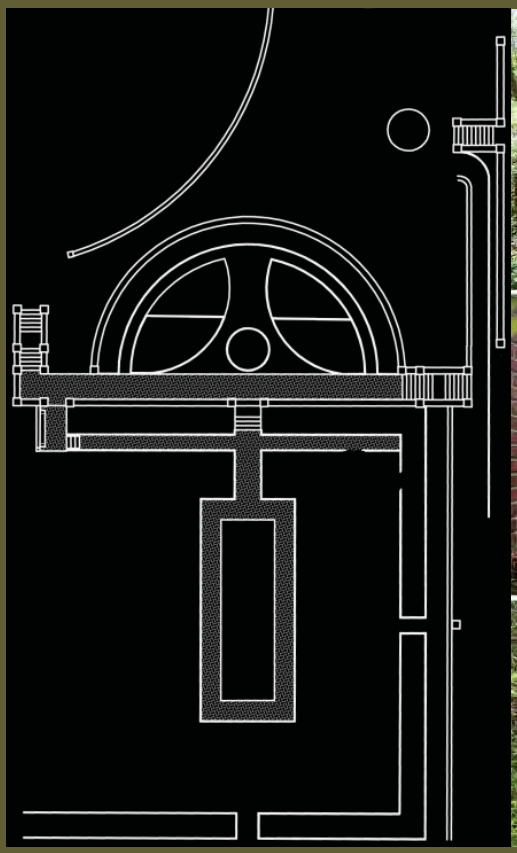
Laurel Hill

Cultural Landscape Report



Prepared by:
John Milner Associates, Inc.
Charlottesville and Alexandria, Virginia

Prepared for:
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County, Virginia

June 2009

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Appendix

Chapter One: Introduction and Administrative Data

PROJECT SUMMARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXT

Laurel Hill was originally the 18th-century estate of the Revolutionary War hero William Lindsay. Lindsay was a major in the Virginia Militia during the war and the husband of Anne Calvert, the granddaughter of Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore. This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) provides a detailed documentation and analysis of the immediate surroundings of the former Lindsay home, which was sited upon and also named for the high point of elevation on that estate. The house itself is documented in the Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report (HSR) and is not the focus of this study.[1] This study does include the Lindsay Cemetery as well as features which contribute to the integrity of the surrounding D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District, primarily the neoclassical Terraced Garden constructed by former prisoners in the 1930s, during which time the Laurel Hill House became the residence of a series of the reformatory's superintendents.

In 1787, near the location of the present-day community of Lorton (*Figure 1-1*) in Fairfax County, Virginia, William Lindsay purchased almost 1,000 acres for the estate he named Laurel Hill. In the early 20th century, this property became part of a large workhouse, reformatory and penitentiary complex owned by Washington, D.C. This federal complex operated until 2001.

Today, the name Laurel Hill generally refers to a large planning district that includes these former federal lands, which were deeded to Fairfax County in 2002. Prior to this acquisition, the county developed a reuse plan that would maximize use of the land for open space, parks, and recreation.[2] This complex and ambitious plan concerns a district that includes several large sub-areas of interest which are described below.

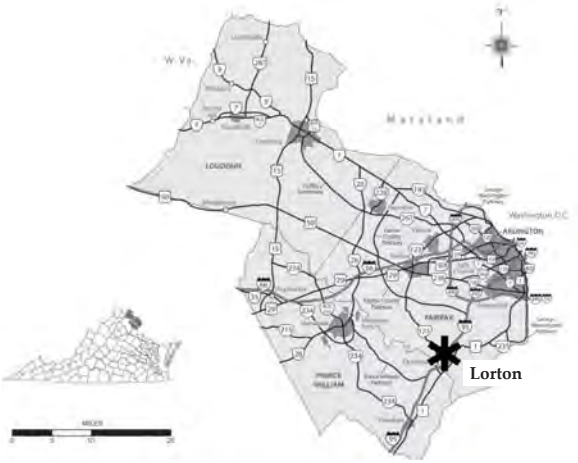

Figure 1-1. The study area is near the community of Lorton, within Fairfax County, Virginia. Source: Virginia Department of Transportation.

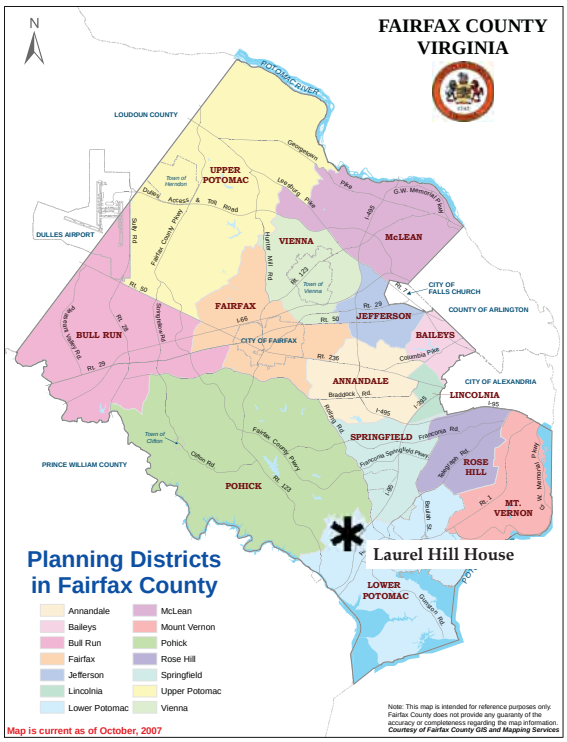

Figure 1-2. The study area lies within the Lower Potomac Planning District, indicated in blue. Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/gallery.htm.

1. Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, *Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report and Treatment Options*, prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority (Fairfax County, VA, 2008) (HSR).

2. Fairfax County, "Transfer of Prison to Fairfax County,"http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz//laurelhill/tranfer.htm (accessed 18 September 2008).

The Lower Potomac Planning District of Fairfax County is generally bounded on the north and the west by the acreages that formerly comprised the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory, on the east by Fort Belvoir, Dogue Creek and the Potomac River, and on the south by the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. Planning objectives for this area include developing a "Town Center" of retail businesses, cultural facilitites and community services, limiting commercial encroachment into residential neighborhoods, encouraging pedestrian access and creating additional parks and open space, in addition to identifying, perserving and promoting heritage resources (*Figure 1-2*).

The Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector (LP1) (*Figure 1-3*) contains approximately 3,200 acres within southeastern Fairfax County, west of the Shirley Memorial Highway (I-95) and north of the Occoquan River. It is part of the Lower Potomac Planning District of Fairfax County and includes three school sites, the Vulcan Quarry, and the Lorton Nike Missile Base, in addition to the areas formerly comprising the workhouse, reformatory, and penitentiary of the former prison. The Fairfax County Comprehensive Planning Land Unit 3B recommends that "the Laurel Hill house and its gardens should be designated as a heritage resource area within the Countywide Park with a minimum of 20 acres to ensure conservation of these resources."[3]

The D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District (*Figure 1-4*), located within this planning district, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. It extends across 511 acres, reaching from Silverbrook Road south to the edge of the Occoquan River and includes building complexes and landscape areas associated with the Progressive-era penal institution also known as the Occoquan Workhouse and Lorton Prison. For nearly a century, the areas belonging to the prison were not accessible to the general public. The Laurel Hill House, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden, an entrance drive and retaining wall, and the Lindsay Cemetery are all contributing resources to this historic district.

The Laurel Hill Park (*Figures 1-5 and 1-6*) overlaps with this historic district, and also lies within the Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector. The General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan (GMP/ CDP) for Laurel Hill Park, approved in 2004, designates its 1,200 acres for many different recreational uses and for the conservation of natural, cultural, and historic resources.[4] The Laurel Hill House and its Terraced Garden are not within park property but are adjacent to an area designated Park Area I; Park Areas G and H are further west but also nearby. The GMP/CDP specifically designates these park areas as follows:

Park Area G, *Central Green*, is a large lawn suitable for a wide range of community activities such as fairs, markets, and holiday celebrations. Pavilions, picnic grounds, children's play areas, and open meadows for passive enjoyment are also proposed.

Park Area H, Giles Run Meadow, preserves open meadows intersected with the riparian woodland corridors and provides opportunities for fishing, hiking, disc golf, and passive recreation.

Park Area I, Community Park, is designated to serve the communities of Shirley Acres and Gunston Corner; children's playgrounds, ball courts, picnic facilities, and a dog park have been proposed.

In meetings conducted during the CLR process, FCPA staff recommended developing a pedestrian link between Park Area I and the Laurel Hill House site. The Central Green (G) and Giles Run Meadow (H) areas are already open to the public; the Community Park (I) is still being developed.

Four acres of land that include the Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden site lie within an 80-acre area within the Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector called the **Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area** (*Figure 1-7*). A Master Plan is currently being developed for this area that includes many of the former Reformatory and Penitentiary buildings as well as the prison ballfield.

The 960 acres that originally comprised **William Lindsay's Laurel Hill estate** (*Figures 1-8 and 1-9*) overlap with all of the areas mentioned above.

This CLR has been prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA), to support Fairfax County staff's efforts to preserve and protect this cultural landscape as they improve access to and interpretation of the property for the public. The report provides historical background, documents the site's existing conditions, provides

3. "Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2007 Edition, Lower Potomac Planning District, Amended 1-28-2008, LP-1 Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector," 43. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensiveplan (accessed 18 September 2008).

4. EDAW and Vanasse Hangen Brustin, Inc. "Laurel Hill Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan." (Prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County, VA, 2004.)

overall treatment recommendations, and makes more specific recommendations for the Terraced Garden. The CLR is intended to supplement and augment the recently completed HSR for the Laurel Hill House.

This report is divided into five chapters. Chapter One—Introduction—summarizes the purpose of the project, outlines the scope of work provided to the project team by FCPA, describes the methodology used by the project team in completing the tasks associated with the scope of work, and presents an overview of the project findings. Chapter Two—Site History—illustrates the chronological physical development of Laurel Hill based on directed research and the assimilation of available documentation. Where site-specific documentation was lacking, the site history provides relevant contextual information. Chapter Three—Existing Conditions—provides a summary of existing landscape conditions through narrative description, contemporary photographs, maps, and diagrams. Chapter Four—Analysis and Evaluation—compares historic and existing landscape conditions and assesses their National Register-level integrity and significance. Given the absence of documentary materials available pertaining to the Terraced Garden, a comparative analysis of this resource relies upon the historical context of neoclassical garden design precedents. Chapter Five—Treatment Recommendations—proposes long-term management strategies to further the goal of protecting the site's historic character and its cultural and natural resources.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Fairfax County and the federal government, executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, stipulates review requirements for projects undertaken within the historic district similar to the requirements of a county-designated historic overlay district. Implementation projects recommended in this CLR for the Terraced Garden portion of the study area may be subject to review by the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board (ARB), the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and the Lorton Heritage Society underthe terms of the MOA.[5]

5. "Memorandum of Agreement" in HSR, Appendix 4, 96 also available online http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/laurel_hill_house/appendices.pdf (accessed 20 September 2008). Plans for the treatment of the house are being undertaken separately by the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (FCDPZ). The HSR recently completed for the house documents the house's historical development and significance, identifies condition issues, and offers options for future treatment of the building.

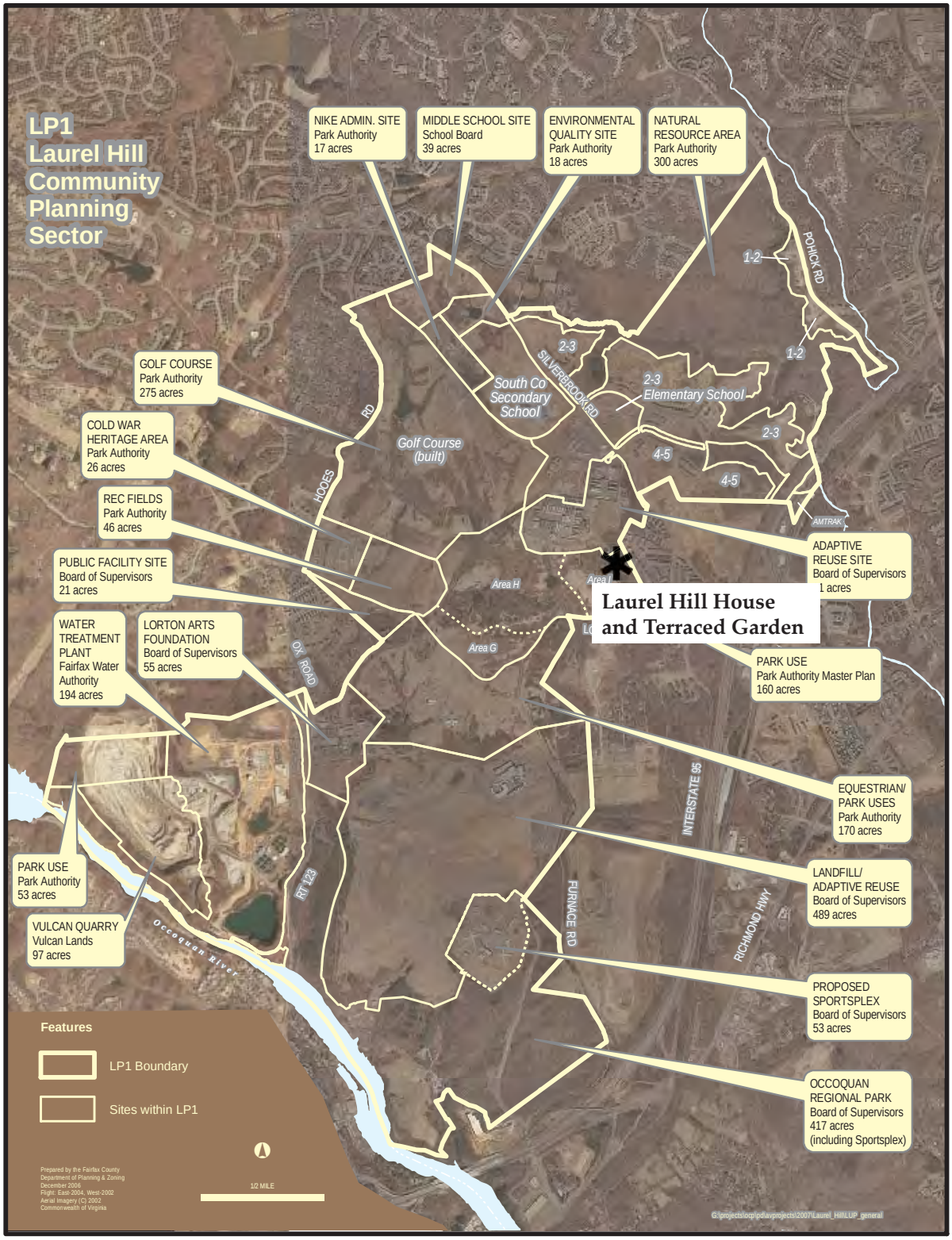

Figure 1-3. The study area is in the Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector (LP1). Source: Fairfax County.

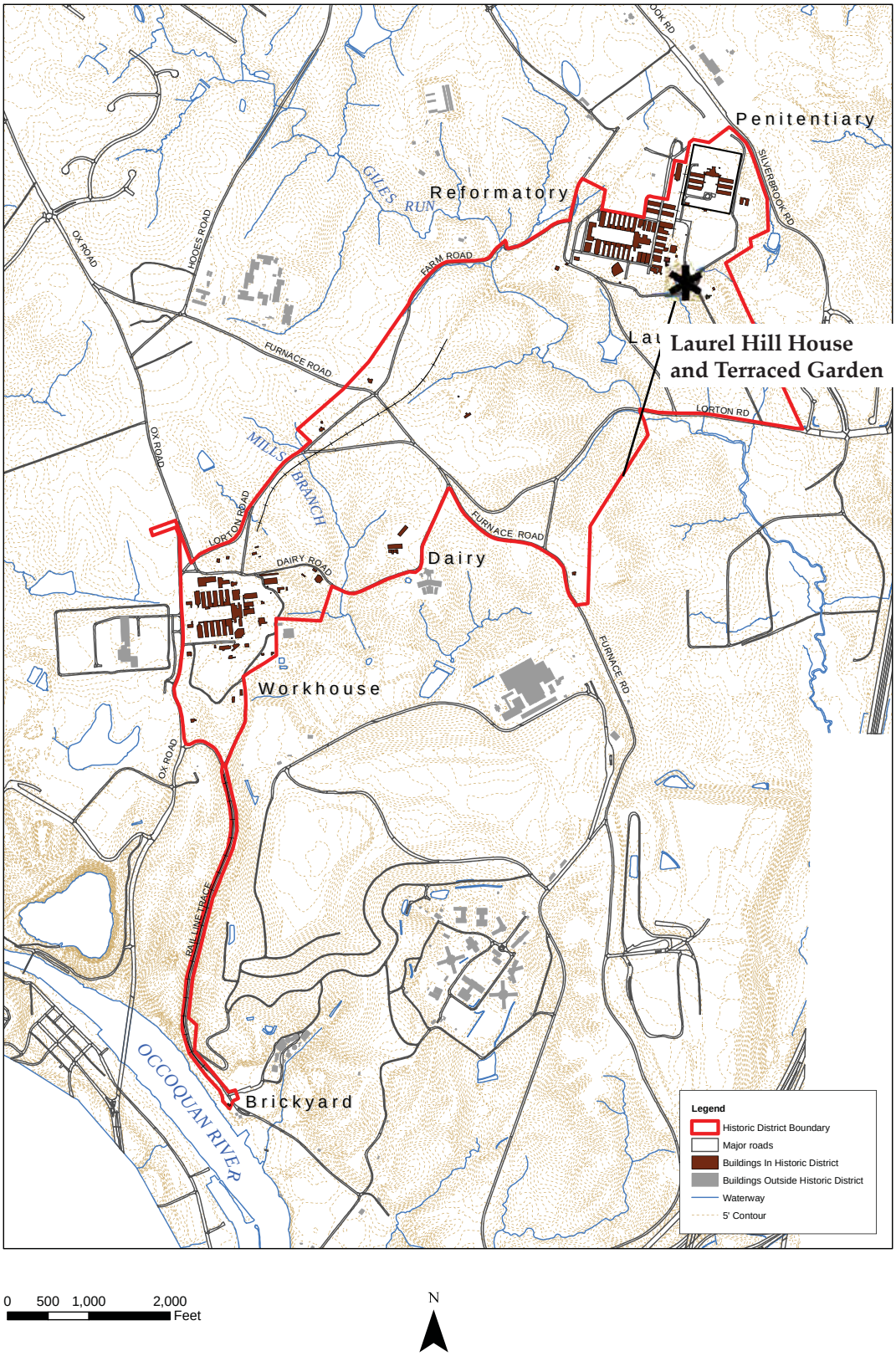

Figure 1-4. The Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden, within the context of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District. Source: JMA, 2008.

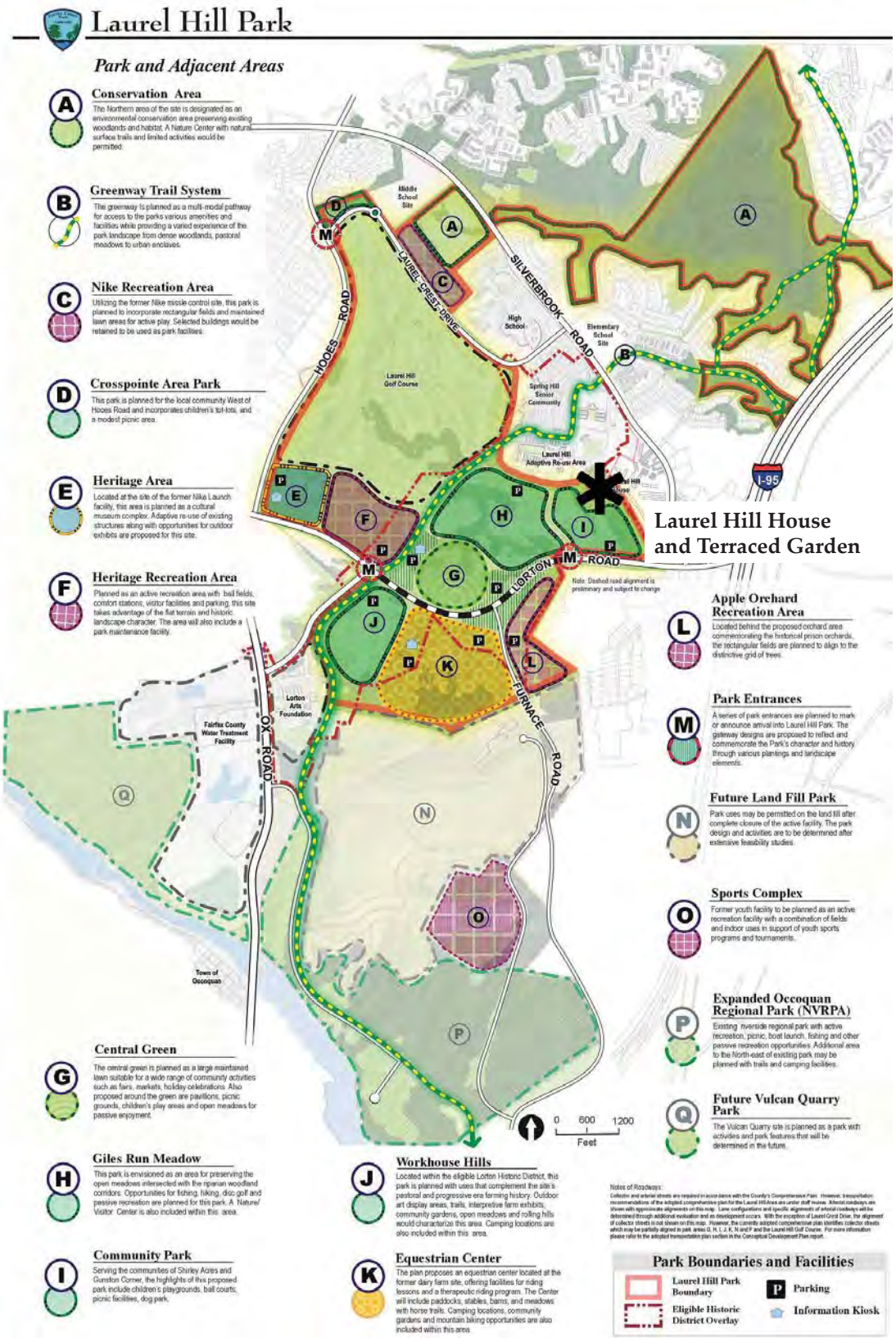

Figure 1-5. Conceptual Development Plan for Laurel Hill Park, 2004. Source: Fairfax County. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/laurelhill/approvedlhcdpp2.pdf.

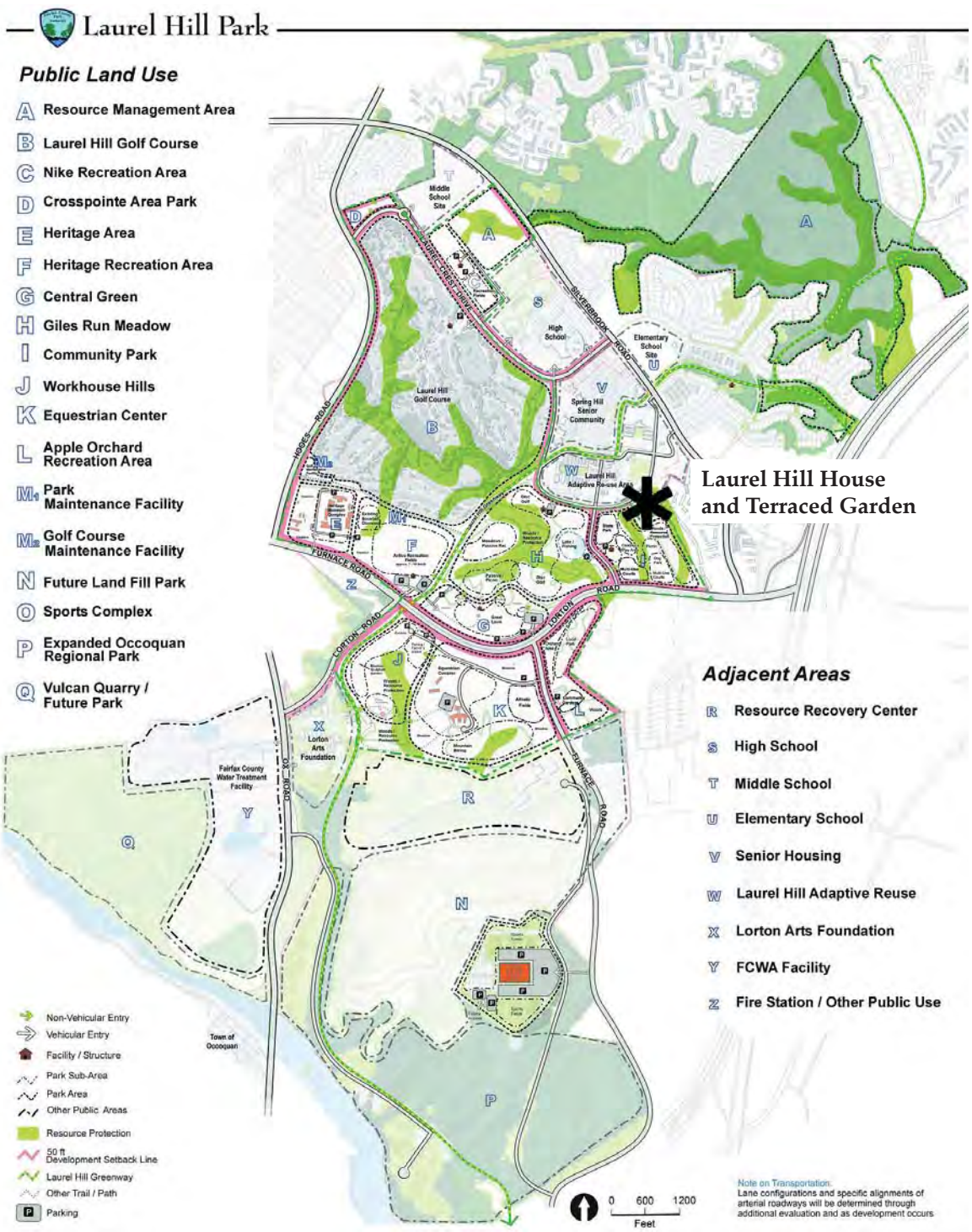

Figure 1-6. Conceptual Development Plan for Laurel Hill Park, 2004. Source: Fairfax County. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/laurelhill/approvedlhcdpp2.pdf.

Figure 1-7. The Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden are a designated part of the the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area. Source: Fairfax County.

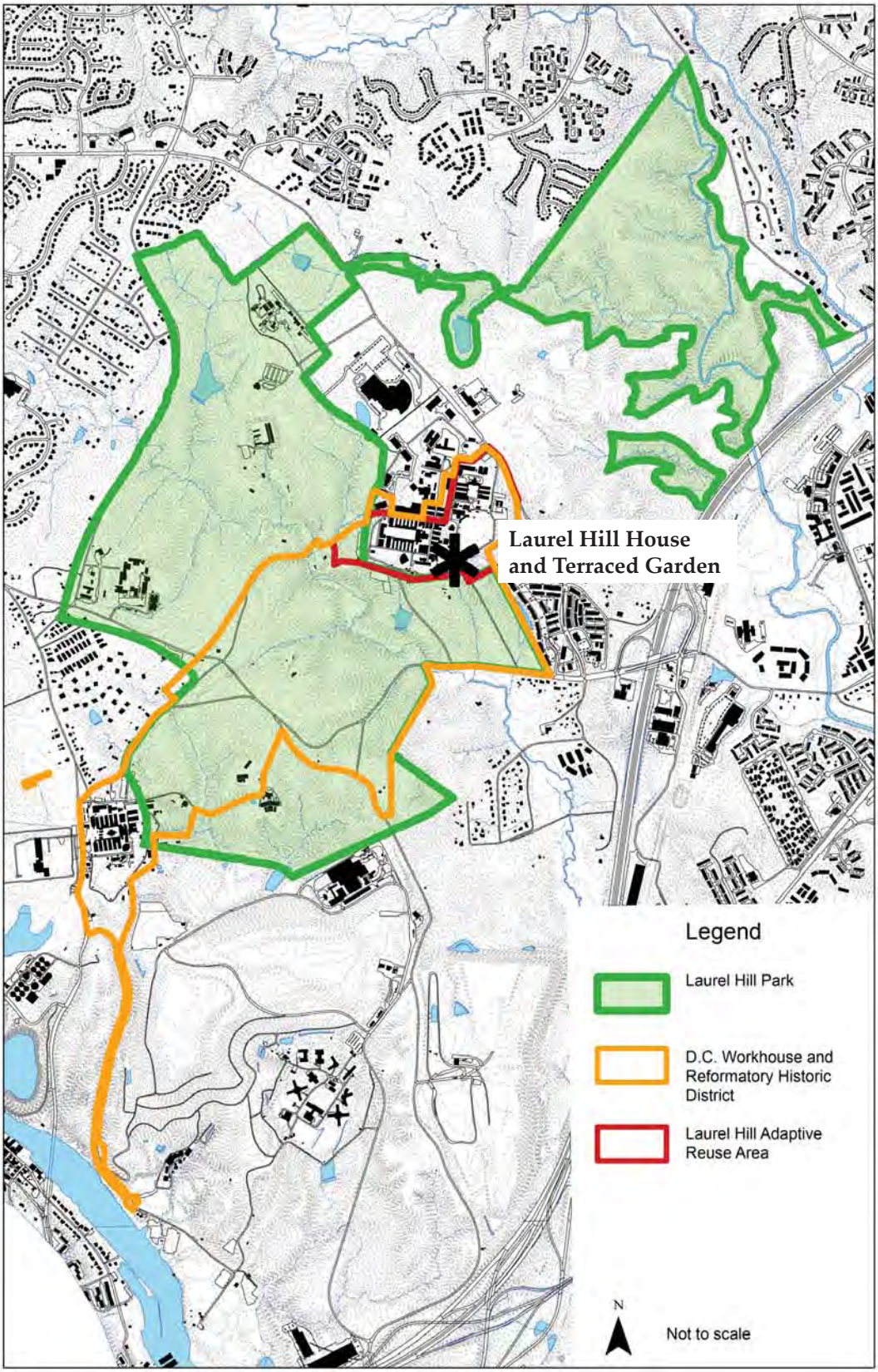

Figure 1-8. The Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden in the context of the various Fairfax County planning areas. Source: JMA, 2008.

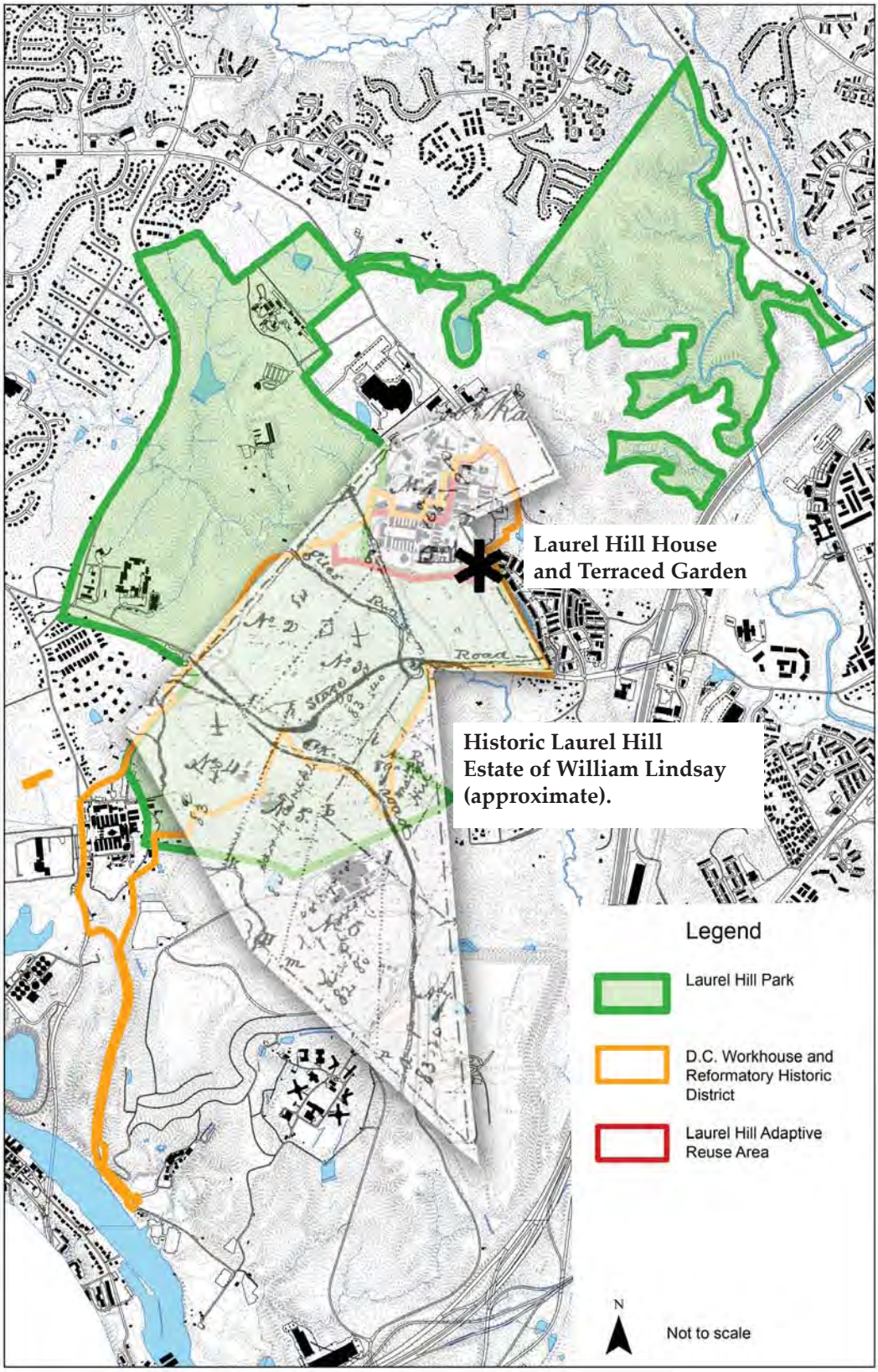

Figure 1-9. Although the Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden site lie within the Adaptive Reuse planning area, the historic Lindsay estate was originally 960 acres. Source: JMA, 2008.

PROJECT SCOPE

The FCPA engaged JMA to prepare a CLR for the study area that would provide treatment recommendations and guidelines to support long-term stewardship and enhancement of the site's historic landscape resources, excluding the house itself. The CLR is also envisioned as a tool for relating the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden to the larger National Register Historic District by identifying linkages between it and other interpreted historic resources in the area.

This CLR was expected to document information at two scales, including a detailed examination of the landscape resources in the immediate environs of the Laurel Hill house, focusing on the Terraced Garden, and a less detailed description of the historic extents of the estate prior to the construction of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory. However, little information was uncovered specifically documenting the garden; research into historical neoclassical garden design precedents, therefore, had to be used to analyze its integrity.

Phase I: Inventory and Analysis

This chapter provides a contextual history for the 18th-century Lindsay estate at Laurel Hill, documents the physical evolution of the landscape over time, assesses the current conditions of the existing Terraced Garden and house environs, evaluates the landscape's historical significance and integrity, and identifies features that contribute to the site's period of significance. This phase of the project included drafting measured plans of the garden as well as historic period plans.

The historical documentation provides an overview of the estate's history prior to the 20th century and forms a context for the existing Progressive-era historic landscape features. The site documentation identifies existing and missing features and characteristics that should be protected, preserved, and restored, including horticultural resources and masonry.

The primary period of significance for the site is the same 1910-1962 period of significance for the surrounding Historic District to which it contributes. Studies documenting the history of the site, such as the National Register nomination, have focused on the development of the Workhouse and Reformatory. Due to the lack of known primary source data, the CLR relies to a great degree on these secondary sources. Directed research helped to fill gaps in available data, focusing on materials available in the D.C. Archives and the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library, as well as other sources discussed below in detail (see Task 1.3 Research).

Phase II: Treatment

This chapter provides guidance on the treatment of the Terraced Garden and the property immediately surrounding the Laurel Hill House site to ensure resource protection and preservation. The D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District areas are slated for a mix of new uses, including adaptive re-use of historic buildings and use of open space as public parkland. While future use and ownership of the Laurel Hill House has not yet been determined, FCPA intends to rehabilitate its immediate environs and Terraced Garden to reflect, as much as possible, their Progressive-era appearance and link these grounds to the interpretive program of the larger historic district within which it resides.

Because much of the garden is overgrown with aggressive invasive vegetation, treatment guidelines and recommendations provide guidance on how the site can be cleared for public access without jeopardizing the masonry resources. Guidelines for acceptable changes to support public access and interpretation and a range of alternatives for the restoration of plantings and garden features are also explored.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The Laurel Hill CLR has been prepared in accordance with the most recent versions of federal standards documents, including:

- *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques;*[6]
- *NPS Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management Guidelines (release 5);*[7]
- *NPS-77: Natural Resources Management Guidelines;*[8]

6. Page, et al., *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques,* National Park Service (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2005).
7. *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/nps28/28contents.htm (accessed 13 August 2008).
8. *Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77*. http://www.nature.nps.gov/rm77/ (accessed 13 August 2008).

- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelinesfor the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes;*[9]
- *The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS) and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG);*[10]
- *The National Park Service's Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design;*[11]
- *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation;*[12] *and*
- *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes.*[13]

The methodology used by project team members in preparing each section of the CLR is described in detail below.

PHASE I: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Task 1.1. Project Initiation

A project start-up meeting took place on April 20, 2006, at FCPA offices. In attendance were Krista Schneider, Adriane Fowler, and Sarah Traum of JMA; and Michael Rierson, Kelly Davis, and John Rutherford of FCPA. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project participants; review the scope of work and schedule; discuss the logistics of site access and the relationship of the project to other planning projects; review FCPA goals and objectives for the site and project; and collect documents and materials to be furnished by FCPA.

Task 1.2. Data Collection

JMA coordinated with FCPA to collect all relevant available planning documents in final and draft forms that provide information on existing landscape conditions, site history and significance, management issues, goals, and objectives, and base mapping. Historic and contemporary aerial photographs from 1937, 1953, 1997, and 2002 were obtained and carefully reviewed. As no detailed survey data was available, GIS base mapping data generated by Fairfax County was collected.

Task 1.3. Research

After reviewing all historic materials provided by FCPA, the JMA team prepared a research plan and subsequently conducted directed research at appropriate repositories, including the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library and the D.C. Archives. At the Fairfax County Public Library, JMA reviewed newspaper and vertical files, conducted chain of title research, and reviewed existing historical research and investigation of primary resources. JMA reviewed the catalogued information housed in the D.C. Archives as well as documents provided by FCPA, including historical aerial photographs. People knowledgeable about the 20th-century development of Laurel Hill were interviewed, including Irma Clifton and Neil McBride.

Little information was found in the written record to document the development of the Terraced Garden during the D.C. ownership of the property. No plans, design documents, or planting lists were found for any gardens; no records were found specifying the construction and/or maintenance of any gardens. Ms. Clifton provided four early-20th-century photographs of the Laurel Hill House, but these only document the appearance of the landscape immediately adjacent to the house, rather than the neoclassical Terraced Garden east of the house. FCPA also contacted some former employees of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory who live in the area in the hope that oral histories or photographs could be collected. While some interviews were conducted, no significant information was gleaned regarding the Terraced Garden.

Many of the records and files associated with the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory are missing or have been destroyed. Surviving materials were acquired by Fairfax County in early 2008, however, these have not yet been catalogued. Chris Caperton, Fairfax County's Laurel Hill Project Coordinator, has been reviewing these materials. As of May 2008 nothing had surfaced

9. *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfr68_05.html (accessed 13 August 2008); Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes http://www.nps.gov/history/HPS/hli/landscape_guidelines/index.htm (accessed 13 August 2008).
10. *The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard* http://www.access-board.gov/ufas/ufas-html/ufas.htm (accessed August 14, 2008).
11. *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design* http://www.nps.gov/dsc/dsgncnstr/gpsd/ (accessed 13 August 2008).
12. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/ (accessed 13 August 2008).
13. *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb18/ (accessed August 14, 2008).

in these archives that pertained to the Terraced Garden site, but investigations continue into this potential source of information.

Information collected during directed research was supplemented with data from secondary sources, including the National Register nomination, selected contextual resources, and the historic aerial photographs. Contextual research on the neoclassical garden design style, designers, and similar gardens in the region supplemented information about the garden.

Task 1.4. Base Map Preparation and Fieldwork

JMA used GIS base map data and existing and historic aerial photography provided by FCPA to create a preliminary AutoCAD base map. The JMA team subsequently undertook fieldwork on May 2-3, 2006, to document existing conditions. This fieldwork included documenting landscape features on paper copies of the preliminary base map, including brick walls, stairs, walks, edging, and structures. General land cover and vegetation, including predominant plant communities and ornamental plantings were documented to genus and species level. The preliminary base map was updated as necessary to reflect fieldwork findings.

A visual inspection of the conditions of masonry surfaces was conducted to support development of recommendations for their conservation. The existing condition assessment located, identified, and documented all masonry materials and their deterioration and/or failure. As part of the field work, historic and non-historic features were inventories and their conditions assessed. Ratings were based primarily on field observations. Assessments were determined using the following condition categories based on the guidance available in the National Park Service's *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*: Good, Fair, Poor, and Unknown.

- **Good**: indicates that the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions.
- **Fair**: indicates that the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.
- **Poor**: indicates that the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.
- **Unknown**: indicates that not enough information is available to make an evaluation.

Task 1.5. Phase I 50 Percent Draft Conference Call

JMA and FCPA staff convened on May 19, 2006, for a conference call to review the general direction of the research and analysis at the 50 percent draft point of Phase I (Inventory and Analysis). JMA recorded meeting notes and submitted a meeting record to FCPA for distribution.

Task 1.6. Phase I Draft Report

Using data and guidance received from FCPA during the 50 percent draft conference call, JMA prepared narrative and graphic documentation of historic and existing conditions and a draft statement of significance. An overview-level landscape physical history was compiled from the research findings described above. The discussion of significance included an overview of the Progressive-era 1914-1962 period associated with the National Register Historic District and, specifically, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden as it relates to that context. Additional contextual information about the history of neoclassical garden design was also gathered to support the significance analysis and add to the understanding of the garden's story.

Further conservation assessments of the garden's existing brick masonry walls and structures were performed to identify historic materials and to detect any signs of deficiencies. Structures and deterioration were documented using photographs and annotation.

JMA conducted a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions to identify features contributing to the period of significance, features missing from the period of significance, and features that post-date the period of significance. Based on this analysis, as

well as a comparative analysis of the Terraced Garden with neoclassical gardens typical of the early 20th century, JMA evaluated the historical integrity of the landscape.

Task 1.7. Phase I Draft Review/ Phase II Start-up Meeting

JMA attended a conference call meeting with FCPA staff to review comments regarding the CLR Phase I draft and initiate Phase II of the project. During this meeting, FCPA identified the management issues and concerns the treatment plan should address in addition to how to protect resources and landscape character and qualities. JMA prepared and distributed minutes summarizing the meeting.

PHASE II: TREATMENT

Task 2.1. Phase II Additional Data Collection

The project team visited the site for one day to discuss treatment issues and update information gathered during prior field work. This information informed the Treatment Plan and supplemented the Existing Conditions section of the report.

Task 2.2. Prepare Phase II 50 Percent Draft Treatment Plan

Based upon FCPA interpretive goals and management goals, JMA developed a treatment plan and preservation strategy for the rehabilitation and long-term management of the cultural landscape based on its significance and existing conditions. This plan included recommendations for potential restoration or rehabilitation of historic features as well as protection of existing features. Recommendations focused on removal of invasives and overgrown vegetation; preservation, stabilization, and repair of masonry including brick walls and steps; drainage; and restoration or renewal of appropriate garden plantings. These recommendations were illustrated with annotated drawings and photographs.

Task 2.3. Phase II 50 Percent Draft Review Meeting

JMA attended a conference call meeting with FCPA staff to review comments regarding the CLR Phase II 50 percent draft, review comments by FCPA, and identify the outstanding issues and concerns to be addressed in the complete 100 percent Draft CLR. The FCPA reviewed the preliminary treatment approaches, concepts, and alternatives submitted and provided feedback and direction on developing recommendations in more detail. FCPA staff requested that the treatment recommendations in the final report reflect a range of preferred options rather than one selected alternative. JMA prepared and distributed minutes summarizing the meeting. JMA also prepared and distributed tables to FCPA staff consolidating and summarizing all comments received regarding preliminary drafts of both Phase I and Phase II submissions.

Task 2.4. Finalize Treatment Plan and Prepare Complete 100 Percent Draft Report

JMA consolidated the 100 percent Phase I (Inventory and Analysis) and finalized Phase II (Treatment) sections of the CLR, and prepared a 100 percent Draft Report. This draft included all narrative and graphic data formatted to reflect the final graphic design of the report, as well as detailed edits.

Task 2.5. Final Report Production and Project Closeout

JMA made revisions based on FCPA review of the 100 percent report and submitted printed and digital copies of the report and project files.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Based on research conducted on behalf of this CLR, the Laurel Hill Historic Site and Terraced Garden appear to possess local-level significance within the areas of social history and landscape architecture under National Register Criteria A and C. The property is primarily significant for the design of the neoclassical Terraced Garden and its association with the progressive penal institution at the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory. The Terraced Garden was likely part of the program of teaching new skills to prisoners at the Reformatory—in this case, construction, gardening, and horticulture—to aid in their rehabilitation as productive members of society upon their release.

The origins of the garden remain shrouded in mystery. A feature typical of a large estate house, the elaborate Terraced Garden is something of an anomaly in its setting beside a relatively small historic house within the grounds of a penal institution. Likely constructed circa 1937 based on photographic evidence and workmanship, the garden's designer, patron, purpose, and use remain unknown.

The Terraced Garden today retains much of its structural fabric - it's earthen terraces, brick masonry walls and stairs, brick walks, and brick edging, in addition to other features such as a fountain and pool. Ornamental plants also remain, although little is known about the garden's original planting design.

Because of the relatively good condition of extant features, much can be understood about the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden based on study of its context. The garden in context presents a provocative intersection of the high-style design of the era with the Progressive ideals of environmental influence on the reform of criminals. More details of the garden's story may yet come to light.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Specific information about the Terraced Garden in the historical record has been challenging to locate. Nothing has revealed the garden's original purpose, the identity of its designer, the circumstances under which it was created and used, whether it was preceded by an earlier garden, or specifics of the planting plan.

Additional research into the property's use by the D.C. Reformatory is warranted. It is likely that materials may be found in the uncatalogued resources of the D.C. Archives that could prove helpful. For example, written records of the plant species grown at the Workhouse nursery may exist and could shed light on the planting scheme in the garden. The papers of the D.C. Municipal Architects, including Albert Harris and Nathan Wyeth, may yield additional information on their involvement in work at Laurel Hill.

Although little information has been obtained through oral history interviews to date, it is worth continuing to interview any other former employees, prisoners, and/or residents of Laurel Hill who may have information regarding the site.

Additional research could also focus on uncovering the stories of the superintendents and their family members who lived in the Laurel Hill House in the hope of revealing the identity of a potential designer or a resident of the house who directed or served as the impetus for the garden's creation.

Many features within the larger prison complex were constructed in whole or part using prisoner labor and, in some cases, such as the Chapel, were actually designed by prisoners. A careful review of prisoner rosters could identify incarcerated individuals whose professions as landscape architects, architects, engineers, garden designers, or related skills mark them as capable of producing such a work.

The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), which may have additional information about the Lindsay family cemetery.

Chapter Two: Site Physical History

INTRODUCTION

Near the community of Lorton in Fairfax County, Virginia, the Laurel Hill House was the ca. 1787-1790 home of William Lindsay, who served in the Virginia Militia as a major during the American Revolution; Laurel Hill was also the name of the estate. The property originally comprised a large portion of what is today considered the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District, which today also overlaps with Laurel Hill Park land and the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area.

The D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory was established in 1910 on large tracts of farm land. It was known throughout the 1900s as the Lorton Prison, or the Lorton Reformatory (after the closest adjacent community) and also the Occoquan Workhouse (because of its proximity to the river and port town of the same name). Today this area is generally referred to as Laurel Hill, in recognition of Lindsay's 18th-century home and estate. His former estate became a substantial part of the prison property and the Laurel Hill House served as the residence of superintendents of the Reformatory from 1916-1969. This chapter is a narrative description of the historical context of the cultural landscape associated with this residence.

The prison was originally conceived as a progressive facility and low-security work camp for people convicted of minor offenses. The facility included areas without walls, fences, or bars, and large tracts of farmland purchased by the District of Columbia in 1910 and 1914 were cultivated by the prisoners. Prisoners were also trained in construction techniques while building the prison's infrastructure. The District of Columbia also established facilities where prisoners manufactured the bricks and other materials used in construction. Just one hundred feet southeast of the Laurel Hill House, obscured today by encroaching successional forest, a formal Terraced Garden contains numerous brick walls, steps, and paved walks constructed by prisoners with the bricks they manufactured.

By 2001, the entire prison complex had grown to 3,200 acres. In 2002, Fairfax County acquired 2,400 of these acres from the federal government. The Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden is part of a site within this acquisition designated as the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area, 80 acres of land and buildings which are part of a larger sub-area, the 511-acre D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006; a detailed historical narrative of the former prison site is included in the National Register Nomination.[1] The Laurel Hill House is owned by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and is a contributing structure to the district. A Historic Structure Report completed in 2008 includes a detailed survey of existing conditions and a historical analysis pertaining explicitly to the house itself.[2] The Lindsay Cemetery, a brick retaining wall along an entrance drive, and the Terraced Garden are also listed as contributing features in the Historic District's nomination and are described in more detail in this report.

This chapter describes the chronological evolution of the Laurel Hill House site and former estate through five historic periods spanning prehistory to the present:

- Prehistory and Early Settlement (to 1787)
- Lindsay and Extended Family Ownership (1787 – 1873)
- Post-Lindsay Family Ownership (1873 – 1914)
- D.C. Penal Institutions – Progressive Era (1914 – 1962)
- Prison into Park (1962 – present)

These periods are treated as distinct sections within this chapter. They were established using the dates of known events and physical developments that significantly altered the land use and character of the Laurel Hill landscape.

There is little documentary evidence and few surviving physical resources related to the site that predate the

1. John Milner Associates, Inc., *Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District National Register Nomination* prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority (Fairfax, VA, 2005) (NRN).

2. Frazier Associates and Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, *Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report and Treatment Options* prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority (Fairfax County, VA, 2008)(HSR).

20th century. However, a survey of what is known provides some understanding of the character and configuration of the landscape at various stages in its history and helps to identify the specific features and qualities that engender its particular sense of place.

PREHISTORY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT (TO 1787)

The prehistoric cultural sequence for the Coastal Plain of Maryland and Virginia, of which the study area is a part, parallels that identified for other areas of the Middle Atlantic region. It consists of seven time periods divided as follows: Paleo-Indian (11,000 to 8,000 BC), Early Archaic (8,000 to 6,500 BC), Middle Archaic (6,500 to 3,000 BC), Late Archaic (3,000 to 1,000 BC), Early Woodland (1,000 to 500 BC), Middle Woodland (500 BC to AD 900), and Late Woodland (AD 900 to 1600).[3] Paleo-Indian and Early and Middle Archaic sites in the area are very rare and poorly documented. More intensive occupation began in the Late Archaic period when people associated with the Savannah River culture moved into the area. The exploitation of anadromous fish during the spring and early summer was the focal point of the subsistence and settlement rounds of these people.

Technological innovations, such as the invention or adoption of pottery and the bow and arrow, mark the Early and Middle Woodland periods. Intensive exploitation of floral resources in floodplain environments led to increased sedentism during these periods. The Late Woodland period is characterized by the introduction of agriculture and a shift in settlement locations. Hunting, fishing, and the gathering of plant foods still contributed much to the diet.

The Virginia Company of London established the first permanent English settlement in North America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.[4] By 1625, the Virginia Company charter was revoked by the King and the land became a royal colony. Increasing population necessitated the creation of counties and county governments. In 1645, Northumberland County was established between the Rappahannock River and the Potomac River, enabling settlement in Northern Virginia.[5] By this time, European settlement was having a significant impact on local Native American populations. Introduced European diseases and the increased hostilities between groups led to the disruption of Native American populations and the abandonment of many areas. By the early 1700s, the native populations presented little barrier to European settlement.[6] Land in the colony was granted to individuals by the governor on the authority of the King. Much of the land became managed as plantations that produced tobacco as the main crop.[7]

Fairfax County was created out of Prince William County in 1742. The general area of southern Fairfax County near the Occoquan River was not as densely settled as other parts of the county.[8] Colchester, approximately three miles south of the area that became Laurel Hill, was established on the north bank of the Occoquan in 1753 as a tobacco inspection and warehouse town. Prior to the establishment of the town, this location was the site of a ferry for the King's Highway across the Occoquan River.[9]

Laurel Hill is part of the 960 acres patented by Reverend Charles Green in 1742.[10] Reverend Green later conveyed this parcel to William Fairfax, Esquire, who in turn, devised the tract to his children Bryan and Hannah. It is from Bryan and Hannah Fairfax that Hector Ross purchased the same 960-acre parcel.[11] Reverend Green, the Fairfaxes, and Mr. Ross were presumably all speculators, holding the land as an investment, possibly seating the property with tenant farmers, but likely residing elsewhere.

3. James B. Griffin, "Eastern North American Archaeology: A Summary," *Science*, vol. 156 (1967):175-191.

4. Emily J. Salmon (ed.), *A Hornbook of Virginia History*, Third edition (Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library, 1983).

5. Christine Jirikowic, et al., "Phase I Archeological Investigation at 206 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Virginia," *DRAFT report to Meushaw Development Company, Alexandria* (Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc., Woodstock, VA, 2004), 15.

6. Christian F. Feest, "Virginia Algonquians," *Handbook of North American Indians*, William Sturtevant, series ed., Vol. 15, *Northeast*, Bruce G. Trigger, ed. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1978), 253-270.

7. Jirikowic,17.

8. Nan Netherton, et al., *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978), 10.

9. Edith Moore Sprouse, *Colchester: Colonial Port on the Potomac* (Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1975), 6 and 19.

10. Library of Virginia, Land Office of Patents and Grants/ Northern Neck Grants and Surveys, *Northern Neck Land Grants*, vol. E, 478 and 499.

11. Fairfax County Land Records (FCLR) R1 (18): 400; S1(19): 183.

LINDSAY AND EXTENDED FAMILY OWNERSHIP (1787 – 1873)

Hector Ross sold the 960-tract to William Lindsay in two parts. In October 1787, Ross sold 303 acres, with appurtenances, to William Lindsay for £150.[12] In February 1790, Ross sold the remaining 657 acres to Lindsay for £100.[13]

William Lindsay was a member of a family that traces its Virginia roots to 1655. He was the eldest son of Robert and Susanna Lindsay of "The Mount," near Falls Church, Virginia and had a younger brother named Opie. "The Mount" was built in 1745, and was large and grand for its period and vicinity. For unknown reasons, Robert Lindsay bequeathed "The Mount" to his son Opie, and left William only "ten pounds current money as it runs, and for him therewith to be content."[14] William Lindsay is listed as a joiner in 1766 in Colchester, Virginia, in the account books of Alexander Henderson, and as a factor for John Glassford & Co. of Glasgow.[15] Other sources list William Lindsay as a "commission merchant," which he could have become after his days as a carpenter.[16] Lindsay married Ann Calvert, great-granddaughter of Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore, in 1766.[17]

During the Revolutionary War, William Lindsay served as a Major in the Virginia Militia. He was wounded at the March 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina.[18] In 1785 and 1791, William Lindsay held a tavern license in Colchester, even though he had purchased his estate, which he called "Laurel Hill" by that time.[19]

Although William Lindsay's 1787 land purchase from Hector Ross included improvements, the location and extent of these structures are not known. While some sources state that William Lindsay built Laurel Hill House in 1766, this seems unlikely as he did not purchase the property until 1787.[20] He could have built the core of the present house after this purchase, or the house could date to the Hector Ross ownership period.

William Lindsay died of gout in 1792 and became the first to be buried in the family burial ground at Laurel Hill.[21] His personal estate was extensive, with a value of £967 and eleven pence and included farm implements, livestock (eight horses, cattle, and hogs), a wagon, a ferry scow, a cross cut saw, and forty-one fish barrels. His household goods indicate a household of some social standing, as they included billiard and backgammon tables, £21 worth of silver plate, eleven feather beds, and several sets of china and glasses. Lindsay, as was typical of large property holders of this region and era, was also a slaveholder. Twelve slaves, valued from £20 to £65 each, seven women and five men, were listed in his will.[22]

Around October 1813, the real estate of William Lindsay was divided among his heirs (*Figure 2-1*). His widow, Ann Calvert Lindsay, received the dower right to "Lot 1," 166 acres and 92 poles. Ann Calvert Lindsay lived for many more years at Laurel Hill with her extended family. She died in 1822, at her son-in-law's house in Prince William County, Maryland. She was buried at Laurel Hill.[23] There is a grave marker at the Lindsay Cemetery at Laurel Hill for Ann Calvert Lindsay. The marker for her grave simply says "Wife of a / Revolutionary War / Soldier / Ann C. Lindsay / 1776 1783 / placed by / Fairfax County / Chapter D. A. R." It is metal, shield-shaped, with a bas-relief female figure carrying a flag. The dates on this marker are the dates of the Revolutionary War, not of Ann Calvert Lindsay's life (she was born around 1751). Others possibly buried at Laurel Hill include several children who died in infancy, although they were all born prior to Lindsay's purchase of Laurel Hill in 1787. Some of the children of William and Ann C. Lindsay died as young adults, including Ann/Nancy Lindsay, who died in 1792, a year after her marriage to Mr. Woodrough. Ann Lindsay Woodrough's burial place is unknown; she may have been buried at Laurel Hill. Several of William and Ann C. Lindsay's children lived at or near Laurel Hill after their marriages. Some of their grandchildren were born at Laurel Hill, including

12. FCLR R1(18): 400.
13. FCLR S1(19): 183.
14. Margaret Isabella Lindsay, *The Lindsays of America: A Genealogical Narrative and Family Record* (Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, 1979 reprint of original 1889 edition), 66.
15. Sprouse, *Colchester*, 179.
16. Lindsay, 67.
17. Lindsay, 68.
18. Lindsay, 67.
19. Sprouse, *Colchester*, 179.
20. Mrs. Ross D. Netherton, "Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory: #157 Laurel Hill," 24 February 1972, on file at Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA.
21. Lindsay, 69.
22. Fairfax County Will Record G: 3-5, 1792.
23. Lindsay, 69.

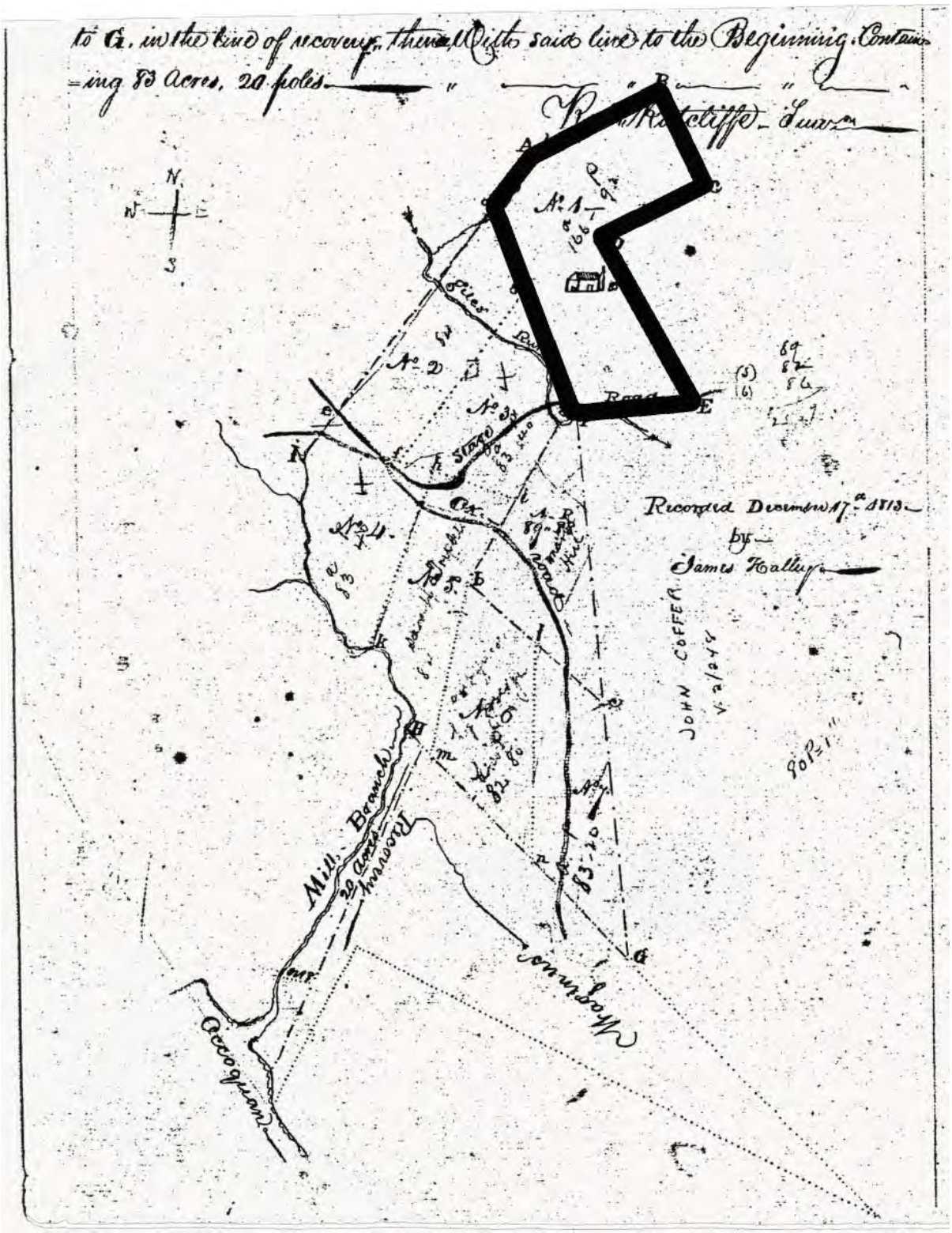

Figure 2-1. Division of William Lindsay's real estate, 1813. "Lot 1" is outlined in bold, with the Laurel Hill House represented in the center. Source: Fairfax County Land Records, deed book 39, 392.

Anne, daughter of William and Ann's eldest son George Walter, who died at age three in a fire at Laurel Hill and was likely buried there.[24]

After Anne Calvert Lindsay's death, "Lot 1" was to be divided between sons Hiram and Thomas.[25] It appears that Ann Calvert Lindsay did not retain her dower right, because Hiram Lindsay sold "Lot 1" to Robert Ratcliffe. [26] Hiram Lindsay died ca. 1813-1814, so this transaction took place soon after William Lindsay's real estate was divided among his heirs. Robert Ratcliffe then sold the property to Thompson F. Mason.[27] In January 1827, James Dawson purchased "Lot 1" from Mason for $1,000.[28] It is unclear who occupied the Laurel Hill House in the early 19th century, as ownership seems to have fallen out of the Lindsay family in 1813, but grandchildren of William and Ann Lindsay are recorded to have been born at Laurel Hill House in 1815 and 1827.[29] James Dawson, purchaser of "Lot 1" in 1824, is recorded as dying at Laurel Hill in February 1830. He is buried at the Cranford Methodist Church Cemetery, along with his wife Margaret, who died much later in 1885.[30]

No census records were found for James or Margaret Dawson in 1830. The 1840 population census does not list individuals other than the head of household. All others in the household are listed by age, sex, and race groupings. The 1840 population census lists the Margaret Dawson household in Fairfax County as one male between the ages of 5 and 10, one male between the ages of 10 and 15, one female between the ages of 5 and 10, one female between the ages of 15 and 20, and one female between the ages of 40 and 50, presumably Margaret Dawson herself. No slaves were listed with the Margaret Dawson household. Two members of the household were employed in agriculture.[31]

The 1850 population census lists the 50-year-old Margaret Dawson as living with her 26-year-old son James, a constable, her 27-year-old daughter Matilda, 20-year-old daughter Martha, and 30-year-old Richard Wilson, a laborer. Margaret Dawson's real estate was valued at $766.[32] The 1850 Slave Schedule lists Margaret Dawson as the owner of an 8-year-old black girl.[33]

In the 1860 Census, Margaret Dawson lived alone with her daughter Martha. Margaret was listed as a farmer, with $1,200 in real estate and $50 worth of personal estate.[34] Margaret Dawson owned a 7-year-old black boy in 1860, according to the Slave Schedule of that year.[35] Margaret Dawson's farm in 1860, "Lot 1" in the division of William Lindsay's real estate, or Laurel Hill, was a small operation according to the 1860 Agricultural Schedule. Her farm had 10 acres of improved and 168 acres of unimproved land. The total value of her farm was listed as $1000. The only crop produced in the last year for her farm was 60 bushels of wheat.[36] The 162.5-acre property, listed as owned by the James Dawson Estate, had a total value of $650, with buildings valued at $150.

Even though no documentation has been found revealing Civil War events or encampments having occurred on the Laurel Hill property, its location was near the well-traveled Ox and Telegraph Roads (*Figure 2-2*). On March 22, 1863, members of the Second Pennsylvania Calvary were camped at the home of Elizabeth Violett, at the intersection of Ox and Telegraph Roads and were surprised by Captain Stringfellow and the Fourth Virginia Cavalry, who captured the twenty Union soldiers, wounding three. Two Confederate soldiers were also wounded.[37]

In 1873, the value of Margaret Dawson's property had risen to $1787.50, with $300 worth of buildings. It is unclear whether this increase in value is due to improvements or to a higher assessment rate. [38] No population or agricultural census data was found for Margaret Dawson for 1870.

James and Margaret Dawson had a son, John Thomas Dawson, whose second wife was Ann Maria Lindsay, granddaughter of William and Ann Calvert Lindsay.

24. Lindsay, 83.
25. FCLR M2(39): 392 and 394.
26. The deed for this transaction is unrecorded, but the transaction is referenced in FCLR A3 (53):448.
27. Ibid.
28. FCLR A3(53): 448.
29. Lindsay, 102 and 104.
30. Edith Moore Sprouse, *Fairfax County in 1860: A Collective Biography* (Fairfax, VA: Edith Moore Sprouse, 1996), 501.
31. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Schedule*, 1840, on file at the National Archives and Record Administration, Washington, D.C. (U.S. Census Bureau)
32. U.S. Census Bureau, 1850.
33. Ibid.
34. U.S. Census Bureau, 1860.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Donald C. Hakenson, *This Forgotten Land* (Alexandria, VA: Donald C. Hakenson, 2002), 94-95.
38. Fairfax County Land Tax Records, 1861, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1873, on file at the Fairfax County Courthouse, Fairfax, VA.

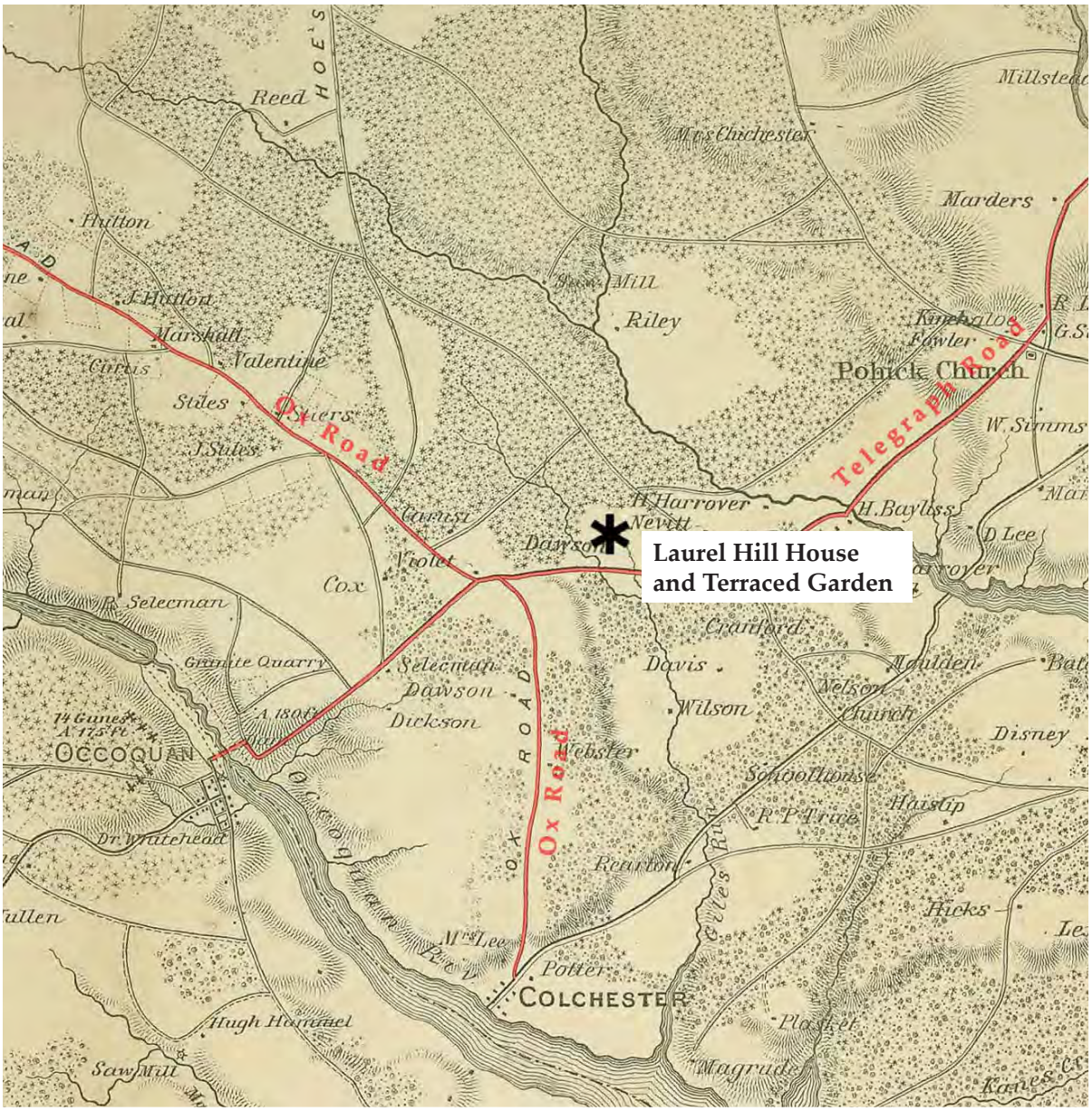

Figure 2-2. McDowell's Map of Northeastern Virginia and Vicinity of Washington, 1862. "Dawson" marks the location of the Laurel Hill House. Source: Library of Congress.

Ann Maria Lindsay was born at the Laurel Hill House in 1810, and likely returned there after her 1850 marriage into the Dawson family. Both John Thomas and Ann Maria Lindsay Dawson are buried at the Cranford Methodist Church Cemetery.[39]

POST-LINDSAY FAMILY OWNERSHIP (1873 – 1914)

In March 1873, the heirs of James Dawson—his widow and six children—sold "Lot 1" to Theresa Dexler for $2,462.44. Theresa Dexler was born in Germany, and married J. Mason Kilby around 1877. The Kilbys lived at Laurel Hill and continued to farm the land. The 1880 Population Census lists this household as Mason Kilby, a 47-year-old farmer, his wife, Theresa, and 21-year-old Eugene Terrell, a farm

39. Sprouse, *Fairfax County in 1860*, 498-500.

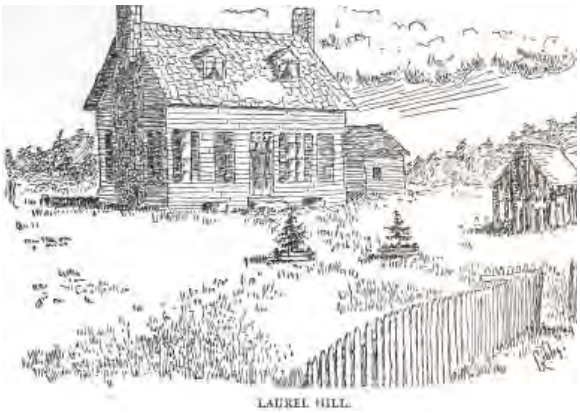

Figure 2-3. 1880s sketch of Laurel Hill. The house originally faced southeast, towards what is now Lorton Road. Source: Lindsay, *The Lindsays of America*, 68.

Figure 2-4. Early-20th-century photograph of Laurel Hill, south elevation. Source: Irma Clifton.

worker.[40] The Agricultural Census for the same year describes the property as having 60 acres of tilled land and 104 acres of woodland. The farm was valued at $800, including buildings. The Kilbys had $50 worth of farm implements and livestock worth $75. Their livestock included two milk cows, producing 75 pounds of butter in 1879, and twelve barnyard poultry. Their tilled land included 8 acres of Indian corn, and 1 acre of wheat.[41]

In 1889, the Laurel Hill House was described as being built of North Carolina pine, sited on "moderately high" ground, "reached by a serpentine carriageway of gradual ascent."[42] Some of Ann Calvert Lindsay's rose trees, originally planted in the early nineteenth century, were said to have survived into the mid-19th century, as well as "a bed of notable cactus."[43] The house originally faced southeast, towards what is now Lorton Road, and a picket fence is depicted in the front yard in an 1880s sketch (*Figure 2-3*). There was a garden at the rear (north) of the house and the family burial ground was also located to the north of the house.[44] According to the 1900 Population Census, the Kilbys continued to farm in the Lee District of Fairfax County. No farm laborer is listed as a part of their household.[45]

Washington, D.C., lawyer Howe Totten and his wife Priscilla purchased the 164-acre, 26-pole property from the Kilbys in March 1906.[46] Howe Totten worked in Washington, D.C., and may have maintained an additional residence there, but he lived with his wife and children lived at Laurel Hill, where he bred championship Great Danes and thoroughbred horses.[47] Outbuildings on his property included kennels and stables. The 1910 Population Census for the Lee District in Fairfax County lists the Howe Totten household as including 40-year-old Howe, a lawyer, his 35-year-old wife Priscilla, and their two young children, Elinor, age 2, and Enoch, age 11 months.[48] An early-20th-century photograph shows a large Spiraea x vanhouttei on the south side of the house (*Figure 2-4*).

In April 1910, the District of Columbia municipal government purchased 1,155 acres along the Occoquan River for use as a Workhouse to house the city's prisoners convicted of non-violent crimes with sentences of less than one year.[49] This parcel adjoined Howe Totten's property along his southeastern boundary. The first prisoners arrived at the D.C. Workhouse in August 1910 and were originally housed in tents. The Workhouse was a Progressive institution that followed an open-air policy. Prisoners were housed in open dormitories and worked outdoors, constructing buildings, making bricks, and farming.[50] The Workhouse is noted on a 1915 soil map of Fairfax

40. U.S. Census Bureau, 1880.

41. Ibid.

42. Lindsay, 70-71.

43. Ibid., 70.

44. W.P.A. Historical Inventory, Fairfax County, 63-1155, "Laurel Hill," 24 September 1937, on file at Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA.

45. U.S. Census Bureau, 1900.

46. FCLR T6(150): 314.

47. "Lorton Station," *Fairfax Herald*, 31 August 1906, 3.

48. U.S. Census Bureau, 1910.

49. Mary Hostetler Oakey, *Journey from the Gallows: Historical Evolution of the Penal Philosophies and Practices of the Nation's Capital* (Woodbridge, VA: Mary Hostetler Oakey, 1993), 90-91.

50. Commissioners of the District of Columbia, *Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia year ended June 30, 1913* (Washington, D.C.: Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1913), 219 (Commissioners).

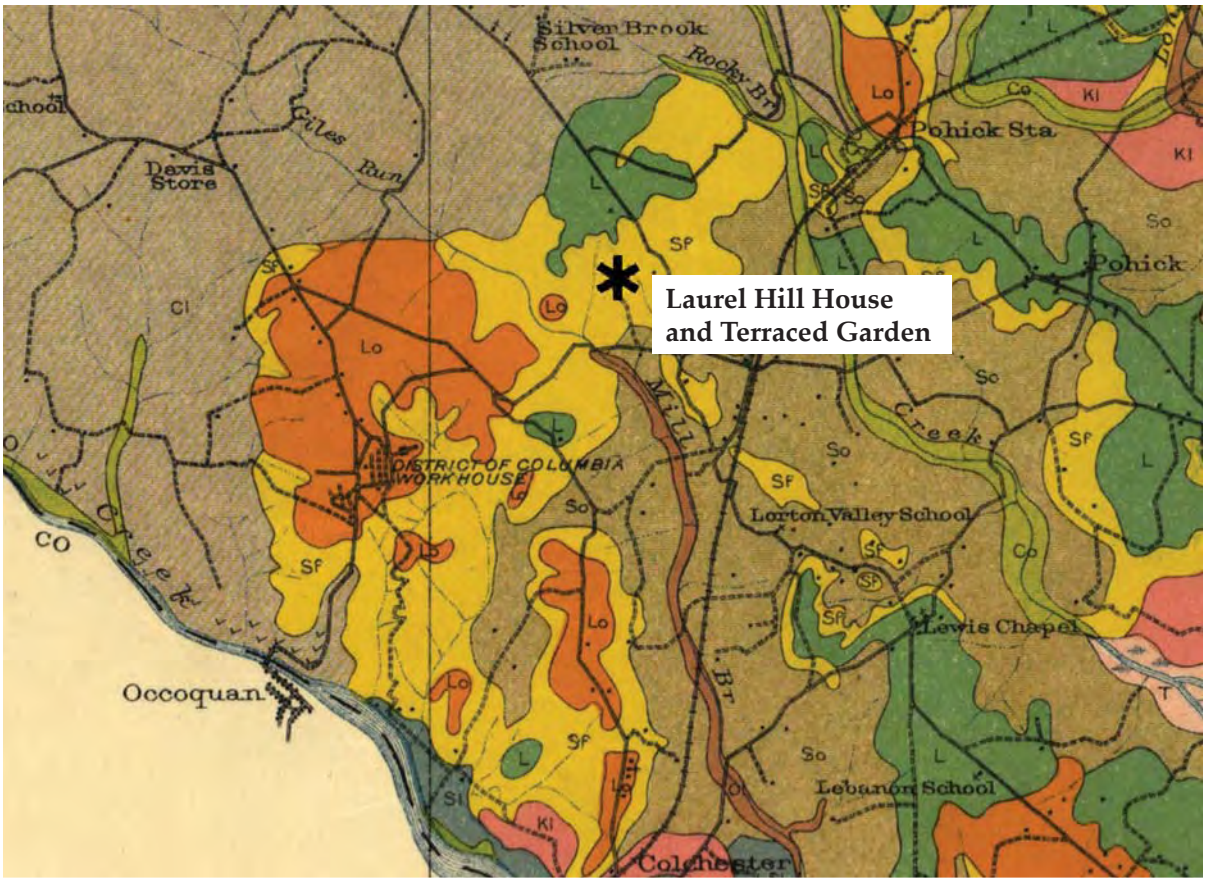

Figure 2-5. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils 1915 soil map of the Lorton area; the District of Columbia Workhouse is depicted, southwest of the house site. Source: Stephenson, *Cartography of Northern Virginia*, plate 103.

County, prior to the construction of the Reformatory (*Figure 2-5*).

The open-air system led to friction between Howe Totten and his institutional neighbor. In a letter published in the Fairfax Herald in March 1911, Totten complained that the proximity to the District Workhouse at Occoquan made the neighborhood dangerous. He also mentioned the "unguarded manner in which the inmates are permitted to go about," and the fact that convicts escaped repeatedly and trespassed on his property.[51]

D.C. PENAL INSTITUTIONS PROGRESSIVE ERA (1914 – 1962)

Totten did not get the relief that he sought—greater restrictions on the movements of the convicts held at the Workhouse—but in January 1914, 153.68 acres of his property were condemned for use as the D.C. Reformatory (*Figure 2-6*).[52] The remaining 10.09 acres of Totten's property were purchased by D.C. for expansion of the Reformatory in March 1919 for $490.50.[53] The D.C. Reformatory was also an open-air institution, like the Workhouse. It housed prisoners who had longer sentences than those at the Workhouse, but were deemed "hopeful cases," capable of being reformed. Prisoners at the Reformatory worked under a program of industrial production and vocational training. The first prisoners arrived at the Reformatory in the winter of 1916.[54]

In 1916, oversight of the design and construction of all buildings at D.C. Penal Institutions, temporary and permanent, was placed under the authority of the D.C. Municipal Architect, a position then held

51. "Howe Totten Complains of Occuquan Convicts," *Fairfax Herald*, 17 March 1911, 3.

52. FCLR S7 (175): 197.

53. FCLR T8 (202): 410.

54. Commissioners, 30 June 1917, 506-507.

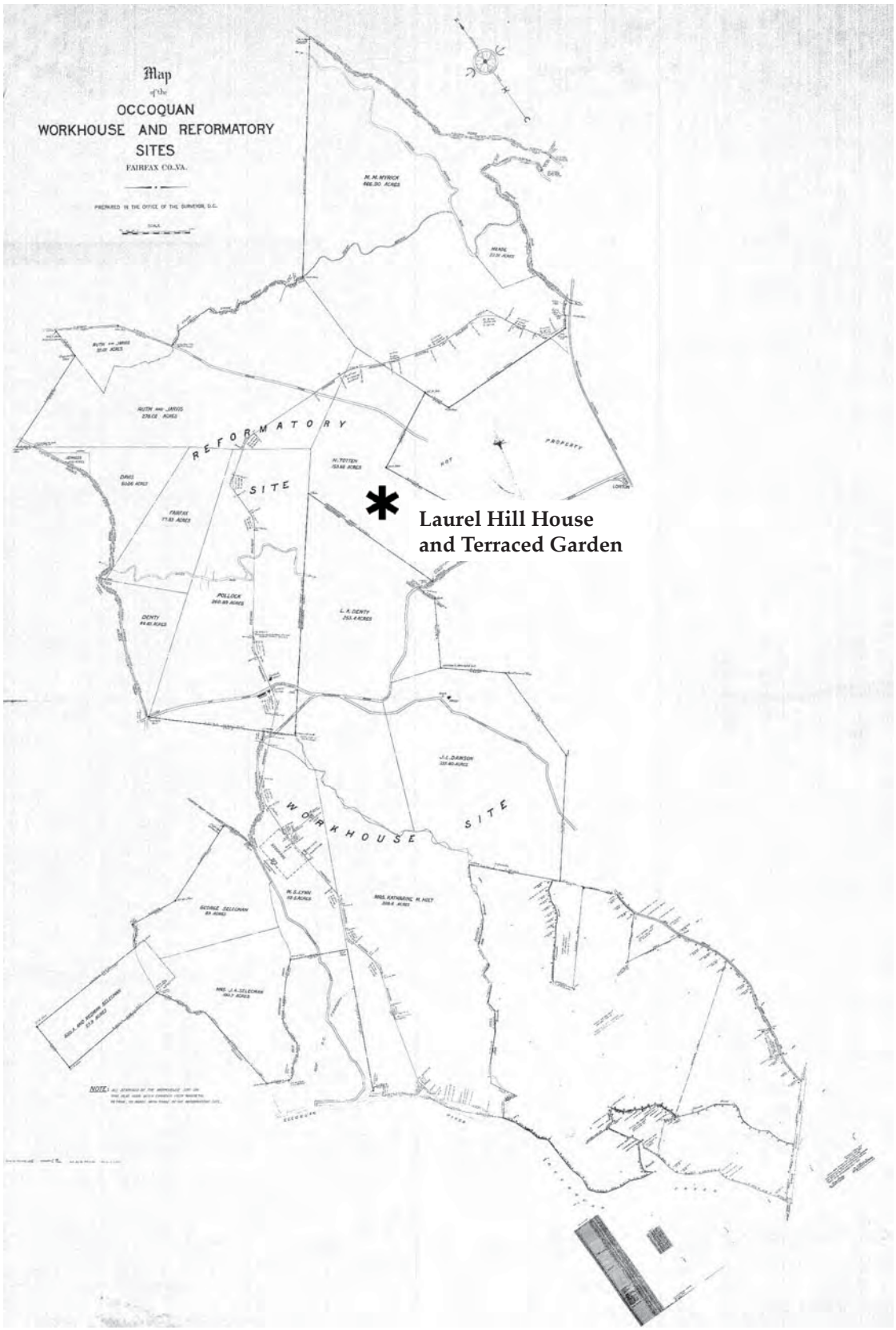

Figure 2-6. D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory property acquisition map, 1915. Source: D.C. Archives.

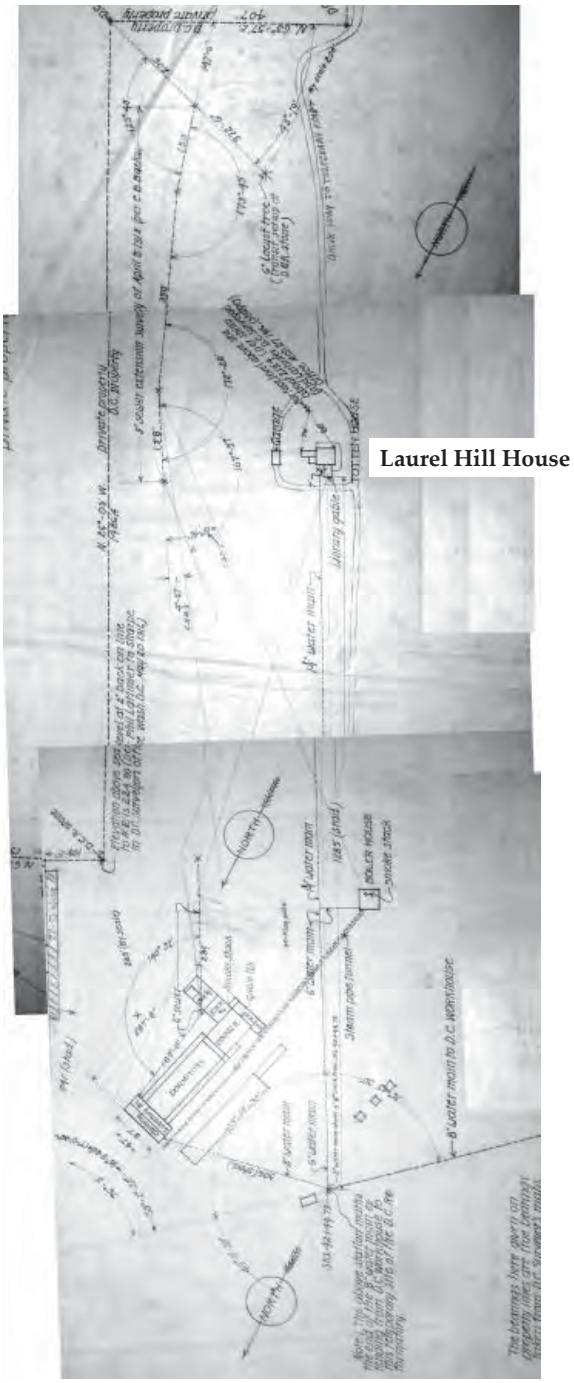

Figure 2-7. Survey of the Laurel Hill House (labeled "Totten House") and temporary Reformatory buildings, post-1918. Source: D.C. Archives.

by Snowden Ashford.[55] A plan of the Reformatory from ca. 1918 shows the Laurel Hill House *(Figure 2-7*) and temporary buildings associated with the D.C. Reformatory. After the remainder of Howe Totten's property was purchased by D.C. in 1919, the entrance road to Laurel Hill was changed to its present configuration.

During the 1910s, houses already existing on the prison property were renovated to house staff, and new houses were also constructed. The General Superintendent of Penal Institutions, Charles C. Foster, requested construction of five new houses for prison staff in 1918. He recommended that the houses "be erected on sites affording garden space, keeping in view desirable location, comfort, and harmonious appearance."[56]

The house at Laurel Hill last owned by Howe Totten also became a residence for on-site prison staff (*Figures 2-8, 2-9, and 2-10*). The first occupant of the Laurel Hill House after the District purchase was Morris Macy Barnard, assistant superintendent in charge of the Reformatory from 1916 to 1923.[57]

Both the Annual Reports and Operations of the Engineer Reports produced by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia from 1913-1921 provide details regarding repairs and improvements made and features constructed at the Laurel Hill House and its surrounding property during these years.

In 1916-1917, minor repairs cost a total of $104 and included work on the water main, a water closet, and the electrical system. Two days were also billed for designing a new garage to replace one that existed when the Tottens owned the property.[58] More repairs were made to the house in 1917-1918, totaling $752.76. A sewage tank was constructed and prison laborers (costing $917.49) graded the road to the house.[59]

Work on the Laurel Hill House in 1918-1919 included paint, plaster, plumbing, electrical work, and carpentry at a total cost of $448.09. A small amount of time was also charged for brick and cement work, but not enough to signify major brickwork.[60] Minor

55. Commissioners of the District of Columbia, *Operations of the Engineer Department*, D.C. (Washington, D.C.: Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1917), 134 (Engineering).

56. Commissioners, 30 June 1918, 404.

57. *Washington Post*, 1 November 1923, 5.

58. Engineering, 1917, 144 and 147.

59. Engineering, 1918, 130.

60. Engineering, 1919, 129.

Figure 2-8. Laurel Hill House, north elevation, ca. 1920. Source: D.C. Archives.

Figure 2-10. Laurel Hill House, southeast corner of house, ca. 1920. Source: Irma Clifton.

Figure 2-9. Laurel Hill House, north elevation, and rose arbor, ca. 1920. Source: Irma Clifton.

work continued in 1919-1920 and 1920-1921 did not involve brickwork.[61]

However, from 1921-1922, documents indicate that most improvements focused on brickwork, using 1,000 bricks and 358 days of prison labor; this could have included the construction of the retaining wall along the entrance road corridor, southeast of the house.[62] Work at the house in 1922-1923 did not include further brickwork.[63]

Later Engineer Department reports do not include such specific information on construction projects for the Laurel Hill House or site. No other records pertaining to building and grounds improvements have yet been found in the Annual Reports of the Reformatory or in the plans and maps on file at the D.C. Archives. USGS quadrangles from1925-1927 do, however, depict workhouse and reformatory buildings (*Figure 2-11*).

In 1921, Albert Harris was appointed Municipal Architect for the District of Columbia. Harris studied architecture at George Washington University, began

61. Engineering, 1920, 130; 1921, 45.

62. Engineering, 1922, 53.

63. Engineering, 1923, 68.

Figure 2-11. Detail, Quantico (on left), and Indian Head (on right) USGS Quadrangle Maps, ca. 1925-27. Source: USGS.

his career in the Chicago office of Henry I. Cobb, and returned to D.C. and joined the firm of Hornblower and Marshall. While with Hornblower and Marshall, Harris assisted with the design of the Baltimore Customs House, and the U.S. National Museum, now the Natural History Museum.[64] As Municipal Architect, Harris designed schools, firehouses, and other public buildings. He also contributed to the comprehensive plan for George Washington University, creating the quadrangle, University Yard.[65] While Municipal Architect, Harris recommended the "development of landscape gardens in connection with new school buildings, in line with present effort of Washington School authorities to surround children with all possible cultural influences rather than to make school a prison-like experience for the young."[66] Harris may have had a role in encouraging similar projects, such as the Terraced Garden at the Laurel Hill House, as part of progressive efforts within D.C. Penal Institutions.

64. Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathbun Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co.), 266.

65. Pamela Scott and Antoinette J. Lee, *Buildings of the District of Columbia* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 215.

66. *Washington Post*, 30 August 1925, 1.

This is not documented but might be an informative approach for additional research.

On October 25, 1936, the Fairfax County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) dedicated a marker at the grave of William Lindsay as part of a project to find and mark the graves of Fairfax County Revolutionary War patriots. The graves of William and Ann Lindsay were originally marked with sandstone slabs, but, by the 1930s, these had worn away. The graveyard was found when Mrs. Theresa Davis, a woman who had lived on the property as a child, returned for a visit in 1925. An article in the Washington Post described how Mrs. Davis, although nearly blind at the time, walked to a group of trees on the edge of a knoll and identified the graveyard.[67] The low fence around the Lindsay marker, brick pillars with a pipe railing, appears in a photograph of this ceremony (*Figure 2-12*).

In September 1937, the grounds of Laurel Hill were described as follows: "aside from the very beautiful and ancient box, there is little left of the old garden. There are still a few trees which may have been there when the house was built."[68] This description mentions nothing of the extensive terraced garden that appears to have been under construction in the 1937 aerial photograph. A local resident, Irma Clifton, recalls a large group of boxwood located on the north side of the house that was destroyed in the 1980s, but these do not appear on the 1937 or 1953 aerial photographs (*Figures 2-13 and 2-14*).[69]

On November 11, 1951, a plaque for Ann Calvert Lindsay, wife of William Lindsay, was placed at the Lindsay Cemetery at Laurel Hill by the Fairfax County Chapter of the D.A.R.[70] The Laurel Hill House continued to serve as a residence for Reformatory superintendents and their families until the late 1960s (*Figures 2-15, 2-16, and 2-17*). For a while afterward, the house was used as quarters for Reformatory visitors.[71]

67. "Fairfax D.A.R. Pays Lindsay Tribute Today," *Washington Post,* 25 October 1936, M11.

68. "W.P.A. Historical Inventory, Fairfax County, 63-1155, "Laurel Hill," 24 September 1937, on file at Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA.

69. Irma Clifton, personal interview, 14 July 2006.

70. Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr., *Falls Church by Fence and Fireside* (Falls Church, VA: Falls Church Public Library, 1964) 350.

71. Julia L. Weston to Historic Research Staff, 16 July 1969, Laurel Hill vertical file, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Regional Library, Fairfax, VA.

Figure 2-12. Dedication ceremony for William Lindsay marker, 1936. Source: Washington Post, October 26, 1936, 8.

The District of Columbia reorganized their penal institutions in 1946 with the creation of the Department of Corrections. In the 1950s, the Lorton facilities became overcrowded, a situation that would continue through the remainder of their operation. The period of significance associated with today's D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory District, which began with the District of Columbia's purchase of property for a workhouse in 1910, ended at this time. The last building constructed under the program of progressive prison reform, a chapel, was built in 1961. Through the mid-twentieth century, the District of Columbia prison facilities in Fairfax County tried to follow the progressive ideal of a balanced experience for the prisoner. From their inception, the Workhouse and Reformatory included religious and recreational activities, as well as work, in prison life. It was after the reorganization into the Department of Corrections that a separate building for religious services was built. This inter-denominational chapel was dedicated in 1961 and was the end result of a series of progressive social reforms that attempted to meet all of a prisoner's physical and mental needs.[72]

72. NRN, 5.

1937

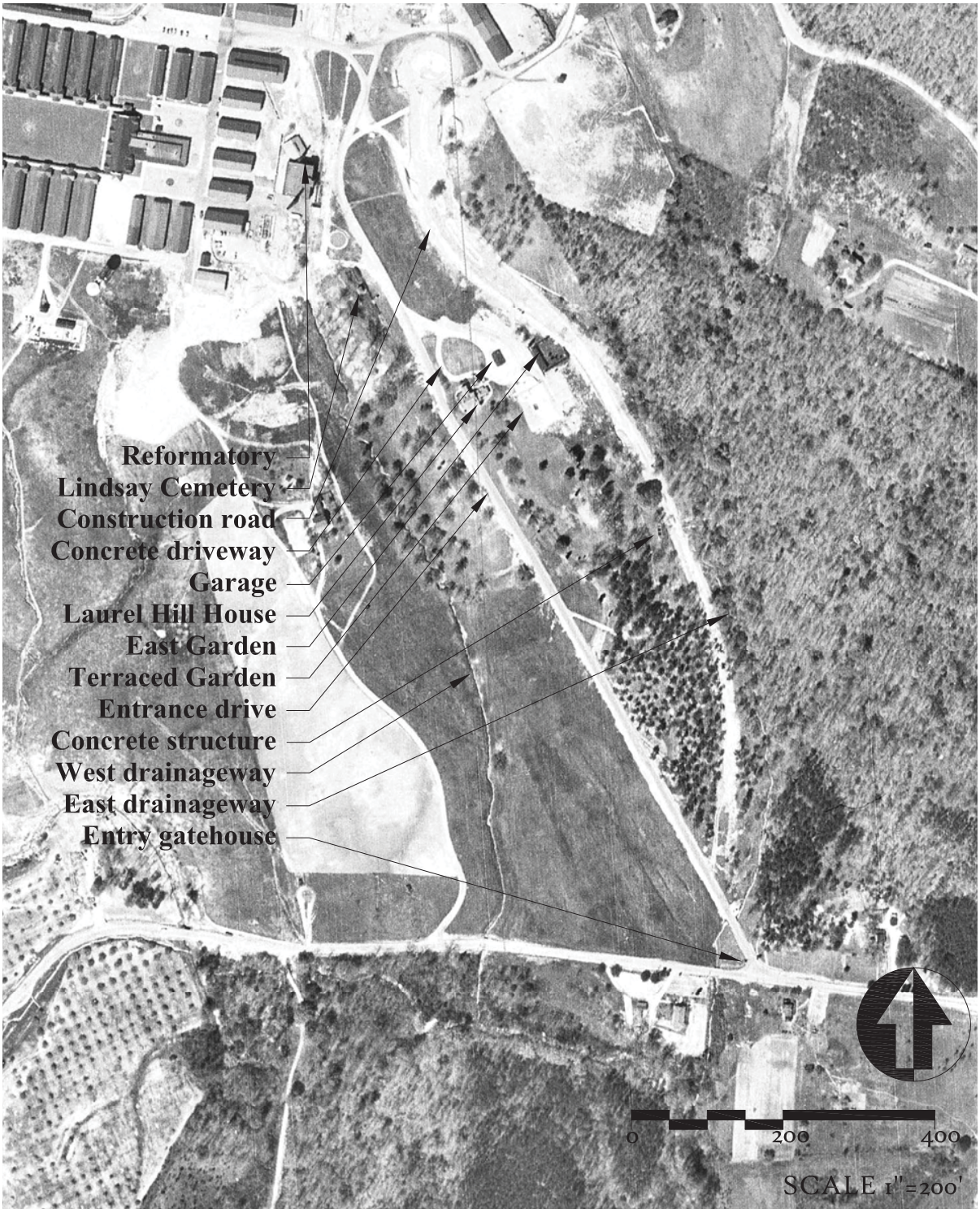

Figure 2-13. Aerial photograph of the study area, 1937. Source: Fairfax County Park Authority.

1953

Figure 2-14. Aerial photograph of the study area, 1953. Source: Fairfax County Park Authority.

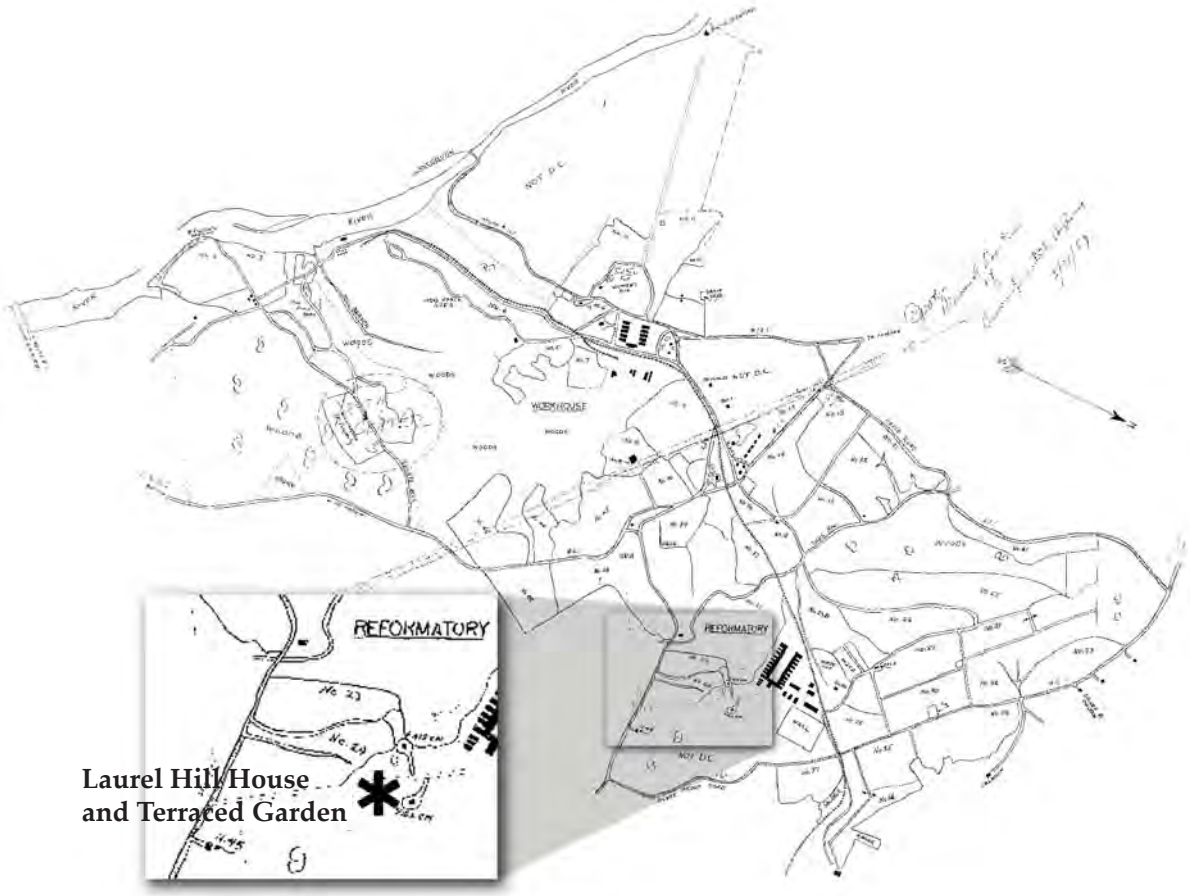

Figure 2-15. Agricultural lands of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory, 1948-1957. Source: D.C. Archives.

PRISON INTO PARK (1962 – PRESENT)

In 1966, a court decision ruled that public intoxication was a public health problem rather than a criminal offense. This led to a large decrease in the population at the Workhouse, which was then converted to use as alcohol rehabilitation centers. Beginning in the late 1960s and continuing until the closure of the prison facilities, tensions between inmates and staff increased, with several incidences of riots and hostage-taking. Some blamed the openness of the system for the easy availability of alcohol and drugs in the complexes and thus the disciplinary problems.[73] Fairfax County officials and local residents began attempting to close the D.C. Penal Institutions in Fairfax County in the 1970s, based upon the argument that they were unsafe and dangerous, to both the inmates and the neighboring residents.[74]

Ultimately, the closure of the District of Columbia's prison facilities in Fairfax County was not due to legal action brought by Fairfax County, but rather by the National Capital Revitalization Act of 1997.[75] This federal order was passed by Congress to aid the District in improving its financial standing. It required the closure of the Fairfax County facilities by the end of 2001. The maximum security facility closed on January 31, 2001, and the central facility closed in November 2001.[76] By this time, suburban growth around Washington, D.C., had spread to the Lorton area, changing the character from one of open space and scattered houses to one of dense housing developments and commercial areas, a condition

73. NRN, 95.

74. Frank Tropin, "Lorton Suit Aligns Odd Bedfellows," *Alexandria Gazette*, 6 January 1973, A1; "Lorton Removal Suit Dismissed," *Northern Virginia Sun*, 6 October 1975, 1.

75. NRN, 104.

76. Serge F. Kavaleski, "Lorton's Final Lockdown," Washington Post, 20 November 2001, B1.

Figure 2-16. Agricultural lands of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory, ca. 1940s. Source: D.C. Archives.

Figure 2-17. Detail, Quantico (on left) and Indian Head (on right) USGS Quadrangle maps, ca. 1956-57. Source: USGS.

2002

Figure 2-18. Aerial photograph of the study area, 2002. Source: Fairfax County Park Authority.

clearly apparent in the 2002 aerial photograph of the study area (*Figure 2-18*).

Very little about the Laurel Hill House site in particular was documented after it ceased to serve as a residence sometime during the late 1960s to early 1970s. Photographs of the house taken during the 1970s show it to be in good condition at that time.[77] During the 1980s and 1990s, various organizations sponsored work days to clean up the area, including a 1997 Eagle Scout clearing project in the Terraced Garden. [78]

On July 15, 2002, Fairfax County received title to 2,324 acres of the former prison facility at a cost of $4.2 million.[79] This land acquisition represents one of the most ambitious planning efforts ever undertaken by Fairfax County. In addition to establishing guidelines for the adaptive reuse of buildings associated with the former prison, the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan provides a strategy for optimizing natural resource areas, promoting recreation, and preserving open space and heritage resources.

The D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District is significant for its building complexes and landscape areas associated with a Progressive-era penal institution. The Laurel Hill House functioned as the Superintendent's residence for the institution during the period 1914-1961. The Laurel Hill House was listed as a contributing feature in the district's 2005 National Register Nomination (the district was listed on the National Register in 2006). The ca. 1962 garage described in the nomination as a non-contributing feature has been demolished. Other contributing features on the Laurel Hill House site include the Laurel Hill Entrance Drive, a two-lane un-striped asphalt road that retains its historic alignment; the brick retaining wall along the entrance drive, which runs for approximately 250 feet along the road edge; the Lindsay Cemetery; and the Terraced Garden. The landscape in the immediate vicinity of the house consists of approximately two acres of yard north and south of the house and the Terraced Garden that occupies a half-acre to the southeast. Designed in the neoclassical style, the Terraced Garden is comprised of a series of outdoor rooms and walks, organized along a primary and secondary axis and featuring parallel terraces. The garden includes brick walls and steps, brick-paved walks, the remains of a rectangular reflecting pool (filled in with soil and inoperative), remnant ornamental plantings, brick-edged planting beds, and the remains of what was likely a rock garden, with a surviving pedestal fountain (also inoperative). The brickwork has been identified as characteristic of that constructed by prison labor throughout the historic district, but much of this brickwork is presently obscured by overgrown vegetation and accumulated soil.

The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan recommends that the Laurel Hill House and its associated Terraced Garden be designated a heritage resource area. While the Fairfax County Park Authority does not own the house, the plan recommended that they provide technical assistance in a public-private partnership to develop the Historic Structure Report for the Laurel Hill House and this Cultural Landscape Report as components of a phased historic preservation plan.[80]

77. HSR, 7

78. "Laurel Hill File," Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA.

79. EDAW and Vanasse Hangen Brustin, Inc., *Laurel Hill Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan*, prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority (Fairfax, VA, 2004), 11.

80. EDAW and Vanasse Hangen Brustin, Inc., *Laurel Hill Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan, prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority* (Fairfax, VA, 2004), http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/laurelhill/approvedlhcdpp3.pdf (accessed 20 September, 2008), 64.

Chapter Three: Existing Conditions

INTRODUCTION

This chapter documents the existing landscape features of the study area with narrative text, photographs, and maps, organized into four sections. The first, Environmental Context and Setting, sets the study area in its regional environmental context and describes the broader natural systems that affect the park property. The second section, Cultural Context and Setting, describes regional elements such as planning and zoning policies, historic designations, relationship to local transportation, and demographic information that provide a cultural framework for the park. The third section, Landscape Description by Characteristic, describes the extant landscape features and resources that comprise the study area. These descriptions are organized into the following landscape characteristic categories:

- natural features and systems;
- topographic modifications;
- spatial organization;
- views and vistas;
- land uses;
- circulation;
- vegetation;
- buildings and structures;
- small-scale features; and
- archaeological resources.

Use of these categories is consistent with the methodology recommended in National Register Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* and the National Park Service's *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*. Maps and photographs illustrate the narrative feature descriptions. Following the documentation section, the Inventory and Condition Assessment lists each of the documented landscape features by characteristic and describes their condition.

While this chapter contains descriptions of features within the cultural landscape, the investigation focuses on the remains of the Terraced Garden which occupies a half-acre site to the southeast of the Laurel Hill House. Designed in the neoclassical style, the garden is consists of a series of outdoor rooms and walks organized along a primary and secondary axis and featuring parallel terraces. The garden contains brick walls and steps, brick-paved walks, the remains of a rectangular reflecting pool, remnant ornamental plantings, brick-edged planting beds, and the remains of a rock garden with a surviving pedestal fountain. The brickwork has been identified as characteristic of that constructed by prison labor throughout the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District. This, and the fact that the garden exhibits important defining features typical of early-20th-century neoclassical gardens, present the major contributing factors to the historic significance of the study area.

Because of the importance of the Terraced Garden in this landscape, this chapter also includes condition assessments detailing the state of the brick masonry in the garden. Walls and other structures are assessed in Buildings and Structures; steps and paved walks are assessed in Circulation; and edgings are assessed in Small-scale Features. The circulation section provides an overview of brick masonry conditions. The conditions of individual features are documented as part of their descriptions. Major masonry deficiencies have been quantified in units or percentages to give an overall understanding of the order of magnitude of the damage and are not intended for cost estimating or for construction purposes. The analysis portion of the masonry assessment aims to provide a basis for future preservation decisions. Chapter Five of this report provides a detailed, illustrated list of masonry conditions and recommended treatments.

At the end of this chapter are maps that depict the primary features of the Laurel Hill study area and adjacent lands (*Map 3-1*), more detailed features of the north yard, the south yard, and the Terraced Garden (*Map 3-2*), sections showing the grade changes in the terraces (*Map 3-3*), and the photographic station points which correspond to the documentation performed during the site survey of existing conditions (*Maps 3-4 and 3-5*).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT AND SETTING

Laurel Hill is located in southeastern Fairfax County, situated within the Coastal Plain of Virginia near the Potomac River. The regional landscape is characterized by its gently rolling topography, with deeply incised, north-south drainageways that edge rolling ridges, and with steep slopes cloaked in native mixed deciduous woodland. The study area lies within a patchwork of open pasture or maintained grass areas, pine plantations, and woodlands; these are remnants of the natural or agricultural landscape patterns found historically in the Lorton area, but altered by post-World War II suburban residential and commercial development.

Hydrology

Laurel Hill is located within the Lower Occoquan Watershed, which lies along the southern border of Fairfax County and consists of eight small watersheds that drain either into the Bull Run/Occoquan River system or directly into the Potomac River. The Bull Run/Occoquan River system feeds the Occoquan Reservoir, which provides drinking water to more than a million residents of the region.

Approximately half of the Lower Occoquan Watershed area is included in the Watershed Protection Overlay District, established in 1982 by Fairfax County to protect the Occoquan Reservoir. This designation restricts development to one residential dwelling unit per five acres. As a result, some of the densest woods and highest quality streams in Fairfax County can be found within the Lower Occoquan Watershed.[1]

The Laurel Hill study area is situated on a small ridge overlooking two tributaries to Giles Run, which flows into Massey Creek and then into the Occoquan River approximately five miles south of the site. The Occoquan widens at this point, forming Belmont Bay and Occoquan Bay on the west side of the Mason Neck peninsula of land. The Occoquan joins the Potomac River as it rounds the edge of Mason Neck.

Geology and Soils

Geologically, the Coastal Plain in which Laurel Hill is located is part of the Triassic Lowland Province. The Triassic Lowland Province is underlain by crystalline and sedimentary rocks—sandstone, siltstone, shale, and conglomerates. Wide and gently rolling hilltops, with long, sloping sides and nearly level areas at the top and bottom of slopes represent the geomorphology of this region. The level areas, particularly in lowlands, are often slowly permeable and poorly drained.[2]

Soils at Laurel Hill include several types common throughout the Coastal Plain (*Figure 3-1*). The precise composition of the soils at the northern part of the project area is identified on soil maps only as "cut and fill," which suggests that it may be a mixture of soils imported from other parts of the county that have been mixed with the native soils. "Cut and fill" underlies the entire Reformatory and Penitentiary, stretching south to surround the Laurel Hill House and part of its yard.[3]

Beltsville soil (#38B2). is found on the level ridgetop south of the house yard This gravelly and silty soil occurs on hilltops and terraces in the Coastal Plain, over weathered schists and granites. Slow permeability results in a seasonal high water table perched 1.5 to 2.5 feet below the surface. Foundation support is typically good but proper drainage is necessary. Grading and subsurface drainage is usually required to eliminate wet yards.

Loamy and gravelly sediments (#61C2) occur on most of the steep hillsides. This soil type underlies the Terraced Garden and the slopes to the east, west, and south of Laurel Hill House. Composed of layers of deposited gravels, sands, silts, and clays, soil conditions are highly variable and site-specific. In the area of Lorton, these soils are generally stable.

At the toes of these steep slopes lie some limited areas of level land, underlain by Lunt soils (#49C2) which vary from sands to clays; in clays, a perched seasonal water table may be present. Permeability and stability varies depending on the subsoil's clay or sand content.

Along the creeks at the bottom of the area's drainageways, Hyattsville soil (6B+) occurs, derived from sediments eroded from the slopes above. Soil materials include clay, silt, sand, and gravel. The seasonal high water table is one to two feet below the surface. Soil is soft and seasonally saturated, and permeability is generally moderate.

1. Fairfax County, "Lower Occoquan Watershed," http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/loweroccoquan.htm (accessed 8 September 2008).

2. Fairfax County, "Ratings of Soils For Urban Development in Fairfax County," http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/soilrating.htm (accessed 21 September 2005).

3. The permeability and stability of these soils are not known, so site specific testing should be done prior to any structural additions to the site.

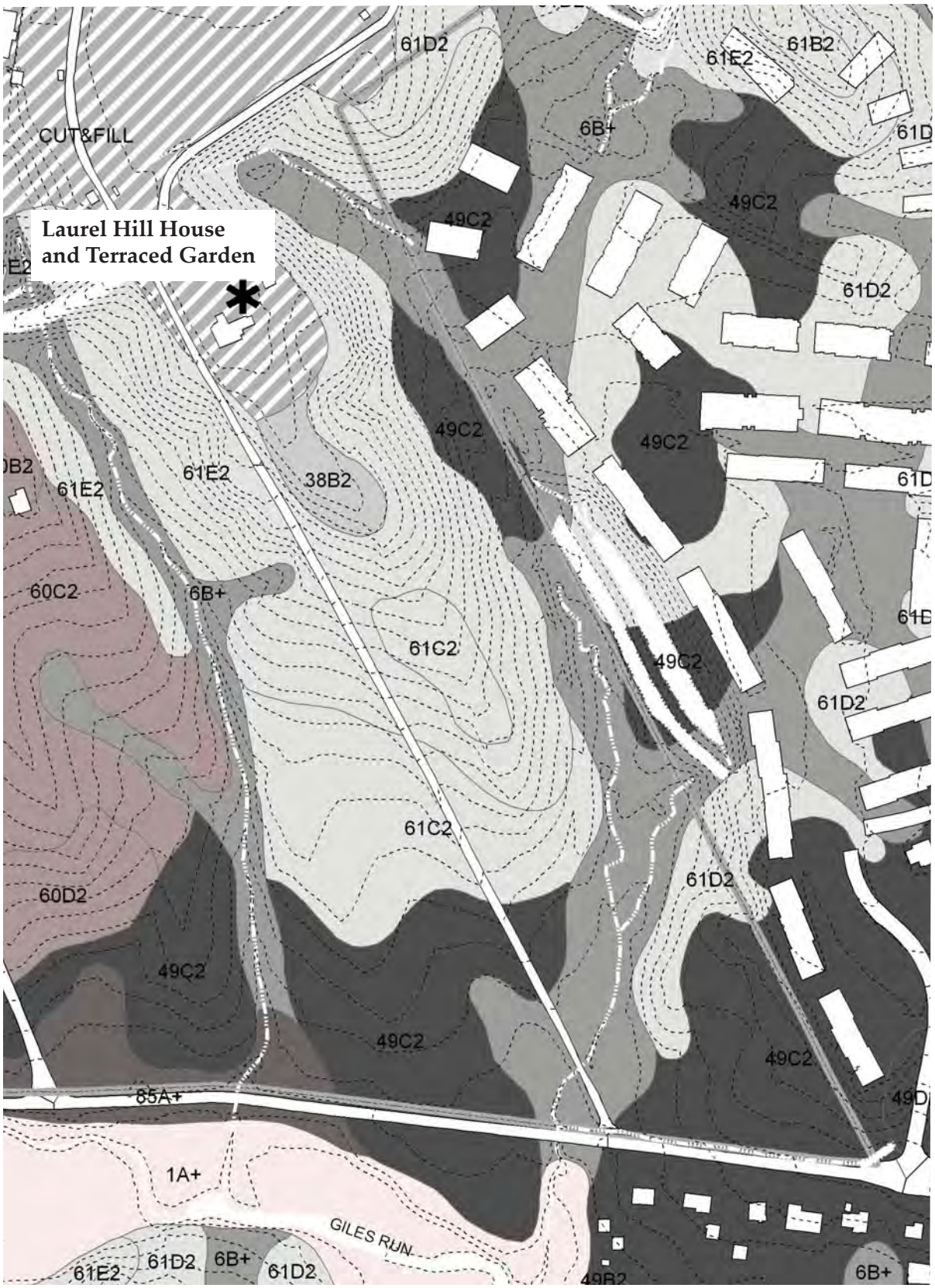

Figure 3-1. Soil Map of Laurel Hill vicinity. Source: JMA, 2006.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Native mixed deciduous forest is the natural vegetation community in much of this region and consists primarily of secondary forest growth that has replaced former agricultural fields. This forest community is typically dominated by oak, hickory, and tulip poplar, with beech, redbud, hornbeam, black cherry as understory. Native mixed deciduous forest covers many of the area's steep slopes along drainageways. Vegetation within the study area conforms with this overall natural pattern.

A wildlife study was not included in the scope for this project. There is no knowledge of any endangered faunal species associated with this site.

CULTURAL CONTEXT AND SETTING

Fairfax County is a rapidly growing area of suburban and urban development within the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Its proximity to the cities of Alexandria and Arlington, as well as the Pentagon, Reagan National Airport, and Dulles International Airport, has made Fairfax County a desirable area for residential and commercial development. In the midst of this bustling, increasingly dense and diverse county, the former prison lands, which include this study area, were isolated from development due to their ownership by the federal government and its function as the primary corrections facility for the D.C. penal system. The federal reservation also included a Nike missile site and other government functions, further limiting public access to the area at large, despite its proximity to Interstate 95 and the growth of highly populated residential suburbs and commercial centers on all sides.

The prison closed in 200 and other government functions, many obsolete after the end of the Cold War, were also removed. The federal government transferred the property to Fairfax County ownership in 2002, and the county undertook a planning process to determine best uses for the land. As a result of these plans, recent years witnessed much residential, recreational, and industrial development in and around the land that made up the former federal reservation. The area now more closely resembles the surrounding county in its development pattern. Within this context, the 511-acre D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District, according to the National Register nomination,"remains open and reminiscent of its agrarian past, if not also illustrative of recent years of neglect."[4]

As mentioned in Chapter One, the Laurel Hill study area is surrounded by narrow buffers of successional forest, but the Reformatory buildings within the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area lie immediately to the north, Laurel Hill Park lands continue to the west and south, and there are private residential subdivisions to the east. Between the Laurel Hill House and the residential area there is also the trace of a ca. 1930s construction road that parallels the drainageway east of the house site. The area is part of the Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector (LP1), identified in the Lower Potomac Planning District section of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan of 2000. The sector is located in southeastern Fairfax County just west of I-95 and Route 1 and generally bounded by the Occoquan River to the south and the property lines of the former D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDC) to the north, east, and west. This division includes the entire former DCDC property to the north and approximately 200 acres associated with the Vulcan Quarry and the Fairfax County Water Authority to the south. General goals for the north half of the sector include the redevelopment of the correctional facilities for either preservation as heritage resources, adaptive re-use, or parks and open space.

LP1 is further subdivided into six land units. The Laurel Hill study area is located in Sub-unit 3B of Land Unit 3 (LU3). It is recommended in that plan that the Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden be designated heritage resource areas. In cooperation with this recommendation, the Fairfax County Park Authority initiated this CLR and the Historic Structure Report, mentioned in Chapter One, to provide historical and existing conditions documentation, historical significance and integrity analyses, and treatment recommendations to support the use of both the house and its site as heritage resources.

The information gathered by these studies contributes to what was already known about the house and site from the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Register Historic District nomination. This district was deemed significant at the state level under National Register Criteria A and C, within the areas of Politics/Government, Social History, Agriculture, and Architecture, deriving its primary significance as an example of an early-20th-century Progressive-era prison. The Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden are inventoried in the nomination as contributing

4. NRN, 2.

features, but at the time the nomination was written, little was known about their history and context, so the garden's significance as a designed landscape was not recognized. Chapter Four of this report explores this significance in more detail.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION BY CHARACTERISTIC

Overview and General Assessment of Brick Masonry

The Laurel Hill study area site features the Laurel Hill House, once home to William Lindsay, the Lindsay Cemetery, the neoclassical Terraced Garden constructed in the 1930s, the former entrance drive and an associated brick retaining wall, a construction road trace also dating to the early 20th-century, and surrounding woodlands. The features of this cultural landscape, organized by landscape characteristic, are described in detail below and identified on *Maps 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3*.

Most of the constructed features in the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden and environs, including stairways, steps, walks, retaining walls, pedestals, and garden bed edging, were built with brick masonry. Stairs and paths are addressed more specifically in the *Circulation* section; walls in the *Buildings and Structures* section; and edging in *Small-scale Features*. The type of brick used throughout the site is a hard-fired, fine red clay brick with no evidence of impurities. Its typical dimensions are 8-1/8 by 3-3/4 by 2-1/16 inches. The bricks appear to be quite uniform and are machine made. The grayish-white mortar is cementitious, with medium to fine aggregate.

Since the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory owned brick kilns at a site nearby along the Occoquan River that were active during construction of the Terraced Garden, the brick was most likely produced there and laid by prisoners, as was the brick used to construct the buildings at the Reformatory, Workhouse, and Penitentiary complexes. The quality and consistency indicates that the brick yard produced good materials based on a relatively sophisticated knowledge of brick. The proficiency carried out in the brick manufacturing extended to the masonry skill that built the Terraced Garden. The existing condition of the Terraced Garden masonry serves as a testament to this craftsmanship. Brick walls, stairs, and edgings are in remarkable condition, particularly considering the lack of basic maintenance done over the last decade at the site. The durability of the masonry suggests the brick and mortar selected complimented each other and made for an overall well-built system.

Thoughtful design and craftsmanship can be seen in some of the Terraced Garden features, such as the bench on the eastern transept of the garden. Highlighted characteristics of this bench include a stylized, concave-curved base and a slightly reclining back support, both of which took great skill to engineer.

While general conditions of the masonry at the Laurel Hill site are good, problem areas exist. Biological growth, including moss, lichen, mildew, and vine attachment, threatens integrity. Particularly at risk are bricks with direct ground contact, such as: flowerbed edgings (moss); areas where invasive growth is rampant (vines); and especially moist areas where copings have been compromised (lichen, mildew, moss). See Chapter Five at the end of this report for a detailed list of masonry conditions and recommended treatments. Open joints, that is, joints between the bricks from which the mortar has fallen out, typically affect 20 to 30 percent of each element. Some cracking, spalling, and displacement of brick and some entire structures are evident, and the capstones on some wall sections should be replaced and repointed.

Natural Systems and Features

The local natural topography shaped the evolution of Laurel Hill landscape. The house, situated upon a north-south **ridge** between two drainageways, typifies 18th-century country house positioning, as this siting would have provided a good prospect.

The ridge slopes away on the east and west sides into two drainageways. In each lies an unnamed tributary, or drainageway, to Giles Run. Drainage from the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden as well as the nearby Penitentiary ballfields to the north, has long been channeled to the **east drainageway** via pipes and surface flow. This drainageway, which lies below the Terraced Garden, displays areas of severe scouring along its banks, especially at drainage outfalls both old and new (*Figure 3-2*). Some trash dumping is also apparent along the creek. The west drainageway was not assessed as part of this study because it is located well outside the project site boundaries.

Figure 3-2. Scouring along the tributary to Giles Run.

Figure 3-3. Area of young American beech trees in the mixed deciduous woodland east of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden.

Figure 3-4. Jack-in-the-pulpit in the woodlands east of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden.

Mixed **deciduous woodland** surrounds the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden to the south, east, and west. The oak-hickory-tulip poplar forest is typical of natural vegetation in the region, with American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and box elder (*Acer negundo*) in lower elevations and a predominant cover of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) *(Figure 3-3*). The forest floor is rich in leaf litter, with profuse clumps of native forest plants including Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) *(Figure 3-4*). This woodland appears similar to what would have covered much of the area prior to settlement, but is actually second-growth forest, as this land was cleared for agriculture in the 18th century.

Dry-site vegetation is present along the southern portion of the former Reformatory entrance road, where soil is sandy and exposed to the sun. The plants growing here, though not found elsewhere on the rest of the site, appear to be naturally occurring and include yucca (*Yucca L.*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), a small purple flowering plant tentatively identified as downy rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), and various species of pine.

Spatial Organization

Identifiable organized spaces within the Laurel Hill study area include the former Reformatory entrance drive, the Lindsay Cemetery, the Laurel Hill House, the open lawn areas to the south and north of the house, the adjacent Terraced Garden and related features, the east drainageway, and the former Reformatory construction road, now a trace in the landscape.

The **entrance drive corridor** encompasses the length of the former Reformatory entrance drive, which was built around 1919. Following the relatively level grade along the west side of the north-south ridge, the corridor is edged by woodland along most of its length and by pasture beyond the fencerow on the west side of its southern segment *(Figure 3-5*). The entrance drive extends from Lorton Road to intersect with the Reformatory perimeter road. The corridor is approximately 40 feet wide between the wooded edges along the sides of the road, which is 1,875 feet in length. The corridor space encompasses the drive itself as well as associated features, including two brick retaining walls, a brick-lined gutter, a gatehouse and gateposts at Lorton Road, a small bridge with brick sidewalls that crosses the east drainageway, and two metal gates that limit access to the road. The west side of the road edges a pasture in its southern

segment, with a post and wire fence and a fencerow of mature cedars shaping the character of this edge. The northern half of the west side is edged by mixed deciduous woodland that slopes away towards the western drainageway.

The **Lindsay Cemetery** is located at the intersection of the Reformatory perimeter road and the entrance drive, about 250 feet northwest of the Laurel Hill House *(Figure 3-6*). The plot, which measures about 20 feet square, was delineated in 1936 by the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) at what they believed to be the location of the Lindsay family cemetery. A marble headstone was put in place at that time for William Lindsay, and in 1951, the D.A.R. added a small metal plaque to commemorate Ann Calvert Lindsay. A decorative fence consisting of four brick piers connected by iron pipe segments surrounds the plot. The cemetery is in only fair condition due to the tilting of the brick piers.

The **north yard** is what would have been the backyard during the Lindsay period. This large, level area includes the yard wall edging the east side of the lawn nearest the Terraced Garden *(Figure 3-7*). A concrete driveway and garage in this area were demolished sometime between 2006 -2008.

The **south yard** is what would have been the front yard of the Laurel Hill House during the Lindsay period, and faces Lorton Road. Today it is visible as a small, oblong, and level, but irregularly edged area of lawn with shade trees within and edging it *(Figure 3-8*). The lawn, which was once larger, was likely graded and seeded sometime between 1921 and 1937, with trees planted or permitted to grow around its perimeter including American beech, ash (*Fraxinus spp.*), and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*).

The **Terraced Garden** lies just southeast of the Laurel Hill House on the side slope of the ridge as it descends into the wooded east drainageway. The garden itself is now partially wooded and overgrown, and it is difficult to discern the whole area from a single vantage point. The garden consists of a series of formal landscape spaces divided by walls and terraced levels and connected by linear walks and steps. Steps leading down from the level, north yard provide the primary approach to the garden *(Figure 3-9*). The first space reached within the Terraced Garden from this approach is the **central walk**, which extends east from the bottom of the steps across the width of the garden to the east stair, on the same terrace level as the semicircular terrace.

Figure 3-5. View of entrance drive corridor looking north from Lorton Road.

Figure 3-6. The Lindsay Cemetery is defined by a decorative fence. The Reformatory is in the background.

Figure 3-7. The north yard.

Figure 3-8. The south yard of the Laurel Hill House; the grass lawn is now partially overgrown by sapling trees and brush.

Figure 3-9. The primary approach to the garden.

Figure 3-10. The semicircular terrace.

Figure 3-11. Bench landing, center, and central wall, right.

Figure 3-12. Looking south along the lower terrace. Note drain structure.

Figure 3-13. Forsythia growing along the top of the lower terrace wall.

Figure 3-14. View into the bowl-shaped rock garden; note the overturned fountain.

Figure 3-15. Small terrace along the foot of the east terrace wall.

Figure 3-16. The topography drops off into a dell at the south end of the rectangular garden.

The **semicircular terrace** is north of the central walk, edged by a four-foot-high curved wall *(Figure 3-10*). The central walk spans the length of its flat edge. Both spaces are slightly obscured by a scattering of saplings and small understory trees and an overgrowth of vines and weeds.

The **rectangular terrace** lies below and on axis with the semicircular terrace. Four steps lead down to this garden area from the central walk. The rectangular, level terrace is edged by large trees on the south and east and features a rectangular pool at its center. In the northwestern corner, three narrow steps lead to a landing with a sculpted brick bench/retaining wall *(Figure 3-11*); the entire west edge of the rectangular terrace has no hard edge, but slopes gently up to the south yard. The entire area is now overgrown with saplings and weedy vegetation. A stair at the east end of the central walk leads down to the **lower terrace**. South of the east stair, the lower terrace becomes a narrow, level, earthen platform that gently descends along the perimeter of the rectangular terrace, eventually curving around its south edge and disappearing into the natural topography *(Figure 3-12*). North of the east stair, the lower terrace remains more structured, with a low retaining wall on the uphill side, a brick walk, and a brick edged forsythia bed along the top of a tall retaining wall on the downhill side *(Figure 3-13*).

This **forsythia walk** leads to a sunken **rock garden** just northeast of the semicircular terrace. A large ash tree shades this bowl-shaped area, where there is also a fountain that has overturned *(Figure 3-14*). Large, rough stones cover the slopes of the rock garden; these are not found anywhere else on the site. A stair leads down through the tall retaining wall below the rock garden to access the **east terrace**, a narrow, level space containing three pedestals and a narrow stair that eventually slopes down towards the east drainageway *(Figure 3-15*). The north section of the lower terrace and the east terrace form a space that feels distinct and remote from the upper garden and lies in the deeper shade of tall woodland trees.

There are several less formal spaces that are not as geometrically defined but are also associated with the Terraced Garden. One is a **vista** that at one time visually extended the garden to the south; all that remains of this space is a sparsely vegetated, 20-foot wide swath through the woods, extending along the garden's axis across a **dell** that drops off at the end of the rectangular terrace *(Figure 3-16*).

The **east drainageway** is a large space characterized by a high wooded canopy, an understory of moderate to light density, and landform sloping down to the creek. Within this space a **construction road trace** is distinguishable by its minimal understory, a broad level alignment, and berms edging the sides *(Figure 3-17*).

Figure 3-17. The construction road trace, a level area with bermed edges, lies in the east drainageway.

Figure 3-18. The semicircular terrace's curved wall, viewed from the lower terrace. Note brick-lined swale along cheek wall in foreground.

Topographic Modifications

See Map 3-3 for sections showing the vertical relationships between the terraces.

Terraced Garden

The Terraced Garden at Laurel Hill was designed to follow the natural topography of the ridge as it falls away towards the drainageway east and south of the house. To form the cascade of various garden spaces, it appears that the builder used cut and fill to sculpt earthen terraces and other forms into the existing natural slope.

The eastern edge of the **north yard** appears to have been purposely leveled and defined on its low side by a low curving wall, on the other side of which the landform slopes steeply into the garden below. The elevation of the north yard is approximately five feet above the top of the curved enclosure wall of the semicircular terrace.

The **semicircular terrace**, a level area in the form of a half-circle with a 35-foot radius, is edged along the north by a partial retaining wall about four feet tall. The wall was built roughly perpendicular to the natural fall of the land, so the west half of the wall is retaining, and the east half is free-standing *(Figure 3-18*).

Approximately three feet below and south of the semicircular terrace to the south sits the **rectangular terrace**, a large level area of about 85 by 100 feet. The south and east edges of this terrace slope away to a retaining wall on the east and into the dell to the south. On the west edge of the terrace, an even, gently sculpted slope connects the rectangular terrace to the south yard, approximately ten feet in elevation above the level of the terrace.

Below the retaining wall of the rectangular terrace is the southern half of the **lower terrace** (*see Figure 3-12*). A low retaining wall contains the steep slope above the lower terrace, south of the east steps. The lower terrace continues below the **rock garden**, which is a bowl-like, concave area in the northeast quadrant of the garden about 35 feet across at the top edge with a level area about ten feet across at the bottom of the bowl (*see Figure 3-14)*.

The **east terrace** lies east of the rock garden. It is about four feet wide and hugs the foot of the six-foot-high wall that supports the north half of the lower terrace (*see Figure 3-15*). Beyond the terrace, the site drops off into the east drainageway fifteen to twenty feet away.

Larger landscape

Other topographic modifications are associated with the construction of the Reformatory and Penitentiary in the second quarter of the 20th century. The east drainageway was modified circa 1941 by a **fill section** that lies beneath the Reformatory ballfield at the head of the drainageway, north and east of the Laurel Hill House environs. Evidence of grading, including a level road prism edged along its length by three-to-five-foot-high berms, remains along the **construction road trace** (*see Figure 3-17*).

Views and Vistas

The **view from the Laurel Hill House** to the Reformatory and Penitentiary survives as the predominant long view at the site today. Views in all other directions are now heavily wooded *(Figure 3-19*). If a **view of the garden from the Laurel Hill House** once existed, vegetation obscures it today. Potential views of the garden from within the house are not known due to the lack of access to the interior and upper floor windows at the time of the site visit.

Axial views within the Terraced Garden are largely obscured by invasive vegetation. Focal points such as statues or plantings that may have existed at the terminus of some internal views are missing today *(Figure 3-20*).

The **vista**, a cleared linear view through the woodlands across the drainageway, would have provided a primary terminal vista for the garden. Currently overgrown, the vista is not easily discerned today.

Views of adjacent townhouses along the construction road trace and from the garden were largely obscured by deciduous foliage at the time of the site visit *(Figure 3-21*). Seasonally, views may be more intrusive to the site after leaf fall.

Land Uses

Currently the Laurel Hill site is vacant, and maintained under the jurisdiction of Fairfax County. It is not in use and plans for future uses remain under consideration. However, features relating to former land uses, such as residential, institutional, and agricultural uses, are evident.

Figure 3-19. View from the Laurel Hill House north to the Reformatory and Penitentiary.

Figure 3-20. Axial views within the Terraced Garden are largely obscured by vegetation, such as this view south, down the central axis and central steps from the semicircular terrace.

Figure 3-21. Lorton Road, looking east from the old Reformatory entrance drive.

Circulation

Roads

Lorton Road is a four-lane, asphalt-paved public road that edges the project area to the south. It has existed since at least the 19th century. Lorton Road is currently undergoing straightening and widening through the Laurel Hill area *(Figure 3-21*).

The **Reformatory perimeter road** separates the Laurel Hill House from the Reformatory and Penitentiary, forming the north edge of study area with the exception of the Lindsay Cemetery site. Constructed around 1952 after the completion of the Penitentiary, this narrow asphalt-paved route was primarily used as a security circuit ringing the outer edge of the complex. The road is in fair to poor condition, with broken asphalt.

The former **Reformatory entrance drive**, no longer in use, was built circa 1918-1922 to serve as the primary access route to the Reformatory and Laurel Hill House (*see Figure 3-6*). It went out of use in the 1960s when the new entrance road to the west was completed. Now gated to prevent access, the old entrance drive retains its historic alignment. At its southern terminus at Lorton Road, the road is flanked by brick gateposts and a gatehouse. It leads northwest in a straight alignment, crossing a small bridge flanked by brick walls, then passing just to the west of the Laurel Hill House and intersecting with the Reformatory perimeter road at the Lindsay Cemetery. Partially paved in asphalt, much of which has deteriorated or been partly covered by vegetation, and partially in gravel, the drive is about twelve to fifteen feet in width and approximately 1,875 feet in length. A brick gutter follows the entrance drive along its east side and a low retaining wall parallels the northern edge of the same side.

Road traces

The **construction road trace** lies along the low elevations of the east drainageway (*see Figure 3-17*). It appears to have been a temporary route associated with the construction of the Penitentiary. The trace is about thirty feet wide, sometimes wider, with three-to-five-foot-tall berms on either side, in places constructed of rubble. The trace forks off from the former Reformatory entrance drive close to Lorton Road, and curves around to the north, following the drainageway and disappearing just northeast of and below the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden, with a total length of around 1,600 feet. The trace is in fair condition, clearly discernible, but covered with leaf litter, soil, and vegetation, including sapling trees.

Figure 3-22. Concrete driveway remnants near the garage (garage was demolished sometime between 2006-2008).

What may be an **upper road trace** curves along the hillside south of house, above the construction road trace. Little more than a ten-foot-wide level area along part of the hillside, it is difficult to discern the full alignment or former route of this smaller trace.

Laurel Hill House site

A **concrete driveway** once covered much of the yard to the north and west of house. Today only a few remnants remain visible near the house and the area has revegetated in turf *(Figure 3-22*).

A **brick walk** encircle the Laurel Hill House on its north, west, and south sides, leading to the top of the **west entrance stairway**. This walk is partially obscured, but is laid in a basketweave pattern. It appears to be in fair condition. A **concrete sidewalk** leads from the former concrete driveway to the porch at the northwestern corner of the house, perpendicular to and crossing the brick path.

Informally, visitors can approach the Terraced Garden across either the **North or South yards**, which are kept mown. Formally, The Terraced Garden contains a carefully designed network of stairways, steps, and walks that access the garden's five levels. Constructed almost entirely of brick, these circulation features vary in size and form.[5] They are integrated into the system of walls and landings (described in detail in the Buildings and Structures section). Most of the brick features associated with the Terraced Garden are those that comprise the system of walks, retaining walls,

5. For the purposes of this report, stairways are differentiated from steps by their length, complexity, and structural connection to retaining walls with pier supports.

Figure 3-23. The west entrance stairway leads down from the yard to the central walk of the Terraced Garden.

Figure 3-24. Brick walls flank the west entrance stairway, functioning as retaining walls. The bench landing provides a secondary route from the central walk to the rectangular terrace.

cheekwalls, and stairways that afford access to each of its five levels.

The overall circulation pattern begins at the **west entrance stairway** and descends to the **central walk**, from which several stairs lead up to the enclosed **semicircular terrace**, down to the **rectangular terrace** or, farther east and further down, to the **lower terrace**. In the garden's northeast corner, another stairway descends into the woodland to the **east terrace**, where there are pedestals that were part of an additional garden feature that was either never completed or is now missing.

Stairways and steps

The **west entrance stairway** begins at the north yard retaining wall and leads south to the central walk (*Figure 3-23*). Composed of brick, this entry consists of two short flights of six steps, each with a landing in the middle and another at the bottom. Brick retaining walls supported by brick pedestals with concrete caps edge the stairway on both sides *(Figure 3-24*). A free-standing metal lamp standard is secured to the outside corner of the **southwest pedestal**. Most bricks in the structure remain in good condition, but mortar is missing in 50 percent of the joints in the pedestals and in 20 percent of the joints in the retaining walls. The upper west and lower east pedestals are missing their concrete caps. The lower east pedestal has been completely repointed since its original construction, presumably to correct some damage and is displacing about ½" at its base. A two-foot-square patch of efflorescence mars the west inside cheek wall *(Figure 3-25*). Along the south cheek wall there are four square feet of disaggregated, or crumbling, brick and around four linear feet of structural cracking. The landings

Figure 3-25. Efflorescence along the west inside cheek wall of the steps of the west entrance stairway.

Figure 3-26. The bench steps lead down from the bench landing to the regular terrace, and are flanked by narrow cheek walls, one of which is displaced.

Figure 3-27. The upper flight of the east stairway, looking up and west from the lower terrace.

Figure 3-28. The east terrace steps lead down to the west slope of the east drainageway from the east terrace.

Figure 3-29. Brick path with spanish bond pattern.

and the central walk are paved using a running bond pattern. The method of installation is difficult to discern without excavation, but is most likely brick laid on sand.

From the central walk, a **single step** leads through an opening in the central walk retaining wall to the bench landing. From the bench landing, the **bench steps**, a narrow set of four brick steps, two feet wide, leads to the east and down into the rectangular terrace *(Figure 3-26*). Narrow single-wythe cheek walls flank this stairway. The steps have some displacement. The north cheek wall has detached from the steps and pulled four inches away from the treads.

The **central steps** lead south from the midpoint of the central walk down to the rectangular terrace along the primary axis of the Terraced Garden. This feature is composed of five 6-foot-wide brick steps; the second tread from the top is two feet deep, and the lower three treads are one foot deep; the risers are approximately eight to ten inches tall. The central steps are in generally good condition with 20 percent open joints. A minor spall mars the west cheek wall; the bottom portion of the cheek wall on the east side has displaced two to three inches outward and is missing four or five bricks.

The **east stairway**, a long set of brick steps, leads from the east end of the central walk down to the lower terrace *(Figure 3-27*). There are a total of fifteen steps, five feet wide and of slightly irregular heights and lengths. The upper steps are contained within the tall brick walls flanking the central walk while low cheek walls support the lower half of the steps. This structure has 10 percent open joints and some efflorescence on the north cheek wall. There is some minor cracking—about two square feet—along the south cheek wall and a few spalled bricks. The southeast pedestal is displacing northward and the lower coping on the east cheek wall has displaced in multi-directions. There appear to be two brick-lined swales on either side of the east steps. These have been laid with various sizes of salvaged bricks. The swales direct surface stormwater runoff down the hillside, minimizing the effects of runoff on the stairs (*see Figure 3-19*).

The **rock garden stairway** leads from the lower terrace down to the east terrace. Four and a half feet wide, this set of ten steps is aligned on axis with the center of the rock garden and flanked by brick walls that join the **east terrace retaining wall**. This structure is in good condition with only 10 percent open joints. One brick is missing from the northwest pedestal and all the brick caps on the pedestals have failed joints.

The southwest pedestal is displaced and contains a few spalled bricks.

The short flight of six **east terrace steps** is twenty-two inches wide and somewhat obscured by accumulated soil and debris. The steps lead from the east terrace down the west slope of the east drainageway *(Figure 3-28*). The steps have moss and other biological growth, open joints, and missing brick.

Walks

The brick walks within the Terraced Garden are variously paved in running bond, basketweave, and Spanish bond brick patterns. Some brick walks were identified as present beneath a layer of accumulated soil and vegetation, but it was not possible to distinguish their patterns because they are obscured by this material. Therefore, their condition is listed as fair.

The **central walk** is six feet wide and ninety feet long, paved in brick in a running bond pattern set crossways to the walk. Running in a straight line east-west, the central walk forms a major cross-axis within the Terraced Garden.

The **bench landing** provides access to the bench and the western route from the central walk to the rectangular terrace *(see Figure 3-24*). Measuring five by ten feet in front of the bench, this platform is paved in a Spanish bond brick pattern *(Figure 3-29*).

The **semicircular terrace walk** parallels the curved wall. A five-foot-wide planting bed lies between the wall and the two-foot-eight-inch-wide, brick-paved and brick-edged walk. Buried beneath a thick layer of accumulated soil and vegetation, the paving pattern is not distinguishable.

The **rectangular terrace walk** runs east-west along the planting bed at the bottom of the central walk wall. This four-foot-six-inch wide walk is paved in running bond brick pattern laid east-west, parallel to the walk direction, and has a mortared brick edging on both sides. It is partially covered by accumulated soil and vegetation.

The **pool walk** leads from the central steps and rectangular terrace walk to the pool, and surrounds the pool on all sides. This path is four feet eight inches wide, and is paved in common-bond brick paving, all running east-west, regardless of the direction of the walk.

The **lower terrace walk**, just below and parallel to the rectangular terrace, is an unpaved path edged with stretcher course brick. This path begins at the bottom of the east stairway, and disappears halfway down the length of the garden to the south. It is very difficult to discern due to minor erosion and thick soil and leaf litter accumulation, and it is possible that it once extended to the end of the rectangular terrace retaining wall.

Leading north from the east steps along the lower terrace is the **forsythia walk**, an unpaved path also edged with stretcher course brick. The walk is well covered in accumulated soil and engulfed in forsythia shrubs growing in and along it. A few bricks are missing along the edging and many have been slightly displaced. One small section along the west side of this path appears to have been recently rebuilt, and replacement brick is in evidence along the path.

Garden **turf walks** appear to have been present in the semicircular terrace, between the brick-edged beds. No grass surfacing remains today within their boundaries.

Vegetation

Much of the young woody and weedy vegetation on the Laurel Hill site today is the result of a decade or more of low-level maintenance practices, which included lawn mowing but not checking growth of invasive or volunteer vegetation within the garden areas or caring for the ornamental plantings that would have been a part of the Terraced Garden. These practices have

Figure 3-30. Shrubs growing along the forsythia walk on the middle terrace spill over the east terrace wall below.

Figure 3-31. Chinese peony at the south end of the rectangular terrace's border.

Figure 3-32. A tulip on the south side of the house, east of the front door.

Figure 3-33. A pink garden hyacinth just west of the north, or back, door of the house. Note the basketweave brick pattern of the paving.

resulted in the loss of all but the hardiest ornamental plants that would have existed in the Terraced Garden when it was maintained more intensively. Surviving ornamental plantings are mostly shrubs and bulbs. Some of them have naturalized, apparently migrating into locations they might not have been planted in originally.

Shrubs

Shrub plantings in evidence include **showy forsythia** (*Forsythia x intermedia*) growing thickly along the forsythia walk on the lower terrace and massed on the forsythia bank in the dell *(Figure 3-30*). It appears to be healthy and is growing out of bounds in a few places, such as into the brick walkway. **Shrub roses** of two or more varieties are located within the semicircular terrace and in a bed at the southeast corner of the rectangular terrace. These appear to be planted specimens rather than the invasive multiflora rose often found on disturbed sites, but the varieties have not been identified. **Spiraea** (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*), a popular white-flowering garden shrub, is evident in several places in the rectangular terrace. A **bush honeysuckle**, possibly *Lonicera fragrantissima*, grows in the eastern bed of the semicircular terrace. While this species can spread on its own, this specimen is relatively large and appears to be the only one in this area, which indicates it was probably planted.

Perennials and bulbs

Non-woody ornamental perennials and bulbs are found in the Terraced Garden and around the house. These plants were identified in mid-spring, and there may be additional later-season flowering plants in the Terraced Garden that were not evident in early May. A single **Chinese peony** (*Paeonia lactiflora*), which appears healthy despite shaded conditions, is growing at the south end of the border in the rectangular terrace, at the east edge of the vista *(Figure 3-31*). As it was not in bloom during the site visit, the color of the flower is currently unknown.

In the environs of the house are several areas that may have been flower beds along the edges of the building, as remnant plantings were noted in these areas. These include a pink-and-white-striped, fringed **tulip** (*Tulipa L.*) growing on the south side of the house east of the front door and a pink garden **hyacinth** (*Hyacinthus orientalis*) growing just west of the north, or back, door of house *(Figures 3-32 and 3-33*).

Throughout the Terraced Garden, **daffodils** (*Narcissus L.*) are evident. They are scattered in locations

including the rectangular and semicircular terraces, the rock garden, the large lower terrace, and along the construction road trace. Those observed in the rock garden were a double-flowering variety. The daffodils have likely naturalized from their original planting locations.

Unidentified varieties of **naturalized bulbs** cover much of the terrace slopes around the edge of the rectangular terrace *(Figure 3-34*). With light green, sword-shaped foliage about six inches tall in early May, they appear to be a variety of daylily, but it was not possible to tell for certain at the time of the site visit.

Figure 3-34. Unidentified varieties of naturalized bulbs, possibly daylilies, cover much of the slopes around the perimeter of the rectangular terrace.

Trees

Trees are located throughout the grounds and house environs. Some of the larger specimens appear to have been planted or intentionally maintained as part of the former ornamental landscape, while others appear to be more recent volunteer vegetation.

There are numerous trees on the site, but only a few are particularly notable as large, mature specimens that might have been planted in the 1930s or before. A **large ash**, with a diameter of nearly three feet, stands at the top edge of the rock garden, shading the area under its canopy.

Surviving trees that appear to have been planted or intentionally maintained as part of the lawn plantings include a **clump of hollies** to the left of the front door. These large trees may be Foster holly (*Ilex x attenuae 'Fosteri'*) or another cultivated variety with a finer leaf form than the native American holly (*Ilex opaca*).

A **row of yews** (*Taxus baccata*) stands north of the back door, and appears to be a very overgrown yew hedge that would likely have been pruned at one time. Today it stands taller than the house *(Figure 3-35*).

Figure 3-35. A row of yews stands north of the back door. Note collapsed outbuilding in the foreground.

Various **mature specimen trees** edge the south yard area. These include silver and red maple, ash, and American beech. The lawn edge appears to have come up to, or included, this group of trees until recently, as the woody growth around them is very young, indicating areas were mowed or kept cleared until within the past ten years or so.

In the north yard, an **American sycamore** stands just northwest of the house. Its trunk is heavily covered in poison ivy vines *(Figure 3-36*).

Figure 3-36. An American sycamore, northwest of the house, is heavily covered in poison ivy vines.

Figure 3-37. A large black walnut tree at the top of the west entrance stairway is in poor condition and many of its dead branches overhang the Terraced Garden.

Figure 3-38. An eight-acre grass pasture extends from the western side of the former entrance road. Note cedar at left.

Two large **black walnut trees** shade the west entrance stairway. It is not known if it was planted or is a volunteer. They are in poor condition, exhibiting rot and dead wood *(Figure 3-37*).

Lawn

Grass lawn is present in the north and south yards. Former lawn areas that may have existed within the Terraced Garden are overgrown and missing today.

Other plantings

A clump of non-native **ornamental grass**, which appears to have been planted, stands along the east side of the former Reformatory entrance drive. Such grasses are not long-lived, so it is likely non-historic.

Figure 3-39. Tulip poplar and tree-of-heaven saplings have taken root in the pool area.

Figure 3-40. Recent wind damage in the south yard area may increase the occurence of the aggressive and undesirable species already present here.

Native vegetation

Native mixed deciduous woodland and other natural communities are found on the site (*refer to Natural Systems and Features*). Some native species associated with these communities have begun to grow within the Terraced Garden area. Native vegetation found within the Terraced Garden includes numerous small redbud trees (*Cercis canadensis*), Virginia creeper vines (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and herbaceous groundcovers.

Agricultural vegetation

A **fencerow**, composed predominantly of mature Eastern redcedar, lines the pasture fence along the former Reformatory entrance road. This serves to visually separate the road corridor from the open pasture.

A mature **Eastern redcedar** stands against the south-southwest corner of the porch of the Laurel Hill House.

An eight-acre **grass pasture** extends west from the fencerow on the western side of the entrance road *(Figure 3-38*).

A dense **pine plantation** covers about six acres in the southern part of site.

Invasive exotic, aggressive native, and volunteer plants

Invasive exotic plants that are predominant in the Terraced Garden include Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) and autumn olive (Eleagnus angustifolia). Native vines are growing aggressively on the brickwork, particularly poison ivy (Rhus radicans) and Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia). Weedy growth covers the former planting beds throughout the site, including some possible Japanese stiltgrass (Microstegium vimineum), not developed enough at the time of the field visit to positively identify but known to be an aggressive exotic invasive in the area. Tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera) and Tree of Heaven Ailanthus altissima) trees have taken root in many places throughout the garden, including within the pool area (*Figure 3-39*).

Encroaching around and upon the large specimen trees in the south yard, there are many species of aggressive plants including multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora), grape vine (Vitis vinifera), and brambles (Rubus sp.) Recent wind damage has disturbed the area, which will likely result in an increase in these undesirable species (*Figure 3-40*).

Buildings and Structures

Buildings

In contrast with the many brick masonry structures, the three buildings associated with Laurel Hill are all of frame construction. These buildings are not addressed in detail within this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), but information is provided to help understand how they interface with the surrounding landscape.

The **Laurel Hill House** *(Figure 3-41*), originally built circa 1787, lies within the project area but is not intended to be addressed in detail in this CLR. Situated atop the ridge, the relatively small, frame house has undergone many additions and changes in the 19th and 20th centuries; these obscure the original form and materials of the Lindsay-period building. The residence of the prison's superintendents between 1914 and 1972, the house has been unoccupied since. It is now in poor condition and surrounded by a chain-link security fence. A Historic Structure Report for the Laurel Hill House was completed in 2008.[6]

The **Laurel Hill garage** *(Figure 3-42*), documented during the initial site visit, has since been demolished. It was in poor condition.

A small **outbuilding** was found directly north of house during the initial site visit; this small, gable-roofed frame building had collapsed and was in ruins (*see Figure 3-35*). It is not known if the remains were removed when the garage was demolished.

A **brick gatehouse** dating to around 1930 is located at the south end of the former entrance drive adjacent to Lorton Road (*Figure 3-43*). While it was not the focus of this study it appears to be in good condition.

Structures

Numerous structures are associated with the Terraced Garden, including a pool, a brick and concrete bench on a landing, many brick free-standing and retaining walls, a set of three unidentified pedestals, and a few drainage features. All are predominantly constructed of mortared brick, with some elements in concrete (Chapter Five at the end of this report details masonry conditions and recommended treatments).

The rectangular **pool** is located in the center of the rectangular terrace. Measuring about twelve feet wide and forty feet long, it is edged by a one-foot-high brick wall with a brick cap and is surrounded by a brick walk (*refer to Circulation*) *(see Figure 3-39*). The depth of the pool is unknown, as it is currently filled with earth and brush, including saplings and understory trees, but the interior appears to be of concrete painted blue. A metal hatch at the north edge of the pool contains water valves. Based on its appearance and context, the pool was almost certainly ornamental and not meant for swimming.

The built-in **bench** is constructed of solid brick, with brick arms and a concrete seat; its high back forms a retaining wall to the west *(Figure 3-44*). The bench is approximately eight feet long and eighteen inches

6. Frazier Associates and Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, *Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report and Treatment Options*, prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority (Fairfax County, VA, 2008). (HSR)

Figure 3-41. The Laurel Hill House is now in poor condition and surrounded by a chain-link security fence.

Figure 3-42. The Laurel Hill House garage (demolished sometime in 2006-2008).

Figure 3-43. The old entry gatehouse and associated gateposts stand at the end of the former entrance drive along Lorton Road.

wide, with a subtly concave curve to the brickwork under the seat. The bench is missing four bricks on its south corner; 20 percent of the bench and wall behind it should be repointed and the joints cleaned of biological growth. A four-inch crack mars the bench top. Substantial displacement in the wall that joins the bench to the bench stair has been caused by an overgrown tree just behind the bench (*Figure 3-45*).

The **bench landing** is about three feet high and ten by five feet in dimension. The landing has been laid in Spanish bond. The brick is in good overall condition.

Three brick **pedestals** stand ten feet apart along the edge of the east terrace *(Figure 3-46*). Each possesses a mortar bed on the top surface that may have once held a cap or finial, now non-extant. The pedestals are currently tilting or sliding off the terrace and are in poor condition with biological growth, open joints, and missing brick *(Figure 3-47*).

A five-by-six-foot, one-foot tall **brick planter** stands north of the Terraced Garden on the slope below the north yard. Rubble in the area suggests former features or walks associated with this planter *(Figure 3-48*).

Walls

Brick walls provide much of the visible structure of the Terraced Garden. Most are retaining walls, while some are free-standing and serve to separate areas from one another. A few walls serve both purposes. All are of common-bond mortared brick. Many of walls terminate in square pedestals with concrete caps. The main walls are described in greater detail below.

The **yard wall**, located along the top edge of the Terraced Garden, curves 125 feet in length along the hillside east of the house, from northeast of the house to near the top of the west entrance stairway *(Figure 3-49*). This wall is approximately one foot tall, of common bond, and capped with brick; it is not a retaining wall, but defines the eastern edge of the level lawn of the north yard in a gentle curve. The curved yard wall is nearly covered in biological growth, including vines, moss, and lichen, and has open joints and many cracked or missing bricks. There are several long sections where the capping brick layer is missing.

The **central retaining wall,** ninety-five feet in length, is aligned east-west along the south side of the central walk, reinforcing the cross-axis that separates the semicircular and rectangular terraces *(Figure 3-50*). The wall has two breaks in it, one at the bench landing

Figure 3-44. The built-in bench is constructed of solid brick, with brick arms and a concrete seat; its high back forms a retaining wall to the west.

Figure 3-45. Tree growth has caused a major displacement of the wall adjacent to the brick bench.

Figure 3-46. Detail of one of the brick pedestals along the edge of the east terrace.

Figure 3-47. View of another of the three brick pedestals.

Figure 3-48. A brick planter stands north of the Terraced Garden on the slope below north lawn.

Figure 3-49. The yard wall curves along the hillside east of the house, defining the edge of the level yard. Note drain grate on lower right.

Figure 3-50. The central retaining wall, ninety-five feet in length, is aligned on the cross-axis of the Terraced Garden. Note efflorescence.

Figure 3-51. Cracking mars the the top of the brick coping on the central wall.

Figure 3-52. Cracking on the south side of the central wall coping.

and the other at the central steps. Both breaks are accented by square pedestals with concrete caps. Associated brick walls flank the upper steps and function as retaining walls (*see Figure 3-24*). About 20 percent of the brick joints in the central retaining wall are missing mortar. The two-wythe, brick coping along the top of the wall is cracking apart along its central horizontal joint *(Figure 3-51*). Another fifty linear feet of cracking along the south side of the coping shows movement throughout the central retaining wall *(Figure 3-52*). Nearly one-hundred bricks in the coping are spalled from excess water accumulated in this area from open joints and cracking. East of the central stairs, a small section of wall is displacing slightly southward. Two hundred twenty-five square feet of the wall shows efflorescence and spray-paint graffiti on the south side of the wall affects five square feet.

Most of the **semicircular terrace retaining wall** remains in remarkable condition with less than 10 percent open joints. There is some minor cracking in the wall. To the east side of the central portion of the wall a fifteen linear foot horizontal crack is opening in the coping brickwork. Five square feet of efflorescence is also present. On six square feet of the brick coping is black biological staining that either originates from nearby vegetation such as adjacent black walnut trees or is a micro-organism, such as lichen *(Figure 3-53*).

The **lower terrace retaining wall**, a low brick retaining wall, stands approximately one foot in height, and retains the base of the sloped bank above the lower terrace and forsythia walk. It stretches about forty feet north of the east stairway, terminating in a curve into the rock garden, and runs at least the same distance to the south of the east stairway, disappearing beneath accumulated soil and debris.

The **east terrace retaining wall**, below the forsythia walk and rock garden, defines the edge of the east terrace area *(Figure 3-54*). This seventy-foot-long, six-foot-tall brick wall has forsythia spilling over the top, but appears to remain in good condition with only 10 percent open joints, located at brick copings, and a small amount of efflorescence. A significant crack runs the full height of the wall just south of the rock garden stair, about fifteen linear feet long. Here the wall has shifted, while the rock garden stair has anchored a portion of the wall to the hillside *(Figure 3-55*).

Figure 3-53. Dark staining is evident on top of the coping on the semi-circular terrace retaining wall.

Figure 3-54. The top of the east terrace wall, along with bricks set on end, define the forsythia bed.

Figure 3-55. The east terrace retaining wall has a significant crack due to differential movement of the wall and rock garden stairway.

Figure 3-56. The northern segment of the wall along the entrance drive has a pointed, ornamental triangular cap.

Figure 3-57. Brick loss where the entrance drive retaining wall makes its jog to the east and continue in its southern segment (to the right) of the wall along the entrance drive is less ornamental in appearance.

Figure 3-58. A brick gutter edges much of the former entrance road.

Structures in the larger landscape

The **wall along the entrance drive** was built circa 1919-1922. This brick wall, built in common-bond masonry, edges the east side of the former Reformatory entrance road near the Laurel Hill House. The wall begins just southwest of the house and runs south along the road edge. The northern segment of the wall is approximately four feet tall and is more substantial that the other retaining walls on the site as it is thicker and has a robust, pedimented brick cap *(Figure 3-56*). It runs for approximately 250 feet along the road edge, where it ends with a sloped, flat-capped segment, jogging a foot to the east. Here there is around four square feet of brick loss *(Figure 3-57*). The southern segment of the wall continues from here, a low, brick retaining wall of a different character, more simple in appearance. Overall, the wall along the entrance drive is in good overall condition, although small areas exhibit biological growth, open joints, cracking, efflorescence, and spalling.

The brick **gateposts** associated with the old entry gatehouse stand at the end of the former Reformatory entrance drive along Lorton Road (*see Figure 3-43*). They are in good condition.

A **brick gutter** edges much of the former Reformatory entrance road *(Figure 3-58*). Covered almost entirely by accumulated soil and vegetation, this gently convex, three-foot-wide gutter is lined with bricks set on edge lengthwise and fitted closely together.

A **brick bridge** is located near the southern end of the former Reformatory entrance road *(Figure 3-59*). The small bridge crosses a creek; the road crossing the bridge is flanked by its side walls. The matching walls, each eighteen feet long and one foot wide, are in fair condition; they are almost entirely covered in vines that appear to be dislodging one section of the eastern wall.

Stone headwalls mark culvert ends along the construction road trace below the Terraced Garden. These include a D-shaped, dry-laid stone headwall and another wall where an unidentified drainage empties into the east drainageway, both associated with old terra cotta drainage pipes *(Figure 3-60*).

A **concrete foundation** stands along the west side of the construction road trace approximately 400 feet southeast of the Terraced Garden *(Figure 3-61*). This large structure, its original function unknown, was built into the hillside of one-foot-thick concrete walls with partitions between three sections. The structure is at least fifteen feet deep, and could be deeper, but the bottom is currently obscured by an accumulation of forest debris. A terra cotta pipe connects to the structure about halfway up the north wall. A four-foot-square brick structure stands in ruins beside it, crushed beneath a large fallen tree; it appears to have been a chimney *(Figure 3-62*). Some of the concrete and brick that was once part of the structure is in a pile on the east side of the road trace.

Small-scale Features

Notable small-scale features are found in several areas in the Laurel Hill landscape. Many of these are constructed of brick or stone. Refer to Chapter Five for more details about masonry conditions and recommended treatments.

Lindsay Cemetery

The **William Lindsay grave marker**, installed by the D.A.R. in 1936 as a memorial, is a simple, weathered white marble tablet with an arched top *(Figure 3-63*). The engraved text reads: "William/Lindsay/VA Mil/ Rev War/1792." Despite some biological staining, it appears in good condition.

The **Ann Lindsay grave marker** is a metal shield-shaped plaque set on a metal stake *(Figure 3-64*). It reads: "Wife of a/Revolutionary War/Soldier/Anne C. Lindsay/1776-1783/Placed By/Fairfax County/ Chapter, D.A.R." There is a flag-shaped seal in the center of the text. The marker was placed by the DAR in 1951 and is in good condition.

The **cemetery fence** is comprised of four, ten-course, one-foot-square, brick piers in each corner, connected by a two-inch diameter steel pipe rail (*see Figure 3-6*). The piers are topped with a stepped brick capstone. The fence appears to have been constructed in much the same manner as the other brick features at the site, and may date to the D.A.R.'s memorial activities in the 1930s-1950s. The fence is in fair condition due to tilting piers, missing bricks, and rusting steel rails.

Terraced Garden features

A small, white-painted, cast-concrete pedestal **fountain** lies on its side in the rock garden *(Figure 3-65*). Composed of a shallow hexagonal bowl on a hexagonally faceted pedestal, the fountain is three and a half feet tall and has stubs of water pipes extending from its base. Although it has been overturned and cut off from water pipes, the fountain appears generally intact. It is lying in the low point of a semicircular recess lined with carefully placed limestone and marble

Figure 3-59. A brick bridge is located near the southern end of the former entrance road.

Figure 3-62. A four-foot-square brick chimney in ruins beside the concrete foundation, crushed beneath a large fallen tree.

Figure 3-60. A D-shaped stone headwall can be found along the construction road trace, east and below the Terraced Garden.

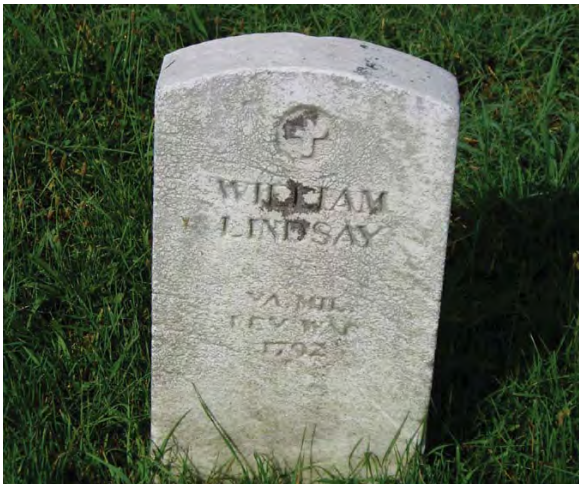

Figure 3-63. The 1936 William Lindsay grave marker.

Figure 3-61. A large, partitioned concrete foundation, approximately 400 feet southeast of the Terraced Garden.

Figure 3-64. The 1951 Ann Lindsay grave marker.

Figure 3-65. A small white concrete pedestal fountain lies upturned in the rock garden.

Figure 3-66. Most of the Terraced Garden's planting beds and paths are edged with bricks that are accumulated with soil and biological growth.

Figure 3-67. A five-foot-diameter circular planting bed is in the center of the semicircular terrace.

boulders. The fountain has some exfoliation especially at the edges of the basin. The piping is corroded and detached from the water source. Some repairs appear to have been made, including an attempt to skim coat the bottom of the fountain basin with a cementitious parge.

Mortared **brick edging** is found along most of the Terraced Garden's planting beds and edges brick paths as well. Some sections of the edging are missing or covered by accumulated soil and biological growth, with some displacement. Significant biological growth, primarily moss, grows on the brick used to outline the semicircular terrace beds, as it is in direct contact with the ground *(Figure 3-66*). Approximately 20 percent of all bricks in this area are spalled or missing. Overall, edging throughout the Terraced Garden is in fair condition.

Planting beds are found in many locations throughout the Terraced Garden and immediately around the house, as well as along the yard wall. Beds are mostly edged in brick (*see brick edging description above*). Some of the beds contain remnant plantings, while most are covered in weedy growth. Planting beds identified in the field include: in the semicircular terrace, a five-foot-diameter circular bed in the center *(Figure 3-67*), curved beds on either side of the circle, and a five-foot-wide border along the curved wall; large, brick-edged 6-foot-wide beds bordering the north, south, and east edges of the rectangular terrace; a two-foot-wide brick-edged bed containing forsythias along the edge of the forsythia walk; a four-foot-wide bed along the top of the yard wall and a four-foot-wide brick-edged bed along what was the east side of garage.[7] It is likely that planting beds surrounded the house, because flowering bulbs were located there during the site visits.

Fences and gates

A **pasture fence** encloses the pasture on the west side of the entrance drive. This five-strand barbed wire fence on wood posts may be historic and is in fair condition *(Figure 3-68*).

A **chain-link security fence** added in recent years encloses the Laurel Hill House (*see Figure 3-7*).

Painted metal pipe **gates**, of the type often found in pastures, block access to the former Reformatory entrance road. One gate, supported by freestanding

7. Note: since the site visits, the garage has been demolished, so the presence or condition of this planting bed is not known.

posts, is located west of the Laurel Hill House, and a pair of similar gates is hung between the old entrance gateposts at Lorton Road (*see Figure 3-5*).

Lighting

A tall **light pole** was located in the south yard directly in front of house. This twenty-five-foot-high, street-light-style security light atop a gray-painted steel pole is typical of light standards throughout the Reformatory complex. In a field survey in the spring of 2008 this light pole was in pieces and lying on the ground.

A metal **light standard** is secured to the southwest pedestal (of the west entrance stairway). The electrical lamp fixture it supports is not in working order *(Figure 3-69*).

Utilities

Two **utility poles** are located along the entrance drive, one next to the Laurel Hill House and another near the gatehouse. These wooden poles appear to have once been part of a larger system of above-ground electrical or phone service.

There are several cast-iron **manholes**—one along the entrance drive west of the house, and two others just east of the house. They are all of the same design, except that one along the drive is labeled "electrical," while the ones near the house are marked "water."

Two large cast iron **drain grates**, two feet seven inches square and formed in a concave V shape, are found in the house area; one is located on the lower terrace below the east edge of the rectangular terrace, the other along the top of the yard wall (*see Figure 3-12*).

A **system of terra cotta pipes** is evident in several locations *(Figure 3-70*). These twelve inch diameter pipes could be part of an underground storm and/or sanitary sewer system installed ca. 1918. The pipes are exposed or broken and visible at the surface in an area north of the Terraced Garden, along the west bank of the creek in the east drainageway, at the unknown concrete foundation, and at points along the construction road trace.

Figure 3-68. A post-and-barbed-wire fence encloses the pasture on the west side of the entrance drive.

Figure 3-69. A light standard with an electrical fixture are adjacent to the west stairway.

Figure 3-70. Terra cotta pipes are remnant in several locations.

Other small-scale features

Metal plates a few inches square are visible partially buried in the ground north of the house near the Reformatory perimeter road. Their function is not known.

Rubble piles are found in several places along the construction road trace and within the uppermost part of the east drainageway. Broken brick, stone, and concrete chunks are found in piles, as well as scattered debris such as tires.

Rip rap is found in several areas along the construction road trace and east drainageway. These areas of loose rock were placed for drainage and stabilization along the drainageway and road edge slopes.

Archaeological Resources

At this time, no archaeological resources have been identified within the study area. However, an archaeological sensitivity study completed by Greenhorne & O'Mara in 2000 identified the area of the Laurel Hill House and Terraced Garden as having high potential for archaeological resources.

Chapter Four: Analysis and Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of three sections. The first presents an evaluation of the significance of the Laurel Hill site and Terraced Garden based on the guidance and criteria provided by the National Register of Historic Places. The property's significance is tied to identified historic periods and contexts and related to the activities that are known to have occurred there. The second is a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. The comparative analysis illustrates the origin and evolution of the property's primary landscape features over time and identifies existing features that contribute to the significance of the property. The third is an integrity assessment that indicates how much the property continues to reflect its appearance from the Lindsay period, the post-Lindsay period, and the Progressive era. The significance evaluation identifies the historical associations of the property, as well as its architectural, archaeological, and social value. The integrity assessment summarizes the degree to which the property retains its ability to convey conditions during the identified period of significance. An inventory that identifies the significant landscape features is included at the end of the chapter.

SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATION

Based on the research conducted on behalf of this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), it has been determined that the Laurel Hill site and Terraced Garden possess local level significance within the areas of Social History and Landscape Architecture under National Register Criterion A and C. The property is primarily significant for the design of the neoclassical Terraced Garden. The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden is significant for its association with the progressive prison practices at the District of Columbia Reformatory. It was constructed by prisoners from bricks manufactured at the workhouse and reformatory complex, but it is unlike many of the other existing structures in the historic district. It is an unusual example of one of the many projects undertaken by prisoners that were intended to provide an opportunity for them to learn new skills they could potentially employ upon their release.

Significance Within the National Register Historic District

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden is significant under Criterion A, Social History, for its role in the prison's Progressive Penal reform programs of the early and mid-20th-century. It is also significant under Criterion C, Landscape Architecture, as an example of a designed garden compatible with the 20th-century Colonial Revival/neoclassical style that defines the architectural significance of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory complex as a whole. The Terraced Garden is listed as a contributing element of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District.

Criterion A

The Laurel Hill site and Terraced Garden are significant under Criterion A, Social History, as part of the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory's Progressive Penal programs of the early and mid-20th century. The Progressive Penal Reform movement considered the main function of a prison to help prisoners adjust to life in normal society thus them to reach their full potential. Elements of this movement practiced at the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory include an individualized approach to the rehabilitation of each prisoner, rather than a prescribed punishment; use of solitary cell confinement only for serious offenders; abolition of lock-step, the rule of silence, and the chain gang; and increased educational opportunities, in both an educational and vocational setting. All of these elements were intended to create an idealized community within the prison that resembled normal society outside the prison. The purpose of this was to teach a prisoner how to function within the free community when released. Vocational training was a central part of the prisoner rehabilitation process and included farm, orchard, and nursery jobs; brick masonry; and other vocations.

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden was almost certainly built and maintained by Reformatory prisoners, like the other features within the overall D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory property from this period. It fit into the prison's progressive programs as a tool for providing prisoners with practical training in construction and landscape work. This training was intended to give the

prisoner the skills necessary to become a productive member of society.

Criterion C

Under Criterion C, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden is significant in the area of Landscape Architecture as a neoclassical garden. This landscape style is derived from Italian gardens and architecture and was popularly used in America during the Country Place era (1900-1940) in the design of private estates. The Terraced Garden embodies the neoclassical landscape ideals through its defined proportions, formal architectural structure of terraces and brick walls, and perpendicular axial arrangement with a defined terminus for each axis.

The Terraced Garden, while highly unusual for its correctional institution setting, is in all other respects typical of gardens constructed on private estates throughout the region in the 1920s and 1930s.

In the first part of the 20th century, new attitudes toward design and new social paradigms set the stage for a return to classical forms. The 1892 Chicago World's Fair and Columbian Exposition, with its axial, architectonic spaces and classical architectural forms, exerted a great deal of influence. During the period known as the Country Place era (1900-1940), new-found prosperity and mobility allowed the industrialist upper class to move out of cities and take up country estates, and the middle class to follow, in a movement to new garden suburbs. The notion of the agrarian ideal—of human spiritual and physical purity in rural settings—had become fashionable, a respite from the industrialized city. The large, relatively inexpensive lots outside city limits, now easily reached by automobile, could accommodate the kind of house and garden that would display one's affluence and status. Landscape historian Robin Karson calls the 1920s "one of the most intense gardening episodes in American history."[1]

European design was also an influence. In the 1920s, with transatlantic travel becoming easier, more Americans were traveling to Europe than ever before, and the influence of the gardens they saw in Italy and France on their own design tastes was clear. Formal historicism, favored by Beaux-Arts trained architects, also fed into the new landscape forms, replacing 19th-century Victorian eclectic and Downing-style picturesque naturalism with new, highly geometrical "outdoor rooms" (*Figure 4-1*).[2]

But landscape architecture was not the domain of only the upper and middle classes. A goal of the Garden Club of America, founded in 1913, was educating the public about the benefits of horticulture and gardening.[3] The advent of neoclassical landscape architecture was also linked to reform movements of the time. The Progressive approach to solving societal ills very much rested on the notion that environmental influence could redeem and improve human character. Landscape architect Martha Brookes Hutcheson (1871-1959) dedicated much of her work to demonstrating the "importance of good design as a force for social and civic betterment."[4]

The City Beautiful movement, a Progressive environmental initiative, began around the turn of the 20th century, influenced by the glorious civic spaces of the Columbian Exposition. This movement sought to improve life in the cities, which had recently undergone tremendous unplanned growth—and a large influx of poverty—due to rapid industrialization and immigration. Urban slums lacked sanitation and decent housing, and disease, crime, and labor unrest were on the rise. It was believed that cleaning up the cities, through "civic art, civic design, civic reform, and civic improvement," would solve these environmentally-influenced problems.[5] Classically designed spaces were believed to have a positive, redemptive effect on human behavior and morality, and overall civic health. It was in precisely the same spirit that the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory was conceived and built in the 1910s.

Neoclassicism Defined

In his 1927 book *Formal Design in Landscape Architecture*, landscape architect Frank Waugh identified the six key features to be used in composing formal, neoclassical gardens. First, they were to have **definite proportions** of width to length, with his recommendations being a proportion of 7 or 8 to 5. Second, the garden was to be on different levels, with changes in grade taken up through **terracing**, rather than through free-flowing landforms (*Figure 4-2*).

1. Martha Brookes Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001 edition, originally pub. 1923), v.

2. Philip Pregill and Nancy Volksman, *Landscapes in History: Design and Planning in the Western Tradition* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993), 566.

3. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 567.

4. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, vii.

5. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 530.

Figure 4-1. Gillette's garden at Agecroft Hall in Richmond, Virginia, designed in 1928, features a terraced "outdoor room" with reflecting pool and brick walls. Source: Birnbaum and Karson, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, 139.

Figure 4-2. Hutcheson's garden at Undercliff in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, designed from 1902 to 1906, showing terracing in the flower gardens and an axial view. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 70.

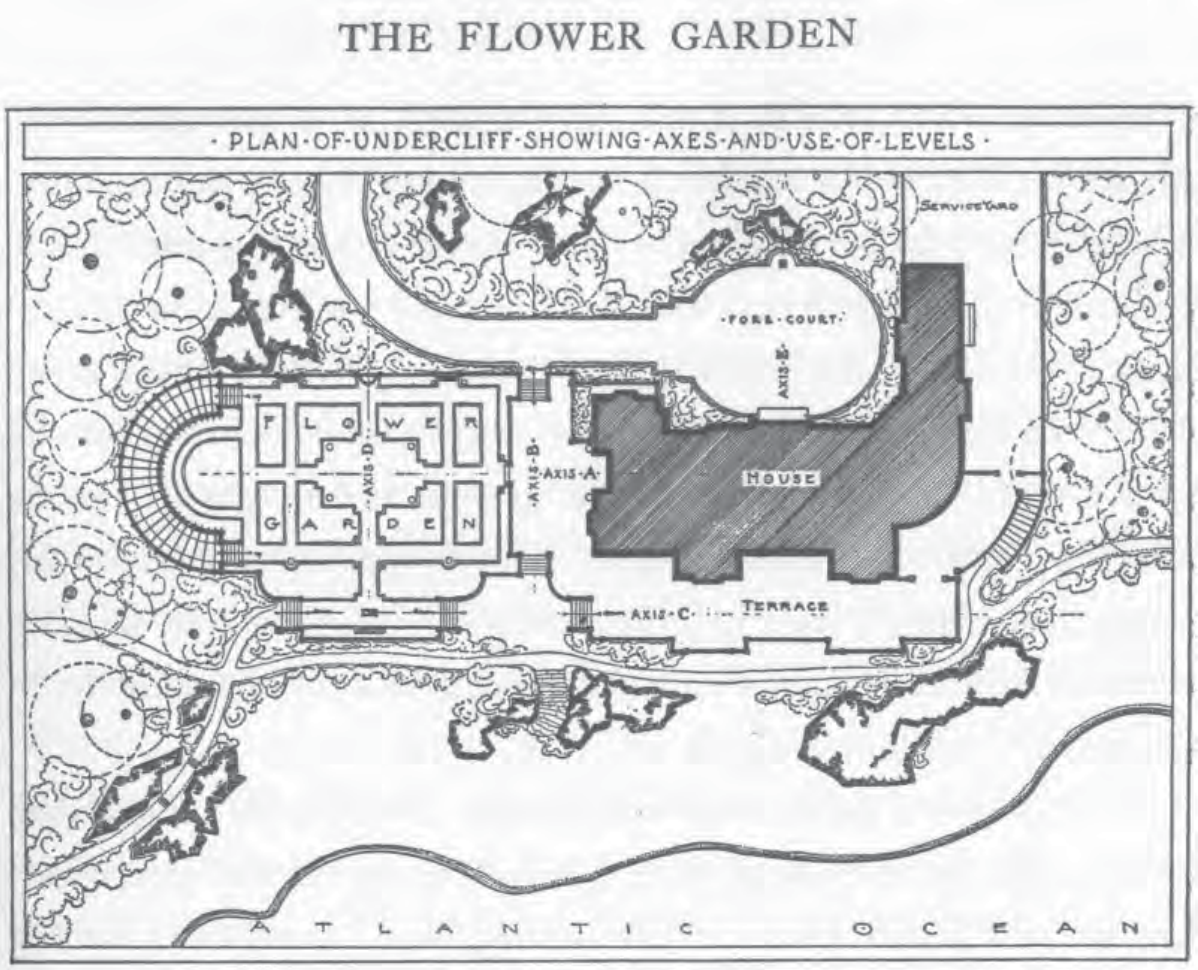

Figure 4-3. Hutcheson's flower garden at Undercliff shows the use of axiality, proportion, and geometric flower beds. The form of the garden is strikingly similar to Laurel Hill. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 11.

Third, the structure of the garden was to be based on alignment of the **major axis**. Fourth, there had to be at least one **minor axis** set at right angles to the major axis (*Figure 4-3*). Fifth, these axes, major and minor, were to be visually reinforced through other garden elements such as **paving**, **walls**, and **planting**. Finally, each axis had to have a **terminus**, whether a sculpture, a vertical structure such as a pergola, a specimen tree, or an overlook to a lower or distant landscape (*Figure, 4-4*).[6]

Martha Brookes Hutcheson defined, in *The Spirit of the Garden*, the architectural underpinnings of the neoclassical garden, through text, plans and photographs. Based on Italian precedents, the garden's formal architectural structure was axial and had level changes, pools, and defined views and vistas. "It is this knowledge of the value of axis that is as essential to good landscape-gardening as it is to good architecture."[7]

A "succession of related approaches" was connected axially.[8] The combination of this architectonic rigor with her emphasis on lush planting beds, and native plants with informal forms, characterizes her garden approach as definitively American (*Figure 4-5*).[9]

Hutcheson's ideal neoclassical garden was very architectural, an extension of the house. The garden was to be composed of "outdoor rooms" (*Figures 4-3, 4-6*). Interest was to be provided through variety, controlled vistas, and changing spaces: "the reasonable complexity of a garden makes it inviting."[10] Around the edges, the use of less structured plantings in more informal areas would serve to blend the garden

6. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 569.

7. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, 52.

8. Ibid., xx.

9. Ibid., xviii.

10. Ibid., 14.

Figure 4-4. A vista at the Boboli Gardens in Florence, Italy. Italian gardens exerted a strong influence on neoclassical design in America. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 55.

Figure 4-5. Hutcheson's garden at Welwyn in Glen Cove, New York, designed in 1911 and 1913, featured lush plantings and strong geometry. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 31.

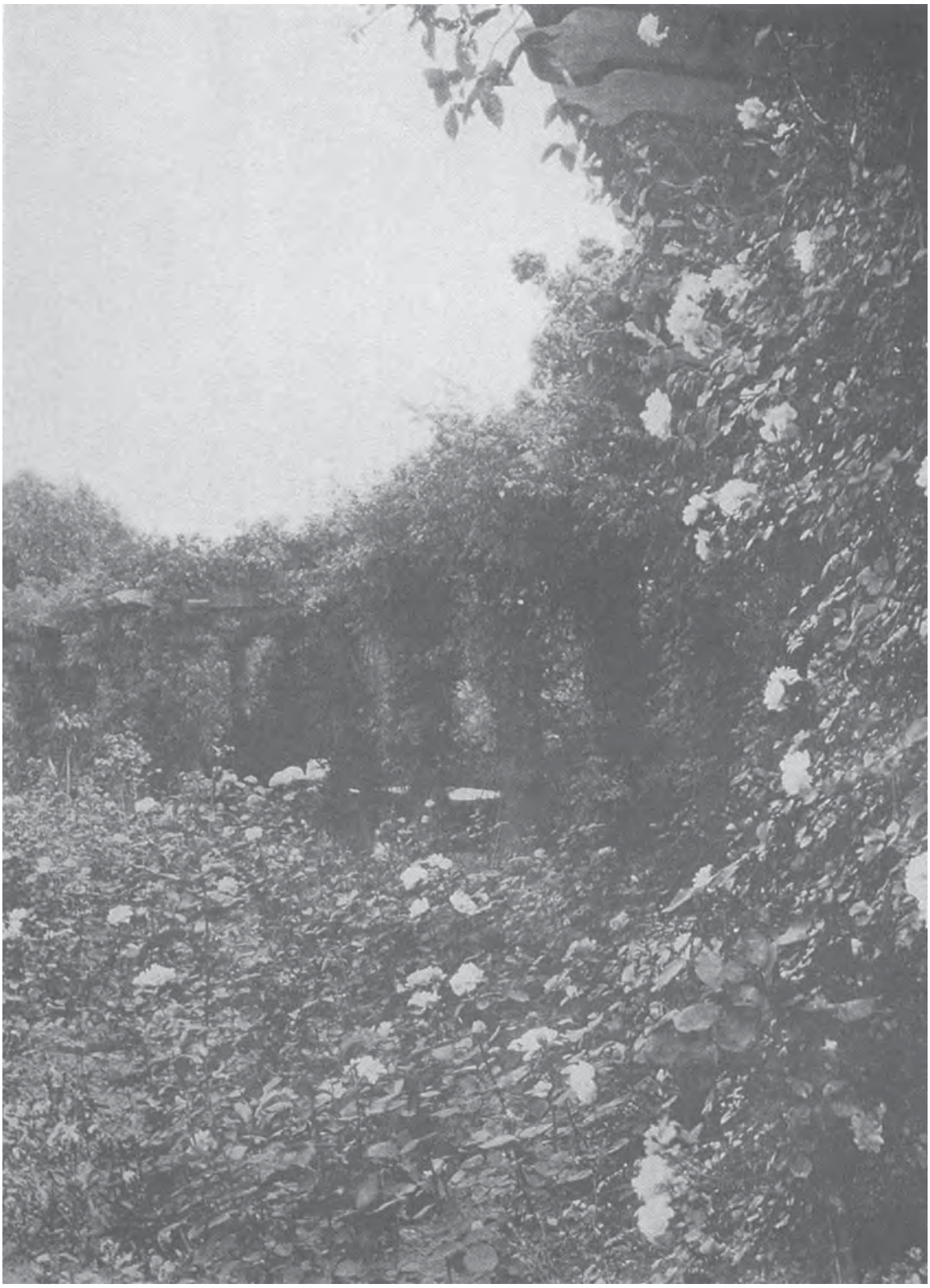

Figure 4-6. Hutcheson designed the grounds at Maudesleigh in Newburyport, Massachusetts, beginning in 1907. A semicircular rose arbor at the edge of the garden marks the transition from designed plantings to naturalized landscape. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 131.

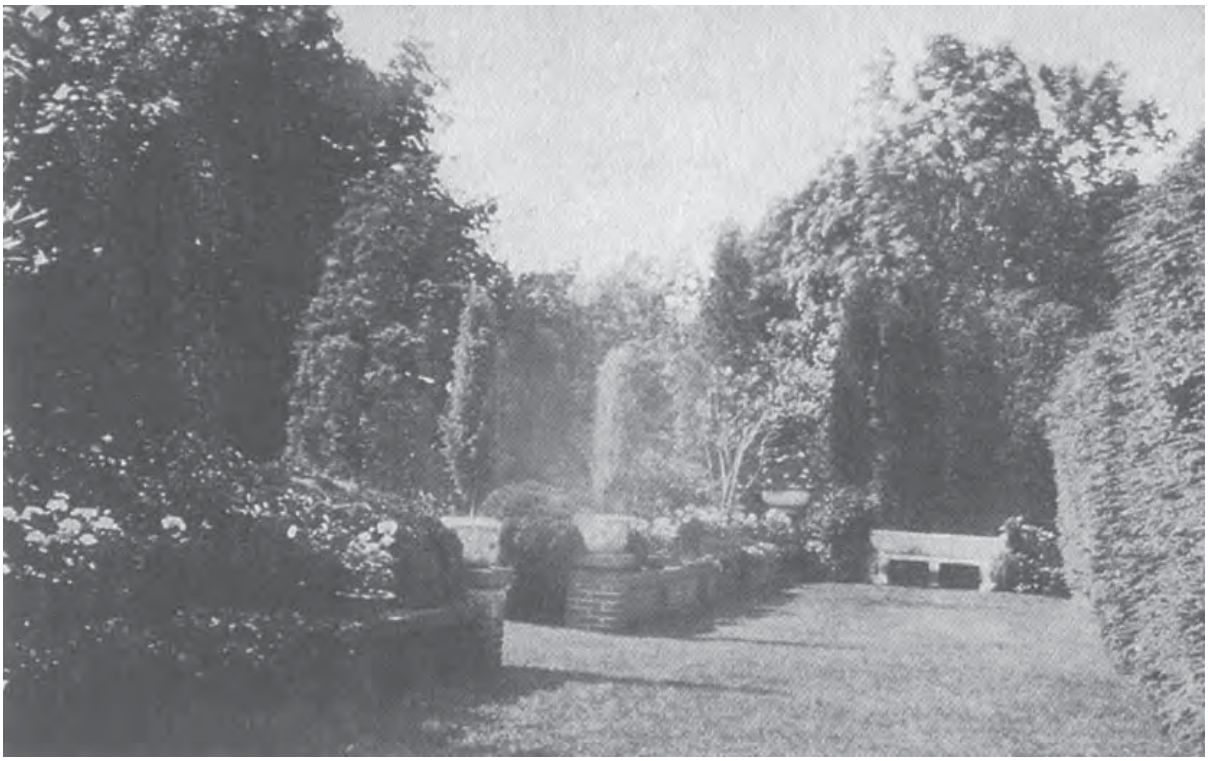

Figure 4-7. Hutcheson designed the grounds at Oldfields in Westbury, Connecticut, between 1904 and 1910. A terrace adjoining the garden is a good example of an outdoor room. Source: Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*, 24.

naturally with the surrounding landscape (*Figure 4-7*).[11]

Neoclassical Designers and Their Gardens

The identity of the designer of the Terraced Garden remains unknown. However, this designer was not acting alone – the garden is a clear example of a style that was repeated in many places and by many landscape architects and garden designers, both famous and anonymous. neoclassical design was exceedingly popular during the late 1920s and 1930s across the United States. The notable landscape architects of the time—including Beatrix Farrand, Charles Gillette, and Ellen Biddle Shipman—designed gardens with neoclassical characteristics in Virginia, Washington, D.C., and throughout the surrounding region. The following is a brief description and comparison of the design approaches and built works of these three well-known landscape architects, presented here to provide a context for the design of the Terraced Garden.

11. Ibid, xviii.

Beatrix Farrand

Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959), one of the best known landscape architects of her time, designed gardens for both private residences and public universities. Between 1921 and 1937, Farrand also designed her best known extant garden, at Dumbarton Oaks, in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. It is often considered the best neoclassical garden in America.[12]

The Dumbarton Oaks garden, while far grander in scale than the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden, has some striking similarities. Farrand worked on the principle of "make the plan for the ground and not twist the ground to fit the plan." The garden at Dumbarton Oaks is based on the existing topography, which slopes away from the house steeply down to Rock Creek. The "house was placed deliberately off-axis, with its principal terraces extending to the east and descending into informal wooded areas below" (*Figure 4-8*).[13] The North Vista, a series of shallow terraces descending from the house, was designed to draw the eye to a

12. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 577.

13. Eleanor Peck, "Farrand, Beatrix Jones," in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 118.

distant wooded hillside via a linear clearing (a device also used in 17th-and 18th-century French formal gardens).[14] Farrand used terraces to divide the garden into distinct rooms. Six different levels within the gardens emphasize formality close to the house, and become less formal as the garden transitions into the wooded Rock Creek dell (*Figure 4-9*).

Farrand often centered her gardens on water features, such as the large rectangular pool at Dumbarton Oaks. She used subtle yet formal symmetry, aligning the garden rooms along visual axes, and massed plantings in borders based on color and texture. This planting aesthetic was influenced by Gertrude Jekyll's impressionistic approach to color.[15] Farrand, like Jekyll, was fond of planted borders (*Figure 4-10*).

Farrand used massing of particular plants to define her garden rooms at Dumbarton Oaks: the Cherry Walk, Rose Garden, and Forsythia Dell, for example. Early spring bulbs are found throughout the garden, such as the tiny blue scilla growing among the roots of a large beech tree; these plantings are intended to give a natural effect. Similarly, the Forsythia Dell's large massing of forsythia cascading down the slope on the edge of the garden is naturalistic, yet calculated and designed, providing a transition to the woodlands beyond the garden.

These naturalistic elements, mostly found around the garden's edges, contrast intentionally with the more formal garden areas such as the rectilinear, parterre-like Rose Garden or the formal clipped aerial hedge in the Oval Garden. Cave-like sculptural stonework evokes a "grotto" on the terrace retaining walls edging the Pebble Garden.

Charles Gillette

Charles Gillette (1886-1969) designed numerous gardens, most for private estates and residences, throughout Virginia in the 1920s and 1930s. His eclectic yet formal style fell easily within the Neoclassicist fold, combining design principles of English and European Renaissance gardens with the English landscape school's less formal aesthetic.[16] Typically, Gillette would site gardens with formal, axial terraces close to the house, creating "well defined volumetric spaces" through the use of walls, level changes, and plantings. Lawns and wooded areas then provided transition into an informal, park-like area, viewed from the house and formal garden (*Figure 4-11*).

Like other garden designers of the Country Place era, Gillette used regional plants and construction materials to freely interpret the more formal historical styles. Furthermore, Gillette's gardens are, for all their European influence, distinctively Virginian; many elements correspond to 18th-century gardens of the region that referenced Neoclassicism. These may include, according to Reuben Rainey,

> An axial organization of multilevel terraces; highly crafted masonry construction; elegant, finely detailed garden structures; and a planting design that emphasized fragrance, seasonal color, shade, and strong volumetric expression through the use of massed evergreens.[17]

Like Farrand, Gillette was influenced by Jekyll's color theory when it came to planting. Gillette used more evergreens than Farrand, in particular boxwood, referencing historic Virginia garden materials that were popular in Richmond and other locations where he worked.

Gillette frequently used vertical sculptural elements in his gardens as focal points.[18] In the garden at Virginia House, in Richmond, Gillette composed a series of elaborate brick-paved terraces with central reflecting pools; straight and curving brick walls; pillars and piers accentuated with urns and sculptures; and views over the wooded park area below the garden (*Figure 4-12, 4-13*).[19] Meadowbrook, in Chesterfield County, Virginia, built in the 1920s, features a garden room arranged around a strong axis, centered on a rectangular pool surrounded by paved walks, lawn, and benches, bearing a strong resemblance to the arrangement of the Terraced Garden (*Figure 4-14*).[20] Some features of his Wheelwright garden, also in Chesterfield County, are echoed by features within the Laurel Hill and other neoclassical gardens: flower beds edged in brick line an axial turf walk; at one terminus, a circular brick-edged bed forms a focal point (*Figure 4-15*).[21]

14. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 578.
15. Peck,"Farrand, Beatrix Jones," 117.
16. Reuben Rainey, "Gillette, Charles Freeman," in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 138-141
17. Rainey, "Gillette, Charles Freeman," 140.
18. George C. Longest, *Genius in the Garden* (Richmond: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992), 23.
19. Longest, *Genius in the Garden*, 85.
20. Ibid., 38-39.
21. Ibid., 51.

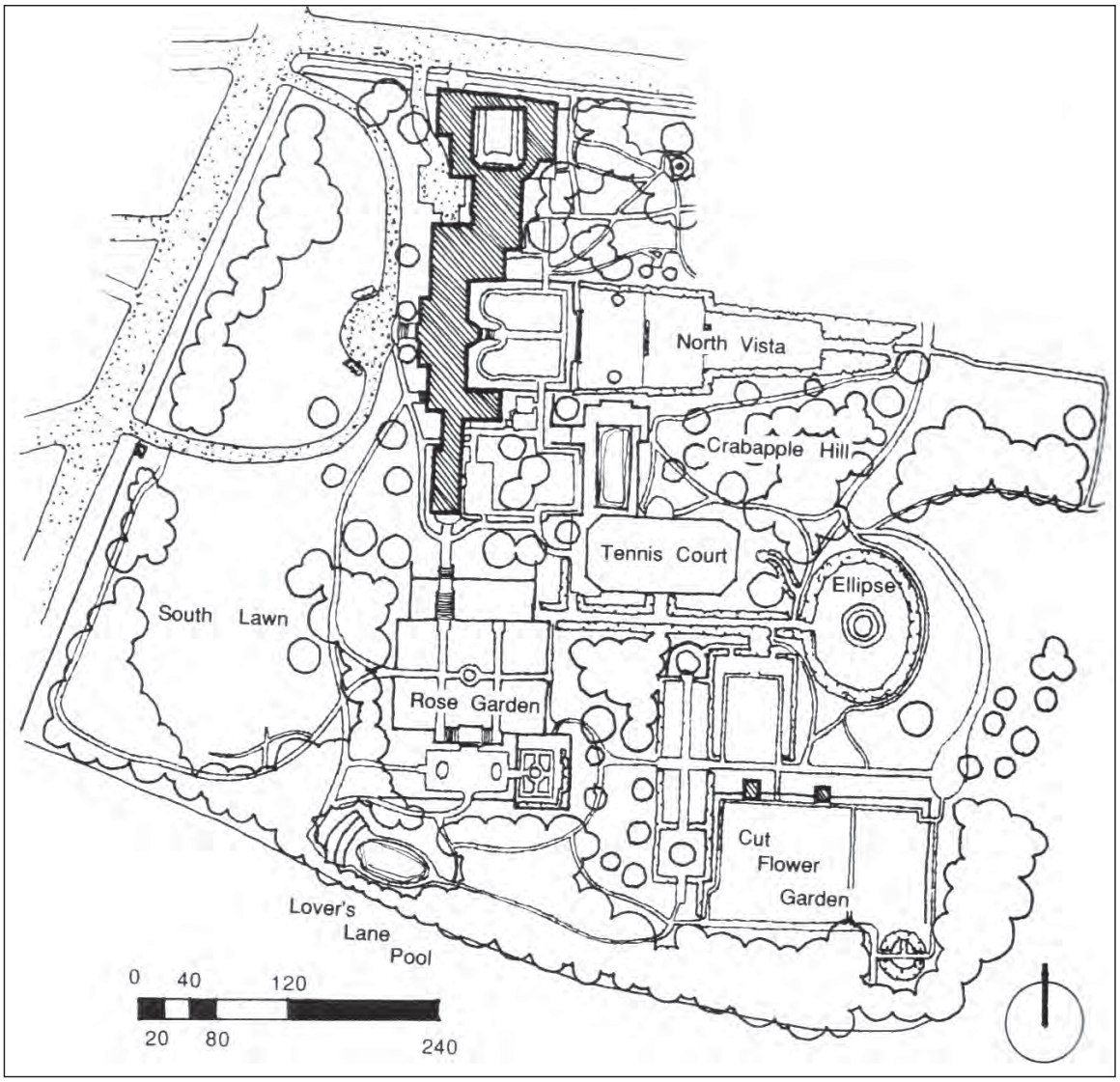

Figure 4-8. Plan of Beatrix Farrand's Dumbarton Oaks garden in Washington, DC, as completed ca. 1940. The grounds were designed to take advantage of the natural topography of the site. Source: Pregill and Volkman, *Landscapes in History Design and Planning in the Western Tradition*, 578.

Figure 4-9. North Vista terraces at Dumbarton Oaks, looking towards the wooded dell. Source: Pregill and Volkman, *Landscapes in History Design and Planning in the Western Tradition*, 578.

Figure 4-10. An example of Beatrix Farrand's planted borders. Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 110.

Figure 4-11. A pastoral area of a Gillette garden in Charlottesville, Virginia. Source: Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*, 41.

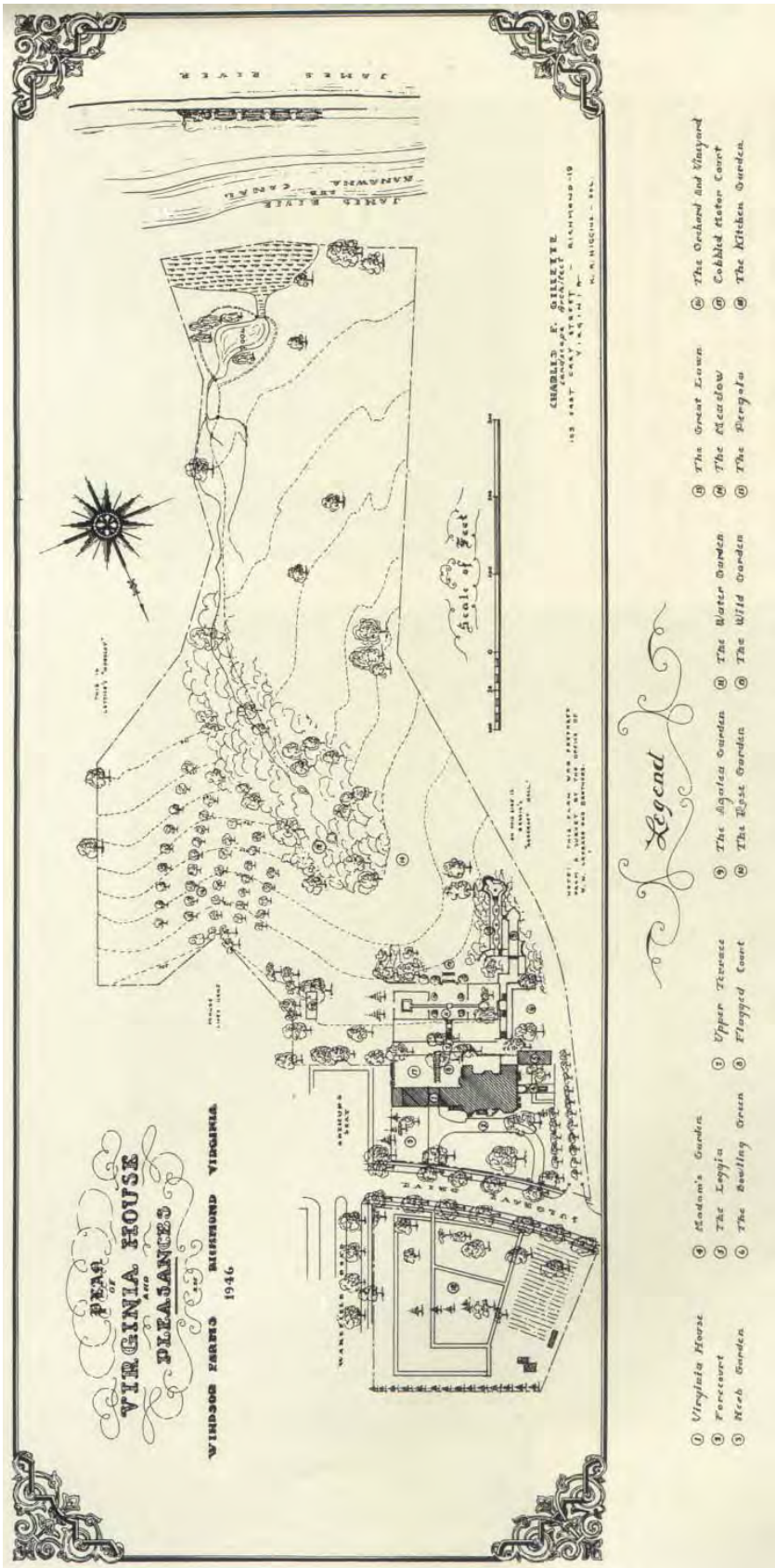

Figure 4-12. Gillette's garden plan for Virginia House in Richmond, Virginia, designed in 1946. Note the elaborate formal terraces forming outdoor rooms and framing vistas of the landscape. Source: Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*, 114.

Figure 4-13. Terraces, brick walls, pools and urns at Gillette's Virginia House. Source: Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*, 85.

Figure 4-14. Rectangular pool at Gillette's Meadowbrook garden in Chesterfield County, Virginia, designed in the 1920s. Source: Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*, 38.

Figure 4-15. Gillette's Wheelwright garden in Chesterfield County, Virginia, designed in the 1920s. Note turf paths, brick edgings, and circular garden bed. Source: Longest, *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*, 51.

Ellen Biddle Shipman

Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950), an influential early-20th-century landscape architect, designed hundreds of residential gardens throughout the United States, particularly in the Northeast, in the 1910s through 1940s. Her expertise in planting, developed in her previous career as a gardener, influenced her design approach. Shipman's gardens are distinctive for their axial arrangement, comprised of a series of spaces or outdoor rooms, each distinguished by its own character, often through use of plantings (*Figure 4-16*). Her gardens featured elements such as brick walls, lushly planted borders, peonies, clipped evergreens and small trees, rectangular beds, axial paths, and a central sundial or fountain (*Figure 4-17*).[22]

For example, her garden at the Campbell Estate in East Aurora, New York, is a technically sophisticated design that employs formal terracing to accentuate landform and connect the house with outlying areas of the property, and features carefully considered, colorful flower planting beds.[23] Shipman's flower garden at the Jennings estate, constructed in 1914, features many hallmarks of the neoclassical design and spatial formula that are similar to the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden.[24] These include terraces, an overall axial organization, a proportionally arranged rectangular garden with a curved end, and a system of brick walks; a fountain basin stood in the central terrace. Plantings in the beds were lush, with peonies, iris, lilies, hollyhocks, larkspur, achillea, primrose, and gypsophila among others. The Alger garden (1917) designed by Shipman included a "pool garden" with a rectangular reflecting pool, planted borders edging a surrounding lawn, and a bench perched on a raised platform overlooking the flower garden (*Figures 4-18, 4-19)*. The 1921 Lowe garden was designed in the same vocabulary, with the rectangular pool, borders, brick walks, and axial views typical of the well-ordered, architectonic neoclassical garden style that was congruent with much of Shipman's work (*Figure 4-20*).

Ellen Biddle Shipman's view of gardening fit well into the Progressive, socially democratic views of the time. She wrote: "Gardening opens a wider door than any other of the arts—all mankind can walk through, rich or poor, high or low, talented or untalented. It has no distinctions, all are welcome."[25]

22. Judith B. Tankard, "Shipman, Ellen Biddle," in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 346-351.

23. Pregill and Volksman, *Landscapes in History*, 581.

24. Judith B. Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman* (Sagaponack, New York: Sagapress, 1996),54.

25. Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 4.

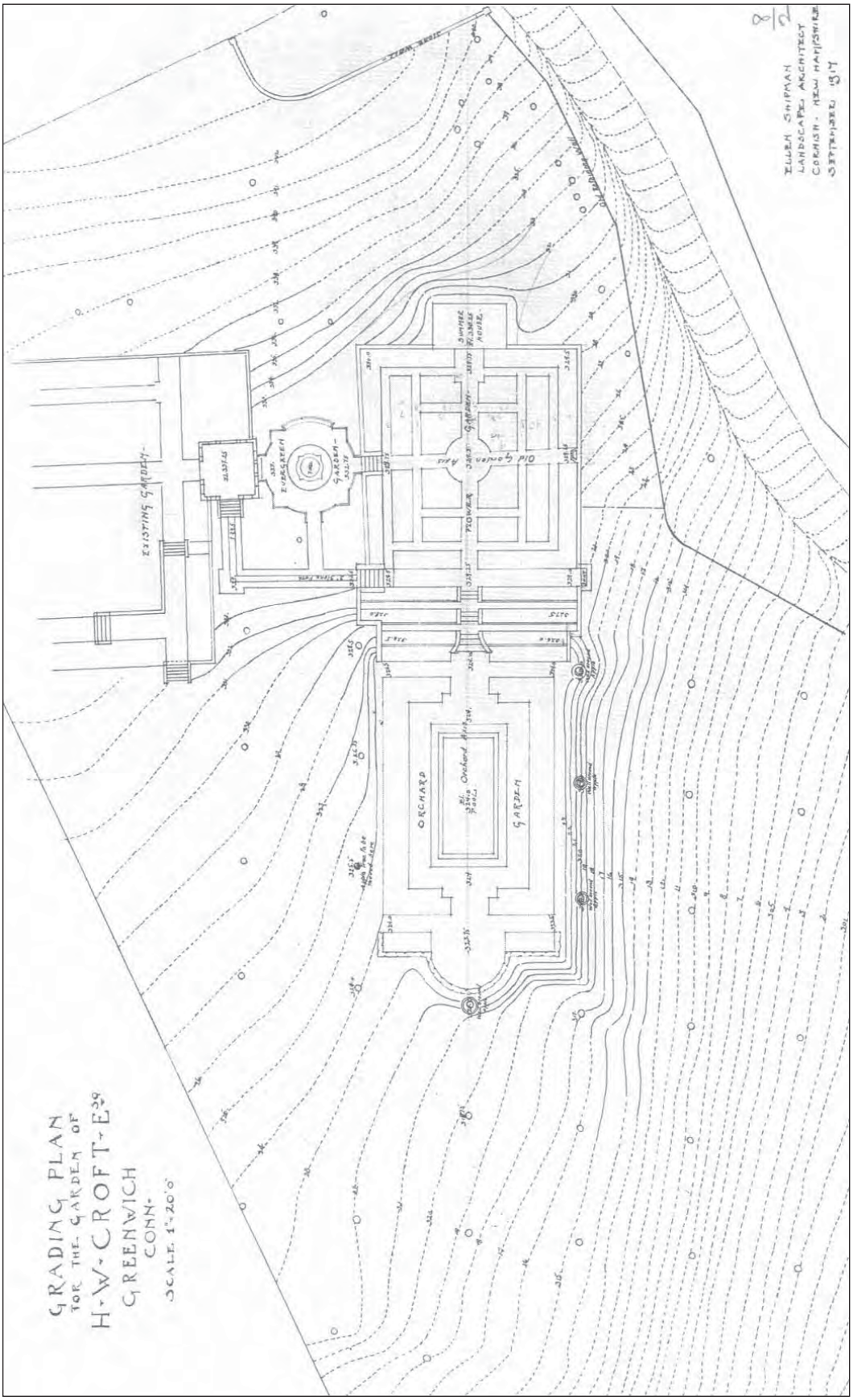

Figure 4-16. Shipman's plan for Croft Estate in Greenwhich, Connecticut, designed in 1917. Note "Orchard," "Flower," and "Evergreen" gardens. Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 57.

Figure 4-17. Shipman's garden at the Hanes Estate. Note the brick wall, walks and edgings, as well as the overall geometry of the space. Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 154.

Figure 4-18. The reflecting pool at Shipman's Alger garden is surrounded by lawn with planted borders (1926). Note the urn, statue, and benches. Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 46.

Figure 4-19. Shipman's Alger garden included a bench on a small, raised platform overlooking the garden, a typical neoclassical feature (1926). Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 107.

Figure 4-20. Shipman's Lowe garden featured brick walks between lushly planted beds. Note the similarity of the paving and edging to those found in the Laurel Hill garden (1921). Source: Tankard, *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, 103.

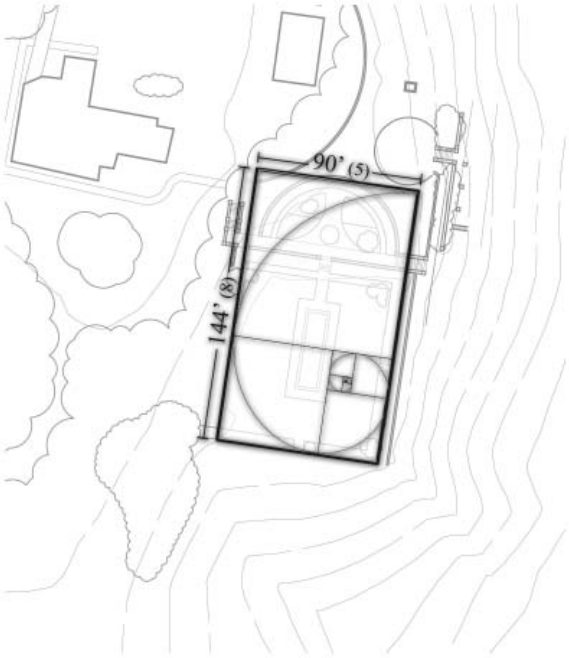

Figure 4-21. Diagram showing the garden's proportions in 8:5 ratio. Source: JMA, 2008.

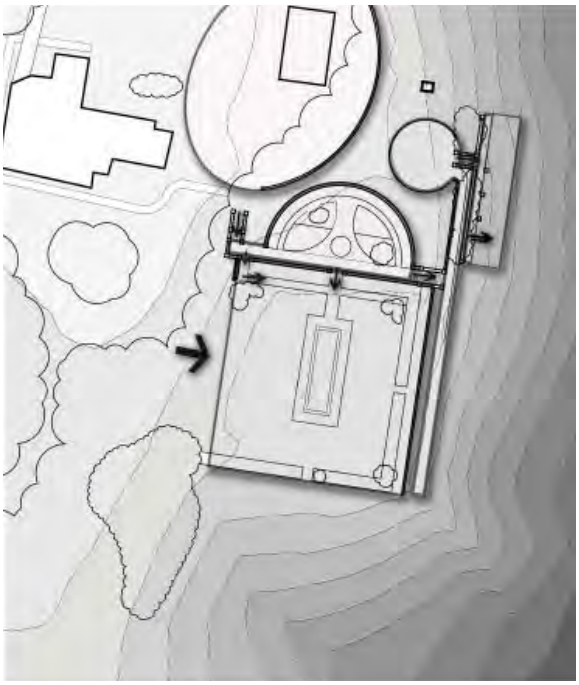

Figure 4-22. Diagram showing the changes in garden elevation. Source: JMA, 2008.

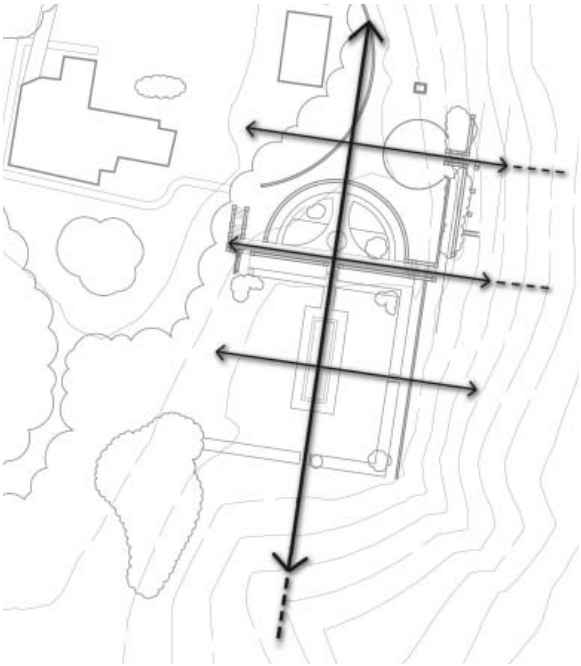

Figure 4-23. Diagram showing the major and minor axial relationships in the garden. Source: JMA, 2008.

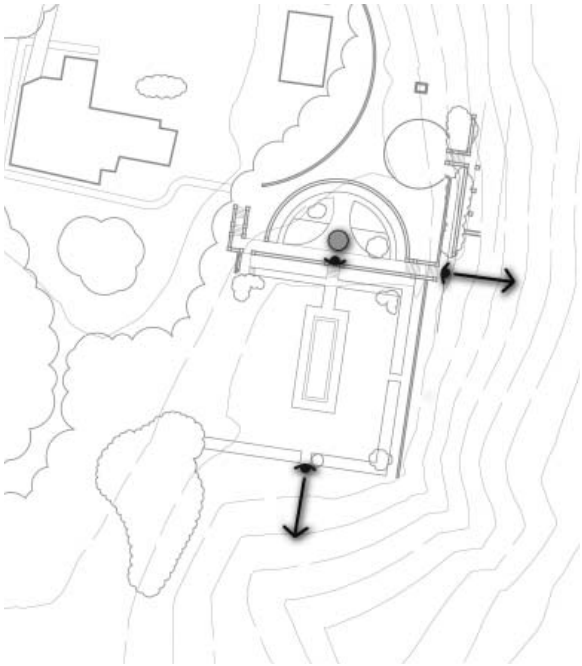

Figure 4-24. Diagram showing the points where significant views and vistas existed. Source: JMA, 2008.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A primary objective of this CLR is to evaluate the ability of the existing landscape to represent the identified period of significance. To better understand the relationship between the contemporary landscape as documented in Chapter Three, and the landscape that existed during the period of significance, discussed in Chapter Two, a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions is presented below. The analysis focuses primarily on extant features, including their period of origin, associations, and modifications over time. The three primary goals for developing this information are to:

- identify which features contribute to each period of significance;
- serve as the basis for an integrity evaluation; and
- provide insight into the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that will contribute to the development of a treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

Features that contribute to the significance of the Laurel Hill site are illustrated on Maps 4-1 and 4-2. At this time, missing features have not been mapped due to a lack of available data in the historical records for the property. The precise condition of plantings and other missing features is not known. The current condition cannot therefore be thoroughly compared to what was present at Laurel Hill historically. However, the Terraced Garden retains its form as an example of neoclassical garden design. The garden has been thoroughly documented in the field for this CLR, and so it is possible to compare the garden today to its evident design intent and likely condition when it was in use. The analysis that follows will provide both a comparison of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden's current condition with what little is known of its historic condition and a comparison of the garden's known design elements with those of the neoclassical garden type, as defined earlier in this chapter.

To summarize, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden fulfills each of Frank Waugh's six design requirements:

- **Proportion:** The main area of the garden (the semicircular and rectangular terraces) has a length-width **proportion** of 8:5. This ratio is also known as the Golden Section, considered since Roman times to be the most aesthetically pleasing proportion of length to width (*Figure 4-21*).
- **Grade changes:** the garden is organized through a series of formal terraces, including at least six **changes in grade** between distinct areas (*Figure 4-22*).
- **Major axis:** the **major axis** of the garden flows through the centerline of the semicircular and rectangular terraces, aligning with the pool, walk, central stairs, and vista (*Figure 4-23*).
- **Minor axes:** the central wall and walk provide, and reinforce, the garden's **minor axis** (*see Figure 4-23*). Other minor axes are associated with the rock garden, the parallel beds edging the rectangular terrace, and the lower and east terrace retaining walls. All are reinforced through paving, walls, and/or planting.
- **Views, vistas, and focal points:** the major axis has its south terminus at the vista; and its north terminus at the center point of the semicircular terrace, where a small brick-edged bed may have been the location of a focal feature such as a statue, urn, or planting. The minor axis terminates to the east with what would have been a view out across the east drainageway (*Figure 4-24*).

Although Waugh's design requirements present the clearest case for the Terraced Garden's neoclassical design origins, the garden also exhibits qualities emblematic of Farrand, Gillette, and Shipman's aesthetics.

Spatial Organization

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

When originally constructed, the house was situated on high ground, as was typical of 18th- and 19th-century country houses, affording fresh air and sunlight, well-drained land still in reach of potable water sources, a prospect over adjacent farmland, and possibly a glimpse of the distant waters of the Potomac. The front of the house was oriented south to Lorton Road and was described as having a serpentine drive winding up the hill to the front of the house. The site was surrounded by open fields giving out to woodlands, as seen on a Civil War-period map (*see Figure 2-2*).

A picket fence reportedly demarcated the house's front yard in the 1880s. A garden at Laurel Hill was described in an 1889 account as being on the north, or rear, of the house, but nothing remains of a garden in this area today. In addition, there are no known records from

this period concerning the conditions of the eastern hillside or the presence of any kind of terracing that may have preceded the Terraced Garden that exists today. Therefore, it is likely that the Terraced Garden was constructed during the subsequent era, described below.

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

There are no known written or visual records of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden prior to 1937. The garden appears to be in a state of construction or reconstruction in the 1937 aerial photograph (*see Figures 2-13 and 2-15*). If there was a garden on the north side of the house, ir had been replaced by a concrete loop drive and parking area. The house is surrounded by construction disturbance in this aerial, including what appears to be a well-traveled temporary construction access route along the toe of the eastern hillside below the house. The route links Lorton Road and the Penitentiary, which was also under construction at the time; this route remains as a graded trace in the wooded part of the property today.

The current spatial organization of today's Terraced Garden is legible in the 1937 aerial, but the light color of the ground indicates disturbed earth across the upper and middle terraces and along much of the hillside. The east terrace area, however, does not exhibit this trace of recent disturbance. The earthen terrace is visible, and what may have been walls running perpendicular to it on the north and south ends. It is possible that this area was also a garden, and that other garden spaces also existed before 1937. It is not possible to determine the precise nature of ground conditions from the aerial photograph alone.

In the 1953 aerial photograph, the Terraced Garden is visible in its current layout and form, and appears to contain plantings, though the resolution is not sufficient to identify any species (*see Figures 2-14 and 2-16*). The construction route appears to have been revegetated.

The overall spatial organization of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden from 1937 to today is typical of neoclassical design of this era. The Terraced Garden is a symmetrical arrangement of garden spaces along a central axis with changes in level between "rooms," with internal views and walks arranged on minor axes perpendicular to the main axis. Multiple walls and steps define spaces within the garden, and less formal plantings around the garden's edges, such as the forsythia masses, blend the formal garden with its wooded setting. As was typical of neoclassical gardens, such as Beatrix Farrand's garden at Dumbarton Oaks, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden is sited in relationship to topography, rather than to existing buildings, and as a result, it is not aligned on axis with the adjacent house.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

No notable additions or changes to the Terraced Garden are known to have occurred during this period. It appears to have retained its spatial character during this time, despite volunteer vegetative growth and loss of original plantings. While the spatial organization is intact, internal and external connections through views have been largely lost to vegetative growth that occurred during this period.

Topographic Modifications

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

No information about the evolution of the terraced landform of the garden or any other topographic modifications on the overall property has been discovered in the historical record for this period.

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

The entrance road grade was altered in 1917-1918 (*see Circulation, below*). Aerial photographs show earthmoving operations that were part of ongoing construction work at the Reformatory and Penitentiary in 1937 (*see Figure 2-16*). The garden terraces appear to under construction in this aerial photograph.

Outside the garden, but in its vicinity, a few changes occurred during this period which may have had an effect on the Laurel Hill site. In 1941-50, the head of the ravine beside the house was filled, creating the level area on which the Reformatory ballfield stands. It is unknown what the effects of this fill would have been on the conditions downstream near the garden. The Reformatory perimeter road was also constructed in the 1950s. No other major earthmoving is known to have occurred in the vicinity of the Laurel Hill site after that time.

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden is sculpted to fit slopes on the site, much like Beatrix Farrand's garden at Dumbarton Oaks, which is built on the slope leading to the wooded Rock Creek ravine. Formal terracing is a signature trait of neoclassical gardens. Variations in terrace size and height lend complexity and visual interest to neoclassical gardens, as described by Hutcheson, and this is the case with the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden as well. Similar terracing is evident within gardens such as Charles Gillette's at Virginia House, and Ellen Biddle Shipman's at the Campbell Estate.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

It is unknown whether additional topographic modifications occurred in or near the Terraced Garden after 1962, but it appears unlikely. The multi-level garden terraces are clearly intact today, with little erosion or other change.

Views and Vistas

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

Throughout this time the surrounding land was pastoral, a mixture of fields and woodlands. Views of the Potomac from the Laurel Hill House were available during this time. Widespread clearing of woodlands in the vicinity may have made distant views possible during the 19th century, but woodland vegetation has since obscured the Potomac River view. No other specific views or vistas have been noted for this period.

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

Construction of the Reformatory and Penitentiary rendered the views from the north side of the house less scenic than the previously existing fields and woodlands. In the 1920s garden, a view from the north door of the house was accentuated by a flagstone walk and framed by an arching arbor, iris beds, and boxwoods on either side of the north door (*see Figures 2-8 and 2-9*). Considering the apparent emphasis of this garden design on a view to the north, is possible that these features pre-dated the development of the Reformatory and Penitentiary, although their actual date of origin is unknown.

Views and vistas related to the Terraced Garden appear to have been partly in place on the 1930s aerial, although the lack of any vegetation within the garden would have limited the effectiveness of some designed views (plantings would have been used as framing or screening features). The vista to the south is visible on the 1953 aerial photograph as a swath cut through the woods (*see Figure 2-16*).

Axial views such as those found within the Terraced Garden are typical of neoclassical gardens of this era. Vistas were carefully planned to frame views and establish visual relationships between formal and informal garden areas. The vista to the south across the drainageway is similar to Beatrix Farrand's North Vista at Dumbarton Oaks and similar vistas planned by Gillette toward the countryside from his gardens. Focal points such as urns and plantings were also likely present, as evidenced by the circular brick-edged planting bed at the top of the central stairs. Neoclassical gardens often sited features at the end of major visual axes.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

According to FCPA staff, the garden area remained generally open and visible as recently as the mid-1990s. Today, the garden's axial views and vistas are obscured by volunteer vegetative growth throughout the garden.

Circulation

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

An 1889 account of Laurel Hill mentions that it is "reached by a serpentine carriageway of gradual ascent." This drive approached the house from Lorton Road, traveling north along the edge of the Giles Run drainageway. It is not known when or if this drive was re-aligned at any time during the period of private ownership.

Prior to 1918, the entrance drive divided to the east and west around the house, meeting on the north side. The east drive connected to the garage building. A circa-1918 survey drawing shows this driveway alignment (*see Figure 2-7*).

There is no information available regarding circulation during this time in or around the area that later became the Terraced Garden. In the 1920s, the north side of the house had a linear flagstone walk that may have dated

from the period of private ownership (*see Figures 2-8 and 2-9*).

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

Lorton Road, like most roads that existed in the days before motor vehicles, was realigned during this period to accommodate safe automobile use. Its current alignment is similar to its appearance in 1943.

In 1919-1922 an entrance road to the newly constructed Reformatory was constructed alongside the Laurel Hill House. The road featured brick gateposts, a brick guard hut at its Lorton Road entrance, carefully constructed brick gutters, a bridge with ornamental brick sidewalls, brick retaining walls. The road itself was paved with asphalt aggregate. The road served as a main entrance to the Reformatory until the new entrance road to the west was completed in the 1950s.

The flagstone path north of the house was present in the 1920s but gone by 1937 (*see Figures 2-8, 2-9, and 2-15*). The linear brick walks in the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden were laid out parallel to the major and minor axes of the garden and are visible in the 1953 aerial photograph (*see Figure 2-16*). The pool was also edged in a brick path. The brick paths are constructed with basketweave, running bond, and Spanish bond ornamental paving patterns.

The layout of walkways in the Terraced Garden is typical of neoclassical gardens. Linear walks, often of brick, provided circulation but also spatial definition. Walkways separated lawns, planting beds, and water features. They aligned on the major and minor axes of the garden and, together with vistas, structures, and steps, contribute to the overall geometry. Ornamental details such as brick paving patterns were popular in neoclassical gardens and added year-round visual interest to the gardens, particularly since plantings were often tender perennials.

Paths in the semicircular garden are unpaved and were likely turf. Turf walks were also used in neoclassical gardens and were often features in perennial and rose gardens. Gillette used turf paths at Miniborya and the Wheelwright estate, Hutcheson did so at Undercliff, and Farrand employed them at Dumbarton Oaks.

The changes in level that were a fundamental part of the neoclassical garden required steps, so they are present in virtually every example of the style. Many gardens integrated steps into the system of walls. Steps were used to reinforce axes, connect different levels of the garden, and provide a structured viewpoint or framing device for vistas, as they are used within the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden. According to Martha Brookes Hutcheson, "Through the use of steps we not only solve practical problems...we add enormously to the picturesque in what we are creating, and find another opportunity for added composition....Where would Italy be if her gardens were robbed of walls and steps?"[26]

Prison into Park (1962-present)

The entrance drive, though gated and out of use, still exists. The brick bridge, retaining walls, and gutters are all evident in various conditions. Although covered in many places with vegetative growth and accumulated leaves and organic matter, the brick walks appear to be intact. Most of the garden steps exist and are in good condition.

Vegetation

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

There are accounts of a boxwood garden at Laurel Hill, but the alleged locations are contradictory. The only clear evidence of boxwoods comes from a set of 1920s photographs showing a pair, probably English (*Buxus suffruticosa*) due to their dense, rounded form, framing the door on the north side of the house (*see Figures 2-8, 2-9, and 2-15*).

"Rose trees" are mentioned in the 1889 book *The Lindsays of America*. A generously proportioned rose arbor, possibly dating to before 1914, is visible in a pair of 1920s photographs of the north side of the Laurel Hill House (*see Figures 2-8 and 2-9*). Climbing roses were very popular in domestic gardens in the 19th and 20th centuries. Charles Henderson, a garden writer, said in 1901: "Garden walks are rendered most charming by spanning them with arches to form arcades over which climbing roses scramble in picturesque freedom..." [27] The climbing roses are unidentified but could potentially have been Rosa 'Lamarque', popular in the South from the mid-19th century; or Rosa banksiae (Lady Banks Rose), introduced in the 1790s.

26. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, 14.

27. Denise Wiles Adams, *Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants* (Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, 2004), 271.

The rose arbor in the 1920s photo does not appear in the 1937 aerial photo.

A large *Spiraea x vanhouttei* dominates the foreground of an undated early-20th-century photograph of the south side of the house (*see Figure 2-4*). This is the only known record of this shrub, which is not in this location today, although it can be found in the rectangular terrace. Spiraea is a flowering shrub introduced ca.1870 that became widely available and was a popular garden planting. In the 1910s and 1920s, catalogs advertised it for use in the formal garden and foundation plantings, "as it does not run riot."[28]

Yucca is visible next to the south façade of the house in one historic photo from the turn of the 20th century, but not after that time (*see Figure 2-4*). Yucca has long been a popular garden planting in Virginia because of its bold appearance and hardiness. Although it is often a long-lived plant, the only yucca on the property noted in 2006 was sandy soil along the driveway and does not appear to be related to the early planting visible in the photo.

A single, black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) is visible beside the garage in the 1920s photographs of Laurel Hill (*see Figures 2-9 and 2-10*). The tree has a whitewashed trunk. Whitewashing was a common practice in the early 20th century meant to prevent sunscald on the bark of fruit or nut trees and believed to deter insect pests such as borers and weevils. The tree in the photograph no longer exists, but there are many other black walnut trees on the property.

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

Plants were the life and spirit of the neoclassical gardens of this era, the living material that filled in the skeleton of angular formality provided by the walls, terraces, stairs, and paths. As Hutcheson said: "The subtle form of arrangement plays with the mystery of flower-form and outline."[29] There are many uses for plants in the garden, as both structural elements like hedges and arbors, and as masses of texture and color, changing with the seasons. Each of the well-known garden designers had his or her own distinctive trademark style of planting. Gillette was fond of boxwoods. Farrand delighted in unusual combinations and a broad plant palette focusing on spring flowering and massing. Shipman preferred a juxtaposition of architecturally clipped evergreen backgrounds with a wild, lushly planted profusion of herbaceous and perennial plants.

The two large boxwoods that appeared in 1920s photographs of the north side of the house, and in the 1937 aerial photograph, do not exist today. Their location is obscured in the 1953 aerial. No documentary evidence of a larger area of boxwood plantings occurs in any of these photos (*see Figures 2-8 and 2-9*). There is no evidence in the historic aerials of any boxwoods in the Terraced Garden. Boxwood, as a dense, evergreen shrub, is typically visible in aerial photographs. There is a dark rectangular mass adjacent to the east terrace in the 1937 aerial photograph that may have a boxwood parterre with an arbor but more research and analysis is needed to confirm and clarify what that may have been.

Linear beds of an unidentified iris are visible in historic photos from ca. 1920s. They appear mature and well-developed, bordering a flagstone walk to the north door of the house. The irises are not evident in the 1937 aerial and there are no irises apparent in the house area or garden today (*see Figures 2-13 and 2-15*).

There are two shrub roses in the Terraced Garden today. The species and origin of these roses are not known. The semicircular garden includes one of the roses, and comparing the layout of its beds and turf paths to similar neoclassical gardens suggests that it may have been a rose garden at one time.

Spiraea appears in the Terraced Garden today in the rectangular terrace. These may have been part of the original plantings in the garden, but that can't be determined because they may also be volunteers. They are in fair condition, but small, possibly due to dieback and regeneration over time in shady conditions, or they may be juvenile.

The history of the forsythia in the Laurel Hill garden is not known, although a massing of shrubs appears on the 1953 aerial in the same location where the southern forsythia mass exists today (*see Figure 2-16*). Forsythia has been widely available since the late 19th century and remains popular today. Although it is a garden shrub that requires little maintenance, forsythia is slow to naturalize and spread. The location and quantity of forsythia in the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden indicates that there were two distinct areas of forsythia plantings: one on the slope at the south end of the garden and one along the top of the lower garden

28. Adams, *Restoring American Gardens*, 128.

29. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, 3.

wall. These are both still present, but overgrown and presently shaded by canopy trees.

Bush honeysuckle (probably *Lonicera fragrantissima*) is present today in the semicircular terrace. It cannot be determined whether this was intentionally planted. A popular garden plant that can naturalize easily, it is possible that it is a volunteer.

Chinese peonies were also a popular planting in herbaceous borders throughout the late 19th and early to mid-20th century. Peonies were often planted in spots where they could be admired from all angles. Bailey noted in 1906 that among other uses in the landscape, peonies "are especially pleasing when entering into a distant vista."[30] This quote is of particular interest for the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden, as a single surviving Chinese peony is growing at the south end of the rectangular garden beds to the left of the central gap where a vista path may have existed.

Spring bulbs were planted at the Laurel Hill House site, before or at the same time as the Terraced Garden. Remnant tulip and hyacinth plantings around the perimeter of the house indicate that a mid-spring bulb garden was planted in beds between the brick walk and the house. Today, naturalized spring bulbs grow around the garden's woodland edge.

Neoclassicists were fond of planning garden rooms around one type of plant, such as a Rose Garden (present in most gardens), Evergreen Garden (Shipman), Crabapple Hill (Farrand), Wild Garden (Gillette), Azalea Garden (Gillette), or Cherry Walk (Farrand). It is possible that the spaces within the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden were planted in this way; as noted above, the semicircular terrace could have been a rose garden and the rock garden likely would have had its own distinctive planting scheme.

Borders of annuals and perennials edge lawns in the neoclassical garden. The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden has planted beds edged with brick along its perimeter; a rose and a peony survive in these beds, as well as some naturalized spring bulbs.

Massing was a neoclassical form, like the forsythia mass in the Terraced Garden; a mass of forsythia was famously used by Beatrix Farrand in her Forsythia Dell, covering nearly an acre on a steep bank at the edge of the Dumbarton Oaks gardens in nearby Georgetown. The siting and design of the Laurel Hill forsythia mass has striking similarities, although it is smaller in scale.

Because so few plants survive and no records of any original planting plans have been found, speculations about the history of plant material within the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden are conjectural at best. The neoclassical planting schemes described above can inform this theoretical conjecture.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

Irma Clifton remembers that large boxwoods on the north side of the house were removed in the 1980s.[31] She may be referring to the two boxwoods visible in the 1937 aerial photograph. It is unlikely that additional plantings of any kind occurred after 1962 when the house was vacated. No boxwoods remain on the property today.

As facility conditions deteriorated within the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory as a whole, it is likely that some garden plantings such as tender perennials disappeared over time due to neglect. It appears that, at some point in the 1990s, maintenance ceased and the Terraced Garden went into woodland succession. It is unlikely that ornamental plantings were cultivated between 1962 and this time. Today, successional woody plants, brambles, herbaceous weeds, and vines have covered much of the garden.

Buildings and Structures

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

The Laurel Hill House was constructed ca. 1787. Outbuildings also existed at this time but their functions and locations are unknown (Totten had various outbuildings and kennels, as noted in the site history in Chapter Two). A garage (demolished sometime between 2006-2008) was constructed and modified during this time (*see Figures 2-4 and 2-10*).

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

The detailing and brickwork evident in the Terrace Garden's surviving walls, steps, bench, and other features is typical of the trademark style of the many brick features constructed by prison labor at the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory during this period.

30. Adams, *Restoring American Gardens*, 195.

31. Irma Clifton, Personal Interview, 2006.

The walls in the Terraced Garden feature carefully designed brick masonry with concrete-capped pilasters accentuating openings and cheek walls edging stairs. The similarity of attributes in the brick features indicates they date to the same period. The curved walls in the garden are geometrically laid out with a high level of sophistication: the semicircular garden's wall curve is calculated to lie perfectly within a Golden Section, and the yard wall is a segment of an ellipse. They may have been intended to emphasize the landform of the slope between them, though today this is difficult to see through the overgrown vegetation.

Walls provided a formal edge to terraces and defined the garden rooms of the neoclassical gardens of this era. Both brick and stone masonry were used. Walls were both structurally necessary and ornamentally appealing, often set as a rigid backdrop to lush planting beds, traversed by formal steps, or accented with pilasters topped by caps, finials, and urns.

Pools were also a fixture of neoclassical gardens. Hutcheson declares, "Water pools in private gardens are almost always too small and too deep. Their margins should be simple in form."[32] Ornamental water features in neoclassical gardens are indeed typically small and are usually round or rectangular, rarely naturalistic or complex in form. They are either simple basins of still reflection, or feature a central statue or fountain. The neoclassical pool is edged in low ground cover, lawn or paving, and centrally placed in a garden room. The rectangular pool at the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden was constructed during this period.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

Structures in the garden have not been modified between 1962 and today, but suffer from ongoing dilapidation. No new structures were added to the site. The garage building was demolished sometime between 2006 and 2008. The Laurel Hill House has been documented in a Historic Structure Report and Fairfax County is considering alternatives for its treatment as part of its ongoing planning process for the Laurel Hill Community Planning Sector.

32. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, 177.

Small-scale Features

Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914)

The house was depicted in the 1889 *Lindsays of America* surrounded by a picket fence. This fence does not survive today. No other small-scale features from the period of private ownership are known.

D.C. Penal Institutions Progressive Era (1914-1962) and Neoclassical Design Context

In the background of the 1920s photograph of the south side of the house, there is a rustic wooden garden bench standing beside the garage (*see Figure 2-10*). No sign of it exists today (and the garage has been demolished). A built-in brick bench was constructed as part of the design of the Terraced Garden; this is still present and in good condition.

It is not known when the large arbor over the flagstone walk on the north side of the house was installed, but it was removed by 1937, when the concrete loop drive appears in an aerial photograph. No trace of the arbor exists today.

It is also not known when the small concrete fountain was installed in the grotto/rock garden area. An investigation of the irrigation pipes to which it was connected may provide an understanding of whether it is a pre-1962 feature.

In the typical neoclassical garden, benches were typically set on a low plinth or landing to allow a prospect over the garden, much as the brick bench in the Terraced Garden is situated. Another location where benches were typically placed was in proximity to water features such as a pool. Its prospect over the garden pool and views out to the woodlands reflect Hutcheson's vision of the perfect siting for a garden seat: "comfortable and shady seats...placed where we can hear and see the dripping fountain or reflections in the still round pool…."[33]

In the neoclassical garden, structures such as pergolas and arbors were used to shade seating or walking areas or as a support for climbing vines. Features such as urns, flowerpots, bird baths, small fountains, and sculptures provided focal points and framing elements within a garden's overall structure. Few small-scale garden features survive at Laurel Hill today. The

33. Hutcheson, *Spirit of the Garden*, 17.

concrete fountain that stood in the center of the rock garden has been overturned. Features in the lower garden that appear to be pedestals may have once supported garden sculptures of some kind, but they are missing today.

Prison into Park (1962-present)

In this period, a few non-contributing features were placed on the site including chain-link fencing around the house and security gates along the former entrance road.

Inventory of Contributing Resources

An inventory of contributing resources can be found at the end of this report. It lists resources, both existing and missing, their associated periods of significance, their condition assessments, and additional comments if their condition is indicated as fair or poor. All resources listed as "Contributing" are either associated with the Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership period (pre-1914) or else they are associated with the D.C. Penal Institutions – Progressive Era (1914-1962) period. "Non-contributing" features at the Laurel Hill site are considered to have no association with a significant historic period, and generally post-date 1962. Features that have been documented as present sometime in history but no longer exist are listed under the "Missing" heading. Features about which too little is known to make a determination of contributing status are listed under "Not Yet Determined."

INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT

Introduction

National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* states that:

> *integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance... Historic properties either retain integrity (that is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity. To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining* which *of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.*

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As noted in Bulletin 15:

> ***Location*** *is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;* ***design*** *is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property;* ***materials*** *are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;* ***workmanship*** *is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;* ***feeling*** *is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and* ***association*** *is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.*

Integrity Assessment

Based on the comparative analysis of historic and contemporary conditions, the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden possesses integrity for the period of significance encompassing the D.C. Penal Institution – Progressive Era (1914-1962). Virtually no physical features remain that can be definitively linked to the Lindsay period, and the few that do (such as the house) are in poor condition, which compromises their integrity.

This determination if integrity is based on available information about the current and historic conditions of the Terraced Garden, supplemented with an understanding of it as an example of the 20th-century neoclassical school of garden design. Understanding the degree to which the 21st-century landscape resembles historic conditions is challenged by the lack of specific information about those historic conditions. In physical terms, the Terraced Garden's structure has been obscured by woodland succession. However, much of the brick masonry and grading remains in remarkably good condition and can be clearly identified as having the form and workmanship of a thoughtfully designed and well-constructed neoclassical garden.

The Terraced Garden retains integrity of location and setting. Its location on a wooded hillside below the Laurel Hill House has changed little since the end of the period of significance, other than the encroachment of the surrounding woodland. Integrity of setting is slightly diminished by the partial visibility of nearby new residential development from some locations in the garden when the leaves are off the trees.

The garden appears to possess integrity of design to the period of significance, 1914-1962, based on contextual information. However, integrity of design is diminished due to the fact that few of the garden's plantings survive and no original planting plan has been located to date. The structural and spatial design elements of the garden are clearly visible and in good condition. The spaces, walks, walls, stairs, pool, and axial relationships are intact. The garden is easily identifiable as an example of the neoclassical design style based solely on its surviving features. It is possible that, in the future, additional information about the designer and/or the original design will come to light, helping to refine and enhance understanding of the design of the site.

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden retains integrity of materials and workmanship for the period 1914-1962. The original brick masonry, irrigation pipes, a fountain, and stonework remain. The brickwork is of the same type and quality as that found in the buildings of the adjacent D.C. Reformatory and Penitentiary complexes from the same period, constructed by prisoner labor with bricks made at the institution's Occoquan River brickworks. Little to no original material appears to have been removed or replaced. The garden's surviving brick masonry and sophisticated terraced grading show a high level of competency evidenced by its continuing good condition and variety of techniques employed (curved structures, various brick bonds and patterns, sculpted landforms).

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden retains a moderate integrity of feeling. Trees and overgrown conditions, as well as the generally dilapidated appearance of the garden, have detracted from the feeling that would have been conveyed by the original lawns, water features, and planting beds. However, the currently diminished integrity of feeling at the site can be enhanced through future treatment of these conditions.

The Laurel Hill Terraced Garden possesses integrity of association to the D.C. Penal Institution – Progressive Era (1914-1962) period of significance. Many of the features associated with the garden survive. Integrity is diminished by the overgrown and dilapidated conditions, but these are generally reversible. While a visitor to the site today might not be able to immediately understand or discern the neoclassical garden, many of the features of the garden exist in relatively good condition and present the potential for enhanced integrity of association in the future.

Chapter Five: Landscape Treatment

INTRODUCTION

The treatment approach, guidelines and recommendations presented here are intended to support long-term goals for the future use and stewardship of the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden. The treatment plan also addresses management issues outlined for the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) team by Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) staff in meetings, defined in the scope of work, and presented in related FCPA management documents such as the Laurel Hill Park General Management Plan/ Conceptual Development Plan (GMP/CDP) and the Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report (HSR).[1]

This chapter begins with a discussion of contextual and management issues affecting the site and FCPA's goals and objectives for the site. Then, a treatment approach is recommended, based on the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes and selected based on the documentation of historic and existing conditions, significance, and comparative analysis conducted for this CLR.

Using the recommended treatment of approach of rehabilitation as a basis, a range of alternatives for plantings, access, interpretation, and connections to adjacent park land are proposed. Stabilization and repair of brick masonry and vegetation management, including invasive species control and brush clearing, are immediate priorities. Treatment recommendations address these short-term goals, as well as goals for longer-term management and interpretation of the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Management factors, goals and objectives for the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden were discussed in a meeting with FCPA on April 10, 2008, and considered during development of the guidelines and recommendations offered in this chapter.

Laurel Hill House

The Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report (HSR) proposed three treatment options. Option 1, "Restoration of 18th Century Dwelling and Addition," would restore the house to its Lindsay-ownership period appearance. There is limited evidence of the original site features, such as gardens and outbuildings, associated with this time and it would be difficult to propose a landscape treatment that would be congruous with this option. Option 2, "Rehabilitate the House in its Current Configuration," would rehabilitate the house to its 1940s appearance, retaining the existing additions. The Terraced Garden is a surviving feature of this era and contributes to the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory National Historic District, for which this is also the period of significance. Option 3, "Selective Demolition to Foundations, Preserve Foundations and Interpretive Treatment Plan," relies upon interpretive devices to tell the story of both the Lindsay and Progressive-era historic periods. As of the printing of this report a decision has not been made regarding the treatment option that Fairfax County will pursue for the Laurel Hill House.[2]

Adjacencies

The Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area is an approximately 80-acre site located west of Silverbrook Road; the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden occupy its southeast corner (*Map 5-1 and see Figure 1-8)*.

The Reuse Area also includes the reformatory and penitentiary buildings as well as the prison's ballfield. The Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area is undergoing its own formal master planning process; the final plan is scheduled to be presented to the public by December 2008.[3] The Master Plan is expected to build upon recommendations made in the Fairfax

1. EDAW and Vanasse Hangen Brustin, Inc. "Laurel Hill Park General Management Plan and Conceptual Development Plan." (Prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County, VA, 2004.) Frazier Associates and Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects. "DRAFT: Laurel Hill House Historic Structure Report and Treatment Options." (Prepared for Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County, VA, 2008.) (HSR)

2. HSR, 64.

3. Fairfax County, " Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area Master Planning Process," http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/master_plan.htm (accessed July 24, 2008).

County Comprehensive Plan (amended in January, 2008), including developing a village center, or "Main Street," and a variety of mixed-use developments and amenities for educational, business, research, retail, residential and recreational purposes. Designs would be expected to preserve and respond to the site's historic resources and character. The treatment plan for the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden has been developed with the awareness that this adjacent area will be densely occupied and used in a multitude of ways in the future.

Another goal of the treatment plan presented here is to relate the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden to Laurel Hill Park (*see Map 5-1 and see Figure 1-8*). Areas G, Central Green and H, Giles Run Meadow, have been developed for active and passive recreation and are open to the public (*Figure 5-1*). Park Area I, Community Park, immediately south and west of the Laurel Hill House site, is still being developed. Trails connect elements of Laurel Hill Park and other surrounding areas with regional trail networks (*Figure 5-2*). Access to the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden should be integrated into the circulation systems of Laurel Hill Park as well as to regional trail networks (*Figure 5-3*).

Access to and from the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden from Laurel Hill Park as well as other areas within the Adaptive Reuse Area is desirable. Vehicular, pedestrian, and bike connections are important to the overall Laurel Hill Master Plan concept (*see Map 5-1*). The treatment plan recommendations will address possible ways that the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden can be linked to these areas via circulation and interpretation. Connections will primarily be oriented to the park areas to the west and the Adaptive Reuse Area to the north. The wooded areas to the south of the Terraced Garden, and some areas to the west, are designated for conservation as resource protection areas and are part of Park Area I. The historic entrance drive from Lorton Road will not be reopened to vehicular traffic as an entrance but could be a significant pedestrian thoroughfare. It is a contributing feature to the historic district and is also an interpretive opportunity.

Accessibility

The Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden should comply with ADA requirements for outdoor areas while ensuring the preservation of historic resources. With its multiple levels, steps, terraces, and steep slopes, universal access is challenging; different degrees of accessibility will need to be considered. Preservation of historic resources is of primary importance; recommended modifications for accessibility should be unobtrusive and minimal. It has not been determined where new parking and accessible pedestrian circulation might be placed on the site; this will depend on several factors, such as the intensity of the future use of the house and the associated needs for parking and access.

Archaeology

Investigations have not yet been undertaken in the Laurel Hill House site or Terraced Garden. Placement of new landscape features such as parking and walks will be influenced by any archaeological findings. These issues will be addressed generally in this CLR, with the understanding that future decisions and research findings may result in a change in approach.

Maintenance

Planting schemes for the Terraced Garden implicate a maintenance regime. It is generally acknowledged that stabilization and clearing should be undertaken as a first step on the site – prior to other treatment – to establish a baseline level of maintenance, after which assessments can be made regarding the realistic degree of intensity that can be expected for the maintenance of an ornamental garden design.

Interpretation

Nearby areas have interpretive "pods," consisting of a landscaped brick pad, benches, brick seat wall, and a group of three interpretive signs that together form a semi-enclosed space (*Figure 5-4*). Locations for similar features at the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden are recommended in this CLR and interpretive themes suggested. Despite the paucity of documentation regarding the Terraced Garden's origins and historic appearance, it is significant for its association with the Reformatory and Progressive Era and also representative of Neoclassical garden design circa 1910-1940. Overall long-range interpretive planning is not yet complete for the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District, including the Laurel Hill Park and the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area.

Research

Future research to support treatment is warranted. FCPA recently gained possession of D.C. Workhouse

Figure 5-1. Fishing pier within the Giles Run Meadow in Fairfax County's newly developed Laurel Hill Park.

Figure 5-2. Sign showing the variety of trail networks passing through Laurel Hill Park, with possible connections to the Laurel Hill House site.

Figure 5-3. One of the trail surfaces in Giles Run Meadow of Laurel Hill Park. Other trails in the park are paved.

Figure 5-4. Brick interpretive pods in Giles Run Meadow of Laurel Hill Park.

and Reformatory archival material that were previously part of an uncatalogued collection. Documents related to the Terraced Garden may be a part of these materials and could influence the treatment approach to the site. Particular attention should be paid to any documents, such as early reformatory construction documents and plan or additional historical aerial photography, that could provide more information about what existed adjacent to and northeast of the east terrace area. This area is significant because there are missing elements today and because evidence in a 1937 aerial indicate that a garden in that area may have predated the Terraced Garden, above. Furthermore, this is an area that could become a connection between the construction road trace and the Terraced Garden, forming a loop trail that could be park of the Laurel Hill Park system.

RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPE TREATMENT APPROACH

The Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Standards) outlines four accepted treatment approaches: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.[4]

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic features and materials with the goal of retaining the landscape's form as it has evolved over time. Preservation includes protection and stabilization. New additions to the landscape are not within the scope of this treatment. However, limited, sensitive upgrades of existing mechanical systems and other code-driven work within a preservation project is considered appropriate.

Rehabilitation is the process of making possible a compatible use for a property through additions, alterations, and repairs while retaining the landscape's historic character by preserving the features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration involves changing a property to accurately depict it as it appeared at a particular period of time. This approach preserves historic materials from the period of significance and reconstructs missing features from the restoration period, while removing features that represent other periods.

Reconstruction re-creates through new construction the form, features, and details of missing and non-surviving features of the historic landscape, generally for interpretive purposes, replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Treatment Approaches Considered and Rejected

All treatment approaches recognized by the Secretary of the Interior were considered for the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden. The following were rejected as inappropriate for this site, as discussed below:

Preservation

A preservation-only approach would severely restrict the options for future use of the site. The intended use of the Terraced Garden as a public space will require the addition of some new features to support even the most minimal visitor access and interpretation. The value of the garden as a public space and an interesting artifact of Fairfax County history, coupled with the moderately diminished integrity of the site, outweigh the need to close the garden off from all change.

Reconstruction

A reconstruction-only approach would require far more documentary information about the Terraced Garden than currently exists. Because little documentation has come to light about the site's original conditions, planting plan, and other details, reconstruction cannot be undertaken.

Restoration

This approach was rejected because an attempt to depict the Terraced Garden as an accurate reflection of its appearance during a specific period of time would require detailed historical documentation to support restoration efforts; this documentation is not currently available and it is not known if it exists. Additionally, restoration would not support the interpretation of the layers of history present in the landscape, limiting interpretive opportunities. For instance, future archaeology may reveal Lindsay-period features that could be interpreted in harmony with the 20th-century Terraced Garden, but restoration and reconstruction would not permit the inclusion of elements that did not exist concurrently.

4. Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. 36 CFR Part 68.* Washington DC: Government Publications Office, 1995. Accessed online at http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hli/landscape_guidelines/index.htm.

Preferred Treatment Approach: Rehabilitation

The recommended approach for the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden is rehabilitation. This is the most appropriate treatment for a historic landscape when repair and replacement of deteriorated features are needed; when alterations or additions to the landscape are planned for a new or continued use; and/or when depiction of the property at a particular period of time is not appropriate. It is the most flexible approach to a historic landscape, and permits the thoughtful addition of interpretive features, exhibit plantings, and enhancements that support visitor access. Under rehabilitation, stabilization, protection, and preservation of historic and natural resources must occur to allow for the limited accommodation of new uses. As part of the treatment recommendations, those resources at the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden that are to be the focus of stabilization, protection, and preservation are noted, as are those aspects of the landscape that are particularly sensitive to change.

Rehabilitation is defined in the Standards as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." The ten basic guidelines for rehabilitation from the Standards, listed below, are intended to help preserve the historic character of the landscape while allowing for reasonable changes to meet new needs. Intended to promote responsible preservation practices, these guidelines serve as a baseline for treatment that can be applied to historic properties of all periods, locations, conditions, and uses.

The Secretary of Interior's guidelines for rehabilitation are as follows:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Within the guidelines of rehabilitation there are still many different directions that could be followed when planning for the future of the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden. To some degree, the site program relies upon the decision made for the treatment of the Laurel Hill House, but vegetative clearing and masonry stabilization of the Terraced Garden, as a contributing feature to the historic district, are recommended regardless of the option chosen for the house. The surrounding Laurel Hill Park areas provide a variety of recreational opportunities and programs; the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden area could simply be a quiet place for reflection, a stop along the trail network, and a key node in a developed district-wide interpretive program.

Historic design documents for the Terraced Garden would present a strong case for reconstructing it to an approximation of its original condition, but these have yet to surface if they exist at all. The only evidence to date that may inform planning lies in the surviving structural elements of the Terraced Garden, and what is known about its neoclassical design context (as described in Chapter Four). These remaining structures are, therefore, the site's most valuable resource. Specific recommendations developed to protect these structures are presented in the Treatment Recommendations section.

Other aspects of rehabilitating the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden present a range of choices. These include parking, accessibility, physical and visual connections to adjacent areas, interpretation, a planting scheme, the degree to which the pool and fountain are restored to functioning order, and the protection of archaeological and natural resources. These are also discussed generally below. Based on discussions with FCPA staff following a preliminary submission of landscape treatment recommendations, and given that a treatment approach has yet to be selected for the Laurel Hill House, these guidelines are described as a general range of options for consideration (*Map 5-2*).

Site Clearing

The highest priority is the removal of invasives, weedy growth, saplings, hazard trees, and plants that are damaging constructed Terraced Garden elements. Such clearing should be coordinated with masonry preservation, stabilization and reconstruction efforts, described in more detail in the last section of this chapter.

At a minimum, the garden terraces should be cleared of invasive and aggressive woody and herbaceous vegetation and young trees. Trees and other vegetation threatening masonry structures should be removed, as described in the next section. Decisions need to be made with regards to larger caliper trees which do not threaten any structures but which were not present during the period of significance. Some of these could remain; alternatively, areas determined to have been cleared, mown lawn (such as the rectangular terrace area) could be completely cleared.

If more extensive clearing is undertaken, restoration of the south lawn to a condition of mown turf shaded by its historic specimen trees should be a priority. Clearing a vista towards the southeast, from a vantage point at the southeast terminus of the rectangular garden, is also desirable. This could be achieved through the selective thinning of juvenile or unhealthy trees, or through strategic limbing.

Masonry Stabilization

Key to interpretation of the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden is the stabilization of the historic masonry structures that compose the garden. While these structures are in overall good condition, particularly considering the lack of maintenance since the 1960s, some repair and stabilization work is needed to assure their ongoing integrity. This work, detailed in Treatment Recommendations, below, should be of highest priority for the preservation of this important historic site.

Parking

Although it is envisioned that some visitors would approach the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden as pedestrians on Laurel Hill Park trails, an inviting and defined point of vehicular access is also necessary. The amount of new parking required for the site depends on future plans for the Laurel Hill House.

Currently, informal parking is available at the north end of the entrance drive, from the reformatory perimeter road, as well as in the former driveway and garage areas. Formalizing and defining a parking area would confine soil compaction and other negative impacts to one area of the site.

In general, parking should be established in an unobtrusive location that requires minimal grading and site disturbance. Parking could be provided for as few as five and as many as fifteen vehicles, on the east side of entrance drive in the historic concrete driveway area. Permeable paving material, such as gravel or turf grid, could be used to reduce environmental impact. Parking for large events at the Terraced Garden or a restored Laurel Hill House could occur off-site in the nearby existing parking lots such as the one that serves Giles Run Meadow in Laurel Hill Park Area H.

Accessibility

Level changes in the Terraced Garden area are challenging for universal accessibility, so viewpoints for interpretation and visual access to compensate for lack of physical access should be considered. These could be located at the top of the west entrance stairway or at the top of the yard wall, looking down into the garden.

It may be feasible to construct a graded, compacted, crushed stone, universally-accessible path from the proposed parking area north of the house, along the east side of the entrance drive and west of the house, through the south yard, and down to the rectangular terrace.

This is particularly important if the Neoclassical garden is recreated because of its appeal for special events and the potential desire of visitors to view plantings closely. An ADA path could end at a prospect in the rectangular terrace, or else it could tie in to the brick path system within the Terraced Garden. These paths may need to be augmented by a wider access route of compacted limestone dust, which could border the brick path. Such an option might also buffer the historic bricks from possible damage from mowing.

Existing brick paths in the Terraced Garden should be stabilized for pedestrian use. All non-paved areas of the site would be maintained in mown grass, across which pedestrians can walk to examine features more closely.

Providing ADA-access into the Terraced Garden via constructed ramps is not recommended as they would be obtrusive and would disturb the spatial organization and level changes which lend the garden some if its design integrity.

Physical and Visual Connections

Many trails, both within the Laurel Hill Park and as part of regional networks, pass near the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden and provide access to recreational and residential areas in the vicinity (see map 5-1). The former reformatory entrance drive and the construction road trace near the east drainageway both offer surfaces that are already graded and have interpretive value. The entrance drive, though superficially buried under organic accumulation and in need of repairs, is also already paved. The construction road trace presents the opportunity for a loop trail around the south and east portions of the site that connects to the north and south ends of the entrance drive.

Recommendations for connections remain flexible, as the larger trail network upon which they depend is still being developed at this time, but several options for following landform contours to allow pedestrian access to the Terraced Garden from the Laurel Hill Park trail system could be pursued.

Rehabilitating the historic vista is also recommended. Consider selective thinning southwest of the Terraced Garden to allow a vista which could possibly extend to the south meadow of Park Area I (Community Park).

Interpretation

Interpretation at the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden will rely primarily on signage. Interpretive materials recommended include features such as the pods and signage standards used by FCPA elsewhere in Laurel Hill Park areas. Regular guided tours or other means of interpretation will not be available as the site is not expected to be permanently staffed.

Depending on the program selected for the site, a number of interpretive opportunities present themselves. At a minimum, an ADA-accessible interpretive sign or small pod should be located on the landing at the top of the west entrance stairway, explaining the history of the site from the Lindsay period up through the D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory years, and highlighting the mysteries surrounding the Terraced Garden's presence. The sign or small pod would present a clear view overlooking much of the garden area. In addition, the brick walk around the house could be stabilized for accessibility and a complete loop created by the addition of a stabilized crushed-stone segment around the northeastern side of the house.

If a Neoclassical period garden is re-created in the Terraced Garden, a small interpretive pod could be located in the center of the curved yard wall to overlook the garden and explain that the plantings are typical of a Neoclassical design, and not a literal reconstruction of the original garden. This alternative would also showcase the materials and skilled workmanship evident in the brick features.

These interpretive pods should be thoughtfully designed so as not to actually block or obtrusively class with the view of the garden. New brick features should be clearly discernible from the historic brick features being interpreted. Signs should not obstruct views of the garden.

If a broader scale interpretation of the full history of the site is desired, the site could be divided into zones, each of which tells part of the story of how the Laurel Hill House site changed over time. This level of interpretation would require the most intervention. New planting areas around the house site could interpret the 18th-century plantings of Anne Lindsay (roses, boxwoods, and cactuses, and other plants mentioned in historic materials); this would be highly conjectural. Pre-1920s garden features could be restored in the north yard, as based on historic photographs and supported by an archeological investigation.

The Terraced Garden would be planted as an exhibit within the overall interpretive site and contain plantings typical of Neoclassical-style gardens of the 20th-century. The different planting groups, together with the surrounding woodland and fields would serve, as a whole, to interpret the landscape history of Laurel Hill and how it has changed over time. This option is flexible in terms of maintenance, depending upon the plantings selected for the site. Plants such as bulbs and perennials requiring less intensive care could be used for the majority of ornamental planting if less maintenance is desired.

An interpretive pod similar to scale to what is being employed in other areas of Laurel Hill Park might be most effective at a parking area that could also function as a trail head, orienting visitors to the Laurel Hill site specifically and its location with respect to the other surrounding trails and areas of interest. Small stations would interpret the history of the house and surrounding area during the 18th-, 19th- and 20th-centuries, as well as overlook the woodland to the south and describe its character as a secondary, successional forest that post-dates agricultural clearing and use. A more extensive network of accessible walkways would be necessary to provide access to these various stations.

Appropriate Uses

Appropriate uses for the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden include passive recreation, small events such as receptions, and community volunteer activities (such as Garden Club planting or maintenance projects).

Land uses may need to be evaluated on an ongoing basis, given the prospective development of the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area. In the future, when that area is developed for the variety and intensity of uses proposed, the Laurel Hill site might require more in the way of site amenities that protect its resources and accommodate increased visitation.

If an intensive garden rehabilitation is pursued that includes ornate garden plantings and a restored pool and fountain, for example, there may be a greater need for designed parking spaces, overflow accommodation, or even a restroom facility.

Planting Schemes

After site clearing, planting schemes for the Terraced Garden and Laurel Hill House site could generally fall within a range of very minimal and low-maintenance to a complex and intensive plan.

At a minimum, the Terraced Garden could be maintained as a cleared and interpreted site using a variety of grass and perennial groundcovers and mulch materials. This plan would consider the retention of the few extant, presumably historic, ornamental plants, such as the single peony in the south end of the rectangular terrace planting bed, or the rose in the semicircular terrace. These plants are only somewhat informative for understanding what may have been the overall planting plan. Any plants which are removed should be documented.

Another alternative would be to use these surviving species to inform a “period piece;” a planting plan in the spirit of traditional neoclassical gardens of the early 20th-century. There are many potential sources for such a design, including lists of plants and drawings made by the designers mentioned in Chapter Four. This alternative in and of itself contains a range of choices, from low-maintenance mass plantings of hardy and tolerant cultivars, to a more complex plan specifying a variety of ornamental perennials that would offer color, fragrance and texture throughout the seasons. Subareas of the Terraced Garden, such as the rock garden, could be adopted by special interest groups for development and maintenance. Reconstruction of speculative features such as the boxwood garden

(possibly located in the East Terrace), should be based on additional research and analysis, and could also be considered. Available irrigation would also be a consideration for a more ornate and intensive planting plan. For this reason, the plumbing of a reconstruction pool and fountain (see below) should be considered in tandem with providing irrigation to the various terraces of the garden. In addition to new plantings, judicious clearing at the south end of the garden would be particularly compatible with this alternative, as visual prospect at a terminus is a classic feature of Neoclassical garden design.

Lastly, adjustments to any scheme would need to be made after other decisions related to the Laurel Hill House are in place. If the house is reconstructed to the Lindsay period, which is not recommended in the HSR, interpreting the 20th-century Terraced Garden could be historically misleading and confusing. Plantings which would buffer the two features from one another might be desirable. Furthermore, conjectural ornamental plantings related to the Lindsay period might also be appropriate. Any planting scheme might also involved select new plantings to provide shade or ornamental interest adjacent to any parking areas or interpretive pods.

When a planting scheme is developed, perform soil tests to determine amendments to suit the plant materials chosen and include an annual maintenance plan that specifies care, such as fertilization, pruning or dividing perennials, pruning shrubs, caring for lawns, and maintaining trees.

Restoration of Water Features

The extent of the restoration of water features on the site depends on the program selected for the site. If it is anticipated that the garden will be heavily or regularly used, particularly for events such as weddings, either or both of the water features could be restored to fully functioning order, keeping in mind the level of regular attention required to maintain a working fountain. If new plantings are part of the site program, then existing water spigots would be repaired or re-plumbed to support irrigation.

If the site continues to be fairly isolated and not used for events, it is recommended that the water features be cleared, stabilized, repaired, and the structures maintained, but that the plumbing not be restored. In the case of the terrace pool, vegetation should be cleared from the basin, but accumulated soil retained and planted in groundcover, The rock garden fountain should be cleaned, repaired, and re-set.

Archeological Resource Protection

Before the establishment of a parking lot or any other new site work is developed, archeological investigation should take place to ensure protection of any belowground resources. It is also recommended that investigation take place in the East Terrace area to determine the extents of the garden features that may have been there in the 1930s.

Sustainability

Erosion control is critical because the site is part of the watershed that supplies the drinking water reservoir. Any site construction work should include erosion control measures that contain silt and dust until revegetation of disturbed areas is possible. In addition, the entire site should be investigated to locate and remediate any areas that are currently unstable or eroding.

In addition, depending on the choices made regarding new plantings, the irrigation system should rely primarily on drip emitters, rain gauges, rainwater collection, and other sustainable technologies.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to overall treatment guidelines, more specific recommendations can be made regarding the details of treatment (*Map 5-3*). These are organized by the seven landscape characteristics established in Chapter Three:

Natural Systems and Features

- East drainageway: avoid disturbing the natural landform and hydrology of this area. Check the immediate watershed for any existing or potential erosion problem zones.
- Deciduous woodland: maintain native mixed deciduous woodland around the margins of the Terraced Garden and the yard areas.

Spatial Organization

- Entrance drive corridor: the historic entrance drive to the Laurel Hill House site is not planned for future vehicular use. It is a broad, level grade with remnants of paving, and could easily be adapted as a universally accessible route that could accommodate pedestrians, wheelchairs and bicycles. The drive also

includes some interesting features such as the brick entrance gates, guardhouse, brick bridge, and a long brick retaining wall. Consider adapting the entrance drive corridor as part of the Cross County Trail or the Laurel Hill Park trail system. The addition of sidewalks along Lorton Road in the future, and the adaptive reuse of the reformatory and penitentiary buildings, may result in the entrance drive becoming a desirable access route.

- Cemetery: maintain, repair and stabilize the pipe rail fence, the brick piers, and the gravestones. Consider non-intrusive archeological testing to determine presence and extent of burials as the exact locations and number of graves are unknown. Use the cemetery to interpret the story of the Lindsay family's role in developing Laurel Hill.
- South yard: maintain this area as a lawn with scattered trees. Maintain the holly clump, silver maples, and large beech. Engage a certified arborist to assess the health of the large trees and direct pruning or removal and other maintenance as needed.
- Terraced Garden: maintain each garden space as an outdoor room, with axial visual relationships between spaces. Clarify the relationship of the south yard with the Terraced Garden through reestablishment of a turf slope connecting the two. Thin and remove saplings and weedy growth along the slope and reestablish lawn grasses.
- North yard: maintain this area and clarify its relationship with the Terraced Garden by re-establishing a cleared, mown grass edge up to the yard wall.
- Rock garden: reestablish the fountain, investigate to see if other rocks that may have been part of the garden are buried and clear accumulated soil, debris and undesirable vegetation.
- Dell: maintain, avoid grading, consider thinning or clearing woody underbrush.
- Forsythia bank: prune, maintain edges to keep from spreading further.

Topographic Modifications

- Garden terraces: maintain and stabilize. Grade surface by hand where it is has become uneven or where vegetation removal disturbs the soil. Prepare soil for seeding lawn grass or adding plantings. Maintain positive drainage from bases of walls or other masonry element foundations.
- Rock garden: maintain slope and stabilize. Clear accumulated soil and debris, reposition rocks.
- South yard: thin and remove saplings and weedy growth along the slope and reestablish lawn grasses.
- Level graded yards: maintain level grade.

Views and Vistas

- Axial views: clear vegetation and stabilize masonry to articulate the brick paths and edges that create the garden's geometry.
- Views of townhouses: maintain woodland and understory in the drainageway to buffer views towards this development.
- Vista: Re-establish the vista to the south by judiciously thinning and clearing. Thinning and clearing towards the southwest pasture might also create a desirable vista. While it is not possible to restore the surrounding land to its agricultural appearance, selected clearing may be helpful interpretively.
- Vista Clearing
  - Begin by removing exotic and invasive vegetation, and trees that are diseased. a danger to visitors, or a windthrow hazard.
  - Prune and remove branches up to fifteen feet from the ground.
  - Remove small trees and shrubs that inhibit sight line. Retain and maintain low understory shrubs and grasses that are below 3 or 4 feet in height.

- If sight lines continue to be inhibited, replace shrubs and grasses with more diminutive vegetation that complies with buffer requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and ensures continued protection of the steep side slopes from erosion.
- Evaluate the success of these thinning operations and enhance visibility as needed by selectively thinning additional trees.
- Continue to remove exotic, invasive, and diseased vegetation.
- If the viewshed remains inaccessible, continue thin, as above, until the viewshed meets interpretive needs. As woodland is opened, seed with most shade tolerant native grasses to prevent soil erosion and establishment of unwanted opportunistic and invasive species.

Circulation

- Stabilize and repair brick-paved walks (see general masonry recommendations for removal of biological debris or other repairs). Insure all border pavers are laid straight and plumb. If necessary, remove existing pavers, add sand setting bed, and re-lay pavers. Fill in joints with sand.
- Concrete driveway remnants: remove where visible at the ground surface or in conflict with planned circulation features or plantings.
- Turf lawn areas: rehabilitate the north and south yards, the rectangular terrace, and the former turf paths in the semicircular terrace to encourage safe pedestrian circulation within them.
- Former construction road trace: consider use of this already-graded option for developing a recreational trail.
- New pedestrian access: explore the feasibility of an ADA-access route to the rectangular terrace from the south yard. Create several different options for pedestrian approaches to the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden from Laurel Hill Park, the Adaptive Reuse Area, and surrounding communities.
- New vehicular access: provide parking for up to five cars, as well as a larger overflow area for special events. The overflow area could be lawn reinforced with plastic or concrete turf grids. Any new parking should not be sited where archaeological resources may exist below grade.

Vegetation

Refer to Planting Schemes, above, for general guidelines and to Vegetation Management, below, for recommendations regarding the removal and control of invasive plants and selective clearing and thinning of the encroaching forest.

Buildings and Structures

- Laurel Hill House: refer to the Historic Structure Report for preservation recommendations made for the Laurel Hill House. There are no other existing buildings on the site.
- Pool fountain: if appropriate, restore to operative conditions as a garden feature. Develop plans for waterproofing the masonry of the pool and a maintenance plan for cleaning the pool and keeping the waterproofing sound. Restore plumbing and filtration mechanisms.
- Rock garden fountain: repair and restore the fountain pedestal and bowl to upright position. Repair and restore fountain bowl or replace in-kind. Restore plumbing and filtration mechanisms to working order, if appropriate.
- Masonry walls, pedestals, planters, landings, paving, and edgings: refer to detailed recommendations in Masonry Stabilization, below.

Small-Scale Features

- Light pole in south lawn: remove the light pole that has collapsed to the south of the house. Select a new location and type of lighting based on planned use of the site. Consider less intrusive, dark-sky friendly fixtures on a motion detector or timer system.
- Light pole at west entrance stairway: consider restoring light fixture.
- Cast iron drain grates, manhole covers: undertake subsurface investigation to determine whether repairs are needed to the drainage structures and systems that the grates serve.

- Hose bib, piping to serve pool: assess current subsurface system. If no longer functional, consider also adding an irrigation system.
- Rubble piles – remove under supervision of an archeologist.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

These recommendations are intended as a basic outline for an initial phase of work at the Terraced Garden, employing volunteer labor under the guidance of FCPA personnel. The scope of this work is anticipated to include:

- Removal and disposal of trees, saplings, and shrubs marked for removal; dead or broken trees, saplings, or shrubs; cut or fallen trees and limbs; underbrush and vines; and herbaceous weedy vegetation.
- Clearing of accumulated soil, leaf litter and other debris from historic paved surfaces, steps, and tops of masonry walls.
- Revegetation and stabilization of soil in cleared areas.

Each of these activities is addressed in more detail, below:

Preparation for Vegetation Removal

- Field check and clearly delineate the area to be treated, prior to start of the work, consulting with a historical landscape architect, archeologist, and natural resource specialist or forester to ensure that natural or cultural resources will not be adversely affected.
- Plan work to be done on one section of the Terraced Garden at a time, based on the amount of time available to accomplish the work (one day, one week). Completely clearing invasives from a single section of the garden at a time will provide better long-term control of unwanted vegetation growth than partial or incomplete clearing of the entire project area.

Protection of Plants to Remain

- Avoid removing plants identified as potentially contributing to the significance of the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden. Their locations have been identified on the Existing Conditions mapping. Clearly mark these plants in the field before work commences. Educate volunteers to identify these and other ornamental plants that may exist in the garden area, and to avoid removing or damaging them. Potentially historic plants include:
  - Showy forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*)
  - Spiraea (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*)
  - Rose (*Rosa sp.*)
  - Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*)
  - Chinese peony (*Paeonia lactiflora*)
  - Tulip (*Tulipa L.*)
  - Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis*)
  - Daffodil *(Narcissus L.*)
  - Other bulbs (*not identified in field*)

Tree and Shrub Removal

- Mark trees to be removed, evaluate the impact of tree removal on individual cultural or natural resources, and evaluate methods for tree removal.
- Remove dead trees and shrubs, and those identified as potentially hazardous to individuals or resources because of their health or condition.
- Avoid removal of trees more than nine inches in diameter or larger, unless determined necessary by a natural resources specialist or certified arborist or if they are threatening the garden's masonry. Perform removal under the supervision of a certified arborist, using a method that minimizes the impacts on masonry, paving, and known and potential belowground resources.
- Avoid pulling or grinding stumps; instead, cut trees to be removed flush with the ground to minimize damage to archaeological resources. The only instance when stumps should be removed is if they are causing displacement of walls; in this case, if the wall is dissembled for repair and reconstruction, the stump should be removed at that time.

- Avoid removal of trees on steep slopes during the initial clearing phase. These trees help retain the soil and should be left in place until a detailed treatment and management strategy is determined.
- Treat freshly cut stumps with a systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, to prevent re-sprouting.

Pruning

- Conduct pruning in accordance with recognized industry (ANSI) standards.[5]
- Prune and remove overhanging branches of larger trees up to fifteen feet above the ground in garden areas under the direction of a historic landscape architect.

Invasive Plant Removal

Invasive exotic plants that are predominant in the Terraced Garden include Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) and autumn olive (Eleagnus angustifolia). Some aggressive native vines have overgrown the garden brickwork, particularly poison ivy (Rhus radicans) and Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia). Brambles (Rubus sp.) are present in the garden as well, forming a thorny shrub layer in some areas. Additionally, a variety of weedy herbaceous growth covers the former planting beds throughout the site.

Remove invasives from all areas of the site using ecologically sound techniques. These are methods that will not cause damage to other resources, or whose impact on other resources has been assessed to determine whether the treatment provides benefits that outweigh the impact on other resources. Sparing use of biodegradable, systemic herbicides (such as glyphosate) that break down into harmless components on contact with the soil, and that are properly applied, may be considered an ecologically sound removal technique. Ecologically sound techniques include repairing damage to resources and mitigating the impact of removal, such as the potential for soil erosion nearby.

- Hand-treat invasive plants and weeds in the Terraced Garden to protect contributing plantings and fragile brick masonry. Remove invasive species in the vicinity of historic and archaeological resources by hand, minimizing ground disturbance and threats to any existing vegetation it is desired to retain. Only after existing resources and landscape features and systems to remain are protected. Care should be taken when pulling up vines along the ground, as extensive linear stems formed under the soil can cause disturbance when pulled.
- Use a variety of methods to control the range of invasive species present within the Terraced Garden, since certain species of plants respond better to particular methods of removal. Removal options include chemical (herbicides) and mechanical (cutting, mowing, pulling).
- Consult a forester or natural resource specialist prior to beginning invasive plant removal work to evaluate proposed methods.
- Monitor and document control and removal activities for future reference in order to evaluate the effectiveness of different measures.
- Use herbicides sparingly and with caution. Avoid all contact with contributing and desirable plants or trees. Apply by painting with a foam brush or similar applicator; avoid spraying, as even small amounts of airborne herbicide spread by wind drift can cause unintentional damage or death of nearby vegetation.
- Specific directions for individual invasive species noted at the Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden are listed, below.[6] See end of section for a summary reference table.

5. Tree Care Industry Association, "Pruning - ANSI A300 Part 1-2008," http://www.treecareindustry.org/public/gov_standards_a300.htm (accessed 9 October 2008).

6. Sources consulted on invasive species include: USDA/NRCS Plants Database online (http://plants.usda.gov); Element Stewardship Abstracts published by The Nature Conservancy Global Invasive Species Initiative, 2006 (http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html); and Maryland Native Plant Society, "Control of Invasive Non-Native Plants," (http://www.mdflora.org/publications/invasives. htm#Control).

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) rapidly invades and overtakes a site by forming a dense shrub layer that crowds and shades out native plant species. Honeysuckle decreases light availability, depletes soil moisture and nutrients, and may release toxic chemicals that prevent other plant species from growing in the vicinity.

- Mechanical and chemical means are the primary methods of controlling honeysuckle. No biological control agents are currently available.
- Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be useful for light infestations but care should be taken not to disturb the soil more than necessary.
- In shaded forest habitats, repeated clippings to ground level during the growing season may show positive results. Clipping must be repeated at least once yearly because honeysuckles cut once and left to grow often form stands that are more dense and productive than prior to cutting.
- Seedlings can also be controlled by application of glyphosate at a 1 percent solution sprayed onto foliage or applied by sponge.
- Well-established stands of honeysuckle are likely best managed by cutting stems to ground level and treating stumps with a 2 to 3 percent solution of glyphosate.
- Autumn olive (Eleagnus angustifolia) is a spreading, upright shrub, tolerant of many soil conditions, that was first introduced to help stabilize soil on old farm fields where little else would grow. It spreads aggressively, forming colonies especially along drainageways and riparian areas. Mature colonies are nearly impossible to eradicate once established. The Laurel Hill House site and Terraced Garden appear to have only a few stands, which should be removed and managed before they become more established.
- Seedlings and sprouts can easily be hand-pulled when the soil is moist.
- Once it becomes established, the most effective control method is the cut-stump herbicide treatment (described above for Japanese honeysuckle).
- Most non-chemical methods for the control of large autumn olive stands (bulldozing, mowing, brush-cutting) are not effective in the long-term, unless all resprouts are continually treated for many consecutive years.**Japanese stiltgrass** (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a densely growing annual grass that overtakes areas of bare soil quickly, and builds up a large seed bank in the soil. It occurs primarily in moist, shady areas and is very invasive, crowding out native herbaceous cover or lawn grasses. Avoid disturbing soil to prevent colonization by stiltgrass.
- Control by mowing or string-trimming in late summer (September) when plants are in bloom but before they go to seed. Hand-pull plants at any time. If seeds have formed, pull up and burn or bag and dispose of plant material at landfill. All treatments may need to be repeated for several seasons.
- Glyphosate can also be applied, but is less effective and this plant is difficult to spot-treat due to its dense, spreading nature.

Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a woody shrub or hairy vine. It climbs trees, fences, or trails along the ground. All parts of poison ivy, including the roots, contain a toxin which causes an itchy, blistery rash. Some people react severely to this plant. While its berries have wildlife value in a woodland setting, it is not an appropriate plant for the Terraced Garden. Poison ivy can be controlled either mechanically or with herbicides. The best time of year is early summer (May-July) when the plant is flowering.

- When handling plants, wear gloves and avoid skin contact.
- Small plants can be controlled by complete removal of the root system. Mowing or physical removal of the shoots is effective against seedling plants; however, established plants may require repeated mowing due to resprouting from the established rootstocks. Mechanical removal may not be feasible with larger plants due to the extensive root system.
- Glyphosate may be effective when applied to foliage, or in the cut-stem treatment method described above. The stem should be cut near the soil surface and a concentrated solution of glyphosate painted onto the cut surface of the stem.
- To kill poison ivy that climbs high into trees, cut the vine off 6 inches above the ground

to cause the upper reaches to die. Apply glyphosate to the stump cut immediately. Poison ivy can be persistent and may need to be treated repeatedly.

- Avoid burning poison ivy; the toxic oil in the plant vaporizes when heated, and can cause a severe rash through contact with the smoke.

Greenbrier (*Smilax spp.*) is a thorny native vine that forms thickets and climbs other plants. While not an exotic invasive, in garden areas, greenbrier can damage preferred ornamental plants. Pull up small plants by hand. Remove vines from trees and shrubs by cutting the stems, and pulling up the roots; or, cut the vine and follow up with a systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, applied in concentrated form to the cut areas.

Wild grape (Vitis vinifera) is a native woody vine with tendrils that climb trees and shrubs. Like brambles and even poison ivy, this plant's fruit is an important food source for small woodland wildlife such as birds, which then spread the seeds to new places. However, in garden areas, wild grape can smother trees and shrubs if left uncontrolled.

- Pull vines by hand and dispose of the debris off-site. Care should be taken not to harm the host plant. Remove vines growing on trees or shrubs by cutting through the stems, and pulling up the roots.
- In heavily infested areas, wound or scarify vines, then follow up with a systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, applied in concentrated form to the cut areas.

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is a vine that can be removed in the same manner as wild grape. Like wild grape, it has woodland wildlife value, but should be controlled within cultivated ornamental garden areas as it can damage planted vegetation and pull mortar out of masonry with its aerial roots and suckers.

Brambles (*Rubus sp.)* are thorny native shrubs that grow in canes and bear edible berries, such as raspberries. Thorns are hazardous or annoying to passersby.

- Pull smaller plants by hand, and dispose of the debris off-site. Cut or wound plants and apply a systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, in concentrated form to the cut areas.

Smaller herbaceous weedy growth can be removed by hand, including pulling up roots as necessary. Avoid digging with trowels due to the presence of buried brickwork and other potential artifacts.

Clearing Vegetation from Masonry and Paths

- Remove accumulated soil and organic debris from brick paths and edging carefully, avoiding damaging mortar joints and loosening bricks. Where possible, use a stiff plastic or natural bristle brush or broom to remove soil rather than a shovel. An edging tool or square garden shovel may be used along the edges of the path to sever roots growing over it. When using a shovel or other metal tool near masonry or brick paths, exercise caution not to scar, chip or otherwise damage or loosen brickwork. Work with tools only up to the edges, and remove plant and debris material from the masonry surface by hand, or using brooms and brushes.
- The goal of initial vegetation removal should be to stabilize masonry and prevent further damage. Special care must be taken when removing trees or other vegetation where their roots compromise masonry. Masonry that may be impacted by removal of vegetation should be temporarily stabilized. This includes masonry that is displaced or failing because vines or tree roots. Stabilization entails spot pointing and may involve shoring with wood posts to keep walls from deflecting until sections can be rebuilt as part of subsequent work. Trees should be cut to grade with a chainsaw.
- Stump removal should be limited to hand removal or pneumatic excavation to minimize the impact to adjacent masonry. Stump grinders may be very damaging to masonry if adequate protection and monitoring of the masonry is not done.
- If aggressive treatment is not taken to keep invasive vegetation from regenerating additional damage to masonry may occur. Therefore vegetation should be either completely removed, which may also require partial wall removal, or treated chemically to prevent new growth.

Disposal of Debris

- Remove all invasive plant debris from the site to avoid regeneration and spreading. Dispose of at an appropriate landfill or waste treatment site.
- Consider composting non-invasive plant material on site. Designate a location outside the boundaries of the Terraced Garden for this kind of disposal.
- Tree limbs may be chipped for use on-site as wood mulch. Spread mulch thinly throughout the wooded areas of the property or use them to maintain woodland trails.

Stabilizing and Re-seeding

- If new plants are not going to be immediately installed, revegetate all cleared areas of soil with an FCPA-approved cool-season grass seed mixture for temporary soil stabilization. In this initial phase of treatment, avoid planting other ground covers that are not known to have existed in the Terraced Garden.
- Follow Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association Standardized Landscape Specifications for seeding.[7]
- Undertake any ground surface preparation involving disturbance such as topsoil aeration, loosening, removal of stones, or fine grading under the supervision of an archaeologist.
- When subsequently re-treating invasive vegetation, be aware that lawn grasses are sensitive to glyphosate and may be killed. Because glyphosate does not persist in the soil, re-seeding may be used to restore grass after treatment of invasives.

7. "Standardized Landscape Specifications for the Commonwealth of Virginia," www.vsld.org/StandardizedLandscapeSpecs.doc (accessed 15 September 2008).

Invasive Species Treatment Summary Table

NAME	TYPE	CUT?	MOW?	HERBICIDE?	PULL UP ROOTS?
Japanese honeysuckle	Exotic invasive	Yes –to ground, multiple	Yes – annually for several years	Yes – apply to leaves or cut stems	Yes – effective for small plants or light
Autumn olive	Exotic invasive	Yes – in combination with herbicide	*Not effective*	Yes – most effective control; apply to cut stumps	*Yes – for small plants but not practical for larger ones*
Japanese stiltgrass	Exotic invasive	*Not effective*	Yes – late summer before seed	*Not effective*	Yes - hand pull then remove from site
Poison ivy	Aggressive native	Yes – in combination with herbicide	Yes – only for seedlings	Yes – in combination with cutting	Yes – but established vines can
Greenbrier	Aggressive native	Yes	*Not effective*	Yes – although not usually necessary	Yes – small plants easy to pull
Wild grape	Aggressive native	Yes – and/or pull carefully by hand	*Not effective*	Yes – although not usually necessary	Yes
Virginia creeper	Aggressive native	Yes – and/or pull carefully by hand	*Not effective*	Yes – although not usually necessary	Yes
Brambles	Aggressive native	Yes – in combination with herbicide	*Not effective*	Yes – in combination with cutting	Yes – pull small plants by hand

MASONRY STABILIZATION

The following recommendations are for general conditions found within the Laurel Hill Terraced Garden. For an overall layout of masonry in the Terraced Garden refer to Overview of Masonry Condition (*Map 5-4)*.

When undertaking repairs to garden masonry that may result in the disturbance of historic plantings, protect them as well as possible; if necessary, remove and transplant smaller specimens, or replace any damaged or removed plants in-kind after work is completed.

Biological Growth

Biological growth is defined as unwanted growth or infestation of fungi, algae, microbes, or plants resulting in organic staining and bio-deterioration of built structures. Causes and examples include: excess moisture, poor maintenance, and temperature fluctuations. Within the Terraced Garden vines are growing on all masonry and moss and algae grow profusely on brick in direct contact with the ground, such flowerbed borders (*Figure 5-5*).

- Remove all unwanted higher plant growth, such as ivy, mechanically, being sure to remove all roots.
- Remove all lesser biological growth, like algae or moss, with an application of an alkaline biocide.
- Do not use any products that might contain acids which could be harmful to the masonry.

Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a white residue formed by extraneous salts deposited during moisture. Salt is absorbed into the pore structure of the material and migrates towards the surface as ir dries, breaking down the pore structure as it crystallizes. Efflorescence is associated with degradation mechanisms such as exfoliation and spalling. There are several areas where large spreads of effloresce can been seen, especially on retaining walls (*Figure 5-6*).

- Eliminate the source of the moisture and then perform a salt extraction treatment either mechanically or with a chemical softener to remove the white haze. This might be combination chemical treatment followed with use of a poultice for adequate removal of buildup.

Figure 5-5. Typical biological growth on planting border brick.

Figure 5-6. Typical efflorescence on face of retaining walls.

Figure 5-7. Graffiti located on face of retaining wall.

Graffiti

Surface graffiti has minimal impact on the material integrity of masonry. In most cases, a cleaning treatment will take care of the problem. There is spray paint graffiti on the south side of the central retaining wall (*Figure 5-7*).

- Remove paint with a specialized graffiti remover or appropriate paint remover that contains no methylene chlorides or other "halogenated" solvents.

Delamination and Exfoliation

Delamination and exfoliation include irreversible loss of scales, flakes, or layers from a surface. Exfoliation may occur on exterior masonry due to weathering, deterioration from salts, freeze-thaw action, inherent properties in the material or a decay mechanism (*Figure 5-8*). Causes and examples include failure at masonry bedding planes, improperly laid stones, efflorescence, blocked pores due to sealant or patch, or freezing and thawing. The rock garden fountain is delaminating.

- Lightly tool rough edges down to sound stone to reduce appearance of imperfections
- Stabilize vulnerable areas with a liquid potassium silicate fixative to slow down the rate of deterioration.

Spall

Spall is an irregular-sized chip or fragment from a ceramic or masonry surface. Spalling, or breaking up, of the surface is often induced by freeze/thaw action, corrosion, or salt formation. Spalls are most often identified by the absence of material on the wall or a section of material that is about to fall. Causes and examples include: salt decay, freeze/thaw, oxide jacking, unprotected penetrations, inherently weak material, undue stress on the material. Spalling is occurring on some of the brick surfaces in the Terraced Garden and has been previously repaired with mortar patches in some locations. It is common at brick copings (*Figure 5-9*).

- Remove mortar patches one existing brick surfaces.
- For large areas of spall, replace failed material with material in-kind (see Missing Elements, above).

Figure 5-8. Delamination occurring in fountain basin.

Figure 5-9. Example of spalling condition of some brick.

- For small areas, patch with appropriate mineral-based brick patching material; match existing color.
- For patching, use a cementitious repair mortar that is vapor permeable and contains no latex, acrylic bonding agents, or additives.
- The mortar shall be custom colored to match the substrate.
- Clean and clear all patch areas of debris before repair.

Figure 5-10. Typical cracking occurring along wall copings.

Figure 5-11. Typical example of mortar missing from brick joint.

Minor Cracking

Minor cracking is defined as a narrow separation in a surface that extends through the thickness of the layer. Cracks that occur on the surface that measure between 3/16" and 9/16" wide are minor cracks. Minor cracks promote loss of material strength and further deterioration through moisture penetration. Causes and examples include: differential stress, pressure, humidity variations, mechanical defects, salt decay. Within the Terraced Garden minor cracks exist, especially in coping bricks (*Figure 5-10*).

- Repair cracks with appropriate lime-based crack grout. All cracks should be cleaned and cleared of debris before repair.
- Grouts should be vapor permeable and contain no latex, acrylic bonding agents, or additives. Grout should be custom colored to match the substrate.
- Replace bricks where necessary; see "Missing Elements" for more information.

Open Joint or Other Failed Mortar

Loss of mortar material between units of two or more pieces of masonry or other material is caused by weathering, age, salt migration or use of improper mortar strengths. Once the joints fail, the wall structure becomes vulnerable to moisture penetration. Areas of open joints are found throughout all masonry within the Terraced Garden and the entrance drive retaining wall (*Figure 5-11*).

- Perform a mortar analysis to isolate the necessary aggregate for aesthetic matching.
- The sands should be free of silt, loam, soluble salts and organic mater and must meet the requirements of ASTM C144. They should match the color and texture of the original mortar sand.
- The mortar mix should not be any stronger in compressive strength than the surrounding masonry.
- To stabilize walls, remove failed mortar, insure all existing weeps are cleaned or replaced, and spot repoint open joints to match original.
- Use fresh hydraulic lime in the mix.

Displacement

Displacement occurs when structural elements are out of plumb or not level due to installation, design problems or environmental factors. Within the Terraced Garden this is commonly caused by tree and vine growth. The retaining wall at the bench landing, for example, is being displaced by a large tree root (*Figure 5-12*).

- Dismantle the effected section of wall.
- Remove unwanted growth, including main roots, by hand or with pneumatic exacavation
- Rebuild section of the wall using original materials to restore stability.
- Minor displacement may be stabilized with stainless steel masonry anchors.
- See "*Clearing Vegetation from Masonry and Paths,*" above, for more information about tree removal.

Figure 5-12. Displacement of masonry at infill between bench and bench stair wall.

Missing Elements

Dislodged or otherwise missing masonry units jeopardize both the appearance and stability of built structures. In the Terraced Garden, stone and brick elements such as capstones, copings, or other masonry features are missing. This is common at many brick piers in the garden (*Figure 5-13*).

- Replace areas of missing or damaged masonry element with salvaged or new bricks that match the existing bricks in size, color, finish, and other characteristics.
- Use bricks or salvaged stone found on site for repairs, if possible.

Figure 5-13. The capstone element is missing from this section of wall.

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Appendix A: Resource Inventory Table

All resources under the "Contributing" heading contribute to the Lindsay and Post-Lindsay Private Ownership (pre-1914) period of significance or they contribute to the D.C. Penal Institutions – Progressive Era (1914-1962) period. "Non-contributing" features at the Laurel Hill site are considered to have no association with a significant historic period, and generally post-date 1962. Features documented as present sometime in history that longer exist are listed under the "Missing" heading. Features about which too little is known to make a determination of contributing status are listed under "Not Yet Determined."

Feature Name	*Contributing*	*Non-Contributing*	*Missing*	*Un-determined*	*Pre-1914*	*1914-1962*	*Post-1962*	*Undetermined*	*Condition*	*Notes*
Natural Systems and Features										
Ridge									N/A	
West drainageway									N/A	
East drainageway									N/A	
Deciduous woodland									N/A	
Dry-site vegetation									N/A	
Spatial Organization										
Entrance drive corridor	✓					•			Good	
House sited on ridge	✓				•				Fair	Trees obstruct this relationship.
Lindsay Cemetery	✓				•				Fair	Separated from house by perimeter road.
North yard	✓				•				Fair	Garage demolished; entry sequence unclear.
South yard	✓				•				Fair	Encroaching vegetation.
Central walk	✓					•			Fair	Vines, weeds, saplings, small trees.
Semicircular terrace	✓					•			Fair	Vines, weeds, saplings, small trees.
Rectangular terrace	✓					•			Fair	Entire area overgrown with invasives.
Lower terrace	✓					•			Fair	Vines, weeds, saplings, small trees.
Forsythia walk	✓					•			Fair	Forsythia needs pruning for definition.

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
Rock garden	✓					•			Poor to Fair	Fountain overturned; detritus clutters the area.
East terrace	✓					•			Fair	This area is overgrown and undefined.
Vista	✓					•			Fair	Maturing vegetation obscures vista.
Dell	✓					•			N/A	
East drainageway	✓					•			N/A	
Anne Calvert Lindsay garden			✓		•				N/A	
Construction road trace	✓					•			N/A	
Topographic Modifications										
"Cemetery hillock"	✓				•				Good	
North yard	✓				•				Good	
South yard	✓				•				Good	
Semicircular terrace	✓					•			Good	
Rectangular terrace	✓					•			Good	
Lower terrace	✓					•			Good	
Rock garden	✓					•			Good	
East terrace	✓					•			Good	
Reformatory ballfield fill section	✓					•			N/A	
Entrance drive corridor	✓					•			Good	
Construction road trace	✓					•			N/A	
Views and Vistas										
Axial views within garden	✓					•			Poor	Obstructed by invasive vegetation.
Garden vista	✓					•			Poor	Obstructed by invasive vegetation.
Views of townhouses		✓					•		N/A	

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
Views of Potomac			✓		•				N/A	
Views of surrounding fields			✓		•				N/A	
View of garden from house			✓			•			N/A	
View from house of Reformatory	✓					•			N/A	
Circulation										
West entrance stairway	✓					•			Good	
Single step	✓					•			Good	
Bench steps	✓					•			Fair	Some displaced bricks; north cheek wall detached.
Central steps	✓					•			Good	
East stairway	✓					•			Good	
Rock garden stairway	✓					•			Good	
East terrace steps	✓					•			Poor	Moss and other biological growth, open joints, and missing brick.
Central walk	✓					•			Fair	Accumulated soil and vegetation.
Bench landing	✓					•			Good	
Semicircular terrace walk	✓					•			Undetermined	
Rectangular terrace walk	✓					•			Fair	Accumulated soil and vegetation.
Pool walk	✓					•			Fair	Accumulated soil and vegetation.
Lower terrace walk	✓					•			Poor to Fair	Minor erosion and accumulated soil and leaf litter.
Forsythia walk	✓					•			Poor to Fair	Displaced and replaced bricks; forsythia overgrown.
Turf walks in semicircular terrace	✓					•			Poor	No grass has been maintained in these areas.
Concrete driveway remnants	✓					•			Poor	Scattered fragments.
Brick walks around house	✓					•			Fair	Accumulated soil and vegetation.
Concrete sidewalk	✓					•			Unknown	Within fenced area; not surveyed.

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
Reformatory entrance drive	✓					•			Varies	Deteriorated asphalt or gravel top course; covered in places with accumulated soil and vegetation.
Reformatory perimeter road	✓					•			Poor to Fair	Broken asphalt.
Construction road trace	✓							•	N/A	
Upper road trace	✓							•	Unknown	
Lorton Road	✓				•				N/A	
Serpentine carriageway			✓		•				N/A	
Vegetation										
Cactus bed			✓		•				N/A	
"Rose trees"			✓		•				N/A	
Iris beds			✓			•			N/A	
Boxwoods framing north door			✓			•			N/A	
Climbing rose on arbor			✓			•			N/A	
Yucca by house			✓			•			N/A	
Spiraea in south yard			✓			•			N/A	
Showy forsythia	✓					•			Good	
Shrub roses	✓					•			Fair	Spindly; may require more sun.
Spiraea	✓					•			Fair	Need pruning.
Bush honeysuckle	✓					•			Good	
Chinese peony	✓					•			Good	
Tulip	✓					•			Unknown	
Hyacinth	✓					•			Unknown	
Daffodils	✓					•			Good	
Naturalized bulbs	✓					•			Unknown	
Large ash	✓					•			Good	

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
American sycamore	✓					•			Poor	Heavily covered with poison ivy vines.
Grass lawn	✓					•			Fair	Overgrown with weeds; some bare patches.
Eastern red cedar by porch	✓					•			Unknown	
Grass pasture	✓					•			Unknown	
Black walnut trees		✓					•		Poor	Rot and dead wood.
Invasives and aggressive natives		✓					•		N/A	
Black locust		✓					•		Poor	Large portions of it are dead or dying.
Ornamental grass at entrance drive		✓					•		Good	
Pine plantation				✓				•	Good	
Bush honeysuckle				✓				•	Good	
Specimen trees in south yard				✓				•	Fair to good	Would benefit from selective clearing and removal of aggressive vines.
Eastern red cedar fencerow				✓				•	Good	
Hollies				✓				•	Good	
Yews				✓				•	Fair	Overgrown (taller than house).
Buildings and Structures										
Laurel Hill House	✓				•				Poor	See HSR.
Slave quarters			✓		•				N/A	
Farm buildings			✓		•				N/A	
Totten outbuildings and kennels			✓		•				N/A	
Garage			✓			•			*Demolished*	
Outbuilding (ruin)	✓							•	Poor	In ruins.
Concrete foundation	✓							•	Unknown	
Stone headwalls and culverts	✓							•	Poor	Stones dislodged; filled in with soil.

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
Brick gatehouse	✓					•			Good	
Old entry gateposts	✓					•			Good	
Pool	✓					•			Poor	Filled in with soil; trees and other vegetation have grown in; inoperative.
Bench	✓					•			Fair	Missing bricks and needs repointing.
Retaining wall behind bench	✓					•			Fair to poor	Damage caused by tree roots.
Bench landing	✓					•			Good	
Pedestals	✓					•			Poor	
Brick planter	✓					•			Fair to poor	Rubble suggests features surrounding it are missing or incomplete.
Yard wall	✓					•			Poor	
Central retaining wall	✓					•			Fair	Cracking, spalling, missing mortar, displacement.
Semicircular terrace retaining wall	✓					•			Fair to Good	Some minor cracking and efflorescence.
Lower terrace wall	✓					•			Fair	Accumulated soil and debris.
East terrace wall	✓					•			Fair	One significant crack, but otherwise in good condition.
Wall along entrance drive	✓					•			Varies	Small areas exhibit biological growth, open joints, cracking, efflorescence, and spalling.
Brick gutter	✓					•			Poor	Covered with accumulated soil and vegetation.
Brick bridge	✓					•			Fair	Covered in vines; section of east wall displaced.
Small-scale Features										
William Lindsay grave marker	✓					•			Good	
Ann Lindsay grave marker	✓					•			Good	
Cemetery fence	✓					•			Fair	
Fountain	✓					•			Poor	Dismounted and lying on its side; detached from plumbing and inoperative.

Feature Name	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Missing	Un-determined	Pre-1914	1914-1962	Post-1962	Undetermined	Condition	Notes
Brick edging	✓					•			Poor to Fair	See notes in Appendix A on masonry conditions.
Planting beds	✓					•			Poor to Fair	See notes in Appendix A on masonry conditions.
Security gates at entrance drive		✓					•		Good	
Pasture fence		✓					•		Fair	Posts are weathered; covered in vines.
Chain link security fence		✓					•		Good	
Gates						•			Good	
Light pole south of house	✓					•			Poor	In pieces on ground; inoperative.
Light standard on southwest pedestal	✓					•			Fair	Mounted on brick pedestal but inoperative.
Utility poles	✓							•	Unknown	
Manholes	✓							•	Unknown	
Cast iron drain grates	✓							•	Good	
Terra cotta pipes	✓							•	Poor	Broken remnants.
Metal plates	✓							•	Unknown	
Rubble piles	✓							•	Unknown	
Rip rap	✓							•	Unknown	

JMA architects archeologists planners
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