

Documentary Study and Pedestrian Reconnaissance

Potential Cemetery at Pierceville
Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia

WSSI #31341.02

FINAL

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Prepared for:

VHB

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ABSTRACT

A documentary study and pedestrian reconnaissance were conducted on Pierceville, a 57.2-acre farm located in Smithfield, Virginia. The purpose of the study was to determine, if possible, the location of a cemetery believed to exist within the property, and to determine who may be buried within it. The work was carried out in March and April of 2021 by Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., of Gainesville, Virginia, for VHB of Orlando, Florida.

Documentary research showed that a cultural resources survey of Pierceville conducted in 1937 reported the presence of a cemetery associated with Pierceville and that the 18th and early 19th century owners of the Pierceville plantation, Thomas Pierce I, II, and III, were likely buried with their families in on the plantation, as no burial places for these prominent individuals have been recorded. It is also possible that a later 19th century owner, A. G. Spratley and his family, are also buried in the cemetery. It is also likely that an unknown number of enslaved individuals were also buried on the plantation, either adjacent to the white owner's cemetery or in a separate burial ground. However, it is possible that any cemeteries associated with the Pierceville plantation are located on portions of the property that were sold off in the 19th or 20th century. Some land that was historically a part of Pierceville was subdivided, sold, and developed during this period and is now part of the Town of Smithfield.

Pedestrian reconnaissance of the property could not positively identify a cemetery location. Possible displaced grave stones were noted in an area near the western property boundary and several other possible locations were identified based on topography and location relevant to the historic plantation core or other historic period archeological sites associated with the plantation.

Ground Penetrating Radar survey is recommended for the four locations identified as moderate to high probability cemetery sites. Additional GPR survey of the entire project area or portions thereof could also provide significant data regarding presence or absence of burials. Phase I archeological survey of portions of the project area assessed with moderate to high probability for the occurrence of archeological sites is also recommended and, pending the results of any additional investigations, archeological monitoring of ground disturbing activity during development of the property is recommended to avoid disturbance of any cemetery or human burial that may be present.

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a brief documentary study and pedestrian survey of the farm located at 502 Grace Street in Smithfield, Virginia (Exhibit 1). The research and walkover focused on determining the potential for a cemetery or graveyard within the 57.2-acre project area. Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., of Gainesville, Virginia, conducted the study described in this report for VHB of Orlando, Florida. The study was carried out in March and April of 2021.

Boyd Sipe, M.A, RPA, served as Principal Investigator on this project. The pedestrian walkover was conducted by Senior Associate Archeologist David Carroll, M.A., RPA with the assistance of Angelica Wimer. The archival research was conducted by Rebekah Yousaf, MSHP.

Fieldwork and report contents conformed to the limited guidance set forth by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) for a Phase IA pedestrian reconnaissance as outlined in their 2017 *Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey in Virginia* (DHR 2017) as well as the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (DOI 1983). In general, at the time of the survey all aspects of the investigation were in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) (as amended).

PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS

The following summary of previously recorded cultural resources within and near the project area was established using the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (DHRs) online Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS). A portion of this property was subject to a Phase I archeological survey conducted by Maar Associates, Inc. (MAI) in 1993 (cite). The survey was limited to a narrow corridor across the central portion of the site and along the southwestern boundary. The remaining portions of the project area have not been previously subject to systematic archeological survey. In 1937, Florence Jordan, a surveyor with the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Virginia Historical Inventory, evaluated Pierceville. She noted the presence of "an old burying ground" on the property. No other information was recorded.

Two archeological sites and two architectural resources have been previously mapped within the project area (Exhibit 2). The MAI investigation resulted in identification of the two archeological sites. Site 44IW0149 is mapped in the central western portion of the property and is recorded as a domestic occupation site dating from the early-19th century through the mid-20th century.

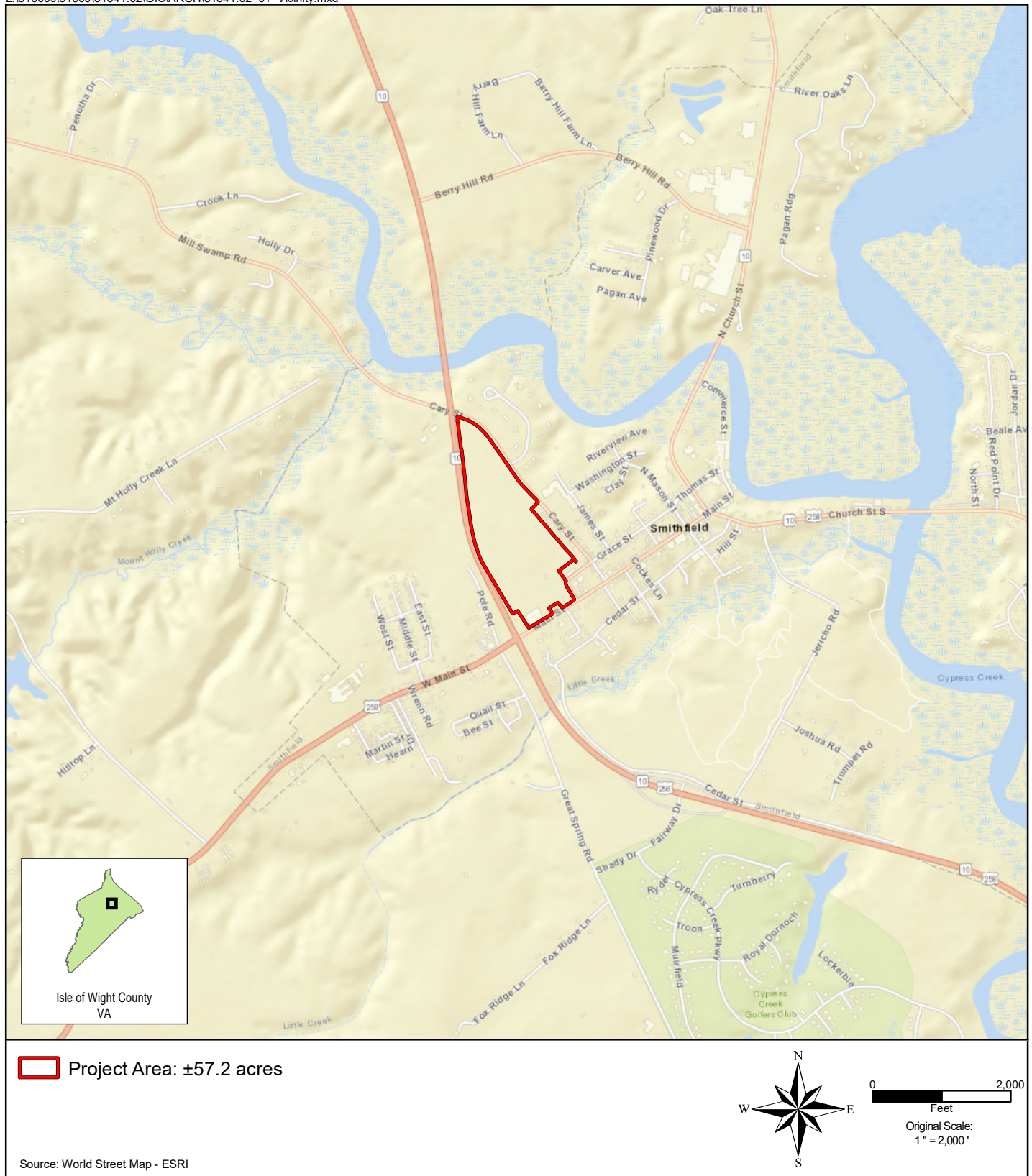
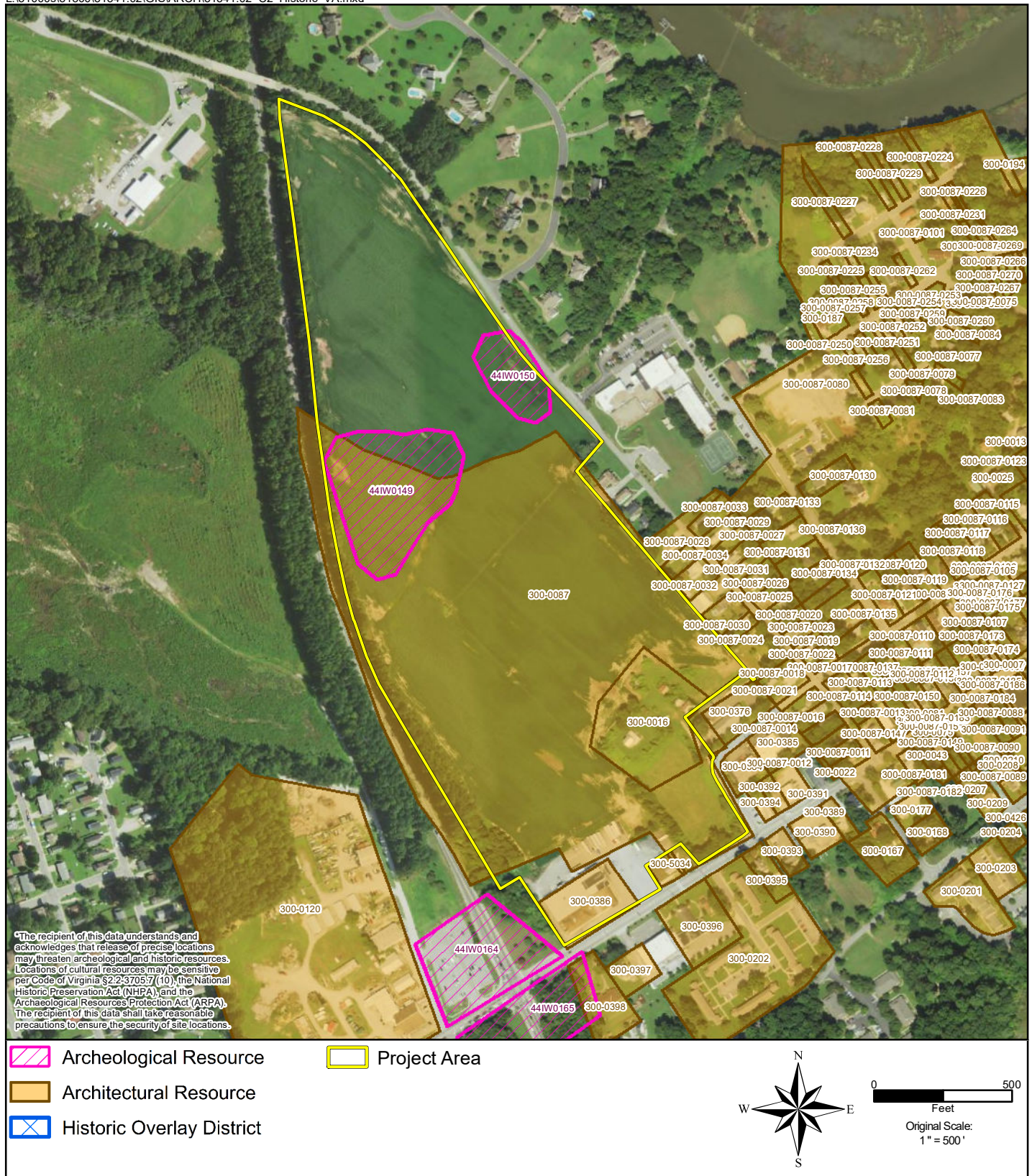





Exhibit 1: Vicinity Map



The recipient of this data understands and acknowledges that release of precise locations may threaten archeological and historic resources. Locations of cultural resources may be sensitive per Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7(10), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). The recipient of this data shall take reasonable precautions to ensure the security of site locations.

-  Archeological Resource
-  Architectural Resource
-  Historic Overlay District

 Project Area

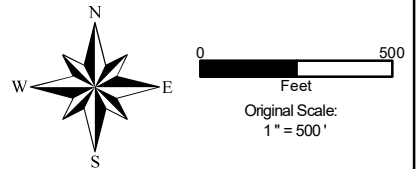


Exhibit 2: Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

Site 44IW0150 is mapped in the central eastern portion of the property; it is recorded as a domestic occupation site dating from the 19th century. Both sites have been determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the DHR. Sites 44IW0164 and 44IW0165, located to the southwest of the project area, were recorded as disturbed areas where historic period artifacts had been found by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) cultural resources staff in 1995.

Regarding the architectural resources, Resource 300-0016, representing Pierceville, is mapped in the southern portion of the property (see Exhibit 2). As the dwelling has been razed, the resource may not be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP, but it may still be determined to be contributing to the significance of the National Register (and VLR)-listed Smithfield Historic District (300-0087) that is also mapped in the southern portion of the property (see Exhibit 2). Little's Super Market, built in the mid-20th century and recently demolished, was previously recorded as Resource 300-0386 in the southwestern portion of the project area.

A review of previously recorded archeological sites and architectural resources within about a one-mile radius of the project area found no recorded cemeteries or burial grounds outside the project area that could likely represent the reported Pierceville cemetery or a cemetery for Pierceville's enslaved population.

PROPERTY HISTORY

Pierce Family (1730s-1837)

Originally part of a land grant from King Charles I to Joseph Cobb in 1637, the project area seems to have been largely unoccupied until the second or third quarter of the 18th century. In the 1730s, Thomas Pierce of Hampton purchased 300 acres of Cobb's land grant, primarily the land located south of Pagan Creek and allegedly known as "Goose Hill" according to the resource form on record with DHR. The metes and bounds of Pierce's original 300 acres are not known, but they appear to have been bounded by Pagan Creek (River) to the north, the road that is now Main Street to the south, and to have extended both east and west of the current study property and included parts of what later became the Town of Smithfield. Though Thomas Pierce has few surviving records, his will dates to 1740, suggesting that he died within a decade of purchasing the land. There is no record of his burial place. Local historians note that he married Judith Curle of Hampton and together they had three children: Thomas, Mary, and Martha. In his will, Thomas Pierce bequeathed "my plantation on Pagan Creek" to his son, Thomas Pierce II (Dashiehl 1996).

The Pierce family home stood on the parcel purchased in the 1730s and within the project area. It is recorded with the DHR as resource 300-0016. According to the DHR architectural survey, no firm date of construction has been established, but estimates place its construction around 1750. If this date is accurate, it is possible that the recently demolished house on the study property was built by Thomas Pierce II, and was a replacement for a likely smaller and less permanent dwelling constructed by Thomas Pierce I. The colonial home was also surrounded by numerous outbuildings, including a kitchen and at least one dwelling for enslaved laborers. A second quarter for the enslaved was added later.

Like his father, scant vital records remain for Thomas Pierce II. It is known that he expanded the plantation he inherited from his father; the Pierceville VCRIS resource form notes that he owned all the land lying behind the town lots on the north side of Main Street by 1763, as well as a private wharf and warehouse near his ferry across Pagan Creek north of Smithfield. Pierce, his wife and son and twenty enslaved individuals are listed in the Virginia Census of 1782. Local historians identify his wife as Mary Wentworth and his son as Thomas Pierce III. Thomas Pierce II was a wealthy member of the colonial elite, vestryman at the Old Brick Church (now known as St. Luke's Church), Justice of the Peace and state militia captain. He also attended the 1788 Virginia Convention and favored ratification of the Constitution (Dashiell 1996).

Some sources identified Thomas Pierce II's death date as being between 1788 and 1794. However, Isle of Wight's 1810 census records a "Thomas Pierce Senr." living in a household with seven other white individuals and 29 enslaved Blacks. A "Thomas Pierce Jr." is also recorded in the same year, with a total household of four whites, two adults and two under sixteen. The large number of enslaved people owned by the senior Thomas Pierce suggests that Thomas Pierce II did not die before the 19th century. However, it is unclear who the seven other white individuals are if his son and grandchildren are recorded in another household.

In 1796, Thomas Pierce (either II or III, as there is some confusion with regard to death dates as previously discussed) insured his dwelling and two other buildings on his home plantation against fire with the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia (Stanton 2013: Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) R1 Vol 6: 116). The "Brick Dwelling house one story high, covered [roofed] with Wood Dutch Roof, 31 feet by 26 feet" was valued at \$1000. A "Brick Kitchen one Story 30 feet by 16 feet covered with Wood" and valued at \$200 was located 24 feet to one side of the dwelling. A "Wooden Warehouse one Story high 27 feet by 18 feet" with an attached woodshed was located 100 feet to the other side of the dwelling, valued at \$100. The description of the dwelling as being 'one story' is likely due to the second story being covered by the Dutch roof, hence its mention in the insurance description. In 1817, a revaluation of the policy included the same three buildings and described them similarly, with the further notation that the dwelling and kitchen were located within 30 feet of one another, and that no other building lay within 30 feet of either of them (Stanton 2013: MAS R5 Vol 46: 2351). Despite the implication of this description, there were doubtless additional buildings located within the domestic and working yards of Pierceville, including housing for enslaved laborers, stables, barns, smoke houses, dairies, etc. that Pierce chose not to insure, and thus were not recorded on the forms.

Thomas Pierce III inherited the Pierceville plantation from his father. According to a marriage bond dated May 1812, he married Margaret Miller in Norfolk. Together they had three children: Thomas Nelson, Willis Wentworth and Mary Eliza, who died in 1819. Sources suggest Pierce died in 1818 and was much older than his wife (Dashiell 1996). With no record of his birth, death or burial, it is difficult to determine Thomas Pierce III's age. However, an 1820 census lists a Thomas Pierce of Newport Parish, Isle of Wight, in

a household of seven individuals. Five of these individuals are children under the age of sixteen. It is unclear if this is Thomas Pierce III or a relative living nearby.

Another Pierce home may have been built by Thomas Pierce III or perhaps his father. “The Grove” was a brick townhome located at the corner of Grace and North Mason Street in Smithfield. Local historians believe it was built between 1780 and 1790. However, though the house is often referred to as the Thomas Pierce House, it is unclear which Thomas Pierce occupied it.

After Thomas Pierce III’s death around 1818, his widow married John G. Pinner and moved to Portsmouth, Virginia with her two sons. Once they came of age, Thomas and Willis sold 416 acres, including Pierceville, to George W. Purdie, ending the Pierce ownership of the property (DB 32:77). They also sold “the Grove” to Reverend Thomas Smith (Dashiell 1996). Records indicate that Thomas and Willis Pierce moved to Louisiana and North Carolina respectively. There is no record of their burials, but it is likely they are not buried on the Pierceville property.

George W. Purdie (1837-ca 1840)

A wealthy gentleman, George Purdie (1812-1861) was the grandson of George Purdie of Dumbarton, Scotland, who emigrated to Virginia before the incorporation of Smithfield. George W. Purdy has few records to his name, but his reputation survives. In the 1850 and 1860 censuses, his occupation is listed as “gentleman.” His marriage to Evelina Belmont Smith in 1836 was one of the last services held at the Old Brick Church before it was abandoned for years and renovated decades later. Clearly a man of some standing, Purdie was involved in numerous land transactions. Aside from the 419 acres he bought from the Pierce family in 1837, it is unclear how much land Purdie possessed.

There is no evidence to suggest that George, Evelina and their two daughters, Nancy and Mary, resided at Pierceville. Given the short period of ownership, it is unlikely they occupied the house. The Purdies are buried at St. Luke’s Cemetery.

Albert Gallatin Spratley (1849-1887)

A.G. Spratley first appears in the historic record in Surry in 1839, when he married Lavinia A. Wheadon. The next year, Spratley appears in the census, living in Surry with his wife and 13 enslaved Blacks. In 1849, Spratley purchased 107 acres known as Pierceville (DB 37:484). The 1850 census confirms his relocation to Smithfield; it designates his occupation as a farmer and lists four children, all born at Pierceville: Walter J. (10), Mary E. (8), Ann M. (4) and Benjamin W. (1). It also lists A.G. and Lavinia’s ages, indicating that they were born in 1815 and 1820 respectively. By 1860, the family had four more children: Lewis (8), Robert (6), Albert (3) and Martha (1). The censuses also list several Black laborers with the family. Lavinia died between 1870 and 1880. A.G. Spratley and his family continued to reside at Pierceville until his death which occurred around 1887.

His daughter, Anna M. Spratley, inherited the plantation, which was also referred to as the A.G. Spratley farm (Dashiell 1996). Neither A.G. nor Lavinia's burials have been located.

Delk Family (1887-1918)

Anna M. Spratley (1846-1908) became Captain O'Wighton Gilbert Delk's (1838-1906) third wife circa 1875. O.G. Delk was a purser on a steamboat that operated on the Pagan and James Rivers. According to the 1880 census, the couple was living in Smithfield with their daughter Anna C. (2). Though Anna M. inherited her childhood home, there is no evidence to suggest she and her family occupied it. Sources indicate that the Delks resided in a house on North Church Street in Smithfield, close to the water. In 1881, O.G. Delk Jr. joined the family, followed by Emily Wheadon in 1885.

During the Civil War, O.G. Sr. served in the Confederate Infantry. After the war he purchased and operated his own steamboat in the port of Smithfield, the Old Dominion Steamship Co. It is likely the family continued to reside in town. O.G. Jr. (1881-1956) inherited Pierceville upon his father's death in 1906. The 1900 census records O.G. Jr. living with his family and working as a purser, presumably for his father's steamboat company. According to his World War I draft registration card, O.G. Jr. was still living in Smithfield in 1918 and worked as a farmer. It was also during this year that he sold Pierceville's 219 acres to W.J. Collier (DB 87:507). It is not clear if the house was occupied during this time. All of the Delks are buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Smithfield, further suggesting that they did not use Pierceville land for family burials.



Plate 1: O.G. and Lena Delk outside their home in Washington D.C. (Ancestry.com)

Luster Thomas (1918-1946)

Luster Thomas (1870-1946) was born in Surry County, and married Emma Little (1877-1930) in 1903; they had one daughter, Isabelle. According to the 1910 census, Thomas appears to be a tenant farmer near Smithfield. In 1918, he bought Pierceville from W.J. Collier and was listed in the 1920 federal census as owning his own farm “adjoining the town of Smithfield” (DB 87: 523). According to 20th-century advertisements in the *Smithfield Times*, Thomas operated a dairy farm at Pierceville.

A plat map was also recorded as part of the transaction between Luster Thomas and W.J. Collier. Titled “Map of O.G. Delk Farm Subdivision,” this drawing shows the original Pierceville house and outbuildings near the intersection of Grace and Cary Street. According to this depiction of the property, Grace Street extends west into the project area and just south of the farmstead. The buildings are labeled as “Residence,” “Barn,” “Tenant Houses,” and “Stables” (Exhibit 3).

The 1945 USGS Quadrangle Map of Smithfield shows a road leading northwest through the project area, possibly the extension of Grace Street (Exhibit 4). A structure is shown at the end of the road and is possibly a tenant house.

Delk Family (1946-2020)

Isabelle Thomas (1904-1975) spent most of her life at Pierceville. According to the 1930 and 1940 censuses, she and her husband, Merritt A. Delk, worked the land alongside her father, until his death in 1946. From then on, Isabelle and Merritt owned the farm outright and continued to tend the land. Their daughter, Mary, was the last to be born at Pierceville and she inherited the farm from her mother in 1975 (WB 38:651). Mary sold the colonial home, its outbuildings and land in 2020 and all structures were demolished in December of that year (Exhibit 5). Her parents and grandparents are buried in Mill Swamp Baptist Church Cemetery.



Plate 2: Mary D. Crocker
(Smithfield Times)



Source: "Map of O.G. Deik Farm Subdivision"
Subdivided by Atlantic Coast Realty Co. June 6-1918.
JB Hording CE, Deed Book 87 Page 469

Exhibit 3: 1918 Plat Map

Documentary Study and Pedestrian Reconnaissance - Potential Cemetery at Pierceville

WSSI #31341.02 - May 2021



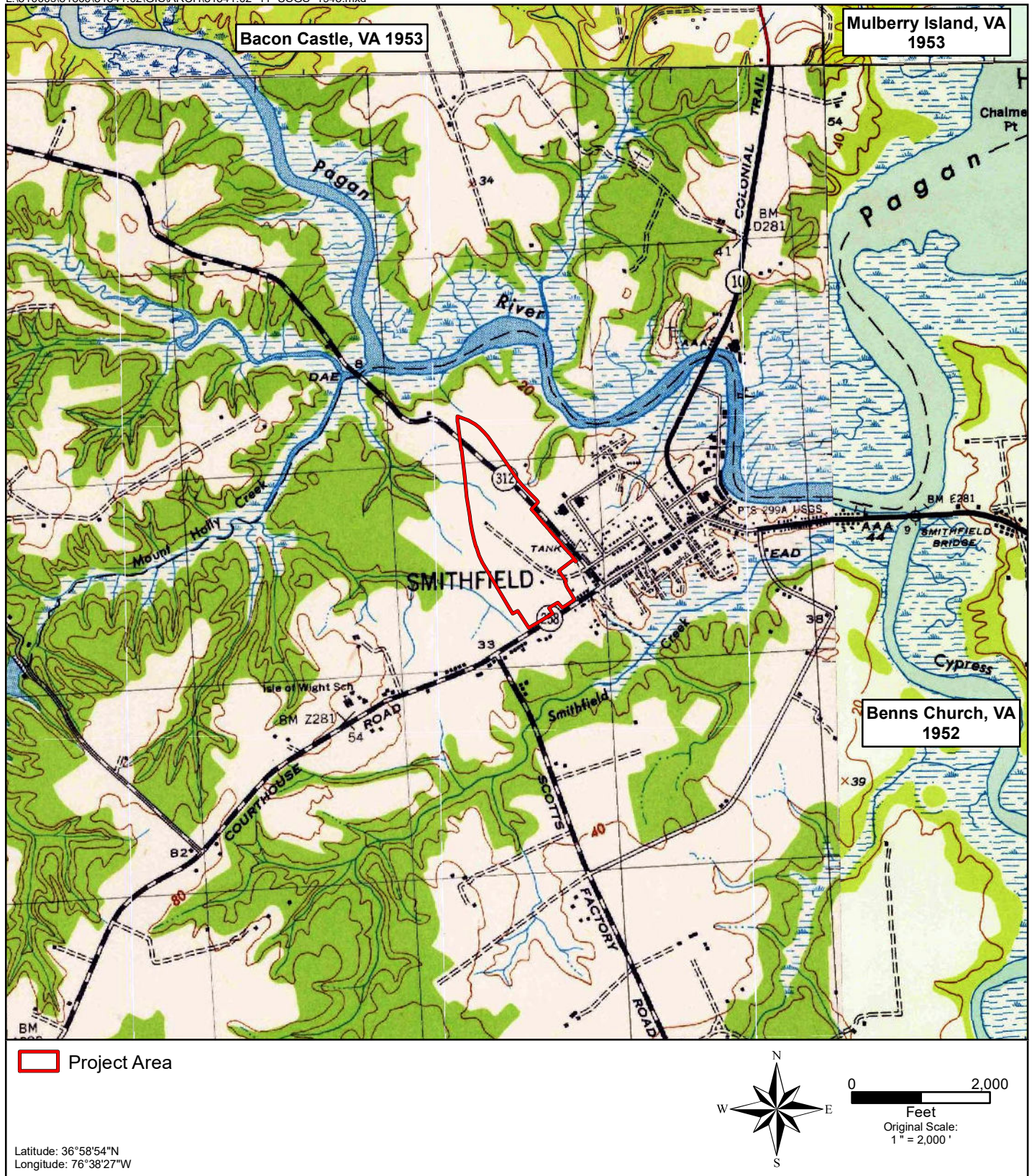


Exhibit 4: 1945 USGS Quadrangle, Smithfield, VA

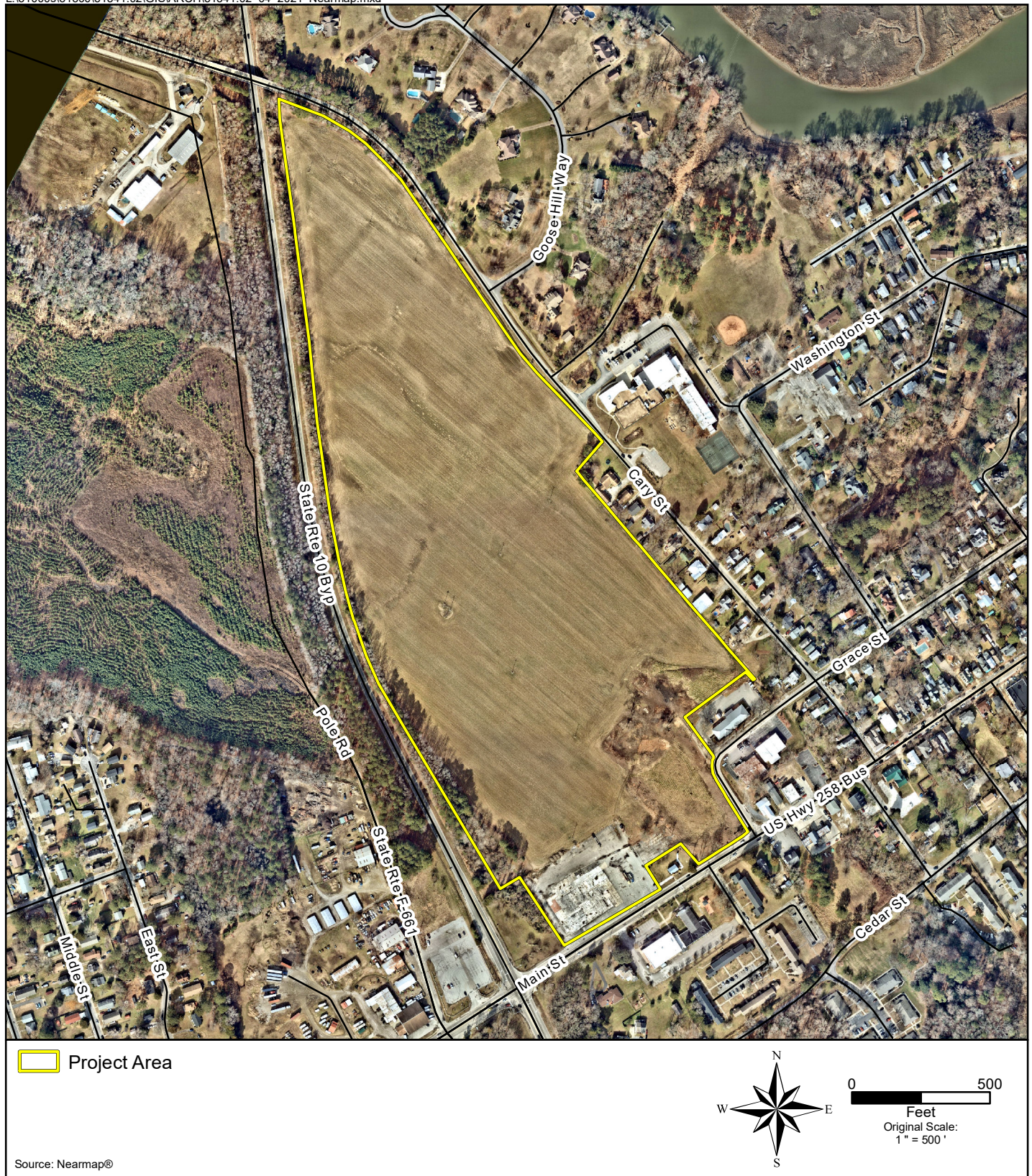


Exhibit 5: February 2021 Natural Color Imagery

Reported Historic Cemetery

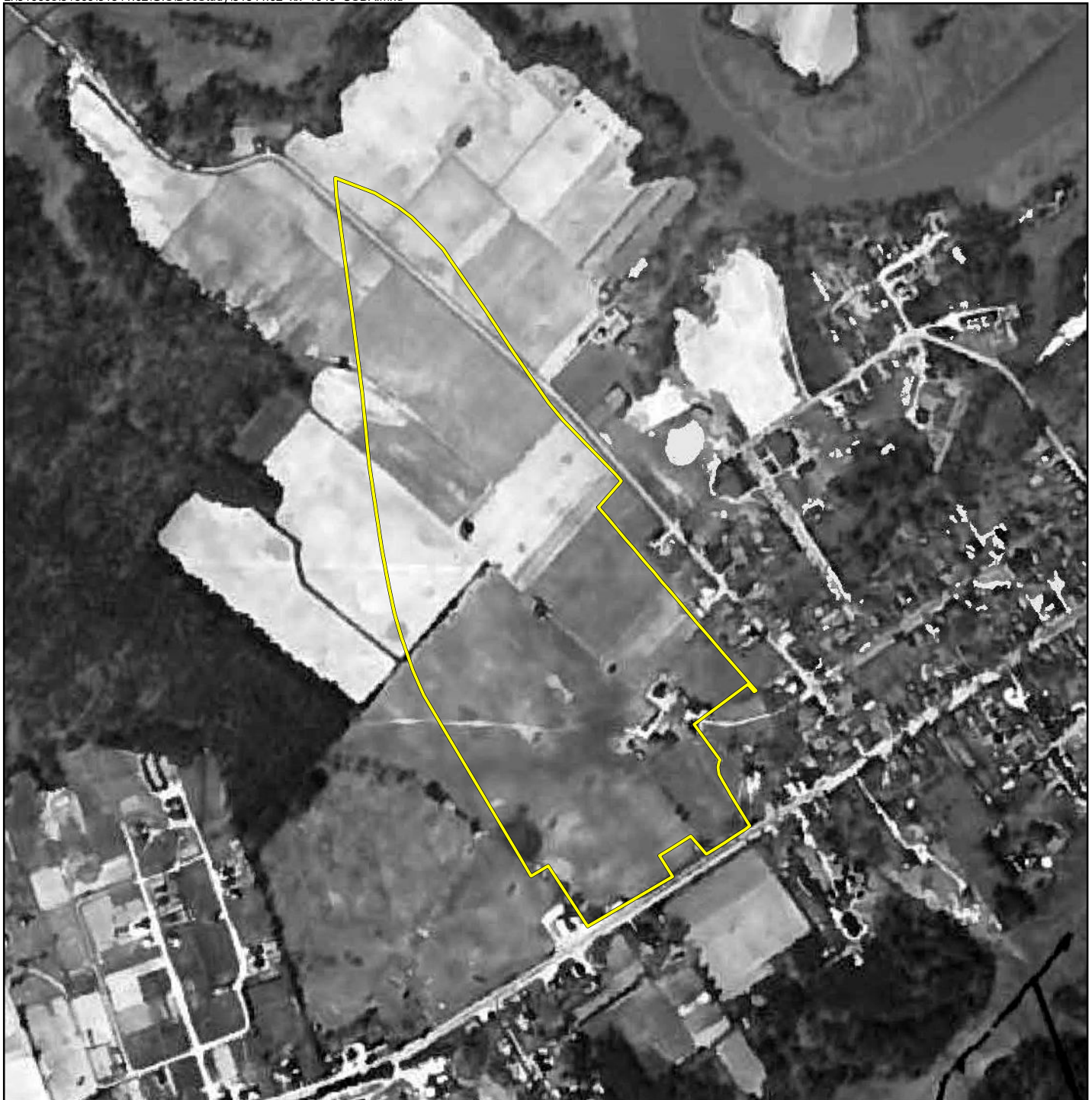
As noted previously, during Luster Thomas' tenure on the farm in 1937, Florence Jordan, a surveyor with the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Virginia Historical Inventory, evaluated Pierceville. She noted the presence of "an old burying ground" on the property but no other relevant information about the cemetery was recorded. Aerial photography of the project area dating to 1937 was located and reviewed but the resolution was poor; these photos provided no useful information. A review of air photos from 1948 and 1966 provided no further clarity (Exhibits 6 and 7).

The burial locations of members of the Pierce family are unknown indicating a lost family cemetery was likely present on the greater plantation if not necessarily within the project area. Research could not locate various members of the Pierce family directly associated with the occupation of Pierceville in the 18th and 19th centuries in any local cemeteries, including that of the Old Brick Church, a church attended by some of the same individuals. A.G. Spratley also occupied the farm for some time, and his and his wife's resting places are unrecorded.

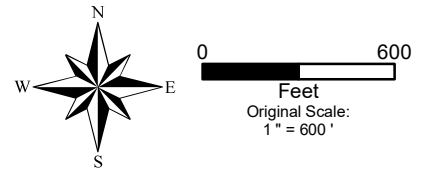
The occupants potentially buried within the Pierceville property, based on the results of the archival research summarized above, are listed in the table below. In addition to the landowners, it is expected that the people they enslaved were likely also buried on the plantation. At least 62 enslaved individuals have been recorded and associated with the Pierceville.

Table 1: Occupants with Unaccounted Burials

Person	Death Date
Thomas Pierce I	Ca 1740
Judith Curle	Unknown
Thomas Pierce II	Ca 1790
Mary Wentworth	Unknown
Thomas Pierce III	Ca 1820
Margaret Miller	Unknown
Mary Eliza Pierce	1819
Albert Gallatin Spratley	Ca 1887
Lavinia Spratley	Ca 1875
Unknown Enslaved Individuals (62+)	Unknown (pre-1866)

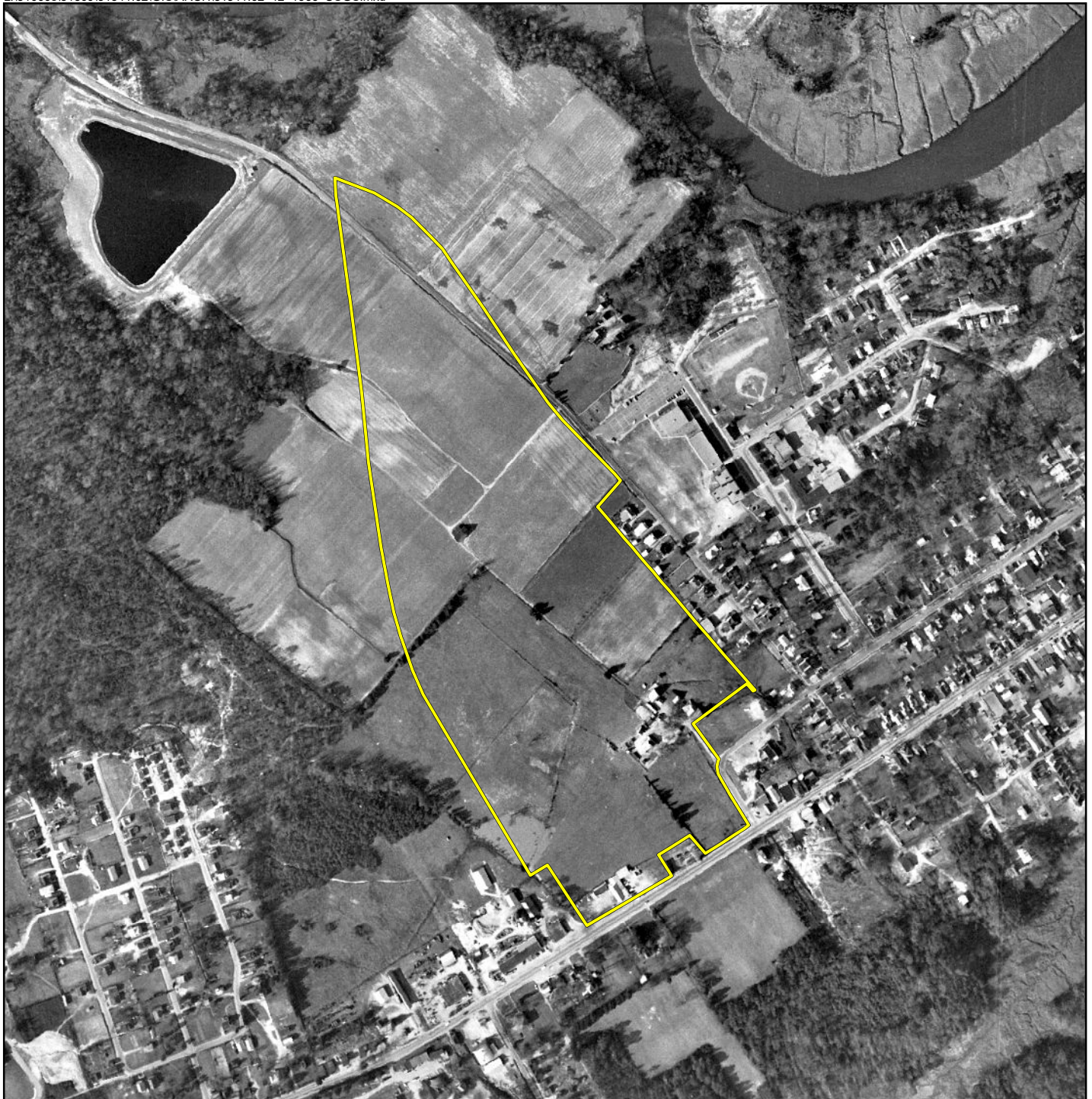


 Project Area

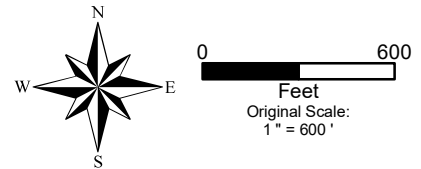


Source: USDA

Exhibit 6: March 1948 Black and White Imagery



 Project Area



Source: USGS

Exhibit 7: March 1966 Black and White Imagery

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the Pierceville property was conducted in April 2021 with the express purpose of locating, if possible, the historic cemetery noted as being located upon the property in 1937 and evidence any additional human burials that could be observed. Two field staff examined the ground surface for indicators of the presence of a historic cemetery such as fieldstone or carved stone markers, grave depressions, mounds, intensive rodent disturbance, and vegetation such as large trees and cultivars commonly associated with historic cemeteries.

The study property contains three general landscape settings: agricultural field, fallow land, and the heavily disturbed yard area of the historic dwelling and outbuildings. Agricultural fields occupy the great majority of the study property. Based on the property history and review of 20th-century aerial photographs, the fields have likely been in active agricultural use for three centuries or more, including the entirety of the 20th century. At the time of the survey, the fields had been planted and the crop had sprouted to a height of up to six inches (Plate 3). The repeated plowing that has occurred on the property until the adoption of no-till agricultural practices in the latter half of the 20th century has greatly reduced the likelihood of identifying any former cemetery site within the field areas based upon the presence of depressions, mounds, or cemetery cultivars.



Plate 3: Agricultural Fields within the Study Property

The fallow portions of the study property were in the south between Main Street and the former building complex. These areas were characterized by untended grasses; several former tree lines had been cut down recently (Plate 4). The ground surface in the fallow areas tended to be rough and was obscured by dense hummocks of grass or wood debris from the recently cut trees. Much of the fallow area was low-lying; areas with the highest potential for containing a cemetery were restricted to the areas immediately adjacent to the

former treelines and two prominent upland ridges, one to the south and one to the east of the former house complex.



Plate 4: Fallow Land within the Study Property

The former location of the Pierceville dwelling was characterized by recently disturbed bare earth. Traces of the buildings that once stood on the property were visible, but the pre-demolition ground surface within this area has been completely effaced, as well as the attendant vegetation (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Disturbed Former Dwelling Complex

Any potential indications of the presence of a cemetery within this area appear to have been obliterated. However, a cemetery in this location within the working yard of a plantation house, would be atypical of historic plantations in Virginia.






Pedestrian reconnaissance of the property focused primarily on ridge tops, side slopes, and tree lines as areas considered of highest probability to contain a historic cemetery. Areas of standing water, drainage swales, roadbeds, driveways, etc. were considered to have decreased probability.

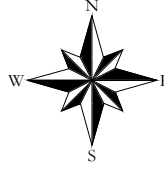

No definitive indications for the location of a historic cemetery were noted on the property. However, an area located along the western fence line at the edge of the property lying 500 feet west of the former building complex contained two stones visible on the ground surface on the south side slope of a small ridge (Plate 6. Exhibit 8). No other stones were noted during the walkover survey. The presence of stones in this well-drained location remote but within easy viewing and walking distance of the dwelling house marks the location as a potential site for the historic cemetery. The location is within the active agricultural field, which as previously described negates the possibility of observing any grave depressions or cultivars suggestive of a historic cemetery. English ivy, a cultivar associated with historic dwelling sites and cemeteries, was present along and across the fence line marking the western boundary of the property at this location. A buried utility runs through the vicinity of the stones.



Plate 6: Possible Displaced Grave Stone



 Project Area Boundary	 High Cemetery Probability
 DHR Architectural Resource Boundary	 Moderate Cemetery Probability
 DHR Archeological Site Boundary	

Original Scale: 1" = 400'

Exhibit 8: Potential Cemetery Locations by Probability

Three additional areas were assessed with moderate potential to be cemetery locations based on their topographic position and their proximity to dwelling complexes. A relatively small but pronounced upland ridge is in the fallow area approximately 175 feet south of the dwelling complex (see Exhibit 8). This area is located along the former tree line that until recently stood south of the dwelling, with east-facing slopes overlooking a former driveway or access road that ran north-northwest along low-lying ground from between two brick pillars along Main Street to the dwelling complex.

A second area of moderate cemetery potential is located immediately north and northwest of the dwelling complex in what is now agricultural field (see Exhibit 8). The natural topography slopes very gradually down to the north from the dwelling complex in this location, and it may have originally included an extension of the complex in the form of a burial ground which has since been overtaken by agricultural use.

A third area of moderate cemetery potential is located within and around Site 44IW0149, approximately 1000 feet northwest of the former Pierceville dwelling complex (see Exhibit 8). This site was recorded in 1993 as a potential domestic site dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The site may represent a quarter for enslaved laborers and a cemetery may be associated with the quarter. A cemetery in this location might include members of the Pierce and Spratley families but would more likely be associated with individuals enslaved by these and other owners of Pierceville.

Although the four previously discussed locations appear, based on field observations, to be the most likely sites of the reported historic cemetery if it was within the current boundaries of the project area, the possibility remains that the cemetery is located on one of several additional areas of higher topography within the property, was located within one of the developed portions of the former plantation property along Main and Grace Streets, or was located somewhere outside of the current study property on a different portion of the historic plantation.

The area of moderate to high probability for containing archeological resources is indicated on Exhibit 9. This area includes the majority of the project area and generally excludes only locations that were assessed as having been completely disturbed, low-lying, or poorly drained. Despite evidence of subsurface disturbance within the DHR-boundary of Pierceville (300-0016), i.e., the location of the no longer extant dwelling and ancillary buildings, the location was assessed with at least a moderate probability for archeological resources as deep cultural features such as cellars, wells, or privies could be extant below the level of disturbance.

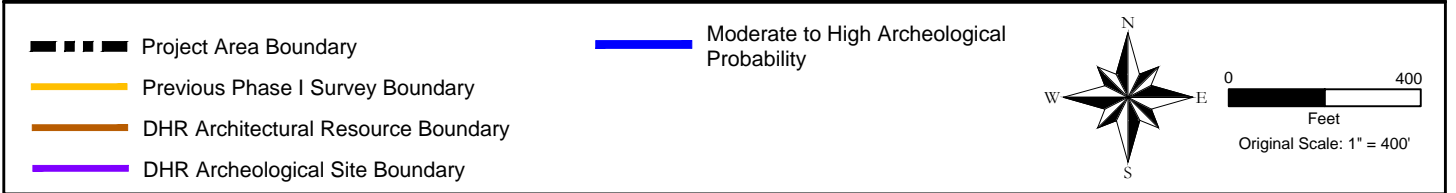


Exhibit 9: Archeological Probability Map

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A documentary study and pedestrian survey of Pierceville (300-0087) and the surrounding property located at 502 Grace Street in Smithfield, Virginia was conducted. The research and walkover focused on determining the potential for a cemetery or graveyard within the 57.2-acre project area. Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., of Gainesville, Virginia, conducted the study described in this report for VHB of Orlando, Florida. The study was carried out in March and April of 2021.

Archival research conducted as part of this study found indications that one or more cemeteries were located within the historic plantation property, based on a lack of known grave sites associated with several prominent former owners of the plantation, the large number of enslaved workers known to have lived and died on the plantation, and a reference to a 'burying ground' in a 1937 WPA record of the property. Documentary research found no clear evidence for the location of a cemetery or cemeteries on the property. A pedestrian reconnaissance of the current study property found no definitive indications of a cemetery visible on the property. It remains possible that one or more cemeteries are present on the current project area and it is also possible that any cemeteries associated with the Pierceville plantation are located on portions of the property that were sold off in the 19th or 20th century. Some land that was historically a part of Pierceville was subdivided, sold, and developed during this period and is now part of the Town of Smithfield.

Based on the results of the pedestrian reconnaissance, four locations within the study property were deemed to have the highest probability of containing a historic cemetery. One location along the property boundary west of the house is considered to have a moderate to high probability of containing burials due to the presence of two stones noted at the edge of the agricultural field during the pedestrian reconnaissance. Three other locations are considered to have a moderate probability of containing burials based on their topographic position and proximity to the former Pierceville dwelling complex or archeological site 44IW0149, a possible domestic site for enslaved persons in the northwestern portion of the property. It remains possible that the historic cemetery is located outside of the current study property on land formerly part of Pierceville, or on one of several additional well-drained locations within the current study property.

Thunderbird Archeology recommends a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the four locations deemed to have a moderate or moderate-high probability of containing burials. In addition to the GPR survey, a Phase I archeological survey of the portions of the project area assessed with moderate to high probability for archeological survey is recommended. Although the methods employed in Phase I archeological survey are not generally effective at locating subsurface burial grounds with no above ground features, the results would inform the overall cemetery investigation by providing additional information relevant to the organization of the historic plantation.

The majority of the property is located within the Smithfield Historic District (DHR #300-0087), which was listed to both the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Virginia Landmarks Registry (VLR) in 1973. The long history of the Pierceville plantation's nearly 300-year occupation suggests the potential for additional significant archeological resources within the project area.

Given the possibility for one or more historic cemeteries to be located on the project area but pending the results of any additional studies that may be conducted prior to development of the site, archeological monitoring of ground-disturbing activity during the development of the property is recommended to ensure compliance with statutes protecting human burials and cemeteries in the Code of Virginia.

References Cited

Dashiell, Segar Cofer

1996 *Smithfield : a pictorial history*. Donning Co. Publishers, Norfolk, Va.

Department of Historic Resources

n.d. Architectural Survey of Resource 300-0016, surveyed by Florence Johnson, 2 June 1937, accessed April 2021.

Stanton, Gary

2013 *Mutual Assurance Society Policies 1796-1865*. Electronic Document, <http://resources.umwhisp.org/mas.htm>, accessed April 14, 2021.

Public Sources:

Isle of Wight County Deed Books

Isle of Wight County Marriage Records

U.S. Census

APPENDIX I
Chain of Title

Date	Grantee	Grantor	Description	Book: Page
11/1/2020	LSMP LLC	Mary D. Crocker	Whole project area, 57 acres	200006721
Isabelle T. Delk leaves property to her daughter Mary D. Crocker nee Gayle in Will Book 38:651				
1/4/1946	Isabelle T. Delk	Lester Thomas	219 acres on Main Street in Smithfield	124:539
7/31/1918	Lester Thomas	W.J. Collier	219 acres on Main Street in Smithfield	87: 523
6/21/1918	W.J. Collier	O.G. and Fannie Delk	219 acres on Main Street in Smithfield	87:507
Delks get Pierceville through Anna Maria Spratley Delk, who inherited it from her father AG Spratley				
1/24/1887	O.G. Delk	RE Boykin	Chancery cause concerning land of AG Spratley; 125 acres "bounded by road leading from Smithfield leading to IoW courthouse"	51:141
6/30/1849	A.G. Spratley	Jordan Wombwell	land purchased by Wombwell from George Purdie who purchased it from "the heirs of Thomas Pierce. Being a part of the tract known as Pierceville" 107 acres	37:484
6/8/1837	George W. Purdie	Margaret Primer (widow of late Thomas Wentworth Pierce) and Thomas N. and Wentworth Pierce- heirs at law of Thomas W. Pierce	"Pierceville" 416 acres on the main road	32:77 and 32:117
Thomas W. Pierce inherited land from his father and grandfather, Thomas Pierce I and II respectively				

APPENDIX II
Staff Qualifications

David Carroll, M.A., RPA

Senior Associate Archeologist / Historian



Firm Association

Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI)

Direct Phone Line

(703) 679-5625

Project Assignment

Archeology Field Director

Years of Experience

With this firm: 17

With other firms: 5.5

Education

B.A., History, Shepherd College, West Virginia

M.A., Historical Archaeology, University of Leicester, U.K.

Registrations & Certifications

2021/Registered Professional Archeologist

HAZWOPER Hazardous Materials Technician Training

2021/HAZWOPER 8-Hour Review

2012/VDOT Basic Work Zone Traffic Control Training and Flagger Certification/051512756

Associations

Council of Middle Atlantic Archeology

Mr. Carroll has over 20 years of field experience in Middle Atlantic archeology, including field work on sites ranging from the Archaic period to the early 20th Century. He has gained proficiency in overseeing fieldwork on Phase I, II, and III investigations, documentary research, and the writing and production of technical reports and mapping with AutoCAD. He also has also served as acting archeological lab supervisor, performing lab analysis and the processing and interpretation of artifacts.

Williams Ordinary - Prince William County, VA

Conducted a Phase I survey of the yard of a late 18th century tavern, directly supervising the field investigation. Recorded archaeological sites associated with Williams' Ordinary and the non-extant ca. 1760 Tebbs-Mundy house. Performed limited preliminary investigation and interpretation of features associated with the Ordinary encountered during the Phase I investigation. Performed background research and authored portions of the report.

Indigo Hotel (220 South Union) – City of Alexandria, VA

Mr. Carroll researched and co-authored the Documentary Study for this project. Numerous 18th and 19th-century industries, warehouses, businesses, and residences were located on this property. Later, the fertilizer manufacturing plant of the Bryant Fertilizer Company occupied the entirety of the Indigo Hotel property. The documentary and archival research was used to develop an interpretive historic context and narrative of the property's historic significance. The research resulted in the recommendation for archeological work and accurately predicted that the property contained the remains of the circa 1756 Carlyle warehouse pre-Revolutionary War derelict vessels, the hulls of which were used as part of the frame and fill for the "banking out" of land on the waterfront.

Phase I Archeological Investigation Of The I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes Project - Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania Counties And The Cities Of Alexandria and Fredericksburg, VA

Mr. Carroll served as an archeology field supervisor for a Phase I Archeological Investigation of the circa 55.5 mile long I-95/I-395 HOV/BUS/HOT Lanes Project in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania Counties And The Cities Of Alexandria and Fredericksburg, Virginia. The fieldwork consisted of testing within the median and roadside areas to be impacted by construction. Twenty-six previously recorded sites, one historic district, and two historic resources were either wholly or partially located within the APE for this project; fifteen of the previously recorded archeological sites had been destroyed. Thirty-six new archeological sites were recorded during this survey. Of these sites, seven were recommended for avoidance or Phase II evaluation.

500/501 North Union (Robinson North Terminal) – City of Alexandria, VA

Mr. Carroll researched and co-authored the Documentary Study for this project. The documentary and archival research was used to develop an interpretive historic context and narrative of the property's historic significance. The research resulted in the recommendation for archeological work, as the property has a high probability of containing the remnants of 18th-19th-century wharves, including the cribwork frame construction of the 1859 wharf constructed by the American Coal Company. Archeological work is anticipated to begin in early 2016.



Manager-Archeology



Firm Association

Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI)

Direct Phone Line

(703) 679-5623

Project Assignment

Project Manager

Years of Experience

With this firm: 15

With other firms: 5

Education

M.A./Archeology and Heritage/The University of Leicester

Registrations & Certifications

2020/Register of Professional Archaeologists

HAZWOPER Hazardous Materials Technician Training

2020/HAZWOPER 8-Hour Review

Associations

Society for Historical Archeology

Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference

Arlington National Cemetery Stream Restoration Millennium Project Arlington, Virginia

Mr. Sipe served as Project Manager for the cultural landscape documentation related to the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery (known as the Millennium Project) and the future restoration of 1,700 lf of badly degraded stream channel that flows through the site. As part of the environmental and preservation compliance process, pursuant to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and regulations in 36 CFR Part 800, documentation of the cultural landscape of the Millennium Site has been included in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ANC, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer to mitigate adverse effects.

James Bland Development Property, City of Alexandria, VA.

Mr. Sipe conducted archival research and authored the documentary study for this five city block project and conducted oral history interviews from several long-time residents of the area. Based on his research, a Phase I archeological survey was recommended and a research design was developed. Mr. Sipe supervised the Phase I archeological work which resulted in the identification of two archeological sites that warranted further investigation.

Architectural Reconnaissance Survey & Preliminary Information Form (PIF) Preparation - Highland Springs, Henrico County, Virginia

Serving as the Project Manager on a survey of 240 representative historic properties. The survey area contains homes, churches, civic buildings, and 40-to-50 commercial properties in this early streetcar suburb of Richmond. Historic maps geo-referenced by GIS staff assisted in identifying which properties to survey. Oversaw all survey efforts and preparation of a Preliminary Information Form (PIF) to evaluate the proposed Highland Springs Historic District potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial, City of Alexandria, VA.

Under the supervision of Alexandria Archaeology, investigations were conducted between May and December of 2007 at the Contrabands and Freedman's Cemetery (44AX179). Thunderbird Archeology was also contracted to assist with public interpretation for the memorial. Mr. Sipe assembled a team to design the City's official website and historical brochure for the site. He authored all text for the web site and assisted in the brochure design and layout. Finally, Mr. Sipe managed additional excavations and supervised archeological monitoring during construction of the Memorial.

Lyndam Hill II Property (44FX0223), Fairfax County, VA.

Mr. Sipe served as Principal Investigator during the Phase II site evaluation and Phase III data recovery of site 44FX0223, a circa 1720 to 1769 outlying farm quarter site in Fairfax County, Virginia, and served as primary author for the Phase II and co-author for the Phase III reports describing the results of the investigations. Intact historic features and artifact deposits indicated the discrete locations of an overseer's house and a dwelling for enslaved laborers, a unique and rarely identified site type in Virginia. Major research issues in the archeology of regional slavery including the lifeways and material culture of the enslaved and overseers, ethnicity, agency, and plantation provisioning were re-considered in view of findings at the site.



Firm Association
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI)

Project Assignment
Architectural Historian

Years of Experience
With this firm: 1
With other firms: >0

Education
2018/MSHP/Historic Preservation/University of Pennsylvania

2015/B.A./History/University of Missouri

Registrations & Certifications
2019/Plant Identification Training/WSSI

2019/Land Navigation Training/WSSI

Associations
Vernacular Architecture Forum

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Ms. Yousaf has two years of experience in historic preservation research and fieldwork in the Mid-Atlantic region, including her years at the University of Pennsylvania. She has conducted architectural surveys and prepared reports detailing the occupational and functional history of 18th and 19th century sites for the City of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Her thesis regarding architectural finishes analysis of spaces occupied by enslaved persons considered the ways in which archaeology and anthropology can be used to supplement historic preservation when physical evidence is lacking.

Ms. Yousaf's relevant experience includes:

Carmeuse Lime and Stone Site Assessment - Frederick County, VA.

Ms. Yousaf prepared background research and conducted a reconnaissance survey of the Stribling House (034-0114), a circa 1809 Federal/Adamesque-style house, and its farmstead, including numerous outbuildings. This assessment was prepared for Carmeuse Lime and Stone in anticipation of development affecting historic resources.

1515 Chain Bridge Road Architectural Survey - McLean, VA.

Ms. Yousaf conducted a Phase I (Reconnaissance) survey of a small parcel in McLean, Virginia, which contained an early example of the late Modernist style (New Formalism) office building. The survey was required by Fairfax County staff during the rezoning process and was conducted for VIKA Virginia, LLC on behalf of Sunrise Development, Inc. of McLean, Virginia. The McLean Medical Building (029-6580) was found to retain a high level of integrity and was recommended potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for local significance. Likewise, it was potentially significant under Fairfax County Criterion 3, as the building could be useful in educating the public about the Modernist movement architecture. Ms. Yousaf conducted the subsequent Phase II (Intensive) Architectural documentation, which included interior photography, the preparation of a sketch of interior floor plans, and a brief historic context regarding Modern architecture and the medical community in Fairfax County.

11332 Lee Highway Cultural Resources Investigation - Fairfax County, VA.

Due to its resemblance to prefabricated homes sold by Sears Roebuck and Company, Fairfax County requested additional research on the house at 11332 Lee Highway (029-5713), which had been previously surveyed and determined not eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing. Ms. Yousaf conducted the research for Kimley-Horn on behalf of Public Storage of Glendale, CA and found the circa 1925 Craftsman style house retained remarkable integrity on the exterior and interior in terms of design, materials, and workmanship, but had a significant loss of integrity in terms of setting, feeling, and association. Therefore, Ms. Yousaf concurred with the previous recommendation and determination that the house was not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C. Additionally, the dwelling did not meet Public Significance criteria for Fairfax County.

Watermark Condominiums (203/205/211 Strand Street) - Alexandria, VA.

In anticipation of new construction at 211 Strand Street in the City of Alexandria, documentary and archeological work was required under the City Code. Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. conducted this work in 2018-2019 for IDI Group Companies. Ms. Yousaf prepared text and images for two interpretive elements (historic markers) that touch upon the history and archeology of this historic waterfront site.