Physician's Residence
Historic Structure Report

Introduction I.

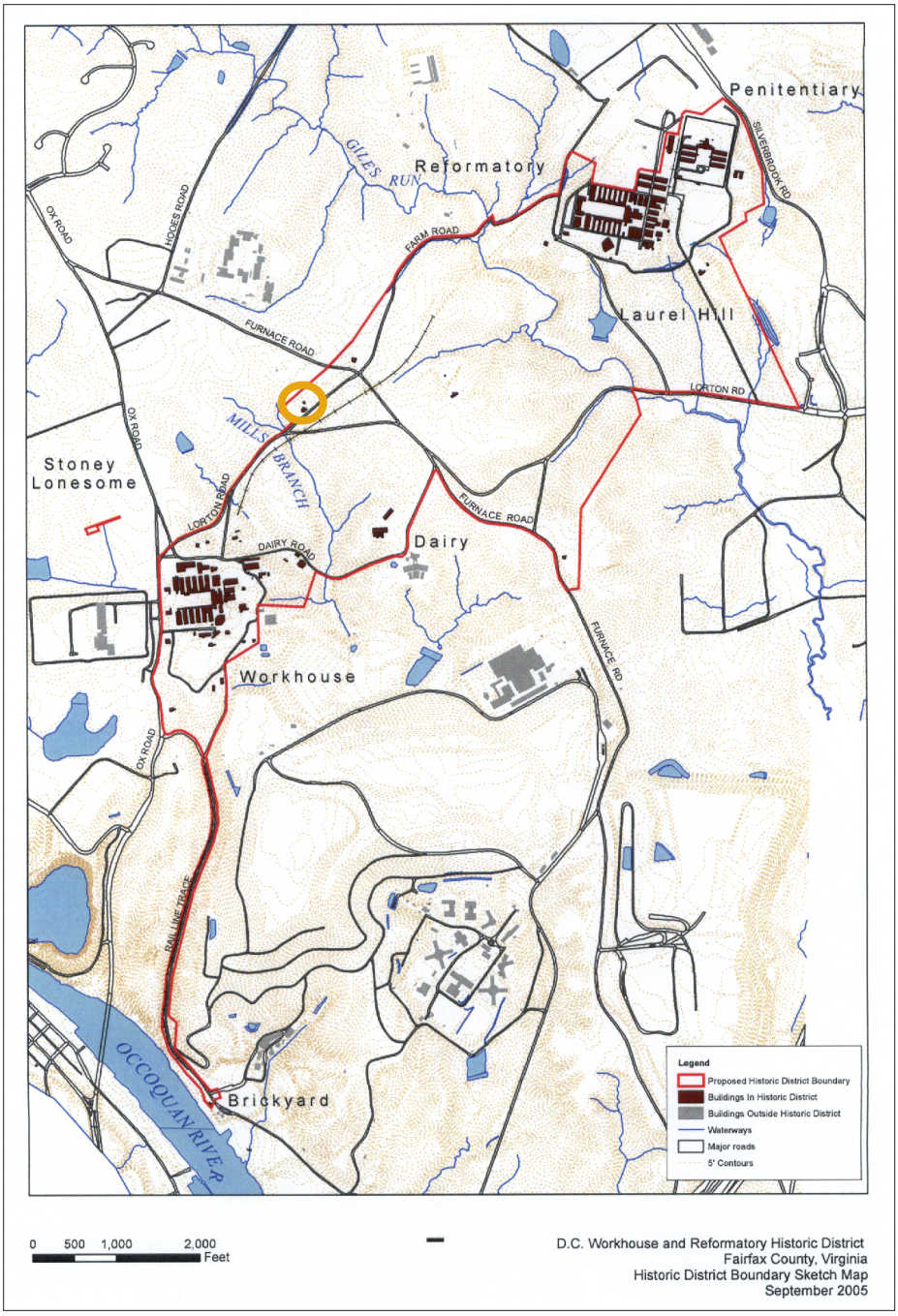

Figure 1.1 This map shows the boundary of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District in red. The location of the Physician's Residence is circled in yellow.

A. Purpose of Report

This report is intended to document the history, significance, and physical condition of the Physician's Residence, located within the boundaries of the D. C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District in Fairfax County, Virginia. The property is currently owned by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Based on the findings contained herein, the report proposes alternative treatments that can be evaluated with consideration given to available funding and desired use.

B. Preservation Objectives

This study is an acknowledgement that, as a contributing building to the National Register Historic District, the Physician's Residence merits careful consideration concerning its ultimate disposition within any larger plan for the district and the Laurel Hill area. The building is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed in 2001 when the Lorton Correctional Complex was in the process of being transferred out of Federal ownership. The MOA stipulates the review procedures for alterations to the complex's historic properties. The range of proposed treatment options in this report aims to provide as much flexibility as can be allowed within the framework of the MOA and generally accepted standards for the treatment of historic properties.

C. Methods of Evaluation

The methods of evaluation for the Physician's Residence began with the collection of necessary background data on the property. This preliminary work includes historical research, an existing conditions survey with photographic documentation, a structural condition assessment, and measured drawings. Once this data was collected and analyzed, conclusions could be made about the building's significance and possible treatment recommendations.

1. Existing Conditions Survey

An existing conditions survey was performed to document the physical spaces and architectural elements and to assess the current condition of materials and systems. Existing condition photographs of the features and elements of the building are included in the report. In conjunction with historic research, this condition assessment helps to determine the historic integrity of the building and the various changes made over time.

2. Structural Condition Assessment

The structure of the building received a condition assessment prepared by engineers from the office of Wiley/Wilson which can be found in Chapter III, Section C, #9. The existing building systems did not receive an engineering assessment because they are clearly obsolete and in need of complete replacement.

3. Measured Drawings

Measured drawings for the building were prepared through a combination of detailed field measurements and a digital photogrammetric survey. The resulting computer-aided design (CAD) scale plans and elevations serve as an important analytical tool and the base for proposed treatment plans. They also serve as a documented record of the building's design and current configuration.