

*Seminary Overlook Property, Alexandria, VA*

An archival and documentary study was conducted of the +22 acre Seminary Hill/Seminary Towers property in order to reconstruct the history of ownership and use of the property and to determine the likelihood of significant archeological resources. The study revealed that this property was part of Fairfax County until 1952, when the City of Alexandria annexed a large tract of land west of Quaker Lane, which included the study area. The property was originally part of the large Terrett family estate, located south of Falls Church in the 18th and 19th centuries; this estate was subdivided in 1851 and the property area was part of a large parcel purchased by William B. Scarce, the proprietor of the Virginia House Tavern in Alexandria. Scarce sold the property to his brother-in-law, Henry Bontz and it remained in the Bontz family until the early 20th century. Ruth Barkley Warfield and her second husband retired Brigadier General Duncan Kennedy Major, Jr. were the last individual owners of the property, but it is not clear if they resided therein. The study area remained primarily agricultural until the land was developed by Seminary Associates in the last half of the 20th century.