

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE 813 & 815 WEST GLEBE ROAD PROPERTY,

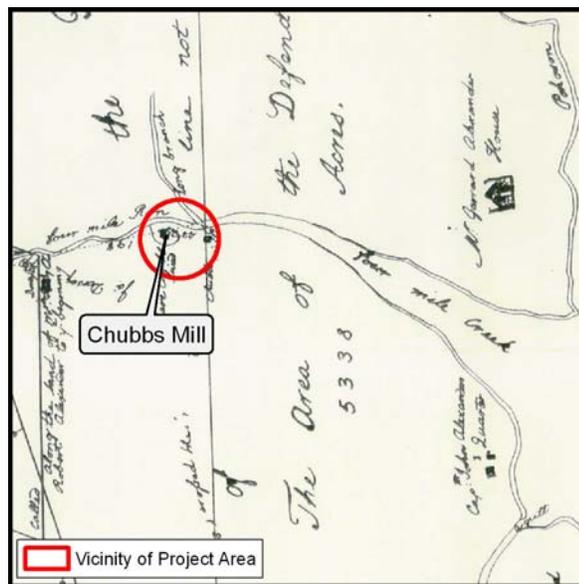
Report Summary by John Mullen

INTRODUCTION

Archeological investigations were conducted within the ±1.66 acre parcel located at 813 and 815 West Glebe Road, which is approximately 1,500 feet east of the intersection of South Glebe and West Glebe Roads, within the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., conducted the investigations. One archeological site, 44AX0210, was identified within the project area. The designation as 44AX0210 represents this site as the 210th archeological site (0210) recorded in the City of Alexandria (AX) in the Commonwealth of Virginia (44).

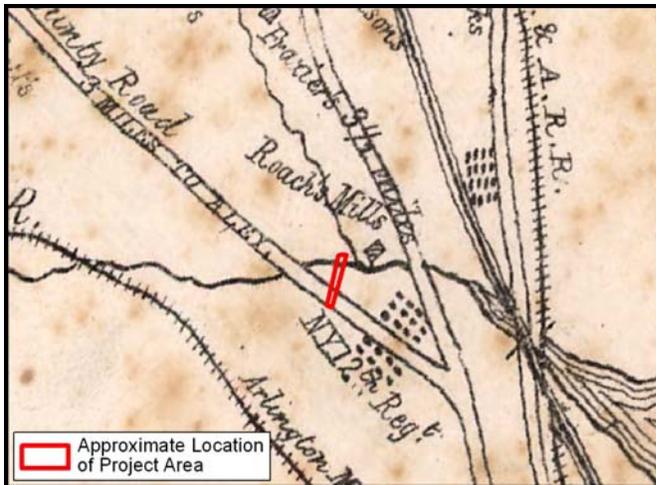
The redevelopment of the project area includes three related sites: West Glebe Road, Old Dominion West and Old Dominion East, and necessitated the demolition of the current building, paved parking areas and other amenities on the property. The single residential housing unit was constructed in the 1940s and consisted of a 475 foot long, 2 ½ story brick building.

The project was subject to review both under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and under the zoning ordinance of the City of Alexandria. Consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), which serves as the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, resulted in the determination that the building located at 813 W. Glebe Road (Resource 100-5024) was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and that no standing historic properties will be affected by the project.



Portion of the 1750 Survey of Howson's Patent

Archeological investigations of the property were required by the City of Alexandria zoning ordinance and followed a Scope of Work written and approved by Alexandria Archaeology. The purpose of the investigations was to identify any potentially significant cultural resources following the



Detail of 1861 Corbett Map

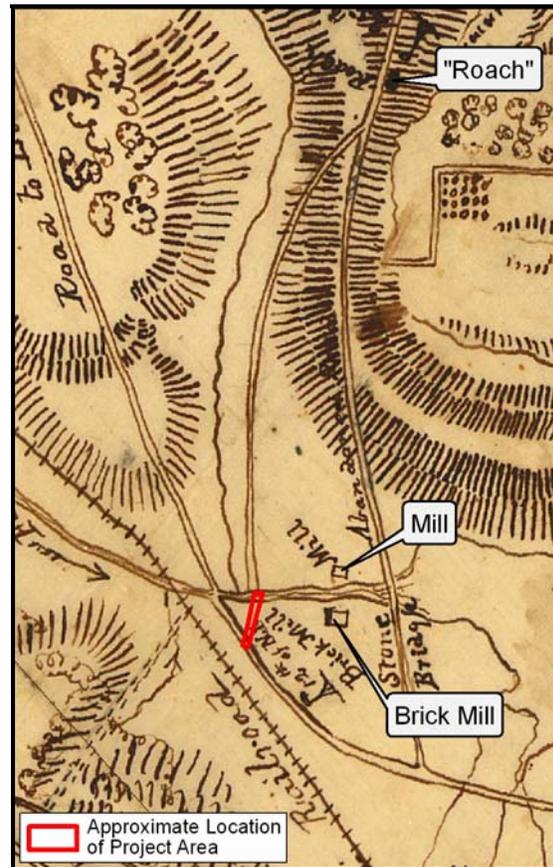
demolition of the building. Historic map research showed several mills within the vicinity of the project area, including a 19th century mill race that crossed the property. In addition, troops were known to have camped in the vicinity of these mills during the Civil War.

The earliest mill shown on historic maps near the West Glebe Road project area was Chubb's Mill at the confluence of Long Branch with Four Mile Run. The 1750's survey of the Howson Patent also shows Chubb's residence upstream from the mill (see previous page). A hundred years later, a second mill in this same vicinity, Roach's Mill, is shown on maps from the Civil War time period. The 1861 Corbett Map shows the 12th Regiment of New York in the vicinity of Roach's Mill. A letter posted in the New York Times in 1861, describes that:

"in spite of all the hardships, the men enjoyed their life at Roache's Mills and were sorry to leave. Several companies were quartered in the old cotton mill, a building apparently about to fall..." (9 June 1861, NYT).

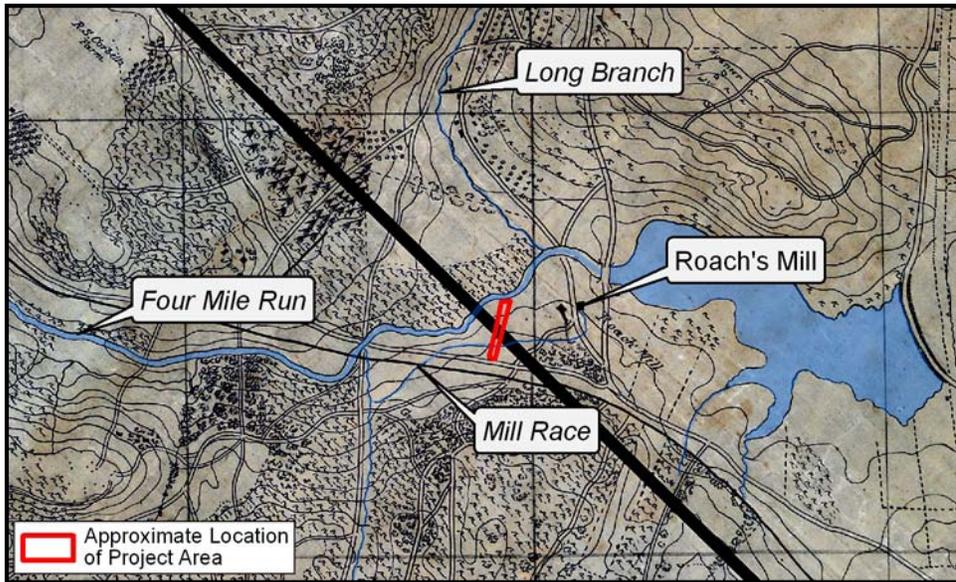
This may be the brick mill shown on the 1860s reconnaissance map drawn by the Capt. Church of the 12th NY Regiment. The map also shows the railroad and Road to Little Falls, which is roughly in the same configuration of West Glebe Road today. The map also shows the camp of the 25th NY Regiment along an abandoned road north of the 12th regimental camp, adjacent to a building identified as "Roach".

Other Union troops were known to have been stationed in the vicinity of the project area during the construction of Washington D.C. defenses. For example,



Detail of 1860s Church Reconnaissance Map

the 74th Pennsylvania was stationed at Roach's Mill during the construction of Fort Blenker. Finally, although three buildings are shown at Roach Mill on the 1860's Army Corps of Engineers map, more interestingly, a millrace is shown diverting water through the project area toward one of the mill buildings. The tailrace is not depicted.



Detail of 1860s Army Corps of Engineers Map

RESULTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The archeological fieldwork consisted of a combination of archeological monitoring, mechanical trench excavation and a metal detection survey. Under archeological supervision, the demolition (removal) of the asphalt parking lots and driveway was conducted in several stages in order to facilitate the archeological trench excavation and metal detection survey work. Fill horizons associated with the construction of the parking lot were present, but no features were located underneath the asphalt

Next, two trenches were mechanically excavated within the project area. Trench 1 was designed to potentially locate any evidence of the occupation of the 18th century mill and residence (Chubb's Mill); and Trench 2 was positioned over the map projected location of a 19th century millrace (as depicted above on the 1860's Army Corps map). No evidence of either mill was located; however, a buried ground surface containing prehistoric artifacts was located in Trench 2. The artifacts were recorded as Site 44AX0210, described below.

Finally, a 1500 square foot area was excavated beneath the southern parking lot of the project area in order to conduct a metal detection sweep. The purpose of the metal detection survey was to locate evidence of a Civil War camp that was shown on historic maps in this vicinity. The overlying fills were stripped to an

approximate depth of 2.5 feet below surface in order to expose the buried ground surface (Apb horizon) that had been identified within Trench 2.

Although positive strikes were identified during the metal detection survey, the metal artifacts were predominately non-military and could not be assigned to a temporal period. Three lead projectiles, including two Minie Balls, were recovered from the project area. Their presence suggests possible Civil War activity in the vicinity, but presents no further information other than what is known. In addition, all metal artifacts were recovered from disturbed fill contexts and their origin is uncertain. As such, these isolated finds and/or casual secondary artifacts were not recorded as an archeological site according to DHR guidelines.

Site 44AX0210

Site 44AX0210 is a small prehistoric site located at the southern end of the property and was defined by the recovery of seven prehistoric artifacts from the Apb horizon within Test Unit 1. The site may have once extended further to the west underneath the footprint of the demolished apartment building, or may have extended to the east underneath unexcavated areas; however, the northern and southern limits were established by additional shovel testing.



Archeological Investigations at West Glebe Road

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Site 44AX0210 is considered to represent a temporary camp, possibly for lithic reduction and tool manufacture, during an unknown period of the prehistoric record. The presence of numerous cobble and pebbles across the project area likely provided abundant material for local stone tool production. The artifact assemblage from Site 44AX0210 included two primary reduction quartz flakes, two primary reduction quartzite flakes, one quartzite biface thinning flake, one quartzite core and one possible quartzite hammerstone.

All prehistoric artifacts were recovered from a truncated plow zone context and are not chronologically identifiable. The site is surrounded by extensive disturbance and filling and it is unlikely that further investigation of the site would contribute significant research information to the prehistory of the region. Therefore, the site was not considered to be potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No additional archeological work was recommended for Site 44AX0210 or for the project area.