

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt – Name Change and Additional Documentation (September 2014)
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Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt – Name Change and Additional Documentation, September 2014

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt in Stafford County, Virginia, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 2006 as Redoubt #2. In January 2007, local historians Glenn Trimmer and D. P. Newton provided the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with additional information about archaeological site 44ST0082. This material showed that the name under which the property was listed on the State and National Registers (Redoubt #2) was erroneous. Trimmer and Newton also supplied information demonstrating that a nearby archaeological site, 44ST0055, was actually Redoubt #2 of the Union Army of the Potomac’s defenses of Aquia Landing, Virginia. Along with adding a corrected name for the property, this nomination has been updated comprehensively to include more thorough documentation of the redoubt’s construction, historic use, and findings of archaeological investigations, and to include updated photographs and maps. Together this information provides a fuller context within which to understand the property’s significance.

Rather than replicating information from the initial nomination form, these continuation sheets contain additional information (marked “Add”) or items that have been modified or corrected (marked “Modify”) due to the historical research and fieldwork that have been conducted since 2006 by local historians and by staff at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. All content is keyed to the section numbers on the current edition (as of 2014) of the National Register of Historic Places registration form.

**Section 1. Name of Property**  
*(Modify)*

Other names/site number: Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt; Fort No Name; Brockman’s Fort; DHR #089-5057; DHR #44ST0082

**Section 2. Location Location**

Street & number: Old Fort Lane, just south of Stafford Courthouse Road (Route 630)

*(Modify)*

City or town: Stafford State: Virginia County: Stafford

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

**Section 3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

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(Add)

national       statewide       local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
 A       B       C       D

_____
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Date</b></span>
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.
_____
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Date</b></span>
_____
<b>Title :</b> <span style="float:right"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span>

**Section 4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Section 5. Classification**

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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(Modify)

Contributing <u>0</u>	Noncontributing <u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2\*

\*The earthwork and archaeological site associated with this property were included in the 2006 nomination. Four non-contributing structures have been added to the property since the 2006 nomination.

Section 6. Function or Use

Current Functions

(Modify)

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Private Interpretive Site

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Section 7. Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

(Modify)

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt<sup>1</sup> is located on an irregularly shaped, 4.6212-acre parcel in a rural, residential area three miles east of the Stafford County courthouse. The property’s legal boundary is “frying pan” shaped to allow access along Old Fort Lane, a gravel road from Stafford Courthouse Road (Route 630). The redoubt is atop one of the highest points (approximately 250 feet) in the eastern portion of the county. The property includes an earthen field fortification with an area of approximately 7,000 square feet. The north parapet of the redoubt is 77 feet long; south parapet, 67 feet; east parapet, 95 feet; and west parapet, 101 feet (as measured from the center of the tops of the parapets). The walls are approximately 25 feet thick. The entire fortification is surrounded by a ditch. The eastern face

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features a sally port that is approached by an earthen incline traversing the ditch near the midpoint of the redoubt’s wall. Within the fort, there are two raised platforms designed to support field artillery, one in the northwestern corner and one in the southwestern corner. Near the northeastern corner is a large bombproof magazine that is surrounded by a raised and protected entrance maze. The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was constructed in 1863 (most likely between 31 May and 17 June) to protect the Union supply depot at Aquia Landing in Stafford County. The property includes two contributing resources, the earthwork itself (contributing structure) and the immediately adjoining land (contributing site). Since the property originally was listed in the National Register in 2006, the property owner has added several interpretive resources. There are three non-contributing structures consisting of replicas of different types of shelters built at troop encampments during the Civil War. A fourth non-contributing structure is a raised wooden boardwalk that is constructed above the earthen incline to the sally port; it was constructed by the property owner to permit access to the earthwork’s interior while minimizing damage caused by foot traffic. These are non-contributing due to their recent date of construction, but they have been constructed in a manner that has not affected the property’s integrity. A portable flagpole with a weighted base, wooden pole, and American flag has been placed within the earthwork as well.

**Narrative Description**  
*(Modify)*

The Union’s Army of the Potomac suffered a devastating defeat at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December 1862. The army attempted another advance between 20 and 22 January but had to halt because of impassably muddy roads. After this humiliating episode, known as the Mud March, the army’s 130,000 men entered winter camps in Stafford County. Aquia Landing, a port located at the confluence of Aquia Creek and the Potomac River and with access to the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad, was a vital link in the army’s supply chain during the ensuing winter and spring. In January 1863, the U. S. Army Engineer Battalion began surveying the area of the landing and planning defensive fortifications. By 9 March 1863, the engineers had constructed three redoubts, known as Redoubts 1, 2, and 3.<sup>2</sup> About two-and-a-half months later, they constructed an unnamed fourth fortification, called here the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt, in a forward position along the road from Aquia Landing to Stafford Court House.<sup>3</sup> By mid-June 1863, the Army of the Potomac had abandoned its positions in and around Aquia Landing and had marched north in the early stages of the Gettysburg Campaign.

**Setting**

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt is located in a rural, residential area three miles east of the Stafford County courthouse. Situated south of Courthouse Road (Route 630), it sits atop one of the highest points (approximately 250 feet) in the eastern portion of the county and sets back from Old Fort Lane approximately one hundred feet. The redoubt and associated site are accessed via Old Fort Lane, a narrow gravel dead-end lane. Along the lane, directional signage has been installed at various places for visitors to the site. A vehicular barrier consisting of metal posts and a metal rail gate has been installed to prevent unauthorized vehicular access to the site and fortification. South of the redoubt is a very steep ravine dropping more than 150 feet. The east approach is across an open field with a tree line protecting the east property line. To the immediate north is a private two-story single family dwelling and to the southwest is a private single-level dwelling. Neither of these residences encroaches on the redoubt’s site.

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The north boundary is through a “well” and is approximately five feet from the edge of the ditch. The north side of the fort faces Aquia Creek, which is less than one mile to the north, down a slope to the water’s edge at eight feet of elevation. The redoubt is roughly equidistant from Aquia Creek to the northeast and Accokeek Creek to the south. The Potomac River is to the east, where the river changes directions from primarily east and west to north and south. The surrounding terrain consists of hills and deep ravines.

Today, the landscape features mature woodlots and the fortification has somewhat dense tree cover, although the structure itself does not have extensive damage due to tree growth. The reforested areas prevent clear views of the Landing, mountains to the west, and the Potomac River to the east. At the time the redoubt was built in 1863, there were significantly fewer trees in the immediate area than there are today. The deforestation of the county late in the 18th century to support iron mills, charcoal production, and general agriculture was significantly compounded by the Army of the Potomac’s need for wood products. In this relatively open environment, the redoubt would have commanded a view west to the Stafford Courthouse and beyond, east toward the wharf at Aquia Landing, and up and down the Potomac River for miles.

**Description**

The historic property has two contributing resources: a redoubt (contributing structure) and the land immediately surrounding it where Union troops camped (contributing site). The redoubt is an earthen field fortification with an area of approximately 7,000 square feet. It was constructed by Union soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. It is a fortification defined by Dennis Hart Mahan in 1863 as a “Permanent Fortification” meant to last at least a season.<sup>4</sup>

Field measurements taken in December 2011 by VDHR staff indicate that the north parapet of the redoubt is 77 feet long; south parapet, 67 feet; east parapet, 95 feet; and west parapet, 101 feet (as measured from the center of the tops of the parapets). The walls are about 25 feet thick.<sup>5</sup> Archaeologist Bob Jolley, who took the measurements, noted that measurements of the north, east, and south walls were within about two feet of those taken in 1982 during archaeological investigations supervised by Douglas Harvey and John Imlay. A two-foot difference was considered tolerable considering potential erosion and differences in points of measurement. The 2011 field measurement of the earthwork’s west wall differs by more than 6 feet from the 1982 measurements, but in 2011, the property owner commented that trees on the earthworks in 1982 may have interfered with obtaining accurate measurements. Jolley further noted that the gun platform in the northwest corner was not mapped during the 1982 investigation, and that the 2011 measurements of the gun platform in the southwest corner were greater than those taken in 1982. These were the only discrepancies noted during the 2011 site visit.<sup>6</sup>

The entire fortification is surrounded by a ditch. The eastern face features a sally port that is approached by an earthen incline traversing the ditch near the midpoint of the redoubt’s wall. Within the fort, there are two raised platforms designed to support field artillery, one in the northwestern corner and one in the southwestern corner. Near the northeastern corner is a large bombproof magazine that is surrounded by a raised and protected entrance maze. The redoubt appears to have been built in accordance with

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instructions found in Dennis H. Mahan's *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortifications*. Typically such a fortification took about 400 men ten days to build.<sup>7</sup>

Union troops, most likely the 94th New York regiment, camped on the land immediately surrounding the fortification. If the fort itself was ever occupied, it was only for a day or two in June before the Union Army of the Potomac left the area. The adjacent land has yielded artifacts from the troop occupation, but no military artifacts have been found inside the fort.<sup>8</sup>

The following non-contributing resources have been added to the property since it was originally listed in the National Register in 2006. They are non-contributing due to their recent date of construction, but have been constructed in a way that does not affect the property's integrity. There are three replicas of the types of structures built by Civil War-era soldiers for shelter at encampments. Each is of wood construction and is meant to provide visitors to the site with an idea of typical living conditions experienced by soldiers. A fourth non-contributing structure is a raised wooden boardwalk that is constructed above the earthen incline to the sally port; it was constructed by the property owner to permit access to the earthwork's interior while minimizing damage caused by foot traffic. A portable flagpole with a weighted base, wooden pole, and American flag has been placed within the earthwork as well.

### **Archaeological Investigations**

*The following section is based entirely on the unpublished report by Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, entitled Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982. This report is on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond.*

The only known professional testing of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt occurred in 1982 under the supervision of Douglas Harvey and John Imlay.<sup>9</sup> The investigation had three goals: 1) to prove a local theory concerning the fort's date of construction; 2) to determine whether the fort was of Civil War construction and whether it was Union or Confederate construction; and 3) to gain knowledge of earthen fortifications. At the time of the 1982 investigation, the property was colloquially known as Fort No Name, due to the lack of information then known about the property.<sup>10</sup>

The methodology for the field testing was as follows. The fort was expected to contain artifacts in stratigraphic layer, and it was determined that testing should take place within the earthwork's perimeter. Due to time and schedule constraints, three 2-meter test units were excavated. In addition to the test units, artifacts were recovered through surface inspection and metal detection. Within the test units, soil was removed in 10cm increments and sifted through a ¼-inch mesh screen. All recovered artifacts were bagged and labeled, then washed and cataloged using the site number 44ST0082, assigned by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.<sup>11</sup>

As investigations commenced, it was noted that the fortification was in good condition and consistent with earthen redoubts erected during the Civil War. Features such as the magazine, gun platforms, and parapets were discernible. The interior and perimeter of the fort were overgrown with briars and honeysuckle, and covered by second growth forest consisting mainly of oak and hickory. Soils consisted

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of a wooded humus type with an underlying hardpan of loam with sparse gravel.<sup>12</sup>

Test Unit 1 was located within the earthwork’s interior, to the left of the entrance and at the base of the earthen wall. Level 1 was excavated to a depth of 11cm and yielded a pearlware base sherd and one cut nail, as well as some prehistoric quartz flakes. Level 2 was excavated to a depth of 21 cm. Eleven post molds of varying sizes were identified, along with a large charcoal stain. The post molds were thought to date to a 20<sup>th</sup> century vegetable garden that was within the earthwork. The charcoal layer was believed to have been caused by 20<sup>th</sup> century slash burning. Artifacts recovered from Level 2 included two cut nails and one plain whiteware body sherd, as well as 12 prehistoric quartz flakes and possible flaking debris. Level 3 was excavated to a depth of 28-35 cm, at which point the level proved sterile and excavation ended. No historic-period artifacts, and only a few quartz flakes, were recovered from Level 3.<sup>13</sup>

Test Unit 2 was located at the approximately center of the fort, where most military activity was expected to have occurred. At the time of excavation, it was covered with dense vegetation, beneath which the surface layer was heavily contaminated with 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic trash. Level 1 was excavated to a depth of 10 cm and yielded 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts such as transfer-print whiteware, modern glass, and blue shell-edge pearlware. Prehistoric lithics included a late Archaic side-notched quartz point, flakes of quartz, rhyolite, Harpers Ferry quartzite, and quartz debris. Level 2 was excavated to a depth of 20 cm, and showed extensive disturbance typical of a trash midden. Within this context, a late Woodland ceramic body sherd of the Potomac Creek variety was found and dated to 800-1600AD. Other artifacts in the disturbed layer included intermixed whiteware ceramics, various modern glass sherds, and ferrous metal fragments. Dug to a depth of 30 cm, Level 3 was a sandy loam with small pebbles, showing the same stratigraphy as Unit 2, Level 2. Recovered artifacts included whiteware ceramics, modern molded glass, a cut nail, and a shotshell brass inscribed “1901 Leader No. 12.” A possible prehistoric quartz tool and flaking debris also were found. Level 4 was excavated to a depth of 37 cm and consisted of heavily compacted clay loam; the compaction appeared to be natural. Some lithic materials were recovered, and the soil became sterile by the 37-cm depth.<sup>14</sup>

Test Unit 3 was located in a ditch that makes up the outer perimeter of the fort. A smaller intersecting ditch extended north/south. Both were manmade, and the soil from the perimeter ditch was used to erect the walls of the redoubt. The smaller ditch likely was dug to aid drainage, as it was near the lowest part of the ditch and surrounding terrain. Level 1 was found to have been undisturbed since it was originally dug, and varied from a depth of 30 cm in the SW quadrant to zero in the NW quadrant due to the sloping terrain. Soil disturbance included charred domestic trash from the early to mid-twentieth century. Artifacts typical of a 20<sup>th</sup> century trash midden, such as animal bones, modern glass, and aluminum foil, were recovered. Level 2 was excavated in 10 cm intervals. The trash midden was shallow and the soil abruptly transitioned from humus and pebbly loam to sandy clay loam. Few historic artifacts were recovered and no prehistoric artifacts. Again due to the sloping terrain, Level 3 was excavated at depths varying from 20 to 45 cm. It consisted of a hard packed clay loam with quartz pebble inclusions. Level 3 was undisturbed and devoid of artifacts.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to the three test units, five shovel tests were conducted to a depth of 20cm, and all were negative. Isolated finds along the perimeter of the redoubt included a grey chert side-notched point.

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Within a 15-meter radius of the redoubt's perimeter, Harvey and Imlay collected a variety of U.S. Army artifacts, including buttons, buckles, a musket lock, lead bullets, knapsack hooks, rivets, and tent grommets.<sup>16</sup>

Although relatively few artifacts were recovered from the redoubt and its immediate vicinity, examination of the fortification's construction methods proved it to be consistent with Civil War-era earthworks. Evidence of Euro-American habitation of the site was not found prior to 1861-1865. The historic artifacts recovered on the property around the fortification were consistent with occupation by Union troops, most likely during the construction of the fort. As an outer work, Harvey and Imlay posited that the redoubt had been lightly and only sporadically manned by regular U.S. infantry troops, with a picket post at the fort and the main camp in a field at the rear.<sup>17</sup>

The prehistoric artifacts that were recovered appear to have been associated with periodic use by Virginia Indians during the Archaic and Woodland periods. The site's hilltop setting and quartz outcroppings suggest it was a seasonal camp.<sup>18</sup> The prehistoric context of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt site has not been subsequently investigated, nor has it been evaluated for National Register eligibility.

### **Current Condition**

The surface of the redoubt is now weathering. In the past two decades, several major hurricanes and tropical storms have passed over the redoubt, with winds and rains resulting in the felling of many trees. Consultations by the property owner with numerous tree services, National Park Service conservation employees, and lawn and property care experts resulted in extensive efforts to save existing trees, remove those that endangered the walls, and prevent deadfall damage. The property owner has minimized erosion by planting creeping red fescue grass seed, blue rug spreading junipers, and crown vetch seed. Segments of the fortification ditch also were dug out and reformed by the owner after removing post-Civil War debris.

Despite heavy rains, no water has stood or collected in the fort or bombproof, and there has been minimal pooling in the ditch. Mahan, in his *Treatise on Fortifications*, was specific in his pre-war instructions about the need for good drainage. During a site visit in 1993, Dale E. Floyd, a retired field fortification expert with the U.S. National Park Service, suggested that the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was an exceptional specimen of Civil War fortifications. He called particular attention to the excellent condition of the parapets and noted the fort's structural similarity to other redoubts found throughout the United States.

After a site visit in May 2005, Clifton A. Huston, then a principal archaeologist at Engineering Consulting Services, remarked in a letter to the property owner, Dr. Thomas Mountz, that the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was in excellent condition, with intact rampart walls, ditch, and surrounding campsites. He wrote, "It is remarkable that the scarp walls and the parade are in excellent condition, and this fort stands as an outstanding example of Civil War-era engineering."<sup>19</sup> Due to diligent efforts by the property owner for more than a decade, the redoubt today continues to be in an excellent state of



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preservation.

**Section 8. Statement of Significance**

**Period of Significance**

*(Modify)*

31 May 1863 – 17 June 1863

**Significant Dates**

*(Modify)*

31 May 1863

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

*(Add)*

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

*(Add)*

Euro-American

**Architect/Builder**

*(Modify)*

Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army (original design)

Union Army of the Potomac, 12<sup>th</sup> Corp (field modifications under Sergeant Farr)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

*(Modify)*

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its association with Civil War events in Stafford County and under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology – Historic – Non-aboriginal for its potential to yield further information about fortifications constructed during the Civil War and about the lifeways of Union soldiers. The property's period of significance is 31 May, 1863, through June 17, 1863, representing the construction of the redoubt through the date when the Army of the Potomac left the area. Constructed by Union troops, the redoubt was one of a series of four fortifications built in 1863 to protect the wharf and railhead at nearby Aquia Landing, which was located at the confluence of Aquia Creek and the Potomac River. The historic property has integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as exemplified by the ramparts, ditches, gun ramps, and magazine. The overall setting has been altered from the historic period by reforestation and low-density residential development, but the immediate

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environs of the fortification remain undisturbed.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*(Modify)*

**Criterion A – Military**

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its Civil War military history. It is a representative example of the type of redoubts or forts constructed by Union troops during the Civil War. Along with three other redoubts, this fortification was designed and built to be a key component of the Union Army's defenses for the shipping facilities at Aquia Landing in eastern Stafford County. The siting, spatial relationships, and construction methods used in constructing the redoubts were representative of redoubts or forts built according to prevailing military theory at the time. With its excellent state of preservation and high level of integrity, the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt offers an opportunity to study construction methods and military strategy in person and on the site of the actual events. Furthermore, this redoubt may be unique in that it was the last Union Army redoubt known (to date) to have been built in Stafford County. Its construction, along with three, or possibly four, other Union earthen gun batteries in the nearby Stafford Civil War Park reveal that, even on the eve of the Gettysburg Campaign, the Union Army continued constantly improving its defenses in anticipation of an attack by Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee's command. This expectation of impending attack and emphasis on earthwork construction can be seen in many letters written by soldiers in units near Aquia Landing.<sup>20</sup>

**Historical Overview of Aquia Landing Area**

The strategic importance of the Aquia Landing area was largely due to eastern Stafford County's proximity to important shipping routes on the Potomac River and to the U.S. capital in Washington, D.C. In April 1861, soon after hostilities at Fort Sumter signaled the beginning of the Civil War, Confederate forces established a blockade of Washington, D.C., along the Potomac River. They built numerous trenches, gun emplacements, and fortifications along the Virginia bank of the Potomac River and along the many nearby rivers and creeks. The Battle of Aquia Creek in late May/early June 1861 was the first naval action of the Civil War, during which Union gunboats failed to dislodge the Confederate batteries.<sup>21</sup> In March 1862, the Confederate troops withdrew to a line south of the Rappahannock River and deliberately damaged many of the defensive fortifications they left behind. The Union's Army of the Potomac soon occupied Aquia Landing and established a major supply depot. Union control of the area permitted the virtually free transportation of Federal military supplies, equipment, and men along the East Coast and allowed for direct access to the Fredericksburg area by way of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad. While Federal troops were present, thousands of self-emancipated, African American former slaves used the landing as a gateway to freedom.<sup>22</sup>

Early in September 1862, Federal forces evacuated Aquia Landing (and destroyed its infrastructure) to move north in what would later be known as the Antietam Campaign. Two months later, Major General Ambrose E. Burnside was placed in command of the Army of the Potomac; in mid-November, Union troops reoccupied the landing and constructed a base to support an advance on Fredericksburg. After a

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crushing defeat in that city on December 13, the army's approximately 130,000 men went into winter camps in Stafford County. From there, on January 20, General Burnside initiated the Mud March, during which Union forces attempted to cross the Rappahannock River upstream from the Confederates but were caught in heavy rains that made the roads impassible. Major General Joseph Hooker, elevated to command of the Army of the Potomac shortly thereafter, launched the Chancellorsville Campaign from the army's base in Stafford County in April 1863. The depot at Aquia Landing provided the troops with much-needed supplies throughout the winter and spring.

**Civil War Redoubts in Aquia Landing Vicinity**

Early in January 1863, the Army of the Potomac's Engineer Battalion began surveying the area of Aquia Landing and planning fortifications to protect the depot. The Battalion worked with Lieutenant Cyrus B. Comstock, the chief topographical engineer for the Army of the Potomac. On 2 February 1863, Comstock reported his recommendations for the construction of defenses at Aquia Landing to Major General Daniel Butterfield, the Chief of Staff for the Army of the Potomac. Six days later, Comstock directed Lieutenant Charles Cross of the Engineer Battalion to construct three redoubts: one on a hill near the Watson house, another "where the Bruce house stood," along the Stafford Court House road, and a third near the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad. By 9 March, these three fortifications had been completed.<sup>23</sup>

On 13 March 1863, at the direction of Butterfield, Brigadier General Henry W. Benham, senior engineer officer of the Army of the Potomac, undertook an inspection of the works that his men had just finished at Aquia Landing. In his report, Benham described the fortifications and noted that they were laid out "in a direct line." From his vantage point looking west from the Landing, he was concerned that the defensive works on the right (or northern) half of the line were inadequate. He mentioned that there was "a small work well advanced on the extreme right" (meaning the redoubt on the hill near the Watson house, also known as Redoubt 1) but strongly believed additional defenses were necessary. He remarked that "a pretty fair old valley road descends from the general level of the high plain, from about 500 yards in front of the central redoubt, directly down to the Aquia Landing." (The "central" redoubt to which he referred was the one constructed along the Stafford Court House road, near what remained of the Bruce house, and known as Redoubt 2.) Benham suggested that "[n]ear the commencement of the descent of this road," on the high land overlooking the landing, "there is a very good position for a redoubt."<sup>24</sup>

Benham's suggestion went unheeded for some time. On 30 March 1863, Army of the Potomac Assistant Adjutant General Seth Williams described the fortifications at Aquia Landing, identifying three redoubts that "number from right to left, No. 1 being near the Watson house, No. 2 on the Stafford Court-House road, and No. 3 near the railroad." Like Benham, Williams described the line from a vantage point that looked west (thus the redoubt farthest north was described as being on the right). Within a few days, a map of the ground and schematics of the fortifications arrived at Chief of Engineers Joseph G. Totten's office in Washington, D.C. The map, drawn by Lieutenant Comstock, indicated a small Redoubt 1 near the Watson House, a large Redoubt 2 along the Stafford Courthouse Road next to the ruins of the Bruce House, and a small Redoubt 3 near the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad. Accompanying the map was a sheet of plans drafted by Cross to show the layout of each of the three fortifications.<sup>25</sup>

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As late as 13 May 1863, the Union lines protecting Aquia Landing contained only three redoubts as depicted on the Comstock map. Nelson H. Davis, Assistant Inspector General of the United States Army, examined the area on the orders of Colonel Edmund Schriver, Inspector General of the Army. Davis, who went into great detail about the entire range of fortifications on Aquia Peninsula, named only three redoubts.<sup>26</sup>

On 31 May, Gilbert Thompson, a member of the Engineer Battalion, noted in his diary that a Sergeant Farr “laid out some additional works at Aquia Creek.” That same day, Charles Engle, a soldier in the 137th New York Volunteer Infantry stationed near Aquia Landing, informed his wife that “[w]e are building another fort and chopping down woods.”<sup>27</sup> Two maps dated 1863 confirm that a new fortification was built. One of these, a sketch map, shows the three original redoubts as well as a fourth one, which was located slightly to the southwest of Redoubt 1 and well to the west of Redoubt 2. A second map, produced by Confederate Captain Benjamin Lewis Blackford for Major General J. F. Gilmer, Chief of the Engineer Bureau, C.S.A., shows only a portion of the Union line, including two fortifications. One of these forts overlooks the railroad line and Accokeek Creek at the rough position of Redoubt 3, and the other is a large fortification on a prominent hill. Comparison of Blackford’s map with the one that Cyrus Comstock submitted to Joseph Totten in March, and with a modern tax parcel map, indicates that the large fortification on the hill is not one of the three original redoubts, but rather is the one herein referred to as the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt. This fortification is most likely the one laid out on 31 May 1863. Its construction fulfilled General Benham’s recommendation that a fort be located on the high land near the old road that overlooked the landing.<sup>28</sup>

Although the Union Army invested about six months in building the fortifications in the Aquia Creek Landing vicinity, no military actions occurred here in 1863. In mid-June 1863, shortly after the construction of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt, the Union Army of the Potomac abandoned its position at Aquia Landing and moved north to follow the Army of Northern Virginia. The two armies clashed at Gettysburg on 1-3 July. Meanwhile, Confederate forces burned the buildings and wharf at the Aquia supply depot and later removed the railroad track and destroyed the bridges. The redoubts were left in place, although are not known to have been used by Confederate soldiers. In May 1864, Union troops rebuilt the wharf, depot, and railroad facilities once again to support Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant’s Overland Campaign. As Grant’s forces made their way south, the Army left Aquia Landing behind in favor of supply bases closer to Richmond and Petersburg, most notably City Point.

### **Post Civil-War Activity**

After the Civil War, Stafford County entered a relatively unproductive period lasting for eighty years. Stafford County’s population was 10,958 in 1860; 7,670 in 1870; and by 1930, the population had reached only 10,056. As in most of the South, the land here was scarred from overuse and misuse. While there were no major battles in the area of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt, the physical and environmental degradation from the troop occupations and camps was extensive. Houses, sheds, barns, and fences had been used by the troops for cooking, heating, and building. The camps often left major sanitary problems from human waste and the remains of animals, all increasing the potential for disease

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among Stafford residents. Many of the large trenches, large ramparts, and hut sites also became dumping grounds, creating a unique historic record of those sites.<sup>29</sup>

**Integrity of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt**

The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt has survived for more than 150 years and is remarkably well preserved today, despite that the expected longevity of an earthen fortification was about three to four months without constant care and upkeep. Over a century of benign neglect after the Civil War gave way by the 1980s to more careful maintenance by property owners. The current property owner has invested more than two decades into the fortification's restoration and preservation. Consequently, the property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Still within a comparatively rural part of Stafford County, the redoubt's location and immediate setting are intact, including the likely locations of troop campsites. The fort's intact design, workmanship, and materials provide an opportunity to compare its physical remains against the defensive features and engineering methods specified for a redoubt or fort in period military manuals, particularly Mahan's *Treatise on Field Fortification*. Finally, the property retains integrity of feeling and association that allow it to convey its significant historical associations.

As noted previously, the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was but one of four redoubts constructed in the Aquia Landing vicinity of eastern Stafford County. Most of the redoubts and their associated camps, huts, and trenches have become victims of late-twentieth-century development. Redoubt 1 reportedly was destroyed during the 1950s. Redoubt 2 (DHR #44ST0055) is still very intact.<sup>30</sup> In February 2005, Redoubt 3 (DHR #44ST0665) was removed during the construction of a housing development. After the redoubt largely had been bulldozed, it was subject to Phase II archaeological testing in May 2005. The badly disturbed site area was investigated by regular-interval shovel tests, surface collection, and supplemental metal detector sweeps. The investigation recovered cut nails, cut spikes, a gilded brass Civil War-era New York State uniform coat button, charcoal, and green bottle glass fragments.<sup>31</sup> There are partial remains of small redoubts near the Virginia Railway Express station at Brooke and at the south end of the Potomac Creek crossing of the Amtrak Railroad. A few gun emplacements remain behind the area known as Burnside's Wharf and others are located on Marlboro Point Road. Additionally, the site of 1863 winter encampments and fortifications of the Union Army's 11th Corps, 1st and 3rd Divisions, following the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg are preserved within the Stafford Civil War Park, which opened in April 2013.

**Criterion D – Archaeology – Historic – Non-aboriginal**

In 1982, Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, wrote a detailed archaeological report about the investigations they had accomplished at the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt in the fall of 1982. The report suggests that there have been two, perhaps more, very distinct uses of this site. First, the area was likely a prehistoric foraging camp. Quartz flakes and debris, projectile points, and Woodland pottery point to sporadic Indian occupation that began as early as 6,000 years ago and lasted into the Woodland period, ending about 500 years ago. The site has not been subjected to professional investigation or evaluation

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sufficient to demonstrate integrity and significance of the prehistoric camp site.

The second use, for which the site is historically significant, was its transformation into a Civil War fort. Harvey declared, in an interview at his office at the Tredegar Iron Works Museum in Richmond, his enthusiasm for the continued preservation and investigation of the site.<sup>32</sup> Further investigation of the site may address the following research questions:

1. How well did the construction comply with the directives of both Federal and Confederate field fortifications? How was construction adapted to the terrain, local conditions, and defensive strategic needs? Does a French drainage system exist? How did the earthen fortification survive the past 150 years?
2. What was the nature of daily garrison activities of the Union troops at the fort? What specific units manned the fort? What off-duty activities took place between the combat actions of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and the march toward Gettysburg?

Additional investigations also could explore and evaluate whether the site supports pre-Civil War activities dating to prehistoric Native Americans, the 1608 activities of John Smith along Aquia Creek, and/or other military campaigns of the colonial period.

### **Conclusion**

Eric Mink of the National Park Service stated that the nominated property “is truly a wonderful resource and a surviving piece of Stafford County’s history, as well as the history of our nation.”<sup>33</sup> Stafford County is not known for the killing fields of battle. It was the home of thousands of soldiers, sailors, and support persons away from home, surviving under difficult conditions. Their daily lives, in garrison, in huts and tents, on steamers, or on warships in Aquia Creek harbor, put them at risk of hunger, cold, disease, and death. The Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt remains as a vital learning laboratory and as a testament to those who came before, ensuring that their hardships and lives will not be forgotten. With the passage of time, such resources have become increasingly scarce, making their preservation and documentation a priority for property owners, historians, government agencies, and the general public. It is in this spirit that the additional documentation for the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was researched and prepared.

### **Section 9. Major Bibliographical References**

*(Modify)*

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**(Modify)**

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency

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- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; National Park Service, Washington DC; Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, Stafford, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** *(Add)* DHR #089-5057; DHR #44ST0082

**Section 10. Geographical Data**

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

*(Add)*

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:                                 

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.393352                                  Longitude: -77.355523

2. Latitude:    Longitude:

3. Latitude:    Longitude:

4. Latitude:    Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

*(Modify)*

The property’s historic boundaries have not changed since it was listed in the National Register in 2006. The boundaries are shown on the attached map entitled, “Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt Location Map.” These boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the lot recorded as “Parcel 32” in Stafford County Plat Book 13, page 236, found in the office of the Stafford County Clerk of Courts.\*

\*Please note that in the past, the nominated property also has been referred to as “Brockman’s Fort, Fort No-name, Redoubt #1, and Redoubt #2,” in various Stafford County records based on then-known information about the property’s history. The tax parcel map accurately records the property’s location and boundaries.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

*(Modify)*

The historic boundary encompasses the entirety of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt as well as immediately adjacent lands known to have intact archaeological deposits associated with the earthwork’s use during the Civil War from its construction and military use from ca. 15 May 1863 through mid-June

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n/a

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1863.

**Section 11. Form Prepared By (Additional Documentation Only)**

*(Add)*

name/title: Dr. Jennifer R. Loux, Ph.D. (editor/author); Dr. Peter C. Luebke, Ph.D.  
(researcher/author); Lena S. McDonald (National/State Register Historian)

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue

city or town: Richmond state: Virginia zip code: 23221

e-mail: lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov

telephone: (804-482-6439)

date: August 27, 2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

*(Add)*

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt

City or Vicinity: Stafford (Vicinity)

County: Stafford County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Marc C. Wagner

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Date Photographed: December 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1. View of west wall of redoubt exterior, with one non-contributing hut replica to left, view facing northwest. VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0001.

Photo 2. View of south wall of redoubt exterior, with non-contributing hut replicas to left, view facing northeast. VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0002.

Photo 3. Ditch along east wall of redoubt exterior, view facing west.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0003.

Photo 4. Raised boardwalk that accesses the redoubt interior through the sally port on the east side, view facing east/southeast. VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0004.

Photo 5. Redoubt interior from end of raised boardwalk, showing portable platform and gun platform (center background), view facing southwest.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0005.

Photo 6. South side of redoubt interior, view facing south/southwest.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0006.

Photo 7. North and east sides of redoubt interior, view facing northeast.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0007.

***(Add)***

Aerial Photos

Photographer: Dr. Thomas C. Mountz

Date Photographed: 2010

Digital Images are stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Aerial Photo 1. View of Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt with Old Fort Land to the right, view facing southwest. VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0008.

Aerial Photo 2. View of Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt showing redoubt, flagpole, and raised boardwalk, with unassociated private dwelling at top and small storage shelter to the left, view facing northeast. VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0009.

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Aerial Photo 3. View of Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt, view facing south.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0010.

Aerial Photo 4. View of Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt (unassociated private dwelling at left foreground), view facing south/southeast.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0011.

Aerial Photo 5. View of Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt and confluence of Aquia Creek and the Potomac River (redoubt is slightly left-of-center of image), view facing east.  
VA\_StaffordCounty\_AdvancedCourthouseRoadRedoubt\_0012.

**LIST OF FIGURES**

*(Add)*

Figure 1. Test Unit Locations (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

Figure 2. Soil Profiles at Test Units 1-3 (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

Figure 3. Sketch of Test Unit #1, Level #2 (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

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Figure 5. Georeferenced Sketch of Proposed Defenses for Aquia Creek, W.S. Long (Original Map located at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia; retrieved by Bernard Kempinski; georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

Figure 6. Detail of Topographical Map of Section of Country Near Aquia Creek, Va., Cyrus B. Comstock (Original Map located at the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Drawer 150, Sheet 49; retrieved by Glenn A. Trimmer; georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

Figure 7. Detail of Map of Stafford County, Virginia, by Benjamin L. Blackford under the direction of Jeremy Gilmer (Original Map located at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia;

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georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

Figure 8. Topographic Map with Redoubts #1, #2, and #3 overlay with tax parcel overlay (Georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> The property name is based on the redoubt’s physical location in an advanced position from other redoubts in the immediate vicinity. An official name for the nominated property has not yet been found in historical records; hence, the property was referred to as Fort No Name by researchers in the twentieth and early twenty-first century. Researches should note that the word “advanced” appears with reference to a nearby redoubt officially named Redoubt 1, which was not on Courthouse Road; see Henry Benham’s letter of 14 March 1863 and Seth Williams’ letter of 30 March 1863.

<sup>2</sup> Cyrus Comstock, Lieutenant of Engineers, to Gen. Daniel Butterfield, 9 March 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 51, Part 1 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1897), 991, in which Comstock wrote, “The works for the defense of Aquia Landing and Accokeek Creek railroad bridge have been finished today, I have no further need of details from General Geary’s Division.” Also refer to Gilbert Thompson, *The Engineer Battalion in the Civil War: A Contribution to the History of the United States Engineers*, Occasional Papers, Engineer School, United States Army, no. 44 (Washington, D.C.: Press of the Engineer School, 1910), 30; Henry W. Benham to Daniel Butterfield, 14 March 1863, Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick’s Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number 1357. Each of these documents is cited in Peter C. Luebke, “Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination” (Unpublished report, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2012), 2–3. For a discussion of Redoubts 1, 2, and 3, constructed early in 1863, particularly Redoubt 2 (DHR #44ST0055), see Glenn A. Trimmer and Daniel Patrick Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites: Candidates for Stafford County Government or Developer Protection and Preservation* (Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, 2006).

<sup>3</sup> The following documents indicate that the unnamed fourth fortification (referred to herein as the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt, was not present before mid-May 1863: Seth Williams to Commanding Officer, Aquia Creek Landing, 30 March 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 25, Part 2 (Washington: GPO, 1889), 167–168; Cyrus Comstock, March 1863, Detail of “Topographical Map of Section of Country Near Aquia Creek, Va.,” Drawer 150, Sheet 49, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; Nelson Henry Davis to Edmund Schriver, 13 May 1863, Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick’s Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number

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1357. The Williams correspondence and the Comstock map are cited in Trimmer and Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites* as well as correspondence to Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff in 2007 those documents, with the addition of the Davis correspondence, are also cited in Luebke, “Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination.” Trimmer provided the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with sheet-sized copies of the Comstock map and the Cross Engineering diagrams of the Aquia Landing Fortifications via U.S. mail on 27 June 2011. See also Colonel (USAF ret) Glenn Trimmer, Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, to David Edwards (VDHR), Dr. Thomas C. Mountz (owner), Anita Dodd (Stafford County Commission Chair), Wendy Wheatcraft, (Stafford County Historic Preservation Planner), Eric Mink ( Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park Historian and Cultural Resource Manager), John Hennessey (Chief Historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP), requesting their assistance and referencing, “. . .the misnaming and placement of a Stafford site on the National Register of Historic Places under an incorrect name” (On file at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA). This letter later provided under separate cover letter dated 7 Feb 2007 to Marc Wagner (VDHR) and Peter Lubke (VDHR) on 9 June 2011.

The following maps, both cited in Luebke, indicate that the fourth fortification was built sometime in 1863: “Provost Marshal Sketch Map,” 1863, Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick’s Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number 1357; Benjamin L. Blackford (under the direction of Jeremy Gilmer), “Map of Stafford County, Va.,” 1863, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia. Regarding additional works being laid out on May 31, see Thompson, *Engineer Battalion*, 34 (cited in Luebke) and Charles Engle to Charlotte Engle, 31 May 1863, in *The Civil War Letters of Charles Engle*, <http://members.aol.com/jcoy12/630308.html> (cited in Trimmer and Newton). Because the Union army evacuated Aquia Landing shortly after the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt was completed, the redoubt was never given an official name (such as Redoubt 4) but only was referred to as “additional works” and “another fort” in contemporary documents.

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see D.H. Mahan’s *Treatise on Field Fortifications*, Chapter 11, para 1, which defines a “permanent fortification.” This information was brought to DHR’s attention by local historians Glenn Trimmer and Daniel P. Newton.

<sup>5</sup> Bob Jolley, Update to Archaeological Site Form, 20 December 2011, DHR Site 44ST0082.

<sup>6</sup> Bob Jolley, communication to Peter Luebke, December 22, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Dennis H. Mahan, *A Complete Treatise on Field Fortification: With the General Outlines of the Principles Regulating the Arrangement, the Attack, and the Defenses of Permanent Works* (New York: Wiley & Long, 1836, 1846, & 1861). In 1832, Mahan was appointed the “professor of military and civil engineering and of the science of war” at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. He influenced many of the senior officers and generals who were to fight in the Mexican War and then on both sides of the Civil War. For the workforce needed to produce such a fortification, see Cyrus Comstock to Daniel Butterfield, 2 February 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 51, Part 1 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1897), 979.

<sup>8</sup> Theodore Burr Gates, *The Civil War Diaries of Colonel Theodore B. Gates, 20<sup>th</sup> New York State Militia* (Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1991), 86. Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983).

<sup>9</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*.

<sup>10</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 12.

<sup>11</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 13.



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<sup>12</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 15.

<sup>13</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 19-20, 22, 42-44.

<sup>14</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 23-24, 45-50.

<sup>15</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 26-27, 51-54.

<sup>16</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 28, 38-41.

<sup>17</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 30-31.

<sup>18</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, 30.

<sup>19</sup> Clifton Huston, principal archaeologist of Engineering Consulting Services, to Dr. Thomas Mountz, 23 May 2005, regarding his site visit to the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt.

<sup>20</sup> See, for example, Darwin Dianthus Cody to Lindus Cody, 1 June 1863, Darwin D. Cody Civil War Correspondence, Ohio Historical Society, and John March Cate to his wife, 1 June 1863, in *If I Live to Come Home: The Civil War Letters of Sergeant John March Cate* (Pittsburgh: Dorrance Publishing Co., 1995).

<sup>21</sup> John S. Salmon, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2001), 9–11; Mary Alice Wills, *The Confederate Blockade of Washington, DC 1861–1862* (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1975).

<sup>22</sup> Conner, *A History of Our Own*; Homer D. Musselman, *Stafford County in the Civil War* (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1995); W.W. Wright to Herman Haupt, 17 September 1862, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 12, Part 3 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1885), 814–816.

<sup>23</sup> Gilbert Thompson, *The Engineer Battalion in the Civil War: A Contribution to the History of the United States Engineers*, Occasional Papers, Engineer School, United States Army, no. 44 (Washington, D.C.: Press of the Engineer School, 1910), 27–28, 29; Cyrus Comstock to Daniel Butterfield, 2 February 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 51, Part 1 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1897), 979; Cyrus Comstock to Charles E. Cross, 8 February 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 51, Part 1 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1897), 985; Cyrus Comstock to Daniel Butterfield, 9 March 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 51, Part 1 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1897), 991. The above documents are cited in Peter C. Luebke, “Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination” (Unpublished report, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2012), 2–3. See also Glenn A. Trimmer and Daniel Patrick Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites: Candidates for Stafford County Government or Developer Protection and Preservation* (Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, 2006), which first cited Comstock’s letter of 8 February 1863.

<sup>24</sup> Henry W. Benham to Daniel Butterfield, 14 March 1863, Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick’s Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number 1357. Benham’s letter is cited in Luebke, “Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination,” 3.

<sup>25</sup> Seth Williams to Commanding Officer, Aquia Creek Landing, 30 March 1863, in *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Volume 25, Part 2 (Washington: GPO, 1889), 167–168; Cyrus Comstock, Detail of “Topographical Map of Section of Country Near Aquia Creek, Va.,” Drawer 150, Sheet 49, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; Charles E. Cross, Detail of “Works at Aquia Creek, Va, Works at Accakeek, Va., Works at Potomac Run Bridge, Va.,” Drawer 150, Sheet 41, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. These documents were cited first in Trimmer and Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites*, and later in Luebke, “Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination,” 3. Trimmer provided the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with sheet-size

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copies of the Comstock map and the Cross plans on 27 June 2011.

Comstock's map, when overlaid onto a modern topographical map, does not show a fortification at the site of the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt (DHR #089-5057/44ST82). Comstock's map does, however, match up with a redoubt about 1,400 yards to the east on the Courthouse Road, at the site of DHR #44ST0055. This was Redoubt 2, near the ruins of the Bruce house; remnants of the house are still present today. See "Civil War Map Segment Drawn by Lt. C.P. Comstock Showing Original Redoubts," in Trimmer and Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites*. See also Glenn Trimmer to Marc Wagner, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, email, 11 March 2011, which details the methodology used in the cartographic comparison. Staff of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources confirmed these findings, producing "Topographical Map with Redoubts #1, #2, and #3 overlay with tax parcel overlay," (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2012), cited in Luebke, "Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination," 4–5. The dimensions of the fortification at Redoubt 2 (DHR #44ST0055) correspond closely to the plans drafted by Lieutenant Charles Cross, as demonstrated first by Trimmer and Newton and later by Luebke.

<sup>26</sup> Nelson Henry Davis to Edmund Schriver, 13 May 1863, Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick's Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number 1357. See Luebke, "Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination," 3.

<sup>27</sup> Thompson, *Engineer Battalion*, 34, cited in Luebke, "Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination," 4; Charles Engle to Charlotte Engle, 31 May 1863, in *The Civil War Letters of Charles Engle*, <http://members.aol.com/jcoy12/630308.html>, cited in Trimmer and Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites*.

<sup>28</sup> "Provost Marshal Sketch Map," Record Group 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1817–1940, Letters and Telegrams Received, War Department, Army of the Potomac, Provost Marshal General Patrick's Brigade at Aquia Creek, Entry Number 1357; Benjamin L. Blackford (under the direction of Jeremy Gilmer), "Map of Stafford County, Va.," Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia. See Luebke, "Review of the Redoubt #2 Nomination," 4–5.

<sup>29</sup> Musselman, *Stafford County in the Civil War*.

<sup>30</sup> Musselman, *Stafford County in the Civil War*.

<sup>31</sup> Clifton A. Huston and Douglas J. Finch, Phase II Archaeological Testing of Federal Redoubt #3, Site 44ST0665 in the Poplar Hills Tract, Stafford County, Virginia (Fredericksburg: ECS LLC, 2005 [On file at the Department of Historic Resources]), 35.

<sup>32</sup> Harvey and Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name*, esp. 13,14, 19–27, 31 (quotation), 38–54. See also Trimmer and Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites*.

<sup>33</sup> Eric J. Mink, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, to Dr. Thomas Mountz, 7 September 2005, regarding his visit to the Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt.

**Legend**

- Architecture Resources
- Architecture Labels
- Individual Historic District Properties
- Archaeological Resources
- Archaeology Labels
- USGS GIS Place names
- County Boundaries

**Location Map**

Advanced Courthouse Road  
Redoubt  
Stafford County, Virginia  
DHR #089-5057  
Latitude: 38.393352  
Longitude: -77.355523



Feet



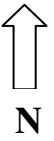
**Advanced Courthouse Road Redoubt Location Map**

**Date: 8/6/2014**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

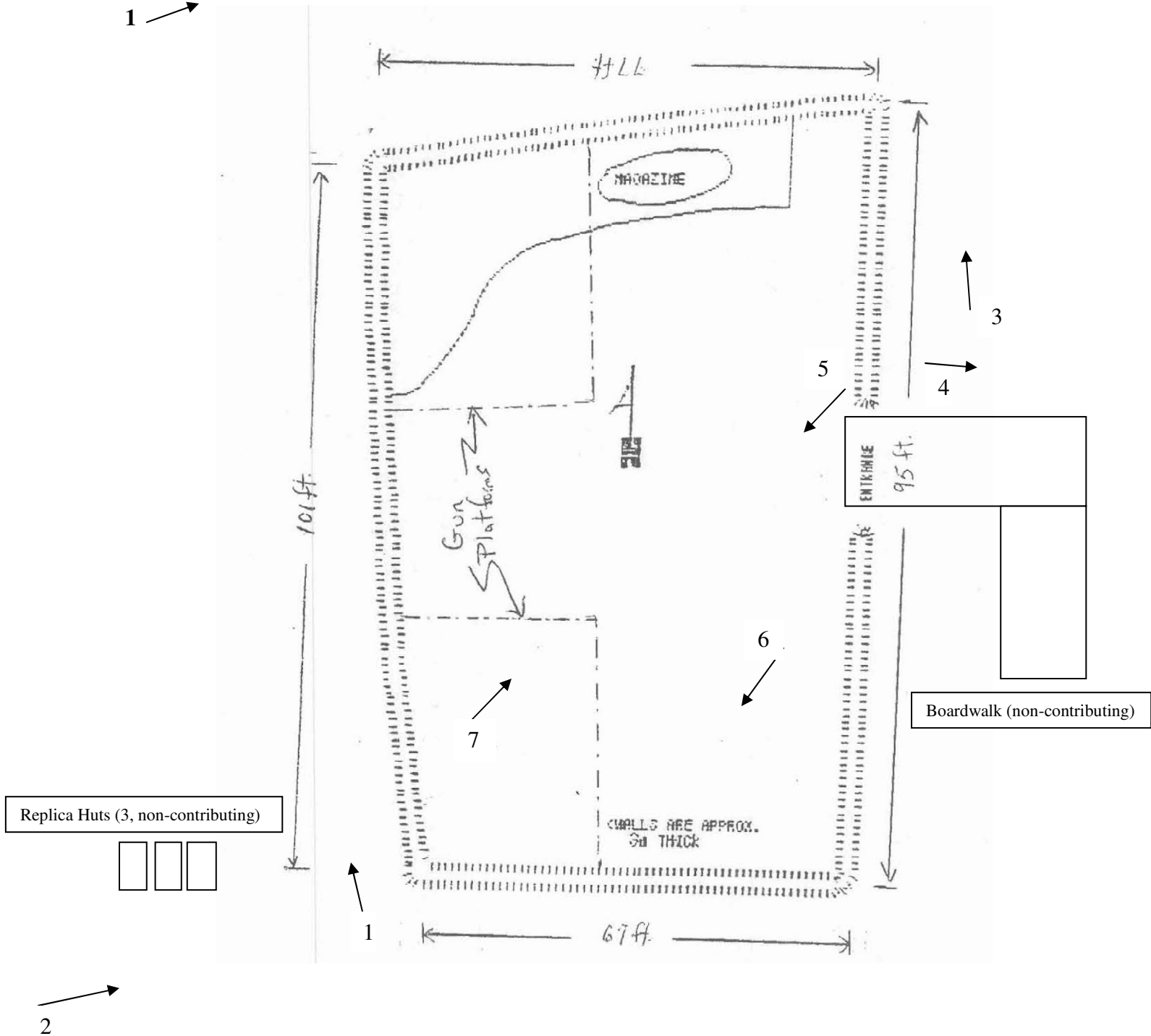
*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

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**Site Plan and Photo Key  
(Not to Scale)**

**Photo Locations**  
1 →



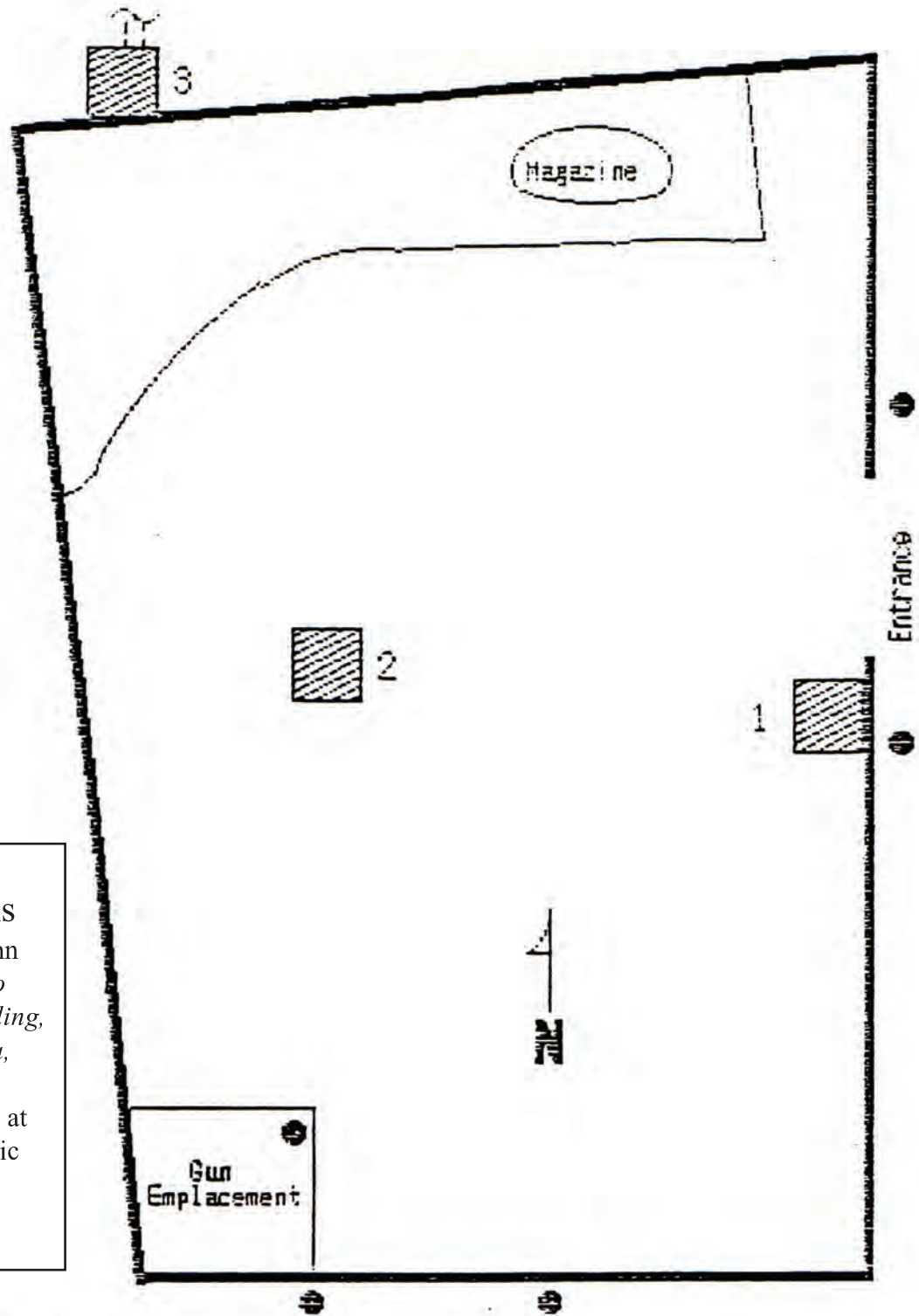





Figure 1.  
 Test Unit Locations  
 (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

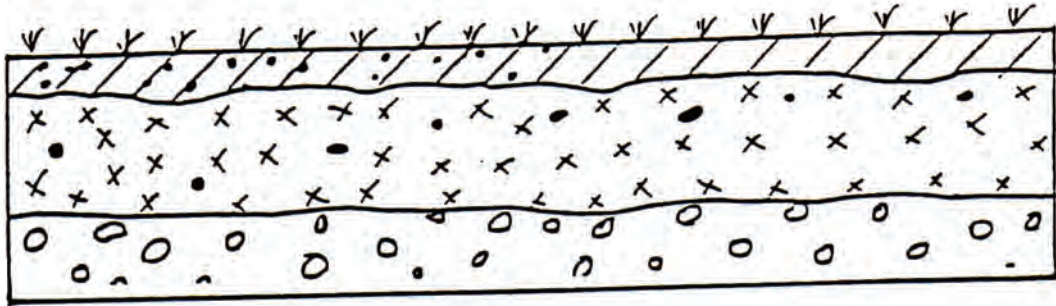
Key  
 = 2m Worked Area  
 = Shovel Test 30cm

Scale 1cm=2m  


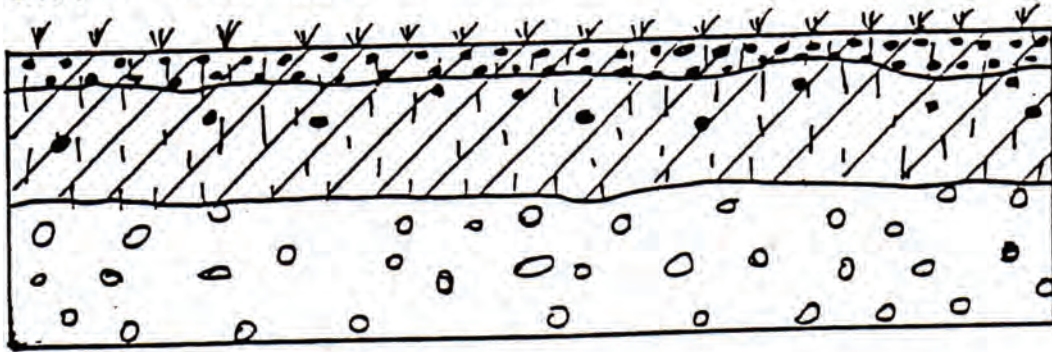
Map of Test Areas  
 Illustration 5

# SOIL PROFILES

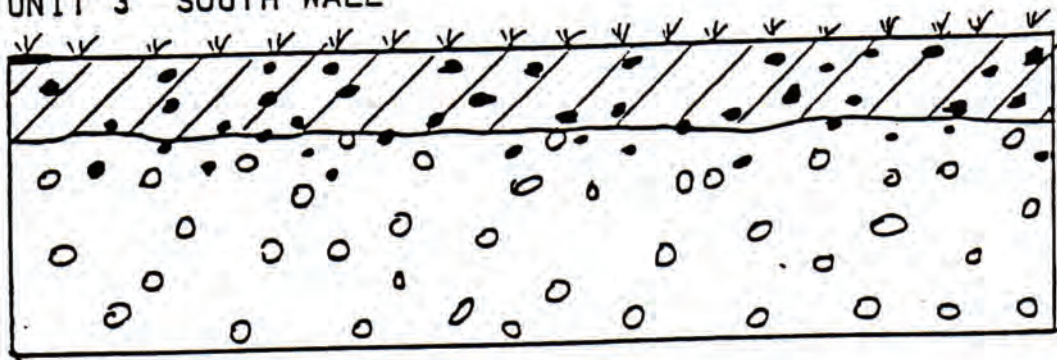
UNIT 1 NORTH WALL






UNIT 2 WEST WALL





UNIT 3 SOUTH WALL



KEY

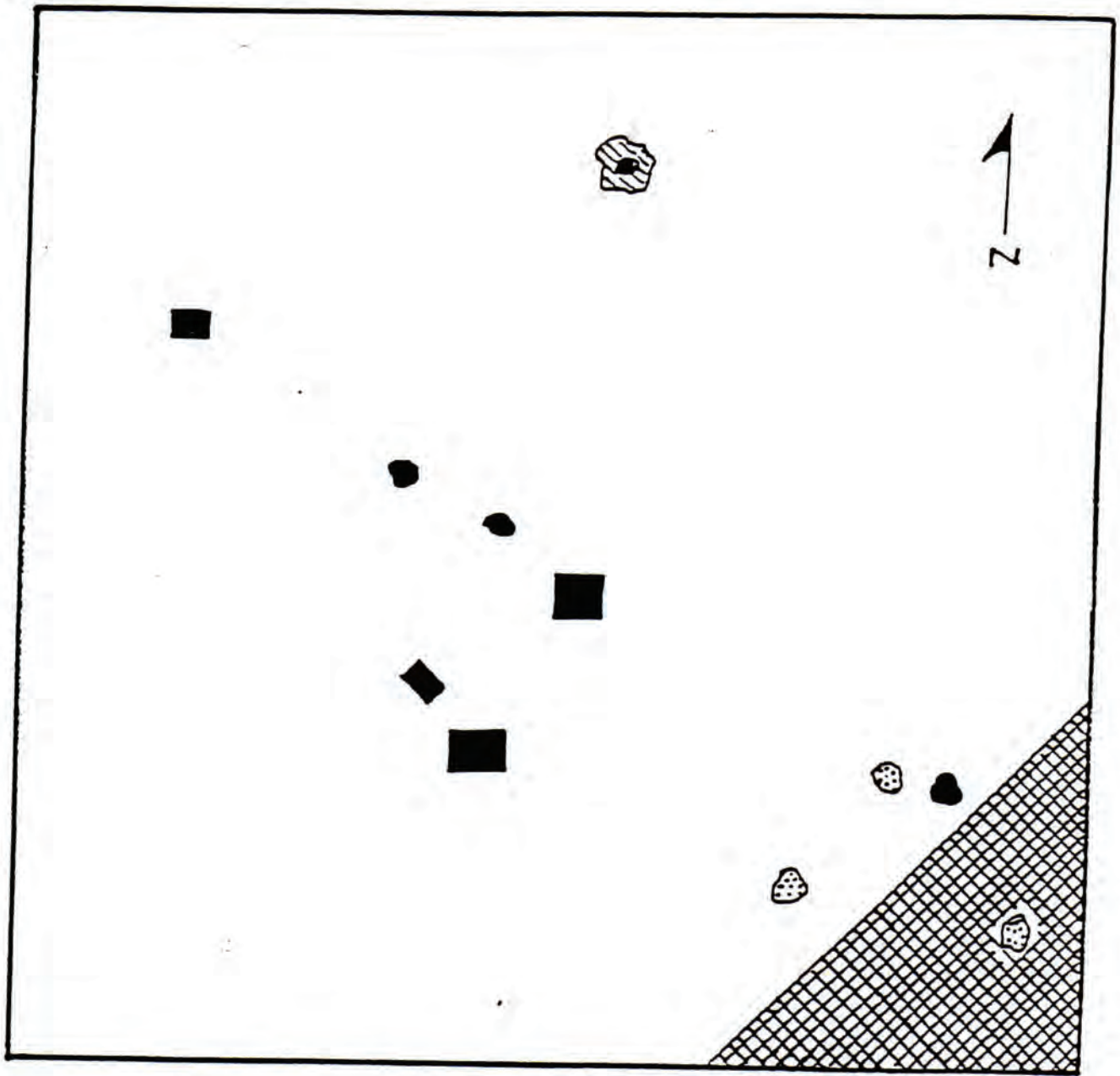
	HUMUS
	CHARCOAL
	DISTURBANCE

	SANDY LOAM, W/PEBBLES
	SILTY LOAM, W/PEBBLES

SCALE: 1cm = 10cm

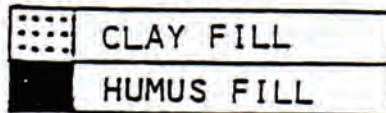
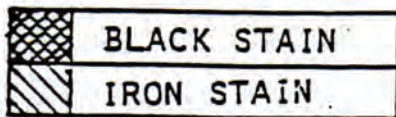
Figure 2. Soil Profiles at Test Units 1-3 (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

Soil Profiles  
Illustration 11



UNIT #1 - LEVEL #2

KEY

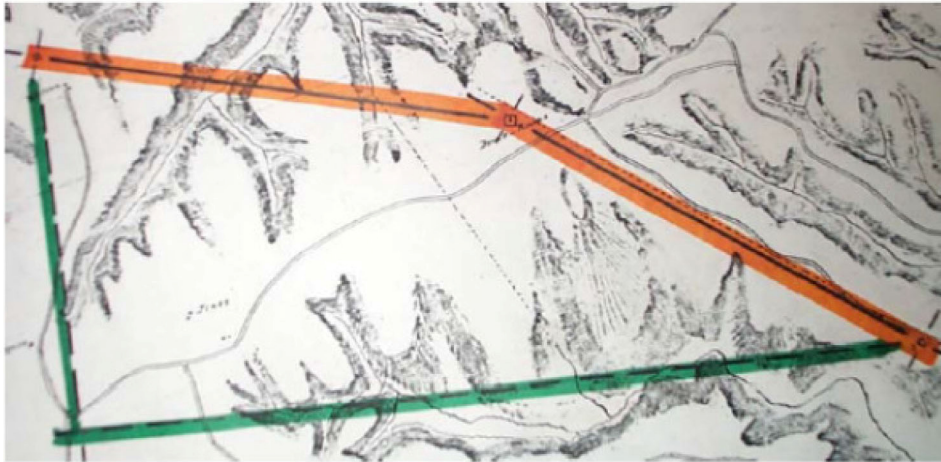


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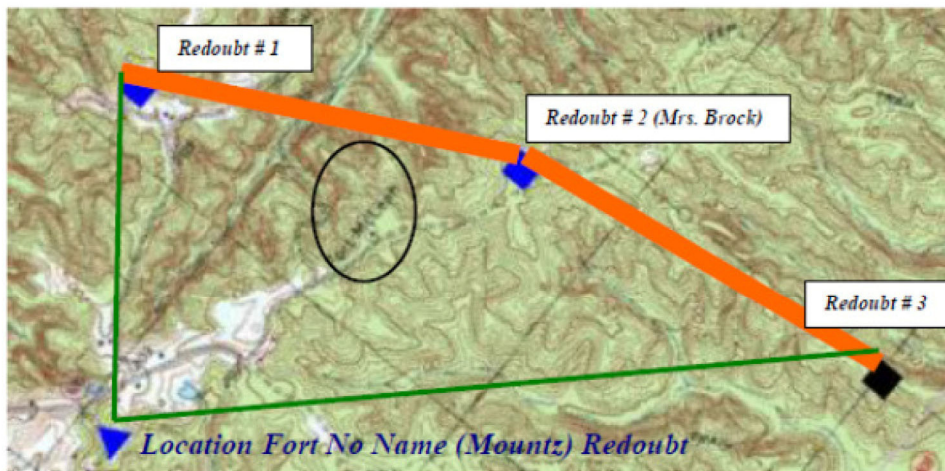
Figure 3. Sketch of Test Unit #1, Level #2 (Douglas Harvey and John Imlay, *Report on Fort No Name, Aquia Creek Landing, Stafford County, Virginia, Fall 1982* (Unpublished manuscript, 1983; on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia).

Feature Sketch  
Illustration 9

Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites  
Candidates for Stafford County Government or Developer Protection and Preservation



**Civil War Map Segment drawn by Lt C.P. Comstock Showing Original Redoubts**  
Small boxes inside the orange line show original Redoubts 1-3, (Left to Right)



Copyright 2003 Maptech, Inc.

**Modern Topographic Map showing Redoubts 1-3 and Fort No Name (Mountz) ▲ inserted lower left. Includes notation (circled) for non-existent Fort McLean.**

Figure 4. Georeferenced Maps Prepared by Recording GPS Location Coordinates from Each Redoubt's Location on a Historic Map and a Current Topographic Map (Glenn A. Trimmer and Daniel Patrick Newton, *Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites: Candidates for Stafford County Government or Developer Protection and Preservation*, Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, 2006).



Figure 5. Georeferenced Sketch of Proposed Defenses for Aquia Creek, W.S. Long (Original Map located at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia; retrieved by Bernard Kempinski; georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

**Georeferenced Sketch of Proposed Defenses for Aquia Creek, W. D. Long, 1862**



1 inch = 3,500 feet

Created By: D. Basore VDH, February 16, 2012  
Source: Library of Virginia



Figure 6. Detail of Topographical Map of Section of Country Near Aquia Creek, Va., Cyrus B. Comstock (Original Map at National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Drawer 150, Sheet 49; retrieved by Glenn A. Trimmer; georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

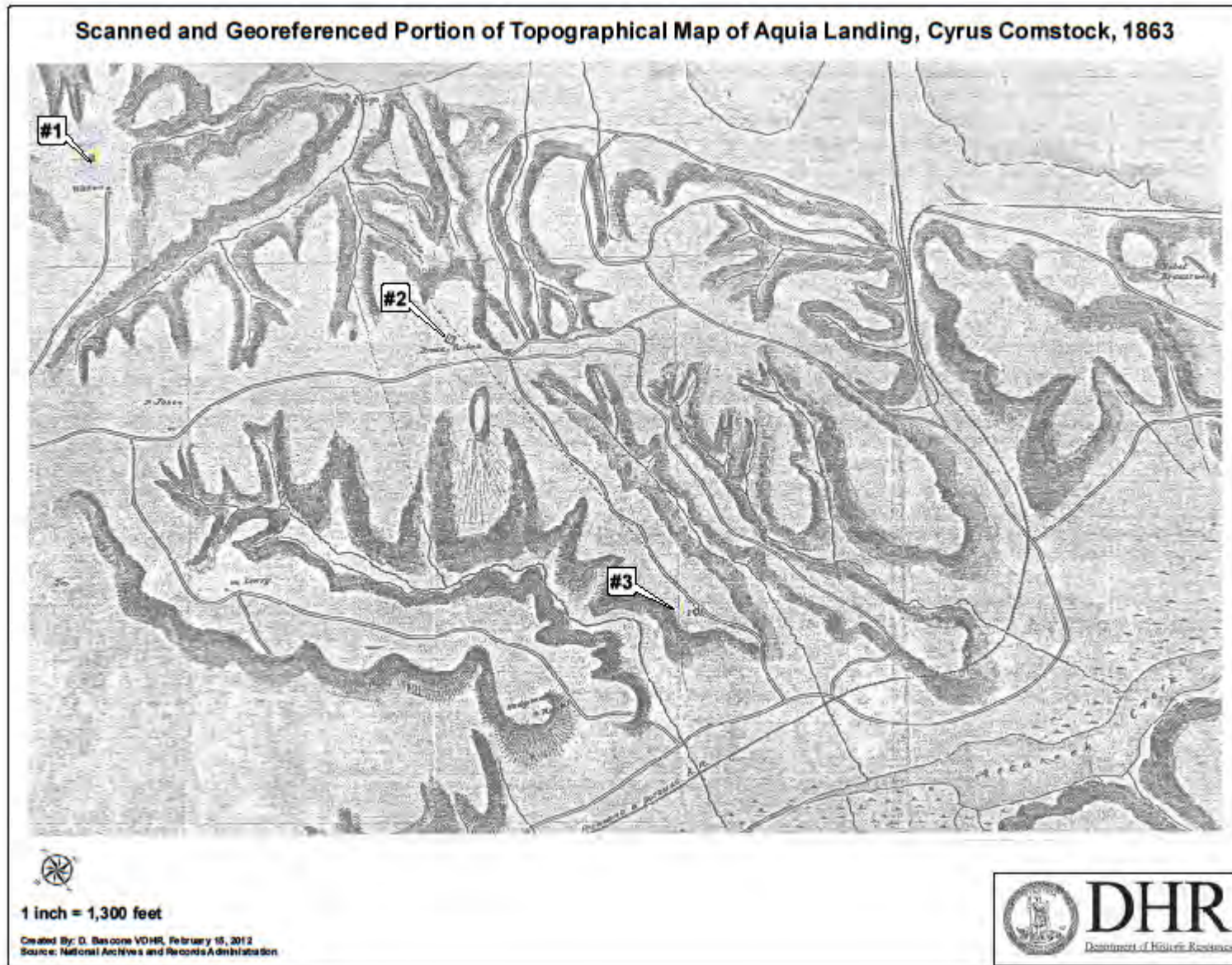


Figure 7. Detail of Map of Stafford County, Virginia, by Benjamin L. Blackford under the direction of Jeremy Gilmer (Original Map located at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia; georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

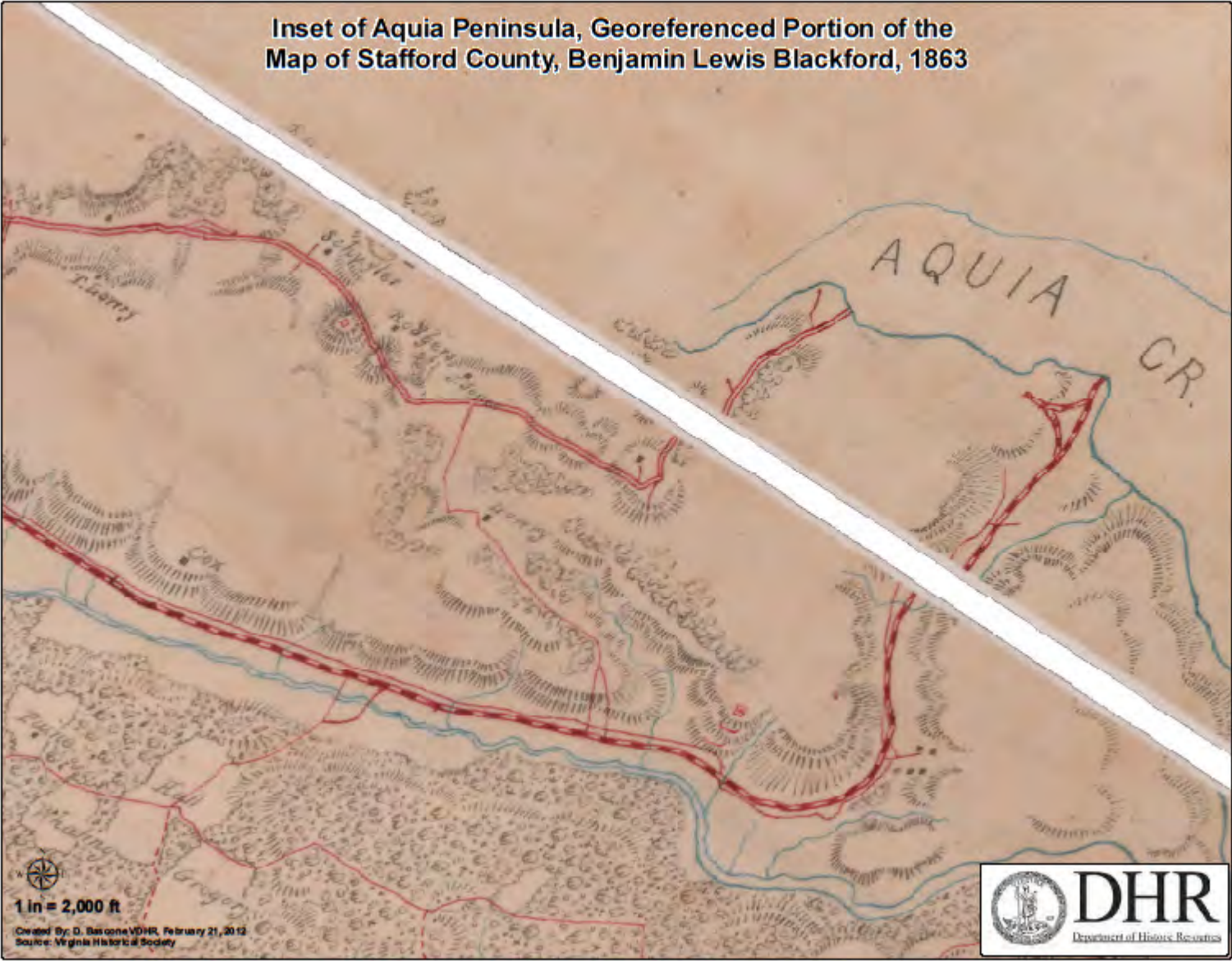


Figure 8. Topographic Map with Redoubts #1, #2, and #3 overlay with tax parcel overlay (Georeferencing by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2013).

