



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-305
Negative no(s). no photo

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Graham Park Site Common name _____
County/Town/City Prince William County
Street address or route number _____

USGS Quad Quantico Quad. Date or period _____
Original owner John Graham Architect/builder/craftsmen _____
Original use Residence & plantation
Present owner Multiple owners Source of name _____
Present owner address _____ Source of date _____
Present use residential subdivision Stories N/A
Acreage unknown Foundation and wall const'n N/A
Roof type N/A

State condition of structure and environs _____

State potential threats to structure _____
Note any archaeological interest Probably an 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.)

No apparent evidence remains of this site.

See Mutual Assurance Policies R4 V35 and R3 V31 for description of house, barn, kitchen and smoke house for estate belonging to George Graham known as Graham Park(e).

Interior inspected? N/A

Historical significance (Chain of title: individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)
John Graham (1711-1787) was a Scottish merchant who came to Virginia in about 1740. Graham patented five different tracts of land from 1741 to 1746. Three of the grants were on Goose Creek and two were on Quantico Creek. Part of one of Graham's Quantico Creek grants became the site of the area's tobacco warehouses and, later, of Prince William's first incorporated town. The other grant, on the south side of Quantico Creek, was where Graham established his residence, Graham Park. A part of this estate is now included in the Graham Park subdivision, but the greater part of the estate is said to be in the Quantico Marine Corps Base. According to the WPA guide to Prince William County, in 1941 there was a large frame house on the site of John Graham's former home. The house was located on S.R. 629, on the right, one mile from the intersection of S.R. 688 and S.R. 629. The only original building remaining was said to be a large, post-and-beam-constructed ice house with a 100-ton storage capacity. Overshadowing the ice house there was a massive oak tree, one of the largest in the county. The site was legendarily used by the Indians for council meetings.

Graham's first wife, whom he had married in 1742, was Christian Brown, daughter of Dr. Gustavus Brown. Through that marriage, Graham became a brother-in-law of Parson James Scott, Rector of Dettingen Parish. After his first wife's death, Graham married in 1746 Elizabeth Cocke, daughter of Catesby Cocke, who successively had been clerk of Stafford, Prince William and Fairfax counties. Graham succeeded Cocke in the clerkship of Fairfax County in 1746 by a family arrangement. Graham continued to reside, however, in Prince William on the Quantico.

(continued next page)

CONTINUATION SHEET
GRAHAM PARK SITE

Published Sources (continued)

State Senator Omer L. Hirst, "Bicentennial Ceremony, Dumfries, Va." Speech delivered 28 May 1974, reprinted in Echoes of History, July 1974, pp. 54-56. W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp. 94, 93, 88.

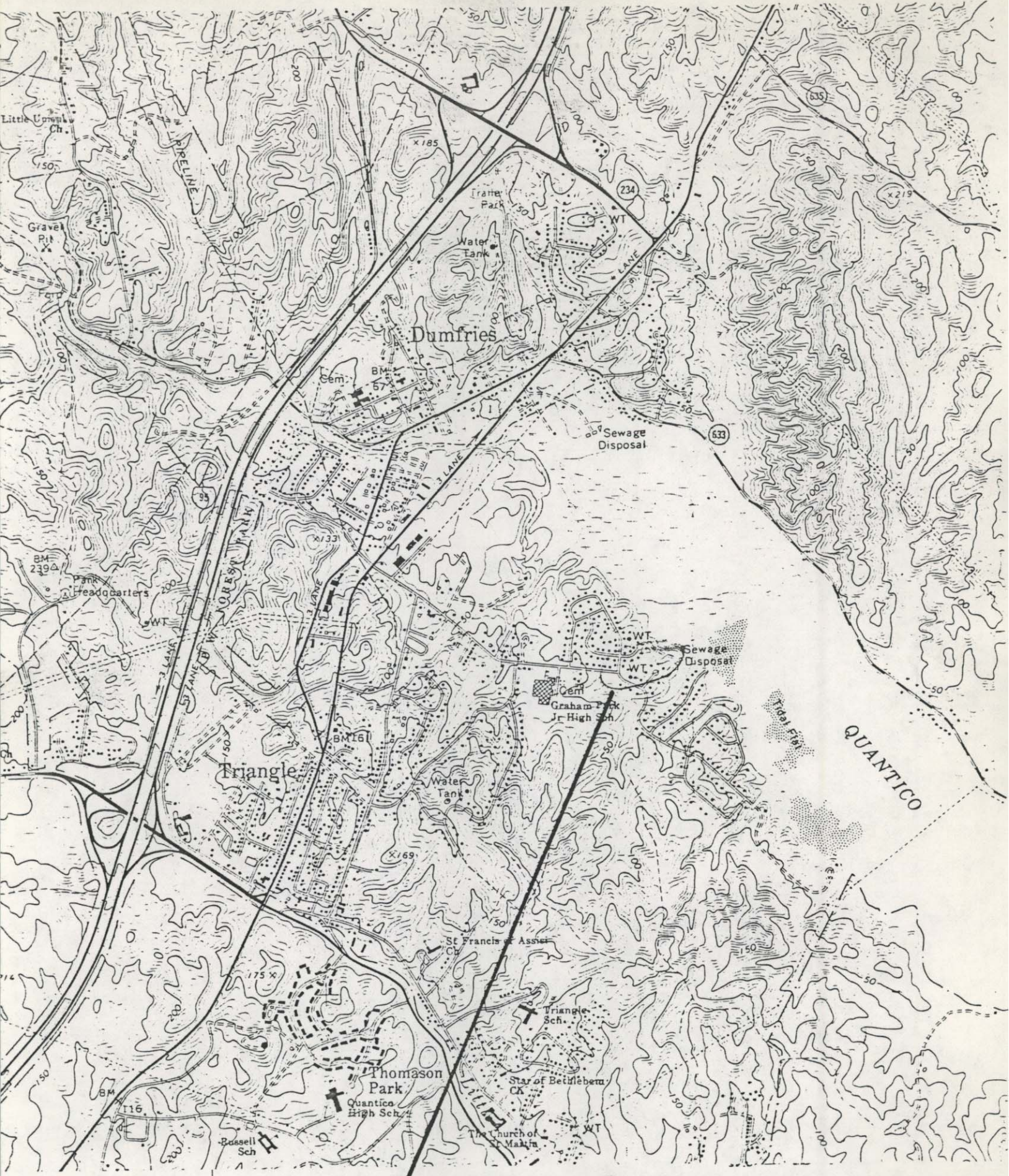
Historical Significance (continued)

Fairfax Harrison claims that through his two marriages to Virginia women from well-established families, Graham was able to rise in social standing. Through his appointment to the clerkship, Graham extricated himself from commerce and thus became a public office-holder. By retaining a foothold in the merchants councils, Graham was able to exert influence over both of the major institutions in his community. One of Graham's first acts as community leader was to establish the town of Dumfries.

In 1748, the same year Alexandria was authorized, the Virginia legislature passed a bill creating the Town of Dumfries on 60 acres of land belonging to John Graham. This was Graham's parcel on the north side of Quantico Creek. Dumfries was Prince William County's first incorporated town. In 1761, the town was enlarged. Graham, naturally, was one of the first trustees. The other trustee in the 1749 incorporation were Peter Hedgman, William Fitzhugh, George Mason, Joseph Blackwell, Richard Blackburn, and Thomas Harrison.

The town, named Dumfries after Graham's hometown in Scotland, was laid out beside the public tobacco warehouses and began its existence as a tobacco exporting port on the then-navigable Quantico Creek.

In 1752, John Graham exchanged posts with Peter Wagener, who was then clerk of Prince William. Wagener was living in Fairfax County, so the exchange would seem to have been based on practical matters. From 1752 to 1777, Graham was clerk of Prince William. Graham thus officiated over the Prince William Court, both when it was located on Cedar Run and after it had been moved to Dumfries in 1759. In 1777, following a well-established Virginia custom of hereditary transfer of the clerkship, Graham gave up the office to his eldest surviving son, Robert (1751-1821).



Graham Park Site 76-305
(approximate location)

Quantico Quad.