

## **Preliminary Archaeological Assessment Response**

Date Received:    Date of Reply: 08-29-2024

Street Address: Ewald Park, 4452 Duke St.

Applicant:

Phone:

### **COMMENTS:**

Alexandria Archaeology has conducted a Preliminary Archaeological Assessment of Ewald Park, located at 4452 Duke St. The City is planning to upgrade the park. The improvement plans fall under the City's Archaeological Protection Code (Section 11-411 of the Zoning Ordinance).

Ewald Park spans 3.94 acres and currently contains a basketball court, swimming pool no longer in use, and small parking lot.

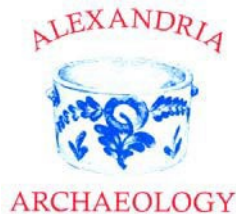
### **Indigenous Resources**

Given the park's proximity to Holmes Run, artifacts once used by Indigenous peoples (i.e. stone tools, the debris from making stone tools, or pottery) could be present on the property. However, whatever artifacts might be present would likely have minimal contextual integrity, meaning they would be stray finds with little informative value.

### **Historic Resources**

According to historic maps and aerial photographs, the park property remained vacant until the early twentieth century. The property's location adjacent to Duke St. (Little River Turnpike) brought traffic and activity to the area, for which the vacant property may have served a purpose. Travelers, perhaps even Union troops, could have used the open property as a temporary rest stop, camping overnight before continuing their journey. However, the likelihood that travelers would have left behind enough physical evidence of their visit to create an archaeological site is very low.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the park property became part of a 57.5-acre farm. The farm building was located approximately 250 ft. to the east from the park property. Based on its appearance on Civil War-era maps, the farm was not elaborate, consisting of a modest dwelling and possibly two outbuildings. Late nineteenth century maps indicate that the Brown family owned and occupied the farm which continued in operation until the 1940s when it was torn down in advance of construction of a suburban neighborhood.



Within the park itself, at some point in the early twentieth century a house and outbuilding was erected on the property. Surrounded by open fields, and bordered by Little River Turnpike on the north, the small farm stood until the City of Alexandria acquired the property in 1965 and transformed it into a park.

Overall, the 3.94-acre park property retains low potential to contain significant archaeological resources. As the park planning process proceeds, Alexandria Archaeology will not require a Documentary Study or Archaeological Evaluation. However, given the lack of historic interpretive signs in this section of Alexandria, we will condition such a sign for this park, focusing on the theme or suburban growth in the post-WWII era.

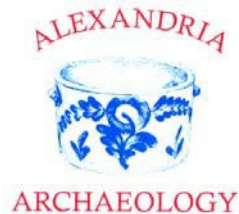
For future reference, the conditions that Alexandria Archaeology will attach to improvement projects at Ewald Park are listed below.

#### **Archaeology Conditions:**

1. Call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-746-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.) or concentrations of artifacts are discovered during development. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and records the finds. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities. (Archaeology)
2. The applicant shall not allow any metal detection and/or artifact collection to be conducted on the property, unless authorized by Alexandria Archaeology. Failure to comply shall result in project delays. The language noted above shall be included on all final site plan sheets involving any ground disturbing activities. (Archaeology)

#### **Open Space and Landscaping:**

1. Hire a professional consultant to work with staff and the landscape designers to incorporate and interpret elements of the historical character and archaeological findings into the design of the open space and to prepare interpretive elements, which shall be erected as part of the development project. The site plan shall indicate the themes and locations of interpretive elements and signage. Prior to release of the final site plan, the consultant shall provide themes and locations for the signage subject to approval by the Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology and the Directors of P&Z and/or RP&CA.\*  
(Arch)(P&Z)(RP&CA)
2. A professional archaeological consultant or qualified historian, in consultation with Staff, shall write text and graphically design the historical interpretive signage using a template provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) (or an alternative template as approved by OHA).



3. Alternatively, the applicant may opt to have the Office of Historic Alexandria write, design, fabricate, and install the interpretive signage for a fixed fee of \$7,500 per sign. If a consultant does the work, they must provide text and graphics for the interpretive signage to the Office of Historic Alexandria/Alexandria Archaeology for review prior to the issuance of the initial Building Permit for the project.
4. Certificates of Occupancy shall not be issued for this property until interpretive elements have been constructed, interpretive markers have been erected. \*\*\* (OHA) (P&Z) (Arch)

**Contact Archaeologist**

Signature

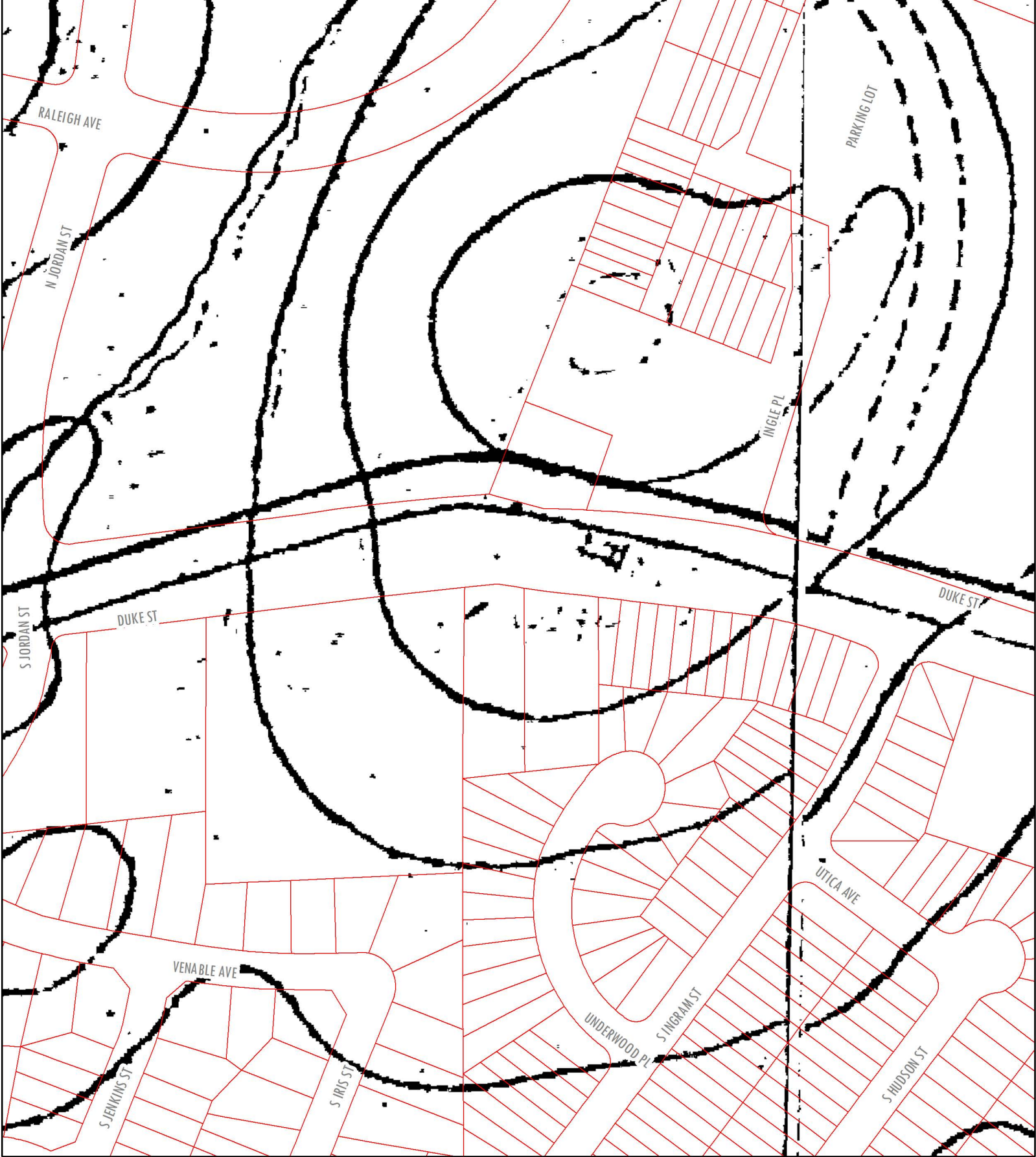
Date:

08/29/2024

**City Archaeologist**

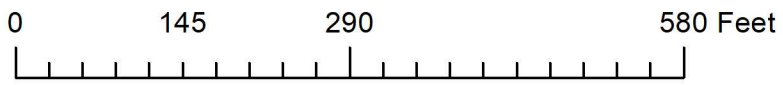
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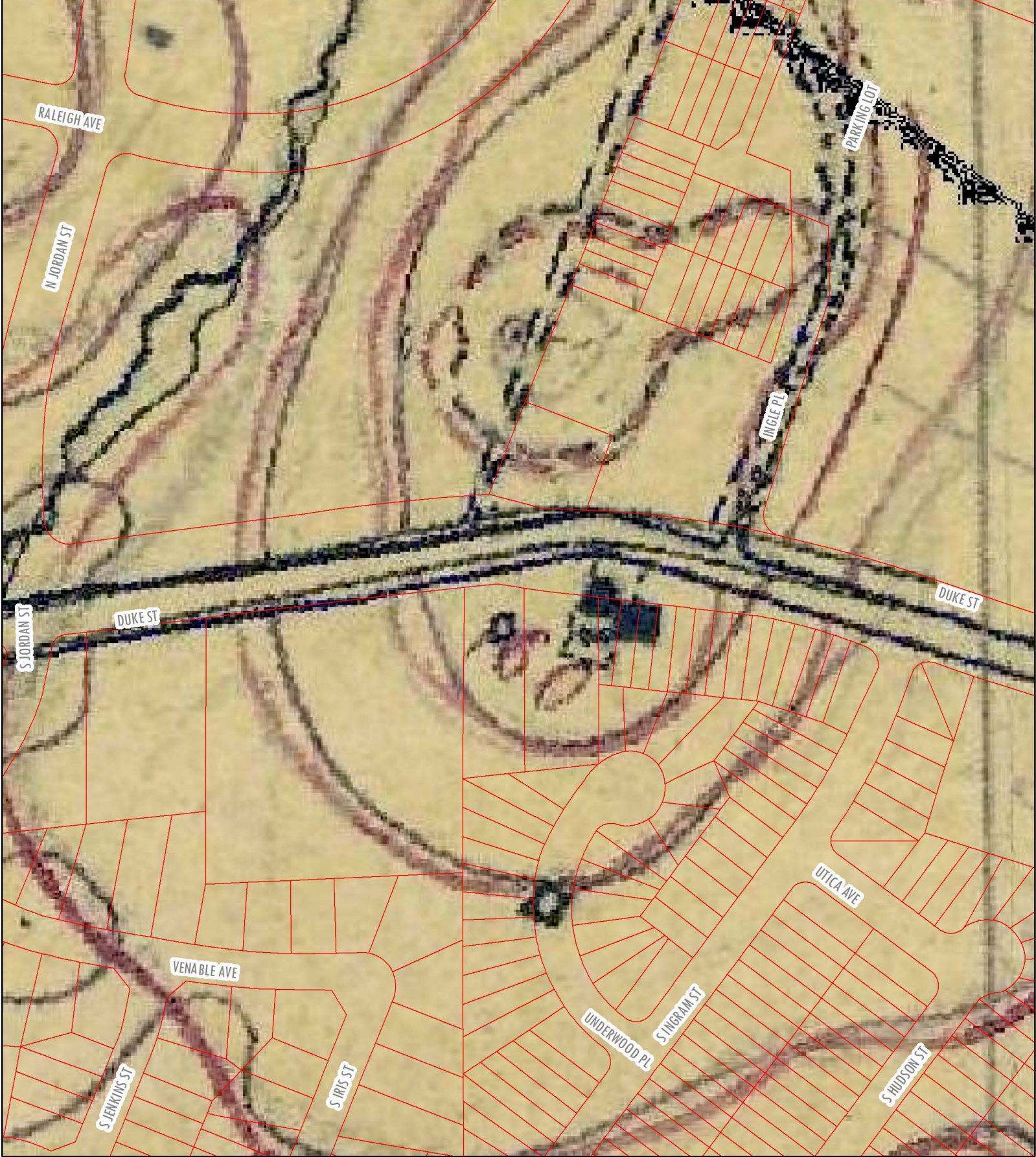


# Ewald Park

1864-6 Environs of Washington



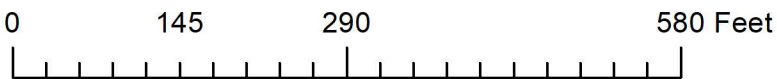




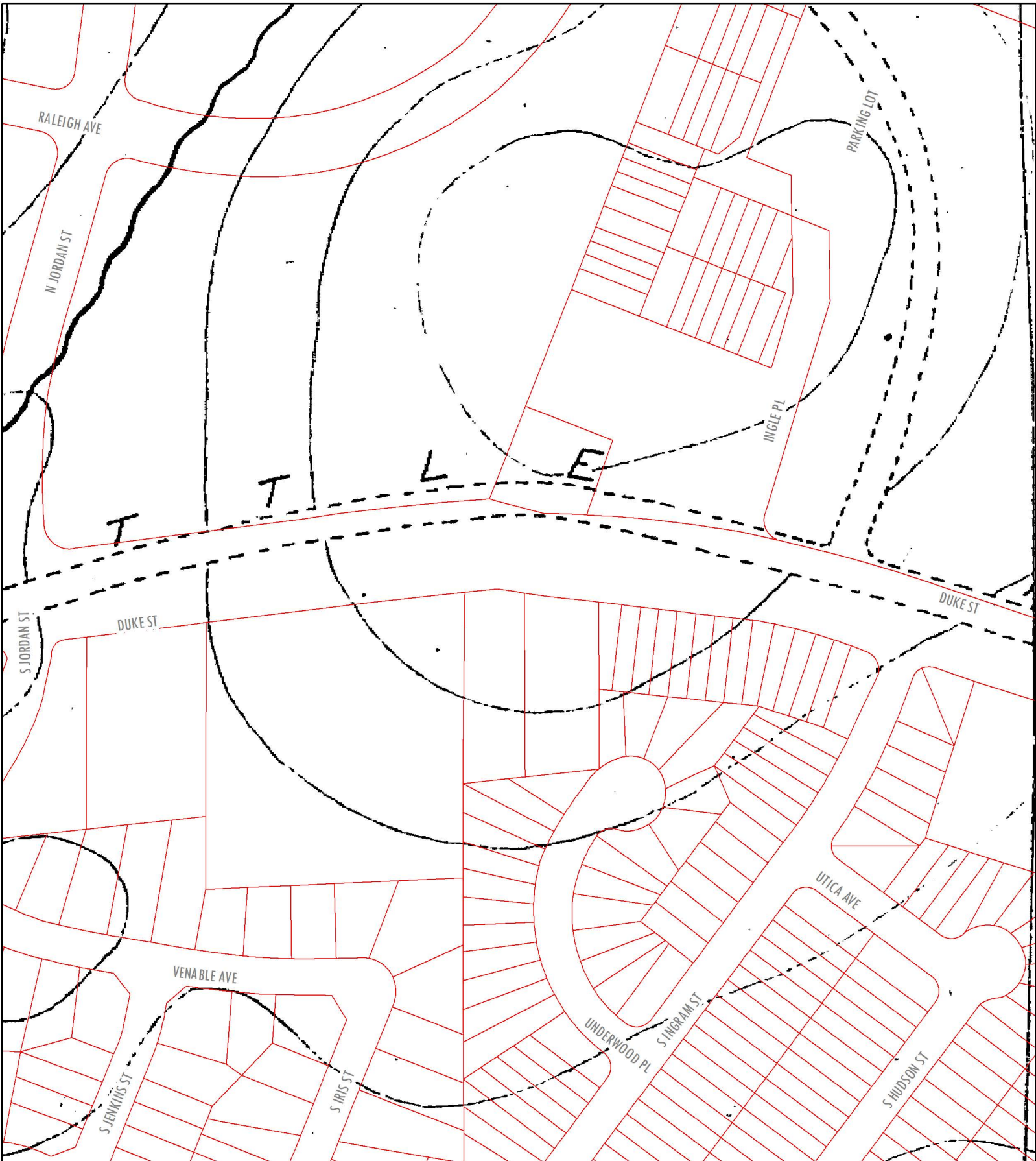
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## Ewald Park

1863-5 US Coastal Survey







## Ewald Park



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1865 US Defenses of Washington

0 145 290 580 Feet



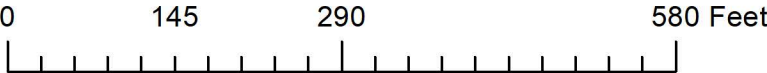




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# Ewald Park

1894 Hopkins

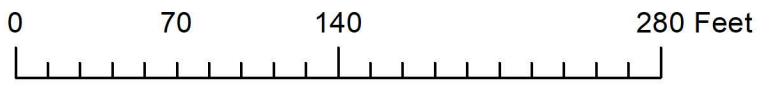




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# Ewald Park

1927 aerial





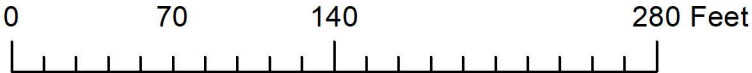


# Ewald Park

1937 aerial



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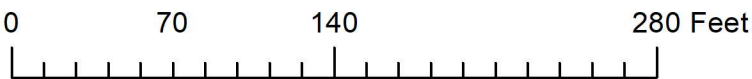




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# Ewald Park

1945 USGS topo



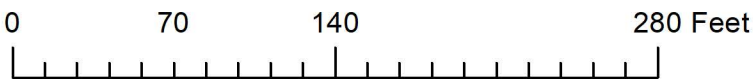




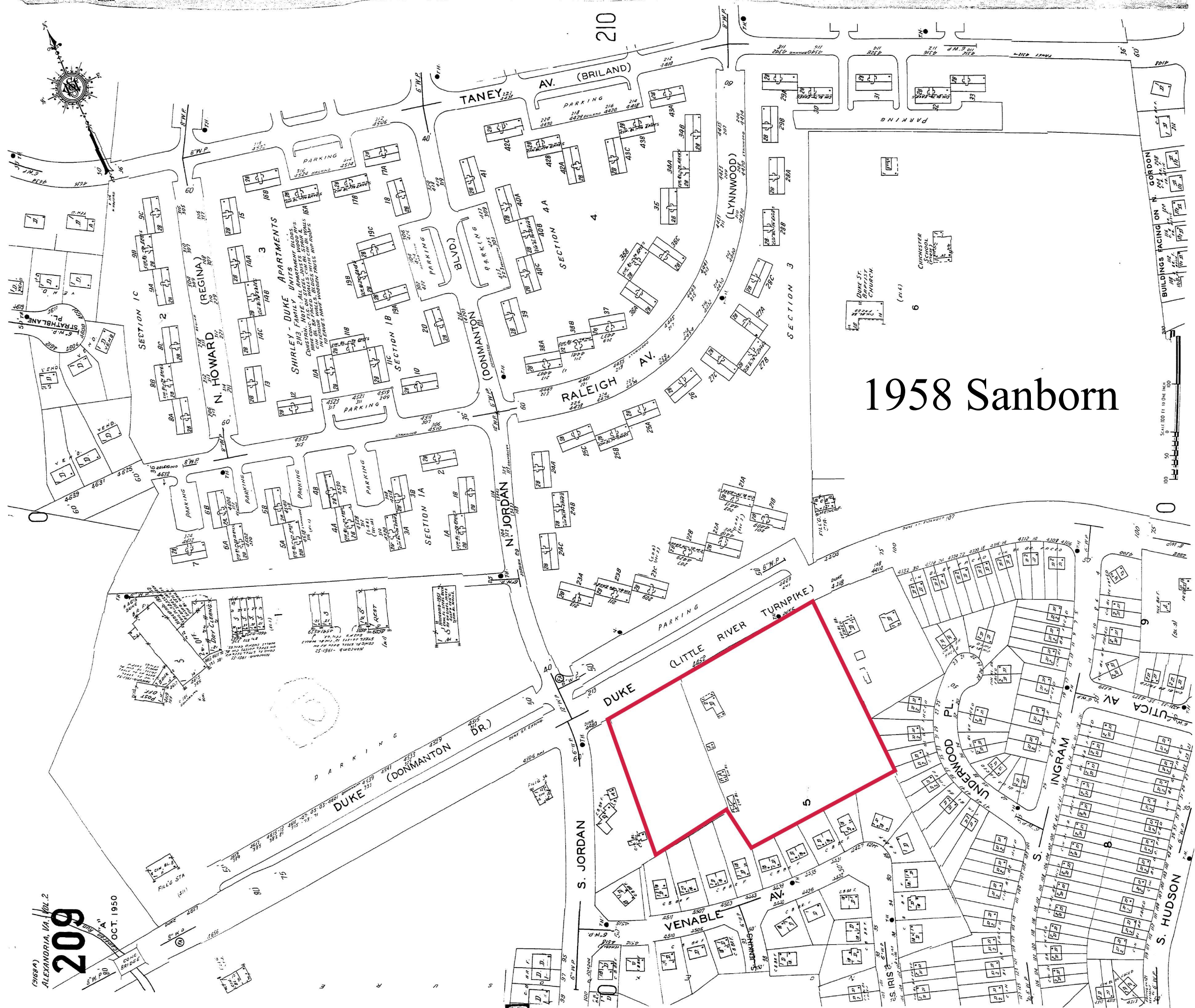
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## Ewald Park

1953 aerial







1958 Sanborn

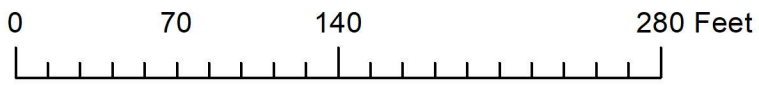




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# Ewald Park

1959 aerial







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## Ewald Park

1964 aerial

0 70 140 280 Feet







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## Ewald Park

1995 aerial

0 70 140 280 Feet

