

# VIRGINIANA FILE

PARCEL: 141A

*PWC - Historic Sites*

Fairfax County Archeological Survey

*Grayson's Hill*

Preliminary Site Report (Site A)

Prince William Public Library  
Manassas, Va.

Site Name: "Grayson's Hill"

Site Number: 44 ~~EW~~ PW

Map Reference: (USGS, Fairfax County)

Quantico QUAD: U.T.M. zone 18, Easting 297690, Northing 4271710

Pr. William Fairfax Quad 11S, VA. Grid zone North, Easting 2336175, Northing 331512

Type of Site:

1. time period- prehistoric component (undetermined period)  
mid to late eighteenth century (possibly earlier)
2. function- domestic residence

3. importance- associated with William Grayson (d. 1790): first U. S. Senator from Virginia, aide-de-camp to Washington in Revolution, Col. Prince Wm. militia, delegate to Virginia Const. ratifying convention.

Owner/address:

Tenant/address:

Informant/address:

Robert Davis  
Northgate  
Woodbridge., Va.

N/A

Donald Wilson  
14810 Haymarket Lane  
Centreville, Va.  
22020

Attitude toward investigation:

Reportedly favorable

Remarks:

1. condition of site- being cleared of trees in preparation for housing development; extensively pot-hunted

2. observations-

Architectural: Large amounts of brick rubble, evidencing wall foundation; large slabs of cut slate (possible roofing material)

Artifactual: (from random surface collection of site area)

--Ceramics: coarse red earthenwares (8½%); Rhenish stoneware (3%); Chinese blue-white porcelain (23%); creamware, incl. royal and featheredge (17%); delftware, incl. fireplace tile (14%); white saltglaze stoneware (34%).\*\*

--Other: rosehead nails, spur fragment, iron pot fragment, possible padlock strap, boar's tusk, other faunal (bone) sidenotched point, slate, heavily ground: undetermined style

Documentary: chain of title is complete back to 1786. How Grayson got property has not yet been determined due to incomplete records. Tax lists indicate no improvements on the property after 1820. Grayson's Spring (headwaters of Grayson's Creek) is noted on accompanying map as site F.

Reporter:

Date:

Donald Wilson

July 15, 1983

\*\*Local collector has also retrieved a virtually complete Bellarmine jug from this site.

Fairfax County Archeological SurveyPreliminary Site Report ( Site B )Site Name: "Grayson's Hill fortification"      Site Number: 44 PWMap Reference: (USGS, Fairfax County)Pr. Wm.      Quantico      QUAD: U.T.M. zone 18 , Easting 297550 , Northing 4271700  
Fairfax/Quad 11S , VA.      Grid zone North , Easting 2335810 , Northing 331725Type of Site:

1. time period- 1865 or earlier (possibly Revolutionary War)
2. function- military fortification
3. importance- evidence of military activity in Prince William Co.

Owner/address:Robert Davis  
Northgate  
Woodbridge, Va.Tenant/address:

N/A

Informant/address:Donald Wilson  
14810 Haymarket Lane  
Centreville, Va.  
22020Attitude toward investigation: reported to be favorableRemarks:

1. condition of site- at edge of area being cleared for housing development. Has been heavily relic-hunted.

## 2. observations-

Artifactual: collector has found a flat brass button here, possibly from Revolutionary War period. Civil War artifacts have been found in large quantities around this site.

Architectural: circular earthworks at west edge of Grayson's Hill.

Documentary: chain of title complete to 1786, when it was owned by William Grayson. Local histories mention military occupation of hills above Dumfries in Revolution and Civil War.

Reporter:

Donald Wilson

Date:

July 15, 1983

Fairfax County Archeological SurveyPreliminary Site Report (Site C)Site Name: "Battery Hill"Site Number: 44~~8~~Pw'Map Reference: (USGS, Fairfax County)Quantico QUAD: U.T.M. zone 18, Easting 297725, Northing 4272000Pr. William ~~Fairfax~~/Quad 11N, VA: Grid zone North, Easting 2336250, Northing 297725Type of Site:

1. time period- mid-nineteenth century
2. function- fortification
3. importance- evidence of military activity at Dumfries during Civil War

Owner/address:

Prince William County

Tenant/address:

N/A

Informant/address:

Donald Wilson  
 14810 Haymarket Lane  
 Centreville, Va.  
 22020

Attitude toward investigation: presumably favorableRemarks:

1. condition of site- undisturbed except for water tank placed close by. Heavily pot-hunted.

## 2. observations-

Architectural: Well-preserved earthworks.Artifactual: Numerous Civil War period artifacts reported, mostly Confederate.Documentary: Chain of title has been traced to 1853 when tract was owned owned by Phineas Mundy. No improvements shown then. Local histories report this to be site of Civil War fort, presumably part of Confederate batteries emplaced to blockade the Potomac River approaches to Washington.Reporter:

Donald L. Wilson

Date:

July 15, 1983

Fairfax County Archeological SurveyPreliminary Site Report (Site D )Site Name: Grayson's Hill House Site #2Site Number: 44~~EX~~ FWMap Reference: (USGS, Fairfax County)Quantico QUAD: U.T.M. zone 18 , Easting 297540 , Northing 4271750Pr. William Fairfax Quad 11S , VA: Grid zone North , Easting 2336000 , Northing 331780Type of Site:

1. time period- probably eighteenth century
2. function- probably domestic residence
3. importance- associated with William Grayson (see prior survey report)

Owner/address:Robert Davis  
Northgate  
Woodbridge, Va.Tenant/address:

N/A

Informant/address:Donald Wilson  
14810 Haymarket Lane  
Centreville, Va.  
22020Attitude toward investigation: reportedly favorableRemarks:

1. condition of site- has been cleared of trees. Grading uncovered a brick foundation which was subsequently reburied.

## 2. observations-

Architectural: brick foundation (not seen by informant) close to apparent trash pit. Foundation reported to lie about 100 feet east of Grayson's Hill fortification near present logging road.

Artifactual: See "Grayson's Hill" House site #1 report. Random surface collection, some of which came from this area.

Documentary: See Grayson's Hill Report #1

Reporter:

Donald Wilson

Date:

July 15, 1983

Fairfax County Archeological SurveyPreliminary Site Report (Site E)Site Name: Grayson's Hill Gun emplacementSite Number: 44~~XX~~PWMap Reference: (USGS, Fairfax County)Quantico QUAD: U.T.M. zone 18, Easting 297600, Northing 4271600Prince Wm. Fairfax/Quad 11S, VA. Grid zone North, Easting 2336050, Northing 331200Type of Site:

1. time period-mid-nineteenth century or earlier (probably Civil War)
2. function- gun emplacement, overlooking U. S. Route #1
3. importance- evidence of military activity in Prince William County

Owner/address:Robert Davis  
Northgate  
Woodbridge, Va.Tenant/address:

N/A

Informant/address:Donald Wilson  
14810 Haymarket Lane  
Centreville, Va.  
20120Attitude toward investigation:

reportedly favorable

Remarks:

1. condition of site- heavily forested. At edge of area being cleared for housing development. Has been heavily relic-hunted.

## 2. observations-

Architectural: terraced area on south edge of Grayson's Hill reported to show evidence of earthworks suitable for gun emplacement.

Artifactual: Collectors have found numerous U. S. military buttons in ravine below this site.

Documentary: Chain of title has been traced to 1786, when it was owned by Sen. William Grayson. As his residence was close by, he might be responsible for the terraces. Local histories report this hill to have been used as a military stronghold.

Reporter:

Donald Wilson

Date:

July 15, 1983

KEY

- A: Grayson's Hill house site #1
- B: Grayson's Hill fortification
- C: "Battery Hill"
- D: Grayson's Hill house site #2
- E: Grayson's Hill gun emplacement
- F: Grayson's spring

