National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2010



# Oxon Cove Park

National Capital Parks-East - Oxon Cove Park

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# Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

## Inventory Summary

### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

### CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### Inventory Unit Description:

Oxon Hill Farm, a 289-acre site, is a cultural landscape within Oxon Cove Park (512 acres) and located in Prince George's County, Maryland. The park is approximately eight miles south of the United States Capitol. The farm site is bordered to the north by Oxon Run, to the south by Interstate 95/495 and Oxon Cove to the west. A historic road trace known by several different names since it was established, but referred to as the Washington-Piscataway Road Trace in this inventory, borders the farm to the east.

Oxon Hill Farm was listed on the National Register on September 2, 2003. The farm is listed on the National Register under Criteria A and C and significant in the areas of health, medicine and agriculture. The period of significance is 1791-1890 and 1891-1967. The period begins with the documentation of the ownership and development of the land that would become Oxon Hill Farm and ends when the site becomes a unit of the National Park Service in 1967.

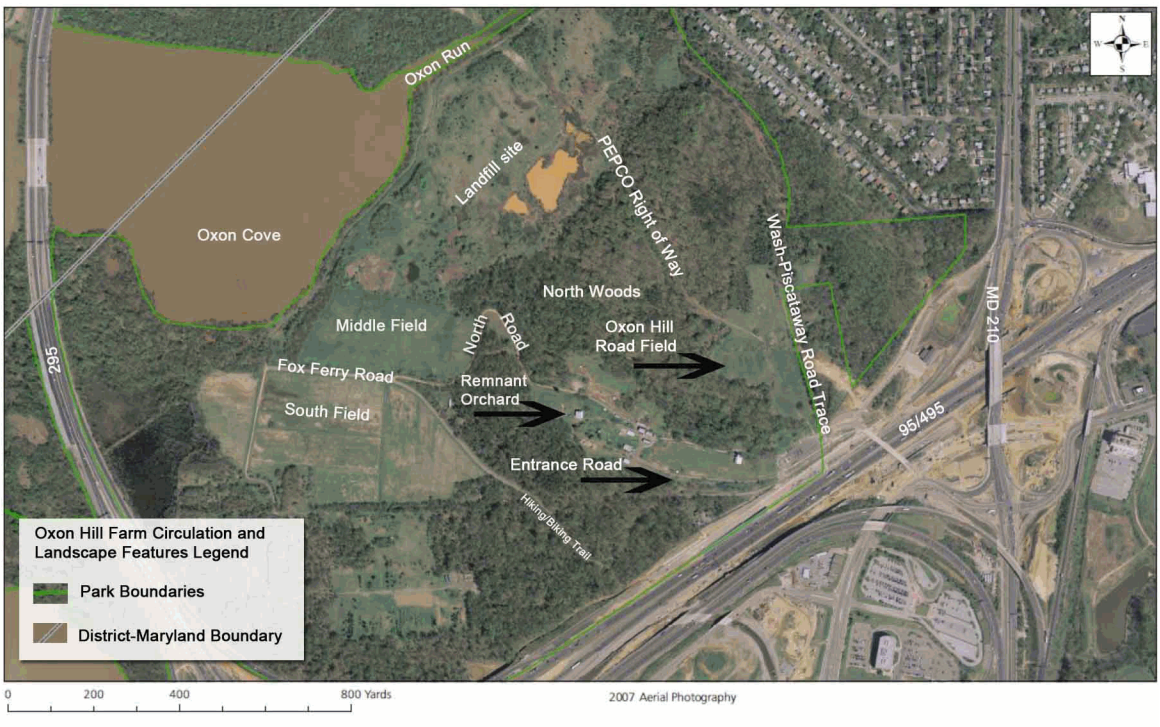
Oxon Hill Farm is significant for its association with the agricultural history of Prince George's County, Maryland during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The farm was cultivated by its owners or tenant farmers until its acquisition by the federal government at the end of the nineteenth century.

Oxon Hill Farm is also significant for its association with St. Elizabeths Hospital, originally known as the Government Hospital for the Insane. Founded in 1852, St. Elizabeths was the nation's first federally operated mental health facility. The hospital acquired the farm in 1891 while under the leadership of Doctor William Whitney Godding and intended for it to provide therapy for patients in the form of labor in the fields and gardens. Doctor Godding envisioned the farm, known during this period as Godding Croft, growing into a "colony" where patients lived and worked. He thought "such colonies may in time be multiplied and extended, growing into villages for the harmless insane" (1892 AR, 16). Though the farm never materialized into the colony Godding hoped for, patients did work there and it provided food for the hospital until the 1960s.

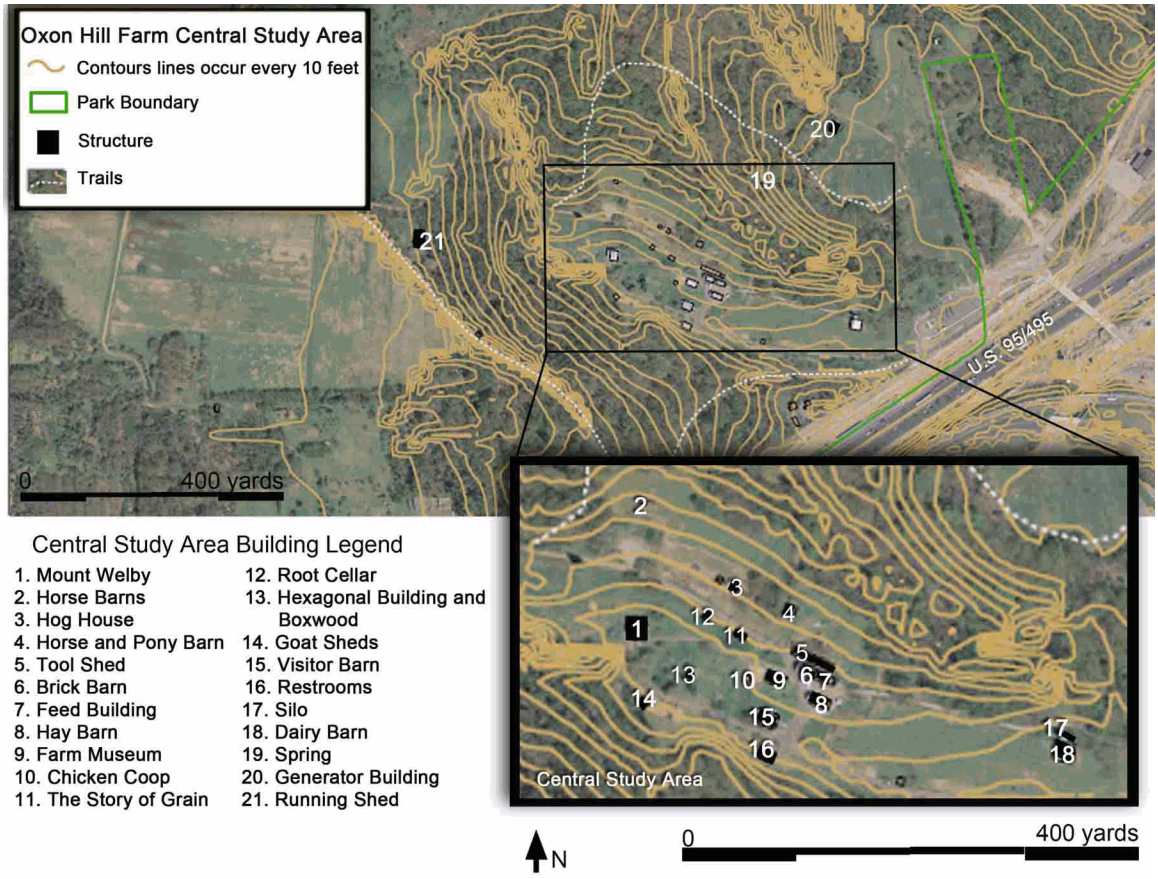
Oxon Hill Farm retains much of its nineteenth, and possibly eighteenth, century agrarian landscape character. The majority of the field patterns, orchards, ornamental plantings and circulation system date to the period of significance and reflect land usage and spatial organization of that era. Many of the farm's buildings and structures also date to the period of significance and are representative of construction methods and building styles of the early to late nineteenth century.

This CLI finds that the Oxon Hill Farm cultural landscape retains integrity to its period of significance, 1791-1890 and 1891-1967, and is in good condition. While there have been some changes and the loss of certain historic features, Oxon Hill Farm still invokes the historic significance of the landscape through the integrity of all seven aspects.

## Site Plan




*Oxon Hill Farm circulation and landscape features site plan (CLP 2011).*




*CLI central study area site plan (CLP 2011).*

## Property Level and CLI Numbers

**Inventory Unit Name:** Oxon Cove Park

**Property Level:** Landscape

**CLI Identification Number:** 600093

**Parent Landscape:** 600093

## Park Information

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Oxon Cove Park -NACE

**Park Organization Code:** 3553

**Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Oxon Cove Park - NACE

**Park Administrative Unit:** National Capital Parks-East

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Frances McMillen, Landscape Historian, Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, Martha Temkin, Regional Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, Eola Dance, Cultural Resources Specialist, Vanessa Molineaux, Supervisory Park Ranger, James Rosenstock, Park Ranger, Marilyn Cohen-Brown, Park Ranger, Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect, Susan Horner, National Register Historian, and Cynthia Wanschura, GIS Specialist. Additional assistance was provided by Drs. Suryabala Kanhouwa and Jogues Prandoni, St. Elizabeths Hospital.

**Concurrence Status:**

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 09/21/2011

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 09/02/2003

**Concurrence Graphic Information:**

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

October 25, 2011

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Maryland Historic Preservation Office

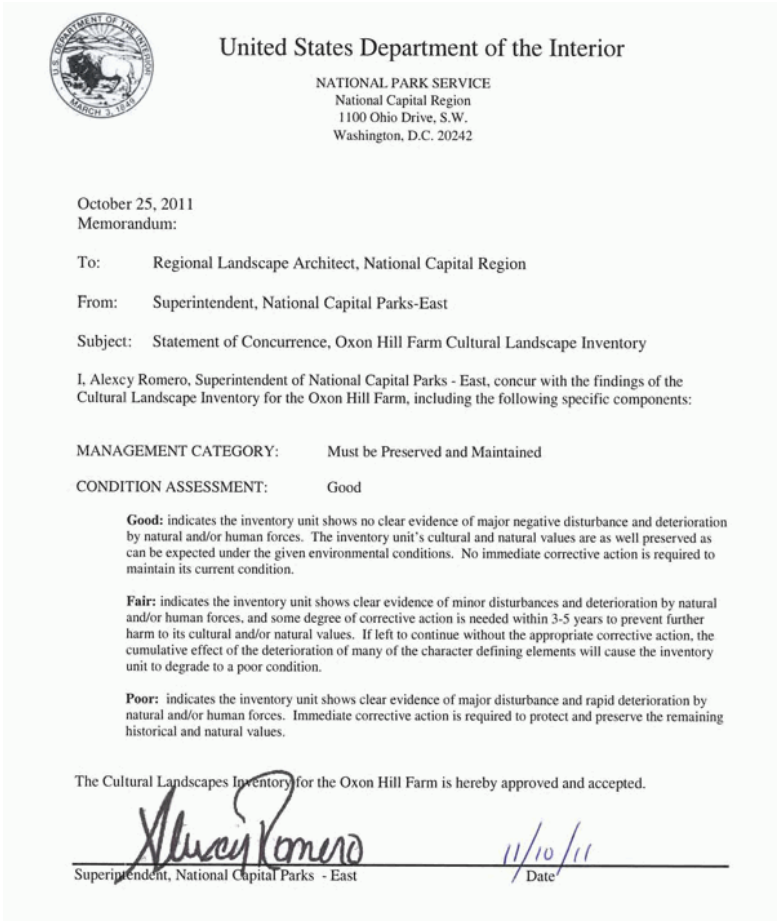
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Oxon Hill Farm Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Oxon Hill Farm CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on October 25, 2011.

J. Rodney Little
Maryland
State Historic Preservation Officer

11-2-11
Date

*Concurrence memo signed by the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, November 2, 2011.*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

October 25, 2011
Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Oxon Hill Farm Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Alexcy Romero, Superintendent of National Capital Parks - East, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Oxon Hill Farm, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

**Good:** indicates 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. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates 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 3-5 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 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.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Oxon Hill Farm is hereby approved and accepted.

Alexcy Romero 11/10/11

Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East Date

*Concurrence memo signed by National Capital Parks - East Superintendent, November 10, 2011.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Addition/Deletion of Landscape Characteristic or Contributing Feature

**Revision Date:** 11/02/2011

**Revision Narrative:**

The bull pen landscape feature was origininally listed in the CLI as non-contributing. The date the bull pen was constructed is currently unknown, but it has been determined the feature was built during the period of significance and contributes to the Oxon Hill Farm cultural landscape.

**Revision Date:** 11/10/2011

**Revision Narrative:**

See previous revision concurrence explanatory narrative.

## Geographic Information & Location Map

**Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

Oxon Hill Farm is a cultural landscape within Oxon Cove Park, a unit of the National Park Service, located in Prince George's County, Maryland. The park is approximately eight miles south of the United States Capitol. Oxon Hill Farm is bounded to the north by Oxon Run, Interstate 95/495 to the south and Oxon Cove to the west. A historic road trace referred to as the Washington-Piscataway Road Trace in this inventory, but historically known by several different names, makes up the eastern border of the farm.

**State and County:**

**State:** MD

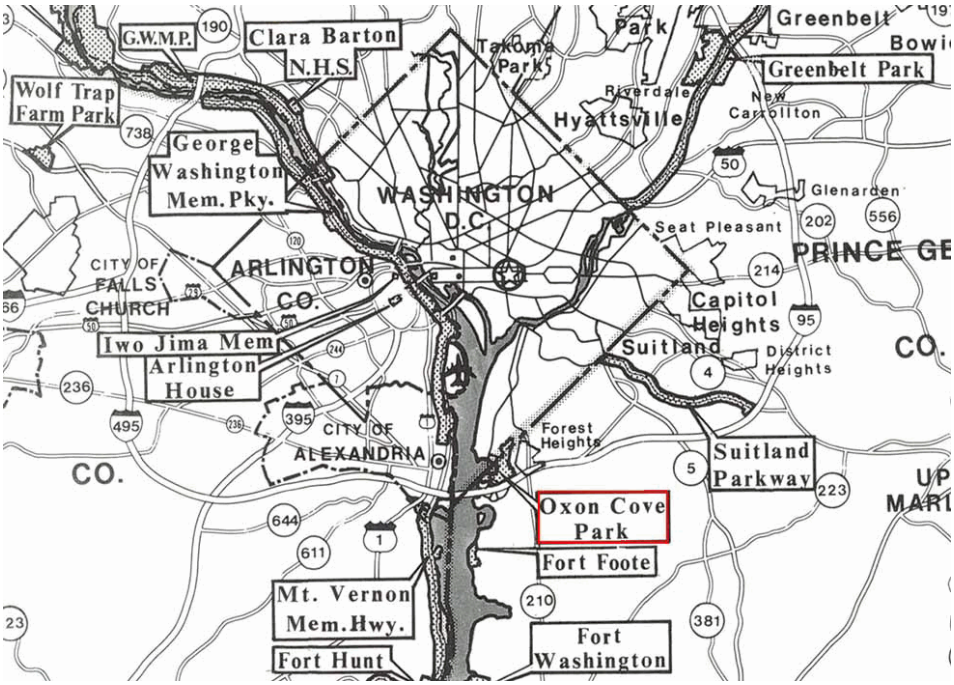
**County:** Prince George's County

**Size (Acres):** 289.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Source:** | USGS Map 1:24,000 |
| **Type of Point:** | Point |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 325,557 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,297,707 |
| **Source:** | USGS Map 1:24,000 |
| **Type of Point:** | Point |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 324,975 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,296,753 |
| **Source:** | USGS Map 1:24,000 |
| **Type of Point:** | Point |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 325,995 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,296,920 |
| **Source:** | USGS Map 1:24,000 |
| **Type of Point:** | Point |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 325,835 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,297,421 |

**Location Map:**




*Location Map: Oxon Cove Park*

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/21/2011

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Oxon Hill Farm is a cultural landscape within Oxon Cove Park and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The management catagory is Must Be Preserved and Maintained because of its listing on the National Register. The management catagory date is the date the CLI was first approved by the superintendent.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Open daily from 8AM to 4:30PM. Closed on some holidays.

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

The Butler property located on the park's eastern border contributes to the Oxon Hill Farm cultural landscape. The land was purchased by Henry Butler, a free black resident from Charles County, Maryland in 1853 and operated as a family farm. The property includes a c.1850 two-story frame house that was partially constructed at the time Butler acquired the land. It is currently in a state of collapse. The unoccupied land remains in the Butler family and much of the property is now heavily wooded. The house is believed to be the only remaining antebellum house in Prince George's County owned by a free black person (The Butler House at Mount Welby, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form, 9). The nearly thirty-acre Butler property contributes to the cultural landscape because it helps to preserve the historic rural character of the area. It also contributes through the Butler family's association with Oxon Hill Farm as neighboring property owners since the period of significance.

Other adjacent properties include the Indian Head Highway (MD210) and Interstates 295 and 95/495. The National Harbor commercial and residential development is located approximately two miles from the park. Highway construction and increased development related to, or generated by the success of National Harbor, could impact the views and vistas and detract from the rural atmosphere the farm preserves.

## National Register Information

**Existing NRIS Information:**

**Primary Certification Date:** 09/02/2003

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Period of Significance:**

**Time Period:** AD 1797 - 1890

**Historic Context Theme:** Developing the American Economy

**Subtheme:** Agriculture

**Facet:** Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And Vegetables)

**Time Period:** AD 1891 - 1967

**Historic Context Theme:** Expanding Science and Technology

**Subtheme:** Medicine

**Facet:** Clinical Specialties

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Health - Medicine

**Area of Significance Category:** Agriculture

**Statement of Significance:**

Oxon Hill Farm is a cultural landscape located within Oxon Cove Park. The farm was listed on the National Register in 2003. The National Register nomination lists the period of significance as 1797-1890 and 1891-1967 and the areas of significance as health, medicine and agriculture. This CLI concurs with the period and areas of significance listed on the National Register.

Oxon Hill Farm is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A: property is associated with

events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history for its association with the Government Hospital for the Insane, officially known since 1916 as St. Elizabeths Hospital. Founded in 1852 to care for members of the military and poor residents of the District of Columbia, St. Elizabeths was the nation's first federally operated mental health facility and was considered for many years to be one of the country's leading institutions for care of the mentally ill. The hospital acquired the farm in 1891 while under the leadership of Superintendent William Whitney Godding. Doctor Godding envisioned the farm as a "colony" for highly functioning patients where they would benefit from labor in the fields and gardens and live on site. Patient labor had long been a part of therapy in nineteenth century asylums, but Godding hoped the colony, known as Godding Croft during the hospital's ownership, would be a new direction in the care of the mentally ill. Godding envisioned "such colonies may in time be multiplied and extended, growing into villages for the harmless insane," (1892 AR, 16). The farm never grew into the operation Godding imagined, but groups of patients labored at Godding Croft throughout the hospital's ownership of the farm.

Oxon Hill Farm is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with the agricultural history of Prince George's County, Maryland during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Prior to its acquisition by the federal government, Oxon Hill Farm was cultivated by its owners or tenant farmers.

Oxon Hill Farm is eligible under Criterion C: property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Oxon Hill Farm retains much of its nineteenth, and possibly eighteenth, century agrarian landscape character. The majority of the field patterns, orchards, ornamental plantings and circulation system date to the period of significance and reflect land usage and spatial organization of that era. Many of the farm's buildings and structures also date to the period of significance and are representative of construction methods and building styles of the early to late nineteenth century.

This CLI finds that Oxon Hill Farm is also significant under Criterion D: property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Several studies conducted over the past several years by the National Park Service, or by cultural resources firms, have determined that portions of Oxon Hill Farm have potential for both prehistoric and historic artifacts. Further investigations could provide additional information on the history of the site, including occupation by American Indians and the free and enslaved residents who farmed the land beginning in the late eighteenth century.

### State Register Information

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|---|---|
| **Identification Number:** | PG76A-13 |
| **Name:** | Mt. Welby (Oxon Hill Children's Farm) |

## Chronology & Physical History

## Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Agricultural Field

**Primary Current Use:** Interpretive Landscape

| Other Use/Function | Other Type of Use or Function |
|---|---|
| Farm (Plantation) | Both Current And Historic |

**Current and Historic Names:**

| Name | Type of Name |
|---|---|
| Mount Welby | Historic |
| Godding Croft | Historic |
| Oxon Hill Children's Farm | Current |
| Oxon Hill Farm | Current |

## Chronology:

| Year | Event | Annotation |
|---|---|---|
| 8000 BC - AD 1608 | Settled | Beginning in the Archaic Period (c. 8,000 BC to 1,300 BC), early inhabitants of the Potomac Valley began to establish seasonal fishing sites and camps along the Potomac River in the vicinity of Oxon Hill Farm. Over the course of the Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BC to 900 AD), longer term settlements were established followed by the founding of villages during the Late Woodland Period (c. 900 AD to 1608 AD). |
| AD 1662 - 1666 | Land Transfer | In 1662, a land certificate is issued to John Charman for the 600-acre St. Elizabeths tract on the Potomac River. The tract includes a large portion of what would become Oxon Cove Park. The patent is issued in 1666. |
| AD 1699 | Platted | Colonel John Addison obtains a new survey of St. Elizabeths and adjacent land. |
| AD 1703 | Land Transfer | Addison receives a patent for 226 acres of land known as Force which makes up a portion of the northeast section of the park. |

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| AD 1706 | Land Transfer | Colonel John Addison dies and leaves his estate, comprising 6,478 acres of land and a successful tobacco plantation, to his son Thomas. |
| AD 1727 | Land Transfer | Thomas Addison dies. His son John inherits 3,863 acres of Thomas Addison`s 14,281 acre holdings. The remainder of the land is divided among his other sons. |
| AD 1764 - 1767 | Land Transfer | John Addison dies in 1764. His son Thomas inherits the estate, which he names Oxon Hill Manor in 1767. That year he resurveys the property and finds it contains 3,663 acres, which includes the boundaries of the future park. |
| AD 1774 - 1796 | Land Transfer | Thomas Addison dies and leaves the property to his young son, Walter Dulany Addison. The family operated the estate until 1778. They then leased the land, possibly including the present day park, to tenant farmers through the remainder of the eighteenth century. In the early 1790s, Walter Dulany Addison began to parcel off portions of the estate. |
| AD 1797 | Purchased/Sold | Nicholas Lingan purchased 269.75 acres of property consisting of Force and a portion of Oxon Hill Manor from Walter Dulany Addison. |
| AD 1800 - 1815 | Built | The two-story brick farmhouse is constructed. Tax assessments indicate improvements to the property in the amount of $500 in 1800. Though the house was likely constructed that year, it is not specifically mentioned in tax records and there is no other evidence it was erected at this time. The first reference to the house appears in an 1815 letter. |
| AD 1800 - 1840 | Built | The two-story, three bay, gable roof, brick stable is constructed east of the farm house. The exact date of construction is unclear. Tax records indicate it was not built before 1815, though the National Register nomination dates the building to c. 1800. Physical evidence suggests the building was built between 1815 and 1840. The construction methods used to build the stable were uncommon, but still in use in the early nineteenth century. By 1840, masons had largely discontinued the use of 3:1 common bond masonry and glazed headers. |

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|---|---|---|
| AD 1804 - 1811 | Purchased/Sold | Dr. Samuel DeButts and his wife Mary Anne Welby DeButts purchased 250 acres of the Lingan property. The exact date they purchased the property is unclear. Tax assessments from 1804 list Dr. DeButts owning 257.25 acres of Oxon Hill Manor. It has been theorized that DeButts paid Lingan`s taxes on the property in lieu of rent until they obtained the deed for the property in 1811. The DeButts named the property Mount Welby in honor of Mary Anne Welby DeButts` family. |
| AD 1810 | Purchased/Sold | Walter Dulany Addison sells a large portion of Oxon Hill Manor to Zachariah Berry. This area includes the southern portion of the future Oxon Cove Park. |
| AD 1815 | Land Transfer | Dr. Samuel DeButts dies and leaves his estate to his wife, Mary Anne. |
| AD 1826 | Land Transfer | Mary Anne DeButts dies and passes the land onto her son, John Henry. |
| AD 1800 - 1830 | Built | The root cellar, a one-story, rectangular plan brick masonry structure set into the hillside northeast of the farmhouse house is constructed. |
| AD 1832 | Land Transfer | John Henry DeButts dies and passes the land onto his children. |
| AD 1843 | Purchased/Sold | The DeButts children sell most of the property to Isaac George of Fairfax County, Virginia, but retain the family graveyard. |
| AD 1843 - 1890 | Purchased/Sold | During this nearly fifty year period, the farm passes through a series of owners who either rent it out to tenant farmers or let the land lie fallow. |
| AD 1845 | Land Transfer | Thomas Berry inherits Oxon Hill Manor following the death of his father, Zachariah Berry. |
| AD 1853 | Purchased/Sold | Isaac George sells 234 acres of Mount Welby property to Joseph H. Bowling. |
| AD 1854 | Land Transfer | Thomas E. Berry, son of Thomas Berry, inherits Oxon Hill Manor. |

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| AD 1862 - 1863 | Purchased/Sold | Joseph H. Bowling sells tract of Mount Welby land to George Mattingly. |
| AD 1867 | Purchased/Sold | George Mattingly obtains ownership of Mount Welby following the brief ownership by Joseph W. Ryerson. |
| AD 1873 | Purchased/Sold | Oliver and Emma Gilbert purchase Mount Welby from George Mattingly. |
| AD 1876 | Purchased/Sold | Moses Kelly purchases Mount Welby and sells it shortly afterwards to P. Edwin Dye. |
| AD 1888 | Purchased/Sold | Samuel T. Suit purchases the remaining portion of the Addison`s original estate, the southern section of present day Oxon Cove Park, from the Berry family. |
| AD 1890 | Purchased/Sold | Arthur Clements purchases Mount Welby at public auction. |
| | Built | The horse and pony barn, a rectangular, one-and-a-half story, wood frame building is constructed. |
| | Built | The one-and-a-half story, four bay, wood frame feed building is erected. |
| AD 1891 | Purchased/Sold | Rosa Suit, Samuel T. Suit`s widow, sells 1,233.71 acres of land to John C. Heald and Emma B. Heald. |
| | Purchased/Sold | John C. Heald and Emma B. Heald sell 143.98-acre portion of their property to the federal government for use by the Government Hospital for the Insane. |
| | Purchased/Sold | Arthur Clements sells Mount Welby to Samuel and Johanna Bieber. |
| | Purchased/Sold | The federal government purchases Mount Welby from Samuel and Johanna Bieber for use by the Government Hospital for the Insane. |
| AD 1900 | Built | The hexagonal outbuilding, a one-story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with a six-sided pyramidal roof. is constructed approximately 200 feet southeast of the farm house. |

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| AD 1925 - 1926 | Built | A silo of approximately 220 tons is erected at the farm (Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital 1926, 111). Presumably this is the same silo currently found at the farm. The 1993 historic resources study and the National Register nomination date the silo as being constructed c. 1940. |
| AD 1929 - 1930 | Built | A 23,000 gallon reservoir, most likely the water tank in the North Woods, is constructed at the farm. The reservoir was described as, "fed by gravity from a number of springs located around the west slope of the hill. It is expected that this reservoir will greatly relieve the water problem..." (1930 Annual Report, 3). |
| AD 1940 | Built | The hay barn, a wood-frame, rectangular, one-story, one-bay, structure with a gable roof is constructed to the south of the brick stable. |
| | Built | The silo is constructed east of the brick stable and southwest from the Oxon Road Field. The building is 16' diameter, three-stories and constructed of glazed ceramic tile. The 1993 historic resources study provides the 1940 construction date. However, the silo may have been constructed as early as 1925. |
| AD 1940 - 1950 | Built | The bull pen, a large rectangular enclosure located near the dairy barn, is constructed. Concrete piers support iron bars on the outer enclosure and the interior pen used to hold the animal. |
| AD 1940 - 1947 | Built | Hog incinerator structure constructed. |
| AD 1944 | Destroyed | The hay barn, located in the North Woods, is destroyed by fire. |
| AD 1945 - 1947 | Built | Hog sheds constructed in the north woods. The shed included 36 pens and a farrowing house. |

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| AD 1950 | Altered | The Department of Health, Education and Welfare grants Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) a right-of-way "over, across, and upon the Saint Elizabeths Hospital Farm" for erecting poles, lines and down guy wires (Folder, May 1958-September 1960, Box 23, GWMP Records, Suitland Federal Records Center, 79-64-A110, 7/23-06-23). |
| AD 1951 | Destroyed | Fire destroys part of the bull barn and the remaining sections are later torn down. |
| AD 1956 | Destroyed | The henhouse and bull barn are torn down. |
| AD 1959 | Land Transfer | The National Capital Planning Commission acquires tenant rights to the farm as part of the plan to extend the George Washington Memorial Parkway. |
| AD 1960 - 1963 | Altered | Interstate 95/495 and 295 are built and cut off access to Fox Ferry Point. The highways obliterate a section of Oxon Hill Road, which had long been abandoned. |
| AD 1960 | Demolished | A structure described as "an old unused frame poultry house," is destroyed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (Reservation 404M, Land Record 0331). |
| AD 1962 | Land Transfer | Purchase of 52-acres of land from the Smoot Sand and Gravel Corporation bordering the District of Columbia-Maryland line. |
| AD 1967 | Land Transfer | According to the National Register nomination, the estate of William T. Sellner sold property to the National Park Service in 1962. No source is provided for this information (NR 2003, 14). National Capital Region Land Records (LR 0575) document the acquisition of William T. Sellner's property located adjacent to the farm in 1967 through condemnation proceedings. |
| AD 1968 | Built | The sorghum syrup shed is constructed and located to the east of the central building cluster and on the north side of the entrance road. The shed is a wood-frame open structure with a corrugated metal gable roof. An approximately six-foot tall brick hearth with a chimney stack is located in the shed. |

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| AD 1970 | Built | The windmill is erected. The structure is “composed of four metal stanchions with metal cross-braces. The stanchions rest on a poured concrete platform and support the metal windmill machinery that powers a pump at ground level” (NR 2003, 12). |
| | Built | The Farm Museum Building is to the west of the brick stable. The building is a long, wood frame rectangular structure with a slight gable roof. |
| | Built | The tool shed is constructed. The structure, a wood frame, rectangular, one-story, eight-bay building with a pressed metal shed roof, is located to the north of the brick barn. |
| AD 1973 | Built | The hog shelter, later converted to the Story of Grain Building, is constructed. The building is a red, wood frame, single-story structure with a metal gable roof located east of the root cellar on the south side of the North Road. |
| AD 1977 | Demolished | The St. Elizabeths era dairy barn is razed. |
| AD 1979 - 1985 | Built | Johns Hopkins University`s Applied Physics Laboratory and the National Park Service collaborate on a methane reclamation program at the landfill site. As part of the program, the generator building was constructed near the North Woods. The building is a single story concrete block structure with a side-gable roof. The methane reclamation program is never implemented. |
| AD 1980 | Built | Dairy barn constructed. Originally built for the Smithsonian’s 1976 Folklife Festival, the barn was reassembled at the farm the following year. The building is a wood-frame, single story structure with vertical board and batten walls. The barn has a gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal. |
| | Built | The visitor barn is constructed along the north side of the entrance drive and south of the cluster of farm buildings. The building is a single-story, one-bay, wood frame structure with board and batten walls and a standing-seam metal gable roof. A single-story shed roof porch lines the east elevation providing shelter for the entrance. |

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| | Built | The goat shed, a red, single-story, wood frame building with a shed roof, is built southeast of the farm house along the entrance road. The shed entrance is located on the north elevation. |
| AD 1985 | Built | The parking lot is enlarged to accommodate buses and additional visitors. |
| AD 1986 | Land Transfer | The National Park Service acquires full legal jurisdiction of the property following an amendment to the 1959 agreement between the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of the Interior and the National Capital Planning Commission. |
| AD 1988 | Built | The comfort station is built on the south side of the entrance road near the visitor barn. The single-story building has wood vertical board siding and a metal gable roof. |
| AD 1991 | Built | The chicken house is constructed east of the farm house between the garden and the farm museum building. It is red, one-story, wood frame building with a standing-seam metal shed roof and board-and-batten siding. |
| AD 1998 | Built | The hog house is constructed and located on the north side of the north road. The hog house is a one-story, red, wood frame building with a gable roof. |
| AD 2002 | Built | A rabbit shed is erected to the east of the feed building. The shed is a small, wood frame building with a gable roof and a double door entry on the south elevation. |
| AD 2002 - 2006 | Built | Two horse barns constructed. The barns (2002, 2006) are located to the north of the farmhouse. Both buildings are rectangular, wood frame structures with slight gable roofs. Both structures have two entries on their south elevation accessing the horse stalls. The barn to the east of the site has no entry doors. The barn to the west of the site has doors commonly referred to as Dutch doors which have top and bottom sections that can be opened and closed independently. |

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| AD 2005 - 2006 | Built | A second goat shed is added to the goat enclosure southeast of the farmhouse. The shed is a red, single-story, wood frame structure with a gable roof. The double-door entrance is located on the east elevation. |
| AD 2011 | Restored | Restoration of the farmhouse's north porch was completed in the summer. The porch was stabilized, painted, and the historic scrolled brackets were rebuilt. In addition, new shutters were added to the south porch windows. |

**Physical History:**

8,000 BC to 1803 AD

American Indian and Colonial Settlement

During the Archaic Period (c. 8,000 BC to 1,300 BC), early inhabitants of the Potomac Valley began to establish seasonal fishing sites and camps along the Potomac River in the vicinity of Oxon Hill Farm. Over the course of the Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BC to 900 AD), longer term settlements were established and were followed by the founding of villages during the Late Woodland Period (c. 900 AD to 1608 AD).

When Europeans began heavily exploring North America in the latter half of the sixteenth century, the tidewater portion of Maryland was home to a number of Algonquian-speaking American Indian groups. With the exception of the Indians of the Patuxent River, the groups were part of the Conoy chiefdom. Their territory extended from St. Marys County, Maryland, at the mouth of the Potomac River, to Washington, D.C. and the Potomac falls, and possibly south of Mount Vernon in Virginia (Potter, 19). Settlements belonging to the Nacotchtank and the Piscataways, two groups among the Conoy chiefdom, were located near present-day Oxon Hill Farm. A Nacotchtank village was located near the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers on the site of present day Bolling Air Force Base and the PEPCO power plant (Bushong, 12). The Piscataway, the largest and most politically powerful group of the Conoys, settled near where the Piscataway Creek meets the Potomac River, approximately eight miles south of Oxon Hill Farm (Potter, 20).

In 1607, the English established Jamestown in Virginia and beginning the following year, Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. While exploring the Potomac River, Smith encountered the Piscataway Indians living in present day Prince George' s County, Maryland. Shortly after Smith's explorations, the English began trading with the Indians in the region. Smith's 1612 map of Virginia documents the Piscataway and numerous other Indian settlements along the region's waterways.

Beginning in the 1630s, Europeans established settlements in Maryland. Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, inherited the charter for the region from his father, George Calvert, in 1632 and became proprietor of the Maryland colony. The elder Calvert secured the Maryland grant from King Charles I after realizing the economic potential of the region as evidenced by Virginia's successful beaver trade along the Potomac River and its profitable tobacco cultivation. In addition to financial motives, Calvert, a convert to Catholicism, sought to establish a religiously tolerant colony which would provide a refuge for fellow Catholics (Historical Resource Study (HRS) 1993, 7).

The first permanent European settlement in Maryland was established at St. Mary's City in 1634. Following the establishment of the colony, European settlers moved away from St. Mary' s City. Plantations grew along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers and counties were established as settlements grew. As the English moved into present day Prince George's County, Cecil Calvert tried to maintain peace between the colonists and Indians living along the Potomac

River. In an agreement with the Piscataways, Calvert designated land for the tribe and the Piscataways were frequent allies of the English in disputes with tribes hostile towards the newcomers (HRS 1993, 7; Virta, 1).

European acquisition of land that included the a portion of the present day park began in 1662 when John Charman was issued a land certificate for approximately 600-acre tract known as St. Elizabeths. Four years later a patent was issued to a John Meekes, but the certificate names Charman as the recipient of the land. Little information is available about land use during the Charman ownership, but he most likely obtained it for speculative purposes and did not develop the land (HRS 1993, 8, 19, Appendix I).

The first owner to develop the land was John Addison, who acquired the property by 1699. Addison descended from a wealthy English family and emigrated to Maryland around 1675. He initially settled in St. Mary's City, where he worked as a merchant. Addison became a prominent member of the new Maryland government when the colony was established. At the time Addison acquired the land from Charman, nearly 1700 people lived in the area around the present day park. In 1696, Prince George's County was established in response to the growing settlement and John Addison was appointed commander of the county militia (MDNCPPC, 5; HRS 1993, 20).

The growth of European settlements in Prince Georgia's County, and conflict between tribes and the colonists, eventually led to the abandonment of the Nacotchtank settlement. The increase in land necessary for Maryland's expanding tobacco trade played a large role in the displacement of the Piscataway (Meringolo, 2; HRS 1993, 8).

In Prince George's County, tobacco became the primary export and served as currency used to settle land, court and business transactions. During the eighteenth century the county became the leading producer of tobacco in the state (HRS 1993, 8; Virta, 1-2). To keep up with the growing demand for tobacco and the year-round attention the crop required, planters increasingly depended on slave labor. In Prince George's County half the households owned slaves by 1750. The average planter owned one to two slaves, but the wealthier planters owned between a dozen and several hundred slaves (Meringolo, 2).

Addison began to acquire property along the Potomac River in the 1680s. In 1699, he obtained a new survey of St. Elizabeths and adjacent lands totaling 1,430 acres. Four years later he obtained a patent for an additional 226 acres of adjacent land known as Force. Addison operated a substantial tobacco plantation, one of largest and most successful in the colony. It is not known whether the site of the present-day park was planted or used for livestock (HRS 1993, 20).

When Addison died in 1706, he owned nearly 6,500 acres of land, which he left to his only child, Thomas. Like his father, Thomas obtained high office in the provincial government, including the rank of colonel and command of the county militia. In 1718 he became Surveyor of the Western Shore (HRS 1993, 20). Also like his father, Thomas operated a successful tobacco plantation, but also grew fruits, corn and oats, and raised cattle and pigs. He acquired additional

land and constructed an eight room brick manor house southeast of the present day project area.

At the time of his death in 1727, Thomas Addison owned seventy-five slaves, sixty-three cattle, forty-eight sheep and thirteen horses. His property also included a mill and a store. “The inventory of Addison’s estate reflects the wealth he had acquired during his lifetime. Thomas Addison owned 14,281 acres of land during a period when ownership of 1,000 acres entitled one to the status of ‘great planter.’ During a period when most planters owned fewer than five slaves, Thomas Addison owned 75” (HRS 1993, 20).

Thomas Addison left the manor house and 3,863 acres of land to his son John and divided the remainder of the property among his other sons. John in turn handed the land down to his son, also named Thomas, when he died in 1764. In 1767, Thomas Addison resurveyed the property and named it Oxon Hill Manor. The 3,663 acres of land included the present day Oxon Cove Park and portions of the St. Elizabeths and Blew Plains tracts (HRS 1993, 20-21).

Thomas Addison’s five-year-old son, Walter Dulany Addison inherited the property upon his father's death in 1774. In the 1780s, the Addisons leased the property, including the manor house, to a few tenant farmers who continued to grow tobacco, along with corn and wheat. In the early 1790s Walter Dulany Addison began to sell of parcels of his estate. In 1797, he sold 269.75 acres of land, which included portions of the future Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm property, to Nicholas Lingan. In 1810, Addison sold 1,328 acres of land to Zachariah Berry, a wealthy land and slave owner. Several acres of this land would make up the southern portion of the Oxon Cove Park. The acreage that included the manor house was not included in either of these transactions. The 1797 sale to Lingan was the first of many sales of that property over the next ninety-plus years. In contrast, the land sold to Berry largely remained in that family until the end of the nineteenth century (HRS 1993, 21, 25).

Nicholas Lingan was a member of the gentry and the owner of property in Prince George’s County and Washington. Records do not indicate how Lingan operated the farm, but property assessments suggest the construction of buildings. According to tax records, in 1800 Lingan made $500 worth of improvements. Most likely this amount refers to the construction of the farm house. Between 1801 and 1815, no other improvements to the property were recorded in assessments. Tax records in 1815 are the first to note the brick house on the property (NR 2003, 16; HRS 1993, 22-23).

1804-1843

The DeButts and Mount Welby

In 1811, Nicholas Lingan sold 250 acres of his property to Dr. Samuel DeButts. The Irish-born DeButts and his English wife, Mary Anne Welby, moved to the United States from England by 1794. They immigrated at the urging of DeButts’ brother, who was living in St. Mary’s County. The couple settled first in Baltimore, but Dr. DeButts was unable to establish a practice in the city so they moved to Washington County, Maryland where they lived for approximately ten years. They then moved to St. Mary’s County, Maryland where they operated a successful

farm, but only lived in the county for a brief time before purchasing land from Lingan (HRS 1993, 23; NR 2003, 17; "Executive Summary: Oxon Cove Park Exhibit: In the Shadow of the Capital," 7).

The exact date they acquired the land from Lingan is unclear. DeButts received the title in 1811, but he is listed on an 1804 tax assessment as owning nearly 260 acres of "pr. Oxon Hill Manor." By that year, Lingan was no longer listed on the tax list. In 1805, it appears the DeButts were residing on the property. Mary Anne Welby DeButts received a letter addressed to her at Mount Welby that year (DeButts letters, Oxon Hill Farm files). It is possible DeButts was leasing the land from Lingan, or acquired it by 1804 and in 1811 formalized the transaction (HRS 1993, 23; NR 2003, 17).

The DeButts named their new home Mount Welby in honor of Mary Anne Welby DeButts' family. Their farm primarily focused on wheat production, but likely included a range of other crops. Personal tax assessments of Samuel DeButts in 1806 indicate the couple was fairly prosperous. They owned more than ten slaves, whereas the average for slave owners in Prince George's County at the beginning of the nineteenth century owned six (HRS 1993, 23; NR 2003, 17).

Little is known about the enslaved people who lived and worked at Mount Welby, but some information, including the their names, can be gathered from tax information, DeButts family papers and wills. "The DeButts family records reveal the odd mixture of concern and indifference. In his will, John Henry DeButts tried to ensure that an enslaved woman named Rachel and most of her children would remain together in Maryland. But he added that Margaret, Rachel's oldest child, was to be kept, 'for the use of my children,' who moved to Virginia. Mary DeButts' will is simpler and perhaps for that reason even more chilling. She gave her property to her son John Henry: land, livestock, linens, furniture, silver, books, and people." John Henry DeButts' property list included slaves named George, Edward, Hamilton, Patsy, Minta and Matilda. Another slave named Minta resided at Mount Welby ("A Voice Unheard: Slavery at Mount Welby").

Despite the farm's apparent prosperity, the DeButts faced financial hardship during the War of 1812. The conflict between the United States and Great Britain caused emotional hardships, as well. Mary DeButts wrote in letters to her bother in England about feeling torn between the country of her birth and her adopted home. In her letters she also described the couple's inability to access their English accounts, the high interest rates attached to the money they had to borrow and the poor economic outlook for other farmers and merchants in the area (NR 2003, 18).

In a March 1815 letter to her brother, following the end of the conflict with England, Mrs. DeButts described how close the fighting had come to their property. The location of Mount Welby, overlooking the Potomac, provided the DeButts with a clear view of movement in the river below, and put them in harm's way. Mary DeButts wrote that Admiral Cockburn's British fleet "lay directly before our house" and during the Battle of Bladensburg "we heard every fire (that place being not more than 4 or 6 miles from us). Our House was shook repeatedly by the

firing upon forts & Bridges, & illuminated by the fires in our Capital." She also relayed the discovery of "three rockets on our Hill evidently pointed at our House but fortunately did not reach it" (NR 2003, 18).

Mrs. Welby also noted in her March letter that the region was suffering a "dreadful Epidemic" that winter killing numerous people. Days after she wrote to her brother, Dr. DeButts died from the illness sweeping the area. Mary DeButts inherited the estate from her husband, and following her death in 1826, it passed on to one of her sons. Mary DeButts' grandchildren inherited the property in 1832 and they retained ownership until 1843 when they sold it to Isaac George of Fairfax County, Virginia. The grandchildren excluded the family graveyard from the sale in order to keep it for themselves and their descendants. The location of the graveyard has not been ascertained (NR 2003, 18).

1843 to 1890

Mid-nineteenth Century Owners

Following the 1843 sale, Mount Welby went through several owners. Some purchased the property as an investment and allowed the land to lie fallow, while others leased the land to tenant farmers. Scarce information is available on the tenant farmers at Mount Welby, but the 1850 through 1880 agricultural census records reveal that market gardening was the focus of many farms in the area. The 1880 agricultural census was the first to distinguish between owners and tenants and identified nearly 30% of the farmers in the region were tenants who grew wheat, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes, and hay. The close proximity and better transportation routes into the expanding city of Washington encouraged farmers to focus on market crops. An increase in orchard production in the area between 1850 and 1860 also indicates the shift to produce for the marketplace (NR 2003, 19; HRS 1993, 24-25).

Although there is no record of how George Mattingly, who purchased the 234 acres of the Mount Welby property in 1863, used the land, his name does appear on maps from the period. On both the 1861 Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland and the 1862 Survey of Military Defenses in the Vicinity of Washington a "G. Matingly" is identified. Though he acquired the land later, the listing of his name on the maps indicates he was paying taxes on the property. Following Mattingly's ownership, he sold the land in 1864 and then reacquired it in 1867, five individuals or couples owned Mount Welby. Most held onto the property for short periods of time, with the exception of Joseph Dye who owned Mount Welby for fourteen years. In 1891, a couple who owned the property for less than a year sold Mount Welby for $6,500 to the United States for use by the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Also in 1891, the United States acquired the adjoining Berry property for use by the hospital (HRS 1993, 25; NR 2003, 19). Following Zachariah Berry's purchase of Oxon Hill Manor in 1810, his son, Thomas Berry, lived at Oxon Hill Manor and operated a successful plantation on which he raised livestock and produced grain and orchard products. Berry prospered while other local planters were less successful. As neighbors decreased the number of slaves they owned, the younger Berry acquired additional slaves as well as land. Following Thomas Berry's death in 1854 the land passed on to his son, Thomas E. Berry. Records suggest tenants and

slave labor worked the plantation which produced corn, wheat and livestock. The land remained in the Berry family until the mid-nineteenth century. The estate was sent into trusteeship following Berry's death in 1879 and was first sold in 1888 and again in 1891 before its sale to the United States (HRS 1993, 27).




*1861 area map showing Mattingly listed as owner and Berry property, Oxon Hill Manor, located to the south of the farm (Library of Congress).*

1891 to 1966

The Government Hospital for the Insane

The Government Hospital for the Insane (GHI) was founded in 1852 during a period of mental health reform that led to the establishment of numerous public asylums throughout the country. Dorothea Lynde Dix, a school teacher from New England, is largely seen as the movement's leader, though she was one of many calling for better care for the nation's mentally ill citizens. Her appeals to state legislators concerning the need for asylums to care for the mentally ill frequently led to their creation. Dix can be credited with influencing the founding or expansion of hospitals in multiple states and in Canada (Deutsch, 169-175). She played a large role in the establishment of the Government Hospital for the Insane. Her appeals to Congress on the need for a hospital to care for the indigent residents of the District of Columbia and members of the military, along with the work of local doctors and government officials, led to the founding of the first federal facility for the treatment of the mentally ill. The hospital admitted its first patients in 1855 (Yanni, 52, 66).

The History of the Hospital's Name

Early in the hospital's history, doctors and patients began to refer to the institution as St. Elizabeths, the name for the historic land patent upon which the hospital is located. During the

Civil War several wards operated as a general hospital called St. Elizabeths Army Hospital (Millikan, "End of the Cathedral Era," 28).

For many years Superintendent William A. White, who led the hospital from 1903 to 1937, lobbied for changing the name. In 1905, White referred to mental illness as "the one disease in the whole catagory of human ailments about which people are most sensitive" (1905 Annual Report (AR), 779) and the inclusion of the word insane in the hospital's name announced to the public the nature of the illnesses for which patients were treated. He reported that patients' families included stamped, self-addressed envelopes for correspondence from the hospital "because relatives do not desire it to be generally known that the patient is in a hospital for the insane, and in small country villages...the receipt of letters with the official name of the hospital stamped thereon is tantamount to making that fact public" (1905 AR, 779).

In 1916, the name was officially changed by Congress following years of continued lobbying by Superintendent White (Millikan "End of the Cathedral Era," 28). The hospital is located in southeast Washington, DC, approximately four miles from the project area, is still in operation today under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia government.

Nineteenth Century American Asylums

At the time of the GHI's founding, asylums had long existed in the United States. One of the earliest, Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, was founded in 1773. There were only a few asylums at the time of the GHI's founding and many were private institutions (Hurd, 455; Grob 1994, 19-20). A few states, including Massachusetts, South Carolina and Kentucky had established public facilities by the mid-1830s (Grob 1973, 343). Prior to the reform era, the insane were frequently sent to almshouses, jails or general hospitals where they were often housed in deplorable conditions. Dix began her reform work after visiting a prison where she saw mentally ill people, who had committed no crimes, housed in filthy quarters with criminals (Yanni, 52).

Dix's work not only led to the building of multiple asylums, but her advocacy also promoted the kind of care administered to the insane. In many of the newly created asylums moral treatment, or moral therapy, was the primary form of care provided to the patients.

Moral therapy is commonly believed to originate in England, at the Quaker run York Retreat, and at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, but a similar treatment philosophy was used in the late eighteenth century at the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia (Yanni, 24-29; Tomes, 4-5). Moral therapy involved treating the ill with respect and removing them from restraints. Patients were provided with comfortable surroundings and given freedom to move about hospital buildings and grounds. They were also encouraged to exercise and work on hospital farms and gardens (Yanni, 24-29). At the Pennsylvania Hospital, moral therapy led to the construction of a dedicated facility for the insane at a rural location in West Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane received its first patients in 1841 (Tomes, 4-5).

Moral therapy was reflected in the grounds and design of Pennsylvania's new hospital.

Ornamental lawns surrounded the building and wealthy patients were housed in private apartments (Tomes, 5). The hospital's superintendent, Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride, became a leading authority on asylum architecture and its role in the treatment of patients. Kirkbride became the chair of the architecture committee of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane (AMSAII), today known as American Psychiatric Association (Millikan, 17). In 1851 the AMSAII adopted twenty-six guidelines on hospital construction, including location, size, population of the institution and construction materials (Kirkbride, 6; Tomes, 265; Yanni, 51). In 1854, Kirkbride published "On the Construction, Organization and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane" which served as a manual for hospital construction for much of the nineteenth century (Millikan, 18; Yanni, 51).

For many years following the publication of Kirkbride's book, new hospitals were built according to the plan he outlined. These hospitals included a main building housing the patients largely in single rooms in wards classified by type of disorder. The main building had a central core which housed the administrative and operational needs of the hospital, and included the living quarters of the superintendent, doctors and some staff.

Wards for male and female patients flanked either side of the center core. They "consisted of a long line of corridors divided into separate wards by sections crossing at a right angle" (Millikan, 45). A parlor was located at the end of each corridor which allowed in light and fresh air to the patients' quarters (Yanni, 52-73; Millikan, 45). The wards for the noisiest and most violent patients were built the farthest from the center to prevent the disturbance of quieter patients and the superintendent (Kirkbride, 35; Millikan, 45).

The Government Hospital for the Insane was built on the Kirkbride plan and designed to house white patients in a single building. Two buildings, the East and West Lodges, housed black patients. The lodges were located at the rear of the hospital, behind the east and west wings of the Center Building, as the main building was known. The GHI property included farm land, orchards, vineyards and eventually greenhouses and ornamental gardens. Moral therapy was the treatment method at the GHI and activities, including exercise, lectures, and labor on the hospital farms and in the greenhouses, were part of the regime for patients.

The purchase of Mount Welby in 1891 for use as an additional hospital farm came during a period of sustained overcrowding. Within a short period of time after the opening of the hospital, space to house the ever growing number of patients was running out. Until the mid-1870s, the Center Building and the two lodges continued to be the only structures housing patients. Repeated calls by hospital superintendents for appropriations to construct an additional hospital building were unsuccessful. The cost of building a new building similar in style and size to the Center Building was too great. Eventually, the GHI's second superintendent, Doctor William Whitney Godding, gave up on the idea of another single structure and used smaller appropriations to build "detached" buildings, as he called them. Beginning in 1878, with the construction of Atkins Hall, a two story building that housed male patients, the Government Hospital for the Insane broke with the Kirkbride model that had been the standard of asylum construction in the United States for more than two decades. Over the next twenty years, Godding oversaw the building of numerous smaller buildings which accommodated the ever

increasing patient population and enlarged the hospital's main campus considerably (Millikan, 114-118, 120-121).

Godding's move away from the single building asylum towards the construction of several smaller patient building reflected the evolving philosophy of mental health care at that time. Inspired by European hospitals who had begun housing patients in numerous smaller buildings and the practical consideration of avoiding the great expense constructing a large building would incur, American hospitals began to implement what became known as the cottage plan. Many Kirkbride style hospitals, like the GHI, expanded by constructing cottages and several newly founded hospitals were constructed on the cottage plan. The smaller buildings were meant to promote a more homelike atmosphere, though many of the buildings, like those at the GHI, still housed large numbers of people. In the late nineteenth century, hospital superintendents and doctors vigorously debated the merits of the cottage versus the Kirkbride plan for many years (Yanni, 94-95; Grob 1973, 326-337).

Godding Croft

In 1891, when Mount Welby became part of the Government Hospital for the Insane, the Kirkbride era had long passed and Superintendent Godding was a firm believer in the cottage plan. In purchasing the new farm land, Godding hoped to move patient care and housing in a new direction by creating a colony for the harmless insane. Godding was following the example set by other hospitals which had been operating colonies, in some cases, for many years. One such hospital, the Alt Scherbitze near Leipzig, Germany had been "conducted entirely on the colony plan since 1867" (Hurd Volume I 1916, 160). The first American asylum colony was established in 1885 at the Kalamazoo State Hospital (Hurd Volume I 1916, 160).

Although the colony plan was a new aspect of care at the GHI, Superintendent Godding was still a believer in moral therapy. In 1890 he wrote that views from a hospital, particularly one situated along a body of water "with its moving panorama of sails and steamboats, its value as an adjuvant to the moral treatment of the household can hardly be overestimated" ("The State in the Care of its Insane," American Journal of Insanity (1890: 316-317). With that belief still in mind, the purchase of Mount Welby, with its view of the Potomac from the manor house, was in keeping with the philosophy of moral treatment.

Godding envisioned the new farm, which became known as Godding Croft, to be "a field whereon to plant colonies and make homes" (1891 Annual Report (AR), 554). In the hospital's 1891 annual report, Godding wrote the patients "would have home life in farm cottages and outdoor work here, and it would be preferable to listless mental decay in faultlessly arranged and conventionally perfect wards elsewhere. It is in this direction that the modern treatment and care of the insane tends" (1891 AR, 554). Though the land had been purchased in 1891, the following year Godding reported that "perfecting the title" had delayed occupation of the farm (1892 AR, 16). In his annual report in 1892 Godding elaborated on his vision for the farm.

"This will be a somewhat new departure in the direction of humane care and enlightened treatment, that can hardly fail to promote the comfort of those whose hands are thus occupied

while their thoughts may find therein diversion from the cobwebs of their brains. With judicious care in the selection of the inmates, such colonies may in time be multiplied and extended, growing into villages for the harmless insane, homes planted about with gardens and orchards, giving to their humble abodes an atmosphere of content, bringing to darkened minds and troubled lives glimpses of sunshine and peace (1892 AR, 16)."

Godding's belief that labor aids in recovery was not new. Throughout his tenure at the GHI, Godding promoted outdoor labor and the value of time outside. In the 1878 annual report he wrote, "there is no question about the value of labor in the treatment and care of the insane, and the varied work of a farm and garden seems admirably sited for the employment of many whose disease is of the chronic type" (1878 AR, 15). In 1884 he remarked again on the benefits of time outside the hospital building. "Outdoor life continues to be a prominent feature in the treatment here…the result is certainly an improvement in their bodily health and not infrequently in their mental condition" (1884 AR, 16).

Doctors long believed labor or occupation were beneficial to the patients, but it also served the practical needs of the hospital. Beginning in the early nineteenth century American asylums included work on the wards, in the gardens and kitchens, and on hospital farms. Other forms of patient labor included brick making, road building, clearing land, manufacturing shoes, clothes and furniture (NR 2003, 24; Hurd Volume I 1916, 234-249). The GHI operated two farms at the time Mount Welby was acquired: one on the hospital grounds and the other nearby. At these farms patients cared for animals, gathered vegetables, built fences, spread manure and cut weeds. When patients moved or worked at Godding Croft, the third farm operated by the GHI, they labored in the fields, cared for animals, assisted with housekeeping and worked in the poultry plant (NR 2003, 24).

In 1893 Godding reported on the improvements made at the farm and the adoption of the name Godding Croft.

"The old manor house and barn there have been renovated and occupied; a new shed has been built for the shelter of young stock, and the fields are already taking on something of the aspect of a well-ordered farm…The whole estate has been inclosed; such portions as were in condition to permit of this have been broken up, liberally fertilized, and planted in corn and root crops looking to the laying down in grain and grass another season. There is abundant road making, clearing, and grubbing up that will afford an opportunity for all the winter labor that can be made available for years to come. All this, as it will come more and more to depend on the labor of the inmates, must necessarily prove a somewhat protracted work, but it is safe to predict that each year will leave its impress, and in the end there will be found no more slightly or pleasant pastoral region, no fairer outlooks, no spot better fitted to bring content to darkened minds, than this new domain which the Board have named 'Godding Croft' (1893 AR, 512)."

The annual reports over the next few years stated the progress of improvements and the drawbacks from lack of funding from Congress. In 1894 Godding wrote that "the fields that had so long lain neglected are producing abundant harvests," but he hoped Congress would no longer delay in providing an appropriation for the construction of cottages and barracks (1894

AR, 17). The following year he reported on the construction of new buildings that will “afford quarters for 50 farm laborers” (1895, AR 18). In the 1895 annual report Godding stated,

“Here are 25 acres of hillside well adapted to vineyards and orchards, 60 acres of corn and grass land, with more than 100 acres of woodland and pasturage. Here are marshes to be reclaimed, miles of roadbed to be constructed, and rough places to be brought into cultivation. Surely here if anywhere the problem of productive labor for the insane ought to be worked out to a successful solution and the lesson taught that busy hands make contented hearts” (1895 AR, 18).

Unfortunately, the expansion Godding hoped for and the creation of additional colonies of laboring insane did not come to fruition. In the 1897 annual report he remarked that it would be prudent to refrain from expansion because a plentiful water supply had not been discovered. “On account of the somewhat limited supply of water from the surface well obtainable at Godding Croft, it has been found impracticable to enlarge the colony to 50, as was intended, at least until we secure an unfailing supply of pure, potable water for their daily use…A test of the ground should be made, and if water is found within the probable limits a single artesian well will settle the water question for any number of colonists that it may be found desirable to transfer to those pleasant grounds” (1897 AR, 21). Despite this, Godding was hopeful about the water supply in the next year’s annual report. He stated that expansion to 100 men would be possible with the “bringing in of abundant water supply” and that the farm would be a “leading feature” of the hospital (1898 AR, 877). Unfortunately Superintendent Godding did not see whether his hopes for Godding Croft would be realized. He died in 1899.

Though the farm did not become what Godding envisioned, other hospitals established successful colonies housing large groups of patients, and in 1899 Emile Kraepelin, who would become a prominent academic psychiatrist, spoke in favor of them (Shorter, 66).

"The construction of asylums has experienced extraordinary progress of late years by the evolution of so-called farm colonies in which patients are, as far as possible, given liberty and occupation in country pursuits. The whole questions of the care of the insane for a long time has probably found it solution in this best and relatively cheapest method of support" (Hurd Volume I 1916, 160).

By the early twentieth century farm colonies were in operation at hospitals “independently or in conjunction with a parent plant” in several states, including Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Massachusetts alone had eight colonies connected to state hospitals (Hurd Volume I 1916, 157-158).

The New Century

The operations at Godding Croft changed shortly after the twentieth century began. In 1901, the dairy herd was seasonally rotated between the main hospital farm, known as the home farm, and Godding Croft. The 1901 annual report noted that the distance between the farm and the hospital made the transportation of goods and produce very expensive, but tranfering the

dairy operations to Godding Croft would be an economical use of the land (1901 AR, 12-13). The report referred to Godding Croft as the Alexandria farm and stated,

"It is believed that all of the lands not required for gardening can be made most remunerative by adapting them to the uses of the dairy, and it is proposed during the coming year to utilize the Alexandria farm as a summer dairy. ..The entire heard of cows will be removed to that farm about May 1, and milking sheds and quarters for the dairy employees provided. The dairy can be maintained there until about November 1, when the cows will be returned to the home farm" (1901 AR, 12-13).

The operations and management of the GHI was the subject of a Congressional investigation in 1906. During hearings conducted as part of the probe, some information on the operations of the hospital farms was discussed. Superintendent William A. White reported that the farm was cultivated, however he described some of the property as "pretty poor land, where the hardpan sticks out at the top. It is wavy land and not very well cultivated." When questioned on the purpose of the hospital farms, White's response reiterated what his predecessors believed were the benefits of institutional farms. "The idea of having a farm in connection with the hospital is twofold- to raise food which may be utilized and which can be raised at less expense then it can be bought at…another reason is to employ the patients." White stated a dozen patients worked at the farm and he had requested a $3,000 in the appropriation bill for the construction of additional accommodations for patients, but he did not think that more than twenty-five should work at Godding Croft at a time. Approximately 600 patients, White testified, labored at the hospital providing housekeeping to working in the machine shop (Report of the Special Committee on Investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane, 867-868).

In his testimony, Doctor White stated that Godding Croft had approximately 100 hogs and accommodations for additional hogs were "miserably inadequate." He went on, "I have asked Congress this year to give me additional money to put up a dozen pens. The pens there now are in a very dilapidated condition and very old and very antiquated in construction" (Report of the Special Committee on Investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane, 868). White testified to the number of horses, mules, cows, bulls and chickens the hospital owned, but it is unclear which animals at that time were raised at Godding Croft (Report of the Special Committee on Investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane, 868-869). Later reports state that nine horses were stabled there and six-month-old calves were taken to Godding Croft from the other hospital farms and remained there until they produced their first calves. They were then moved to the dairy operating at the farm near the hospital. A similar operation took place with piglets. They remained at Godding Croft until they were a few months old and less susceptible to roundworm and then transferred to one of the other hospital farms (NR 2003, 25).

Hospital reports from this period state Godding Croft produced "most of the silage, timothy, and alfalfa required by cows and horses maintained at the farm..." (NR 2003, 25). Godding Croft had an orchard and maintained bees who produced honey for the farm's dining room.

In 1926, Congress completed another investigation of the hospital. The report issued following

their inquiry offered some details of farm operations. At that time eleven to twelve white male patients were employed there. The report provided a description of their accommodations in the farmhouse.

"The first floor is used for a ward for the 11 patients and for quarters for farm employees. The patients' dormitory is small and very crowded. The second floor is apportioned exclusively to employees' quarters and the office of the farm overseer. This building is heated by hot water and illuminated by oil lamps hung by wall brackets" (1926 Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 62).

At that time the farm had nearly 100 heifers, two bulls, and by 1926 the poultry farm was located at Godding Croft. The report also noted the number of apple, pear and fig bushels produced at Godding Croft and one of the other hospital farms. At Godding Croft, 110 fruit trees were reported, but does not specifiy the variety. Further research is necessary to determine if fig and pear trees were present at Godding Croft (1926 Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 111-112).

Park Planning in the Washington Area

In 1930, Congress passed the Capper-Crampton Act which allowed for the acquisition of land for the development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, as well as parks, parkways and playgrounds in the Washington region. The Act reinforced previous park development legislation, the Comprehensive Development of the Park and Playground System of the National Capital bill, passed in 1924. The earlier law created the National Capital Park Commission to acquire land suitable for parkways and recreation. The agency is known today as the National Capital Planning Commission.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway was originally planned to travel between Fort Washington and Great Falls on the Maryland side of the Potomac River, and from Mount Vernon to Great Falls on the Virginia side of the river. The Capper-Crampton Act authorized an appropriation of $13,500,000 to acquire land for the parkway. The Act also authorized the acquisition of land for other projects, including Fort Drive, a parkway linking the Civil War defenses of Washington which had been under consideration for nearly thirty years, and the extension of the Anacostia park system along the valley of the Anacostia River. The act ultimately led to the creation of numerous parks within the National Capital Region, some of which, like Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm, were located on land intended for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. It also led to the establishment of several parks administered by the states of Maryland and Virginia.

Because of Godding Croft's location along the Potomac River, Dr. White was aware that the farm was threatened by the passage of the Capper-Crampton Act. In annual reports to Congress, Dr. White discussed the acquisition of additional farm land to make up for the loss of Godding Croft should the parkway be constructed.

"The National Park and Planning Commission has in contemplation connecting the various forts

around Washington with roads…The road… along the river front, to be extended as far as Fort Washington, will traverse that part of the hospital land known as Godding Croft, practically dividing this land and reducing materially its usefulness for farm purposes" (1930 AR, 3).

White suggested Congress authorize "purchasing approximately 5,000 acres of land several miles from the city proper in order to establish a farm colony…Cottages could be erected for the housing of about 400 patients…" (1930 AR, 3). The colony White proposed was reminiscent of Doctor Godding's vision for Godding Croft. Further research is necessary to determine if additional farm land was purchased at this time.

Godding Croft Closes

By the end of the 1930s the farm produced sweet potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, and some summer vegetables for the hospital (NR 2003, 26). Godding Croft became the center of the hospital's poultry operations and farm managers experimented with different hen breeds in an attempt to increase dress-fowl and egg production (NR 2003, 26; HRS 1993, 34). In 1939, poultry operations were suspended at Godding Croft to clear the area of diseases and parasites. When it resumed, the healthy flock increased egg production substantially and by the end of the 1940s Godding Croft had a flock of 5,579 birds which produced nearly 32,000 eggs and more than 10,000 pounds of meat for St. Elizabeths (NR 2003, 26; HRS 1993, 34).

During the 1940s, St. Elizabeths' two other farms first downsized and later ceased production. In 1942, the hospital's main garden moved to Godding Croft when it became neccessary to build additional patient housing on some of the institution's other farm land. By 1945, a large section of the bottom land was converted to vegetable garden use. By 1948 all garden production had moved to Godding Croft (NR 2003, 27).

Also during the 1940s, the hospital's piggery operation was transferred to Godding Croft. Facilities for the pigs were constructed in 1945 in a wooden section of the grounds on the site of a hay barn which had been destroyed by fire a year earlier. The complex included a 36 pen farrowing house, a new feeding platform with troughs and a paved concrete enclosure for adding garbage, and a furnace and tank for cooking garbage and slaughtering animals. The new pig operation required the construction of additional roads to reach the feeding structure and hog shelter. Despite the addition of the piggery, staffing was reduced during the 1940s and in 1949 only fifteen employees worked at the farm (NR 2003, 27).

Even with the new facilities, records suggest a pig operation remained in place at the hospital campus in Washington during the 1950s. Correspondence from 1953 discusses concerns surrounding the maintenance of a piggery near hospital buildings and in a residential area (Letter, Lee L. Miller to Winfred Overholser, February 5, 1953). An additional document from 1953 states the "pggery was disposed of about March 12th," though it is unclear whether this refers to the operation at Godding Croft or at the hospital campus (Memo, P.L. McConahay to Winfred Overholser, July 30, 1953).

While the piggery operation was established at Godding Croft, dairy production was being

discontinued. Reductions in patient labor and grazing land, and the cost of milk production, led to the sale of the herd in 1947 and 1948 ("St. Elizabeths Forced to Sell Dairy Herd," The Washington Post, October 24, 1947; "Last Cattle Sold at St. Elizabeths," The Washington Post, June 22,1948).

Not long after the changes in farm operations at the end of the 1940s, St. Elizabeths began to reevaluate the role of patient labor in their treatment. In 1950, the Chief Occupational Therapist, Arvilla D. Merrill, wrote to then Superintendent Winfred Overholser on the need for an industrial therapy program at St. Elizabeths. She stated that the current practice of employing patients was not “geared to a therapeutic industrial program,” but instead served the needs of the institution and not the patient. Two years later she wrote to Overholser again on the issue and reiterated that patient labor was to be a part of rehabilitation, not to help with the operations of the hospital. In 1955 an industrial therapy program designed with patient rehabilitation as the focus of employment was established (HRS 1993, 39).

The new therapy program reduced the number of patients working at Godding Croft through the end of the 1950s. The need for a hospital farm started to decline partially because fresh foods became available through less expensive and less labor intensive means (HRS 1993, 39). The farm superintendent made note of this in a January 1953 farm report. "The situation in the kitchens seems to lean more and toward the use of the can opener that the preparation of fresh vegetables" (Memo, P.L. McConahay to Winfred Overholser, January 2, 1953, Oxon Hill Farm files).

Staffing was further reduced following the closure of the hennery in 1955, leaving only eight employees to operate the farm. With the smaller staff, farm production slowed, but remained steady through the early 1960s.

In 1965, during the appropriation process for the next fiscal year, the closure of Godding Croft was discussed. In statements on the operations of the hospital, it was reported, “In recent years…the number of patients in the program has dwindled to the point where continuation of the farm operation for its therapeutic value cannot be justified. The hospital therefore proposes to discontinue the operation at the close of the current fiscal year” (Labor -- Health, Education, and Welfare Appropriations for 1966, Part 1, 1361). The limited therapeutic benefits of farm labor, combined with the reduction in Godding Croft's operations, led to the farm's ultimate closure. Godding Croft ceased operating on June 30, 1965 (1965 AR, 17).



*Godding Croft, circa 1893 (National Archives and Records Administration, RG 418, G-127).*



*Chicken House, 1914 (National Archives and Records Administration, RG 418, G-130).*

1967 - 1978

The National Park Service and Oxon Hill Farm

In 1959, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) acquired tenant rights to Godding Croft. The acquisition of the rights was related to the 1930 authorization for the establishment of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The NCPC acquired additional parcels of land adjacent to Godding Croft, including a 52-acre property owned by the Smoot Sand and Gravel Corporation purchased in 1962. Concurrent with the purchase, the NCPC also issued a Declaration of Taking that included 30-acres north of the Smoot tract.

The federal agency managing St. Elizabeths, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), the precursor to the Department of Health and Human Services, agreed to the NCPC' s acquisition of rights, but with several terms. They included retaining the farmstead portion of the property until 1990; retaining a portion of the farm for patient therapy; the occupation rights to the identified portions of the farm could be extended or revoked before 1990; and control of the land would return to HEW if the George Washington Memorial Parkway was not developed by 1990. In addition, the agency was also allowed a year to remove any buildings, fencing, or other facilities to be used in therapy or for salvage (HRS 1993, 40).

Because of the stipulations, when the National Park Service began planning a children's farm at Godding Croft in March 1967 the site was viewed as an interim location. It appeared that HEW held on to the possibility that the farm would once again be used for patient therapy. In July, 1967, HEW and NPS released a joint statement on the use of the farm. "The National Park Service desires to use part of the tract on an interim basis for recreational purposes, namely a children's animal farm, until more permanent facilities [could] be developed elsewhere on the farm or until required for the patient care facilities" (HRS 1993, 40).

The Children's Animal Farm formally opened on July 8, 1967 and was the first National Park Service unit that involved living agricultural interpretation. Because of this, no guidelines existed that the park planners could use in establishing operations at the farm, which left the park managers to figure things out as they went along (HRS 1993, 41).

Interpretation and Park Operations

Over the first few years of the park's operation, the interpretive program went through a number of modifications. Initially the park wanted to present a 1920-1925 family farmstead and planners focused on acquiring what was necessary to present a farm from that era. Recommendations for buildings included a red barn, silo and windmill, as well as shelters for animals. Park planners suggested acquiring cows, lambs, goats, a team of horses, and chickens and turkeys that would add the appropriate sounds to the farm. Suggested crops included corn, potatoes, peanuts, tobacco and wheat. Cherry, plum and apple orchards were also considered. Staff members contributed to the atmosphere by dressing in appropriate farm clothing. They also demonstrated horse-drawn farming methods, introduced visitors to the animals and encouraged children to feed chickens, shell corn and milk cows (HRS 1993, 41).

The family farmstead interpretive program remained in place until 1969 when the Office of the Division of Planning and Interpretive Services revised the program to include the replication of farm activities. At this time the focus became offering a "distinctly rural image for an urban audience" (HRS 1993, 42). The planners intended to provide the largely urban and suburban children visiting the park with a more complete farm experience and suggested that interpretive programs focus on the importance of agriculture, including human dependence on farming, the social, political and economic role of agriculture, and some historic examples of farming successes and failures (HRS 1993, 42).

In constructing park buildings, planners stipulated the buildings were to be attractive and functional and complement the other farm structures in appearance and location, but were not built with regional characteristics in mind. The new interpretive program covered a hundred year period, from 1820 to 1920, which allowed for a wider variety of demonstrations and activities for visitors. The farm itself was considered the primary "interpretive medium" and visitors were to participate in farm activities as much as possible, including feeding and planting, and artificial displays, such as exhibits and waysides were to be avoided (HRS 1993, 42; Christensen, 5).

By February 1969 the park contained more than 350 acres, but only 92-acres were developed. Twelve acres were used as pasture for the small number of farm animals, which included three ponies, five cows, four work horses, three donkeys, four sheep and three goats. Fourteen acres of land and a four acre kitchen garden were set aside for crops, which included peanuts, corn, oats, tobacco, potatoes, cotton, cabbage and other vegetables. Buildings, a parking lot and roads occupied eight acres of park land. An orchard covered four acres of land and trails and 50-acres of woodland were set aside for trails and environmental studies (HRS 1993, 42).

In the late 1960s and early 1970s a few proposals for the park were developed. The first, a 1968 plan, included many of the same features that were part of a study of Anacostia Park prepared by Lawrence Halprin and Associates in 1970. Both Halprin and the 1968 drawing primarily focused on recreational development of the area around the cove and along the Potomac. A youth hostel, large and small boat marinas, golf course, day camp, a historic overlook on the hillside west of the farm house, and new buildings for the children's farm were proposed. Little, if any of the two plans were implemented. This was partly due to neighborhood opposition to landfilling operations taking place near the cove where the proposed golf course would be located (HRS 1993, 48-49).

In 1969, the National Park Service and the District of Columbia government entered into an agreement concerning land adjacent to the cove, including the Middle Field, that had been used as a sanitary landfill. After the National Park Service acquired the park land, they covered the trash heaps with soil. Working with the District government, NPS planned to develop the earlier proposed golf course on the site. Neighbors objected to the plan because landfilling operations would continue as part of the agreement between the city and NPS. The question over the development of the area around the cove and the landfill operation continued until the mid-1970s when funding for continued landfilling and grading was not available (HRS 1993, 49).

In 1971, "Design Analysis: Oxon Hill Children's Farm," a brief study of the park was released. The report made recommendations for interpreting the park as a family farm and proposed the addition of new buildings, structures and features, including a stable, duck pond, sorghum mill, comfort station, and country store designed as a farm house with a store, kitchen, restrooms, and offices. A new road from the barnyard to the orchard, an expanded parking lot, and the obliteration of the road on the north side of the garden accessing the farm house, were also proposed. The study recommended replacing the farmhouse with "a more compatible style house" (Howland, 3). The document also included suggestions for interpretive programs and seasonal events, such as sheep shearing (HRS 1993, 44-45). Many of the proposals were not

implemented, but variations of some, including the duck pond, were later installed at the park.

That same year, another document on the park's operations, programs and planning, stated, "Oxon Hill Children's Farm should be pure rural pleasure. It should be a tool for discovery of smells, sights, sounds, tastes, and tactile as well as spiritual feelings" (Christensen, 3). Regarding construction and the appearance of the farm, the report noted, "Strict historical authenticity should not be a controlling factor in development decisions….Impressionistic authenticity means that fence design, for example, would be selected for its ability to communicate 'rural,' regardless of whether or not that particular kind of fence was favored in that place in historic time." The same applied to crops. The author felt they did not have to be the crops grown in the period represented, but crops to convey "ruralness" (Christensen, 4).

In February 1977, the park switched focus to interpreting a working family farm from 1898 to 1914. "This decision stemmed from their recognition of the period as a critical time in the nation's agricultural past" (HRS 1993, 45). Jim Reilly, the site manager during this period noted that the turn of the century '"marks [a] time when the population was rapidly increasing…while the percentage of persons gainfully employed in agriculture was decreasing, it was the first time the American market was more profitable for the farm than the world market" (HRS 1993, 45).

During this period, 41 acres were cultivated and the farm grew barley, corn, oats, sorghum, tobacco, winter wheat and hay. Nearly fifteen acres were used by livestock (HRS 1993, 46).



*Farm visitors, c. 1971 (NACE).*

1979-2011

Planning and Other Programs

The National Park Service developed an innovative program with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in 1979 to harness the methane trapped under the landfill and use it

as an energy source. Despite the construction of a building in the Oxon Hill Road Field that included equipment to feed the energy to PEPCO, the project stalled due to lack of interest and cooperation from local power companies and ultimately did not develop (HRS 1993, 49-50). The building remains standing in the Oxon Hill Road Field.

Towards the end of the 1980s a new study and a proposal for the farm were developed. In 1986, “A Design for Oxon Hill Farm” was prepared and two years later the “Illustrated Plan for Oxon Cove” was released. The heavily illustrated 1986 document called for presenting more c. 1900 period appropriate buildings, vegetation and interpretation. Suggestions included revitalizing the orchard west of the house and planting period fruit bearing trees; replacing modern picnic tables and benches with period pieces; cultivating circa 1900 crops grown in southern Maryland, including tobacco, sorghum and market crops such as tomatoes and sweet corn (Jorgensen, 9-11, 32, 41). The 1988 “Illustrated Plan for Oxon Cove” served as a follow-up to the 1986 plan and reiterated its points and suggestions, including rehabilitating the orchard west of the house. The plan called for the construction of a loop trail from the parking lot through the center of the farm to the house which will pass by the dairy barn, crop demonstration areas, and an orchard. The plan included the removal or screening of modern vehicles, structures and equipment. Neither “A Design for Oxon Hill Farm” nor the “Illustrated Plan for Oxon Cove” were implemented.

Another interpretive plan was developed in 1996, and in 2000 the "Final Conceptual Plan for Oxon Cove Park" was created. The 1996 plan outlined major interpretive themes and objectives that focused on the park’s diverse ecosystem, farming, human history, and the park service’s stewardship of the site’s resources. Among the plan’s recommendations were suggested locations for waysides and types of interpretive programs to offer, including living history and animal presentations. The plan also discussed the development of audio visual presentations, publications, public outreach, partnerships and formal education programs for visitors. Research needs, including the study of the park’s history, cultural landscape, natural resources, visitor demographics and interests, were outlined.

Four years later, the Conceptual Plan reiterated several of the 1996 points, but provided specifics on design, content, location and subject matter for exhibits in the farmhouse and waysides throughout the park. The plan focused on interpreting the history of the farm and the site’s cultural resources with limited discussion of the park’s natural resources. The exhibit ideas and features were developed through funding provided by an NPS Parks as Classroom program grant. The program allowed for a panel of nine Maryland teachers with expertise in state history, and a graduate student from Howard University with knowledge of the history of slavery in southern Maryland, to develop exhibit content that would serve public school students. The exhibits focused on the DeButts ownership period and presented information on European immigration, the War of 1812, the slave experience at the farm and in the region, and the DeButts’ relationship to these historic events and periods in American history. The Parks as Classroom Grant provided for the coordination of the exhibit content with the educational goals of Maryland public schools and allowed teachers and students to use the farmhouse as a social studies classroom. Much of what was proposed in the Conceptual Plan was implemented in the park. The exhibits in the farmhouse and the waysides throughout the park reflect the

themes and subjects discussed in the plan.

Within the past few years there have been a few tangible and intangible changes at Oxon Hill Farm. Landscape changes include the planting of twenty-four apple trees in the remnant orchard to the west of the farmhouse. One of the trees was cultivated using a cutting from one of the last historic trees. Currently the South Field is fallow. The maintenance required and the effort needed to prevent damage caused by deer put too great a burden on the park's small staff, so no crops are under cultivation at this time.

In 2005, Oxon Cove Park was accepted as a member of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom for the discovery of the story of Jacob Shaw. Shaw was a member of the large enslaved population on the Berry Plantation, a portion of which comprises the southern-most part of the park. Shaw escaped in September 1840. Berry placed an ad offering a reward for Jacob Shaw's return in an issue of the National Intelligencer newspaper. The farm's website includes a page on Jacob Shaw's story and the relationships between slaves on nearby plantations. The site notes, "Although there are no structures left from this period, there is a compelling story to be told," and announces that programs about "Jacob Shaw and his struggle for freedom will be presented by park staff in the coming year" ("Jacob Shaw and the Underground Railroad", http://www.nps.gov/oxhi/historyculture/jacob-shaw.htm).

Work on the park's historic buildings includes rehabilitation and repair of the farmhouse's north porch, currently underway. Repairs to the south porch most likely will take place in FY2012. The park has requested funding for several additional projects, including an archeological survey for slave quarters and cemetery, a historic structure report for the farmhouse, and repairs to the brick barn and silo.

# Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Oxon Hill Farm cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1797-1890 and 1891-1967) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property are spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES.
Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Oxon Hill Farm are spatial organization, topography, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, natural systems and small scale features.

The spatial organization of Oxon Hill Farm has remained largely unchanged since the historic period. Although the National Park Service added buildings and roads since acquiring the property, these additional features have not altered the historic organization of the landscape. The site retains its

historic spatial organization and has a high degree of integrity.

The topography at Oxon Hill Farm has not been altered since the period of significance, with the exception of the Middle Field. Landfilling operations during the 1960s and 1970s raised the elevation of the field several feet. In other sections of the park, highway construction altered the topography. Despite these changes, the farm's topography largely remains in its historic condition and has a high degree of integrity.

Current land use at Oxon Hill Farm is chiefly the same as during the period of significance. Although it is on a reduced scale and used for educational purposes, the primary land use is still agricultural. Interpretive programs and waysides educate visitors on the agricultural history of the site. Land use at Oxon Hill Farm retains a high degree of integrity.

Many of the buildings and structures at Oxon Hill Farm date to the period of significance and remain in their original locations. Several buildings and structures have been added to the farm since becoming a unit of the National Park Service in 1967. These features are non-contributing, but do not diminish the site’s integrity. The park’s buildings and structures maintain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

The historic circulation pattern at Oxon Hill Farm is mainly extant. The Fox Ferry Road and the Washington-Piscataway Road, the two oldest roads associated with the site, are no longer in public use and have been reduced to traces in some sections, but portions of both roads are used by the park. Internal farm roads dating to the period of significance are also still in use and maintained. The park circulation pattern retains integrity.

Historic vegetation at Oxon Hill Farm included agricultural crops, fruit bearing trees, ornamental plantings and woodlands. Though the fields lie fallow, crops are still cultivated in the gardens near the center of the farm and one of the remaining orchards has recently been replanted. Woodlands historically bordered the farm and continue to today, but in recent years trees have grown in place of crops in some of the agricultural areas to the north and south of the farm house. A large cluster of boxwood dating to at least the nineteenth century remains on site and cedar trees located near the farm house may be among those documented in photographs from the 1890s. Non-extant historic vegetation includes two apple orchards cultivated during the period of significance.  In spite of some changes and loss of historic material, vegetation has integrity to the period of significance.

Natural systems at Oxon Hill Farm, including the streams and springs flowing through the North Woods and the Potomac River to the west of the farm, contribute to the historic character of the site and have remained largely unchanged since the period of significance.

Historic views and vistas from the farm house included the Potomac River and Virginia to the north, south and west; Oxon Cove on the Maryland shore of the river and Washington to the north of the farm. Although highway construction and vegetation have obstructed some of the views, historic views from the farm house are largely intact. Views of the farm from the house and views to the house from

the fields also retain much of their historic character, though vegetation and buildings added by the National Park Service have altered them to some degree.

Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed The acreage of the farm has fluctuated some since the period of significance, but Oxon Hill Farm remains in its historic location as do its historic structures.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The farm retains the layout and plan established during the historic period and with few exceptions, the farm's historic structures remain largely unchanged since the period of significance. The circulation pattern retains much of its historic character and Oxon Hill Farm has integrity of design.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. During the period of significance, the area around Oxon Hill Farm evolved from an agricultural to a densely populated residential and urban/suburban landscape. The farm continued to operate as neighboring properties were replaced by highways, busy thoroughfares and suburban housing developments. Today, the farm is a rural enclave within a major metropolitan area. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The historic buildings at Oxon Hill Farm retain much of their historic materials. While some structures have been altered, much of the original fabric is intact. Vegetation, including the boxwood, cedar, crops and woods, also retain historic integrity.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The contributing features at Oxon Hill Farm invoke the periods in which they were created. The oldest historic structures, including the farm house, brick stable, pony barn and feed building, exhibit workmanship from the period of significance and retain integrity.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Despite its location in the midst of a major metropolitan area and surrounded by modern infrastructure, Oxon Hill Farm maintains a historic atmosphere. The farm's structures, fields and animals all contribute to the historic character and maintain the integrity of feeling of the site.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Oxon Hill Farm is associated with the nineteenth century mental health care and agricultural history. Waysides and interpretive programs provide visitors with information on the historic significance of the site. Landscape features, including the fields, buildings and vegetation maintain the association with the park's agrarian past. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period and retains high integrity of association for the period of significance.

Conclusion
After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI Oxon Hill Farm retains integrity from the periods of significance.

**Aspects of Integrity:**

Location

Design

Setting

Materials

Workmanship

Feeling

Association

**Landscape Characteristic:**

### Small Scale Features

HISTORIC
Benches, spring water pipes, water troughs and fences are the only known small scale features from the historic period. Photographs from the late 1890s reveal a slat bench adjacent to the farm house. During the St. Elizabeths period, wire and wooden post fences enclosed the fields. Square wire fencing was also used around the hog shed and the incinerator in the North Woods. It is not known whether other fencing types were in use at the farm. Chain link fencing is documented in an early park map and may date to the St. Elizabeths period, but further research is necessary to determine this. Water troughs associated with the hog operations were also located in the north woods, as were pipes transporting water from the north woods springs to the troughs.

CURRENT
Wire fences from the St. Elizabeths period are still found in the north woods, but they are in poor condition. The prevalent fence types found at the park today are the NPS installed split rail and post and board or rail used to enclose fields, gardens and the orchard. Picket fencing erected in recent years surrounds the boxwood cluster.

Remains of spring water pipes and three water troughs (two concrete and one wood) are found in the North Woods. The wooden trough is in pieces and the concrete troughs are in poor condition. The few remaining pipes, some located near the troughs, are in poor or fair condition. No benches from the period of significance remain extant. There are a small number of wooden benches with vertical post backing and horizontal board seating currently at the park. They are located along the entrance drive and on the east side of the farm house.

Modern small-scale features include NPS waysides, water fountains, picnic tables, trash and

recycling receptacles, instructional signs and animal feeding troughs. Two types of waysides are found at several locations at the park. Waysides on the east and west sides of the boxwood cluster, west orchard, and adjacent to the Brick Stable, Feed Building, Hay Barn and Root Cellar, as well as other locations throughout the farm, are brown flat angled panels with aluminum or steel frames and legs. Upright waysides are found at the entrance to the park and along the drive from the parking leading past the silo and dairy barn to the main farm complex.

Adjacent to the parking lot is a picnic area with several tables, recycling and trash receptacles. Several picnic tables are also located underneath the 1812 Oak in the Oxon Hill Road Field. Concrete pedestal water fountains dating to the early park era are located in the picnic area and near the brick stable and the Oxon Hill Road Field. An additional water fountain mounted on a concrete slab and installed in recent years is located near the restrooms.

ANALYSIS
Despite the deteriorating state of the wire fencing from the St. Elizabeths era, it contributes to the historic atmosphere of the site. Similarly, the water troughs from the historic period have little integrity because of their poor condition, but still contribute to the landscape because of their association with the historic period. The current wood fencing is non-contributing, but compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: St. Elizabeths Era Fencing

Feature Identification Number: 149283

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: St. Elizabeths Era Water Troughs

Feature Identification Number: 149285

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: St. Elizabeths Era Spring Pipes

Feature Identification Number: 149315

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: NPS Era Fencing

Feature Identification Number: 149313

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Waysides and Signs

Feature Identification Number: 149323

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 149331

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Benches

Feature Identification Number: 149329

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trash and Recycling Receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 149339

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Water Fountains

Feature Identification Number: 149357

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wooden footbridges and stairs

Feature Identification Number: 149853

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Light poles

Feature Identification Number: 149855

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*St. Elizabeths era spring pipe and water trough located in the North Woods (CLP 2011).*



*Contemporary fencing, bench and trash receptacle (CLP 2011).*

### Views and Vistas

HISTORIC
Historic views at Oxon Hill Farm included those from the farm house of the Potomac River, Virginia, Washington, Oxon Cove, fields, orchards and farm buildings, as well as views to the farm house from the fields and the entrance road.

During the War of 1812, Mary DeButts wrote that the British fleet "lay directly before our house" (NR 2003, 18). The proximity of Mount Welby to the Potomac River and its location approximately 200 feet above the water would have provided a view of the ships on the river below, though it is unknown what tree-cover, if any, was present at the time of the battle. Photographic evidence from the 1890s reveals clear views of the Potomac River and Virginia to the west and north of the farm house and what appears be the shore of Oxon Cove, also to the north. Photographic evidence of views to the south of the house from this period is not available, but if the conditions were similar to those on the north side of the residence, points to the south were likely visible. A magazine profile from 1916 noted "an excellent view of the river" from the porch, but does not state whether it was the north or south facing view (Murphy, 111). In the 1950s, residents of the house remarked on views of Virginia from the farm house's second floor living room.

Based on the late nineteenth century photographs of the farm, the view of the fields and farm operations from the residence included the boxwood cluster, open lawn, the eastern orchard, brick stable and feed shed, as well as the downward slope of the fields and buildings to the north of the house. These photographs also show a clear view of the residence from the eastern fields and the entrance road.

EXISTING
Present day views of the river and Virginia from the south elevation of the farm house are obstructed by heavy tree cover. Vegetation partially blocks views from the north and west elevations, but the river and Virginia are still visible from these points and from the boxwood cluster east of house. During the winter months when foliage is thin, the river, Virginia and Washington are clearly visible from the farm house, the orchard west of the residence and some points east of the house. Oxon Cove is still visible from the farm house, but the view is impacted by Interstate 295.

Views of the eastern fields from the farm house resemble those captured in historic photographs, as do views of the farm house from the east. Though the fields are now occupied by gardens instead of an orchard, and there are a few additional structures, the view to the east is still one of an agricultural landscape. Modern infrastructure, such as the parking lot, is not visible. The newer structures, including the visitor barn and exhibits building, intrude on the view of the house from some eastern vantage points, but the view of the house is largely intact. The fields to the north and south of the residence cultivated during the historic period have been replaced by woodlands.

ANALYSIS
The heavy tree growth surrounding the farm serves as a screen, blocking the traffic on the nearby highways and the development of the surrounding area, therefore maintaining some of the historic atmosphere (NR, 28). The internal views of the fields and farmstead retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the farm. In spite of changes caused by modern tree cover, the views toward Virginia also possess integrity.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Views of the Potomac River

Feature Identification Number: 149379

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View of the farm from the house

Feature Identification Number: 149383

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views of the house from the farm.

Feature Identification Number: 149385

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views of VA, MD, DC from the farmhouse

Feature Identification Number: 150071

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View of the Potomac River and Virginia from the south elevation of the farm house (CLP 2011).*



*View to the farm house from the garden (CLP 2011).*



*View of the farm from the south elevation of the farmhouse (CLP 2011).*

### Topography

HISTORIC

Oxon Cove Park is located in two topographic zones: high upland terrace and an area of broad Potomac River floodplain. The building cluster at Oxon Hill Farm stretching from the house to the parking lot is located on the upland terrace nearly 200 feet above mean sea level. Steep,

narrow ravines are found in the woods to the north of the farm house and the area to the west and south of the house slopes downward towards the fields and river (HRS, 7; NR, 10). The topography determined the siting of the house—on the high point overlooking the Potomac River and surrounding area.

CURRENT
The topography of the farm and the surrounding woods have largely remained intact since the period of significance with the exception of the Middle Field. During the 1960s and 1970s, landfilling operations raised the elevation of the field as much as twenty feet.

ANALYSIS
Despite the modifications caused by landfilling operations, the topography of the farm remains largely unchanged. The topography contributes to the historic landscape and retains integrity.

### Vegetation

HISTORIC
Historic vegetation at Oxon Cove Farm consisted of agricultural crops and pastures, orchards, woods, ornamental plantings and seasonal flowers adjacent to the farm residence.

Records of crop production during the 1797 to 1890 period of significance is limited, but wheat is one item known to have been cultivated during these years. Agricultural census records from 1850 to 1880 indicate market gardening was the focus of farms in the area and tenant farmers were growing wheat, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes and hay. It can be presumed that similar crops were grown at Mount Welby.

Documentation of crops grown during the second period of significance, 1891 to 1967, provides a clearer picture of the farm's operations. While the farm was owned and operated by St. Elizabeths Hospital, kale, asparagus, onions, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, squash, mustard spinach, turnips and sweet potatoes were among the crops grown. Crops were culitvated in fields along the cove, to the west and northwest of the farmhouse (commonly referred to as the South Field and Middle Field), and in the Oxon Hill Road Field, located east of the farmhouse near the present day parking lot.

Also during the St. Elizabeths period, the farm included at least two apple orchards. Both were in place by the late nineteenth century. A c.1895 map of the farm documents orchards north and west of the farm house and to the east and southeast of the residence. Through the middle of the twentieth century the orchards provided the hospital with a significant amount of produce each month. A 1927 report noted that the hospital farms also had pear and fig trees, but did not specify which farm grew the trees (Investigation of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 112). Other fruit growing trees and shrubs, according to a 1950s-1960s farm resident, included blackberry, two cherry trees found near the entrance gate, peach and pear trees in the remnant orchard, and a large "berry tree" located near the house (Shegogue 2001).

Ornamental planting dating to the period of significance, possibly to the early nineteenth century, includes the cluster of American (Buxus sempervirens) and English (Buxus

sempervirens 'Suffruticosa') boxwood surrounding the hexagonal building to the southeast of the farm house. Large boxwood appear in photographs from the mid-nineteenth century in roughly the same location. The oldest of the Oxon Hill Farm boxwood are estimated to be more than 150 years old.

Boxwood are found at several colonial era homes in the Washington region and throughout Maryland and Virginia, including Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1755-1759; Tudor Place, Washington, DC, 1816; and the Wye House, Talbot County, Maryland, c. 1790. Referred to as "man's oldest garden ornament" by the American Boxwood Society, the shrub is believed by some historians to have been first planted in New York in the 1650s, but did not reach the Tidewater region until the 1700s. Boxwood became very popular during the nineteenth century and was a common garden feature during the Colonial Revival (Meatyard 2006).

Also present in historic photographs are several cedar trees (Juniperus virginiana) adjacent to the south entrance of the farm house and on the downward slope of the hill on the north side of the residence. A small number of other trees are also present in historic photographs on the north and south elevations of the house, but their variety is difficult to identify. Maps and photographs from the mid-twentieth century note seasonal flower beds near the boxwood cluster and southeast of the house. The landscape to the east of the farm house, beyond the boxwood cluster, was largely clear of vegetation except for the orchard in the eastern fields.

Historic photographs reveal that the area around the front of the house, including the boxwood cluster, was a more designed space fitting for a residence. The trees and the boxwood created a separation of the residential space from the farm landscape to the east of the house.

Other historic vegetation dating to the period of significance includes a willow oak (Quercus phellos) located in the Oxon Hill Road Field and adjacent to the parking lot. This tree is frequently referred to as the War of 1812 Willow Oak and is identified by that name in documentation prepared by the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS No. MD-13). The age of the tree is unknown and there are differing opinions as to how old the tree is. Park staff members stated in interviews conducted as part of the HALS documentation they believe the tree to date to the early nineteenth century. Others contend it is likely closer to a 100 years old, than 200 years.

Woodlands surrounding the farm also date to the period of significance. Maps and historic photographs document the presence of the North Woods throughout the St. Elizabeths era with some sections possibly dating to the 1860s. The 1890s map documents woodlands bordering each of the farm's orchards and along the cove. Aerial photographs from the 1930s document woods along the cove, west and north of the Middle Field.

CURRENT
At this time, a small number of crops, including tomatoes, herbs, beans and squash, are grown

in the gardens east of the farm house. The fields cultivated when the farm was active are now fallow. Beginning in the late 1960s through the 1970s, the Middle Field was the site of landfilling operations and was not used for crop demonstrations by the park. A community gardening program was in place for several years in the Oxon Hill Road Field, but no longer operates. The South Field was under cultivation until recently when the demands placed on the park's small staff to maintain the field became too great.

Until recently, several of the historic apple trees remained at the farm. Two were found in the orchard to the west of the farm house, known as the remnant orchard, and four in the Oxon Hill Road Field, east of the residence and adjacent to the parking lot. One of the trees in the remnant orchard was more than 100 years old and may have dated to the beginning of the St. Elizabeths era. The six apple trees died within the last several years, but cuttings were preserved in order to cultivate descendents from the historic trees. Twenty-four apple trees were recently planted in the remnant orchard. One of the trees was cultivated from the historic apple tree cuttings.

Though the farm resident from the 1950s-1960s notes pear and peach trees growing in the remnant orchard this has not been confirmed by other sources. The "berry tree" the former resident mentioned may refer to a mulberry. There are several older mulberry trees currently found at the farm. Further research is required to determine if these fruit-bearing trees were grown during the period of significance.

Woodlands documented on historic maps and photographs to the north of the farm house remain. To the south of the house, beyond the entrance road, riparian vegetation has filled in what were open fields and orchard. Trees were cleared for landfilling operations along the cove, so the woodland west and north of the Middle Field documented in historic photographs and maps only has minimal tree cover.

The large cluster of boxwood (American (Buxus sempervirens) and English (Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa') remains near the hexagonal building and some of the shrubs likely date to the period of significance, possibly earlier. Several trees (Acer rubrum and Aesculus hippocastanum) adjacent to the boxwood grouping, the farm house, and along the entrance road, may date to the period of significance, but further research is necessary. An 1985 park report provides some information on the age of the trees by the entrance road. It states that trees were planted there and other points at the farm that year. Twenty sugar maples were also planted, but their location is not given.

The farm resident from the 1950s and 1960s wrote about the absence of several larger trees along the entrance road, but did not specify their location or variety (Shegogue 2001). Cedar trees located on the north and south sides of the farm house may be among those captured in photographs from the late nineteenth century. The willow oak (Quercus phellos (War of 1812 Willow Oak) still stands in the Oxon Hill Road Field. Seasonal flowers are located near the boxwood cluster in roughly the same location they were found historically.

ANALYSIS
Though the South Field and Middle Fields are no longer under cultivation, they remain open fields and maintain the historic agricultural character of the site. Because of the Middle Field's alteration due to landfill operations, it has no integrity. The presence of trees and shrubs dating to the period of significance, the revival of the orchard to the west of the farmhouse, as well as the continued crop production contributes to the historic atmosphere of the farm. Seasonal flowers and recently planted trees near the farmhouse are compatible with the farm's historic character, but do not contribute. Despite the changes to the vegetation at the farm since the period of significance, Oxon Hill Farm's vegetation has integrity.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Boxwood cluster

Feature Identification Number: 149597

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Willow Oak (1812 Willow Oak)

Feature Identification Number: 149599

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Remnant Orchard

Feature Identification Number: 149601

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cedar (Juniperus virginiana) near house

Feature Identification Number: 149603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: South Field

Feature Identification Number: 150059

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: North Woods

Feature Identification Number: 150061

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Oxon Hill Road Field

Feature Identification Number: 150063

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Garden Crops

Feature Identification Number: 150067

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Middle Field

Feature Identification Number: 150069

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Top: replanted remnant orchard (CLP 2011); bottom: apple orchards in bloom with the Potomac River in the distance, c. 1970 (NACE).*



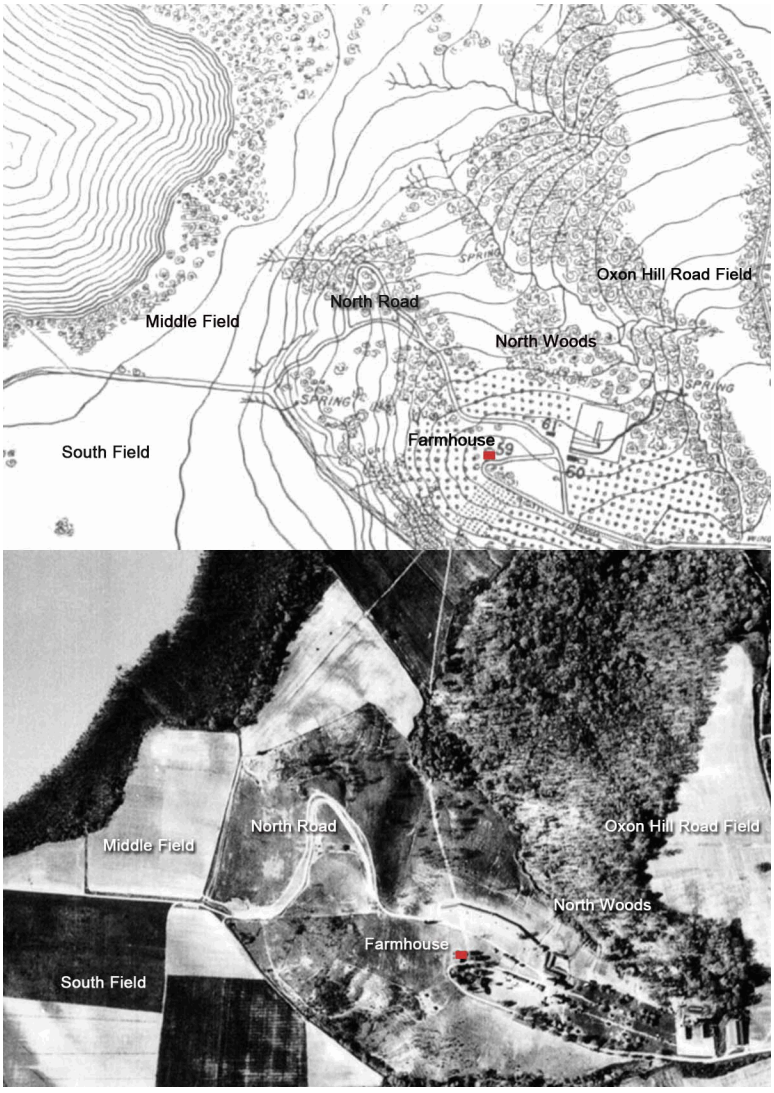
*Boxwood cluster. Views from the northwest and southeast (CLP 2011).*



*Willow oak, commonly referred to as the War of 1812 Willow Oak (CLP 2011).*



*Garden to the east of the farmhouse (CLP, 2011).*




*Top: c.1890s landscape features; bottom: 1937 aerial illustrating continuity of the farm landscape (1898 AR; CLP vertical files).*

### Natural Systems and Features

Historic

Oxon Hill Farm is located in Prince George's County, Maryland and situated within the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The Potomac River and Oxon Run are the primary natural systems in the Oxon Hill Farm area. Oxon Cove Park is located along the east side of the river and Oxon Run borders the park to the northwest. During the 1960s, the Army Corps of Engineers modified Oxon Run's course and today it only partially follows its original path. Also during this period, the mouth of Oxon Cove was narrowed to facilitate construction of Interstate 295. Several springs located in the North Woods served as a water source for farm operations during the period of significance.

Current

No further modification of Oxon Hill Farm's natural systems has occurred since the period of significance. The North Woods springs, though no longer used for the farm or the community gardens that occupied the Oxon Hill Road field, still flow and a small unnamed creek also runs through the woods. At the time of this report's completion, the creek's water flow was minimal (spring and summer 2011). The distance between the creek's beds measures approximately twenty feet at its widest indicating it was once a more significant stream.

Analysis
Oxon Hill Farm's natural systems retain integrity despite the alterations to the cove and Oxon Run, and contribute to the historic character of the landscape.

### Circulation

HISTORIC

The historic farm circulation system included internal roads accessing fields and farm buildings, as well as major public transportation routes between Maryland, Washington and Virginia. Beginning in the late eighteenth century, Fox Ferry Road carried traffic to Oxon Cove where a ferry operated between Maryland and Alexandria, Virginia for many years. A section of this road ran past the farm entrance to the floodplain fields located near the cove.

The Washington-Piscataway Road bordered the farm to the east and was a north-south traveling route between the nation's capital and the Maryland towns of Piscataway and Bladensburg. This road also dates to the late eighteenth century and intersected with the Fox Ferry Road (NR 2003, 1).

Historic farm roads include the farm entrance road which branched off the Fox Ferry Road to the north. It later forked at the edge of the eastern fields and became a loop road with one segment traveling north towards the brick stable and continuing on towards the house, and the other section headed west to the house where it met the northern segment of the road.

Other farm roads dating to the period of significance include North Road, which was first documented on the two 1890s Godding Croft maps. It likely predates the St. Elizabeths period because it provided a direct route from the farm house to the floodplain fields and intersected with Fox Ferry Road (NR 2003, 9). The North Road branched off the northern section of the entrance road near the brick stable. The North Road descends the hill north of the farm house and curves outward toward the North Woods creating a distinctive loop as the road makes its way to Oxon Cove and the ferry landing. On the 1890s maps a small road bypasses the loop, avoiding the route adjacent to the woods, and connects more directly with the Fox Ferry Road. Additional roads, possibly in use for more than a century, branched off Fox Ferry Road and North Road into the fields south and west of the house (NR 2003, 9).

The c. 1895 Godding Croft map also documents what may be a small road or stream running from an enclosed pasture located north of the brick stable and feed shed to the spring found in the North Woods. This landscape feature is represented differently than other roads and small streams on the map, but given its location and width it is more likely to be a road.

The date of construction of several secondary farm roads is unclear. Roads accessing some of the fields are visible in aerial photographs from the 1930s, but disappear in later photographs. Roads in the Oxon Hill Road Field appear in photographs from the 1940s, but may be older. One of these roads skirts the edge of the North Woods and is thought to have been constructed to service the hog operations in the woods. It winds north and west from the field entrance and connects with a PEPCO right of way that bisects the North Woods and travels towards Oxon Run and Washington. An east-west road intersects with this road and the Washington-Piscataway Road and bisects the field.

A map of the farm from the 1960s documents an east-west road leading from the dairy barn (non-extant) and silo to the brick stable and feed shed. There it connects with the other farm drives continuing to the residence, river and the entrance drive.

CURRENT (see Circulation and Landscape Features Site Plan for current circulation patterns at the farm.)

Construction of Interstates 95/495 and 295 in the 1960s impacted some of the most historic components of the farm's circulation. Interstate 95/495 cut off access to the Fox Ferry Point on Oxon Cove. The easternmost section of the road was then abandoned. The construction also destroyed a section of the Washington-Piscataway Road and altered the entrance to the farm (NR 2003, 9). This road has gone through multiple name changes over time, including Bald Eagle Drive, Bald Eagle Road and Government Farm Road. A trace of the road makes up the park's eastern border and travels past the Butler property.

After the park service acquired the farm in the 1960s, several adjustments were made to the circulation system. The park service reestablished and paved a portion of the Fox Ferry Road, though sections were shifted from its original alignment. The road is used to access the South Field and is also part of a multi-use trail leading to Oxon Cove. In addition, a parking lot was installed at the entrance to the park at this time. The lot was later enlarged to accommodate visitors and went through some modifications during highway construction projects surrounding the park in the late 1970s or early 1980s. It was modified again when the I-95/495, MD 210 (Indian Head Highway), and Bald Eagle Road interchange work was completed within the last six years. Previously, vehicles accessed the farm via the Bald Eagle Road Bridge, which crossed over I-95/495, and cars entered the parking lot from the southeast. Following the recent reconstruction, the Bald Eagle Road Bridge was moved and cars now enter the parking lot from the east.

Also shortly after park service acquisition, NPS added an additional road on the northwest corner of the lot leading in the direction of the silo and dairy barn and constructed the Woodlot Trail, a loop trail through the North Woods accessed by the North Road. A portion of the northern section of the entrance road, which travels between the Farm Museum building and the Story of Grain building, is currently closed near the farm house. Grass is growing over the

road and it appears the section of the road immediately adjacent to the house is being discontinued. Internal farm circulation, including the Oxon Road Field Roads, the North Road, and several secondary field roads, remains largely intact. Some secondary roads documented on aerial photographs from the 1930s and 1940s were no longer in use by the 1960s, as evidenced by photographs from this period.

ANALYSIS

Although there has been some alteration to the circulation system at Oxon Hill Farm with the addition of new roads and the modification of roads dating to the historic period, the circulation system of the farm retains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Fox Ferry Road

Feature Identification Number: 149711

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 258376

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Fox Ferry Road

LCS Structure Number: 016-04

Feature: North Road

Feature Identification Number: 149713

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 258347

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, North Road

LCS Structure Number: 016-03

Feature: Washington-Piscataway Road trace

Feature Identification Number: 149715

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Oxon Hill Road Field Roads

Feature Identification Number: 149717

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance Road

Feature Identification Number: 149719

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Secondary Farm Roads

Feature Identification Number: 149721

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trails

Feature Identification Number: 149729

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Road from north end of parking lot

Feature Identification Number: 149731

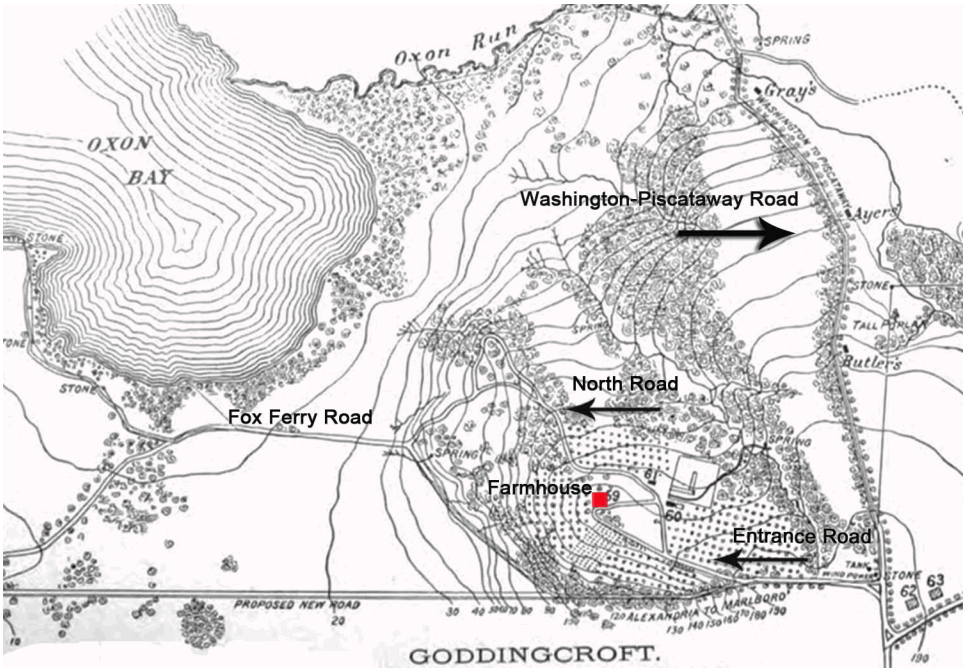
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Parking lots

Feature Identification Number: 149735

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**




*1895 map showing historic circulation pattern (GHI 1898 annual report).*

### Land Use

HISTORIC
Documentation of land use at Oxon Hill begins in the nineteenth century, but the site may have been farmed or used for livestock during the eighteenth century when the property was part of the Addison family plantation. Nineteenth century records indicate the land was consistently in agricultural use, although there were periods when the land lay fallow. Raising livestock and produce at the site continued until the 1960s when St. Elizabeths Hospital ceased its farm operations and the property was transferred to the National Park Service.

CURRENT
The agricultural use of the property has continued, though on a limited basis, since the National Park Service acquired the property in the 1960s. The farm grows a few crops, including tomatoes, beans, herbs and squash in a small area east of the farm house. Several farm animals live on-site, including hogs, ducks, rabbits, goats and horses. Though Oxon Hill Farm primarily serves as a place for children to learn about agriculture and farm life, trails for walking and bicycling have added a recreational use to the site.

The National Register nomination best describes the current land use at Oxon Hill Farm. "Existing fields and open spaces reflect patterns of land use during the St. Elizabeths period and earlier. In the most intact areas, the pattern of field and farm lane retains most aspects of its historic character. In the most extreme case, where fields have become a landfill, the fields are gone but there is a continuation of the historic pattern of open space defined by edges that remain in their historic locations" (NR 2003, 1).

Analysis
Although the agricultural production area is small and many of the fields are uncultivated, the land continues to be used for farming and this land use contributes to the historic character of the landscape.

### Spatial Organization

HISTORIC
Topographic features, property lines, roads and the location of the farm house determined much of the spatial organization of the farm. Documentation of the site prior to the 1860s is limited, so it is difficult to determine which features pre-date the known records of the site (NR 2003, 1; PG:76A-13). The hill-top farm house served as the site's focal point and historic maps and photographs reveal the farm buildings arranged in a linear fashion to the east of the residence or on the downward slope of the hill to the northeast of the house.

The maps also document cultivated fields, woods and orchards to the northwest, northeast and southwest of the farm house.

CURRENT
The present day configuration of the farm is similar to its historic organization. Although some of the historic structures are no longer extant, and others have been added since the period of

significance, they are arranged in a fashion consistent with the historic organization of the farm. Agricultural fields and two of the orchards also remain in their historic configuration, though they are only minimally cultivated.

ANALYSIS
Oxon Cove Farm retains integrity of spatial organization despite modern day additions and the loss of some historic structures. The field patterns and historic layout of the farm buildings and residence contribute to the historic character of the site.

### Archeological Sites

Several studies conducted in recent years by the National Park Service, or by cultural resource firms in conjunction with highway construction or other projects, have determined that portions of Oxon Hill Farm have potential for both prehistoric and historic artifacts. According to a 2006 study undertaken as part of a PEPCO project along its right-of-way, previous archeological surveys at the park found both prehistoric and historic artifacts located in an area designated as the “east field.” The area is a registered archeological site (18-PR-621). The artifacts found included “windowpane glass, brick, whiteware, and twentieth-century debris representing typical field trash. The prehistoric assemblage was characterized as a lithic scatter” (Grubb, 12). Due to landfill operations along the cove, there is little likelihood of prehistoric artifacts in that section of the park, but there is potential for both prehistoric and historic archeological resources near the farm structures (Grubb, 2-3).

The 2006 study also noted another seventeen archeological sites located near the park that mostly date to the Late Woodland Period (1,000 AD to circa 1,600 AD (Grubb, 12). The report goes on to state, “Based on known prehistoric resources in the surrounding region, it appears that prehistoric human occupation in the area extended from possible Paleo-Indian times through the Late Woodland Period. The earliest historic period occupation of the area dates from possibly the late seventeenth century” (Grubb, 17). In 1991, John Milner Associates conducted a phase 1a archeological survey as part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge reconstruction project and identified the upland areas of the farm as a “high-probability area for containing prehistoric resources. In addition, historic archeological resources associated with the Mount Welby house and its outbuildings were considered likely to be preserved” (HRS, 15).

Identification of contributing and non-contributing archeological sites is outside the scope of the CLI, but the previous studies mentioned indicate the potential for contributing resources within the project area. The park has requested funding for an archeological survey to determine the location of the slaves' quarters and slave cemetery.

### Buildings and Structures

Historic

Many of the buildings and structures at Oxon Hill Farm date to the historic period. They include: the farm house (Mount Welby), root cellar, horse and pony barn, hay barn, feed building, brick stable, silo, running shed, pump house, water tank, hexagonal outbuilding, spring, hog pen incinerator remains, bull pen, hog shed foundations, and foundation ruins to the rear of

the stable and tool shed.

NOTE: the National Register nomination and the List of Classified Structures provide much of the descriptive information on the contributing and non-contributing buildings. Additional information and descriptions were gathered from the 1993 historic resources study completed by R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates. If there is a discrepancy in the building dates, the differing dates are listed along with the source.

Also note, in this section the historic and current conditions assessments of the buildings are paired together.

FARMHOUSE (historically known as Mount Welby or Godding Croft) 1797-1805 (LCS) c. 1800 (NR) 1807 or 1800-1815 (HRS)
The farmhouse is a rectangular, two-story, three-bay brick masonry building with a brick foundation and a shed roof. The building's primary elevation faces south. Two building periods are represented in the structure's fabric: the initial construction in the early 19th century and a renovation in the late 19th century. This later renovation established the dwelling's simplified Italianate architectural style. The brick walls are painted white. There are two hip-roofed porches, spanning both the north and south elevations.

The south elevation is coursed in Flemish bond from the foundation to the second floor window lintels. Above the second-floor window lintels, the brick is coursed in 3:1 common bond. Two six-over-nine-light, wooden, double-hung sash window units and a central entry define the fenestration of the facade. The windows have wood lintels and sills. The recessed walls of the main entrance doorway have three plain board panels. Above the doorway is a recessed two-light transom. Three window bays occupy the second-floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung sash units with crown-molded lintels and wooden sills. There are hinges extant on the window frames, but no blind or shutter units remain. The brick wall bulges out above the second-floor windows, but returns to the perpendicular at the building's corbeled brick cornice. The cornice is supported by projecting tiers of stepped-brick corbels.

A one-story porch, covered by a hipped roof sheathed in standing-seam metal, spans the facade. This roof has a molded cornice and plain frieze, and is supported by rectangular, chamfered pillars that originally featured scrolled brackets, though these have been removed. A balustrade with rectangular balusters connects the pillars. The porch floor is composed of narrow tongue-in-groove boards and rests on a wooden sill supported on brick piers. A five-tread stair leads to the porch.

The west elevation features Flemish bond coursing to the lintels of the first-floor windows. Above these windows, the wall continues in a 3:1 common-bond coursing. A single three-light, wood-sash hopper window unit in the foundation provides light to the basement. Window units define the two-bay fenestration of the west elevation. Each unit of the first- and second-story

level is a four-over-four-light, wood, double-hung sash. The window bays are situated between a pair of interior brick chimneys incorporated within the fabric of the wall. The chimneys have corbeled crowns.

The north, or rear, elevation of the farmhouse features brick coursed solely in 3:1 common bond. The northward slope of the farmhouse site partially exposes the building's basement level, in which are three pairs of eight-light wood-sash casement windows. On the first floor is a central entry and two windows. As with the south elevation, the windows are six-over-nine-light, wood, double-hung sash units with hinges but no shutters. The windows have wooden lintels and sills. The recessed entry has a thinly-beaded panel surround and a four-panel door with a square four-light transom above. Three window bays occupy the second-floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung sash units with crown-molded lintels and wooden sills. Hinges remain on the frames but there are no blinds or shutters. The cornice is made of a course of projecting brick headers. A one-story porch similar to the one on the south facade is featured on the north elevation. The scrolled brackets are non-extant and an eight-tread stair leads to this porch. The east elevation is 3:1 common bond with an exterior entrance to the basement on the north end.

Current
The major structural alterations took place during the historic period with some modifications in recent years primarily concerning the porches. Pictures from the 1950s reveal both porches may have been screened and as late as 1988 the north porch was still screened. In 1999 the porches were replaced in-kind, but the brackets were not included in this work. Restoration and repair work was currently completed on the north porch. The porch was stabilized and returned to its historic appearance.  Work on the south porch and the windows on the north and south elevations will commence in the near future.

A wooden ramp providing wheelchair access is located on the west elevation of the house and is connected to the porch on the south side of the building. Unpainted wooden lattice work is in place beneath the south porch. Shutters framed the windows during the period of significance; with the exception of the doors and windows on south porch, they are not presently found on the house.

The farmhouse has a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the farm. The current construction work will only enhance the building’s contribution to the historic character of the site.

HEXAGONAL OUTBUILDING 1890-1910 (LCS) c. 1900 (NR)
Approximately 200 feet southeast of the farmhouse is a hexagonal outbuilding. The one-story, one-bay, wood-frame outbuilding has a six-sided pyramidal roof. The structure stands on a brick foundation parged with Portland cement. The walls are clad with vertical boards and beaded battens. The roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and crowned by a finial. Entry is through the east (primary) elevation. The plain entrance door is made of vertical boards.

There are six-light metal-sash casement windows in the northwest and southwest elevations. The floor is composed of plywood with a three-inch-high baseboard.

Current
The building retains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the farm.

ROOT CELLAR 1830 (HRS) 1800-1810 (LCS)
A rectangular (approximately 13 feet by 20 feet), one-story, one-bay brick root cellar is set into the hillside northeast of the farmhouse. The south-facing gable-front root cellar is located immediately south of the North Road. Portland cement parging on the exposed north elevation foundation of the building forms a false watertable. The building has 5:1 common bond brick walls and a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam terne metal. Brick ventilation columns are located on the exterior of the north and south elevations. Single-light wooden sash hopper windows flank the ventilator column in the south elevation. The windows have two-course brick arched lintels. On the east gable-end elevation, a five-step brick stair leads between brick retaining walls to the below-grade entrance. The door is constructed of plain vertical boards, and the opening has a segmental arched lintel formed of three rows of brick voussoirs.

Current
A small section of the ventilator column on the north side of the building has new brick that is a color incompatible with the historic material. This is a minor alteration and does not detract from the historic character or the root cellar’s integrity.

HORSE AND PONY BARN 1890 (NR)
The horse and pony barn is a rectangular, one-and-one-half story, one-bay, wood-frame building with a gable roof. A poured concrete sill supports walls clad with vertical board and batten. The pitched roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and a circular metal vent rises from the roof ridge near the west gable end. Entrance is through an open doorway in the east gable-end elevation. Some elevations have open window ports with vertical board shutters; there are three each in the north and south elevations, and one in the east and west elevations. A rectangular entrance in the east end leads to the building's half-story.

Current
The building is in very poor condition. The foundation is failing on both the north and south elevations and the wood is deteriorating. The building is in need of repair and stabilization.

HAY BARN 1940-45 (LCS) c. 1940 (HRS & NR)
The hay barn is a long, rectangular, one-story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with a gable roof. Its wooden sill is supported by brick piers along the north elevation, while along the south elevation it rests directly on the ground. The walls are clad with vertical board-and-batten and the roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Central entries, equipped with vertical-board sliding-track doors, are located in the north and south eave elevations. The building has no

windows.

Current
The building retains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the farm.

FEED BUILDING c. 1890 both LCS & NR
The feed building is located north of the hay barn. It is a rectangular one-and-one-half story four-bay building of wood frame construction with a gable roof. The wood sill rests on concrete piers. The exterior walls reflect the different uses of the interior space: the walls of the eastern third of the building are clad with vertical board-and-batten, while the walls of the western two-thirds are covered with spaced vertical boards. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Two entry doors are located in the south (eave) elevation. The doors are of vertical boards and have plain surrounds. The east entry is flanked by two fifteen-light metal-sash casement windows.

Current
It is unclear when windows were added to the south and east elevations. They are not present in historic photographs, but may have been added during the period of significance. Several panes are broken in the windows on the south elevation. The building retains integrity and contributes to the historic character of the landscape.

BRICK STABLE 1800 (NR)
The brick stable is a rectangular, two-story, three-bay brick building with a gable roof. The brick walls are constructed of 3:1 common bond coursing; the gables have pierced ventilation holes arranged in a diamond pattern. Both gable ends have random glazed brick headers. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Original fenestration openings have brick jack-arch lintels. The main entrance in the south elevation has a vertical board-and-batten sliding track door that post-dates the building's original construction. Single entries infilled with brick are located on either side of the current primary entrance. Two open window bays with vertical board shutters have been added to the primary elevation west of the main entrance. The fenestration of the second story is an open loft entry flanked by window openings, all surmounted by brick jack-arched lintels. A single doorway with a brick jack-arched lintel and a vertical-board door is situated in the west gable-end elevation. There is one remaining opening in the north elevation, a centered window at the second-story level. At the first-floor level are five window openings, now filled with brick. The east elevation has five original window openings symmetrically spaced within the first-floor level. These openings have brick jack-arch lintels, beaded wooden frames, and vertical board shutters.

Current
The building retains integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site. It is in need of some routine maintenance, such as painting, and the park has requested funding to repoint the masonry and stabilize the structure. This work includes repairing and replacing rafters and floor

joists.

SILO 1940-1945 (LCS) c. 1940 (HRS & NR)
The silo is a three-story, 16' diameter building constructed of glazed ceramic tile. Its conical roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Two exterior wall chutes made of glazed ceramic tile face southwest and northwest, and terminate in shed-roofed dormers sheathed with pressed metal. The wall chutes extend the height of the silo.

Current
The silo has integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site. The park has requested funding to repair damaged masonry and terra cotta tiles, among other work.

RUNNING SHED (also referred to as the barn/utility shed) 1890 (LCS) 1900(NR)
At the bottom of the farmhouse hill, southwest of the house, is a long one-story wooden shed, open towards the east and closed at the sides and rear. This structure dates from the St. Elizabeths period and was built circa 1900. Its log and sawn timber framing is clad in board and batten siding with several door openings and a window on the south side. A small side shed is attached to the east end. Most of the structure is painted red; some gray boards may indicate repairs.

Current
Some vegetation is growing on the west elevation. Tree branches and debris are also found on the roof. The structure is in need of painting. Despite these factors, the building retains integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site.

PUMP HOUSE 1890-1910 (LCS) early 20th century (NR)
Located in the bottom of the ravine north of the farmhouse, the pump house is a rectangular common-bond brick building measuring approximately eight feet by ten feet and topped with a side-gable roof covered with replacement composition shingles. Single windows are located on the east and west elevations. The entry is also located on the east elevation.

Current
The pump house currently has single pane windows replacing the six-light windows found on the building as late as 2003 when the National Register nomination was completed. Since that time a new wooden door has also been installed, replacing the hollow-core metal door. The National Register nomination refers to this door as a replacement for the historic wooden door.

WATER TANK 1945-1965 (LCS) early 20th century (NR)
Set into the hillside above the ravine to the northeast of the farmhouse is a large concrete water tank, part of the water system installed for the operation of the farm during the St. Elizabeths period. The 10,000+ gallon tank is constructed of reinforced concrete and measures approximately 22’-x-28’ and is approximately 20’ deep. It has a flat reinforced concrete slab roof with two sealed hatches. The words “Foot-1905-Willet” are carved into the hatches, but

the date is evidently falsified, as Foot and Willet worked on the farm in later years. One corner of the unused tank is broken open, and there are cracks and small holes in other parts of the visible segments of the structure.

Current
The water tank has some vegetative growth and at the time of inspection a fallen tree and other debris was found on the structure. The tank has integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site.

SPRING 1800-1839 (LCS) date indeterminate (NR)
One-third of a mile north-northeast of the main farm group is a brick-walled spring. The walls are approximately 3' in height and may be constructed of the same brick used in the construction of the root cellar, and may therefore date from around the same period, though construction may be more recent. On the hillside above the spring is a lined brick beehive vault, which traps the water and feeds it to the spring through an iron pipe.

Current
The brick-walled spring was recently covered with concrete, masking its historic material. A non-historic wooden fence surrounding the beehive vault was recently destroyed by falling tree limbs. The spring has some integrity, despite the harm done to the historic fabric by the concrete.

HOG PEN INCINERATOR REMAINS 1940-1945 (LCS) c. 1947 (NR)
These ruins were part of hog pen and slaughter facility and are located near those of two surviving hog pens from the same period. All three structures stand in the North Woods. The incinerator is composed of a concrete enclosure, with walls rising about 1 foot and two large openings on the shorter north and south ends. An integral concrete feeding trough is built into the lower part of the inside wall. The incinerator, which is attached to the south side of the enclosure, has a rectangular concrete base measuring 5'-x-10'. The structure is open in the center; the brick walls, thickly covered with an irregular coat of concrete, are canted in at the inside top, and rise about 3-1/2' to 4' high. A tall brick flue, approximately 15' high, stands at the west end. Three rails (apparently reused train tracks) span the center opening.

Current
At the time of inspection, a fallen tree and several tree limbs were resting on the structure. There is some vegetative growth on the enclosure walls. The hog pen remains has integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site.

HOG SHED FOUNDATION 1 and 2 1945-1948 (LCS) 1946 (NR)
The hog shed originally consisted of a farrowing house and thirty-six pens. The feeding platform contained troughs and a paved concrete enclosure for injecting garbage. Hog shed foundation 1 (north) is evidently the foundation and lower walls of a hog pen constructed of light reinforced concrete. The battered walls stand approximately four-feet high. The

foundation has three solid walls and one open wall, and is divided by two piers into three bays. No remains of the superstructure walls or roof are intact. Hog shed foundation 2 (south) is identical to hog shed foundation 1, and is located next to it.

Current
The hog shed foundations 1 and 2 have integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

RUINS TO THE REAR OF THE BRICK STABLE
The concrete walls and foundation ruins are located on the downward slope of the hill to the rear of the brick stable and feed shed. They likely belong to the poultry operations from the St. Elizabeths period. The foundation ruins are built into the slope of the hill and broken into two sections. They range in height from approximately a half foot to around two feet high and (length measurements to be added). The adjoining walls range in height from three to five feet. One section is approximately fifteen feet in length and the other is (measurements to be added).

Current
The ruins retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

BULL PEN (c. 1940-1950) is a large rectangular enclosure located near the dairy barn. Concrete piers support iron bars on the outer enclosure and the interior pen used to hold the animal.

Current
The bull pen retains integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

NON-EXTANT HISTORIC STRUCTURES
Several buildings from the period of significance have been torn down or were destroyed by fire. The non-extant buildings include several barns; among them a bull barn, hay barn and a dairy barn. Other non-extant buildings include a loafing shed, patient cottages, two chicken houses, and contact station. At this time little information has been uncovered on a number of the historic structures.

The non-extant barns were either destroyed by fire or removed by the park service. The dairy barn was located on the site of the present day dairy barn. The wood frame structure consisted of a long central core with wings at its north and south elevations. The dairy barn was demolished after the National Park Service acquired the property. An adjacent building referred to as the loafing shed on a 1971 map (DSC 851/84215) appears in photographs through the mid-1970s and presumably part of the dairy operation. It was a large wood frame, rectangular building with a gable roof and four gabled dormer windows. What may be sliding panels for ventilation are found on both the east and west elevations. The feature is unclear in photographs. The hay barn was destroyed by fire in the 1940s and the bull barn was also destroyed by fire in the 1950s.

St. Elizabeths era maps from the 1890s document two patient cottages located near the farm entrance and across the Washington-Piscataway Road. It is not known how many patients they housed, how they were constructed and when they were removed. Maps also indicate a house located northeast of the farmhouse along the North Road. It is unclear when this building was removed and no other information is available at this time.

The contact station, a brick and cement, one-story, single room building with a flat roof was torn down in 1977. The building was located to the south of the hay barn and near the site of the present day visitor barn.

The chicken house was a long, wood frame structure with a gable roof and multiple bays that included three six-over-six sash windows and an open entry. It is unclear from historic photographs if a cross-gable section of the building with single windows on either side of the entry was located at the center of the building. This building was no longer standing by the early 1970s. The other chicken house, a small structure located on the site of the present day chicken house (1991), was destroyed by fire in 1984.

NON-CONTRIBUTING
There are a number of storage sheds, shelters and livestock related structures found in the fenced-in animal enclosures. These include a rectangular, wood frame, shed roof structure located in the horse pasture; an approximately two-foot tall by four-feet wide wooden shelter with a metal shed roof in the chicken yard; an approximately six-foot tall shed with a modified gambrel roof located adjacent to the duck pond; and a vertical board shed with a gable roof is located below the slope of the hill to the north of the brick stable.

The farm has multiple non-contributing buildings. These include the hog house, chicken house, the Story of Grain building, farm museum building, goat sheds, visitor barn, windmill, tool shed, comfort station, sorghum syrup shed, dairy barn, rabbit shed, horse barns, the generator building, maintenance dwelling and its associated outbuildings.

The farm museum building (1970) is a long, wood frame rectangular building with a slight gable roof. Double wood doors are located on the east elevation.

The windmill is a c. 1970 structure located northeast of the visitor barn. It is “composed of four metal stanchions with metal cross-braces. The stanchions rest on a poured concrete platform and support the metal windmill machinery that powers a pump at ground level” (NR 2003, 12).

The tool shed (c. 1970) is located to the north, or rear, of the brick barn. It is a wood frame, rectangular, one-story, eight-bay building with a pressed metal shed roof. The shed has board and batten siding and is walled on its north, east and west elevations. The south elevation is open and the structure is used to display farm equipment. A small office was constructed at the east end of the building. It is also enclosed with board and batten siding and has a shed roof. A

single window is located on the south elevation.

The Story of Grain Building (1973) is a red, wood frame, single-story structure with a metal gable roof located east of the root cellar on the south side of the North Road. Originally used as a hog house, the building currently has educational displays.

The (c. 1968) sorghum syrup shed is located to the east of the central building cluster and on the north side of the entrance road. The shed is a wood-frame open structure with a corrugated metal gable roof. An approximately six-foot tall brick hearth with a chimney stack is located in the shed.

The dairy barn (c. 1976-77) was constructed for the Smithsonian's 1976 Folklife Festival and reassembled at the farm the following year. The building is a wood-frame, single story structure with vertical board and batten walls. The barn has a gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal. On the east elevation, an open shelter with a metal shed roof projects from the building and extends the length of the barn. The main entry is located on the east elevation and the others are found on the south and west sides of the building.

The generator building (c. 1979 - early 1980s) is located in the Oxon Road Field and is a single story concrete block building with a side-gable roof.

The two goat sheds are located south of the farmhouse along the entrance drive. The 1980 structure is a red, single-story, wood frame building with a shed roof. The entrance is located on the north elevation. The second goat shed is a red, single-story, wood frame structure with a gable roof and was erected between 2005 and 2006. The double-door entrance is located on the east side.

The visitor barn (1976-1977) is located along the north side of the entrance drive and south of the cluster of farm buildings. The building is a single-story, one-bay, wood frame structure with board and batten walls and a standing-seam metal gable roof. A single-story shed roof porch lines the east elevation providing shelter for the entrance. Like the dairy barn, the visitor barn was constructed in 1976 for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and reassembled at the farm.

The comfort station (1988) is located on the south side of the entrance road near the visitor barn. The single-story building has wood vertical board siding and a metal gable roof.

The chicken house (1991) is located east of the farm house between the garden and the farm museum building. It is red, one-story, wood frame building with a standing-seam metal shed roof and board-and-batten siding.

The hog house (1998) is located on the north side of the north road. The hog house is a one-story, red, wood frame building with a gable roof.

The maintenance dwelling and outbuildings (late twentieth century) are located south of the farm house along the asphalt or realigned Fox Ferry Road. The dwelling is a single story, three bay, side gable house with a one bay porch. The outbuildings include a shed and garage.

The rabbit shed (2002), located to the east of the feed building, is a small, wood frame building with a gable roof and a double door entry on the south elevation.

The two horse barns (2002, 2006) are located to the north of the farmhouse. Both buildings are rectangular, wood frame structures with slight gable roofs. Both structures have two entries on their south elevations accessing the horse stalls. The barn to the east of the site has no entry doors. The barn to the west of the site has doors commonly referred to as Dutch doors which have top and bottom sections that can be opened and closed independently.

ANALYSIS
Despite the loss of a number of historic buildings and the addition of numerous non-contributing structures, the several remaining historic buildings at Oxon Hill Farm retain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Farmhouse - Mount Welby

Feature Identification Number: 149779

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100155

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Farmhouse

LCS Structure Number: 016

Feature: Pump house

Feature Identification Number: 149789

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23444

Feature: Hexagonal outbuilding

Feature Identification Number: 149793

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23445

Feature: Horse and pony barn

Feature Identification Number: 149787

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10825

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Horse & Pony Barn

LCS Structure Number: 015-10

Feature: Hay barn

Feature Identification Number: 149799

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10821

Feature: Feed building

Feature Identification Number: 149801

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10822

Feature: Spring

Feature Identification Number: 149803

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45058

Feature: Hog pen incinerator remains

Feature Identification Number: 149805

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100159

Feature: Ruins to the rear of the brick stable

Feature Identification Number: 149807

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hog shed foundation 1 & 2

Feature Identification Number: 149809

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23443

Feature: Root Cellar

Feature Identification Number: 149815

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45050

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Root Cellar

LCS Structure Number: 015-

Feature: Water Tank

Feature Identification Number: 149819

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45082

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Water Tank

LCS Structure Number: 016-02

Feature: Brick Stable

Feature Identification Number: 149821

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10824

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Brick Stable

LCS Structure Number: 015-09

Feature: Silo

Feature Identification Number: 149823

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10818

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Silo

LCS Structure Number: 015-05

Feature: Running Shed

Feature Identification Number: 149825

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10823

LCS Structure Name: Oxon Cove Park, Barn/Utility Shed

LCS Structure Number: 015-08

Feature: Hog House

Feature Identification Number: 149827

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Story of Grain Building

Feature Identification Number: 149831

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Farm Museum building

Feature Identification Number: 149833

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Goat sheds

Feature Identification Number: 149835

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Visitor barn

Feature Identification Number: 149837

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Windmill

Feature Identification Number: 149839

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Tool shed

Feature Identification Number: 149841

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 149899

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Rabbit Shed

Feature Identification Number: 149845

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Horse Barns

Feature Identification Number: 149847

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Generator building

Feature Identification Number: 149849

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Chicken house

Feature Identification Number: 149829

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Sorghum Syrup Shed

Feature Identification Number: 149901

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Dairy Barn

Feature Identification Number: 149903

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Bull Pen

Feature Identification Number: 149909

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Modern sheds and shelters

Feature Identification Number: 149911

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View of the central farm area with the farmhouse, visitor barn, hay barn, museum, brick barn and feed building visible (CLP 2010).*



*View of the farm with loafing shed extant and prior to the construction of the visitor barn and other structures (c. 1970, NACE).*



*Top: farmhouse, south elev. cornice, brackets and shutters intact, 1897; Bottom: today. North porch renovation underway (NARA, RG 418, G-132; CLP 2011).*



*Horse and Pony Barn (CLP 2011).*

**Constructed Water Features**

HISTORIC

There is no evidence of constructed water features at the farm during the historic period.

CURRENT

Two constructed water features, the duck pond (c. 1972) and a square, concrete pool with a metal grate over the drain (c. 1971), were added after the establishment of the park. The duck pond is located on the north side of the North Road between the horse and pony barn and the hog house. The pool, referred to as the duck tank on a 1971 map (DSC 851/84215), is on the south side of the North Road in an enclosure north of the farm museum building and east of the Story of Grain Building. It measures approximately five-by-five feet and does not appear to be in use.

Analysis
The constructed water features are non-contributing, but compatible with the agricultural character of the landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Duck Pond

Feature Identification Number: 149895

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Duck Tank

Feature Identification Number: 149897

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Duck pond, located on the north side of the North Road (CLP 2011).*

# Condition

## Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 11/10/2011

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to maintain the condition to the property as good the park should complete the following:

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The Horse and Pony Barn is in need of stabilization and repair. The building is currently in poor condition.

**Type of Impact:** Impending Development

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** Continued development and highway construction in the surrounding area could lead to increases in traffic and noise pollution and impact views, vistas and the rural atmosphere of the farm.

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Invasive vegetation in the woodlands and fields is an ongoing challenge. These plants should be monitored so they do not adversely impact historic and native vegetation.

**Type of Impact:** Adjacent Lands

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** The future of the Butler property on the park's eastern border is uncertain. The site is one of the remaining undeveloped parcels in the area and would appeal to developers should the family choose to sell the land. As the farm's immediate neighbor, development

of the property is likely to have an impact on the park.

**Type of Impact:** Visitation

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The number of bicyclists passing through the farm on the way to Oxon Cove has increased recently with the expansion of area bike lanes. Visitation is likely to increase if opportunities for recreation along the cove are expanded. Though increased visitation to the farm is welcome, it has the potential to impact resources.

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The buildings are generally in good condition, but some are in need of re-painting, repair or routine maintenance, including the running shed and the dairy barn.

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

## Bibliography


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