



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

See LEESYLVANIA 76-45 for more information on this site.

File no. 76-264

Negative no(s). -

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Confederate Gun Mounts at Freestone Point	Common name	
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	Free Stone Point, Leesylvania Tract		
USGS Quad	Indian Head	Date or period	1861
Original owner		Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use			
Present owner	Daniel K. Ludwig/Am.-Hawaiian Steamship Co.	Source of name	
Present owner address	c/o George Hartzog, Atty. 900 17th St., N.W. Wash., D.C.	Source of date	Historical Record
Present use	Not in use	Stories	-
Acreage Included in	In process of sale & Dev, as a state park)	Foundation and wall const'n	-
Leesylvania, c500 ac.		Roof type	-

State condition of structure and environs Site is overgrown, but earthworks still visible.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest This is a historical archeological site.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Four deep cuts in the cliff above Freestone Point are all that remain of the gun placements constructed here. The cuts are about 3' deep, the largest being c25' long by c15' wide; they are spaced several feet apart and all line up in a row facing the Potomac River channel to the east. Trees, some fairly large, are growing out of the earthworks. No one knows what happened to the guns, or whether they were removed after the battery was abandoned. If the guns were spiked and pushed into the river, they may still be lying under about 6 feet of water at the river's edge. There were also platforms for ordnance on the north side of Freestone Point facing Occoquan Bay.

Interior inspected?

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

The earthworks at Freestone Point are the remains of the northernmost gun positions of the Confederate Blockade of the Potomac during 1861 and 1862. The batteries were constructed on prominent points along a 6-mile section of the west side of the Potomac under the supervision of Gen. Isaac R. Trimble, at the request of Gen. Robert E. Lee. The establishment of land batteries on strategic points along the Potomac enabled pro-Southern forces to effectively blockade the Potomac River from October 1861 to March 1862, thus preventing the Federal government from transporting goods and transmitting communications up its principal route to Washington, D.C., the center of the North's war preparations. The guns were manned by Brigadier Gen. W.H.C. Whiting's Brigade, consisting of about 12,500 infantry troops who were camped in and around Dumfries.

The four guns at Freestone Point, coastal heavy artillery taken from the Navy Yard at Norfolk, were installed to distract U.S. Naval Flotilla which patrolled the Potomac, while batteries were being constructed at Evansport, a point several miles down the river which is today part of the Quantico Marine Base. The guns placed at Freestone Point were not capable of reaching the channel, and the battery was abandoned when the several other positions became operative.

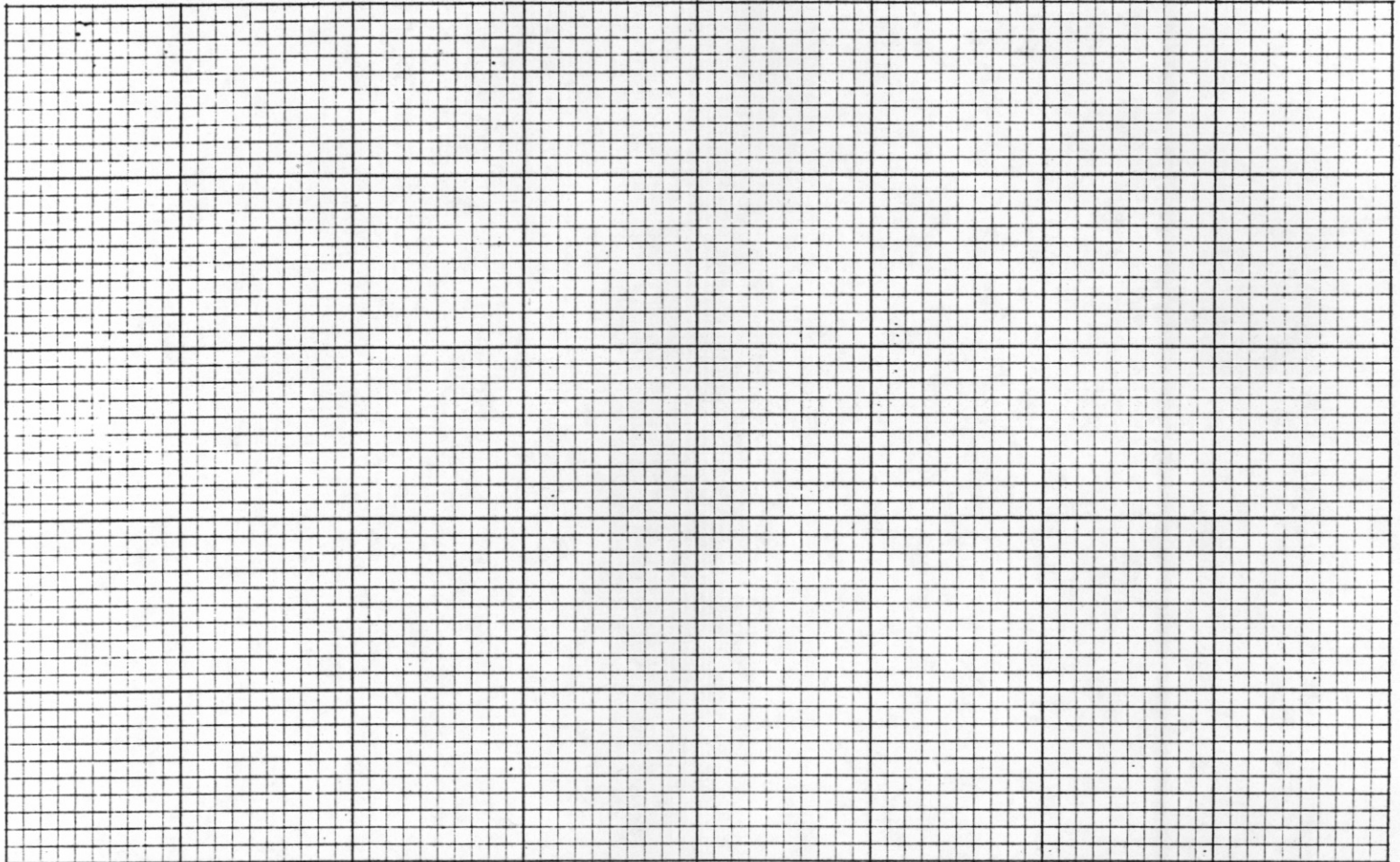
Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) Wills, Mary Alice, "Confederate Batteries Along the Potomac," a pamphlet, pub. Jun 1978. Wills, Mary Alice, "Freestone Point," in Echoes of History, Jan 1974.

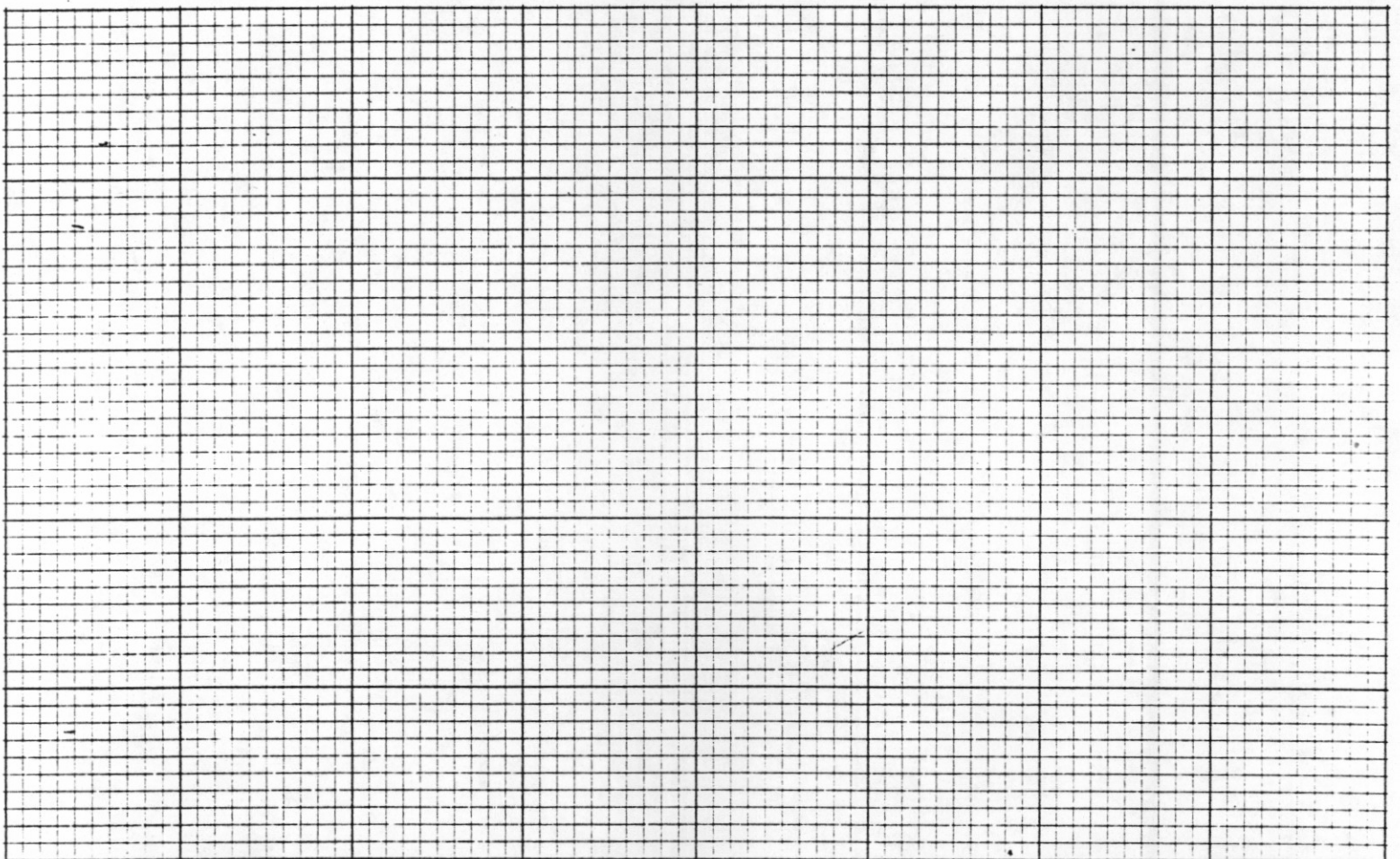
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Don Curtis, Prince William County Historical Commission.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date JAN 1980

3561 III NE
OCCOQUAN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

38° 37' 30" 77° 15'
305000m E. 1:2 360 000 FEET (VA.)
306 307 308 309
55 (FOR)

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OCCOQUAN

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4274

PRINCE WILLIAM
CHARLES CO

Freestone
Point

Farm Creek
Tidal Flat

OCCOQUAN BAY

CHARLES CO
FAIRFAX CO
PRINCE WILLIAM CO

VIRGINIA
MARYLAND

Light

High Point
Tidal Flat

WILSON
NECK
X38
X36

R I V E R

M A C

