

Mount Gilead/Centreville Fort Sites Park Master Plan update

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Activities of Note:

- Spindle Sears House exterior restoration
- Jamesson Cemetery restoration
- Rice and Sedinger houses update
- Archaeology research
- Expanded scope for Master Plan



Spindle Sears House exterior before restoration



Spindle Sears House exterior after restoration



Recent Site Activities

A lot of activity has been going on at the Mount Gilead site. The Park Authority has completed the Phase One exterior restoration of the Spindle Sears house. This renovation included new roofing, painting of the trim and siding and removal of overgrown shrubbery. A new arbor was built to replace the original one from the 1950's era.



Original bath

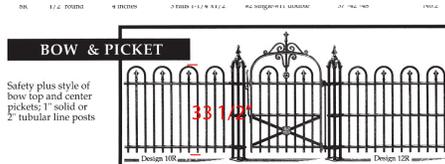
The Phase Two interior restoration is moving forward. It will involve a complete redo of the interior including period wall treatments and fixtures.



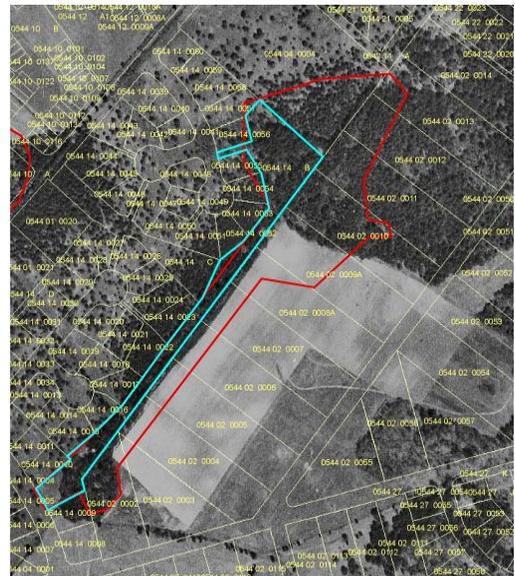
Catalog page showing bath fittings available in the 1930's

To that end, the staff has been researching period fittings and finishes utilizing historic photos, the existing remnants and even the original catalog pages from Sears.

The Jamesson Cemetery has been cleaned out and fencing will be replaced with iron fencing and gates from the original manufacturer.



Archeology research has been ongoing and will continue not only at the Mt. Gilead site, but at the new park



parcels. There is a wealth of historic resources to be investigated on these new parcels. Many of the new sites contain important Civil War era earthworks and elements.

Work in the very near future will include the demolition of the Rice and Sedinger homes.

More details and scope of all of the ongoing site work and projects can be found at the project web site.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/mtgilead.htm>

Expanded project scope



Park parcels located with in the Centreville Historic Overlay District

The Park Authority has recently acquired several parcels in the Centreville Historic District.

These parcels contain remnants of the major Civil War era fort that was located in this district and will be included in the Mt. Gilead Park master plan process that was initiated last year.

ning process will allow for the examination on how to best relate, protect and interpret these important historic elements of one of the first Civil War Fort sites.

The map below shows the parcels that will be included in the master plan process

Incorporating these various park parcels in one park master plan-

The park sites cover more than 300 years of local, county and national history



The 5 parcels to be included in the Master Plan

- 14.4 acres of Park-land total
- The Civil War is the primary era of significance for the new parcels
- The Mount Gilead House is one of the oldest structures in Centreville



History is alive at Centreville Days

Centreville Days 2007

The Park Authority was excited to participate in the Centreville Day activities in September. We had several information stations including the Mount Gilead House, the renovated Sears house and the tannery. The weather was great and the attendance was steady.

The house tours offered were extremely popular. The Sears house was one of the most popular attractions at the event. The Park Authority staff from Eleanor C. Lawrence helped organize period re-enactors including sword fighting, period carpentry , chil-

dren's games and cannon demonstrations.



Village at Mount Gilead

The Park Authority will be receiving the Village at Mount Gilead piece as a result of a development proffer. It is located directly across the road from the original Mount Gilead site.

This parcel contains a portion of the Confederate earthworks

built by General Johnston in 1861. This earthwork is a continuation of the earthwork on the



Mount Gilead parcel. It is an important remnant of the massive network of earthworks constructed in and around Centreville in the early part of the Civil War.



Earthworks, a gazebo and a playground will convey with this parcel

Newgate Fort Site

This parcel contains an intact Civil War era landscape, containing a number of features, including a small star shaped foundation, likely the remains of a lookout tower or blockhouse. It is an extremely unusual fort, as it has a stone foundation, while almost all

other forts of this era were earthworks. While not on the main line of fortifications, it is the only known, remaining interior structure in Centreville. Also on the property are other Civil War related features and associated artifacts dating to the Civil War era.

After the Confederate forces abandoned Centreville, it was occupied by the Union until the end of the war.

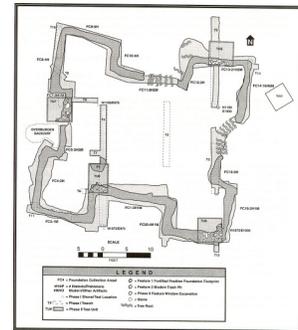


Figure 2-23. Conceptual drawing of the archaeological site at Newgate Fort.

Archeology studies reveal the structure footprint

Covered Way and West Fort Sites

The Board of Supervisors will be transferring the Covered Way and the West Fort sites to



West Fort Site

the Park Authority to be included in this park assemblage. The Covered Way has three main elements to it, Walney Glen Fort; Covered Way, Middlegate Fort. These fortifications continue both north and south onto the adjacent privately owned parcels. This

fort complex was at the front of the lines, atop the bluffs overlooking Rocky Run.

The West Fort Site is in an excellent state of preservation with minimal disturbance. Future archaeological work will shed more light on its function



Covered Way

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
parks/plandev/mtgilead.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/mtgilead.htm)

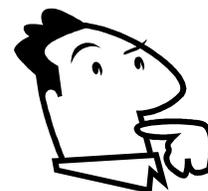
Public Meeting Held October 23, 2007



The Fairfax County Park Authority held a second public meeting to develop a master plan for public sites in the Mount Gilead area of Historic Centreville on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The new park parcels were presented and there was a brief summary of the park master plan process. The floor was then opened for discussion. The audience was offered several questions for discussion in helping develop a plan for the sites.

The questions are:

1. **What types of park experiences are desirable?**
2. **What sort of park facilities would be appropriate for these sites?**
3. **How should the sites be connected?**



A summary of the meeting comments and a copy of the presentation from the meeting are available online at the project website.

The Park Authority welcomes your input. Comments, thoughts and ideas are encouraged and can be sent via e-mail to: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

You can send comments via an online questionnaire, written comments or email. Please send to: Pat Rosend, Project Manager, Planning & Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 421, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. A project mail and e-mail list has been established so interested participants can receive planning updates directly. Please let us know if you would like to be added.

Master Plan Process

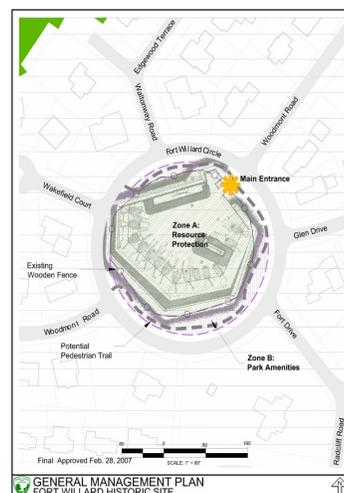
A park master plan is a general guide for appropriate park uses and activities, and their general appearance and approximate location within the park site.

The Master Plan will consist of three components...

- A written report detailing site conditions, park purpose and future

use recommendations,

- A *General Management Plan* document or map of recommendations as contained in the written report and
- A *Conceptual Development Plan* which roughly locates potential park facilities and uses.



Example of a typical
General Management Plan
document