

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 6/19/8  
NRHP 11/12/8

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Camp French - 44PW0917

other names/site number (Confederate Cantonment at) Evansport, Camp Holmes, Camp Mallory,  
VDHR File No.: 076-5313; 44PW0917

#### 2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication

city or town [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Prince William code 153 zip code [REDACTED]

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Dep FPO Marie, 2008  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Department of Navy, United States Marine Corps  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Sept. 24, 2008  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
VA Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain) _____		

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**5. Classification**


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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0
**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Properties  
Associated with Campaigns for Control of navigation on the Lower Potomac River, 1861-1862; Virginia, Maryland, and the  
District of Columbia


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**6. Function or Use**


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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: Military Camp  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: Forest  
RECREATION AND CULTURE Sports facility: Golf Course  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Continued on continuation sheet 6, page 1  
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**7. Description**


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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
 roof N/A  
 walls N/A  
 other N/A

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Military  
Archaeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

**Period of Significance** August 1861-March 1862

**Significant Dates** August 1861-March 1862

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** Euro-American

**Architect/Builder** N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property [REDACTED]

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing [REDACTED] Zone Easting Northing  See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John H. Haynes, RPA, Archaeologist

organization Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch, Marine Corps Base date 12 September 2007

street & number 3250 Catlin Avenue (B0464.3) telephone 703-432-6781

city or town Quantico state VA zip code 22134

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

[REDACTED]

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**FUNCTION (continued)**

The area of Camp French, site 44PW917, is partially occupied by the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Disturbance of the site by these activities has caused severe disturbance to limited portions of the  
site in some areas, notably the grade for [REDACTED] and moderate disturbance in other areas, notably the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

a) [REDACTED]

b) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**SUMMARY**

Site 44PW917 (Camp French) on Marine Corps Base, Quantico, in Prince William County Virginia is a collection of four large regimental camps occupied by Confederate forces from August 1861 through March 1862. This site has been the subject of four archaeological surveys since it was recorded in 1994 (Huston et al. 1996, Winter et al. 2000, Balicki et al. 2002, and Balicki et al. 2004). Each of these archaeological projects found additional clusters of features representing a regimental sized camp, expanding the area of the site from an initially reported 15 acres (Huston et al. 1996), to 155 acres (Balicki et al. 2004). The majority of features identified are depressions remaining from winter hut locations, 721 of which have been identified, along with a magazine, picket locations, and a target range (Balicki et al. 2004:300).

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Archaeologists from the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research working on a base-wide survey of Marine Corps Base, Quantico conducted the initial 'Phase I' survey of 44PW917 (Huston et al. 1996). Prompted by an earlier amateur historical survey, and information provided by the Marine Corps Museum director, they identified hut pits north of [REDACTED]. Their report identified a site boundary of "at least 15 acres," identifying 36 [REDACTED] (e.g., Balicki et al. 2004). Field methods for this first survey of the site were limited to surface survey and an interview with a collector.

Site 44PW917 clearly merited further work, and was potentially threatened by various construction projects. MCB Quantico contracted a Phase II archaeological assessment for the site in 1999. Gray & Pape, Inc. of Richmond, Virginia proposed a project consisting of systematic metal detector survey, shovel testing, and test unit excavation (Winter et al. 2000:82). Mapping out seven 50-meter blocks, they swept each with a metal detector, marking 'hits' and then excavated a 25% sample of the hits with shovel tests. This resulted in a collection of [REDACTED]

John Milner Associates, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia (JMA) was contracted to undertake further investigations of 44PW917. Their research included more intensive primary and secondary historical research, as well as interviews with relic hunters who had once been allowed to collect artifacts on the Base. The information gained from these efforts led to the inclusion of extensive Phase I survey in the investigations to determine the extent of the site, as well as test excavations to assess the integrity of the features. In all they excavated 62 shovel tests, 11 test three-by-three-foot excavation squares, and mapped 425 surface features.

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[REDACTED]

**FINDINGS**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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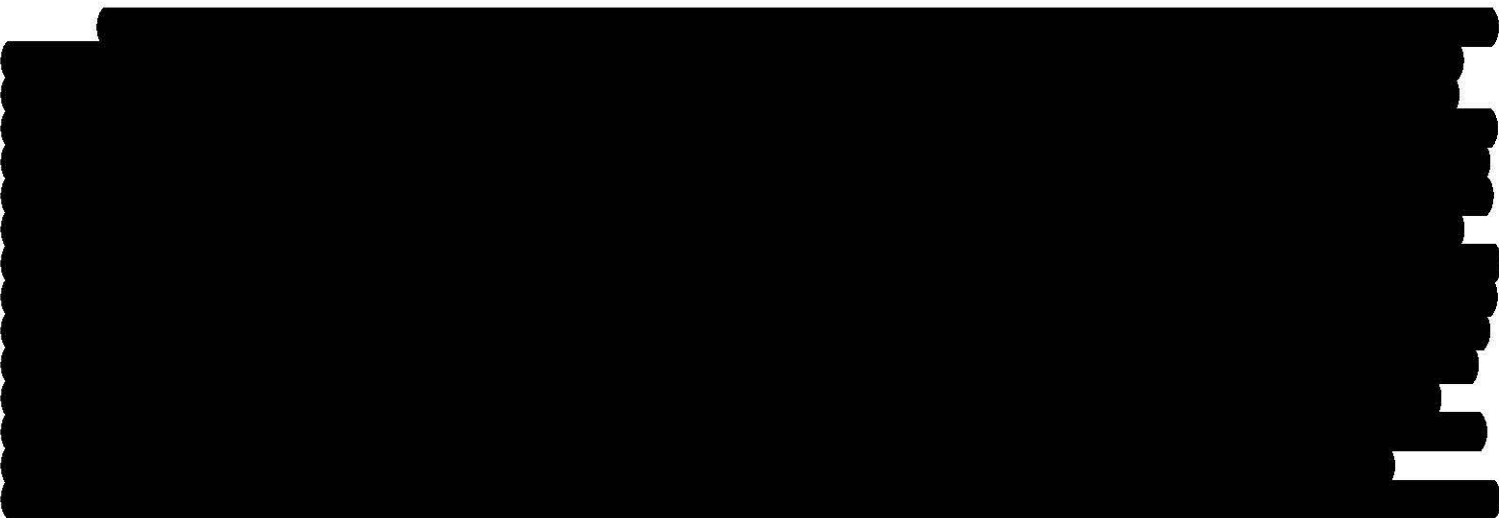
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The 1861 *Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States* (United States War Department 1980) was the primary set of regulations used by both the Confederate and Federal Armies. These regulations present the official manner in which regimental camps should be laid out (United States War Department 1980:76-82). Archeological research at other Civil War camps has demonstrated that the armies from both sides followed these regulations when laying out camps (Townsend 1989a; Botwick and McClane 1998; Jolly, personal communication 2002). The 1861 regulations set specific criteria for the arrangement and spacing of regimental camps (Figure 86). The enlisted men's quarters were to be laid out in "streets" grouped by company. Each street was flanked by double rows of tents or huts. The width of the streets varied but was required to be no less than five paces. On one side of the enlisted men was a parade ground where drills and inspections took place.

Officers' quarters, non-commissioned officers, kitchens, sutlers (merchants who followed the armies and set up shop in vicinity of the camps), and police guards were arranged on the other side of the enlisted men. The regulations outlined the location and position of each officers' quarters, with the most senior officers in the center of the line of officers' quarters.



Nelson (1982:79-93) has undertaken the most comprehensive review of Civil War camp architecture. The winter quarters were typically a single-room log hut 3-to-7 ft. (1-to-2 m) tall and had wood or canvas roofs. Tent canvas, ponchos, gum blankets, and tarps were commonly used for roofing materials. The size of the hut varied and depended on how many soldiers it was to accommodate. In most cases, in order to lessen the need for wood, the huts were semi-subterranean. A shallow hole was excavated and the excavated earth was mounded on the sides, then the wood structure was built over it. Chimneys were made from barrels, brick, stone, or mud and sticks. Early in the War, some of the winter huts constructed by the Confederates were constructed with sawn lumber and had glass windows, slate roofs, and iron stoves. Additionally, some of these quarters were large cabins rather than small two-person huts common in the later periods of the War.

All 425 of the surface features at Camp French were drawn in detail and mapped onto a site map. The features ranged from

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following section is condensed from:  
*Multiple Cultural Resources Investigations at Eight Locations and Along Five Tank Trails, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Prince William, Stafford, and Fauquier Counties, Virginia*, Joseph Balicki, Bryan Corle, and Sarah Goode, John Milner Associates, Alexandria, Virginia, 2004: pages 207-295.

Site [REDACTED] (The Confederate Cantonment at Evansport)

Beginning in the fall of 1861 and continuing to March 1862, a large force of Confederates [REDACTED]. The soldiers called this large cantonment by various names, and when writing about their stay at Evansport use the names Camp French, Camp Mallory, Camp Holmes, and Evansport. It is now referred to as [REDACTED]. Major parts of at least seven regiments were present, but numerous smaller groups of soldiers were also detailed to the cantonment. At its height, the cantonment was home to anywhere between 3,000-to-5,000 men. The main portion of the cantonment contains four large concentrations of winter huts, a magazine, a picket post, a target range, and a possible earthwork. On 9 March 1862, the Confederates withdrew from their positions along the Leesburg to Aquia line opting for defensive positions south of the Rappahannock River. The withdrawal was hampered by the weather, condition of the road network, lack of horses and wagons, and the general degraded state of the troops who had severely suffered from camp diseases. In general, after the withdrawal, and subsequent Federal inspections, the camps were forgotten and the area became reforested.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
a hut, and the stream that ran through the camp. This location would have been a poor choice for refuse disposal even though  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Camp French [REDACTED] located in Prince William County, Virginia, is one of the many sites eligible for listing under the *Multiple Property Submission Properties Associated with Campaigns for Control of Navigation on the Lower Potomac River, 1861-1862: Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia*. Camp French-[REDACTED] (also known as Evansport) is eligible for statewide significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in military history as the largest surviving example of a Confederate winter camp from the winter of 1861-1862, the period of significance. Although further research is needed to verify the identities of troops inhabiting this camp, it is clear that more than four units were settled into this cantonment for the winter by November 1861. Units from every state in the Confederacy were stationed in the area. The site also meets Criterion D in Archaeology as the remnants of Camp French support it as one of the best preserved Confederate encampment sites dating from the opening campaigns of the Civil War. Troops inhabiting the cantonment at this camp manned and defended the Shipping Point batteries. These were the most important assets in the Confederate campaign to control navigation on the lower Potomac River. In addition to the four distinct regimental-sized camps that comprise the site, studies identify pickets, a target range, and a parade ground completing the functional components of a large, long-term military encampment making the totality of this site one of the best examples of an early Confederate encampment of the Civil War.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Early in the Civil War, Confederate naval officers realized the opportunity to interdict shipping on the Potomac River, as well as the importance of the waterway as an avenue of approach. They recognized that control of navigation on the river could open the possibility of invading Maryland, while hindering Union supplies and reinforcements to and from Washington. Following the Battle of Manassas, Confederate engineers began construction of large earthworks at Shipping Point to establish an offensive capability. They brought captured guns from Manassas, and some newly forged from Richmond. The Confederates shrewdly concealed the construction and armament of these batteries, keeping them muted even during a Union raid in Quantico Creek. If they could keep the batteries masked until the right moment a large Union warship, such as the *Pensacola*, could fall into their hands. Acting on rumors of a Confederate position at Shipping Point, the *USS Pocahontas* fired on the wooded area on October 15, 1861. Believing the Unionists knew of the batteries, the Confederates cut down the trees and opened fire on the next ship to steam past.

Once online, the Shipping Point batteries shut down Union shipping on the Potomac, including warships of the naval flotilla. This scandalized the navy, and created worries of supply shortages in Washington. By November, General George McClellan had ordered a division into position across the river to forestall a feared Confederate invasion of Maryland, and establish counter batteries to ease the pressure on shipping. Probes in Occoquan Creek, by the USS Stepping Stones, and flights by observation balloons gave Confederate generals the concern that Union leaders planned to attack across the river soon. They massed troops at Camp French-44PW0917 to defend the Shipping Point batteries from landward attacks that might follow Union landings at Occoquan, or other locations less heavily defended than Quantico or Aquia Creeks, but still needed to guard against an attack directly across the river. With the year growing old, they had the troops dig in and build winter quarters.



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If visiting Shipping Point today, one can easily see how its position on the river gave the Confederate gunners a powerful vantage against vessels. Its fortification was a clear disadvantage to the Union, leaving Washington without water borne commerce, and immediately became a prime objective in their offensive plans. Realizing this, Confederate commanders stationed one of the largest concentrations of their troops in northern Virginia at Camp French [REDACTED]

Troops at Camp French faced disease, cold, and daily artillery barrages by the Union batteries during the four months of this winter encampment. Confederate generals directed them to erect extensive infantry defenses on the hills overlooking the batteries and inland approaches to them. Measles and other ailments affected the readiness of the command, with only a fraction of the men fit for duty at times. Bombardment from Union batteries in Maryland sent hundreds of shells to burst in the area on some days. Throughout this time they maintained vigilance over the river and readiness to operate the guns on a moment's notice day and night. For four months, these measures kept Union shipping on the Potomac to a minimum and warded off an attack across the river.

In late February, the Confederate high command ordered a strategic withdrawal to make more troops available for the defense of Richmond. Road conditions and the late winter weakness of horses hampered the withdrawal when it began in early March. They hurried their retreat, hoping to avoid detection, which could prompt a Union attack at a vulnerable moment. As a result, Union officers found substantial supplies of ordnance, food, and personal effects once the Confederates had vacated the area.

Further research can help to identify the troops inhabiting the camps within Camp French [REDACTED] It is confirmed that more than four units had settled into this cantonment for the winter by November 1861. Every state in the Confederacy had units stationed in the area. Variability material culture and camp activities among these different units is one of many research topics in Civil War history, which further research can address through the archaeological record. Archaeological research mapping the hut features has found diversity in camp layout among the four camp areas with varying degrees of adherence to formal military camp cadastration. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The soldiers and sailors at Camp French – [REDACTED] served the same command, and more than a collection of regimental camps, the cantonment functioned as a unified installation. Research to date has recovered data supporting the identification of functional areas within the site such as the target range and a parade ground. In this respect, the site stands out from other surviving camps of the period. As with other camps from this period, the archaeological record can add knowledge to historical records on health, nutrition, economy, and other topics not always noted in a diary or ledger. The sudden, rapid withdrawal of Confederate troops from the camp necessitated light baggage, and thus left an exceptionally rich record of their material existence.

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National Park Service.

2008 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission: *Properties Associated with Campaigns for the Control of Navigation on the Lower Potomac River, 1861-1862; Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia*. Virginia Department of Historic Places file number 076-5312. United States Department of the Interior. National Park Service.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Camp French, Prince William County, Virginia #076-5313, 44PW0917

Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

1. Test Units 1-2, facing east – John Milner Associates, taken in 2001
2. Test Units 52-58 – John Milner Associates, taken in 2003
3. Test Units 14-24 – John Milner Associates, taken in 2003
4. Practice fairway, facing south - John Haynes, taken in 2007
5. Guardhouse area from east end, facing southeast - John Haynes, taken in 2007