

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mount Gilead Master Plan

Public Information Meeting

November 28, 2006



de Sher John Booker
Southern-home near Centerville, Va.
Photo by John S. & Philip M. Phillips

Agenda

- **Introductions and Remarks**
- **Park Authority Planning Process**
- **Mount Gilead in Context: A Brief History of Centreville and Environs**
- **Mount Gilead Today: Current Site Conditions, Master Planning Timing**
- **Open Discussion**

Park Authority Mission

Enhance citizen's quality of life through

- Natural and cultural resource stewardship
- Quality facilities and services that offer recreational opportunities

Fast Facts about FCPA

- 12-member Board
- 23,677 acres of land
- 400 parks

local, district and countywide
historic sites and nature centers
playgrounds, athletic fields
RECenters, golf and lake parks

Master Plan Components

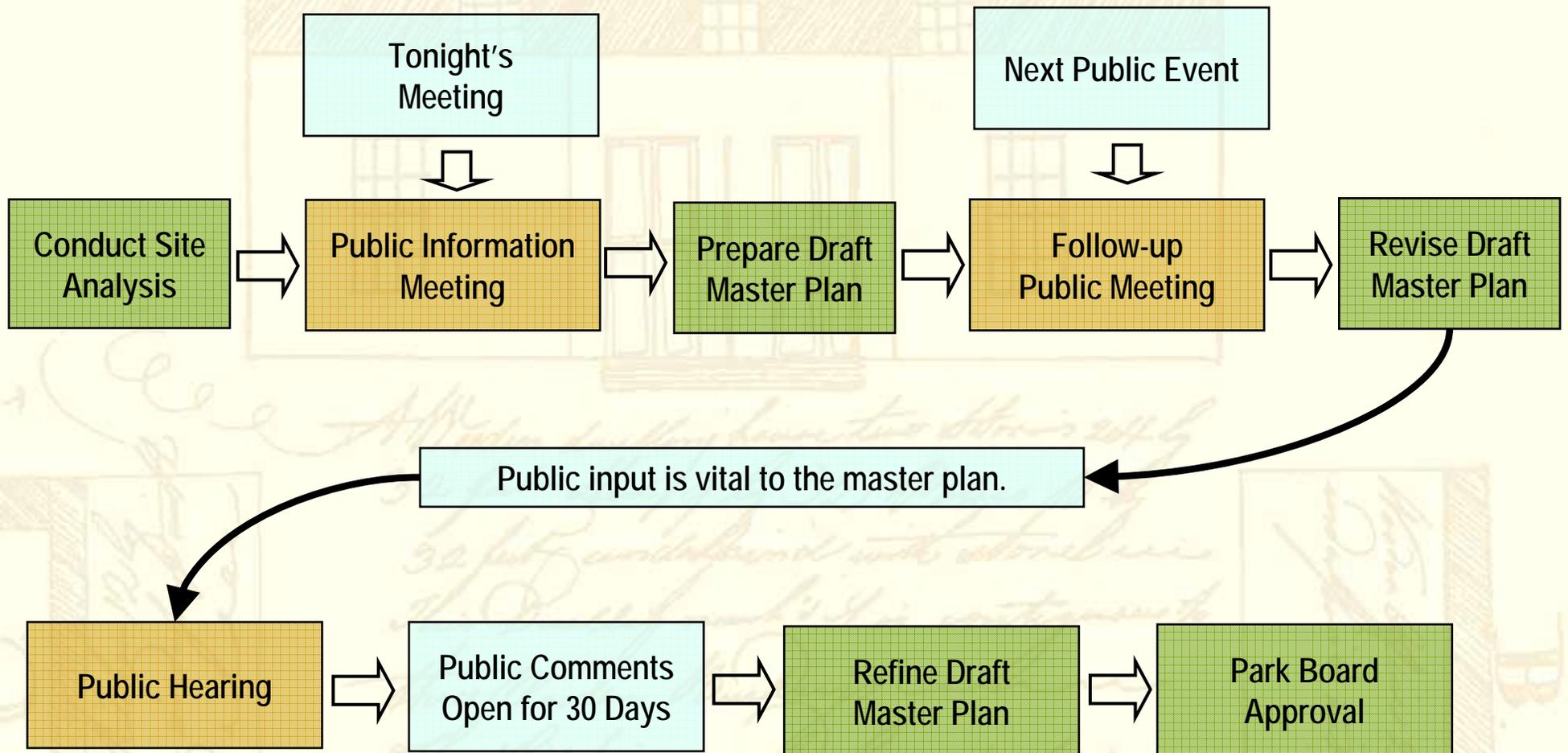
1. General Management Plan (GMP)

- establishes park purpose and classification
- describes existing conditions and constraints
- details the desired visitor experience
- identifies management zones

2. Conceptual Development Plan (CDP)

- describes the planned park elements
- identifies design concerns, and
- shows general location of recommended facilities

Master Planning Process



Staff Team

- Archeologists
- Historians
- Historic preservationists
- Interpretive specialists
- Planners
- Landscape architects
- Naturalists
- Operational specialists
- Recreation specialists

Working Group

- **Composition**

9 local citizens and professionals, suggested by Supervisor Frey or Sully District Park Board member Hal Strickland.

- **Charge**

To review and comment on staff work.

Community Input

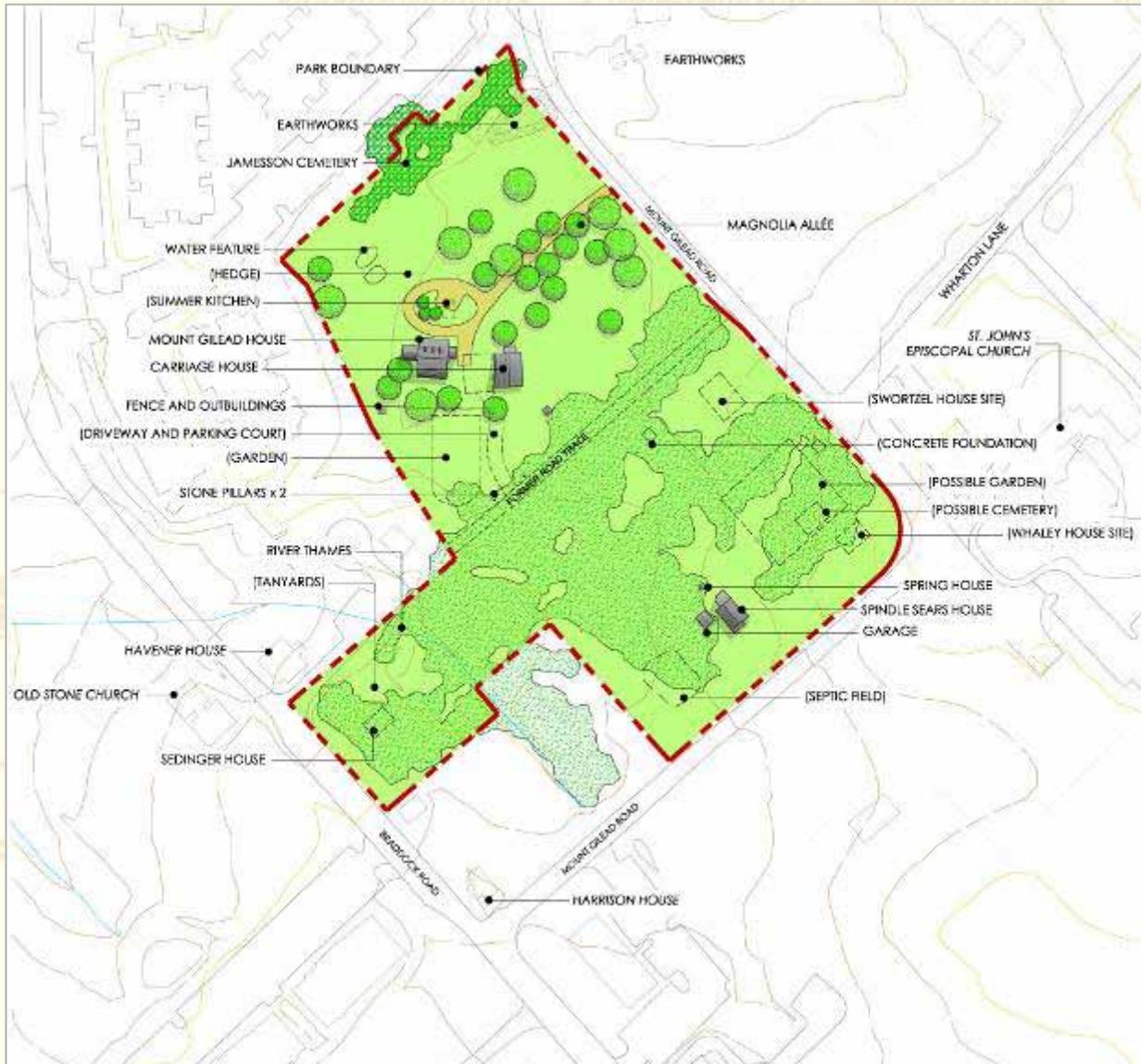
- Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions.
- Mail or e-mail your comments and ideas to the Park Authority.
- HOAs, civic organizations, and interest groups are encouraged to ask staff to make presentations to their organizations or groups.
- Additional public meetings.

Site Context



- 6.9 acres —
- Within Centreville Historic Overlay District —
- Surrounded by commercial and residential development

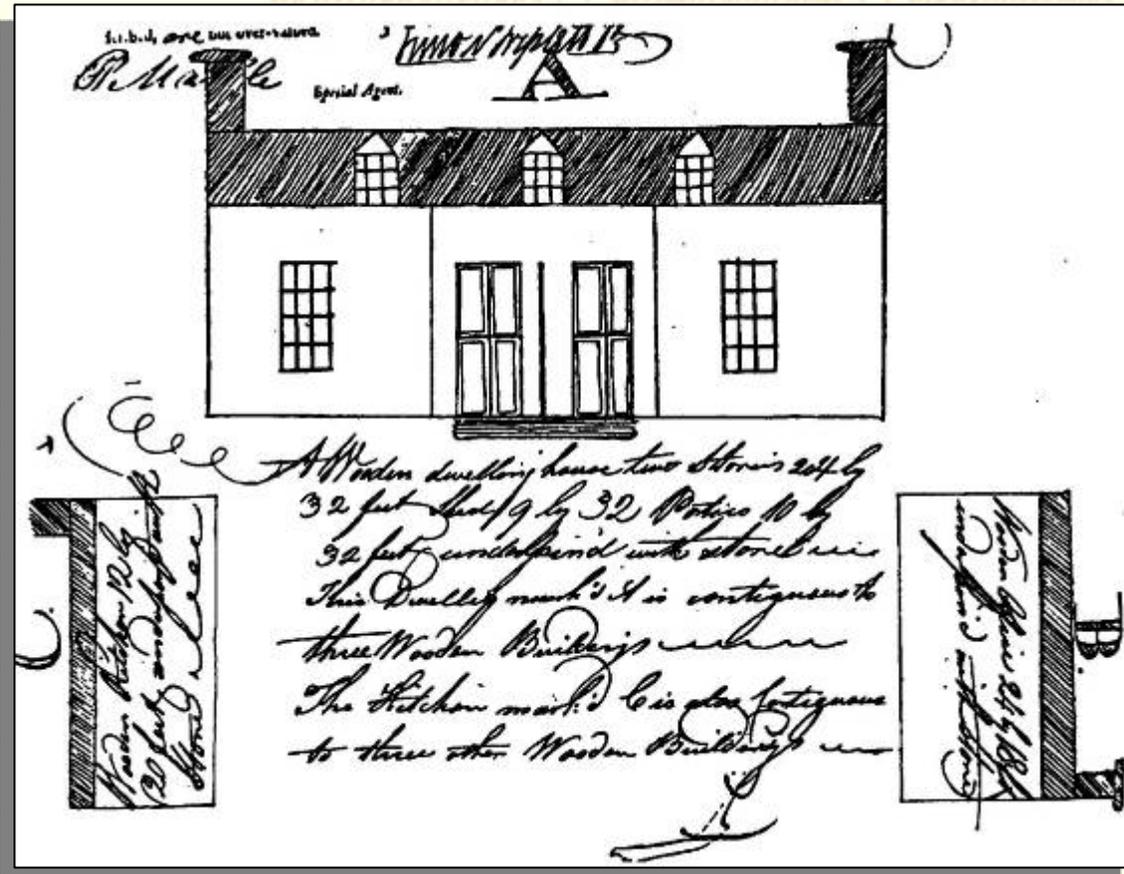
Existing Conditions



- Earthworks
- Garden traces
- Garden structures
- Gentry house site
- Gravesites
- Historic lot line traces
- Historic road traces
- Jamesson cemetery
- Landscaping
- Mature trees
- Mount Gilead house
- Mount Gilead carriage house
- Open fields
- Sedinger house
- Spindle Sears house
- Perennial stream
- Spring house
- Tanyards
- Whaley house site

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



Mount Gilead is believed to have been built circa 1785 by Joel Beach.

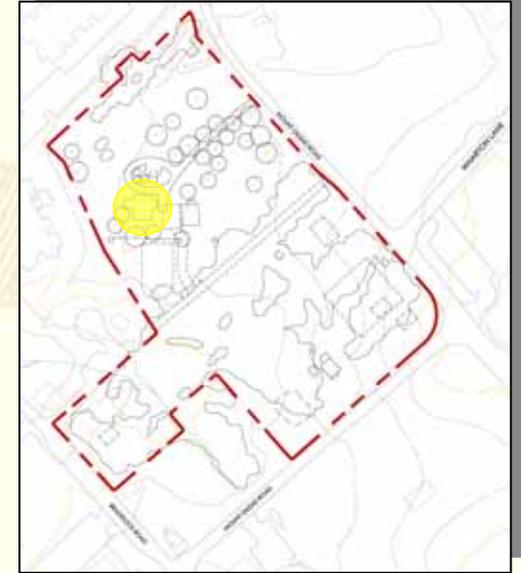
Beach maintained a tavern in the house until 1789.

Insurance policy, 1805

Whereas the subscriber conceives that suffering card-playing in his house is attended with divers ill consequences... he is obliged to prohibit all gaming whatsoever in his house for the future, his design being to keep a still orderly house, for the use of travelers, whom he will endeavour to entertain in the best manner and on much lower terms than has been usual in these parts... Joel Beach, notice published in the Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser May 16, 1786.

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



De Sher John Booker
Southern home near Centerville, Va.
Copied from the photo of John S. H. Phillips, photo.

Mount Gilead is believed to have briefly served as the headquarters of Confederate General Johnston in 1861.

c. 1861

Detailed by the lieutenant colonel to sketch for him. Got pass to go to Centerville and started for there about noon. Made sketch of fortifications from N.W. before entering camp of 125th N.Y. Spent the afternoon with clap at Miss Jamison's. Played seven games of sevenup-a very agreeably spent day. Took supper at Jamison's. Made sketch of the house. Diary entry of William Henry Jackson, a private in the Union Army, June 15, 1863.

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead

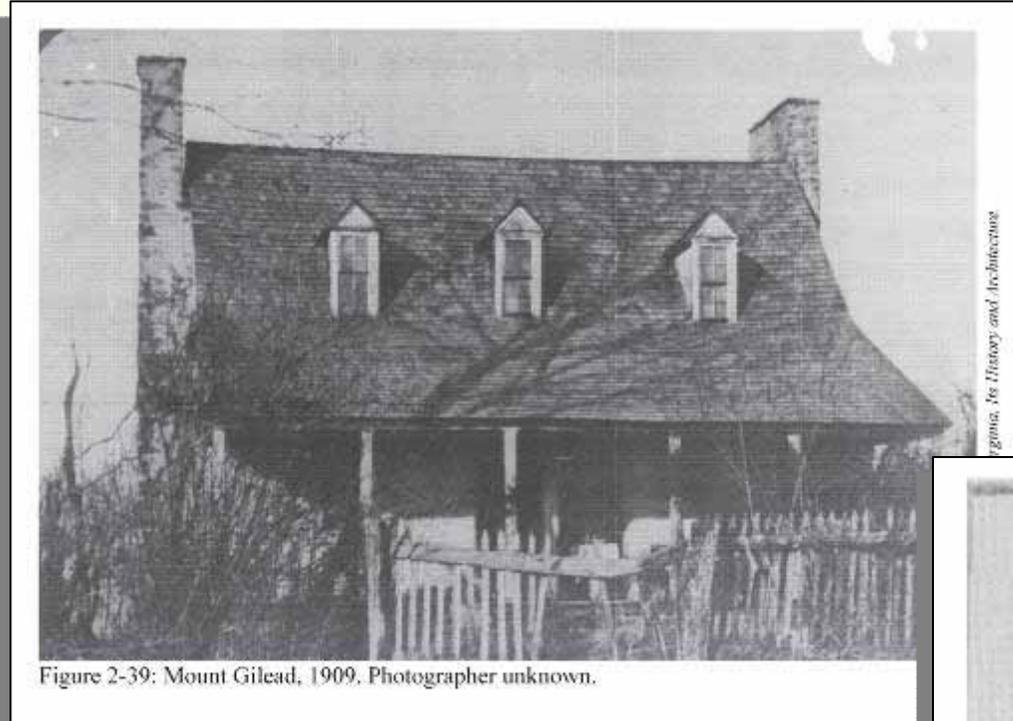
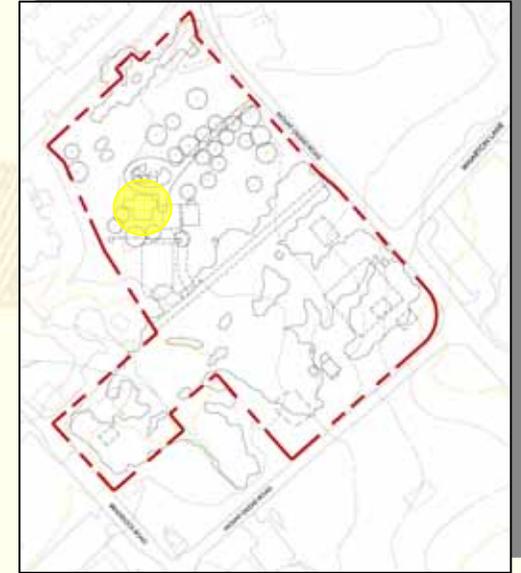


Figure 2-39: Mount Gilead, 1909. Photographer unknown.

1909

Mount Gilead was home to the Jamesson family and their descendants for over a century, from the 1830s to the 1930s.



Figure 2-45: Mount Gilead, 1934. Photographer unknown.

1934

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



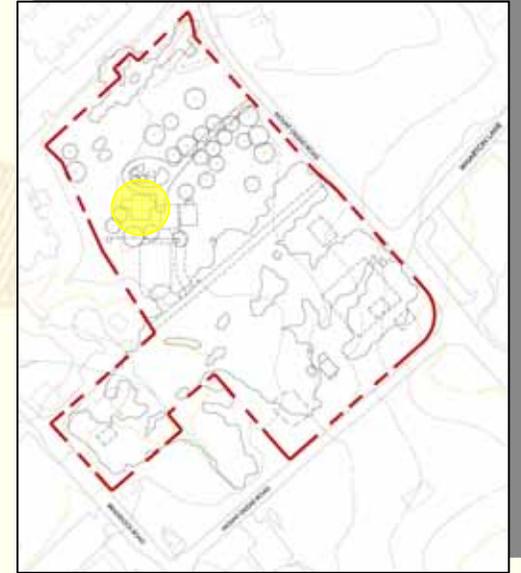
1937



Between 1935 and 1937, owner Alvin Detweiler restored the house, enhanced the landscaping, and built the garage and garden structures.

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



The "back" became the "front" in the mid-20th century.

1948

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



Source: Smith, Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture.

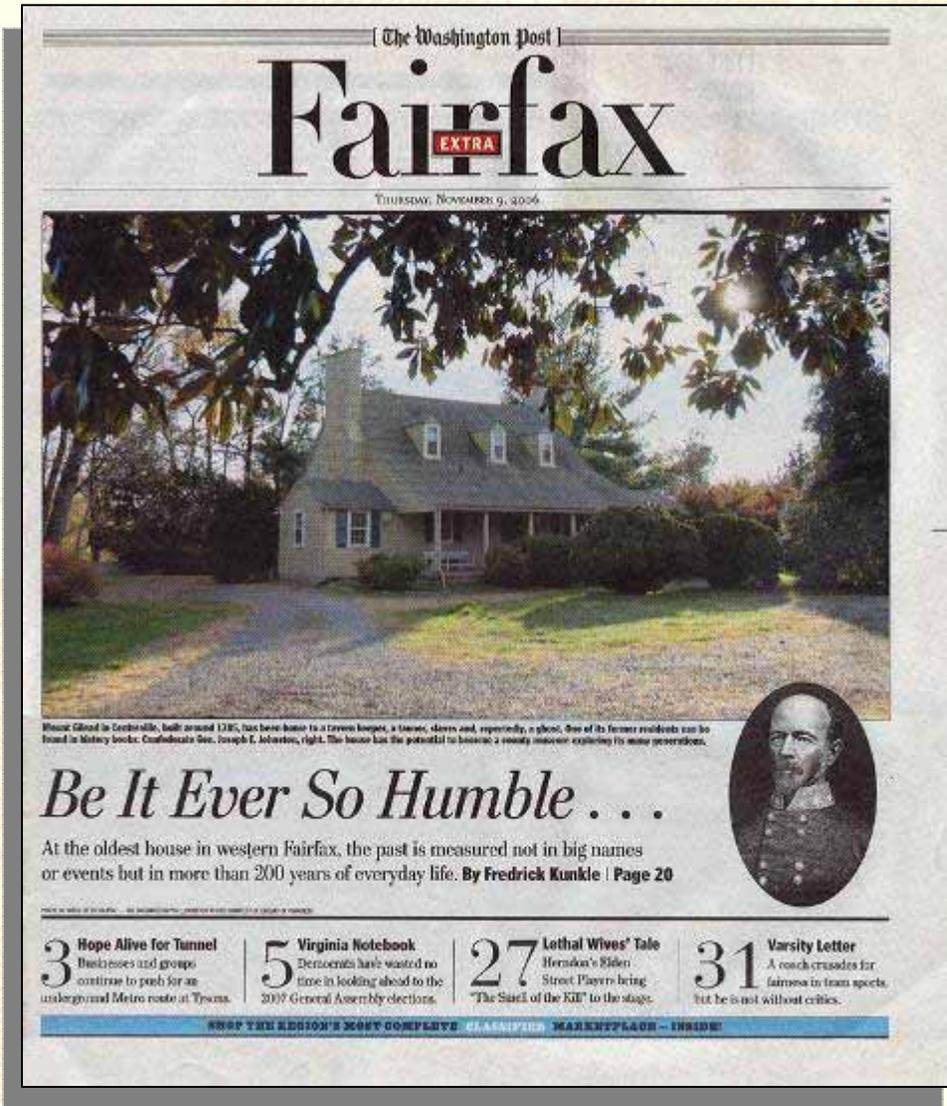
Figure 2-46: Mount Gilead, 1970. Photographer unknown.

Mount Gilead was expanded with the addition of an east and west wing, in 1955 and around 1960, respectively.

image date 1970

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead



The house as it appears today.

2006

Existing Conditions

Jamesson Cemetery



date unknown



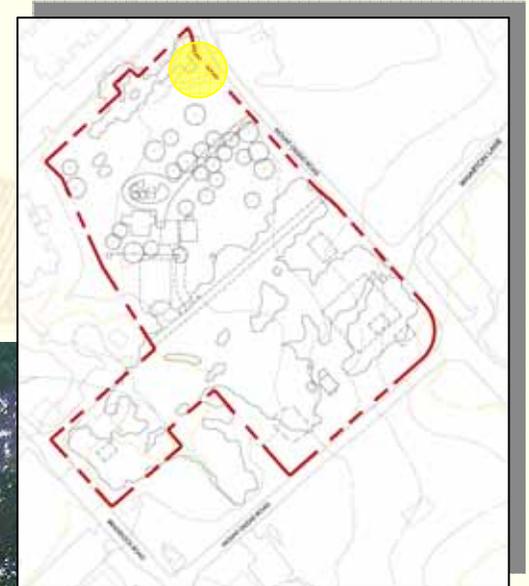
2006



The Jamesson family lived at Mount Gilead from the 1830s to the 1930s.

Existing Conditions

Earthen Artillery Battery



2006

The earthworks at Mount Gilead are part of the extensive defenses constructed in and around Centreville during the Civil War.

Existing Conditions

Earthworks

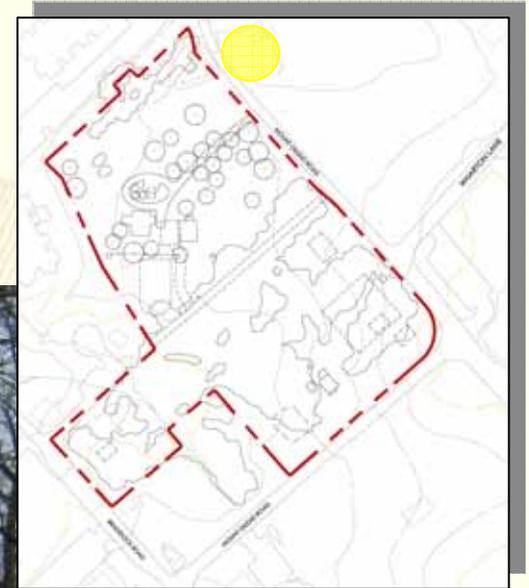


image date 2006

The earthworks continue across Mount Gilead Road and through the new home development, the Village of Mount Gilead.

Existing Conditions

Carriage House



Garage at Mt Gilead
West elevation

2006

The garage, or “carriage house,” was built by owner Alvin Detweiler in the mid-1930s, in the Colonial revival style.

Existing Conditions

Mount Gilead Grounds

Magnolia allée, 1948



garden, 1948



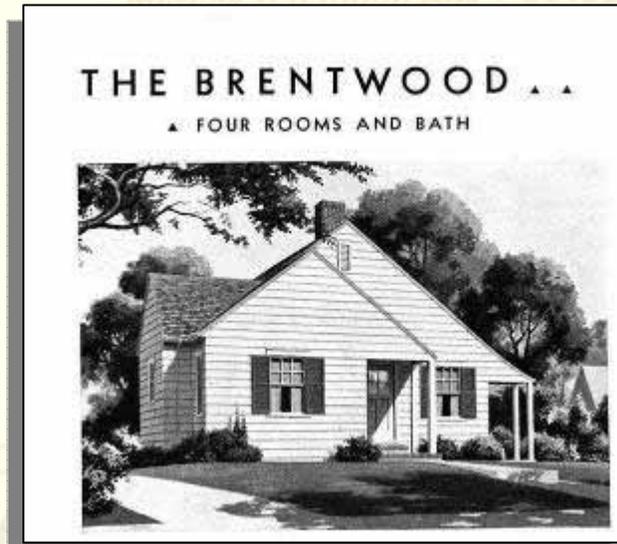
Magnolia allée, 2006



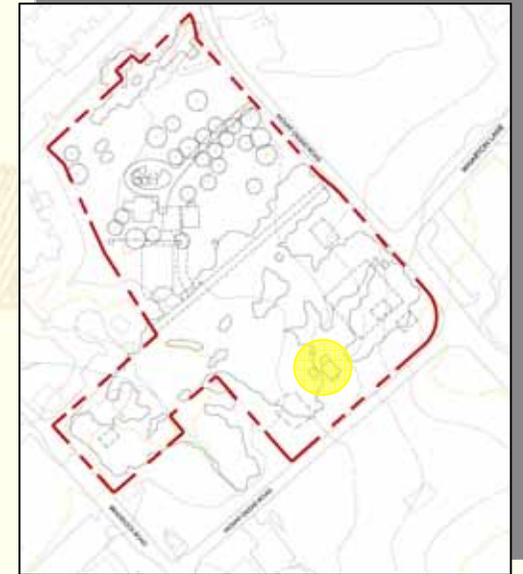
garden, 2006

Existing Conditions

Spindle House



Page from Sears catalog, c. 1934



c. 1965



2006

Existing Conditions

Gentry House

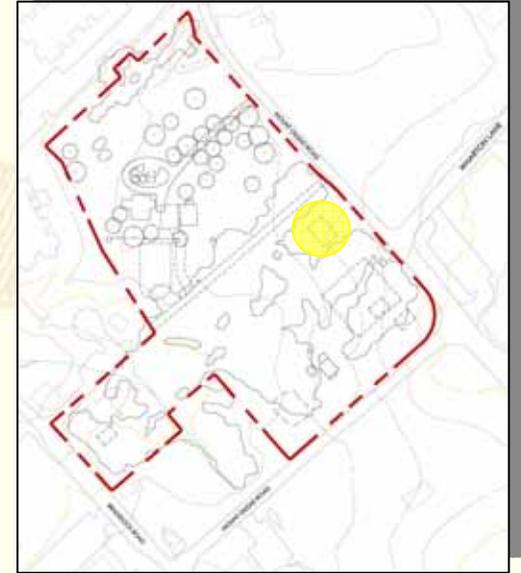


image date c. 1986



2006

Existing Conditions

Sedinger House



image date 2005

Existing Conditions

Tanyard



Source: Fairfax Chronicles, Vol. 18, No. 1, 1995

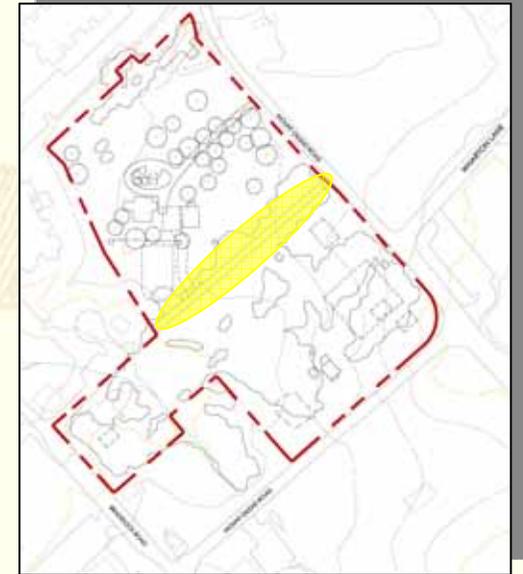
The house at the tanyard in Centreville, ca. 1805-1870.

image date 1995

Existing Conditions



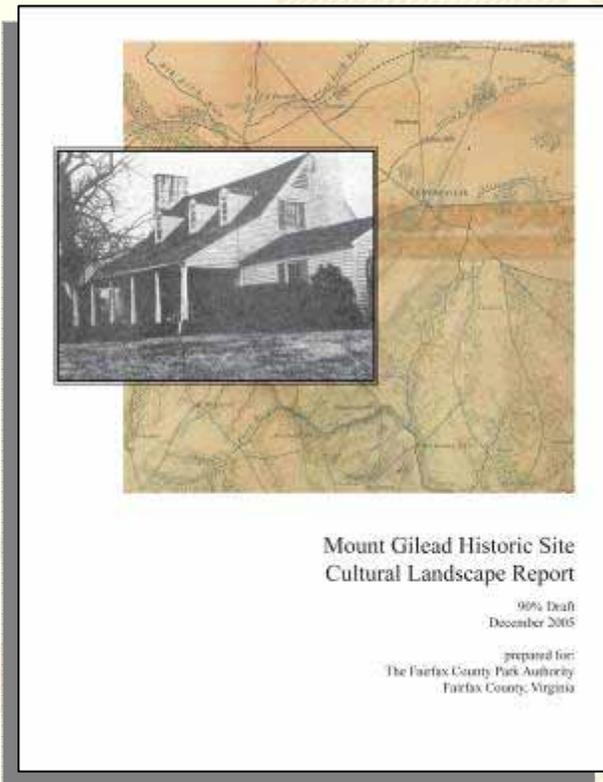
Road Trace



1937 image overlaid with 1792 plat of Centreville.

Ralls Road is marked with a yellow outline; Mount Gilead is to the west of Ralls.

Cultural Landscape Report



Mt. Gilead • Cultural Landscape Report • 90% Draft

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Mt. Gilead • Cultural Landscape Report • 90% Draft

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The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) completed earlier this year documents existing conditions. This report is available on the Park Authority website.

Master Plan

1. General Management Plan (GMP)

- establishes park purpose and classification
- describes existing conditions and constraints
- details the desired visitor experience
- identifies management zones

2. Conceptual Development Plan (CDP)

- describes the park features
- identifies design concerns, and
- shows general location of recommended facilities

Proposed Park Purpose & Visitor Experience

To protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources within the Mount Gilead site

and

interpret the history and development of Centreville, Fairfax County, and the region

and

provide passive recreation.

Proposed Management Options

- Preservation

Example: Ensure the buildings are structurally sound and the grounds are maintained.

- Rehabilitation

Example: Adapt one or more structures or areas to serve as a museum or visitor center.

- Restoration

Example: Remove modern additions and return to a desired period of significance.

- Reconstruction

Example: Rebuild missing structures or features to interpret their significance.

Proposed Park Focus Areas

- Prehistoric conditions
- Paleolithic uses
- 18th century settlement
- Civil War
- 19th century industrial activity
- 20th century residential development
- Modern civic space

Design Questions

- *Should there be trails throughout the site?*
- *How much parking will be needed?*
- *Are rest rooms necessary? If so, where should they be located?*
- *Is there a desire for a public performance space or structure?*
- *Should there be a visitors center? If so, where?*
- *Is wireless communication a good tool for site interpretation?*

When will the park open?

- Currently open to the public
- Please be mindful of the tenant's privacy
- No facilities on site
- Please be careful around uneven terrain, thick vegetation, and ongoing work
- Further development is contingent on future funding
- Preparing the master plan now is the first step

Help plan your park

Send comments to:

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website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/mtgilead.htm

