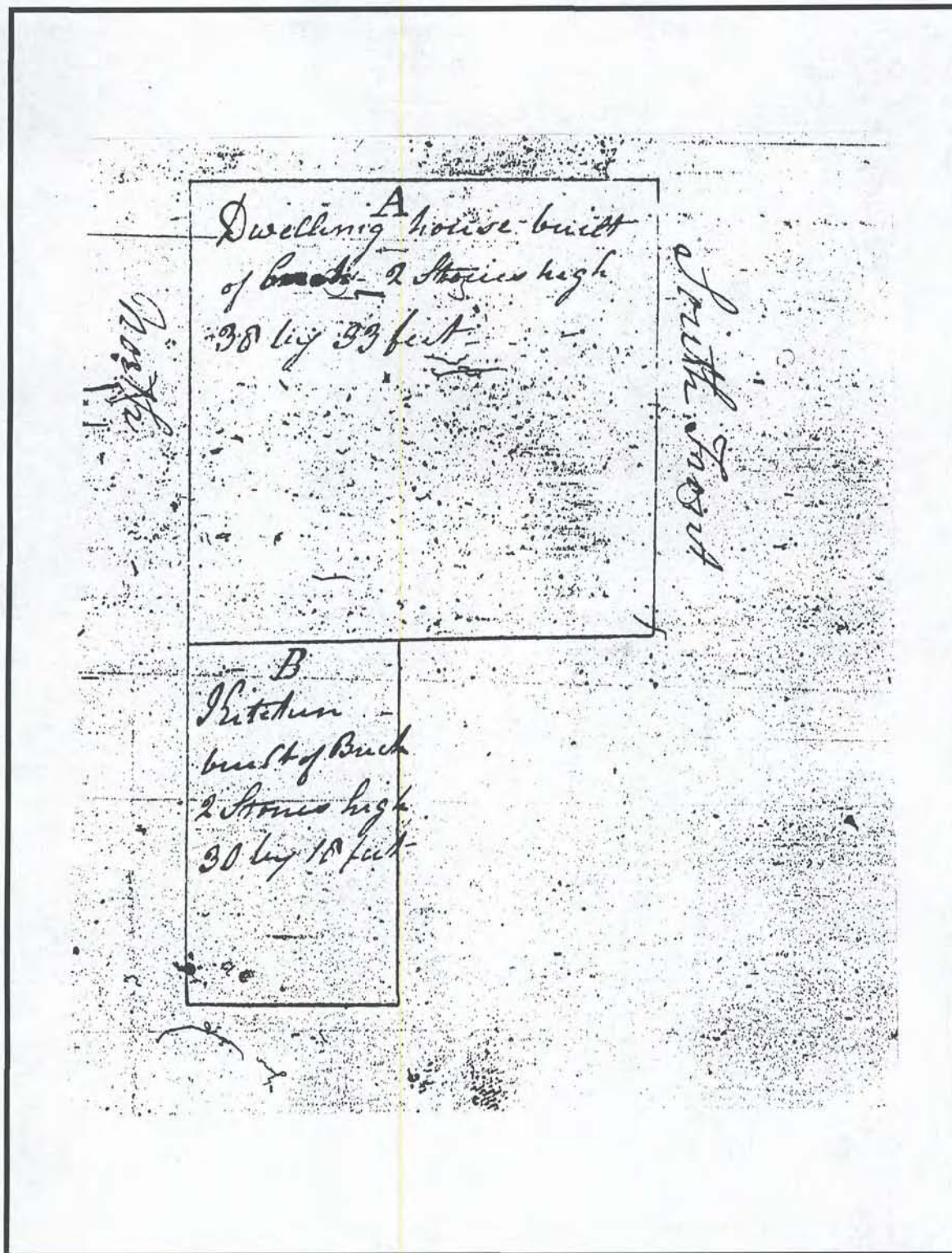


FIGURE 3
Mutual Assurance Policy
No 46 For Josiah Watson's
Dwelling and Kitchen at
Bush Hill, 1796

The 272 acres of land conveyed to James Hendricks in 1787 was deeded by Benjamin Stoddard of Georgetown, Maryland, and Josiah Watson and William Hartshorne of Alexandria, Virginia, to John Richter on 10 June, 1790. Rickler's purchase price was £800 (\$3,552.00), a decrease in evaluation of almost fifty percent (Fairfax County Deeds T1:330-337). The following year, on 6 October 1791, John Richter of the county of Fairfax conveyed the property to Josiah Watson, an Alexandria merchant at Watson's Wharf, for £1,060 (\$4,706.40) (Fairfax County Deeds T1:486-493; Miller 1995:236).

Josiah Watson, an Alexandria merchant, appears in the 1791 Alexandria City Directory as the owner and occupier of properties at Pitt, Union, Boswell and Fairfax Street in Alexandria. Other properties owned were on Pitt, Prince, Fairfax and Water Streets occupied by, or leased to various persons (Tallichet 1986:26). In the 1816 *Blue Book Register* of the employees of the United States, Josiah Watson, a native of Ireland, is listed as the postmaster of Alexandria, Columbia at an annual salary of \$1,653.33 (Congress Of The United States 1834:353).

Josiah Watson insured his dwelling house for \$3,000, an attached kitchen valued at \$1,200, and a barn at Bush Hill valued at \$1,500 with the Mutual Assurance Company (Policy Nos. 46 and 47), on 9 June 1796 (Figure 3). The dwelling house with attached kitchen is described in the policy as constructed of brick, two stories high measuring 38 by 33 feet. The attached kitchen is described as built of brick, two stories high, and measuring 30 by 16 feet. The two-story wooden barn, measuring 60 by 30 feet, was insured for \$1,500.00 (Figure 4). Bush Hill, occupied by Josiah Watson at that time, is described as situated between the land of William Cash on the west, and Benjamin Dulaney on the east. A survey of Benjamin Dulaney's Rose Hill plantation (Figure 5), adjoining the east side of Bush Hill, shows Josiah Watson's residence located southwest of the confluence of Backlick and Holme's Run.

The following year, Josiah Watson and his wife Jane Watson of the town of Alexandria, conveyed Bush Hill and the surrounding 272 acres "with the use and privileges of one half of Backlick Run," to Richard Marshall Scott of Alexandria for \$10,000.00. Included in the conveyance was an additional adjoining 82 acres on both sides of Hepburn's Mill Road that Josiah Watson had purchased from the Michael Regan estate in 1796 (Fairfax County Deeds A2:198-201).

The Scotts at Bush Hill

Richard Marshall Scott, a Dumfries merchant who became the British Collector at the Port of Dumfries in 1789, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1811/1812, and director of the Bank of Alexandria studied law with Charles Lee of Leesylvania, his later neighboring land owner at Bush Hill (Leonard 1978; Miller 1995:106). Richard Scott first appears in the county documents of Prince William in 1786 when he purchased Lot 46 in the town of Dumfries from John Langitt. Mr. Richard M. Scott took the Oath as prescribed by the Congress of the United States to support the Constitution on 1 September 1789 (Prince William County Deeds W:391-393; X:109), apparently in order to qualify as the British Collector at Dumfries.

A narration of the history of John Scott's arrival in America, his settlement and marriage in Maryland colony, and later in Virginia, appears in an 1835 chancery case in Fairfax County. Richard M. Scott's father, John Scott, a native of Scotland, emigrated to Maryland in about 1753 "bringing with him a cargo of dry goods in order to carry on the business of a merchant." Arriving at the age of 21, John Scott "settled with his store at a place called Allens Fresh" in Charles County, Maryland. In about 1759, he failed and

A. Alexander Sc.
The foregoing valuation sworn to in due form
before me, a Magistrate for the said Town
of *Alexandria* Given under my hand, this
Eleventh day of *June* in the year 1796.

John Dundas Justice

Robert G. Lamberton
Reading in *Alexandria*
Mungo Bykes

A
Barn built of wood 2 stories
high 60 by 30 feet

South Front

FIGURE 4

Mutual Assurance Policy No. 47
For Josiah Watson's Barn at Bush Hill, 1796

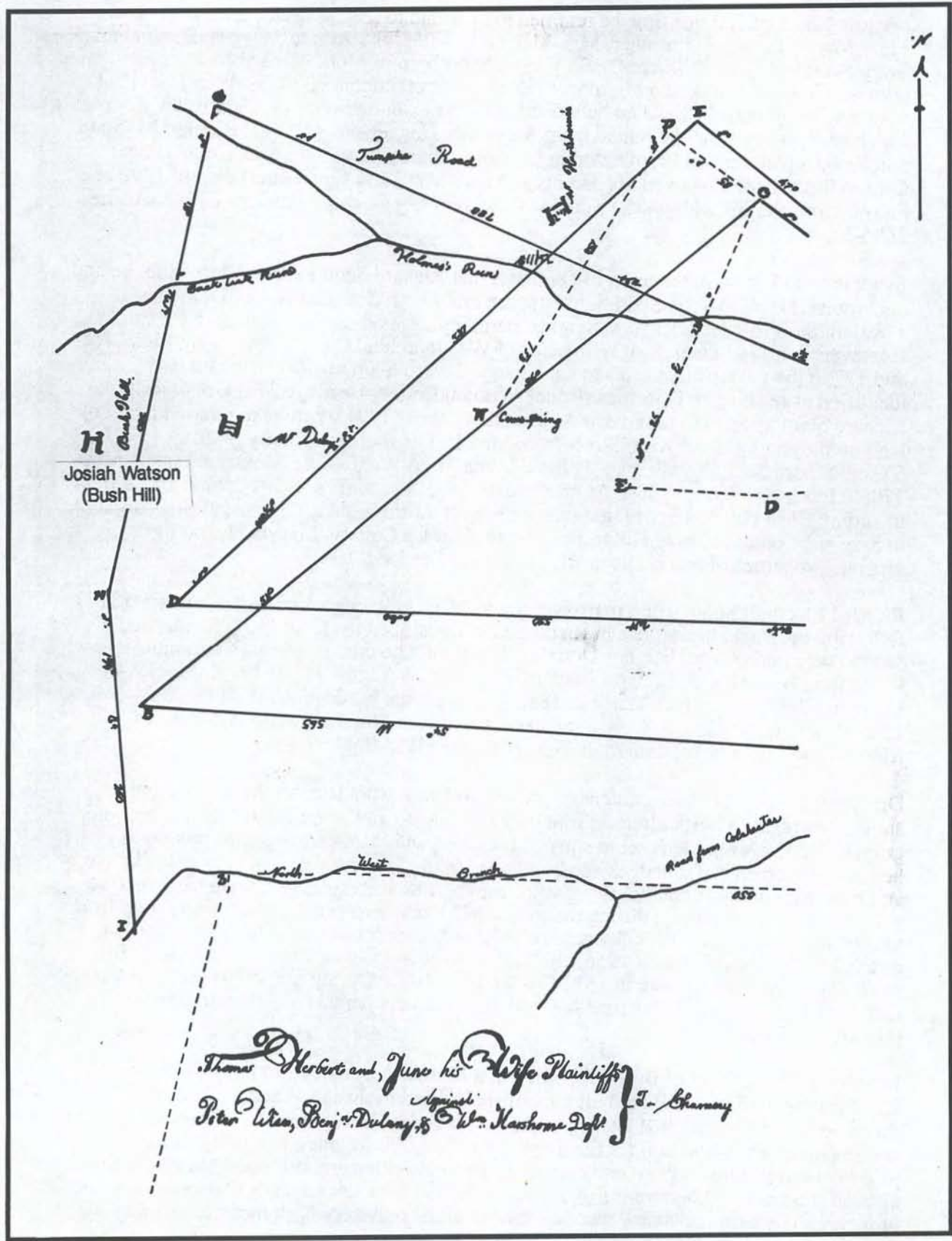


Figure 5
 1796 Survey of Dulaney Estate Showing Josiah Watson's
 Residence at Bush Hill (Fairfax County Record of Surveys:218)

became bankrupt. At this time he returned to Scotland to seek assistance, leaving his wife Mary Marshall, with her mother, Mrs. Marshall. After his return to Maryland, John and Mary Scott had three children: David Wilson Scott born in 1766, Richard Marshall Scott born in 1769, and Anna Scott born in 1772. John Scott continued to reside in Maryland with his family until 1780 when he moved to Fairfax County, settling a few miles from Colchester on lands that he rented from Alexander Henderson. In 1791, Richard M. Scott purchased a place called Farmington in Loudoun County (now in Fairfax County) near Centreville, where he moved his parents and his sister Anna. John Scott died in 1792 at Farmington, and his widow Mary died in 1795 (Fairfax County Chancery CFF 88A, file 2/7:5-9).

In addition to Lot 46 in the town of Dumfries that Richard Scott purchased in 1886, he and his brother, David Wilson Scott, jointly purchased Lot 173 in the town of Dumfries in 1789. In the 1789 deed, Richard Scott is identified as residing in the town of Alexandria. However, in a 1791 deed from Henry Lee of Westmoreland County conveying Lots 176 and 177 in the town of Dumfries to David and Richard Scott in 1791, Richard was identified as residing in Dumfries (Prince William County Deeds X:273-275, 484-485). Richard Scott appears to remove to Alexandria in about 1794 when he purchased a plot of land on the south side of King Street from John D. Orr (Fairfax County Deeds X1:630-632). Richard Scott, "gentleman" is listed in the Third Ward in the Alexandria tax list for 1796 (Hewes and Korn 1796). At his death in 1833, Richard M. Scott owned properties including Bush Hill and Farmington plantations in Fairfax County, Dipple at St. Marysville in Stafford County, Cherry Hill in Piccawaxe, Charles County, Maryland, and three separate properties of real estate in Alexandria (Miller 1995:106).

Richard Marshall Scott's first marriage was to Mary Love who died on 13 January 1812 following the tragic theater fire in Richmond in December 1811. In 1828, he married his second wife and cousin, Eleanor Douglass Marshall who died in 1830, five months after the birth of his first son, Richard Marshall Scott on 23 August 1829. His third wife was Lucinda Fitzhugh who he married in 1832 shortly before his death in 1833 (Miller 1995:106; Crump ND). A second son named Jonathan Mordecai Scott was born to Richard and Lucinda Scott in 1833 (Superior Court Will Book: 79-89).

Described as a "gentleman gardener," printed abstracts from Richard M. Scott's diaries show a devotion to horticulture in fruit orchards and bushes, a variety of berry vines and grapes, and flower gardens set in squares bordered with trimmed cedar, or boxwood hedges. Trimmed cedar hedges apparently edged the "avenue," or roadway to his house, and hyacinths and tulip bulbs, along with strawberries and asparagus, were set in his garden squares. Annually, during the month of March, lemon trees were brought up from the cellar and placed in the hallway. Fruit orchards mentioned in his diaries are apricot, peach, and cherries (Gunnell 1956:10-11). A large number of apple trees at Bush Hill were also advertised for sale in 1812 (Miller 1995:106). During the 1950s, two holly trees that Richard Scott had set out, had reached the incredible heights of fifty and sixty feet. (Gunnell 1956:10).

In 1805, Richard Scott of Bush Hill took out a Mutual Assurance fire policy (Policy No. 22), for the buildings on Bush Hill previously insured by Josiah Watson. The brick dwelling house and attached kitchen apparently had been covered in the interim with wood and reassessed at \$4,500.00 for the dwelling and \$1,000 for the kitchen. Chimney placements are shown as two end chimneys on the dwelling and one end chimney to the kitchen (Figure 6). Alterations had been made to the barn since Josiah Watson owned the property. The barn had a new wooden shed addition one story high measuring 15 by 45 feet, and a wooden square addition to the one story addition, two stories high, measuring 16 by 16 feet square. The barn, with a stone foundation, and additions were insured for

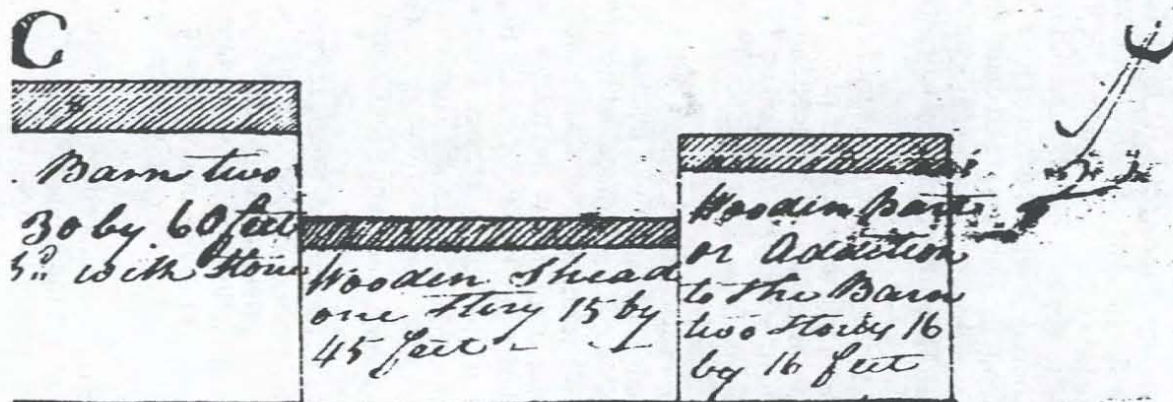
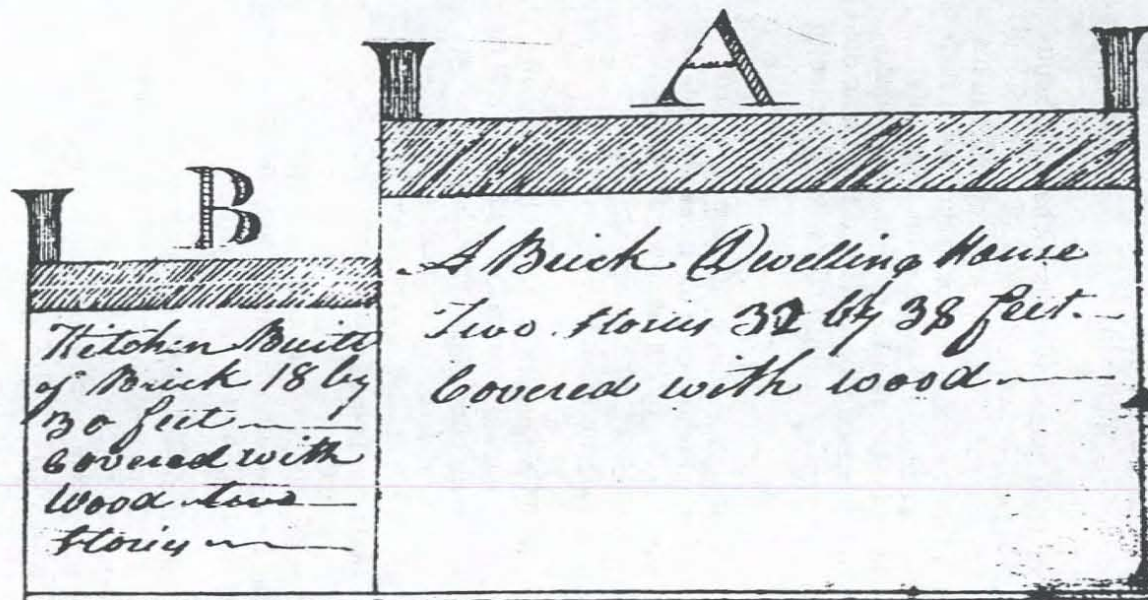


FIGURE 6

Mutual Assurance Policy No. 22

For Richard M. Scott's Residence and Barn at Bush Hill, 1805

\$1,500.00. A separate policy (Policy No. 2), was for a wooden "gardeners house," one story high measuring 16 by 24 feet, underpinned with brick and valued at \$350.00. Included in the second policy was a one story wooden "servant's hall" measuring 15 by 30 feet underpinned with brick valued at \$300.00. Both the gardeners house and servants hall are shown with central chimneys (Figure 7).

Insurance on these structures was renewed by Richard Scott in 1815 (Policy Nos. 1745 and 1749). In the 1815 policy, the barn is identified as a "barn and stable" with the square addition identified as a "carriage house." The locations of the barn, gardener's house, and servants hall in relationship to the Bush Hill residence is unknown.

The Fairfax County census record for the year of 1810 (page 217) lists Richard M. Scott with one male under the age of 10, his wife and himself between the ages of 26 to 45, and owning nine slaves. The 1820 Fairfax County census for 1820, lists a young male in his household between the age of 16 and 26, Richard over the age of 45, and thirty-two slaves. As far as is known, Richard M. Scott did not have a male child living in his household. Chancery Court depositions taken in his estate in 1845 state that Richard M. Scott raised Chary M. Scott, the only child and daughter of his deceased brother, David Scott who died in 1827. Richard Scott's sister Ann Scott was also residing at Bush Hill when she died in October of 1821 (Fairfax Chancery CFF 88A).

The 1830 U.S. Population Census for Fairfax County (page 263) enumerates Richard Scott with one male under the age of 5 in his household who would have been his infant son and namesake, Richard M. Scott, himself over the age of 60, and owning twenty nine slaves. Richard Marshall Scott died on 31 August 1833 at Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, Virginia (now West Virginia) (Alexandria Gazette 1833:3.3).

By the terms of Richard M. Scott's will written on 23 August 1832, he left his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Scott, widow of his deceased brother, David Scott, \$150.00 for life and a room and a home at his farm called Farmington. To his cousin, Elizabeth Scott, wife of Gustavus Hall Scott, he rescinded the debt her husband owed in excess of \$7,000.00 plus interest. His brother-in-law and relation, Robert Marshall, was also released from any balance appearing on his ledger except for \$1,000.00 which was to go to his estate. A friend, Barton Lunch, was released from any balance due on "Ledger E" and \$100.00. To other relations, Mary S. Froble, Elizabeth D. Scott, Eleanor S. Causin, and Mary M. Foote, he left \$50.00 each. To Mary M. Foote, he also left two adult slaves and their three children (Fairfax County Superior Court Will Book: 79-89).

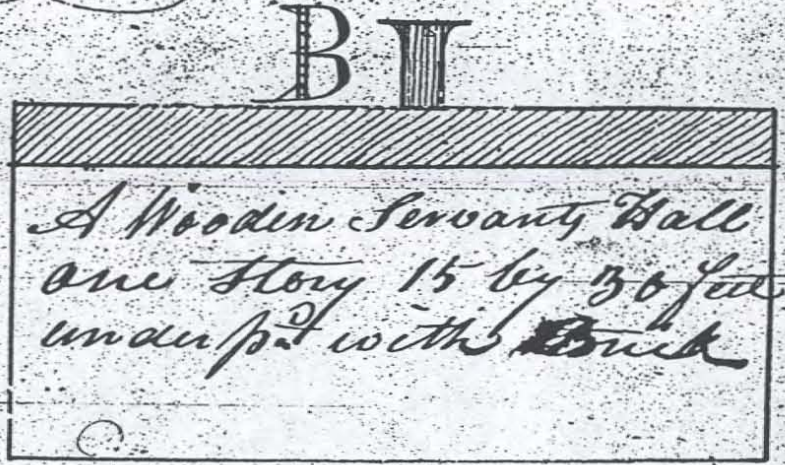
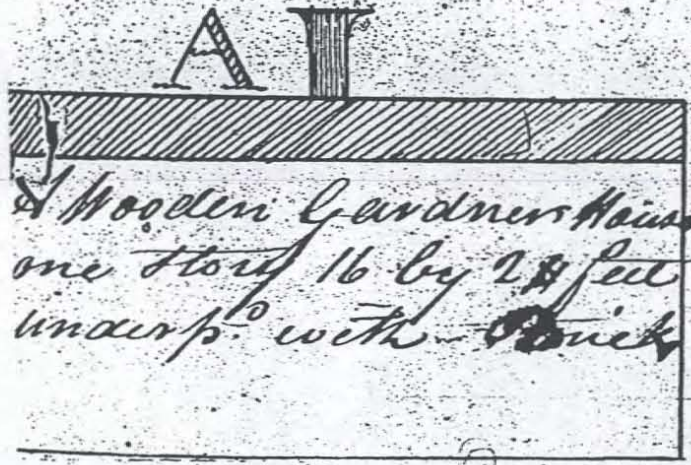
To his nephew, Richard M. Scott, Jr., son of his cousin Elizabeth D. Scott who was residing at his plantation in St. Marysville, he left all his land and real estate in Stafford County, Virginia (Dipple plantation), with the slaves attached to the estate, livestock, household and kitchen furniture, and farming utensils in trust through his friend, William Fitzhugh, and his brother-in-law, Edwin C. Fitzhugh. Richard M. Scott was also released from a debt of \$7,030.94 on his ledger (ibid.).

Citing a marriage contract dated 15 March 1831 with his wife Lucinda Fitzhugh, Richard Scott left Lucinda the ground rent of \$250.00 per annum from a lot at the corner of King and Water Streets in the town of Alexandria until she remarried, \$1,000.00 cash, a carriage and a pair of horses. As his wife appeared to "be with child" at the time of writing his will, he left his wife and her brother, Edwin Fitzhugh, 200 shares of stock in the Farmers Bank of Alexandria, a servant named Lucy and her children, and a lot in the town of Alexandria on Royal Street for the benefit of the expected child (ibid.).

OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, AND IN THE SAID SUBJECT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE US BY THE ABOVE SIGNATURES
I the undersigned do hereby certify that I } *Benj. Dulaney* } Residing in
verily believe the Building herein de- }
scribed, are not over-valued.

C. J. Marble Special Agent.

Wm. Thomas
Dulaney
Fairfax



15
4

FIGURE 7
Mutual Assurance Policy No. 22
For the Gardner's House and Servants Hall at Bush Hill, 1805

Providing that his servant and friend, "negro Nelly Shanks," should enjoy all the freedom that can legally be bestowed, he left Nelly \$10.00 every three months during her lifetime for her fidelity and domestic care, and a home at Bush Hill. He requested that all of his servants be kindly treated, and left his servant, Moses [Johnson], \$50.00 (ibid.).

The remainder of Richard Scott's estate, including Bush Hill and Farmington, with all personal property attached to the two plantations, was left to his son, Richard Marshall Scott, at that time "the only child of my body" (ibid.).

A codicil to Richard Scott's will on 3 July 1833 states that he had a child born on 22 January called John Mordecai after his grandfather Scott and grandfather Fitzhugh. To John, he left the farm called Farmington, a slave couple and their three children, and all the personal property attached to Farmington. Believing that there was another child expected, the third child was to have his estate in Maryland called Cherry Hill. An additional request in his codicil asks his wife "to retain and preserve the bottled wine on the floor under the staircase which I have promised to my son Richard M. Scott (ibid.). All of Richard Marshall Scott's real and personal estate, by terms of his will, went to his relatives and friends and no inventory of his personal estate was taken.

William H. Foote, one of the executors of the estate of Richard M. Scott, was appointed guardian of Richard M. Scott "Jr." on 16 June 1834 (Fairfax County Will Book 4:184-185). William H. Foote died in the month of November 1846 and Dennis Johnston (Johnson) was appointed guardian of Richard M. Scott at the June Term of the Fairfax County Court in 1847. In depositions taken in the Fairfax County Chancery Court in 1847 (*Richard M. Scott vs. Dennis Johnston*), Richard Scott stated that he was put into possession of his estate by William H. Foote. Upon possession "it was found absolutely necessary to make considerable repairs to the dwelling house and the various out houses, to build a barn (the old one having been burnt down), to purchase horses, cattle, farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture, and other essential articles..." (Fairfax County Chancery CFF 82 L). Richard M. Scott was married at the age of 17 on 15 September 1846, in Washington D.C., with the approbation of his guardian, to Virginia Gunnell, the daughter of James and Helen Mackall-Gunnell (District of Columbia Marriage Register 1).

Children born to Richard M. and Virginia Gunnell-Scott were Frank, Eleanor, Richard M., and Anna Constance (Washburn 1984-1985:60). The 1850 U.S. Population Census for Fairfax County (page 151) enumerates Richard M. Scott at the age of twenty-one with an estate value of \$41,420.00. His wife Virginia is listed at the age of twenty-four and their two oldest children, Eleanor M. and Frank, at three and one years of age. Eleanor Marshall Scott was born on 7 August 1847 at Bush Hill and Frank Scott was born on 1 July 1849. Richard and Virginia's third child, Marshall Scott, was born at Bush Hill on 13 September 1851, and their fourth child, Anna Constance was born on 1 December 1853 "in the chamber over the dining room" (Lloyd House ND).

The 1850 Agricultural Census shows Richard M. Scott with 240 acres at Bush Hill (205 unimproved) with a cash value of the farm assessed at \$22,000.00. Other items listed in the Agricultural Census were farming implements (\$300.00), six horses, fifteen milch cows, and twenty sheep valued at \$1,000.00. Crops raised within the past year at Bush Hill were 500 bushels of wheat, 120 bushels of rye, and 1,200 bushels of Indian corn. The 1850 Slave Schedule of Fairfax County (page 677) lists Richard M. Scott with twenty slaves.

The first major impact to the Bush Hill estate was the construction of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Organized in 1849, articles of agreement were concluded on 19 April 1850 to build the Orange and Alexandria Railroad from Gordonsville to Alexandria by way of the Orange County and Culpeper court houses (Wilkinson 1969:46; Commonwealth of Virginia 1850). Anticipating the construction of the railroad right-of-way through his property, Robert Scott wrote in his account book for November 1849 that: "I sent in proposals to the office of Orange and Alexandria Railroad to furnish them 1640 cross ties of white oak, box oak, locust, cedar and chestnut, seven and one half feet long for \$1.00 a piece to be delivered by myself at the section of the road called the crossing at Holmes Run" (Scott 1847-1856).

In May 1850, a right-of-way "238 poles by 80 feet wide" was taken by the Orange and Alexandria Railroad (O & A) on the south side of Backlick Run through the northern part of Bush Hill (Figure 8), compensating Richard M. Scott \$200.00 for the land taken. In the agreement of taking the land, the O & A railroad was required to construct a cattle stop at or near each end of the land for joint use of the property owners, and one cattle stop at a suitable intermediate point on the Bush Hill route (Fairfax County Deeds P3:95-97). On 4 July 1851, the Orange and Alexandria Railroad made its first run, eleven miles from Alexandria through Bush Hill to Backlick (Scott 1847-1856).

The second railroad right-of-way through Bush Hill was taken by the Manassas Gap Railroad in 1855. Incorporated by an Act of the Virginia Assembly on 9 March 1850 (Commonwealth of Virginia 1850:73), the Manassas Gap Railroad lines were extended between Manassas Junction in Prince William County to Strasburg in Shenandoah County, and south to Mt. Jackson in 1858. Originally, the Manassas Gap Railroad leased use of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad tracks to Alexandria and survey for a separate right-of-way, parallel to the O & A railroad grade through Bush Hill, was done in 1854. Some of the grading and bridge abutments for the Manassas Gap Railroad were completed between Manassas and Alexandria. Facing financial difficulties, much of the construction work was curtailed prior to the Civil War. During the Civil War, destruction of the railroads by Confederate and Union armies permanently halted further construction of the Manassas Gap railroad to Alexandria and the remainder of this line was never completed (Geddes 1967:30). In 1867, the property of the Manassas Gap Railroad was transferred to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and the name of the company was changed to the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad Company (Commonwealth of Virginia 1867:637, 638).

Income generated from Bush Hill, expenditures for improvements to the property, labor costs, and personal expenses during Richard Marshall Scott's lifetime appear in his account books kept from 11 December 1847 through 16 February 1856 (Scott 1847-1856). Entries in the account books indicate that income was generated during this period from the sale of cord wood and pot ashes, crops of potatoes, corn and wheat, chickens, rents received from houses owned on Washington and Prince Streets in the town of Alexandria, and the hire of slaves. One slave was sold from Bush Hill as noted in Richard Scott's account book on 10 March: "Note sold runaway negro Basil to Mr. Winston this day of Baltimore, Md. and took from him a written obligation to take said negro to the South, which paper is filed among my receipts."

Expenditures during this period included paying Ed. Crumpton for building a laborer cabin, to J. Keene for building a chimney on the quarters, to Risdon and Davis for a wire fence at Bush Hill, to Chris Neale for stone work for an iron gate, and H. Javins for brickwork. Improvements to the "negro quarters" were also made during this period.

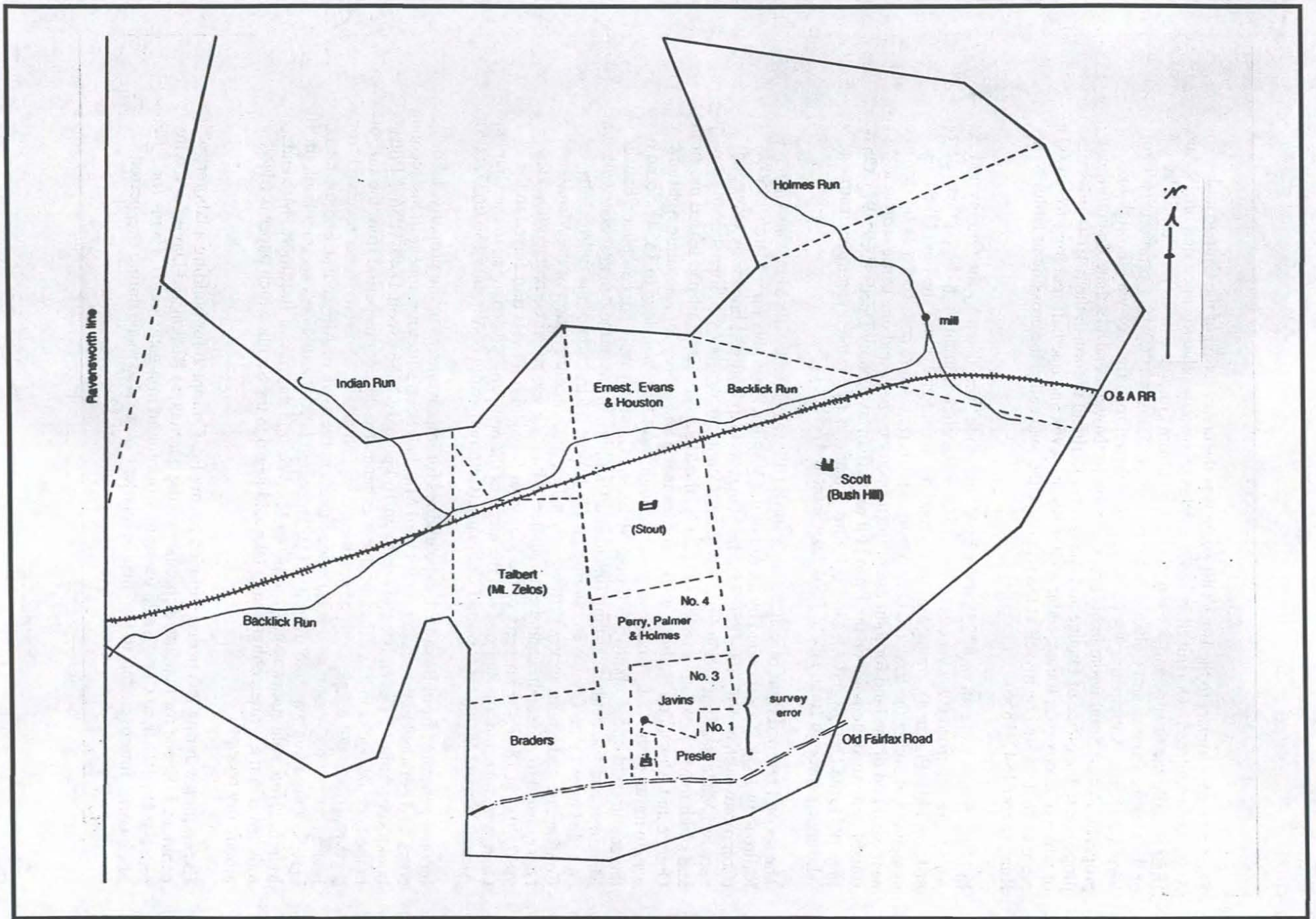


FIGURE 8
Map Showing Orange and Alexandria Railroad
Right-of-Way Through Bush Hill, 1850

Suffering from lung hemorrhages beginning in December of 1854, Richard Marshall Scott of Bush Hill wrote his will on 19 December 1855. Richard Marshall Scott died at Bush Hill on 13 November 1856 (Lloyd House ND). On 19 November 1858, the will of Richard Marshall Scott was proved in Fairfax County. Bequests were made to his relatives and former school teachers, leaving Bush Hill and the remainder of his estate to his wife, Virginia who was also named as his sole executor. In his bequest to his wife, he requested that each of his children receive a liberal education and the boys, "when at a suitable age," to be given property. "In memory of my departed father from whom I inherited all of my worldly possession...to make every effort to keep our family residence and domicile Bush Hill in the name and if possible to let it descend from her to our son bearing the name of my respected father, Richard Marshall Scott" (Fairfax County Wills Z1:119-121).

Included in Richard Scott's will were requests for the care of two slaves, called friends and servants, Moses Johnston, Sr., and John Allen. To Moses Johnston, his "friend and excellent servant" he left "all the freedom that I can legally bestow upon him and the sum of \$10.00 every three months for his lifetime" with a lifetime home at Bush Hill. To his servant, John Allen, he left all the freedom "I can legally bestow upon him. If he should be willing to go to Liberia, I hereby direct my executor to send him there" providing passage, a good outfit, and \$100.00 (ibid.). In the January Court held for the County of Fairfax: "It appearing to the Court by satisfactory evidence that John Allen, a black man, was manumitted by the Will of Richard M. Scott the younger and that Virginia Scott his executrix assents thereto, it is ordered that he be registered as a free man according to law (Fairfax County Minute Book 1858-1859:132).

Fairfax County's 1859 Personal Property Assessments (p.153) lists Richard Scott's widow, Virginia Scott, taxed for fourteen slaves, nine horses, sixty head of cattle, one gig, a watch, a clock and a piano, and fifty gold and silver. The 1860 Agricultural Census for Fairfax County (p.17) lists Virginia Scott with 430 acres of land (200 improved and 230 unimproved) at a cash value of \$25,000.00. Farming machinery was evaluated at \$25.00. Livestock, including two horses, six asses and mules, ten milch cows, eight other cattle, thirty sheep and twenty swine were evaluated at \$1,500.00. For the previous year, Bush Hill had produced 500 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of rye, 800 bushels of Indian corn, and 500 bushels of oats.

Virginia Scott and her children: Eleanor (age 12), Frank (age 11), Richard M. (age 9), and A. Constance (age 7) appear in the 1860 Fairfax County Census (p. 810), in the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County on the south side of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Bush Hill was assessed at \$25,000.00 and Virginia Scott's personal property was valued at \$30,000.00 in this census. Microfilmed copies of the *1860 Slave Schedule* for Fairfax County are illegible.

In the first event of the Civil War between the states, Federal troops garrisoned at Fort Sumter in the Charleston, S.C. ship channel were fired upon by Confederate secessionists in the early morning of 12 April 1861. Five days later, on 17 April 1861, Virginia succeeded from the United States. The advance of the Union Army, and occupation of Alexandria as part of the defenses of Washington, was accomplished on the morning of 24 May 1861 (Scott 1880:23-27. Anne Frobel, a secessionist living with her sister Lizzie (Elizabeth) Frobel throughout the Civil War at Wilton Hill, located several miles southeast of the project area near Fort Lyon, wrote in her diary that Bush Hill was occupied in the late summer of 1861 by "some Massachusetts regiment" under a Captain Edwards (Frobel 1992:49); probably 1st Lieutenant-Adjutant Oliver Edwards of the 10th Massachusetts. Union camps about Bush Hill, and Clermont adjoining the east side of Bush Hill, were mentioned in Anne Frobel's diary in March 1862 (Frobel 1992:85).

Mrs. Scott at Bush Hill is shown on an 1865 military map (Figure 9) below the abandoned Manassas Gap Railroad grade east of Commander Forest at "Clarmont". The Frobels residence at Wilton Hill, to the south east of Bush Hill is designated as "Frobes."

Reportedly, Bush Hill was used as officer's headquarters throughout the Civil War (The Springfield Independent 1954:5; The Washington Post 1977). By December of 1862, there were approximately 800 cases of small pox in Alexandria. Clermont, adjoining Bush Hill on the east, was being used as a contraband hospital at this time, many of the small pox patients being removed from a house on King Street in Alexandria to Clermont "hospital" during the small pox epidemic. On 9 December, Ann Frobels stated that the man left in charge at Clermont had sold all the crops, cattle, and other goods and "cleared out" leaving Clermont House "a wreck" (Frobels 1992:136, 137, 138, 155).

At the end of the Civil War, following General Robert E. Lee's surrender in early April 1862, and by the end of April and early May, the area around Washington was filled up with soldiers. Ann Frobels reported that: "There are soldiers, soldiers everywhere. Cameron valley is filled with tents." Sherman's army arrived on the 19th of May and the roads were then filled with thousands of soldiers and lines of white wagons. The area from Baileys Crossroads to Washington was observed to be "one vast encampment" and Rose Hill, to the north of Bush Hill, was "literally covered with Sherman's army" (Frobels 1992:219, 226, 229, 230).

Virginia Scott appears at Bush Hill in the Mt. Vernon District of Alexandria County (sic) in the 1870 Census (p. 335) at the age of 44 with her four children, Eleanor, Frank, Richard and Constance. Also in her household are two "black" servants, and four "black" farm hands. One of the farm hands enumerated was John Allen (age 55), who was manumitted by Richard M. Scott's will in 1858, and registered as a free black in Fairfax County in 1859. The U.S. Agricultural census for that year lists her farm value at \$30,000.00 with improvements of \$1,000.00, and livestock (five horses, one muled ass, two milch cows, thirty swine) valued at \$730.00. Crops produced for the year at Bush Hill were wheat, rye, corn and oats.

Virginia Scott deeded all of the Bush Hill estate on the south side of Cameron, or Backlick Run, to her brother, Francis Mackall Gunnell, on 28 November 1870 for \$8,000.00. The deed included all of the household and kitchen furniture in the dwellings, the farming implements, and stock on the farm (Fairfax County Deeds M4:14-15). Francis Gunnell (1827-1922), a Washington, D.C. resident, retired in 1889 as Surgeon General of the U.S. Army (Washburn 1984-1985:60). He is not known to have ever lived at Bush Hill.

Hopkins' 1879 *Map of Mount Vernon District* (Figure 10) shows Dr. Jas. Gunnell, another brother of Virginia Scott, as the owner of Bush Hill. The 1880 census (Dwelling/Family 94/95), the following year shows Virginia Scott as the resident of Bush Hill with her son Richard and daughter Anne, John Scott a nephew, three servants, and a West family of six residing here who had also had four servants. Hopkins' 1894 *Map of the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.* (Figure 11) shows Francis Gunnell the owner of Bush Hill, then consisting of 509 1/2 acres.

The interior mechanisms of the family arrangement between Virginia Scott and her Gunnell relations in the Bush Hill estate are not clearly understood. Dr. James Samuel Gunnell, a retired physician of Washington, D.C., who is shown as the owner of Bush Hill in 1879, died on 15 February 1907 while visiting his sister, Virginia Scott" at her home, Bush Hill" (Fairfax Herald 1907:3.1). Two months later, Francis M. Gunnell of Washington, D.C. deeded to Leonard G. Gunnell, all his right, title and interest in and to land in the county of

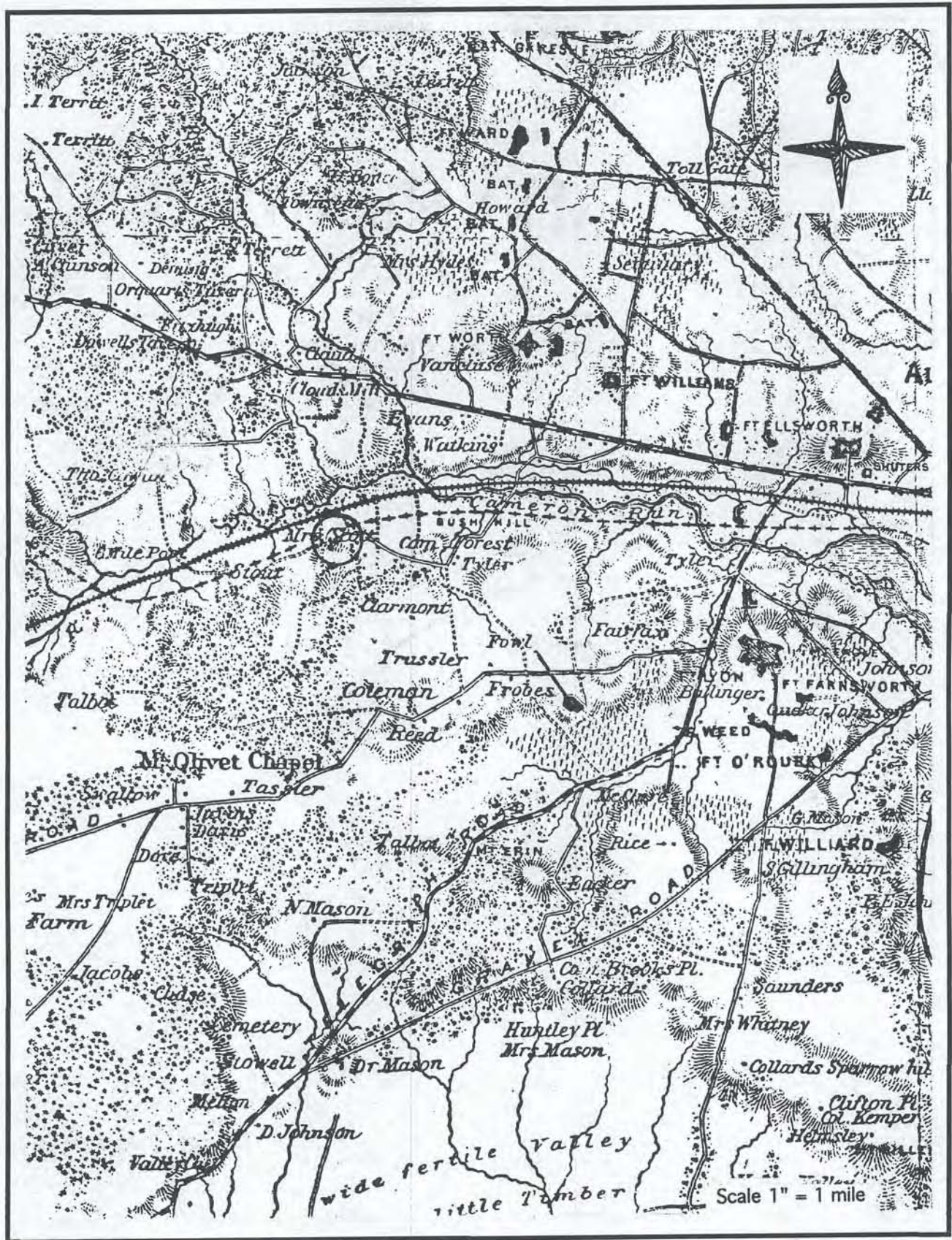


FIGURE 9
 1865 U.S. War Department Map of NE Virginia Showing Mrs.Scott
 at Bush Hill Below the Orange and Alexandria Railroad

MT. VERNON DIST.

NO. 3.

Fairfax Co.

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to a Mile

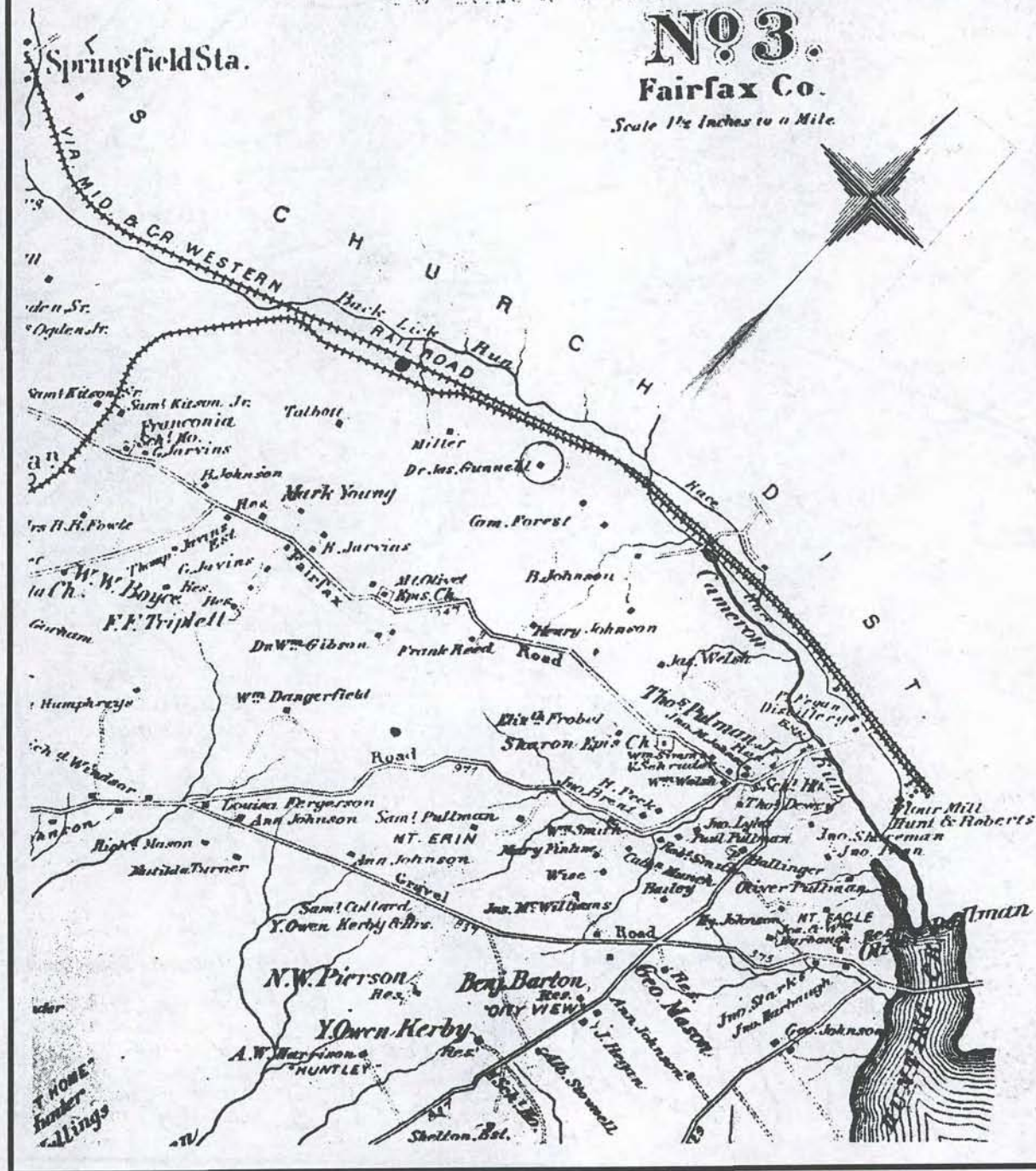


FIGURE 10
Hopkin's 1879 Map of Mt. Vernon District
Showing Dr. Jas. Gunnell at Bush Hill

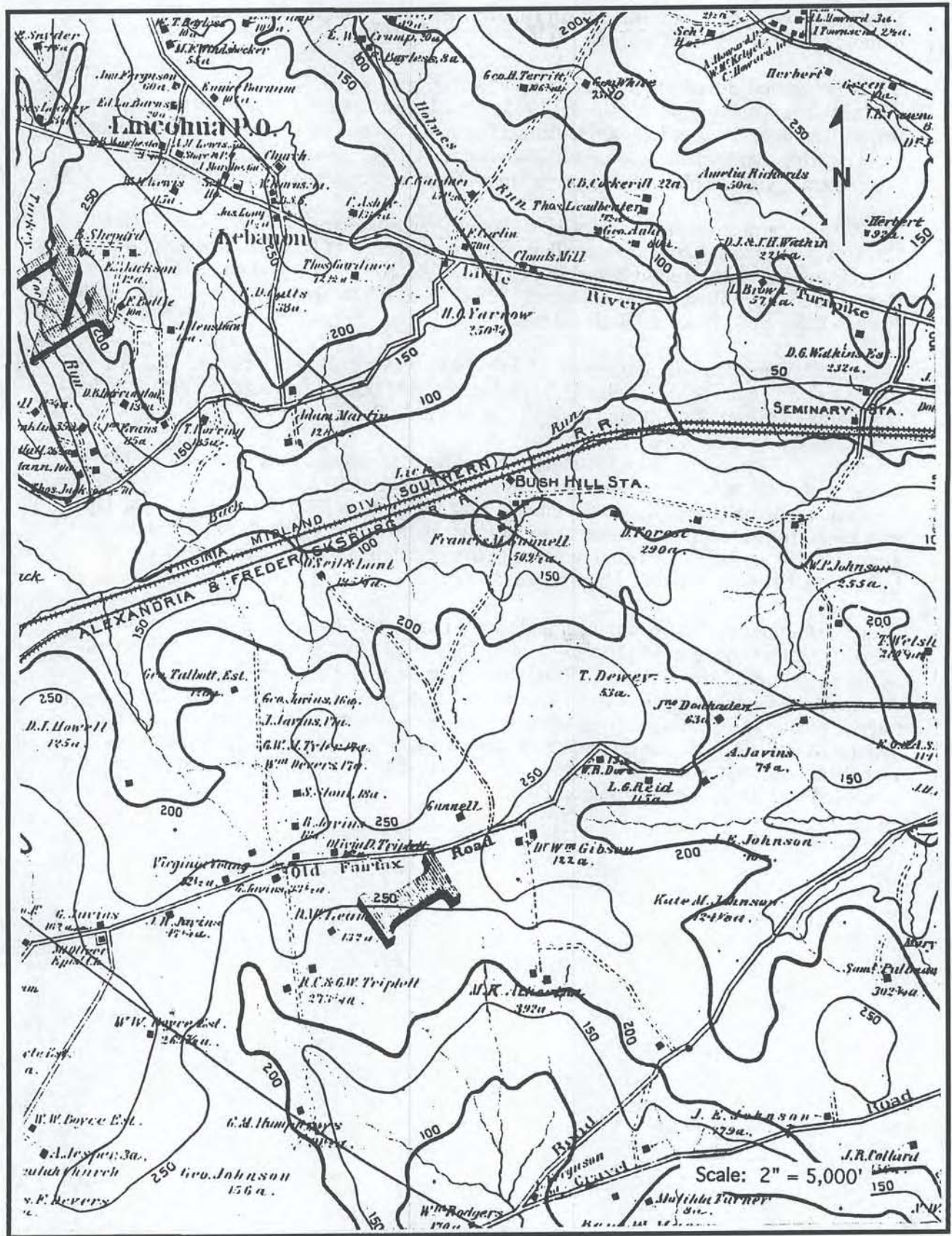


FIGURE 11
Hopkin's 1894 Map of The Vicinity of Washington
Showing Francis M. Gunnell at Bush Hill

Fairfax known as the farm called Bush Hill, formerly the property of the late James S. Gunnell (Fairfax County Deeds I7:79).

Virginia Gunnell-Scott died in 1913. By the will of her son, Richard M. Scott, dated 19 February 1915, and probated 28 April 1915, all of his estate both real and personal was bequeathed to his cousin, Leonard Coleman Gunnell. In contrast to the will of his father in 1858 desiring that Richard receive a liberal education, it is curious that Richard M. Scott was illiterate, signing his will with an "x" mark (Fairfax County Wills 5:589-590).

In 1923, condemnation proceedings were taken by the Southern Railroad in the Fairfax Circuit Court against Leonard Gunnell to condemn a portion of Bush Hill for a right-of-way. Damages were fixed in December 1923 at \$1,650.00 for the land taken (Fairfax Herald 1923:5.3). Bush Hill is shown in 1929 (Figure 12) located on the south side of the Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad tracks.

Leonard C. Gunnell's will, written on 30 July 1906, leaving his entire estate to his wife, Emily Nelson Gunnell, was probated 20 December 1941 before the District Court of the U.S. for the District of Columbia (Fairfax County Wills 2:492).

Ernst (Putzi) Hanfstaengl, Adolph Hitler's counselor of foreign affairs was held by the British government in the early stages of World War II. In 1942, the British lent Ernst Hanfstaengl to the United States to prepare written reports on Nazi broadcasts. Bush Hill was leased from the Gunnell estate to house Ernst Hanfstaengl where he remained under guard for two years, finally being returned to the British in 1944 (The Springfield Independent 1954:5; The Washington Post 1977:1).

Bruce C. Gunnell, a Fairfax engineer and son of Leonard C. Gunnell, inherited Bush Hill from his father's estate in 1941/1942. In early March of 1977, Bush Hill was being used as the Bush Hill (nursery) School. The school appears on the photorevised 1977 Alexandria 7.5 minute quad as Holly Hill School at the end of Bush Hill Drive. The interior of Bush Hill was destroyed when the house was broken into and vandalized on about 6 March 1977. Bruce Gunnell placed plywood over the windows and the nursery was abandoned that week. A week later, on 13 March 1977, Bush Hill was completely destroyed by arson (The Washington Post 1977:1).



FIGURE 12
1929 USGS Topographic Map Showing Location of
Bush Hill Below the Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A preliminary background research was conducted by Thunderbird Archeological Associates (TAA) prior to the Phase IA field reconnaissance to assist in the location and identification of potential cultural resources, previous land impacts, and land use within the project area. Research methodology included site-specific primary documentation, secondary publications and files, private collections, and map searches.

Previous archeological survey files and reports of the Bush Hill estate and in the vicinity of Bush Hill were obtained through Alexandria Archaeology in Alexandria, Virginia, the Virginia State Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia, and from site files maintained by TAA offices.

As stated previously, Bush Hill was located in the county of Fairfax until 1950 when it was annexed to the City of Alexandria. Land ownership of the Bush Hill estate was established through the examination of court records at the Fairfax Circuit Court Archives in Fairfax, Virginia. Fairfax County Court Records included wills, deeds, court minutes, land survey records and chancery proceedings. Copies of the original land grant to the property in 1706, and microfilm copies of fire insurance records from 1796, 1805, and 1815 were obtained at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. A microfilm copy of the accounts of Richard Marshall Scott (the younger) is available at the Fairfax County Library in Fairfax, Virginia.

Secondary sources consulted included the TAA library and files of previous work conducted in the Alexandria area including the Lloyd House, consultations with Alexandria Archaeology, and Edith Moore Sprouse, historian. Secondary publications and other records examined at the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Library in Fairfax, Virginia included newspaper articles, the Bush Hill private file collection, U.S. census records, published biographies of Alexandria merchants, Fairfax County marriage and death records. A photograph of Bush Hill was obtained through the photograph collection in the Fairfax County Library that had been donated by the courtesy of the Bush Hill School and Edith Moore Sprouse.

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Bush Hill is located in the *King Street/Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station* plan for historic preservation adopted by the Office of Historic Alexandria in 1990. A full list of historic resources in the area plan appear on pages 14-5 and 14-6 of the adopted plan. Artifacts have been previously collected from the Bush Hill estate by private individuals and one collection has been donated to Alexandria Archaeology.

A number of field surveys of Bush Hill Plantation (Alexandria Site 169; Virginia State Site 44AX111) have been conducted within the past twenty years. Terry Klein of the Alexandria Regional Preservation Office (ARPO) conducted a survey of Bush Hill in 1979 following the fire that destroyed the residence in 1977. At that time, the building foundations, brick (sic) steps, a metal shed and a gazebo were visible on the property.

A subsequent survey of the property in 1983 by Leith Smith of Alexandria Archaeology and his consultations with a local businessman added the information that the walls of the brick residence had been bulldozed into the cellar hole. The informant stated that construction, apparently for the now abandoned parking lot in the northwest area of the property, had removed a large area next to, and west of the foundation of the burned house. Apparently this construction removed underlying sand to a depth of about 10 feet and intentions were to refill the hole with clay. The informant also stated that he had done metal detecting on the property and one of his finds was a 1793 penny.

During a field visit of the site in 1988 by C. Lee Decker of Louis Berger Associates, none of the architectural features were readily visible.

A Phase IA Cultural Resource Assessment of the Eisenhower Avenue/Cameron Valley was conducted by Louis Berger and Associates of Richmond, Virginia, in 1989 for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Among the six undisturbed sites found during this survey, Bush Hill was identified as the most important site located. During the field survey: "Neither the shed nor the main foundation and steps could be observed...but the collapsed gazebo was tentatively identified" (Louis Berger and Associates 1989:53). Other surveys in the vicinity for the Virginia Department of Transportation were done by Louis Berger and Associates in 1991 for the Clermont Avenue Interchange, and the Cameron Station Military Reservation.

Stephen J. Shepard of Alexandria Archaeology conducted a site inspection in 1989. During this inspection, he recorded a large depression/pit filled with 20th century artifacts (trash) on the west end of the hill. He also observed stone steps leading to the front (concrete) steps. At that time a 15-20 foot tall boxwood marked the southwest corner of the house and there was a holly tree directly south of the house remains. Modern trash was observed dumped around the house.

Prehistoric investigations by Michael Johnson, a Fairfax County Archeologist, found that Bush Hill was built on the site of two prehistoric Indian settlements dating from 3,500 and 1,500 years ago, or dating to the Late Archaic and Late Woodland temporal periods. The report by Michael Johnson is filed in the Bush Hill file in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Library. There is no date on this survey report and no accompanying map to identify the locations of the two prehistoric sites.

Phase III archeological investigations of the Van Dorn site (44AX178) was undertaken by Thunderbird Archeological Associates Inc. in 1996. The Van Dorn site is located west of Bush Hill and originally was the adjoining property on the east side of the Bush Hill estate until the late 1800s. The Van Dorn site was a contemporary domestic farm site, or plantation, settled and occupied by William Cash from about 1795 until his death in 1823, and his son-in-law and daughter's family, the Compton's, until the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was constructed in the early 1850s.

Recorded historic sites within the Bush Hill vicinity along the former Orange and Alexandria and abandoned Manassas Gap Railroads are an earthen railroad ramp (Alexandria Site 168; Virginia Site 44AX54), and a portion of a railroad bed located north of Eisenhower Avenue (Alexandria Site 81; Virginia Site 44AX158). Historic sites include an additional section of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad (Alexandria Site 94), a Civil War period site (Alexandria Site 170), and several 19th century house sites to the north and east of the project area identified as potential historic resources compiled by Alexandria Archaeology from old maps of the area.

Prehistoric sites in the vicinity and south of Bush Hill, in Fairfax County, are mainly upland camps and include 44FX1517-521, 44FX523-527, 44FX559-561, 44FX601, 44FX158-168, and 44FX1596. Halifax points were identified at 44FX519 and 44FX601 that place their temporal period of occupation during the Hunter-Gatherer III phase, or 4,000-3,000 B.C. A possible Broadspear was recovered from 44FX517 indicating that there were Paleo-Indian or First Virginians in the area by 8,000 B.C.

Two recorded historic sites south of Bush Hill, also in Fairfax County are the Pullman/Stroder Family cemetery (44FX1147) and the Sharon Chapel Church and Cemetery on Franconia Road (44FX1273).

FIELD METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork for the Bush Hill Phase IA survey was limited to a walkover reconnaissance. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to verify and locate cultural resources previously identified within the project area, to identify areas of disturbance and, possibly, to determine if there was any visible evidence of previously unidentified resources. In the past, collectors have removed surface deposits of most of the early artifacts associated with the Bush Hill residence. A small amount of earlier ceramic and glass sherds were found in an area of slope wash a short distance north of the remains of the Bush Hill residence.

Particular attention was paid to the types of vegetation present within specific areas as one of the early 20th century owners was known for his botanical gardens. Also, cultivars outside the area of the Bush Hill residence, such as periwinkle and older trees, are often indicators of historic period sites.

Surface architectural features of the Bush Hill mansion remains were partially exposed for photographing and other photographs were taken of surrounding areas of interest. In addition, field notes and maps describing the resources located were taken. These records are on file at the TAA offices in Woodstock, Virginia.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Currently, the study area is bounded on the north by Eisenhower Avenue, on the east and west by warehouses and storage buildings and on the south by Interstate 495. Various types of landscape alteration have impacted the area under investigation including removal of large amounts of soil in the western sector for the purposes of building a parking lot. The slope leading down to Eisenhower Avenue has seen extensive tree removal and dumping. Soil also appears to have been removed from the area bordering Interstate 495. At some point during the occupation of the Bush Hill, the area surrounding the house was extensively landscaped for the remains sit, in essence, on a pedestal.

RESULTS OF THE WALKOVER RECONNAISSANCE

For purposes of discussion, the Bush Hill project area has been sub-divided into four survey areas. These survey areas are shown on Figures 13 and 14 and are discussed below.

Area A

Area A is located in the northwestern portion of the Bush Hill property and covers approximately two acres of land facing Eisenhower Avenue (Figure 13). The western part of Area A is bounded by industrial buildings running from north to south. This portion of the property has been bulldozed and is enclosed by a security chain link fence. Area A was previously used as a truck trailer parking lot and but is currently abandoned. At the time of the reconnaissance, the area was overgrown with *Gramineae* type grasses and a weedy species of flowering brush. A pile of building rubble including blue painted boards nailed with wire nails and electrical wiring is located in the northeastern part of this area. The surface of the former parking lot is covered with gravel and earthen soils piles resulting from bulldozing can be observed on the western boundary of this portion of the property.

Area B

Area B encompasses approximately two acres in the northeastern area of Bush Hill facing Eisenhower Avenue (Figure 13). On the east side of Area B is a car parking lot associated with commercial buildings on the adjoining property. Topographically, this portion of the site is relatively level with Eisenhower Avenue and the area is overgrown with brush and generally moderate size oak trees. Two intermittent streams are in this portion of the property averaging two and four feet in width. A large concrete floodwater conduit has been placed in the northwest corner of this area underlying Eisenhower Avenue. Cultural deposits in Area B consists of roadway dumping of modern cans, bottles and plastic.

Area C

This area is located in the portion of the study area and includes the remaining structural remains of the Bush Hill mansion (Figure 14).

The remains of concrete steps and a brick sidewalk leading to the brick foundation remains of the former Bush Hill residence, are located on the highest point in Area C (Figure 14). Although at one time, Bush Hill manor overlooked Cameron Run, the southern view from the house has been altered with the construction of the Metro line and the area is grown up with brush and woods. The house site is overgrown with two varieties of periwinkle; several large trees are located to the northeast of the house remains. Topographically, the ridge top slopes on all sides to the north, east, west and south. Other domestic plants

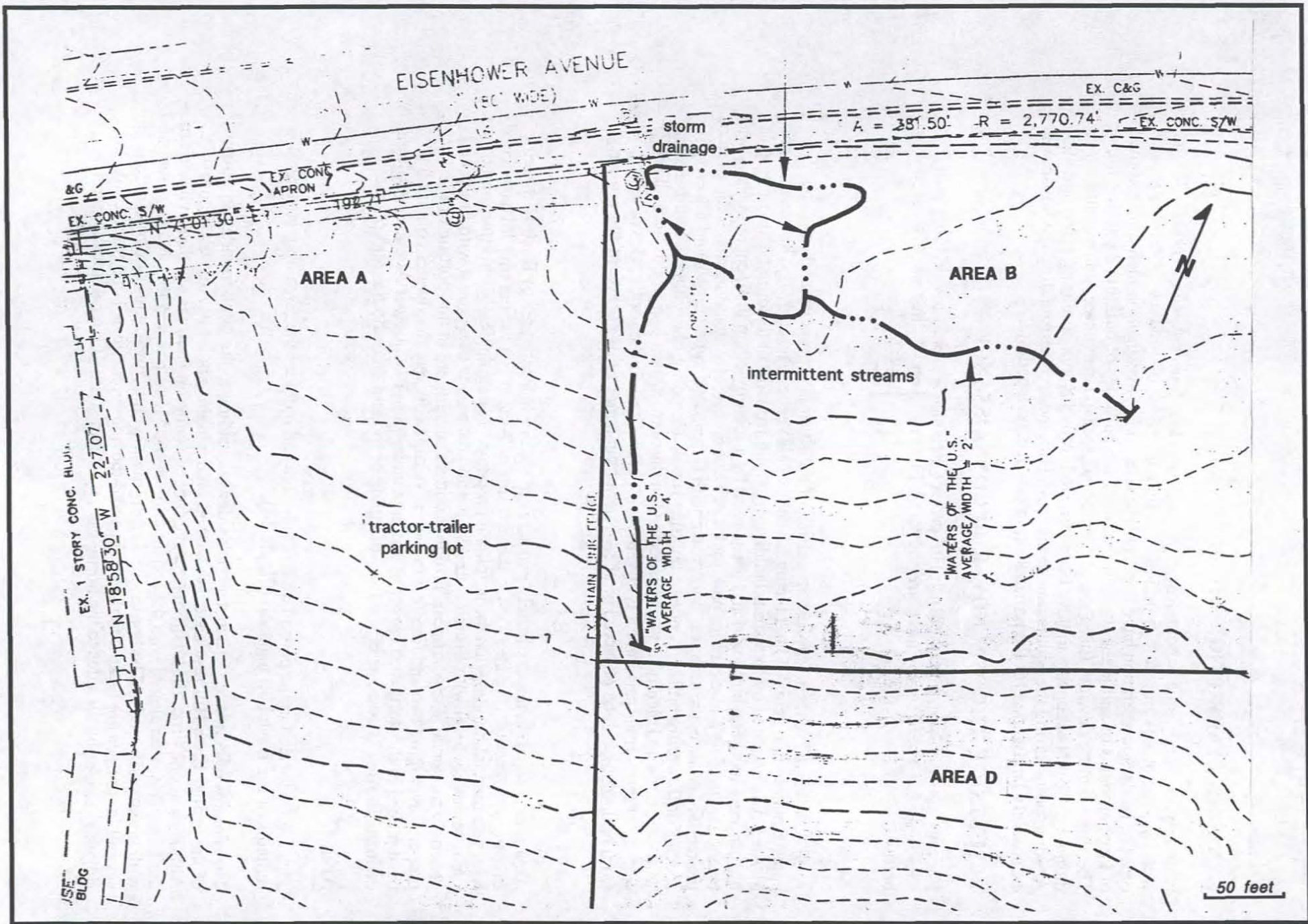


FIGURE 13
Portions of Areas A and B Showing
Current Conditions on the Bush Hill Project Area

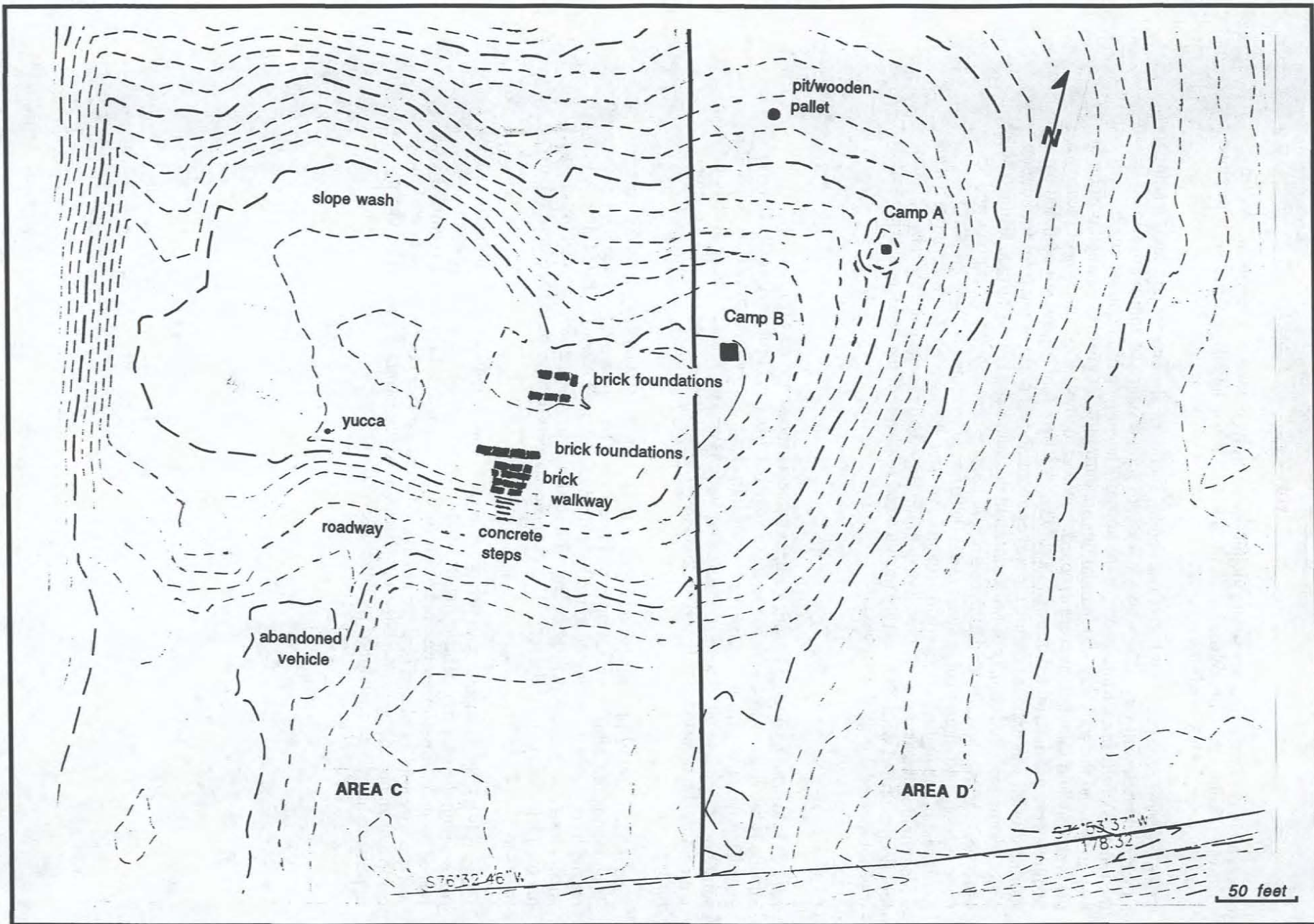


FIGURE 14
Portions of Areas C and D Showing
Cultural Remains and Impacts to the Bush Hill Project Area

observed in the immediate house site vicinity were holly, boxwood, and yucca. A dirt roadway is below the front of the house site and this is also largely overgrown with vines. An abandoned vehicle is off the roadway to the southwest.

The former residence of Bush Hill is reached by a series of eleven concrete steps leading to a mortared brick walkway. The walkway extends for a distance of approximately 30 feet to the remains of the brick foundations of the house. The surface of the house site is overgrown and the walkway and foundations are currently not visible. A small portion of the walkway and foundations were exposed, however, complete dimensions of these two features were not determined during this survey. A 5 by 8 foot depression bounded by mortared brick was exposed during the survey about 36 feet north of the front foundation walls. Some scattered chunks of brick surround the house site but no surface artifacts were observed. A few sherds of mid-19th century whiteware and stoneware ceramics and a three section mold liquor bottle sherd (1821-1880) were collected from slope wash northwest of the house site. Some fragments of oyster shell were also observed in the area which yielded the artifacts. A sketch map of the Bush Hill property in 1997 shows a ten foot deep pit filled with 20th century trash located southeast of the residence. This feature was not located during this survey.

Area D

Area D is located on a hillside which slopes to the northeast and east (Figure 14). The hillside is heavily covered with moderate to large oak trees and brush. A number of excavated holes, or pits, were observed on the hillside, probably indicating relic collecting activities. One large pit located approximately half-way up the hillside has been covered with a 4 by 4 foot wooden pallet. This pit appears to have been filled with 20th century refuse.

Two modern tent camps situated on edges of terraces in Area D are represented by the designations of Camp A and Camp B on Figure 14. The camps are accessed by a meandering pathway leading up the hillside from Eisenhower Avenue. Tent Camp A is in a small cleared area and contains one tent with scattered domestic articles and an orange hard hat on the ground outside the tent. This campsite appears to have been used until relatively recently.

Camp B is a larger campsite with two or more green canvas tents located on the first major ridge within the property. This campsite has been barricaded with small cut oak trees placed around the perimeter resembling an abatis. The roped off entrance to Camp B also has trip wires placed near the ground. Modern garbage covers the surface of the camp and an outside bed and a table and chairs are within the compound. This camp appears to have been abandoned for at least several months.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Bush Hill is the last remaining plantation site in the City of Alexandria. The Bush Hill estate is located within a 4,639 acre Northern Neck land grant to William West and others in 1706. The 1706 grant was divided among the original patentees, their assigns, or heirs in 1714 leaving the specific Bush Hill estate as containing approximately 752 acres; 292 acres of the division being that part of the Bush Hill project area lying below Back Lick Run. West's property passed out of the West family in 1787 and was held by various owners between 1787 and 1791 when the property was sold to Josiah Watson in 1791. The first appearance of the estate being named as "Bush Hill," and mention of a house on the property, appears in a Mutual Assurance fire insurance policy obtained by Josiah Watson in 1796 for the house with an attached kitchen and a large barn.

Bush Hill was sold by Josiah Watson to Richard Marshall Scott in 1798. Richard Marshall Scott renewed the fire insurance policy in 1805 showing alterations to the barn and two new buildings on the Bush Hill estate described as a gardeners house and servants hall. The locations of the barn, gardeners house and servants hall are unknown. The barn on bush hill burnt prior to 1847 when Richard M. Scott's (d. 1833) son and heir, Richard Marshall Scott the younger, took possession of the property and rebuilt a new barn. Richard Marshall Scott the younger died in 1856 leaving his estate to his wife, Virginia Gunnell-Scott who died in 1913. The Bush Hill estate remained in the Scott family, and in the possession of Virginia Scotts' Gunnell relations until recently in the twentieth century.

Major impacts to the property include the taking of right-of-ways through the Bush Hill estate during the 1850s for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and a parallel line for the Manassas Gap Railroad which was never completed. During the Civil War, the Bush Hill residence was occupied by the Union army for officers quarters, and at the end of the war in 1865, the estate was covered by camps of Sherman's army. During World War II, Ernst (Putzi) Hanfstaengl, Adolph Hitler's counselor of foreign affairs was housed, and kept under guard in the Bush Hill Residence between 1942 and 1944. Until a week prior to the fire which destroyed the residence in 1977, the residence was being used as the Bush Hill (nursery) School.

The current investigation of Bush Hill indicates that Area A within the site property has been heavily impacted by bulldozing and that this area of the property has little potential of containing significant cultural resources.

Area B has been impacted with the construction of Eisenhower Avenue and no surface features were observed in this area of the site. However, this area contains two intermittent streams that may have been used in the past as a water source for domestic or Civil War encampment use. This area is considered to have a low to moderate probability of containing significant cultural resources.

The foundation remains of the Bush Hill residence, and associated features, are located in Area C. These resources are significant in their potential to yield information important in the history of the land owners and residents who were major contributors to the settlement, growth and development of northern Virginia. An additional contributing factor is the use of the residence, both during the Civil War and World War II, as housing for Civil War officers and U.S. Government intelligence operations. Although the date of the construction of Bush Hill manor is unknown, the Georgian architecture of the house has not been altered from its first appearance in 1796 until the residence was burned in 1977. The attached kitchen component is unusual for this period when kitchens were generally detached dependencies. Locations of the other dependencies such as a smoke house, dairy,

and slave quarters are unknown. The locations of Bush Hill barn with its attached carriage house that was insured in 1796, and the gardener's house and servants hall which were insured in 1805, are also unknown. Other significant resources are potential botanical remains from the fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens maintained by Robert M. Scott, Sr. during the early 19th century.

Area D, although separated from Area C for the purpose of this report, is a significant part of Bush Hill where the gardens and dependencies associated with the manor house are possibly located. This area also served as campsites for Sherman's army during the gathering of the Union Armies for ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and the mustering out of troops. This area also currently contains modern campsites of possibly homeless citizens that add a dimension to understanding current conditions within the community.

Phase I archeological testing of Areas B, C and D of the Bush Hill property is recommended to locate and determine the extent of subsurface cultural resources that are located within the site. Examination of known features on the property should be undertaken to determine their function, use, and dates of historic impact, if possible. Structural remains on the site, which have currently been overtaken by vegetation, should be cleared and exposed for mapping and photographic documentation. Locations of domestic species of plants on the property, although compromised by seasonal periods for full documentation, should be mapped and photographed as a part of the archeological testing phase.

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