



February 15, 2023

Judy Lo, RLA, ASLA
Acting Principal Planner
City of Alexandria
Division of Park Planning, Capital Development & Waterfront
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Management Summary for City of Alexandria Fort Ward Park Archaeological Monitoring

Dear Ms. Lo:

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) has completed archaeological monitoring for access improvements at the Fort Ward Park picnic pavilion (Figure 1). Erin Cagney, MA, RPA conducted the monitoring between April 29th and June 23rd, 2022.

The project was designed to avoid impacts to a known archaeological resource within Fort Ward Park (Site 44AX90), the Javins homestead site. The Javins were an African-American family who owned and occupied this site from ca. 1890 – ca. 1935. Although georeferenced aerial imagery provides a projected location of the Javins house, previous archaeological investigations at the site did not find evidence of it (Figure 2). Archaeological monitoring was necessary for this project to document any discoveries of subsurface features or extraordinary finds related to the Javins house and occupation.

The work was divided into five Task Areas (Task Areas 1-5) as defined by the Scope of Work (SOW) (Figure 3). Monitoring tasks were further defined by the extent of excavation (grading vs. trenching), which were delineated on a color-coded schematic provided by Alexandria Archaeology (See Figure 3). In red areas, the monitor directed the backhoe to excavate to the top of subsoil in 10-foot sections. The monitor then cleaned the area with a shovel and/or trowel to observe any subsurface features. Profile drawings were made of one-foot columns every 10 feet in all cardinal directions. In orange areas, the monitor observed the extent of excavation, cleaned the area with a shovel, and recorded soil profiles of one-foot columns in all cardinal directions. Profiles were labeled by area and assigned a unique number (i.e., Task Area 5, Profile #1). The approximate location of each profile drawing is shown in Figure 4.

GEORGIA

HEADQUARTERS
6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770-498-4155

565 North Milledge Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
770-498-4155

SOUTH CAROLINA

1819 Hampton St.
Columbia, SC 29201
803-771-7083

NORTH CAROLINA

1006 Yanceyville St.
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-379-0433

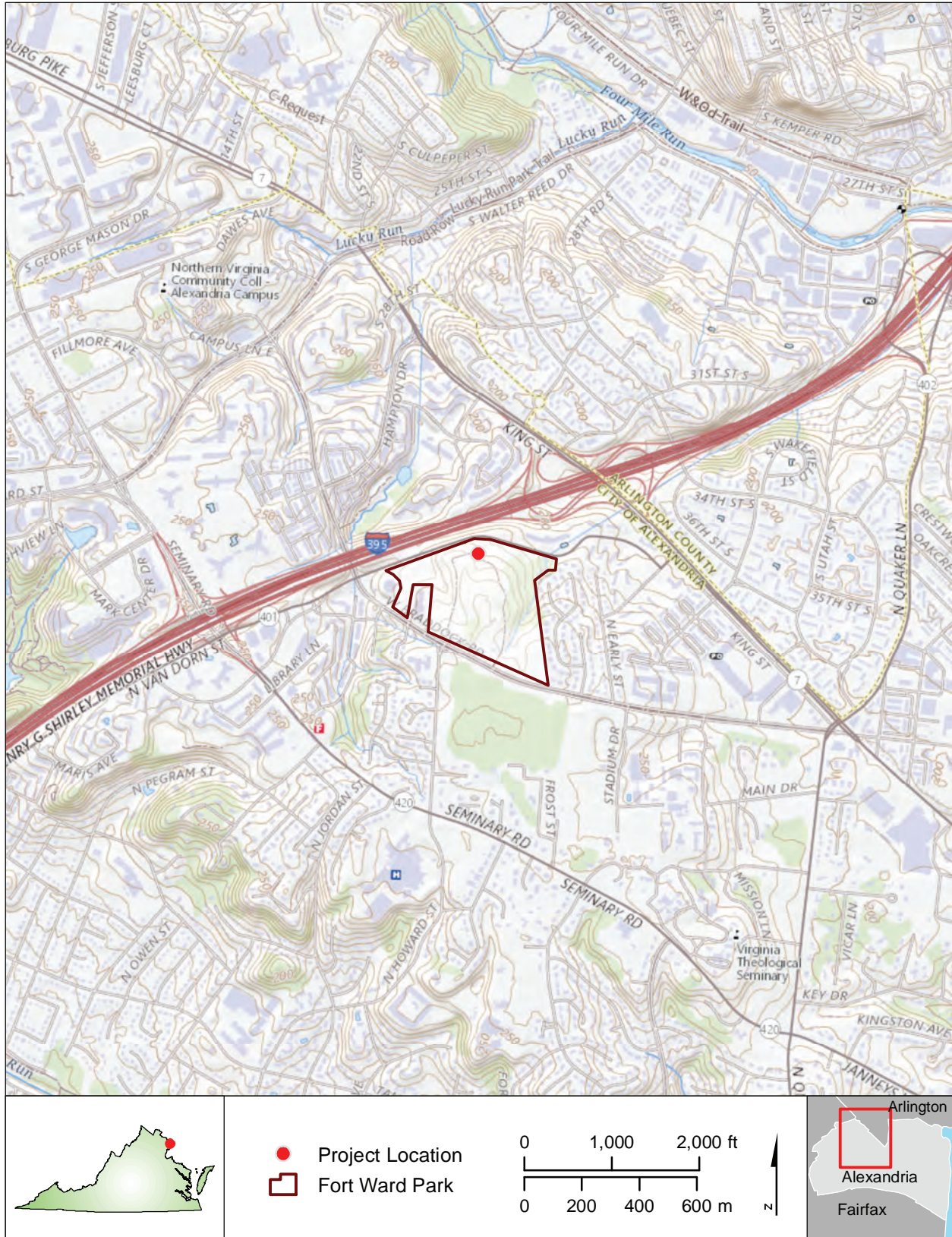
TENNESSEE

1629 Fatherland St.
Nashville, TN 37206
615-262-4326

VIRGINIA

3975 University Dr., Suite 120
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-568-4115

Figure 1.
Project Location Map



Basemap: USGS Topo (2021)

Figure 2.
Aerial Imagery of the Javins House, 1927

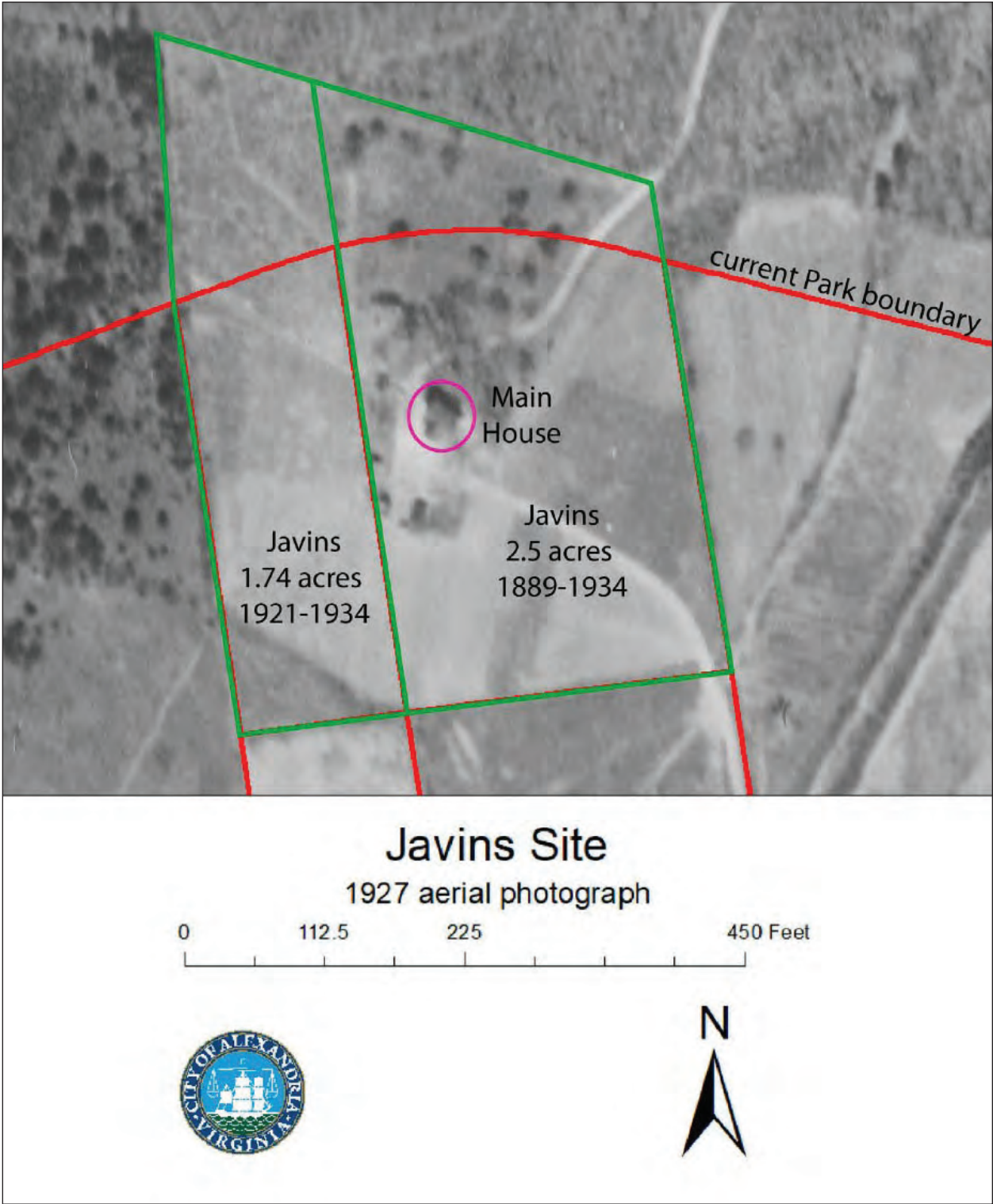


Figure 4.
 Projected Javins House Location, Task Areas, and Soil Profiles



Basemap: City of Alexandria Aerial Photography (2021)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

NSA identified one subsurface feature related to the Javins occupation, which was a deep pit identified as a possible well in Task Area 1 (Feature 4; Figure 5). Across the rest of the monitoring areas, artifacts were sparse. All artifacts were recovered in the Ap horizon, which appeared at various depths across the site, ranging from the surface to one foot below the ground surface (bgs). They included whiteware, ironstone, a cut nail, and vessel glass fragments. Soil disturbance was noted in various parts of the site, including the portion of Task Area 5 near Van Dorn Street, Task Area 4 near the picnic pavilion, and Task Area 3 between the picnic pavilion and the projected location of the Javins house. The disturbances can likely be attributed to the construction of the picnic pavilion and other recreational use of the site after it became Fort Ward Park.

Task Area 1 (A-D)

The SOW defined four subtasks for Task Area 1. Task Area 1 was adjacent to the park access road and included the parking area, temporary construction entrance, and the beginning of the path to the picnic pavilion. Tasks 1A, 1C, and 1D were completed on April 29th, 2022. The City of Alexandria removed Task 1B, the excavation of a 3x3x3 sediment trap, from the workplan prior to the beginning of construction because city inspectors determined the sediment trap was not necessary as an erosion and sediment control device.

Task 1A included monitoring the removal of two tree stumps. For the easternmost stump, a large area was excavated around the base. The monitor directed the backhoe operator to excavate only to the top of the subsoil. The area was then cleaned with a shovel and photographed (Figure 6). Soil profiles were drawn of the north and south walls (Figure 7). A total of 10 artifacts that could date to the Javins family were collected from this area. The backhoe operator then removed the stump, replaced soil in the hole, and graded the area to level with the existing pavement (Task 1C). No subsurface features were noted. The westernmost tree was significantly deteriorated, resulting in no adverse effects to the surrounding soils when removed.

Feature 4 was discovered in Task Area 1 after the backhoe excavated between the existing parking areas adjacent to the park access road (Figure 8). The feature was a brown (10YR 4/3), circular soil stain approximately eight feet in diameter with apparent shell concentrations and artifacts visible on the surface. After a site consultation with City Archaeologist Garrett Fesler, feature treatment included trowel cleaning, collection of loose artifacts on the surface, mapping, GPS data collection, and auger testing. A site datum was placed in the southwest corner of the exposed area, and the feature was covered and preserved in place. The construction contractor, Sagres, then proceeded with the work plan to cover the area with gravel substrate and asphalt for parking spaces. A total of 219 artifacts were collected while cleaning the feature, including a Tabasco bottle dating from 1939 – 1959 (Tables 1 and 2; Figure 9). This dates the deposition of the artifacts toward the latter part of the Javins occupation.

Table 1: Total Artifacts Found in Feature 4, Organized by Functional Group and Material

Artifacts	Count
Foodways	
<i>Ceramic</i>	11
Ironstone, Hotel Ware (Institutional)	6
Porcelain, Plain	3
Whiteware, Plain	1
Whiteware, Transfer Print, Blue	1
<i>Faunal</i>	0
Shell, Clam	18
Shell, Oyster	12
<i>Glass</i>	155
Canning Seal, Milk Glass	2
Container Glass, Amber	2
Container Glass, Clear	129
Container Glass, Machine Made, Amber	6
Container Glass, Machine Made, Clear	6
Tableware Glass, Unidentified, Molded	10
<i>Metal</i>	3
Table Knife, Metal	1
Table Spoon, Metal	1
Utensil Handle, Metal, Unidentified	1
Household/Structural	
<i>Ceramics</i>	1
Architectural Ceramics, Miscellaneous	1
<i>Glass</i>	8
Chimney Glass, Body, Unidentified	6
Glass, Flat, 1.1 to 1.19 mm	1
Glass, Flat, 1.8 to 1.89 mm	1
Other	
<i>Glass</i>	2
Glass, Burned	2
<i>Metal</i>	5
Iron/ Steel, Unidentified/ Corroded	5
<i>Plastic</i>	4
Plastic Item, Miscellaneous	1
Plastic Item, Unidentified	2
Plastic, Indeterminate	1
Grand Total	219

Table 2: Dateable Artifacts from Feature 4

Item	Description	Start Date	Mean Date	Finish Date
Container Glass, Machine Made, Clear	Anchor Hocking maker's mark 1937-present	1937		
Canning Seal, Milk Glass	complete; with zinc canning lid fragment	1869		
Container Glass, Machine Made, Clear	Fruit Jar; Owens-Illinois	1942	1947	1952
Container Glass, Clear	Large jar bottom; AHK maker's mark enclosed in boundary	1944		
Table Knife, Metal	Serrated blade, corroded, 'ROYAL STAINLESS' marked	1914		
Table Spoon, Metal	Stamped 'USS' in circle boundary and 'Stainless'; burned debris in spoon bowl. Stainless Steel originated 1913, flatware was crafted using it beginning in 1914.	1914		
Container Glass, Machine Made, Clear	Tabasco bottle; complete	1939	1949	1959

The feature was recorded from a depth of 0.9' bgs, as measured from the top of the asphalt, and parts of it appeared in the wall near the original ground surface, immediately below the asphalt (Figure 10). Prior to covering the feature, an auger test was placed directly in the center using a four-inch bucket auger. The auger reached 2.6' below the surface of the feature before refusal by a dense pocket of shell (oyster and clam), which also contained a few shards of glass (Figure 11). Shell samples and artifacts were collected from the auger bucket, and their depth was noted. This feature was initially considered a possible trash pit or burn pit, but the depth of the feature indicates a possible filled in well or privy. This feature was located near the outbuildings apparent on the 1927 aerial of the Javins house and may be related to one of those. Further excavation would be needed to determine the nature of this feature.

For Task 1D, the monitor observed the placement of gravel at the construction entrance. Sagres did not cut or grade the soil in the yellow area of the project map. The City of Alexandria did not proceed with construction of three additional parking spaces located in the area of Task Area 1D, in consideration of the features identified.

Task Area 2

Task Area 2 included a small section of the path that extended from the drainage on the east toward the parking area to the southwest, ending in a T-shape that extended east and west. This area was monitored between June 6th and 7th, 2022. Six non-cultural features were initially identified in this area (Features 1A-D, 2 and 3. The soils in these features were mottled and ephemeral and contained no artifacts. Given the levels of disturbance and filling in this area, the features most

Figure 5.
Location of Feature 4, Possible Well at Site 44AX90, Javins House



Basemap: City of Alexandria Aerial Photography (2021)

Figure 6.
Task Area 1A, tree stump removal and backhoe stripping, looking Northwest



Figure 7.
South wall profile of Task Area 1A

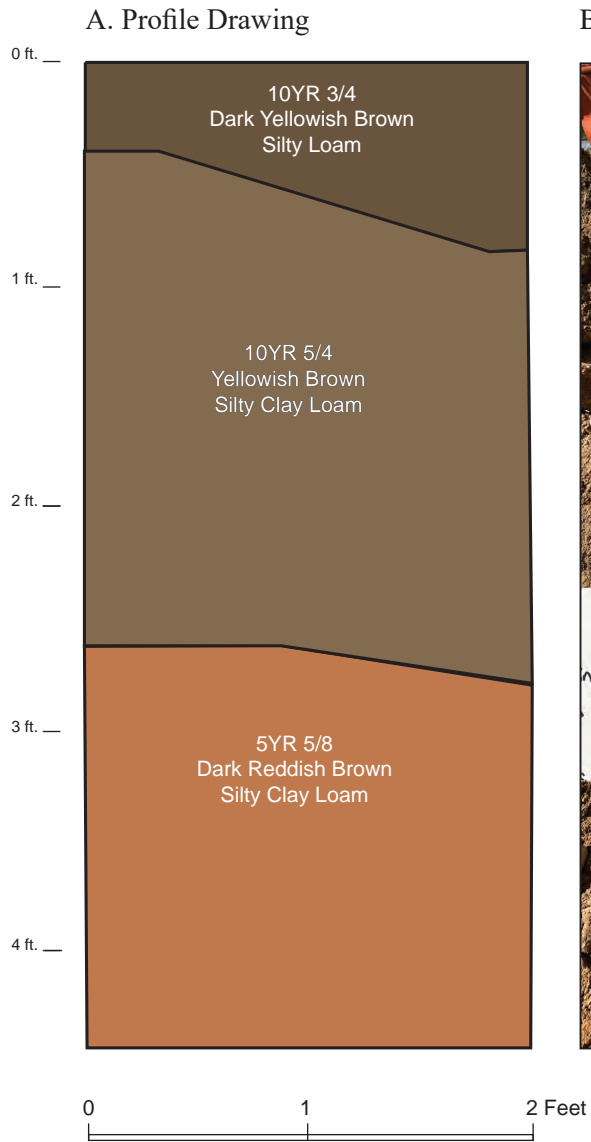
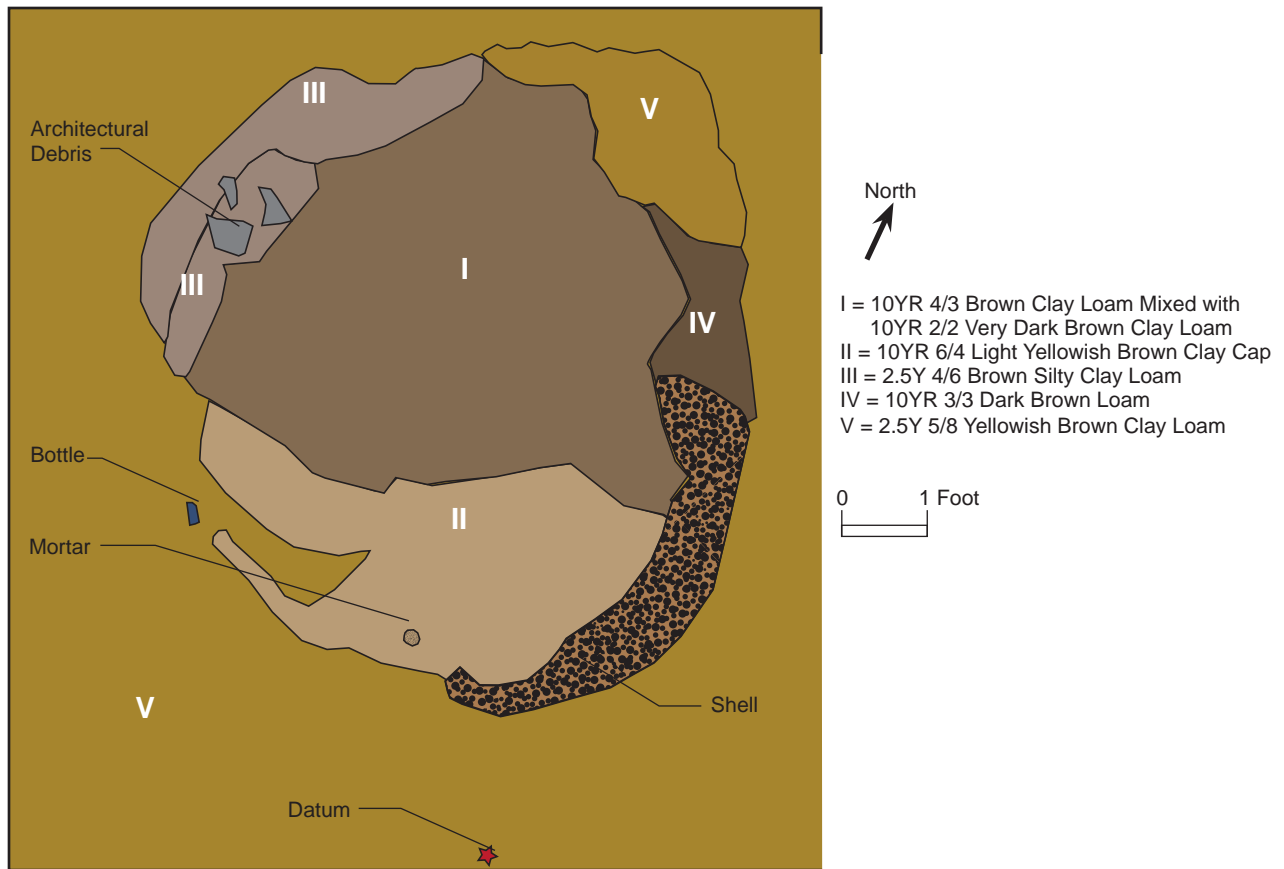


Figure 8.
Plan view of Feature 4, Possible Well, in Task Area 1



A. Plan View Drawing of Feature 4

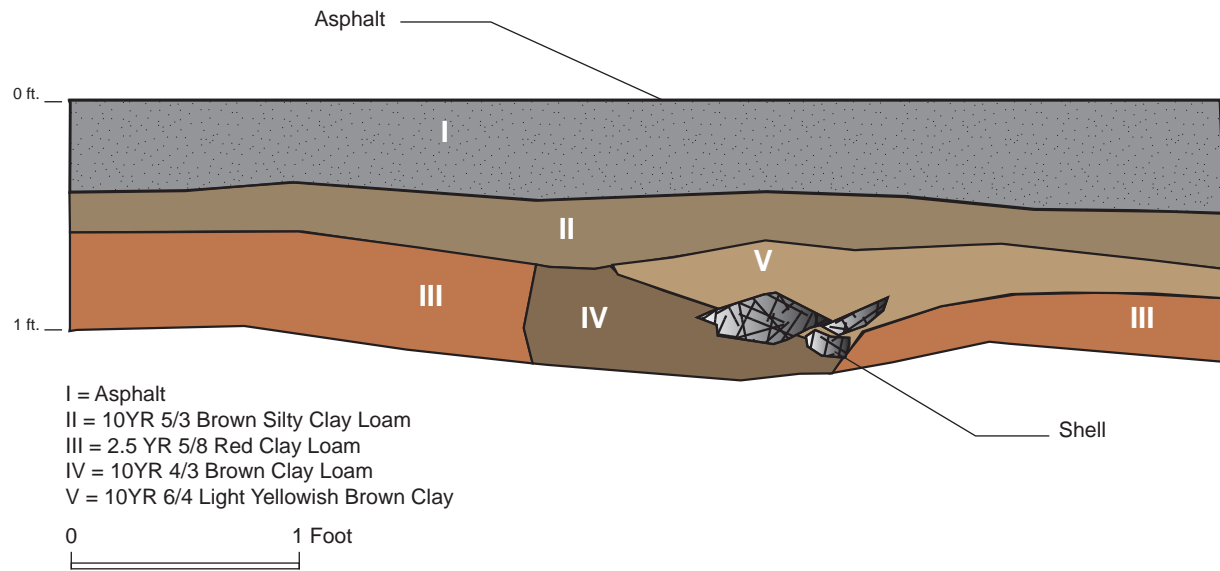


B. Photograph of Feature 4, facing Northeast

Figure 9.
Tabasco bottle recovered from Feature 4, dating from 1939 to 1959. Figure showing whole bottle profile and close up of maker's mark.



Figure 10.
 South Wall Profile of Task Area 1, Top of Feature 4 Apparent in Wall



A. Profile drawing of South wall of Task Area 1



B. Photograph of South wall of Task Area 1

Figure 11.
Looking Down into Soil Auger Test in Feature 4, Shell Visible at the Bottom



likely represent recreational use of the park, such as the creation of the nearby cement pads for picnic tables.

Feature 3 was ultimately determined to be traces of archaeological excavations conducted by Alexandria Archaeology in 2012 and 2013 (Figures 12 and 13). These features do not represent any affiliation with the Javins occupation. Soils in Task Area 2 were relatively deep and showed various levels of disturbance moving southward toward Task Area 1 (Figure 14).

Task Area 3

Task Area 3 was in the central portion of the underdrain excavation, running roughly east to west between the picnic pavilion and the projected location of the Javins house. Most of this area was excavated on May 9th and 10th, 2022. An approximately 20-foot area on the east end of Task Area 3 was temporarily left unexcavated to allow for the movement of heavy machinery. Monitoring was then completed on May 25th, 2022. The topsoil (O and A horizons) was relatively thick in this area and was generally undisturbed (Figure 15). Directly south of the picnic pavilion, though, there was evidence of cutting and filling, likely related to the construction of the pavilion and other recreational use. Soil profiles were drawn every 10 feet. No artifacts were collected from Task Area 3, and no subsurface features were noted.

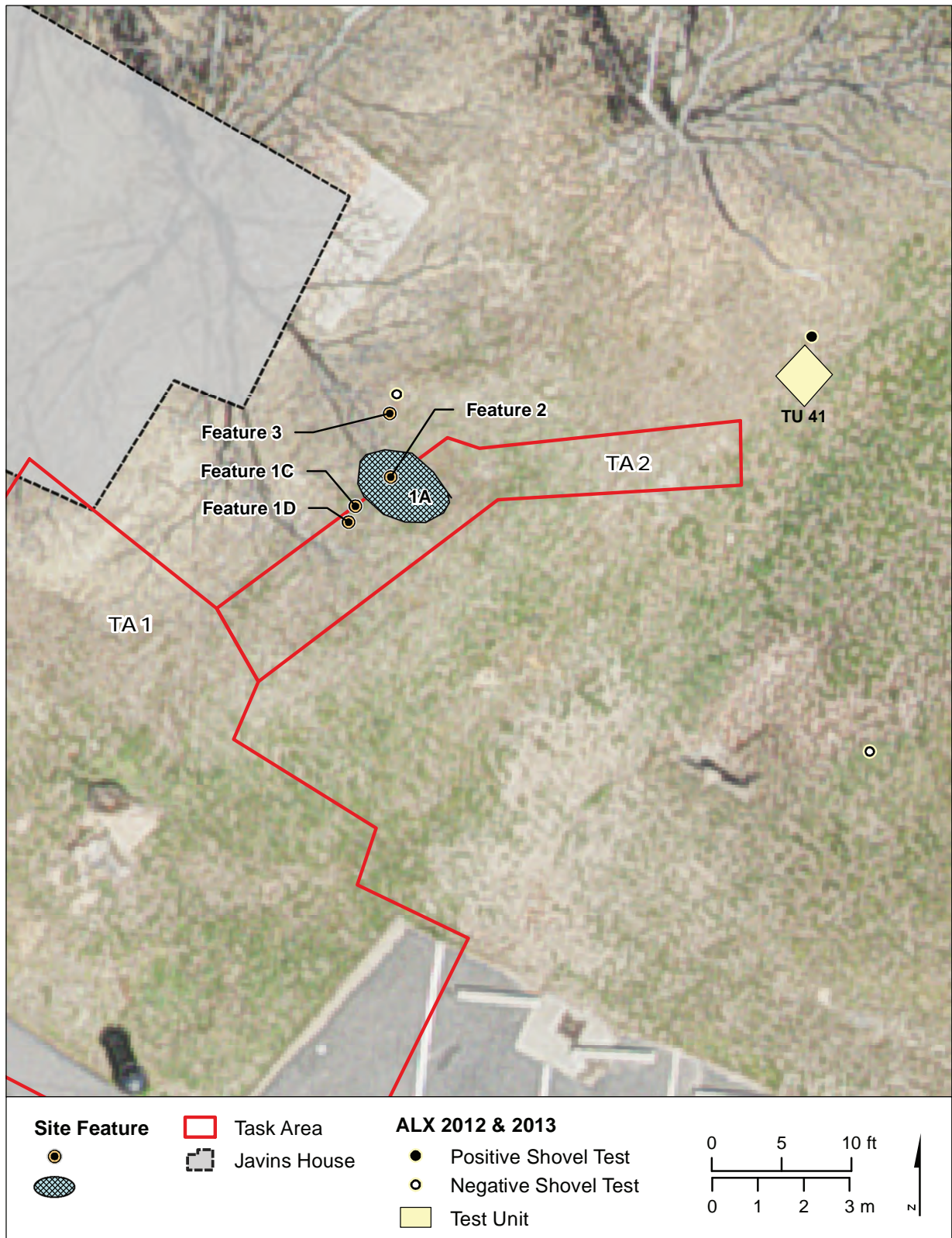
Task Area 4

Task Area 4 was adjacent to the west side of the picnic pavilion, connecting the pavilion with the rest of the path to the west. This area was excavated on May 9th, 2022 and included the removal of a concrete pad. Soils immediately adjacent to the picnic pavilion were clearly disturbed and included gravel fill. Moving away from the pavilion to the west, soils generally retained integrity (Figure 16). Some artifacts were noted in the A horizon, approximately 0.8-1.0' bgs. One whiteware sherd was collected, and two glass fragments were noted, but not collected. Profiles were drawn every 10 feet. No subsurface features were noted.

Task Area 5

Task Area 5 was adjacent to Van Dorn Street. The planned path included a tight curve before moving southward in a more linear fashion. The "U-shaped" part of Task Area 5 had been wooded prior to construction. Multiple trees with one-to-two-foot trunks had to be removed prior to excavation. This activity was monitored and documented on May 4th, 2022. When the underdrain trench was excavated on May 9th, 2022, much of this area was disturbed from the tree removal activity, heavy rains over the preceding weekend, and the heavy machinery. Excessively disturbed soils were not profiled. No subsurface features were observed. The soil profile was generally very shallow in this area (Figure 17).

Figure 12.
 Features 1-3 in Task Area 2, aligned with GIS data from 2012 and 2013 excavations by
 Alexandria Archaeology



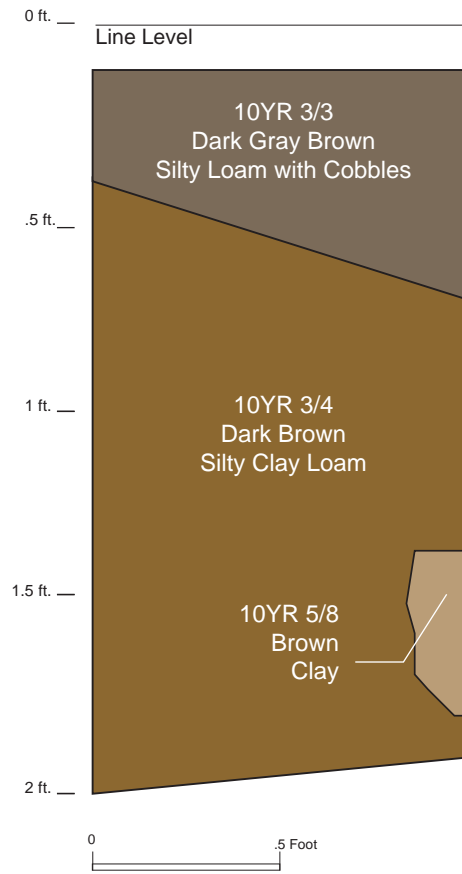
Basemap: City of Alexandria Aerial Photography (2021)

Figure 13.
Plan view photograph of Features 2 and 3, facing West



Figure 14.
West Wall Profile of Task Area 2 (Profile #3)

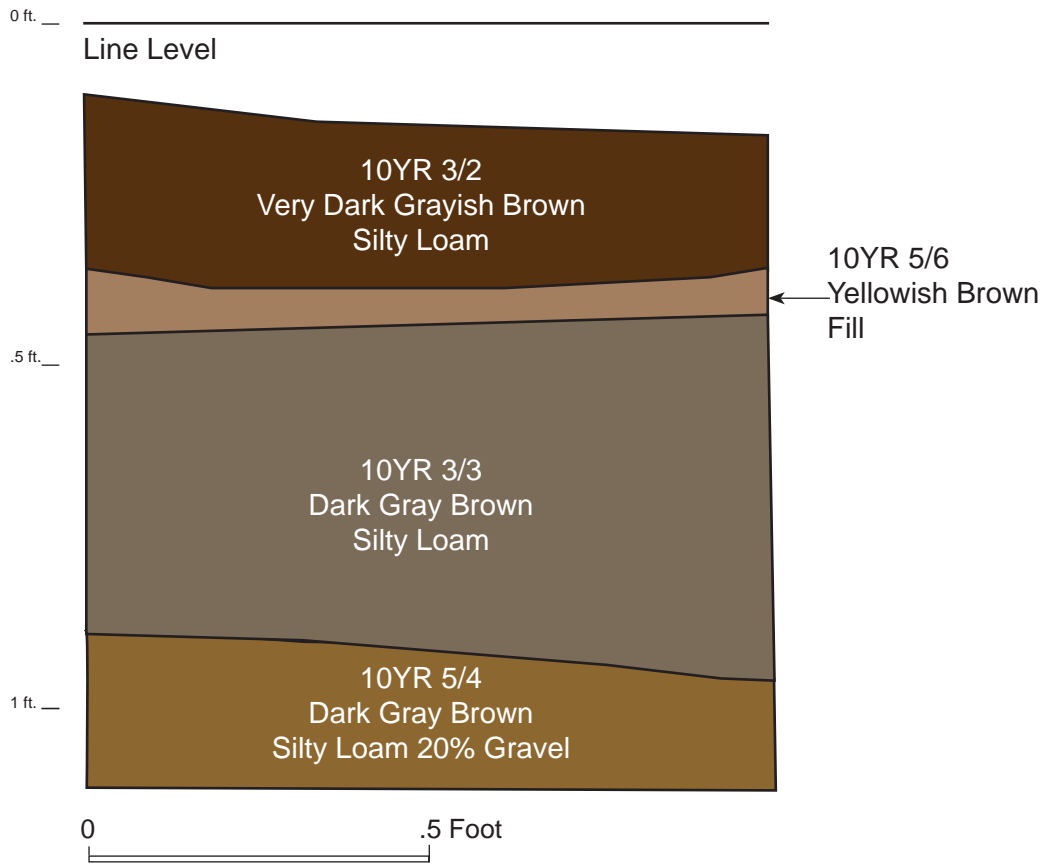
A. Profile Drawing



B. Photograph

Figure 15.
North Wall Profile of Task Area 3 (Profile #7)

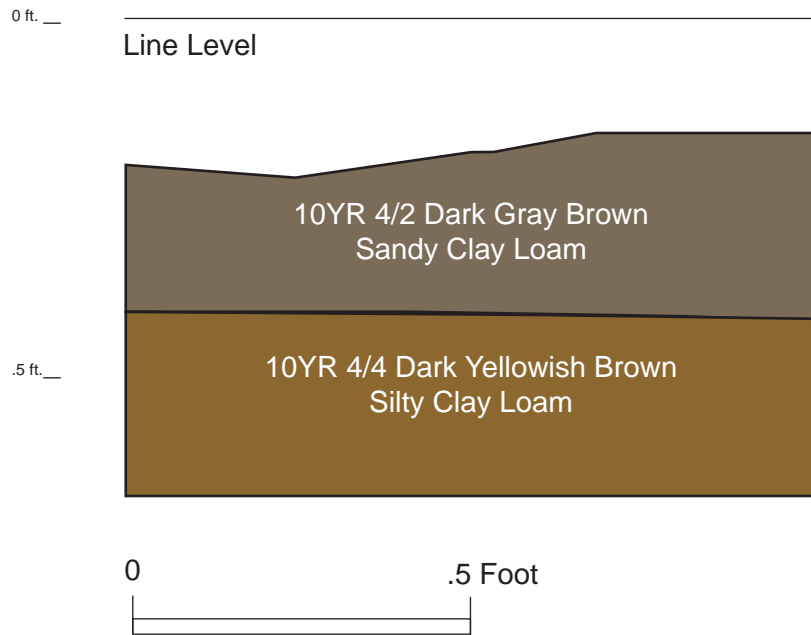
A. Profile Drawing



B. Photograph

Figure 16.
South Wall Profile of Task Area 4 (Profile #2)

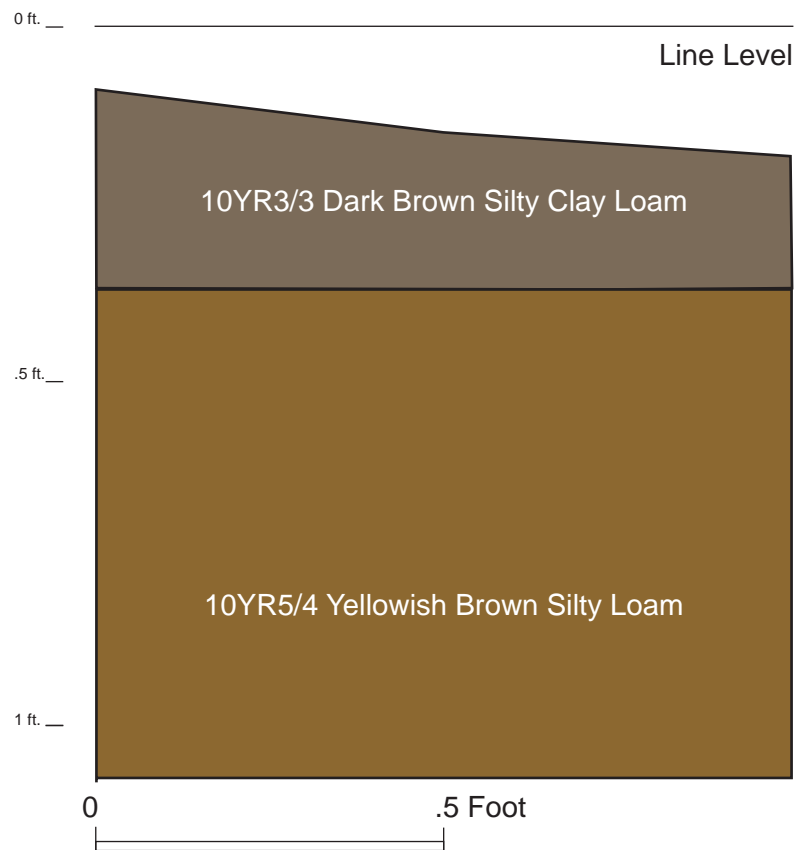
A. Profile Drawing



B. Photograph

Figure 17.
West Wall Profile of Task Area 5 (Profile #7)

A. Profile Drawing



B. Photograph

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeological monitoring at the Javins house site area resulted in the discovery of a possible well or privy feature (Feature 4) adjacent to the likely location of the Javins house. The feature was minimally disturbed by the construction activities, and it was covered and preserved in place before the area was paved for additional parking per the work plan. In total, 259 artifacts were recovered from the study area, most of them from Feature 4 (N=219).

The remainder of the work area showed varying levels of disturbance, had no cultural features, and contained very few artifacts. The project allowed for thorough documentation of the soils in the Javins house vicinity through 52 soil profiles. Should further work need to be conducted in this part of Fort Ward Park, these soil profiles will help to inform decisions regarding potential impacts.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Cagney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

Erin Cagney, Archaeologist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin C. Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kevin Bradley, Principal Investigator



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

A WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

November 30, 2022

Judy Lo, RLA, ASLA
Acting Principal Planner
City of Alexandria
Division of Park Planning, Capital Development & Waterfront
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Addendum to the Management Summary for City of Alexandria Fort Ward Park Archaeological Monitoring for additional excavation of angled parking space

Dear Ms. Lo:

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) has completed archaeological monitoring for the additional excavation of the angled parking space at Fort Ward Park. Kevin Bradley, MA, RPA conducted the monitoring on November 7, 2022.

This monitoring project is a continuation of work previously completed as part of accessibility improvements within Fort Ward Park (Site 44AX90), the Javins homestead site. The Javins were an African American family who owned and occupied this site from ca. 1890 to ca. 1935. Additional grading within the project area was needed to accommodate the construction of an angled parking space. Although a portion of the area had previously been graded, archaeological monitoring was necessary to document any discoveries of subsurface features or extraordinary finds related to the Javins house and occupation in areas that were beneath the existing asphalt road or not previously graded.

Construction of the angled parking space required minimal grading within an area of approximately 2,000 square feet. However, roughly half of the area had been previously graded, while the other half was within the existing asphalt roadway and parking area (Figure 1). An archaeological feature (Feature 4) identified during the initial phase of construction lies within the previously graded area, although work associated with the angled parking space did not impact this feature.

Georgia/Headquarters

6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083
T/770.498.4155
F/770.498.3809

Georgia/Athens Branch

565 North Milledge Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30601
T/770.498.4155 Ext 143

North Carolina

1006 Yanceyville Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401
T/336.379.0433

Tennessee

1629 Fatherland Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37206
T/615.262.4326

South Carolina

1819 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
T/803.771.7083

Virginia

PO Box 2306
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
T/770.498.4155 Ext 654



Based on the map provided in the Scope of Work, new grading was anticipated for approximately 45 feet along the 14-foot-wide asphalt road. Grading was also planned for roughly 140 square feet in the existing parking area. An additional 277 square feet of asphalt, located within the previously graded area, was excavated as well, although it is not included in the new grading area delineated on the map (Figure 2).

In the new grading area, backhoe excavation along the existing roadway began at the western edge of the project area and continued to the eastern limit until all asphalt was removed. Compact road-base material was exposed. The removal of asphalt and scraping of loose road-base material was sufficient in most places to accomplish the grading required; however, additional grading was necessary within the center of the roadway, where approximately 4 inches of material at most was removed to bring the surface to grade. At no point did the excavation of material encounter undisturbed or historic soil horizons. Excavation occurred entirely within the existing road-base material and the backfill associated with the culvert beneath the road (Figures 3 and 4). No soil profiles were recorded due to the limited extent of excavation. Photographs were taken of the southern, eastern, and western edges of the project area (Figure 5).

In the previously graded area, no additional grading was required once asphalt was removed from the undisturbed section of the parking area. However, further excavation was required when the construction crew identified a large saturated depression in the soil within the proposed area of the accessible parking space. Excavation was monitored while unstable soil was removed, but it quickly became evident that the depression was caused by a void created by the excavation of a large tree stump during an earlier phase of the project. No intact soils were disturbed while the backhoe refilled and stabilized the depression with gravel.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Asphalt removal and grading was completed on November 7, 2022. No additional monitoring was required, as the project area was scheduled to be repaved the following day. No artifacts, archaeological features, or undisturbed historic soil horizons were observed.

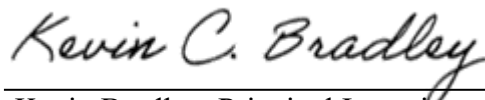
Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

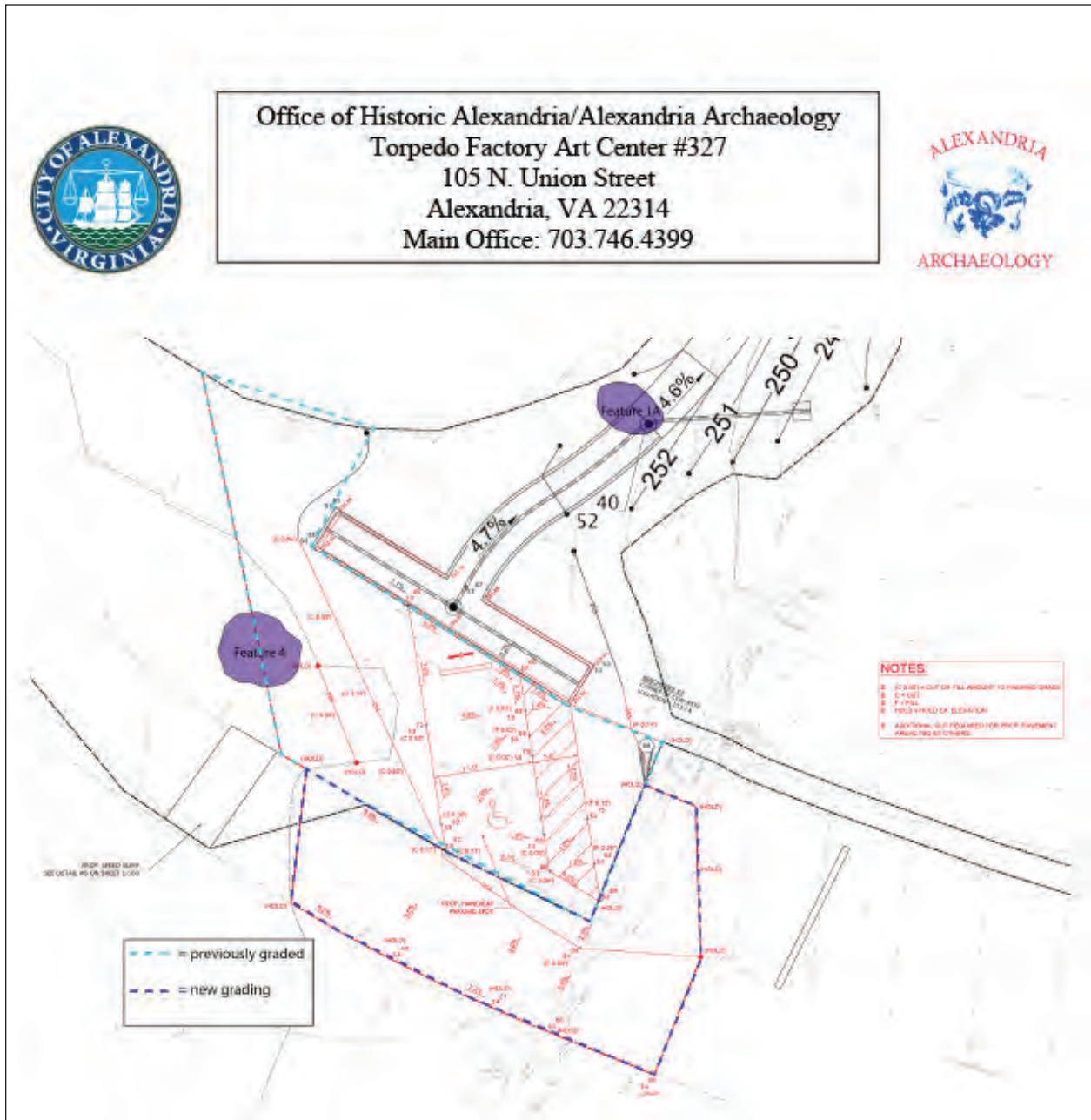


Erin Cagney, Archaeologist



Kevin Bradley, Principal Investigator

Figure 1.
Map of Grading for Angled Parking Space, Scope of Work



Source: Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology

Figure 2.
Map of Grading Areas



Basemap: ESRI Resource Data

Figure 3.
Road Base after Asphalt Removal, View East



Figure 4.
Culvert underneath Road, View North



Figure 5.
Southern, Western, and Eastern Edges of the Project Area

A. Southern Edge of Project Area



B. Western Edge of Project Area



C. Eastern Edge of Project Area

