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16 April 2012

Noel G. Harrison
Green Springs Manager
National Park Service
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
120 Chatham Lane
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

RE: Archaeological assessment of the location of proposed improvements at 4108 East Jack Jouett Road, Louisa County, Virginia

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This letter report provides an archaeological assessment of the location of proposed improvements to the existing residence owned by Stacey E. and Linda M. Mills at 4108 East Jack Jouett Road, Louisa County, Virginia (Figure 1). The study area is located on a 91.8-acre property (Parcel 53-12-3) within the Green Springs National Historic Landmark District, and is subject to a conservation easement administered by the National Park Service. The purpose of this study is to provide an assessment of the archaeological resource potential of the proposed construction areas based on a review of previously inventoried archaeological sites in the vicinity; available historic maps and aerial photographs; and mapped soil and topographic conditions. The areas to be impacted include the site of new garage/workshop/apartment building; an addition to the existing residence to house an indoor pool; and a parking area/driveway expansion, all of which are encompassed within an area of less than 0.5 acre.

Previously Inventoried Archaeological Sites

A review of the site inventory files accessed via the Department of Historic Resources' Data Sharing System (DSS) indicates that there are no documented archaeological sites within or immediately adjacent to the study area. Only two sites, 44LS0090 and 44LS0100, have been previously recorded within a one-mile radius (Figure 2). Both represent prehistoric Native American campsites or lithic reduction areas of unknown date, and are situated within the streambeds of tributaries to Fosters Creek.

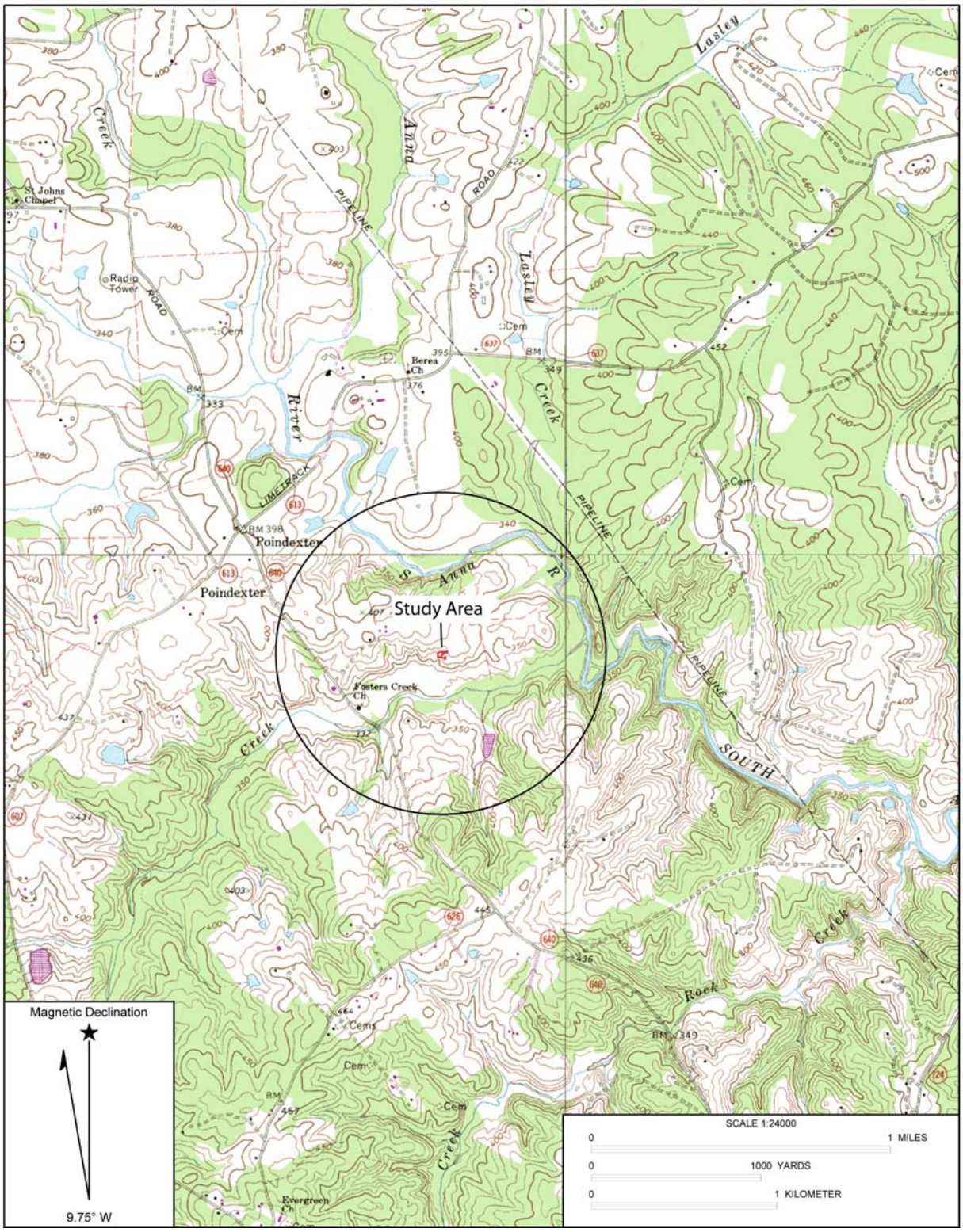

Figure 1. Location of the study area on detail of the U.S.G.S. 7.5' Zion Crossroads topographic quadrangle map, 1987.

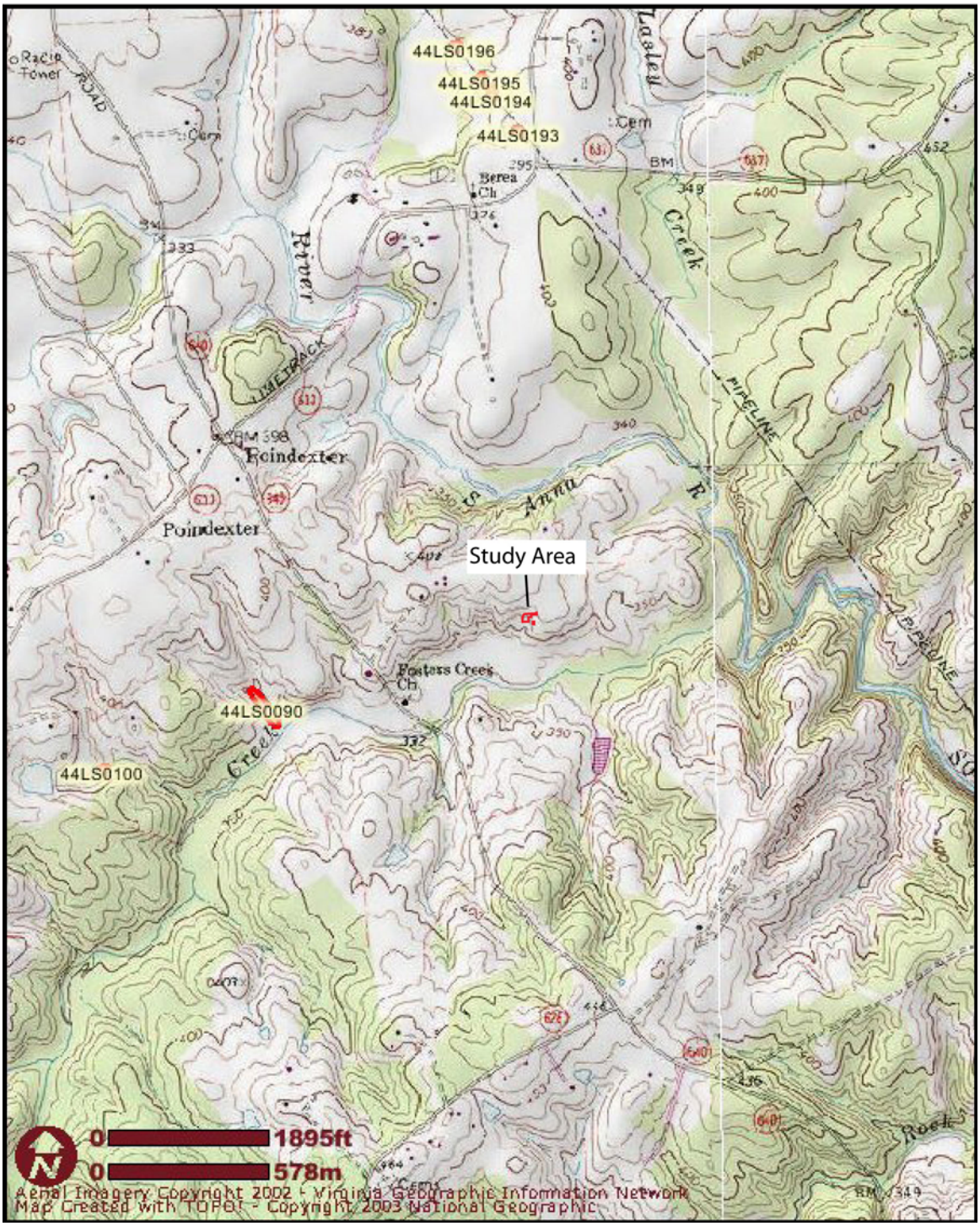

Figure 2. Location of previously inventoried archaeological sites within the study area vicinity.

Historic Mapping and Aerial Photography

The earliest detailed mapping of this area was prepared by military cartographers during the Civil War. A Confederate Engineers' map of Louisa County dated 1863 indicated that the study area consisted of cleared agricultural land at that time (Figure 3). The map depicts no buildings or other significant cultural features in the vicinity of the study area.

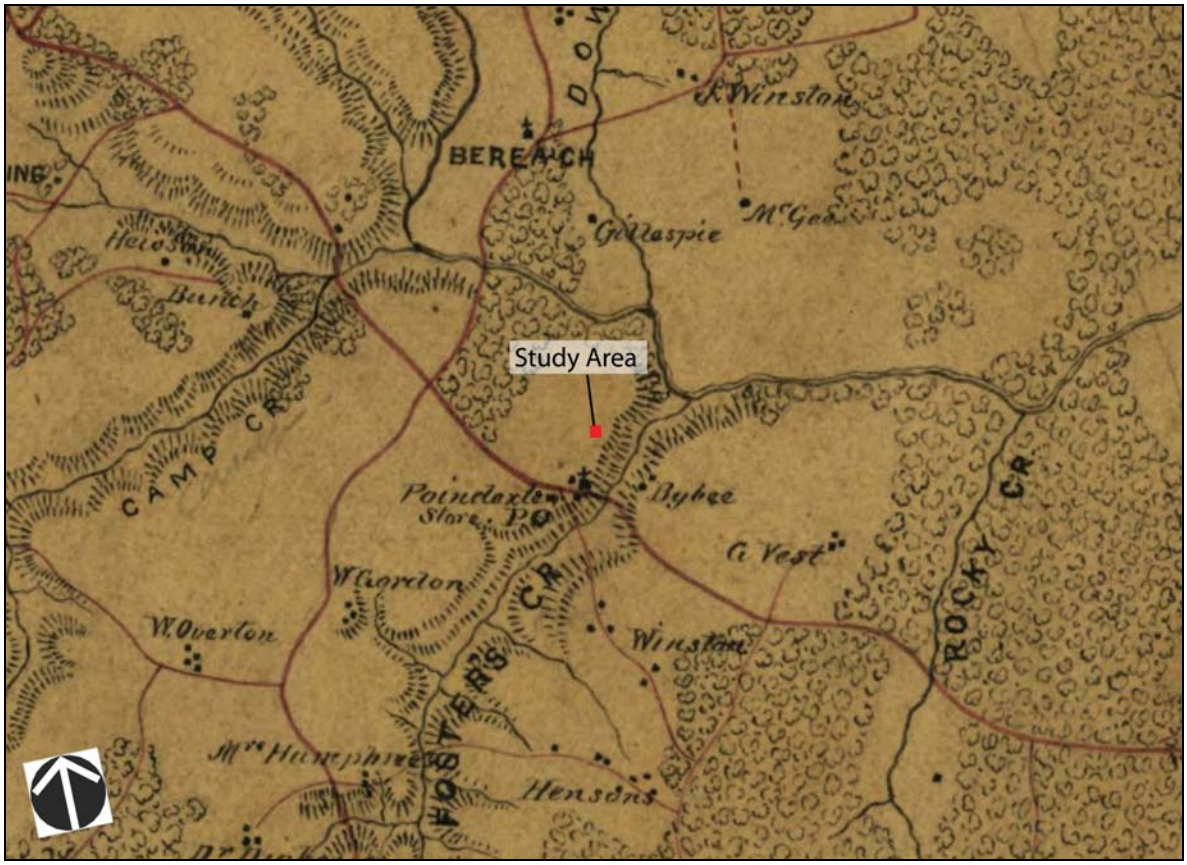

Figure 3. Location of the study area on detail of Department of Northern Virginia, Chief Engineer's Office, *Map of Louisa County Virginia from Surveys by B. L. Blackford Assist:Engr C. S. A. … 1863*, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

No similarly detailed maps of this area were produced from the 1860s through the early part of the twentieth century. During this period, the ca. 1888 Sunnybank house (054-0105) was built approximately 1,200 feet to the west.

The next available visual source for the physical condition of the study area is an aerial photograph taken in September 1937 on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Figure 4). The location of the study area was partially obscured by a control point marked on the photograph; however, it is evident that it was situated along the eastern edge of an agricultural field, delineated by a wooded fenceline or other boundary.

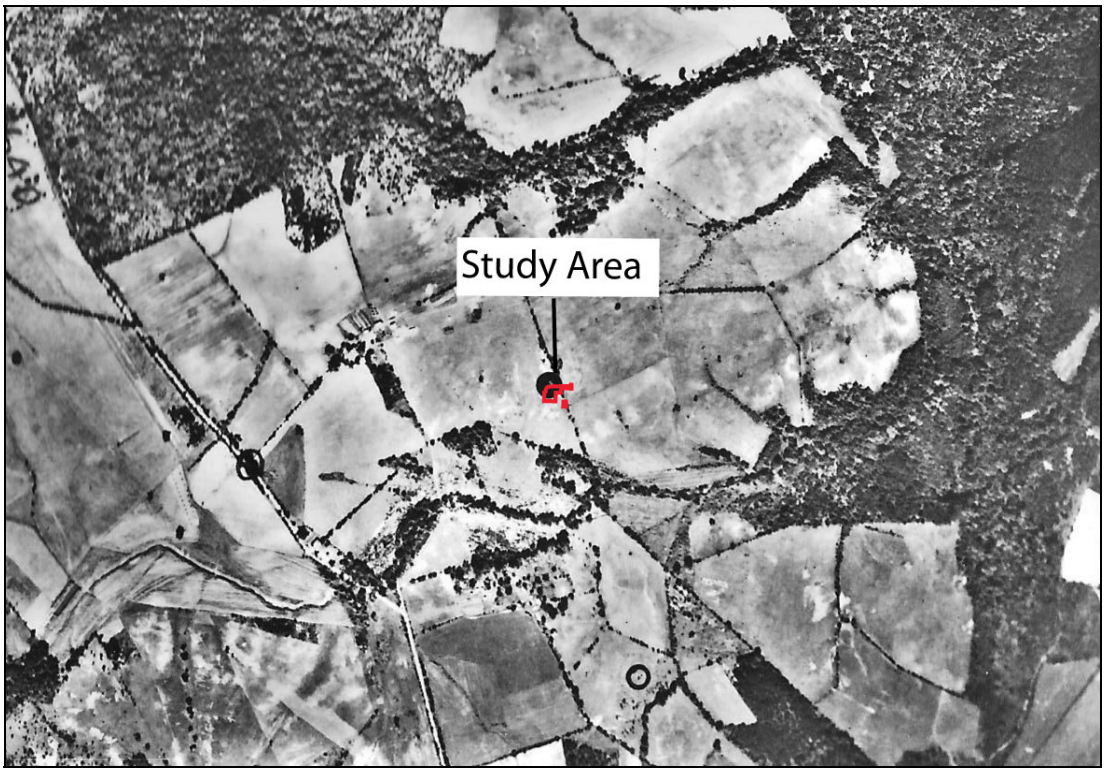

Figure 4. Location of the study area on detail of an aerial photograph of the study area vicinity, 15 September 1937. Sheet FG 145 157, Virginia Department of Transportation, Richmond.

According to the U.S.G.S. 15' Columbia topographic quadrangle map published in 1960, the study area was still encompassed by cleared agricultural fields, with no structures or other notable cultural features in the vicinity (Figure 5).

Archaeological Resource Potential

Few comprehensive archaeological surveys have been conducted in this area, and only two prehistoric Native American sites of unknown date have been recorded in the vicinity. Both of these sites were located along the streambeds of tributaries to Fosters Creek. Because Native American occupation sites in this area typically are found adjacent to or nearby water sources, it is relatively unlikely that the study area includes significant archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity.

The analysis of available historic mapping and aerial photography dating from the 1860s through the mid-twentieth century suggests that the study area and vicinity consisted of unoccupied agricultural land during this period.

The proposed construction locations are situated along the margins of a landform within an area characterized by Fluvanna fine sandy loam (FlC2) with slopes of 7 to 15 percent, the agricultural productivity of which is limited by erosion (Figure 6). As such, this would not have been an ideal

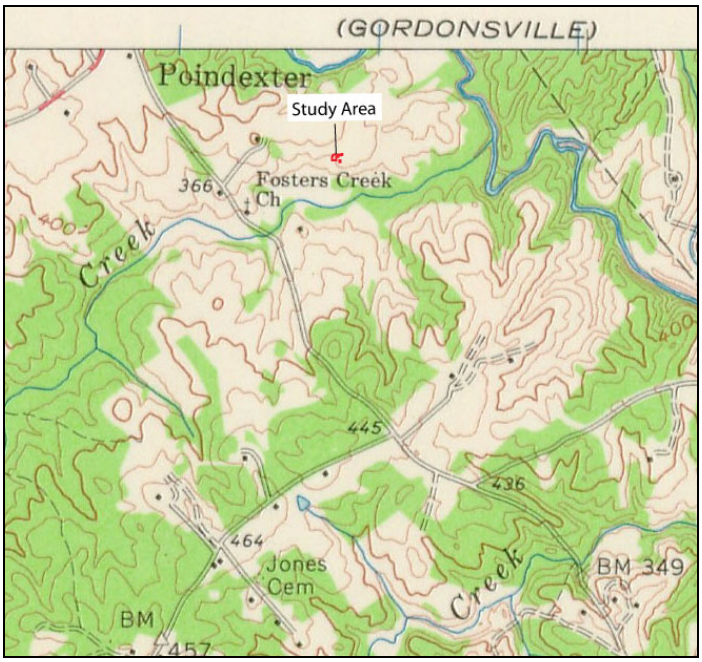

Figure 5. Location of the project area on detail of U.S.G.S. 15' Columbia topographic quadrangle map, 1960. Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Richmond.

location for an historic occupation site.[1] In addition, it is unclear the extent to which the soils within the study area may have been disturbed when the existing residence was constructed in 1996, which would further limit its archaeological potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct this archaeological assessment, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., RPA
Partner and Senior Researcher

[1] In contrast, the nineteenth-century Sunnybank house is situated on Cullen loam (2 to 7 percent slopes), which is more level and somewhat better suited to farming.

Figure 6. Mapped soil types within the study area vicinity. Web Soil Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.