

V-80

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY FOR A PHASE I ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A FOUR ACRE PARCEL LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

INTRODUCTION

A phase I archeological survey was conducted on the NASA Langly Research Center on June 17 - 19, 1992. The area surveyed consisted of an L shaped parcel of approxomatly 3.74 acres within the OSD Industrial Complex.

The following management summary is being submitted pursuant to a request from Dr. Franklin H. Farmer of NASA, after portions of the project area were found to contain historic period archeological remains which are believed to be associated with a nearby farmstead/plantation. The primary objectives of the ongoing survey are to locate and identify all the archeological sites contained in the above referenced project area, and to present recommendations concerning said sites. To date, the field testing component of the investigation as well as the artifact processing component have been completed. Historic documentation, data analysis and report writing are currently underway, and a draft technical report will be submitted for client and agency review within thirty days of the official Notice to Proceed. The management summary includes a preliminary and very cursory description of the survey results based on the data obtained so far, and presents recommendations for a Phase II Evaluation Survey which are based primarily on the archeological data. Although it is likely that the historical data may, to some degree, modify the interpretations of the data as they are presented in this document, it is unlikely that the new data will result in significant modifications to the recommendations presented herein.

HISTORICAL DATA

The project area is believed to be located within the bounds of land patented to Mr. Thomas Wythe some time prior to 1676. The Wythe family expanded its holdings through acquisition of several parcels, to the point where the plantation encompassed some 800 acres by the first quarter of the 18th century. In 1729, upon the death of Thomas Wythe, Sr., the property passed to his son Thomas Wythe, and then, upon Thomas' death in 1755, to his brother George. George Wythe, who was born in 1726, was a prominent citizen of Virginia and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He resided on the plantation until 1775 when he and his family moved to Williamsboro. In 1792 he sold the property to one Daniel Hylton who eventually defaulted on payment, at which time George Wythe reacquired the property at public auction in 1801. He then sold the property a second time to one Houlder

Hudgins in 1802. During the 19th century, the original Wythe Plantation was divided into smaller parcels and farmed by several families including the Hudgins, Haller Winder and Schmeltz families. The project area is located adjacent to what was formerly the Hudgin's farm, which included a residence known as Cloverdale, portions of which are believed to have been built in the early 19th century.

#### DATA DESCRIPTION

Initial investigation of the survey area consisted of a pedestrian survey. The area was found to consist principally of a woodlot of mature hardwoods in the central and north parts, with an open grassed section on the south-east side. The survey area is generally flat with the surface rising slightly toward the south east corner. A slight berm 1 ft. high and 8 ft. wide was observed running diagonally from northeast to southwest through the woodlot. Surface visibility within the wood lot was 0. In the grassed area to the southwest the ground surface consisted of a subsoil fill rich in fossiliferous shell. No artifacts were recovered from the surface.

A grid was taped and flagged in at 60 ft. intervals. 41 shoveltest pits were excavated systematically over the entire survey area. An additional 7 judgemental shoveltest pits were added at 30 ft. intervals.

Historic artifacts were recovered from 14 STPs. Most of these artifacts were recovered from a discrete area in the southeast corner of the survey area. They consisted of a variety of early to late 18th century refined and unrefined earthenware vessel fragments, wine bottle fragments and brick fragments. These artifacts are in a secondary deposit and were all recovered from the well developed plowzone. These artifacts are representative of domestic activities and building demolition on or near this site. A large number of oyster shells and shell fragments were also recovered in association with the historic artifacts. In shoveltest 22 a prehistoric biface of quartz, teardrop shaped from the late archaic-early woodland period was recovered. Also a quartzite flake was recovered from STP 4.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The recently completed Phase I survey resulted in the location of a concentration of 18th century historic artifacts, in the southeastern corner of the project area. The assemblage includes ceramics, architectural debris and faunal remains evidencing domestic activities. The artifacts in question consist entirely of 18th century items which tend to bracket the period of occupation and/or use of the area in the range extending from AD 1720, as indicated by the tin-glazed earthenware and white salt-glazed stoneware, to AD 1780, as indicated by the recovery of creamware.

The mix of artifacts, combined with the density of the materials recovered in shoveltest pits, tends to indicate that the area may contain undisturbed IN-SITU archeological deposits, such as building foundations.

Based on the early age of the historic materials recovered in the course of the survey, their possible association with the Wythe family and the preliminary indications of good integrity, a Phase II Archeological Survey is recommended. The principal objective of a Phase II survey is to evaluate the eligibility or non-eligibility of a site, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Secondary objectives of a Phase II survey include:

- 1) Obtaining accurate horizontal and vertical boundaries for the site;
- 2) Obtaining additional data pertinent to component identification;
- 3) Establishing the integrity of the archeological deposits comprising the site;
- 4) Obtaining objective data on the research potential of the site;
- 5) Obtaining sufficient data for the formulation of a research design and a testing strategy, for sites which are determined to be significant and Register-eligible.

The Phase II survey recommended for the OSD Industrial Complex Site should include the following elements. Historic documentation should be supplemented with research into primary documents, starting with deeds, wills, inventories and other types of Probate records, Orphan's Court and Sheriffs' Sale records, and lists of taxables. Additional field testing should start with the excavation of shoveltest pits placed at thirty(30) foot intervals throughout the archeologically sensitive area depicted on the attached figure. Three(3) to four(4) five by five foot test units should then be hand excavated near those shovel tests which exhibit the highest densities of artifactual materials and/or those shovel tests which indicate the presence of features. Unit excavation should then be followed up with machine stripping of 5 to 10% of the high density portions of the site, so as to locate and expose features and other types of IN-SITU deposits. It is anticipated that approximately 1,200 square feet of area will need to be stripped. Stripped areas should be cleaned and all exposed features should be mapped and photographed. Small test units may be excavated in features in order to assess the depth of archeological deposits and also to obtain data on the likely function of features as well as on the state of preservation of organic remains.

Respectfully submitted



Wayne L. Mellin  
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WLM/jmr

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

## STP 2

1 black glass wine bottle base frag., hand blown.

## STP 4

1 Rhenish stoneware frag.  
2 redware frags.  
5 brick frags.  
4 oyster shell frags.  
1 flake

## STP 5

1 white salt glaze stoneware frag.  
2 black glass bottle frags.  
1 redware frag.  
24 oyster shell frags.  
5 brick frags.

## STP 6

1 creamware frag.  
1 brick frag.

## STP 7

1 oyster shell frag.

## STP 12

8 oyster shell frags.

## STP 13

4 brick frags.  
2 oyster shell frags.

## STP 14

4 oyster shell frags.

## STP 16

2 brick frags.

## STP 22

1 biface, quartz, teardrop, late archaic-early woodland.  
1 brick frag.

## STP 23

1 creamware frag.

## STP 25

3 oyster shell frags.  
1 brick frag.

## STP 29

1 oyster shell frag.  
1 brick frag.

## STP 45

1 tin glaze frag.  
1 brown stoneware frag.  
4 brick frags.

## STP 46

1 Staffordshire frag.  
1 white salt glaze stoneware frag.  
12 oyster shell fragments  
1 brick frag.

## STP 47

2 black glass frags.  
2 clear glass frags.  
15 oyster shell frags.

## STP 48

1 redware vessel frag.  
1 black glass bottle frag.