

VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-299
Negative notes, no photo

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Prince William Forest Park Common name _____
 County Town City Prince William County
 Street address or route number See verbal boundary description below.
 USGS Quad Quantico, Joplin, Independent Hill Date or period Park established 1933
 Original owner Multiple Architect builder craftsman _____
 Original use Chiefly farmland
 Present owner U.S. Dept. of Interior Source of name _____
 Present owner National Park Service Source of date _____
Wm. Forest Park, Triangle, VA 22172 Stories N/A
 Present use National Park Foundation and wall construction N/A
 Acreage c17,000 acres Roof type _____

Present condition of structure and environs Good

State potential threats to structure _____
 Note any archaeological interest Homesites, cemeteries, other remnants of man-made features; probably Indian sites present.

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.)

Remnants are still visible of the farms and other early, man-made features that were present prior to the Federal Government's purchase of the large tract of land that now comprises the Prince William Forest Park. Evidence of the abandoned settlement areas includes family cemeteries, mill sites, foundations of old buildings--dwellings, churches and schools--outlines of once-worked fields that have yielded to the new growth of pine stands, and traces of old roads that once criss-crossed the region. The ruins can be seen of a late 19th-early 20th century pyrite mine, located where the Quantico Creek meets the South Fork of the Quantico. Evidence of two pre-Colonial Indian campsites has also been found on the Park.

Other notes N/A

The region's recorded history began with the establishment in the late 17th century of large tobacco plantations up the Quantico from where the port town of Dumfries would later be established. Poor farming practices caused the early depletion of the soil along the Potomac flatlands and the siltation of Quantico Creek, so that by the end of the 18th century, much of the land within the present park had been abandoned and its owners and their descendants had migrated to more fertile lands to the west where, instead of tobacco, wheat and other grains were becoming the chief crops.

The Prince William Forest Park, a wildlife preserve and recreational area in eastern Prince William County, had its origins during the Great Depression. In 1933, the Resettlement Administration, under the National Industrial Recovery Act, acquired 17,000 acres of subsistence-level farmland, including many farms, both active and abandoned, and established the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area. Unemployed youth from the Civilian Conservation Corps and workers hired under the Works Projects Administration developed the park in the early 1930s, by building bridges, roads, campsites, picnic facilities, and park buildings, and by clearing old farmsteads and reforesting the old fields. In 1936, administration of the park was transferred to the Department of the Interior. In 1940, the area was included in the National Capital Park System. During World War II, part of the park was used for military training, including land now contained within the U.S. Naval Reservation's Quantico Marine

(continued on next page)

CONTINUATION SHEET
PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

Historical significance (continued)

Base, on the present park's southwestern boundary. The Prince William Forest Park received its present name after World War II. One of the few natural areas with wild flora and fauna populations within a half-hour's drive from Washington, D.C., the park provides recreational opportunities for people in the Washington metropolitan area.

In 1973, the Park Superintendent inventoried the cemeteries in the Forest Park. Dividing the territory into four sections, the Park identified 25 cemeteries in (or just outside the boundaries of) Prince William Forest Park. Most of them are family plots, some marked with engraved stones, others with only fieldstones, and some unmarked. One cemetery (cemetery F, section II) marked only by fieldstones is thought to contain Union soldiers' graves. Another Union soldier is known to have been buried in cemetery G, section III. Several Confederate veterans of the Civil War are also buried in cemeteries on the park. Some of the cemeteries are still being used for burials (cemetery H, section III). The earliest known burials are probably those of George H. and Dr. Alexander M. Muschett, who died in 1822 and 1825, respectively.

Cole Hill was the name of an estate that formerly lay within the park's boundaries. The farm is thought to have been in the area bounded by Park Central Drive, Old Black Top Road and Grail 10, about 1 mile east of mile post 6. This was the farm of Paynes and Weedons. Cole Hill Cemetery is located at the end of an old farm road which intersects Park Central Drive about 60 yards south of mile post 6, on the east. The family cemetery on the south side of the farmsite is mentioned in the WPA guide to Prince William and contains about six marked burials.

One of the largest cemeteries, cemetery H, section III, is located off the south side of Oak Ridge Road, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Park Central Drive. Still in use, the cemetery contains about 26 markers.

Anne Hazard, "Park Is Full of Surprises;
Joe Hebda Makes PW Forest Interesting," Potomac News, 30 Jun 1976, p.2; W.P.A., Writer's
Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941,1961), pp.97-98.

Listed as regionally-significant
site by NVPDC's History Officials Advisory Committee. Three-page history of park available
at P.W. Forest Park; see also PW Forest Park brochure.

E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum.

see attached highway maps and USGS QUAD MAPS.

PRINCE WILLIAM
FOREST PARIR

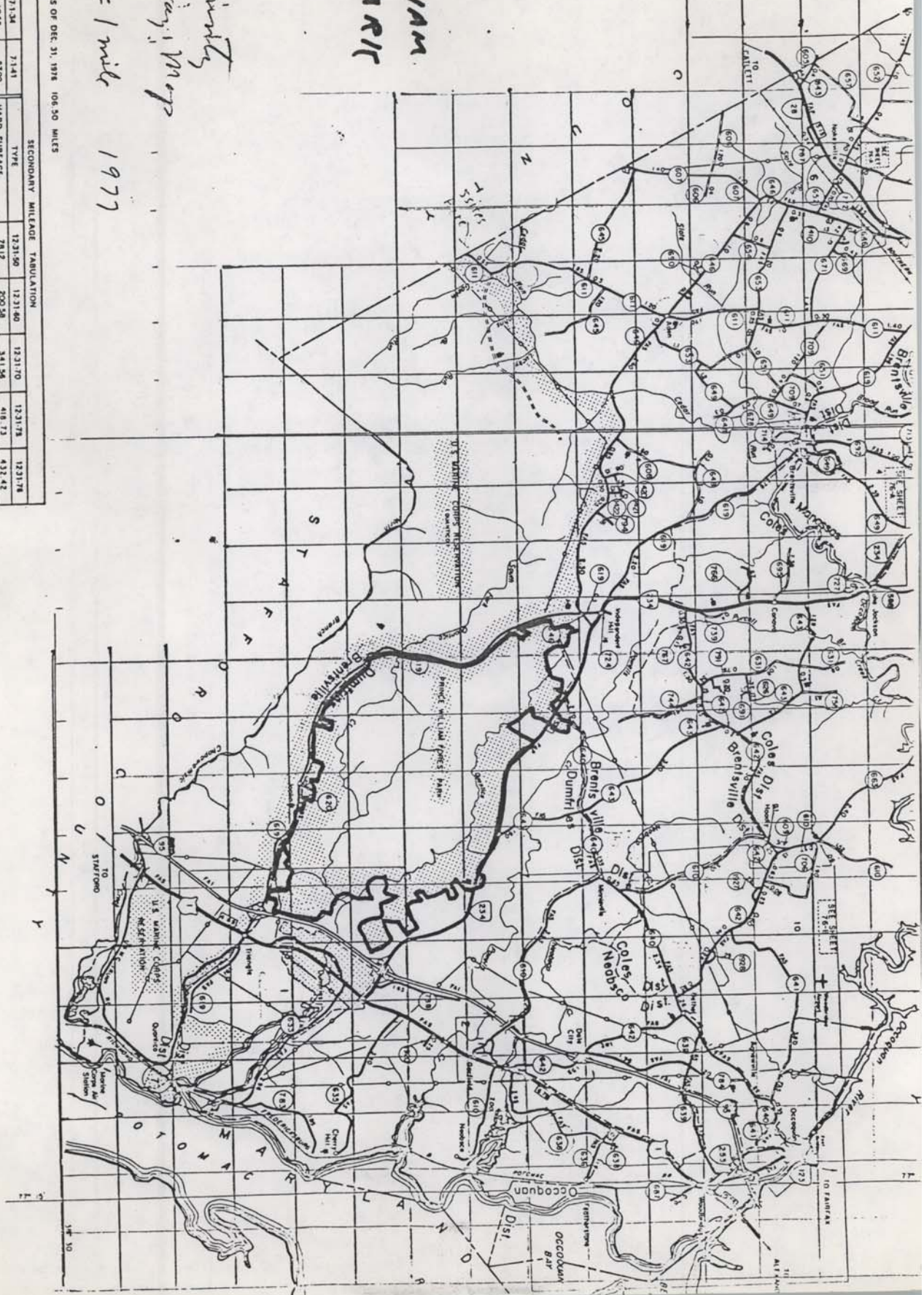
P.W. County
Genl Highway Map

Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile 1977

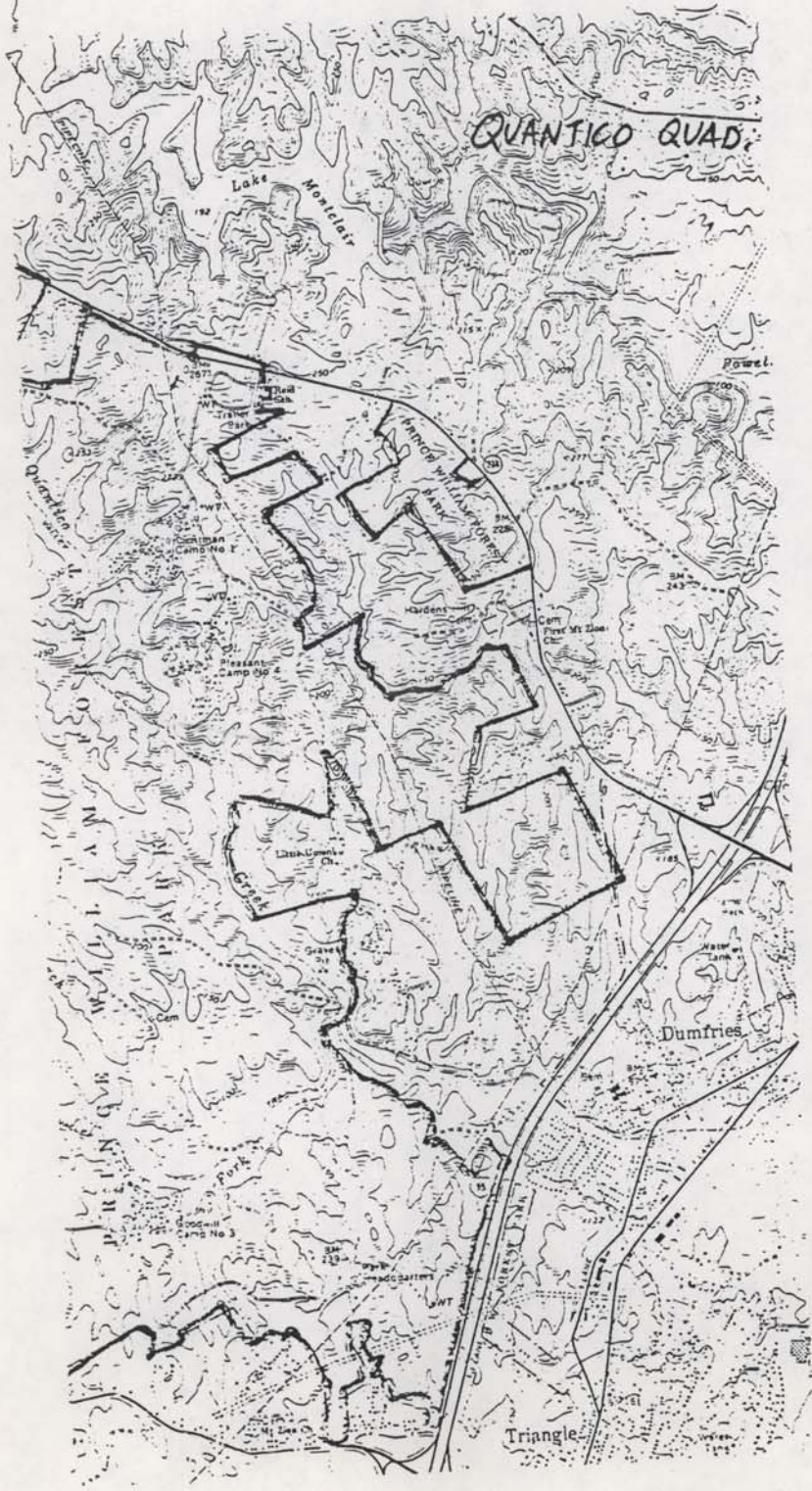
TOTAL PRIMARY MILEAGE IN THE COUNTY AS OF DEC. 31, 1976 106.50 MILES

SECONDARY MILEAGE TABULATION

TYPE	7-1-32	7-1-34	7-1-41	TYPE	12-31-50	12-31-60	12-31-70	12-31-78	12-31-78
BITUM PAVED	277	1036	2700	HARD SURFACE	7812	20038	34136	41873	43142
GRAVEL SURF.	46	1374	1932	ALL WEATHER SURFACE	27071	14454	8453	6225	6185



RIGHT



LEFT





P.W. FOREST PARK 76-299