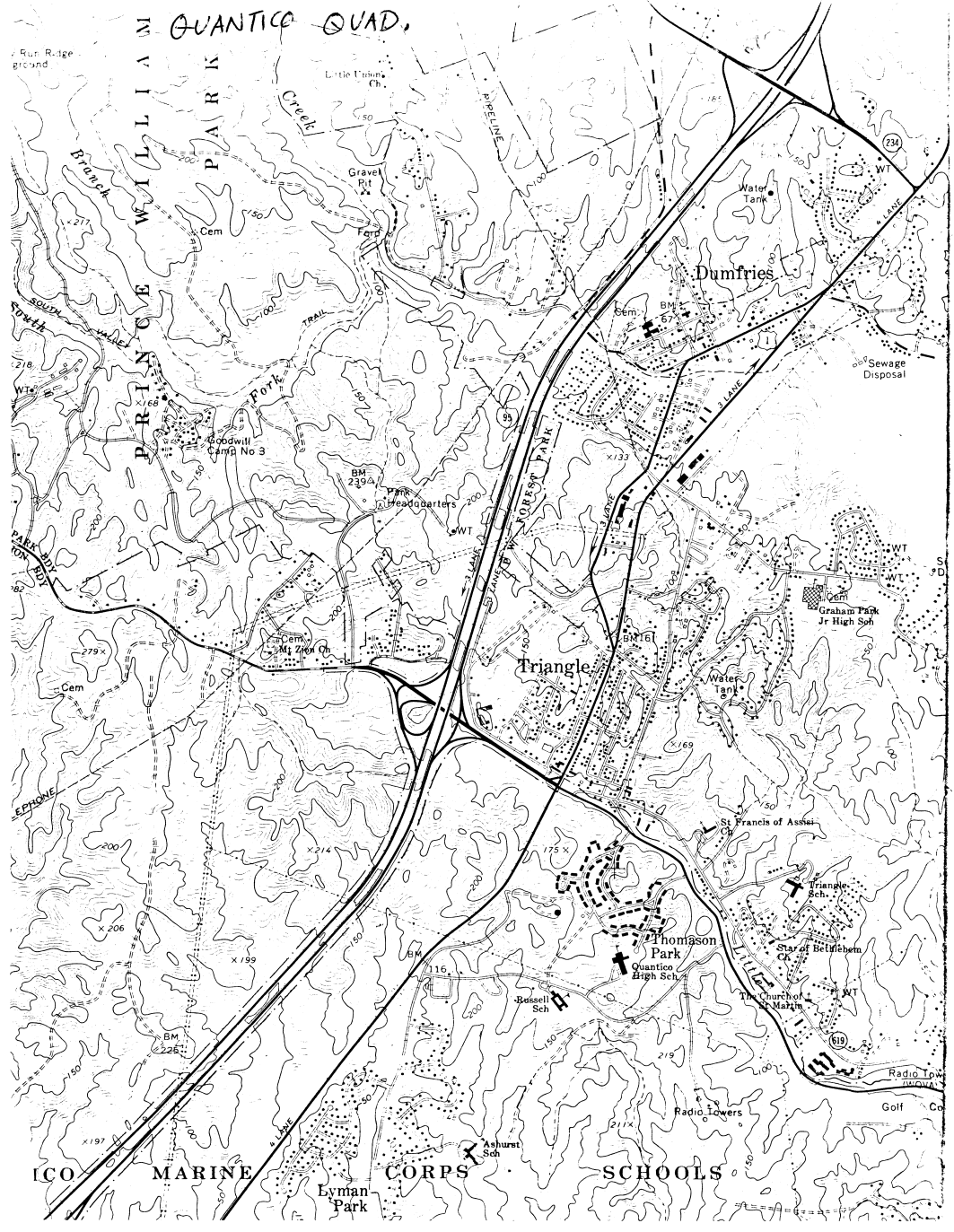
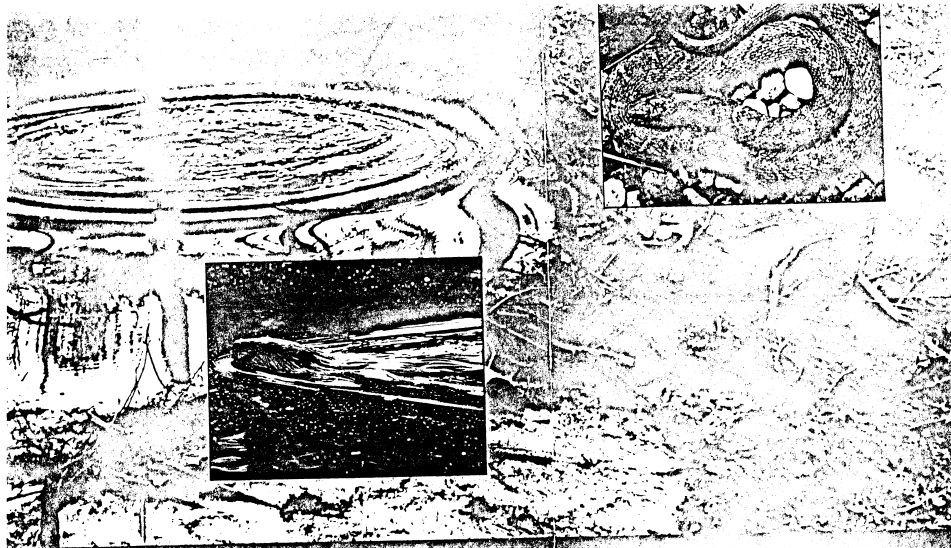


file

→ Cabin Br. mine
see also sheet
on Cockpit Pt.

Cabin Br. Creek Branch Mine RR
built 1889 for Amer. Agr. Chem. Co.
ran for 6 miles along north side of
Quantico Creek starting at Barrow
Shipping Docks loc. on north point
of Quantico Creek entrance to the
mine. RR. in 31 yrs. operation
handled 1,250,000 worth of pyrite
to river for loading on open barges
towed by tugs to processing plants
in Alexandria





A FOREST RETURNS

Beginning with the arrival of the area's first settlers in the late 17th century, forests were cut and the land was plowed. Lumber and fur, tobacco and grain—products of virgin forests and fertile soils—were carried to distant countries from the then thriving port of Dumfries at the mouth of Quantico Creek. In this era of plenty, few conservation practices were observed, and the soil soon lost its fertility. Light and erodible, it was washed away by rains and carried downstream where it silted up the Dumfries harbor. Thus, abuse of the land caused the port and the local area to decline. Most of the farming had stopped by the start of the 20th century. Soon the unproductive soil began to revert to forest, and the area comprising the park became a patchwork of abandoned farms and of woodlands in various stages of natural succession. These have since gradually given way to a beautiful forest where man comes and goes as a visitor.

The park, named for the Virginia county in which it lies, now harbors 89 known species of trees and shrubs. It includes pure stands of Virginia pine, a large variety of hardwoods, and a green understory of mountain laurel, holly, dogwood, redbud, and other shrubs and small trees. Among the resident animals are white-tailed deer, red and gray foxes, beaver, raccoon, opossum, flying squirrel, gray squirrel, skunk, and woodchuck; wild turkey, ruffed grouse, red-tailed hawk, and numerous species of songbirds; several kinds of amphibians and warm-water fish; and numerous reptiles, including the copperhead snake.

Erosion by the North and South Branches of Quantico Creek has removed the Coastal Plain sand, gravel, and clay, and exposed the ancient granite, schist, and quartzite of the Piedmont. Before 1920, pyrite, containing iron and sulfur, was mined near the confluence of the two creek branches.

guiding nature trails and exhibits. They also conduct trips and give illustrated talks on natural history. The center is open daily during summer; weekends during winter.

An Environmental Study Area (ESA) on a long-abandoned farm site in the park is reserved for field trips by school classes and organized groups. Teaching materials adapted to the ESA can be obtained in advance by calling park headquarters.

HELP PROTECT THIS PARK AND YOURSELF

Man's present intrusion on this landscape is far less upsetting than it once was. You can help protect the park further by remembering to leave plants and animals undisturbed. You, and those who come after you, will enjoy the park more if everyone leaves camping and picnic areas the way they would like to find them. Please observe these regulations and tips for a safe, comfortable stay. Remember, safety is no accident.

Accidents must be reported as soon as possible to a park ranger or to park headquarters.

Motor vehicles should not be driven or parked on grassy areas or road shoulders. Please observe posted speed limits.

Fires are permitted only at established picnic areas and campgrounds, and then only in fireplaces provided. Extinguish fires completely before leaving, even for a temporary absence.

Hunting is prohibited. Firearms, fireworks, knives with blades more than 7.6 centimeters (3 inches) long, archery equipment, and slingshots are not allowed in the park unless adequately cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use.

Natural features are strictly protected. The destruction, injury, defacement, removal, or disturbance of any natural feature, such as trees, wildflowers, rocks, or wildlife, is prohibited.

Pets must be kept on a leash.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Lost and found items should be reported to park headquarters.

Climbing trees and park structures is considered dangerous and is not permitted.



among the



holidays and