National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2003

Revised: 9/2025



# Green Spring

Colonial National Historical Park

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# Introduction

## The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

### The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

### Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

### Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

# General Information

## Property Level and CLI Numbers

**Inventory Unit Name:** Green Spring

**Resource Classification:** Cultural Landscape

**CLI Identification Number:** 300087

**Parent Landscape:** 300087

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Park Information

**Park Name:** Colonial National Historical Park

**Alpha Code:** COLO

**Park Organization Code:** 4290

**Park District:** COLO

**Region:** Northeast

**Restricted:** Yes

**Landscape Description:**

Colonial National Historical Park (Colonial NHP) is composed of two main sites, Jamestown and Yorktown, and the 23-mile Colonial Parkway that connects them. They represent the first permanent British settlement in North America, Revolutionary War sites, and the parkway movement in the United States. Colonial NHP also contains natural and recreational resources, Civil War sites, and other prehistoric and historic artifacts.

There are several noncontiguous park properties, of which Green Spring is a primary site. Green Spring contains archeological resources of an early plantation associated with Sir William Berkeley, the royal governor of Virginia from 1641-1652 and from 1660-1677. It was supposedly the site of the first English country house built in North America, and played a role in Bacon's Rebellion (1676-1677) when it served as the de facto capital of Virginia after the burning of Jamestown. (GMP 1993: p.38).The 195.74 acre Green Spring unit is the core location of the once vast 17th century plantation of Governor Sir William Berkeley. Berkeley resided at Green Spring from 1643 until just prior to his death in 1677. During this period, he allegedly built a vast agricultural and industrial estate that continued early colonial efforts to diversify Virginia’s economy by developing various agricultural and commercial products. This estate was further developed and refined by the descendent generations of the Ludwells and the Ludwell Lees. During Berkeley’s period, Green Spring’s land holdings grew from approximately 1000 acres to 7152 acres; at its peak during the Philip Ludwell III era, the estate was 8190 acres. Some scholars believe that Green Spring was an early example of a southern plantation that would evolve to represent the antebellum south.

Today, all that remains of this once vast estate is ruins and archeological sites of the built core, archeological sites in the surrounding areas, road traces, the remnants of an apparently once-extensive ditch system, a curious mound, and site topography and natural systems. The site is enclosed on all sides by hardwood and pine forest and contains approximately 50 acres of open field in the central parts of the site. Barbed wire and wood post fencing, a few lined with Virginia Red Cedar, edge most of the fields on the west side of Route 614. Relatively level upland terraces extend through the middle of the site and are bordered by sloping swampy lands to the west and south, and off site to the east. The sites of the Berkeley/Ludwell and Ludwell Lee mansions are perched on the high ground overlooking the sloping marshy land towards the James River. The remains of constructed terraces characterize both of these sites. The Berkeley/Ludwell site contains standing brick ruins identified as the jail and the orangery. The spring that was the inspiration for the name Green Spring is enclosed by the ruins of a 19th, and possibly 18th, century brick spring house, but still flows freely from a knoll just southeast of the mansion sites. A raised road trace extending from Route 5 to the Berkeley/Ludwell mansion site crosses a portion of the Powhatan Swamp and an extensive system of drainage ditches and rills. The drainage ditches appear to be part of a larger site drainage system, portions of which are found throughout the site and on adjacent lands.

The site is currently not officially opened to the public, but the park does conduct special tours.

**Landscape Hierarchy Description:**

In Colonial National Historical Park there are four individual landscapes. They are Jamestown, Colonial Parkway, Green Spring Plantation and Yorktown. Yorktown is further divided into three component landscapes. They are the town, battlefield and cemetery.This inventory identified Green Spring as one contiguous National Register eligible landscape.

**Landscape Type:**

Historic Designed Landscape

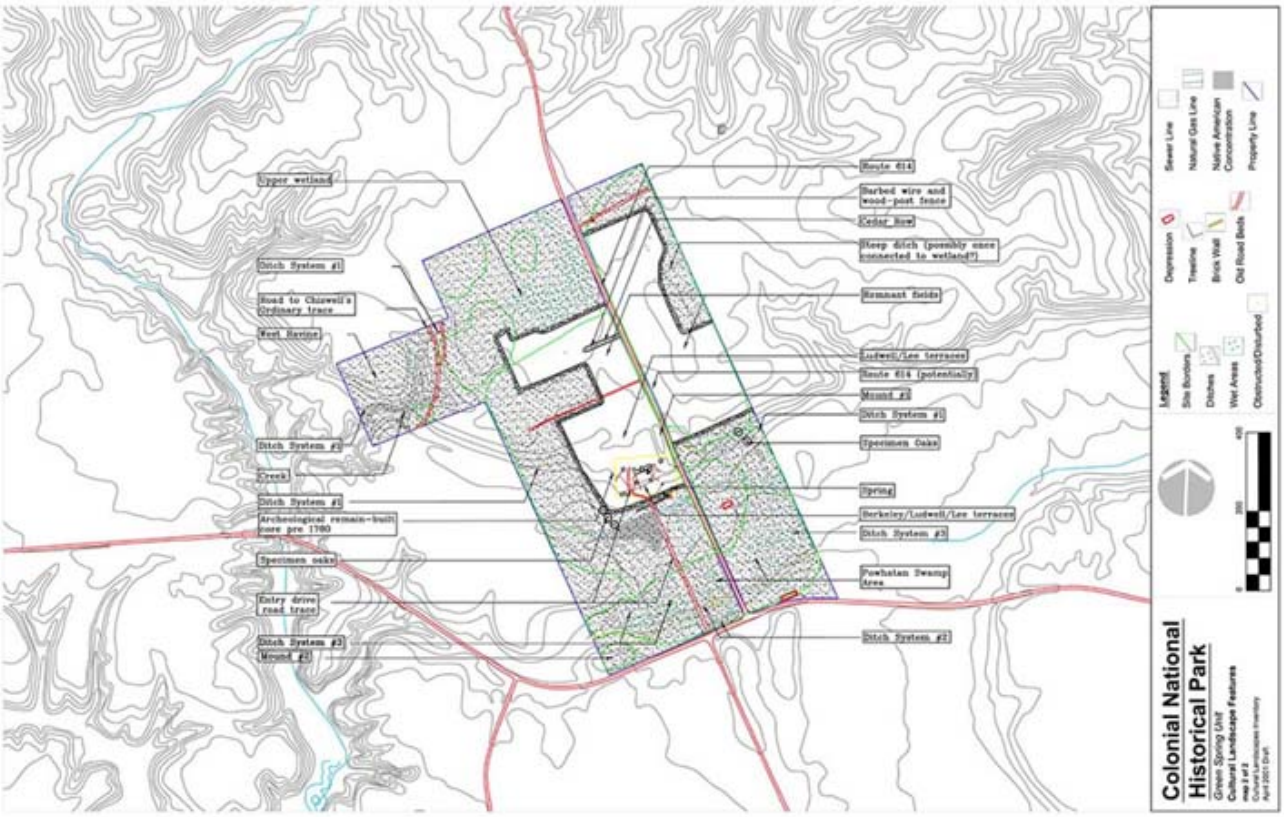
Historic Site

Historic Vernacular Landscape

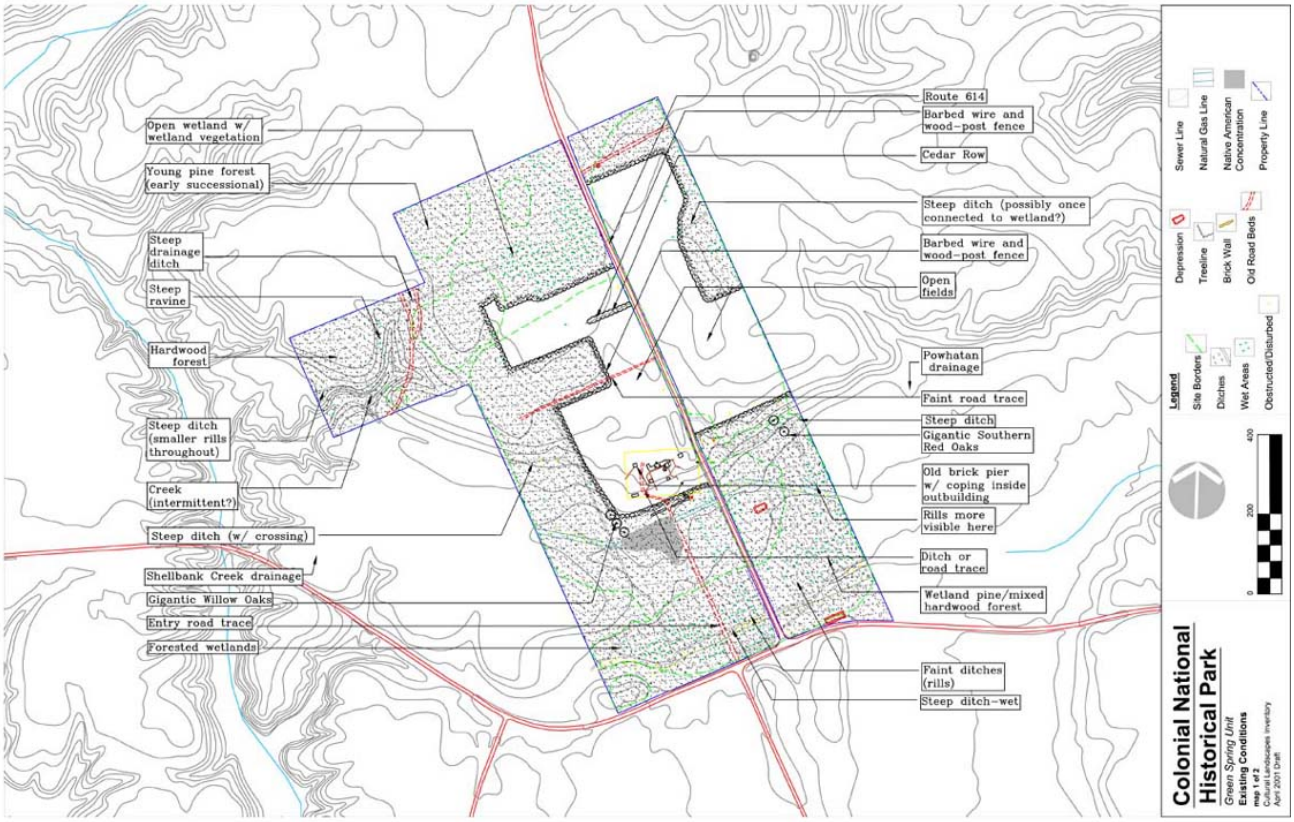
**Other Names:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Other Name:** | Green Spring | **Other Name Type:** | Current |
| **Other Name:** | Green Spring Manor | **Other Name Type:** | Historic |
| **Other Name:** | Green Spring Plantation | **Other Name Type:** | Historic |
| **Other Name:** | Green Spring Unit | **Other Name Type:** | Current |

**Site Plan**

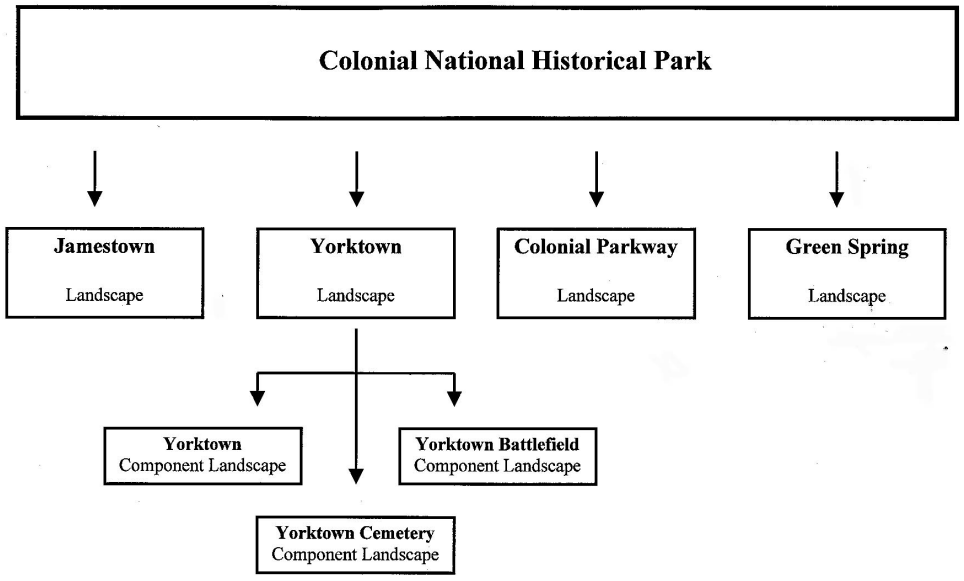



*Existing Conditions map of the Green Spring Unit in Colonial National Historical Park (See Addendum for enlargement).*




*Cultural Landscape Features map of the Green Spring Unit in Colonial National Historical Park (See Addendum for enlargement).*

**Hierarchy Description Graphic:**




# Concurrence Information

## Concurrence Status:

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

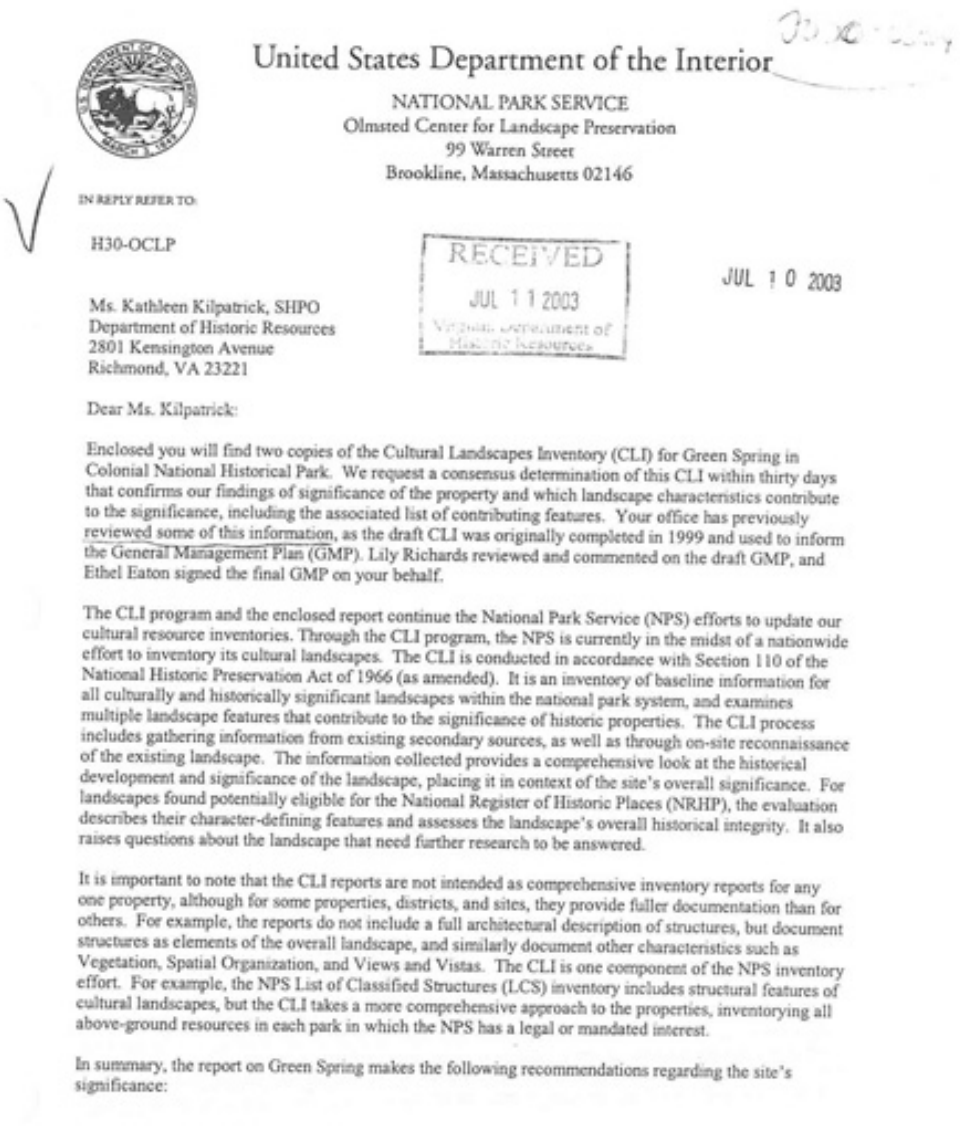
**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 08/05/2003

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

Since the preparation of this document, archeological and landscape research continued with new understandings of the seventeenth and eighteenth century landscape. In August 2002, an additional 104 acres of wetlands adjacent to the unit's eastern boundary along Route 5 were donated to the park by Green Springs Plantation, Inc. This additional acreage will be surveyed at a later date.

Collection of information for Level 0 was begun by David Sonka in Oct. 1997. This was edited and completed by Nancy J. Brown in Jan. 1999. Level II was recorded and completed by Shaun Eyring and Dorothy Geyer in Jan. 1999, and entered into the database in 2001. The park contact for the cultural landscape inventory is Karen Rehm, Chief, Cultural Resources, who can be reached at 757-898-3400.

Attachment File Path



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
99 Warren Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-OCLP

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2003
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

JUL 10 2003

Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick, SHPO
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

Enclosed you will find two copies of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Green Spring in Colonial National Historical Park. We request a consensus determination of this CLI within thirty days that confirms our findings of significance of the property and which landscape characteristics contribute to the significance, including the associated list of contributing features. Your office has previously reviewed some of this information, as the draft CLI was originally completed in 1999 and used to inform the General Management Plan (GMP). Lily Richards reviewed and commented on the draft GMP, and Ethel Eaton signed the final GMP on your behalf.

The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the National Park Service (NPS) efforts to update our cultural resource inventories. Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all culturally and historically significant landscapes within the national park system, and examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The 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. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further research to be answered.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties, districts, and sites, they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly document other characteristics such as Vegetation, Spatial Organization, and Views and Vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more comprehensive approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground resources in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

In summary, the report on Green Spring makes the following recommendations regarding the site's significance:

*SHPO concurrence letter, August 23, 2003 (3 pages).*

- that the site is significant under Criteria A, B, and D
- that certain associated landscape characteristics contribute to the significance of the property (see attached list)
- that certain associated features be considered contributing (see attached list).

If you concur with our evaluation of the Green Spring landscape resources, please sign on the space provided below, and return this letter to this office within thirty days. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Nancy J. Brown, CLI Co-Coordinator for the Northeast Region, at (215) 597-8863. Thank you for your attention to this report.

Sincerely,

for Marie Rust
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

I concur with the above-stated evaluation and contributing landscape resources of the Green Spring in Colonial National Historical Park.

Signature _____, SHPO (John E. Sprad Architectural Historian) Date 6/23/03

cc:
Alec Gould, Colonial National Historical Park Superintendent
Karen Rehm, Colonial National Historical Park, Chief, Historical Interpretation and Preservation
Nancy J. Brown, NPS Northeast Region CLI Co-Coordinator

**NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory**
**List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features**
**Green Spring, Colonial National Historical Park**
**July 8, 2003**

**Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features**

Spatial Organization
- Archeological remains – built core post 1780
- Archeological remains – built core pre 1780
- Remnant fields

Land Use
- Berkeley/Ludwell domestic core
- Ditch system #1
- Ditch system #2
- Ditch system #3
- Ludwell Lee domestic core
- Open fields

Topography
- Berkeley/Ludwell/Lee terraces
- Creeks
- Ludwell/Lee terraces
- Mound #1
- Mound #2
- Powhatan Swamp area
- Spring
- Upper wetland
- West ravine

Vegetation
- Specimen oaks

Circulation
- Chiswell's Ordinary road trace
- Entry drive road trace

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory**
**Condition Reassessment**
**2008**

Colonial National Historical Park:
Green Spring

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessment for Green Spring, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Green Spring

**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 landscape characteristics 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 condition reassessment for Green Spring is hereby approved and accepted.

P. Daniel Smith — August 27, 2008
Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park — Date

p.2 7578982421 Colonial National Histori 28 08 02:07p

*Condition reassessment form, August 27, 2008.*

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Colonial National Historical Park:
Green Spring

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Level II inventory for Green Spring including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:
Must Be Preserved and Maintained (Category A)

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 Green Spring in Colonial National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park — Date 8/5/03

*Park concurrence form (Management Category), August 3, 2003.*

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Colonial National Historical Park:
Green Spring

Colonial National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Level II inventory for Green Spring including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:
Not specified

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 Green Spring in Colonial National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park — Date 9/12/02

*Park concurrence form (Condition), September 12, 2002.*

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory**
**CLI Updates Certification Form**
**2025**

Colonial National Historical Park
Green Spring
Moore House
Nelson House
Yorktown Village

Colonial National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for Green Spring, Moore House, Nelson House, and Yorktown Village, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:
Good – Green Spring
Fair – Moore House
Fair – Nelson House
Good –Yorktown Village

**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 CLI updates for Green Spring, Moore House, Nelson House, and Yorktown Village at Colonial National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JERRI MARR Digitally signed by JERRI MARR
Date: 2025.09.30 15:36:57 -04'00'

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park Date

*Park concurrence form, September 30, 2025.*

**Revision:**

| Revised By | Type of Revision | Revision Date | Revision Narrative |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jeff Killion | Change in Condition | 08/27/2008 | Condition reassessment completed as scheduled. |
| Jeff Killion | CLI Update | 09/30/2025 | Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Green Spring CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park. |

# Geographic Information

**State and County:**

| State | County |
|---|---|
| Virginia | James City County |
| Virginia | York County |

**Size (Acres):** 196

**Land Tract Number(s)**

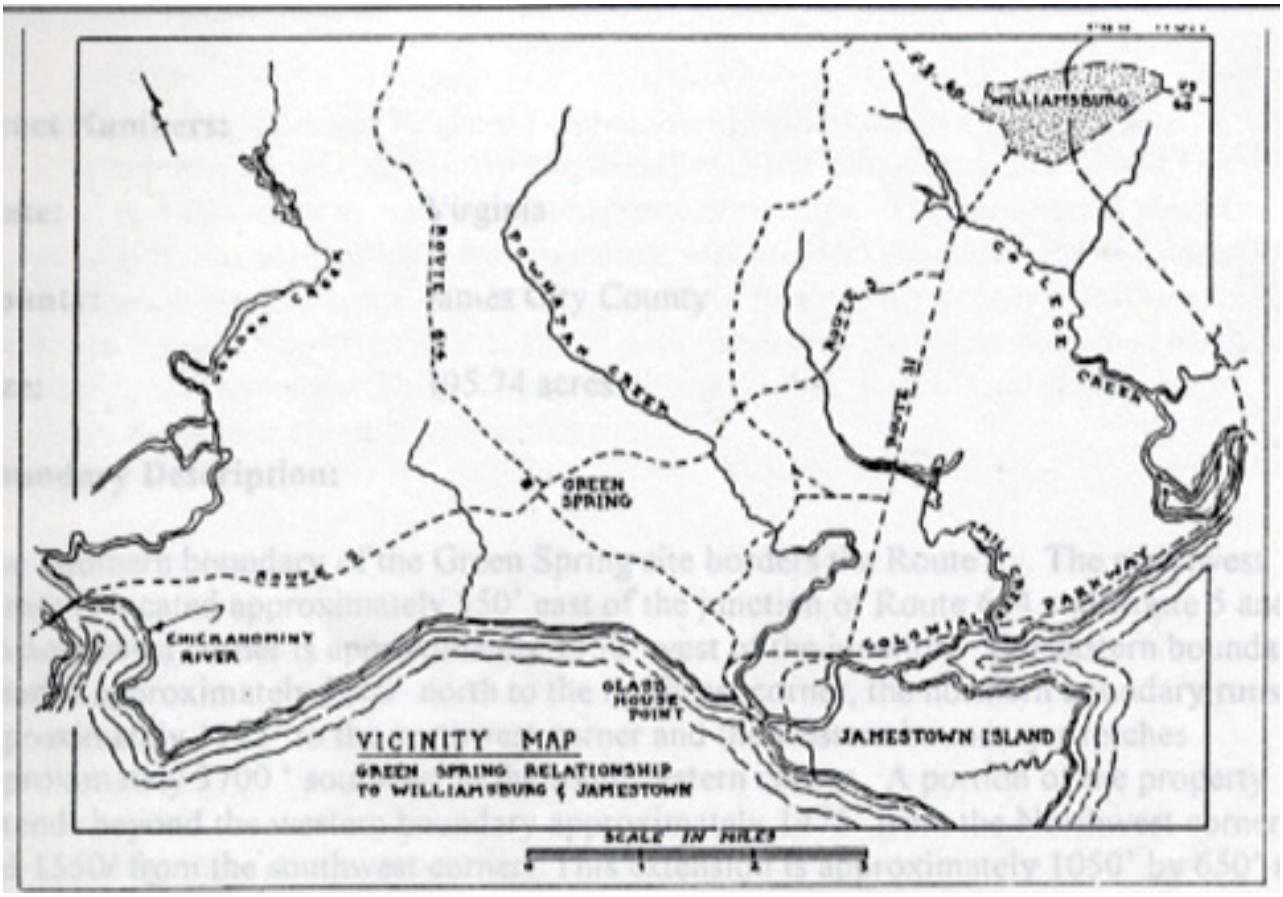
**Boundary Description:**

The Southern boundary of the Green Spring site borders Route 5 . The southwest corner is located approximately 550’ east of the junction of Route 614 and Route 5 and the southwest corner is approximately 1350’ west of the junction. The eastern boundary extends approximately 3900’ north to the northeast corner, the northern boundary runs approximately 1975’ to the northwest corner and the western boundary stretches approximately 3700’ southeast to the southwestern corner. A portion of the property extends beyond the western boundary approximately 1475’ from the Northwest corner and 1550’ from the southwest corner. This extension is approximately 1050’ by 650’ and encompasses sloping lands dissected by ravines of the Shellbank Creek watershed. Route 614 bisects the property and there is a 30’ state highway right-of-way (NRN).

**Boundary Coordinates**

| Source | Type of Point | Latitude | Longitude | Narrative |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Point | -76.8035673422671 | 37.2634598711727 | |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Point | -76.797699940616 | 37.2538150496313 | |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Point | -76.8065306247208 | 37.2506161630181 | |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Point | -76.4447498277999 | 0.373160302157121 | |

**Location Map:**




*Regional Location (from Caywood).*

**Regional Landscape Contexts:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Colonial NHP encompasses most of Jamestown Island, site of the first permanent English settlement in North America, and Yorktown, scene of the culminating battle of the American Revolution. These sites are connected by a 23-mile parkway that also links the park with Colonial Williamsburg. Some park sites are not on the parkway. They are Green Spring, Cape Henry Memorial, Swann's Point, and Tindall's Point, which also depict the settlement, battle, and natural setting of Colonial NHP. Green Spring is associated with the rich colonial and antebellum history of Tidewater Virginia. It is located between the colonial capitals of Jamestown and Williamsburg north of historic Virginia Route 5.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Colonial NHP is in the southern tidewater region of Virginia. The park is situated along a peninsula extending between the James and York rivers. Natural resources in the park's 10,221 acres include marine and freshwater wetland habitats, pine and mixed hardwood forests, open fields, rivers, ponds, coastal bluffs, and ravines. Much of the surface relief is flat, but steep topography can be found along the edges of ravines and sandstone bluffs lining tidal rivers and creeks.Green Spring is associated with the rich colonial and antebellum history of Tidewater Virginia. The Green Spring site is located in the Coastal Plain approximately one mile north of the James and east of the Chicakhominy Rivers. The core site is upland and divides the drainages of the Powhatan Creek to the east and the Shellbank creek to the west. Steep ravines bisect the west slopes and a low-lying marshy area extends along the southern third of the site. Three terraces are divided by two natural slopes.Two general soil associations are found on the site: the Peawick-Emporia- Levy association found throughout the low coastal plains and the Slagle-Emporia-Uchee association are deep, loamy upland soils.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Colonial NHP is in James City and York counties, lying on the peninsula between the James and York rivers in southeastern Virginia. Adjacent to the park are a Coast Guard training facility, rural subdivisions, two large naval bases, the cities of Williamsburg and Newport News, and the village of Yorktown.Green Spring is located in James City County west of Williamsburg and east of the current capital of Richmond.

# Management Information

**General Management Information**

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

**Management Category Date:** 08/05/2003

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Acquisition of the site of Governor Berkeley's mansion and homestead, Green Spring, was authorized under the Act of June 5,
1936 (Public Law No. 666, 74th Congress: 49 Stat. 1483). The NPS did not purchase the site until 1966, with an infusion of funding from the agency's Mission 66 program. An additional 5.74 acres was added in 1978, making the total NPS-owned acreage 195.74.

The purpose of Green Spring is based on interpretation of the vague language in the legislation authorizing Green Spring and current scholarship on Green Spring's significance. Further research and scholarship may reveal new insights and a need to reexamine these statements in the future. The GMP team developed the following statement of purpose:
"The purpose of Green Spring is to preserve the resources associated with the plantation developed by Governor Sir William Berkeley, the most renowned and controversial colonial governor of 17th century Virginia, and to interpret the expansion of British settlement beyond Jamestown and its impacts on agriculture and the people of Virginia." (GMP, March 2003: 4-5)

**Management Agreements:**

**Legal Interests:**

**Located in managed wilderness?:** Unknown

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Narrative:**

The historic Green Spring plantation extended along Gordon's Creek, the Powhatan Creek and approximately along the current alignment of Route 5. Ludwell lands contiguous with Green Spring included part of the Governor's Land and extended southeast to the James River includes thousands of acres. Numerous archeological resources have been found in this area including drainage ditches and embankments and house sites. The Governors Land Archeological District abuts Green Spring to the southeast.

# National Register Information

## National Register of Historic Places

**Documentation Status:** Entered Inadequately Documented

**Documentation Narrative Description:**

Further documentation is needed to adequately cover new archeological and landscape information that has been gained since the original documentation was completed.

**Eligibility:** Eligible - SHPO/THPO Consensus Determination

**Concurrence Eligibility Date:** 08/23/2003

**Concurrence Narrative:**

The Green Spring National Register documentation identified and documented as contributing then known site features associated with the Berkeley, Ludwell and Ludwell Lee core domestic sites as well as known pre-historic sites. The documentation identified a period of significance that includes prehistory, and the Berkeley through the Ludwell Lee eras. Although the landscape as a whole appears to retain low integrity, surviving landscape features known to be associated with those eras should be described on future nomination amendments. These include drainage ditches, agricultural field patterns, natural systems, and circulation features.

**Significance Level:** National

**Contributing:** Individual

**Classification:** Site

**Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:**

The period of significance for Green Spring extends from the time Governor Sir William Berkeley received a grant containing Green Spring in 1643 to 1803 when the Lee family slaves at Green Spring were given their manumission papers and resettled to the Hot Water Tract.

Green Spring is nationally significant for its association with Governor Sir William Berkeley, royal governor of Virginia from 1641 to 1652 and from 1660-1677. Berkeley was a critical figure in the early establishment of representative government, American Indian policies, foreign trade and American law. The Green Spring property is the core portion of his Virginia estate and primary residence. The property may also be nationally significant for its role in Bacon's rebellion in 1676. It was at Green Spring that Nathaniel Bacon drafted his protest against Governor Berkeley. Several trials of the rebels were held at Green Spring, and at least three men were executed on the property. Archeological investigations in the 1920s and 1950s revealed the foundations of the original manor and a pottery built during Berkeley's time, as well as associated artifacts.

However, the above ground ruins and much of the archeological resources found so far date to the Ludwell-Lee family period of ownership, which may be of state significance. Berkeley's widow, Lady Frances, married Philip Ludwell I in 1680. During this time period, Green Spring was transformed into an 18th century showplace. Slave labor was vital to the success of the plantation. Archeological evidence of an ornate landscape with brick serpentine walls and brick support buildings, such as an orangery, were located. Drainage ditches, road traces and landscaped terraces still exist. Together these reveal important information about one of the earliest Virginia plantations that foreshadowed the vast self-contained plantation communities that came to typify the antebellum south. From these landscape features and archeological evidence, its evolution from a mid-seventeenth century plantation characterized by diverse experiments in agriculture and industry through the early nineteenth century plantation of overseers, large slave holdings, quarter systems, and exhausted fields may be understood. Additional archeological investigations and research may reveal that the archeological sites and ruins of the central domestic core represent the stylistic evolution of architecture and landscape architecture in the colonial and antebellum south and increase its level of significance from state to national for this context.

During the American Revolution, Green Spring served as the headquarters for General Lafayette during the Battle of Green Spring, which occurred less than two miles away in 1781. In 1803, William Lee freed the Green Spring slaves in his will and provided for their relocation to the Hot Water, a few miles north of the site. It is one of the earliest freedman holdings in Virginia.

**National Register Significance Criteria:**

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

Significance Criteria B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criteria D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

**National Register Criteria Consideration:**

**National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):**

**Time Period:** CE 1643 - CE 1803

| Historic Context Theme | Subtheme | Facet | Other Facet |
|---|---|---|---|
| Creating Social Institutions and Movements | Ways of Life | Slavery And Plantation Life | |
| Developing the American Economy | Agriculture | Plantation Agriculture | |
| Expressing Cultural Values | Architecture | Colonial (1600-1730) | |
| Expressing Cultural Values | Landscape Architecture | Colonial Traditions In The New World | |
| Peopling Places | Colonial Exploration and Settlement | English Exploration And Settlement | |
| Shaping the Political Landscape | The American Revolution | War in the South | |

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Archeology

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** Historic-Aboriginal

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Politics - Government

**Area of Significance Subcategory:**

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Architecture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:**

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Landscape Architecture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:**

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Agriculture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:**

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Archeology

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** Prehistoric

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**NRIS Information:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **NRIS Name:** | Colonial National Historical Park |
| **NRIS ID:** | 66000839 |
| **Primary Certification Date:** | 10/15/1966 |
| **NRIS Name:** | Green Spring |
| **NRIS ID:** | 78000261 |
| **Primary Certification Date:** | 12/29/1978 |

**State Register Documentation:**

**National Historic Landmarks:**

**Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:**

**World Heritage Site:**

**Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape:** No

# Chronology and Physical History

**Chronology:**

| Year | Event | Major Event Narrative |
|---|---|---|
| CE 1607 | Settled | Captain Christopher Newport and three small vessels arrive in Virginia. Colonists settle in marsh-rimmed peninsula and build triangular fort at Jamestown (McCartney: 7). |
| CE 1610 | Developed | Sir Thomas Gates arrives. Finds small number of colonists “famished to point of death.” (McCarney: 8). |
| CE 1611 | Developed | Sir Thomas Dale assumes leadership of colony and imposes martial law. |
| CE 1619 | Developed | Virginia Company’s third charter includes provisions making private land ownership possible. Special tracts laid out in each of colony’s four corporations. Acreage to be used for profit and for government officials (McCartney: 8). |
| CE 1619 | Platted | Within corporation of James City County, 3000 acre tract in Pasbehay set aside for use of Virginia’s governor (McCartney: 8). |
| CE 1622 | Destroyed | Third of colonists lose lives in major attack on plantations along James River (McCartney: 9). |
| CE 1641 | Established | Sir William Berkeley, English gentleman lawyer and playwright knighted by Charles I, appointed Governor of Virginia (McCartney: 11). |
| CE 1643 | Established | Virginia’s General Court allocated 984 acres to Governor Berkeley named Green Spring on the basis of headrights (McCartney: 12). |
| CE 1643 - 1645 | Built | Work on Berkeley’s west-facing brick house moving forward. Berkeley developing acreage into manor plantation (McCartney: 14). |
| CE 1646 | Settled | Treaty signed with Indians who ceded to the colonists the James-York peninsula inland and land on the lower side of the James River, south to the Blackwater (McCartney: 12). |
| CE 1649 | Cultivated | Contemporary writer notes that Berkeley growing rice and had orchard of 1500 fruit trees (McCartney: 16). |
| CE 1652 | Developed | Berkeley retires to Green Spring after surrendering the colony to a Parliamentary fleet that sailed into Hampton Roads during Cromwell’s rule. Here he channels energies into agricultural experimentation (McCartney: 17). |
| CE 1652 | Purchased/Sold | Berkeley repatents Green Spring tract, adding 1000 acres purchased from Robert Wetherill to the 1090 acres for a total of 2090 acres (McCartney: 18-19). |
| CE 1652 - 1677 | Cultivated | While living at Green Spring, Berkeley was thought to have experimented with trials of potash, hemp, silk, glassmaking, pottery and other products in an attempt to promote Virginia’s potential for manufacturing (McCartney: 19). |
| CE 1652 - 1677 | Developed | Berkeley sends black walnut lumber to London and indicates that he makes wine from grapes cultivated at Green Spring (McCartney: 20). |

| Year | Event | Major Event Narrative |
|---|---|---|
| CE 1670 | Developed | Augustine Herrmann prepares map of Virginia and Maryland and identifies location of Green Spring (McCartney: 21). |
| CE 1677 | Damaged | Bacon's Rebellion takes toll on Green Spring. Plantation plundered in Berkeley's absence. Several of Bacon's followers held in outbuilding (known as the Jail) and put on trial. At least 3 men were executed there (McCartney: 30-31). |
| CE 1677 | Moved | Governor Berkeley departs for England and dies there a short time later (McCartney: 35-36). |
| CE 1678 | Developed | Lady Frances Berkeley primary heir to Green Spring. Spends 300 pounds sterling on house to make it habitable. May have constructed new L–shaped addition that faced southeast (McCartney: 37). |
| CE 1680 | Moved | Lady Berkeley marries Secretary of Colony Philip Ludwell I and moves to his home at Rich Neck. Green Spring enters Ludwell family (McCartney: 44). |
| CE 1682 - 1684 | Land Transfer | Ludwells lease Green Spring to Royal Governor Thomas Lord Culpeper and Francis Howard, Lord Effingham. Deaths of Francis Howard's wife and servants attributed to unhealthful conditions surrounding the plantation (McCartney: 38-39). |
| CE 1683 | Developed | John Soane, James City County's official surveyor, maps Governor's Land tract, defining subdivided parcels. Included is a sketch of the Green Spring mansion with boundary ditches separating Green Spring clearly demarcated (McCartney: 11). |
| CE 1690 | Moved | Lady Berkeley dies; Philip Ludwell I retires permanently to England (McCartney: 44-45). |
| CE 1693 - 1694 | Moved | Philip Ludwell II, heir to Green Spring, moves family from Rich Neck to Green Spring (McCartney: 45). |
| CE 1712 | Purchased/Sold | Ludwell obtains lease for 102 acres of Governor's land, a plot straddling the road from Jamestown to Green Spring (forerunner of Route 614) fronting the James River (McCartney: ). |
| CE 1716 | Eroded | Observations that the James River was rapidly encroaching on the Governor's Land was noted (McCartney: ). |
| CE 1716 | Retained | In defending his acreage to Governor Alexander Spotswood, Virginia's head of state, Green Spring's boundary was described as the low-lying ground of Powhatan Swamp (McCartney: 41). |
| CE 1716 - 1724 | Maintained | Ludwell II took active role in managing land. Like father, put some in hands of tenants, farmed with slave labor, raised tobacco and other field crops and used part of it for pasturage (McCartney: ). |
| CE 1724 | Purchased/Sold | Ludwell II continues to acquire land, buying 90 acre tract contiguous with Edward Jaquelin (McCartney: ). |

| Year | Event | Major Event Narrative |
|---|---|---|
| CE 1727 | Land Transfer | Ludwell II dies, leaving Philip Ludwell III as primary heir. Ludwell III marries Frances Grymes and has three daughters: Hannah Phillipa, Lucy and Frances (McCartney: ). |
| CE 1746 | Purchased/Sold | Ludwell III purchases 220 acre tract abutting Checkerhouse Creek (tributary of Gordon's Creek), which may have been part of what was known by 1770 as the Pine Meadow Tract (McCartney: ). |
| CE 1752 | Land Transfer | Ludwell III is named to governor's council and later as special assistant to Robert Dinwiddie who leased him 925 acres of Governor's Land for 99 years. Although two parcels, both abutted Green Spring (McCartney: 17). |
| CE 1752 - 1767 | Farmed/Harvested | Ludwell III and his wife lived at Green Spring and took an active role in running the plantation and in cultivating a keen interest in horticulture (McCartney: 18). |
| CE 1755 - 1765 | Moved | Following the death of Ludwell III's wife, he and his daughters moved to England entrusting the care of Green Spring to farm manager, Cary Wilkinson (McCartney: 19). |
| CE 1767 | Land Transfer | Ludwell III left Green Spring, Powhatan Mill + slave that served there to eldest daughter, Hannah Philippa. Daughter Lucy got Surry Co. real estate, + Frances his properties at Rich Neck, Williamsburg + Archer's Hope (McCartney: 19). |
| CE 1767 | Platted | William Goodall prepares plats of Green Spring property indicating 4296.5 acres divided into four units: Scotland, Pine Meadows, Mill Quarter, and Green Spring (McCartney: 19). |
| CE 1768 | Land Transfer | Ludwell III's daughter, Frances dies. Estate divided between surviving daughters. (McCartney: 21). |
| CE 1768 | Moved | Hannah Philippa wed to William Lee, London merchant who traded in VA + was son of acting governor. They lived in Europe, leaving care of Green Spring to Richard Henry Lee, future signer of Declaration of Independence (McCartney: 21). |
| CE 1770 | Neglected | Richard Lee notes that gardens and orchard are productive but house in great need of repair (McCartney: 21). |
| CE 1770 - 1780 | Farmed/Harvested | Farm manager Cary Wilkinson resigns at the hands of ill-tempered William Lee. Lee hires a succession of farm managers (McCartney: 22). |
| CE 1781 | Destroyed | Battle of Green Spring has considerable impact on property. Lee loses sixty to seventy slaves and estate in a "much more ruinous condition" than before the war (McCartney: 23). |
| CE 1781 | Moved | Next morning at daybreak, two hundred British dragoons and eighty mounted infantrymen crossed Green Spring's causeway. |
| CE 1781 | Platted | French cartographer, Desandrouin, mapped area of Battle of Green Spring, indicating an L-shaped manor house, surrounded by a cluster of 13 structures, a driveway on axis with the house extending from the road to Jamestown. |

| Year | Event | Major Event Narrative |
|---|---|---|
| CE 1781 | Retained | Revolutionary War troops under the command of Lafayette stationed at Green Spring in an open field near the causeway to cover retreat of General Wayne's forces (McCartney: 22). |
| CE 1783 | Moved | William Lee plans to move family back to Green Spring, which he hoped to repair and modernize, but his wife dies and Lee takes only his son William Ludwell Lee to Green Spring (McCartney: 23). |
| CE 1785 - 1790 | Land Transfer | After Revolution, College of William and Mary was given title to Governor's Land (McCartney: 24). |
| CE 1793 | Purchased/Sold | William Lee purchases 1238 acres contiguous with Green Spring from College (McCartney: 90). |
| CE 1795 | Land Transfer | William Lee dies at Green Spring. The Green Spring property passes on to son William Ludwell Lee (McCartney: 92-93). |
| CE 1796 | Developed | Latrobe creates a water color painting illustrating the current state of the old mansion and drawings for how the old mansion could be modernized (McCartney: 94). |
| CE 1796 | Developed | William Ludwell Lee hires Benjamin Latrobe to draw up plans for a new dwelling to replace the old mansion at Green Spring (McCartney: 94). |
| CE 1797 | Demolished | William Ludwell Lee demolishes the old mansion and progresses with plans to build a new mansion (McCartney: 94). |
| CE 1798 | Purchased/Sold | William Ludwell Lee disposes of nearly half of his slaves and pays taxes on only one free white male (McCartney: 96). |
| CE 1803 | Land Transfer | Green Spring estate passes on to William Ludwell Lee's sister, Portia Lee Hodgson (McCartney: 99). |
| CE 1803 | Settled | William Ludwell Lee dies. His will frees his slaves and allows them to settle on the Hot Water Tract (McCartney: 97). |
| CE 1824 | Purchased/Sold | George Mason purchases the 2934.25 acre Green Spring tract from Portia and William Hodgson . Farm maintained but not improved (McCartney: 101-102). |
| CE 1833 | Purchased/Sold | Green Spring purchased by David I Anderson who along with business associate Robert C.A. Ward increase the value of the land by adding a saw mill (McCartney: 103). |
| CE 1843 | Land Transfer | Anderson conveys 2934.5 acre Green Spring tract to Robert C.A. Ward. |
| CE 1862 | Demolished | Union troops burn Green Spring mansion (McCartney: 107). |
| CE 1871 | Purchased/Sold | Wards sell Green Spring, described as approximately 3000 acres, to Leslie Sunderland of James City County (McCartney: 108). |
| CE 1878 - 1965 | Purchased/Sold | Green Spring is exchanged many times during this period and is owned over the years by several lumber companies. |
| CE 1928 - 1929 | Excavated | Amateur archeologist, Jesse Dimmick conducts excavations on the manor house and recorded the ruins of the William Ludwell Lee house and glasshouse (CRI: 13). |

| Year | Event | Major Event Narrative |
|---|---|---|
| CE 1930 | Platted | Arthur Shurcliffe, Landscape Architect for Colonial Williamsburg, records Green Spring site and notes the anomaly of the mound to the east. |
| CE 1954 - 1955 | Excavated | Louis Caywood, NPS archeologist, duplicates Dimmick's efforts using different techniques and puts forth new findings focusing on the original manor house (CRI: 13). |
| CE 1966 | Purchased/Sold | Approximately 180 acres of the core Green Spring estate conveyed to the federal government; approximately 1400 acres of the original Green Spring estate sold to Green Spring Land Corporation (McCartney: 115). |

**Physical History:**

**Prior to 8000 BC**

Physical History of Green Spring Landscape

The area that we know today as the Chesapeake Bay watershed looked very different during this era. The Bay as we know it did not exist but was part of the wide Coastal Plain through which narrow channels of today's Susquehanna, Potomac, Rappahannock and James Rivers wended their ways. These wide valleys slowly began to fill with water as retreating ice sheets melted to form shallow swamps and lagoons. Dense spruce, pine, hemlock, birch and alder forests sheltered and supported a vast array of animals, some of which are today extinct or no longer live in the area. These include mammoths, mastodons, short-faced bear and giant beaver, caribou, elk and bison. Animals inhabiting the area that survive to the present day include white-tailed deer, bear, beaver, turkey and a number of birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians (Grumet et al: 2-2) Recognizable evidence of the Paleo-Indian society that inhabited the region during this period is rare. It is thought that they may have been organized into small, highly mobile bands bound by ties of kinship and agreement but what this was is presently unknown. There is considerable debate over the role these peoples played in the transformation of the Chesapeake environment in the transition from predominantly softwoods to mixed hardwood forests and the disappearance of animals. Thin coatings of ash on ancient tree rings suggest that the earliest Americans practiced the kind of forest and field burning documented during the later colonial times (Grumet: 2-10).

Archeological surveys indicate the site of a prehistoric settlement of the Pasbehay Indians who may have been attracted to Green Spring because of the free-flowing waters of the natural spring (NRN).

**8000 BC - 1000 AD**

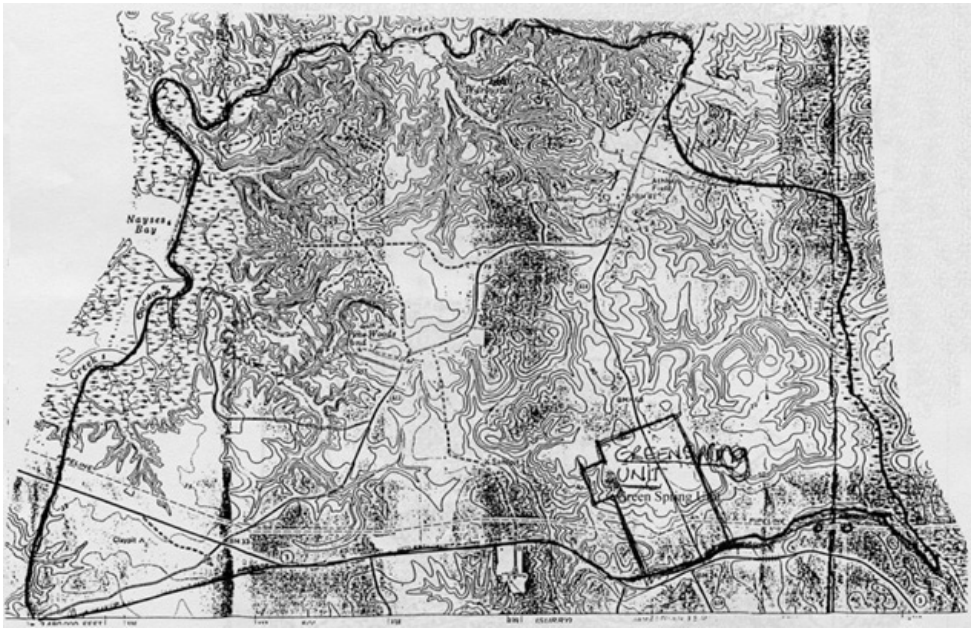
Hunting and Gathering Lifeways in Chesapeake Country

Oak and hickory forests gradually replaced Ice Age timberlands. Rising sea levels progressively flooded the continental shelf causing Chesapeake Rivers to widen considerably. The Chesapeake Bay region was becoming an important transportation and communications corridor. Sites dating to the first 2000 years of the late archaic period tend to consist of small scatters of discarded artifacts and garbage; later sites exhibit evidence of dramatically intensified food processing in the form of storage pits, shell heaps, and large hearths of fire-cracked rock used to roast, bake or steam oysters, clams and shad (Grumet: 3-5). During the Woodland Period, the first appearance of fired-clay pots is observed. Fire was the primary tool used during this era to control the environment. Evidence suggests that Chesapeake Bay peoples used fire to drive game and clear underbrush. The Use of fire to clear the first garden plots from the forest floor during the early and middle woodland periods anticipated the adoption of corn, beans, and squash at the end of the woodland period (Grumet: 3-14).

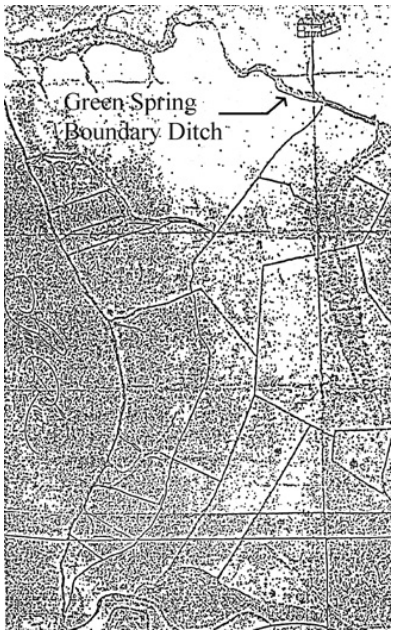
**1000 AD-1500 AD**

Rise of Townlife

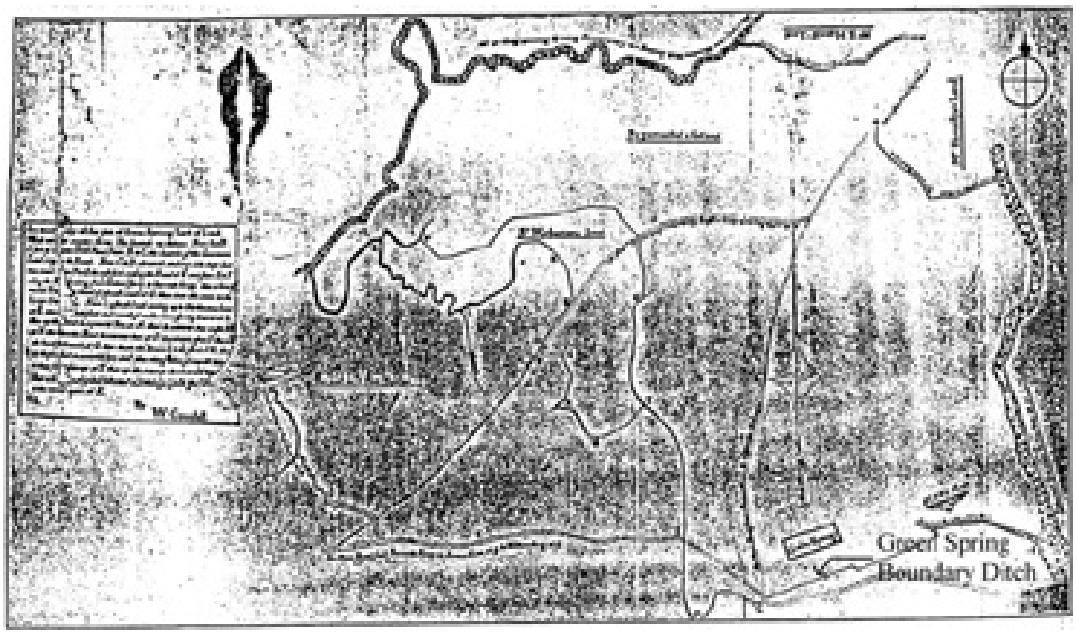
During the late Woodland period, people began congregating in increasingly bigger and more densely populated towns occupied for greater parts of the year. Sapling framed houses sheathed in bark with woven mat walls and roofs characterized most of these towns and were typically located in forest clearings throughout the region. Impacts of intensified hunting, gathering, land-clearing, and wastes produced by growing populations clearly affected the regional ecology (Grumet: 4-5,13).



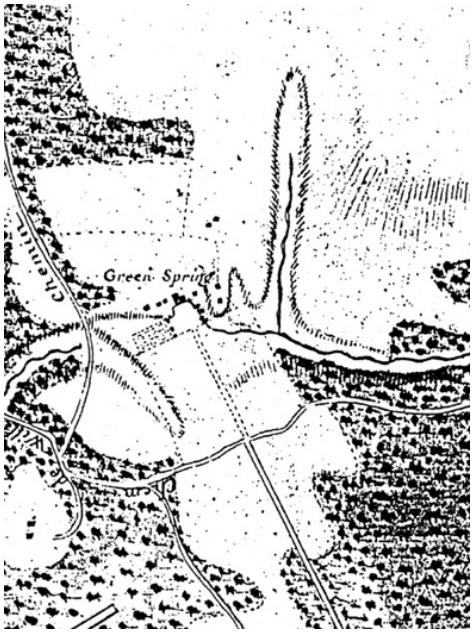

*Boundaries of Berkeley Green Spring land holdings.*



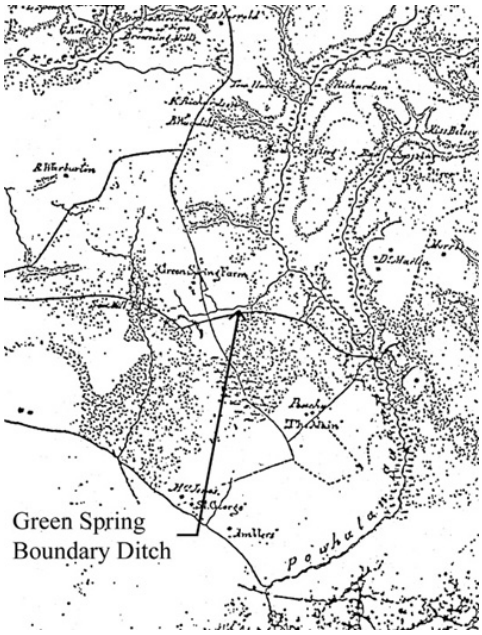

*Survey for Thomas Lord Culpeper by Soane, 1683*



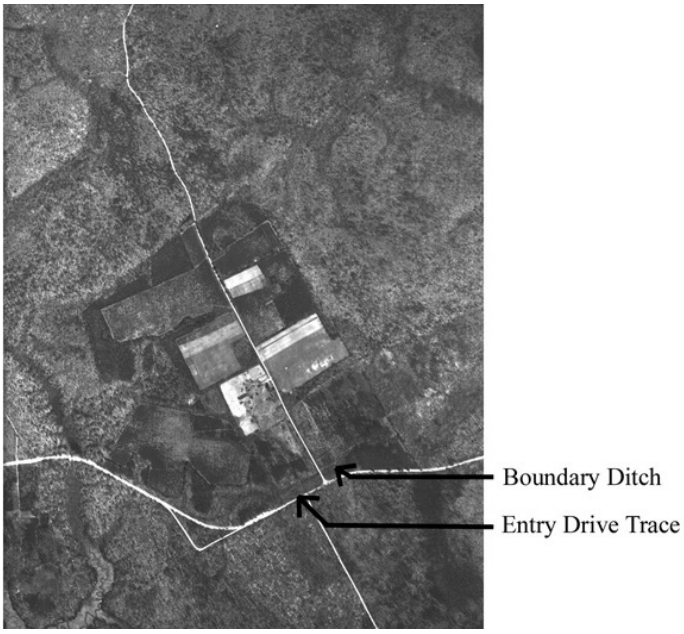

*Map of Green Spring from the Ludwell Papers, Virginia Historical Society Collection, by W. Goodall, 1770.*



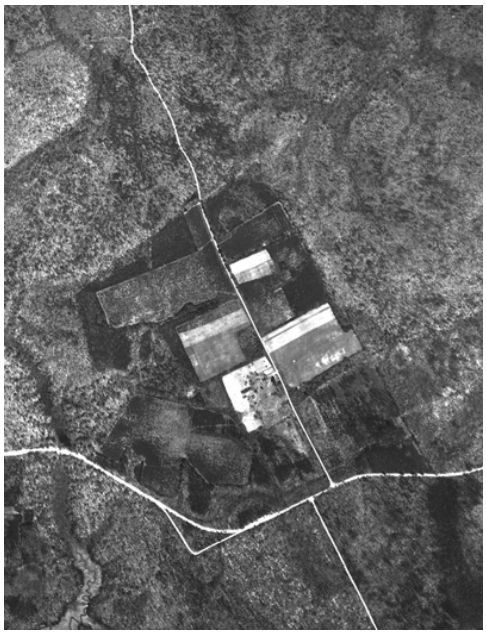

*Plan du terein a la Rive Gauche de la Riviere de James by Desandrouin, 1781.*




*Map of New Kent, Charles City, and James City Counties, Virginia by Gilmer, 1863.*




*Aerial photograph of Green Spring Unit of Colonial National Historical Park, April 17, 1937.*



*Aerial photograph of Green Spring Unit of Colonial National Historical Park, December 8, 1953.*



*Standing ruin of orangery in foreground and ruin of brick outbuilding or 'jail' in background (NPS 1998)*

**1620-1643**

The Colonial Era

The physical condition of the Green Spring tract prior to Governor Berkeley's arrival is unclear although according to historian Martha McCartney, it is likely that because of its desirable location and resources  is was previously patented by someone whose title lapsed (McCartney: 8). The existence of numerous Native American sites in the area also suggests that some manipulation of the land through clearing may have already been accomplished. Mature old growth forests covered as much as 95% of the region in 1500 and southern mixed hardwood forests grew throughout the coastal plain. As the colonies developed and more and more settlers began creating farms and plantations in the region, this coverage changed, and by some accounts as much as thirty percent of the Coastal Plains forests were cut over by 1775 (Grumet: 5-3). Colonists observed and came to accept Indian practices of clearing forests by girdling trees and planting crops in hills under the dead branches.  When the branches fell, they were burned leaving only the tree stumps (Carr: xvii) If the Green Spring tract followed this approach to land management, there may initially have been cleared, stumpy areas on upland terraces surrounded by dense areas of forests and forested wetlands.

**1643 -1677**

Governor William Berkeley

In 1643, Governor Berkeley was allocated 1090 acres of land and a 21 year lease for 70- acres on the adjacent governors tract. This property abutted the Governor's land, a 3000 acre tract that was set aside in 1619 for the support of the colony's highest ranking official. Green Spring was so named because of a "very fine" spring found near the southeasterly boundary of the property. Berkeley's Green Spring tract abutted Powhatan Swamp and was in the vicinity of an old oak named Powahatan's Tree. This, according to tradition was the tree where a piece of brass was attached to signify the peace treaty between the colony and the Powhatan chief (McCartney: 13). Berkeley lived at Green Spring from 1646 to 1677 and archeological and documentary evidence suggests that during this time he developed the property into an elaborate manor plantation. Central to his occupation of the plantation was experiments that he performed on various crops and commodities with the intention of diversifying Virginia's economy. In 1651, he acquired 5062 acres that lay between Powhatan Swamp and Jones Creek; in 1652, he repatented his 1090 acre Green Spring tract along with an additional 1000 acres that lay contiguous with the Green Spring tract. Of this land, approximately 2090 acres were contiguous with the core Green Spring site (McCartney: 17-18).

Governor Berkeley clearly considered the natural resources and lay of the land when siting and designing the structures that would ultimately form the core of his manor. In 1645, a brick house was under construction that was sited on a high crest on the property facing west towards the James River. The old manor house was likely a simple square with two medieval-type towers on the east side. The later mansion house, which appears to face southeast, consists of four ground floor rooms, a south-facing arcade, a front porch and a drainage system. There is conflicting evidence about whether the mansion was constructed during Berkeley's lifetime or whether it was added later during Philip Ludwell I era. The new south-facing addition created a strong axis from the house to the entrance drive and the road to Jamestown. A south-facing, extensively graded forecourt with a straight garden wall was later the focus of extensive renovations. New serpentine walls were constructed and enclosed the terraced forecourt that was raised 22 inches above the previous forecourt grade (Caywood). Archeological excavations by Louis Caywood in the 1950s also found a greenhouse, the site of a spring house, a plantation kitchen, and a pottery kiln all within the mansion precinct and likely dating to Governor Berkeley's tenure on the site. To the south was a large entrance court into which the main carriage road from Jamestown entered. Three buildings flanked this entry court on both the east and west although only the use of the spring house could be identified (Caywood: 8-17).

Governor Berkeley was committed to Virginia's economic potential and exploring the colony's agricultural and manufacturing diversity. By the mid-seventeenth century, tobacco was an extremely lucrative crop and Virginia was well on its way to a single crop economy with all the agricultural devastation that it produced. As governor, Berkeley was in a good position to lead through example to find different crops and products to change this course. He was known to have experimented widely with agricultural crops and products on the Green Spring plantation including rice, silk, flax, lead, pitch, tar, hemp, potash, timber, iron, glassmaking and pottery (McCartney: 17).

Experimenting with agricultural products was widely supported in the young colony and trials of various plants began in Jamestown as early as 1607. The first glassmaking attempts occurred in 1608. The most notorious colonial experiments were conducted by John Rolfe who developed a strain of sweet-smelling tobacco that eventually would control both Virginia's economy and landscape. The Sandys-Southampton administration vigorously supported the development and production of crops other than tobacco, since King James was greatly disturbed by the increasing importance of tobacco in the economic life of the Colony. Because of the abundance of wild grapes and white mulberry trees, the development of wine and silk industries were favored and the colonists began early experiments in wine making. In 1619, two acts were passed requiring householders in new colony to plant and maintain grape vines and mulberry trees. In 1621, the assembly devoted its attention to encouraging both silk and wine and the Virginia Company offered the growers first choice of newly imported servants. Although initial success was reported with both silk and wine, both

suffered greatly during the Indian massacres and after 1622 there appears to be decline in experimentation with these products for a number of years. Other agricultural experiments in the young colony included hemp, flax, oranges, cotton, potatoes, and pineapples. Garden vegetables included in the early years turnips, radishes, onions, peas, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, hyssop, lettuce, parsnips, pumpkin, thyme, leeks, garlic savory. There was also the intention noted to try almonds, anise, rice, cumin, caraway seed, ginger, madder, olives, orris, sumac, sugar cane, and rape seed. Around 1629 experiments were made in Jamestown with three crops that would later be of great importance to the southern economy: cotton, indigo and rice (Gray: 23-26).

In 1647, Governor Berkeley began carrying on further experiments in rice cultivation at Green Spring and in 1649 reported some early successes of fifteen bushels produced from a half-bushel of seed. Berkeley also reported a thriving orchard of 1500 fruit trees including apricots, peaches, mellicotons, quinces, and winter pear (Taylor: 277, McCartney: 17). In 1652, Berkeley had surrendered the governorship as a result of the beheading of King Charles I and Cromwell's takeover and retired to Greenspring and focused on his agricultural experimentation. It was during this time that Berkley acquires a substantial amount of additional land to the north and east of his original acreage. In addition to the crops mentioned above, Berkeley also experimented with grape-growing and wine making. Using the native grapes abundant on his property, Berkeley attempted to use trees as trellises, a technique that was later identified as a hindrance to success (McCartney: 20). Robert Beverly had later observed that native varieties were greatly improved by transplanting them from the woods into vineyards but noted that until recent years planters were content to use them in a wild state nor had many of them set out European varieties (Gray: 188-189). Berkeley also sent black walnut lumber.

Although to date there are no written descriptions of the appearance of the plantation during this period, the extent of experimentation suggests that a good portion of the land was clear and in cultivation. The recent archeological findings of an extensive ditch system south of the site of the main house suggest that the Governor's rice experiments may have been carried out in this area. It is also likely that the ditch system was part seventeenth and eighteenth century attempts to drain the area to create a meadow and a passable route to the manor or of twentieth century lumbering activites.

Rice, as noted earlier, was one of the commodities that early Virginia colonists planned to develop and in the first years of settlement there had been experiments in rice cultivation. In 1647, Governor Berkeley continued these experiments and in the last decade of the century, Governor Andros (of South Carolina?) attempted to promote rice culture (Gray: 277) The development of the rice industry shifted south and appears to have been lost in Virginia. There are conflicting accounts from eighteenth century writers about rice cultivation techniques, but according to historian Gray, it is likely that the very early colonists recognized the advantage of selecting tracts of moist lowland even though irrigation techniques had not been developed (Gray:279) Rice cultivation from land preparation through harvest was an extremely labor intensive production. Evidence suggests that irrigation techniques were developed in 1724 and first occurred on the inland Cypress swamps of the Carolinas. Generally, rice was irrigated with water from springs or stored in ponds formed by the construction of dams. After use, water was allowed to drain through ditches into streams. Although in later periods, elaborate irrigation systems were employed to control weeds in rice cultivation, in the earlier colonial period, usually only two flowings were utilized. It is a general belief that in the early colonial period, men could not endure the conditions of labor required by rice cultivation – working in hot, pestilential swamps, laborious processes of clearing land, digging and cleaning ditches, preparing and cultivating land, and harvesting threshing and pounding rice (Gray: 283).

In 1676, Nathaniel Bacon and his followers plundered Green Spring, home of the royal governor, and other plantations of loyalists. In 1677 Berkeley claims to the King's commissioners that Green Spring is in a ruinous condition and the he was "without a cow or a grain of corn left" (McCartney: 32). Governor Berkeley returns to England and dies there in 1677.

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**1678 -1693**

Lady Frances Berkeley and Philip Ludwell I

In 1678, Lady Berkeley restored Green Spring to a livable condition. In 1683, the Ludwell's sell some of the Green Spring acreage and in 1684 Green Spring is rented to Governors Howard and Culpeper. It is also thought that Green Spring lands may have been in the hands of tenants or sharecroppers (McCartney: 38). In 1678, Soane surveys the governor's tract and its relationship to Green Spring. Soane's drawing shows that the Green Spring mansion as an irregular, multi-part structure with an arcade on one part (McCartney: 40). It also shows Green Spring just beyond the northwest corner of the Governor's tract, with a branch of what appears to be the Powhatan Creek as its boundary. This drawing shows the creek in a more or less natural state with one segment possibly straightened (it becomes much more engineered in its appearance on later surveys). The rest of the survey indicates smaller subdivided parcels on the Governor's tract including 16 dwellings on various parcels with the names of the leasees (McCartney: 39) Natural features appear to form the Governor's tract boundaries including the James River, Deep Creek and the Powhatan Swamp with the exception of a short ditch along the Green Spring boundary connecting the headwaters of the Deep Creek with a branch of the Powhatan Creek (McCartney: 40). It also shows a faint line with a circular ending at the front of the mansion, possibly the entry access.

**1693 - 1727**

Philip Ludwell II

In 1693, Philip Ludwell II moved to Green Spring and made it his permanent home. Ludwell entertained frequently at Green Spring including William Byrd of Westover and Governor Spotswood. By 1712, Ludwell leased river-front acreage, the first time the Green Spring property bordered the James River. William Byrd makes reference to Col Ludwell's landing and sending his boat there at least once but it is unclear whether that landing was on Deep Creek or Powhatan Creek . There are few documents that show how Ludwell used the land but likely he raised tobacco and other crops, used some land for pasturage and rented out other parcels (McCarney: 46-48).

In 1714, Ludwell hires surveyor Jeffreys to lay off 170 acres bound by Checkerhouse Creek (now Gordon's Creek) and the two branches, Scotland and Titus Gut. In 1723, Jeffreys surveys a 150 acre parcel on the southwest corner of the Hot Water Dividend. Both of these parcels Ludwell apparently intended to lease to tenants.

The low-lying swampy grounds of the Powhatan Swamp were clearly good breeding ground for mosquitoes which was noted throughout the history of Green Spring. McCartney notes that in the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth centuries many people did equate Marsh land and bad air to sickness. When Philip Ludwell was obliged to defend his title to Green Spring, reference was made to the fact that both William Berkeley and Colonel Ludwell had drained some of the low-lying land along Green Spring's south-southeastern boundary (McCartney: 50). It is unclear, however, whether this land was drained to reduce the pestilence, to cultivate it, or simply to make the primary access to the site passable. It does suggest, however, if this area had been used for rice cultivation, it was converted to a drained field sometime during the Berkeley era.

Contemporary observers of the Colonial Chesapeake noted that swampy lands usually were not drained and that efforts concentrated on clearing and cultivating uplands likely because of the extreme labor required to clear and drain swamps when other lands arable were available. John Clayton complained that colonists also refused to drain swamps because resulting land would not support tobacco production (Stilgoe: 75) According to John Taylor, late eighteenth century politician and well-known author of the Arator, early colonial beliefs were that draining, clearing, and reducing to cultivation marshes, bogs, and swamps would add to the insalubrity of the air because vegetation fed upon its unpure qualities, making it purer for animal respiration (Arator: 277). These theories suggest that the extensive ditch system apparent on the Green Spring site may not have been fully developed until later in the site's history, when it became more acceptable and necessary to drain swampy lands, when labor was more available, or when available arable uplands were simply exhausted.

**1727 - 1767**

Philip Ludwell III

Philip Ludwell III inherited Green Spring from his father and he and his wife Frances lived at Green Spring throughout their marriage. They were passionate about horticulture and took an active role in running the plantation. They cultivated many exotic plants. Ludwell obtained apple grafts and also raised citrus fruits. In 1751, John Blair notes gathering oranges at Green Spring and in 1778, Thomas Jefferson notes that his apple grafts came from Green Spring (McCartney: 53).

Philip Ludwell III leased 825 acres of the Governor's Land during Governor Dinwiddie's tenure. The boundaries were 625 acres just west of William Drummond's land and bordered directly on the James River. 250 acres were on the northeast corner of the governor's land near the church of Maine. Both parcels were contiguous with the core Green Spring acreage. The 625 acres straddled the road that ran from Jamestown to Green Spring (forerunner of RT 614) abutted a branch of the Powhatan Swamp and fronted upon the James River. The 250 acre tract bordered Green Swamp, Powhatan Swamp, Mill Pond and roads leading from Williamsburg and the new bridge to Chickahominy Ferry (McCartney: 52-53).

Following the death of his wife Frances in 1753, Philip Ludwell III threw himself into managing the plantation but in 1760 he and his daughters moved to England, entrusting the care of Green Spring to farm manager, Cary Wilkinson (McCartney: 54). This began a long period of absentee ownership for Green Spring plantation.

The Ludwell's lived an opulent lifestyle as was indicated by an inventory of their property. Agricultural products of the estate during this period included tobacco, corn, indigo, wheat, peas, and cowhides. An indigo processing plant tentatively identified through archeology on a tract known as Indigo Dam suggests that indigo was grown at Green Spring and transported to the processing plant (McCartney: 58).

Green Spring in ca 1770 apparently was divided into units which included Green Spring, Scotland, Pine Meadow, and Mill Quarter. It is unclear when this approach to Green Spring's management occurred but McCartney suggests that Philip Ludwell III's father or grandfather (or even William Berkeley) may have been the first to adopt such a land management system (McCartney: 60). Green Spring was the Ludwell's manor farm (or home farm) and the others subsidiary units where slaves raised crops and livestock.

According to John Stilgoe, author of Common Landscape of America, this was a common practice for the era although how early this became an approach to plantation management is not known. The division of plantations into quarters appears to have been motivated by both practical management and political concerns. For owners of large landholdings, slavery presented two spatial difficulties. The first was the time it took for slaves to walk from their cabins to the fields (an hour was considered the maximum ideal), and second was the concern of slave uprisings. By hiring several overseers and dispersing their slaves over several settlements, plantation owners were able to shorten walking times to the fields and to defuse potentially explosive slave congregations (Stilgoe: 68).

Each of Philip Ludwell III's subsidiary farms had a sizeable number of slaves and livestock as well as farm implements. Each was also producing tobacco, corn and wheat. The Green Spring unit itself has 73 slaves, 47 cattle, 26 calves, 10 steer, and sheep, hogs, goats and horses. Overall 126 tithable individuals were attached to Ludwell III during this period (McCartney: 60, 61).

Three prominent roads traversed Green Spring's 4296 ½ acres: the main road from Barrett's Ferry (Route 5) to Jamestown, the road from Jamestown to Chiswell's ordinary (Route 614), and one running diagonally towards Barrett's Ferry through Warburton's land. Gordon's Creek defined much of Green Spring's western and northwestern boundary lines. The southwest corner of the plantation was east of the juncture of Routes 5 and 613, and a branch of Deep Bottom Creek was a southern boundary (McCartney: 60).

**1768 - 1795**

William Lee

After the death of Ludwell III, his property was divided among his daughters and ultimately Hannah Philippa Ludwell Lee inherited her fathers landholdings west of Powhatan Creek, including Green Spring. Richard Henry Lee, William's brother, managed the Green Spring property from 1763 until 1783 since the Lees lived in England. In 1783, The Lee couple decided to move to Virginia and make Green Spring their home. William Lee and their eight year old son, William Ludwell Lee arrived at Green Spring ahead of the rest of the family. In the meantime, however, Hannah Philippa became ill and died, leaving the management of her Virginia real estate to her husband William (McCartney: 62) At first the brothers entrusted the care of the plantation to Cary Wilkinson, a hard working and capable but poorly educated farm manager whose stormy relationship with William Lee eventually ended in his resignation.

Correspondence between the brothers in 1770 shows the condition of the plantation to be thriving: 164 slaves, 217 head of cattle, 190 sheep and 17 horses. The gardens and orchards were noted as extensive and furnished with good fruit. It was also noted that the house at Green Spring needed repair and that Major Taliferro, a local craftsman, would be hired to see to it (McCartney: 65).

Correspondence between Lee and Wilkinson indicates that Lee was aware of the newer trends in agriculture and the need to practice crop rotation. This correspondence also suggests that agricultural practices had worn out the land. Lee notes to Wilkinson that "seeds grow worse if continued too long in the same ground. When Wilkinson replied that the land at Green Spring was too poor to plant tobacco, Lee instructs the planting of wheat. Lee also instructs Wilkinson to make sure his orchards were maintained properly and to make grafts every spring so trees could be replaced (McCartney: 70).

Wilkinson resigned his position in 1771 suggesting an impossible relationship between him and William Lee, leaving Green Spring to be managed by a new farm manager, George Fauntleroy, who appears to have been very ineffective. Richard Henry Lee visits Green Spring in 1778 and notes the appalling conditions the last overseer left the plantation and the need for medicines. By 1778 a new farm manager, John Ellis had been hired. William Lee corresponds with his brother, indicating the need to care for the slaves as human beings. He also notes a desire to focus on planting white mulberry trees for silk culture. He suggests particularly planting mulberries at the "corners of pannels of fences and round all fields…" Lee also corresponds with John Ellis stating that he wants as much of the swampy land as possible made into Timothy meadows rather than hay or fodder since it may be more beneficial in supporting livestock for manuring lands (McCartney: 72-73) This appearance of Green Spring during this period and Lee's concern for improving his lands appears to be consistent with the general Tidewater landscape of the period. Travelers to the Chesapeake region during the eighteenth century consistently noted the poor agricultural practices, the abundance of land worn out from tobacco cultivation, the extraordinary erosion caused by abandoned fields, and the lack of proper fertilizing and crop rotation practices. The practice of simply abandoning worn out land and opening and cultivating new lands perpetuated a vicious cycle and eventually arable lands were precious. By the end of the eighteenth century, many of the great Tidewater plantations had begun to decay and the general appearance of the landscape was appalling to many visitors (Stilgoe). Some innovative farmers emerged in Virginia during this time, like John Craven and John Taylor, who promoted agricultural techniques that would restore the worn lands. John Taylor spoke of swamps bogs and marshes of the Tidewater as being the best resources for recovering the high lands and strongly encouraged draining them by ditches and putting them into meadow (Arator: 277-280).

In 1781, Green Spring is the location of a safe haven for General Lafayette and his retreating troops during a Revolutionary War battle. General Lafayette, falling prey to false intelligence suggesting that the British were crossing the James River, dispatched troops under the command of General Anthony Wayne who arrived at "the large brick house" at Green Spring the afternoon of July 6. In the afternoon of that day, a group of American riflemen advanced across the causeway in front of the Green Spring mansion and fell into Cornwallis' carefully contrived trap. When Lafayette realized the

British had not  the James River, he returned to Green Spring only to find his men in the middle of the enemy. In an attempt to save his men, Lafayette stationed two battalions in an open field at the west end of Green Spring's causeway in an attempt to cover the men upon their retreat (McCartney: 76-77).

Descriptions of the landscape at the time of the battle describe a low-lying strip of marsh about a quarter of a mile wide running from Powhatan Creek to Deep Creek. According to Richard Henry Lee, this land in from of Green Spring was "low, wet and sunken, reclaimed by ditches which intersect it at several directions."  The land extends for considerable distance above and below the house.  From the house to the road across the low ground, a causeway  had been formed by an earlier royal governor of Green Spring and was the only practical route for the troops (McCartney: 75) Also in view were several plantations, a church yard and roads that lead to Williamsburg, Jamestown, and the Chickahomoiny River.

After the war, several cartographers mapped the area.  The Desandrouin map of 1781 provides the most detail about Green Spring plantation.  The manor house is depicted as "L" shaped and surrounded by a cluster of 13 outbuildings, the causeway is an extension of the road to Jamestown. Elaborate curved walls emanate from the mansion corners and a row of structures flanks the rear of the mansion.  One structure overlooks the Powhatan Swamp and a small clearing with two structures is shown south of Barrett's Ferry, which may have been lands leased by Phillip Ludwell III and eventually purchased by William Lee. The sloping land crossed by ravines is indicated and the immediate plantation contains a clearing close to the house and enclosed by a dense stand of woodland and swampy ground. Fence lines are shown enclosing fields (McCartney: 78).

The damage to the land was considerable at Green Spring and William Lee asked his brother to replace the fruit trees and have the whole of Powhatan swamp converted to a Timothy meadow (McCartney: 80).

In 1782, William Lee owned 7,107.5 acres that included Green Spring and outlying quarters on the west side of Powhatan Swamp and paid taxes on 93 slaves, 8 horses, 124 cattle and 4 free tithables. 1n 1785, Lee returns to Virginia and in the next decade becomes a prosperous gentleman farmer. He expressed dissatisfaction with Green Spring and his desire to purchase the estate of S. Beale, noting especially the extremely damp conditions at Green Spring, especially during wet weather.  In 1792-93, Lee increases his land holdings by 1238 acres and paid tax on 66 slaves, 10 horses, and two wheeled carriages.  Part of this acquisition was the Governors's Tract and all of John Warburton's 300 acre estate west of Deep Creek abutting Pine Meadows 1794 records show the plantation produced corn and tobacco (McCartney: 86-91).

In 1795, William Lee dies and Green Spring passes to his son William Ludwell Lee. His will, however, instructs that timber not be permitted to be cut on his James City County property or to allow land to be cleared except for firewood, to erect or repair fences, and to make hogsheads and casks for blacksmiths (McCartney: 92).

**1795 - 1803**

William Ludwell Lee

William Ludwell Lee inherited 8690.5 acres in James City County and after all debts were settled he owned 8125 acres . Lee asked Latrobe to draw plans for the replacement of the old house. Latrobe first showed how the house could be modernized but by the time Latrobe returned Lee had demolished the old building. During Latrobe's visits, he noted that the only damage from the war was a burned barn – his observation was that the barn was massive and proof of the "superior value of this plantation " when Jamestown was capitol of Virginia . He also noted that the principle part of the house was erected by Berkeley, being of brick and very solid but no attempt at grandeur. The lower story was covered in an arcade that was falling down. Latrobe noted that Green Spring lies a mile in a straight line from the James River. The ground was flat and could easily be drained – Latrobe judged that the lowest ground lay 10-15' above common tides in the James. The worst part of Green Spring are the mosquitoes and galinippers, making his stay miserable. Extensive woods still contain a large quantity of deer and other wild animals (McCartney: 95) He notes badness of husbandry and that the land has been in cultivation since first cleared, a very copious spring of excellent water bursting from a gently knoll enclosed in a brick house (McCartney: 94-95).

Between 1797-1798 the number of slaves dropped by more than half and William Ludwell Lee was paying taxes on only one free white male suggesting that he was running the plantation himself. McCartney suggests that Ludwell Lee may have sold the slaves to support the construction of the new house (McCartney:96). According to John Stilgoe, it was not uncommon for Tidewater planters to sell slaves to support their large houses and indulgent lifestyles, especially as worn out lands were turning less profit (Stilgoe:68). Between 1800 and 1803, Lee was credited with four tracts of land: 5911 acres (Green Spring plantation proper), 1238 acres of the governors land, 125 acres acquired from Wilkinson and 50 acres. Lee insured his new dwelling for $10,000. He died at Green Spring in 1803 (McCartney: 96).

**1803 - 1824**

William Hodgson

After William Ludwell Lee's death, Green Spring passed on to his sister Portia who married William Hodgeson. In 1810, they were credited with owning Green Spring, which consisted of 3235.25 acres who put the property up for sale. An 1814 sales description described Green Spring as more than half timbered with cypress, pine, oak and other marketable trees with a sawmill located on the property. The property had an extensive orchard and the buildings were described as ten to twelve years old, built in brick by the late proprietor on a very extensive scale. During this period, Green Spring was occupied by Portia's brother-in-law and later a tenant. The tenant, William Jones, owned twelve slaves (McCartney: 100).

**1824 - 1834**

George Mason

Portia and William Hodgeson sold Green Spring to George Mason and tax rolls suggest that he moved there soon after. He had eight slaves and had a herd of eleven horses, asses, and mules, both of which increased slightly during the next few years of his ownership of the plantation. Mason owned Green Spring for ten years and apparently his financial situation deteriorated steadily in this time. He maintained but did not increase the value of the property and in 1834 he sold Green Spring to David Anderson (McCartney: 101-102).

**1834 - 1843**

David Anderson

David Anderson initially owned the property alone but later sold half-interest to his brother. Together they owned twenty adult slaves, seven horses and one stud horse. In 1839 the brothers took on a business associate, Robert CA Ward of New Jersey . During this period, the business associates added a saw mill to the property (McCartney:103).

**1843 - 1871**

Robert CA Ward

David Anderson conveyed the then 2934.5 acre Green Spring plantation to Robert Ward in 1843. With his brother, John, Robert owned 28 to 30 slaves and numerous livestock. The sawmill was in use and taxed. In 1859, only 400 farm acres were cultivated with the balance forested or unimproved. In April 1862, General McClellan's army crossed Barret's Ferry and burned the Green Spring grand house. LW Lane, a local confederate veteran recalled that two brothers living in New Jersey with slaves and an overseer living on the Green Spring farm owned the plantation. In 1863, cartographers prepared detailed maps that showed the Green Spring property. On the west side of the current Route 614 was the Ludwell Lee dwelling plus three other buildings and on the east side of the road two other structures are indicated. The land surrounding the immediate core was clear but the majority of the stream corridors and land to the southeast appears wooded A sawmill is indicated on the south side of Route 5 (McCartney: 107).

**1871 - 1986**

Post Civil War Ownership

Green Spring passed through the hands of numerous owners. Many of these owners appear to have been absentee owners who left the care of the plantation in the hands of farm managers, tenants or sharecroppers. A county survey from 1873-74 shows areas of dense forest surrounding open areas, one of which is Green Spring. This may explain why the property also passed into the hands of several lumber companies , including the Oriana Stave and Lumber Company (1910) and the James River Lumber Company (1946). In 1936, Congress authorized the addition of Green Spring to Colonial NHP but did not provide the funds necessary to purchase it. In 1965, the heirs of the last private owner of the Green Spring plantation, Philip Murray, sold two parcels of land to the National Park Service: 12.55 acres on the west side of Route 614 surrounding the mansion sites and 166. 37 acres on the east side of Route 614. Nearly 575 acres were sold to the Green Spring Land Corporation which in 1969 deeded its property to the United Virginia Bank which deeded it to a group that gave rise to the Green Spring Trust. This group conveyed an additional 5.74 acres to the government. All three parcels became part of Colonial National Historical Park in 1966. In 1986, Green Spring Land Trust deeded nearly 935 acres to Green Spring Plantation, Inc. who has begun extensive development along the western and northern periphery of the Green Spring tract.

**1966-Present**

National Park Service

Although the National Park Service was authorized to purchase Green Spring in 1936, funding was not provided until 1966. At that time, 196 acres of the original 2000 acre site were made available. The 196 acres included the archeological sites of the original manor and the late 18th century Lee manor site, the ruins of the “jail”, Green Spring and springhouse ruins, and the “orangery” wall. Centerville Road, a busy state route, bisected the site and was included in the purchase. Unfortunately funds were not provided to develop the site, as emphasis was placed on upgrading the facilities at Jamestown and Yorktown during the Bicentennial in the 1970s. In 1996, a group of local citizens in James City County approached the superintendent about the status of Green Spring. Shortly thereafter, the Friends of the National Park Service for Green Spring, Inc., was formed to raise public awareness of the significance of Green Spring and Berkeley and support the park’s efforts in opening the site to the public. Since then, several archeological investigations, including a complete Phase I survey of the 196 acre site and historical studies were completed by the park. A General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was prepared recommending the development of trails, interpretive waysides, continued archeological examinations, and some facilities, with the eventual goal of relating the 17th century landscape and useage to the public.

# Uses

### Functions and Uses:

| Major Category | Category | Use/Function | Historic | Current | Primary |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture/Subsistence | Agricultural Field | Agricultural Field | Yes | Yes | No |
| Defense | Battle Site | Battle Site | Yes | No | Yes |
| Domestic (Residential) | Estate Landscape | Estate Landscape | Yes | No | No |
| Agriculture/Subsistence | Farm (Plantation) | Farm (Plantation) | Yes | No | No |
| Government | Government-Other | Government-Other | Yes | No | No |
| Commerce/Trade | Trade | Trade | Yes | No | No |

### Public Access:

### Associated Ethnographic Group

**Ethnographic Study Status:**

**Ethnographic Narrative:**

# Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

**Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:**

Green Spring is the core of the once vast 17th century plantation of William Berkeley, who served as the British royal governor of the colony of Virginia. Today the site contains archeological resources of an early plantation associated with roads, the extensive ditch system, and site topography (terraces, unidentified mounds), and natural systems. There are limited remnants of spatial organization such as open fields, and of vegetation, including historic species. There is still integrity of location, but limited integrity in the areas of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites**

Existing Conditions

Archeological features at Green Spring are the dominant surviving features of the landscape and provide the most promise for yielding further knowledge about the physical appearance of the landscape during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A recent survey undertaken by Cultural Resources Inc. of Williamsburg, Virginia, confirmed findings of previous investigations and found additional resources related to all periods of the site's occupation.

The earliest excavations at the manor site were completed by amateur archeologist, Jesse Dimmick in 1929, who uncovered and recorded the manor house and later mansion addition and the Ludwell Lee house located approximately 300 yards north. During the mid-1950s in the years preceding Virginia's 350th birthday celebration, National Park Service archeologist Louis Caywood was hired to re-excavate the area investigated by Dimmick. Although he did not excavate the full area that Dimmick had previously uncovered, his techniques supposedly allowed a more in depth study and he ultimately posited that the most intense occupation occurred between 1650 and 1700.

Although no archeological work was conducted at Green Spring from the 1950s until the 1990s, evidence of the "Green Spring Potter" has been extensively documented and analyzed leading to a new theory on the active life of the kiln at the property. Possible evidence of early glassmaking at Green Spring was also discovered in 1948 when a narrow brick trough with the inscription H.A.L. and the date August 6 1666 was found in the eastern part of the property near Powhatan Swamp. (Recent surveys found no evidence of a glass furnace on the current Green Spring site).

Numerous surveys have also been conducted in the vicinity of the project area, leading to the creation of the Governors Land Archeological District, which incorporates Green Spring. In 1987, Espey, Hutton and Associates conducted a survey of the parcel surrounding the NPS-owned Green Spring in compliance with the James City County development ordinance (CRI 14-15).

In the spring of 2001, Dr. Andrew Veech, Park Archeologist, investigated the area around the orangery wall due to its partial collapse. Subsequently, a Challenge Cost Share project enabled the park to uncover portions of the connecting garden walls to the manor house. A landscape study on "The Green Spring Plantation Greenhouse/Orangery and the Probable Evolution of the Domestic Area Landscape" by M. Kent Brinkley, Landscape Architect, with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is currently underway.

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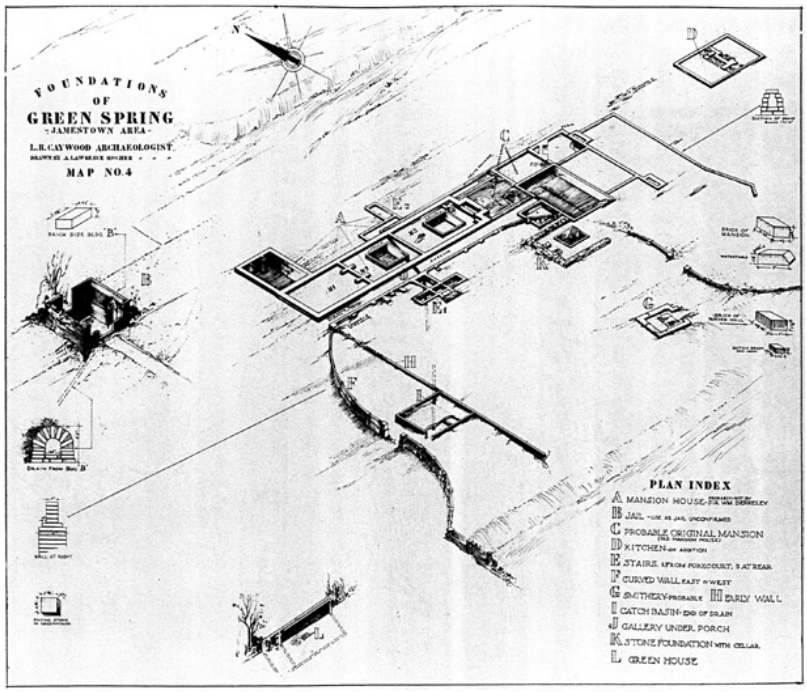
**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 98457 | Undetermined | | | | | No |

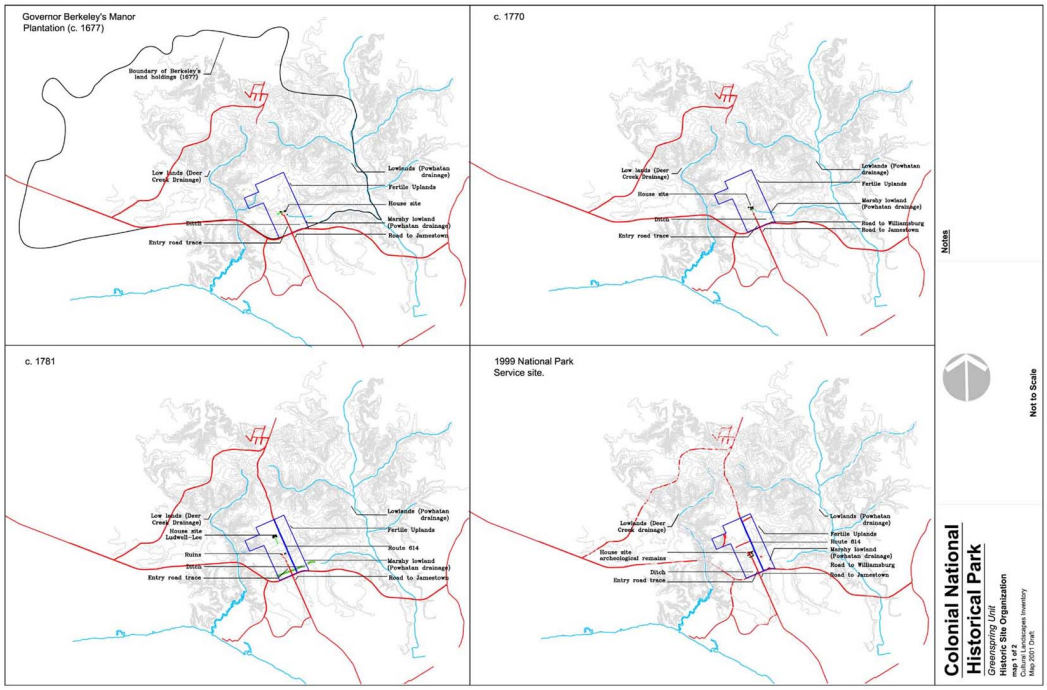
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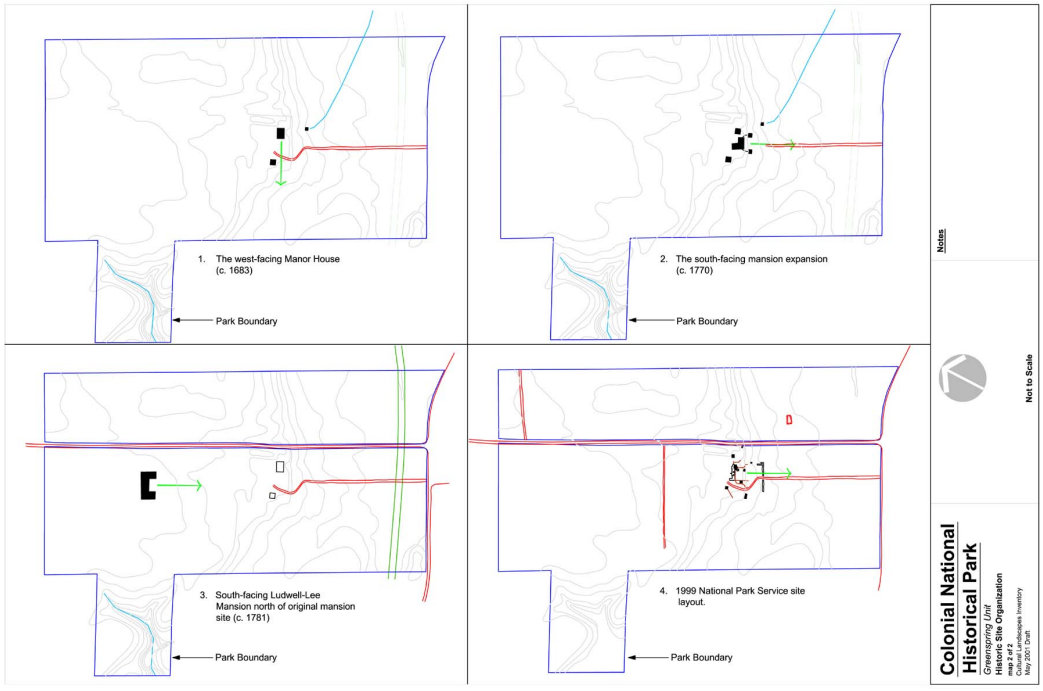
*Early rendering of layout at Green Spring by Sidney King.*



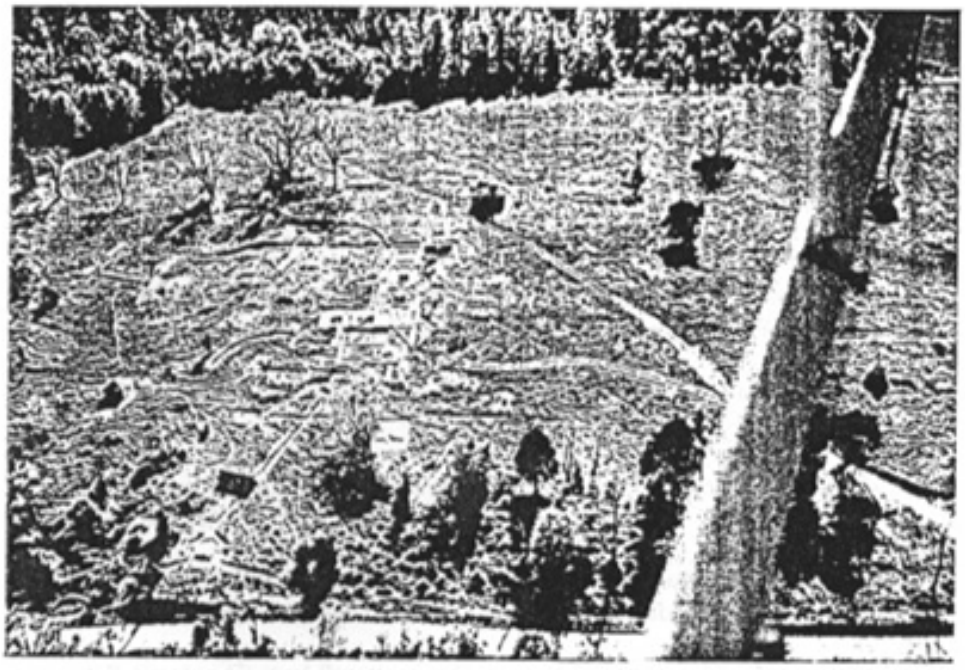

*Isometric plan of Green Spring 1955 Caywood Excavations.*




*Spatial Organization Maps of Green Spring Unit (See Addendum for enlargement).*




*House Orientation map of Green Spring Unit (See Addendum for enlargement).*



*Aerial view of site after 1955 excavation (Caywood, 1955).*



*Photo of the top of a brick pier (NPS 1999).*

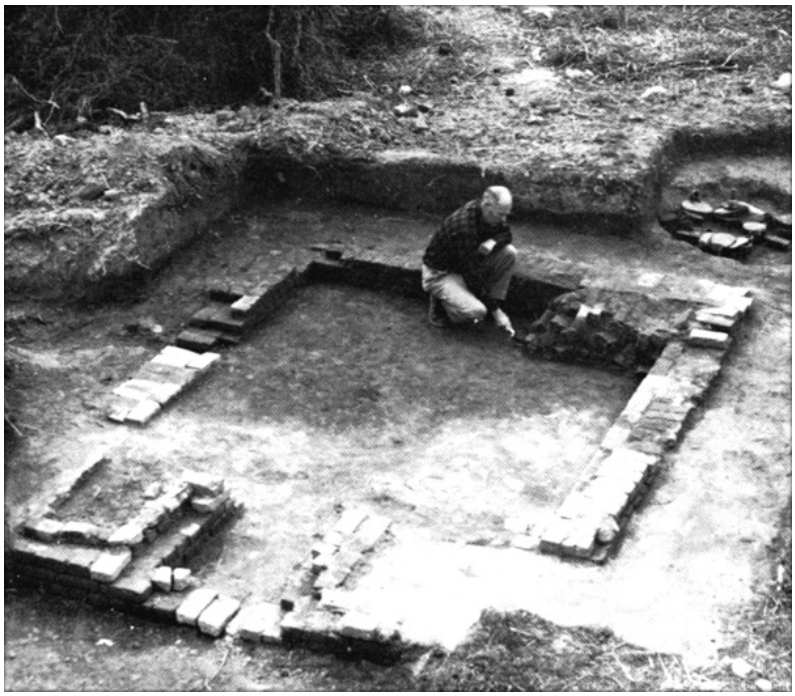


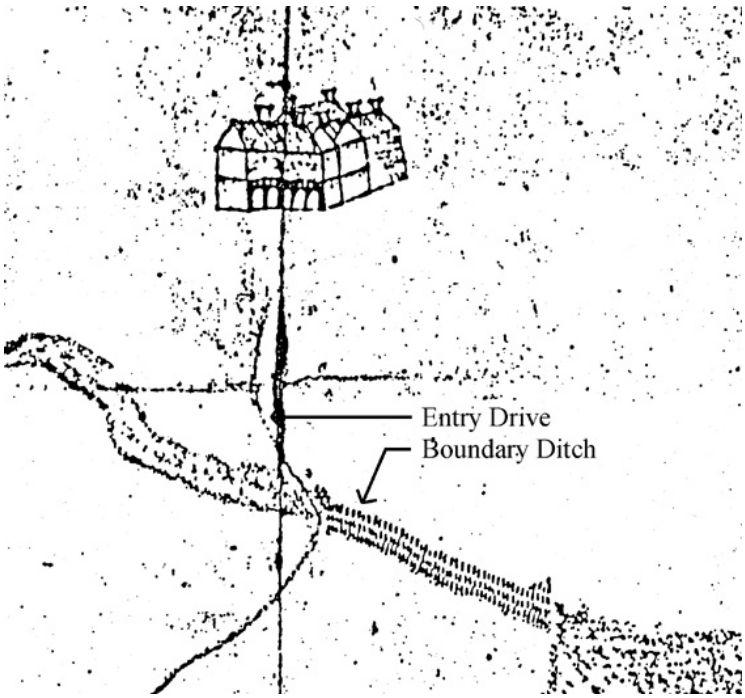
*Photo of 1955 Caywood Excavations (Caywood 1955).*



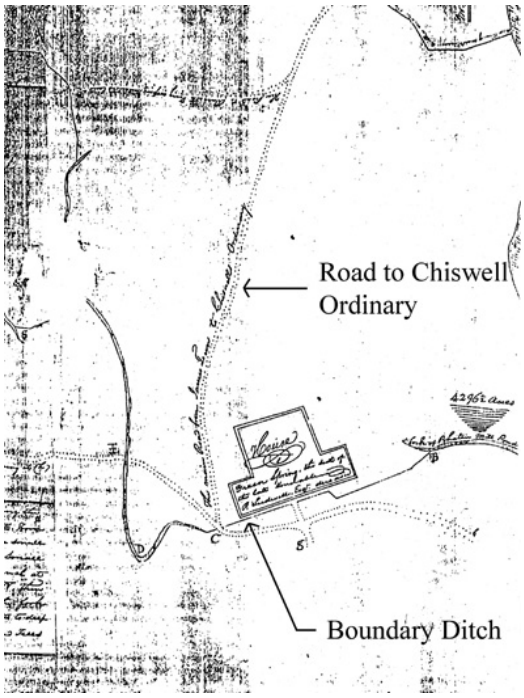
*Wooden fence and metal grate used to protect the well (NPS 1999).*



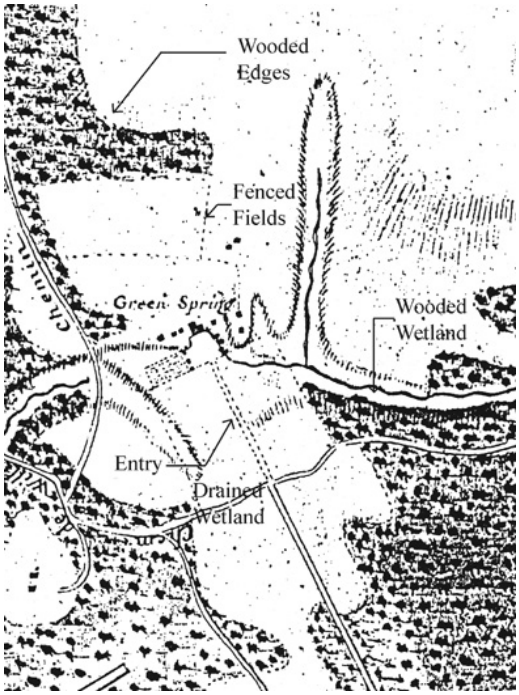
*Standing ruin of brick outbuilding or 'jail' (NPS 1999).*




*Sketch of the Green Spring Mansion enlarged from the Survey for Thomas Lord Culpeper by Soane, 1683.*



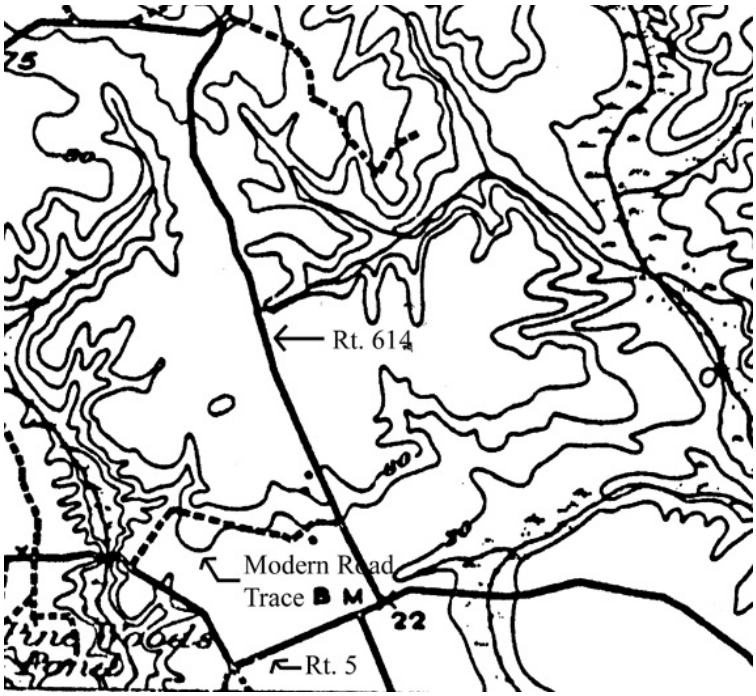

*Enlargement of the Green Spring Mansion and vicinity from the map of Green Spring form the Ludwell Papers, Virginia Historic Society Collection, by W. Goodall, 1770.*




*Enlargement of Green Spring Plantation from the Plan du terein a la Rive Gauche de la Riviere de James by Desandrouin, 1781.*




*Enlargement of Green Spring from a map of New Kent, Charles City, and James City Counties, Virginia by Gilmer, 1863.*




*Enlargement of Green Spring as shown on the USGS 15 minute series Norge, VA Quadrangle, 1927.*



*Photo of linear raised impression that lays perpendicular to great terrace (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of potential road trace to the south of the easement (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of road trace at intersection with a ditch (NPS 1999).*



*Monticello Avenue extension under construction in 1999 (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of possible road trace in main field, mown twice a year (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of field to the northwest of the road trace (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of east/west stream bed (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of north-south ditch (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of old barbed wire and wood post fence surrounded by scrubby growth (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of barbed wire fence on linear mound surrounded by cedars (NPS 1999).*




*Topography of site prior to 1955 excavation (Caywood 1955).*



*Photo of very steep ditch (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of extensive terracing across site. This is the location of Ludwell/Lee house and dependencies (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of terrace depression (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of very high, unusual mound, along Route 614 (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of horizontal earthwork (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of Powhatan wetland (NPS 1999).*



*Photo of seven large canopy trees that signify the back of the Ludwell/Lee cluster (NPS 1999).*

**Landscape Characteristic: Circulation**

Historic Circulation

Internal Circulation
Internal circulation from all periods are trace roads. Berkeley plantation appears to have been accessed along a linear raised road that was roughly axial with the road to Jamestown. The road trace that curves west of the house site just south of the formal forecourt may represent part of the entry sequence of the west-facing old manor house, a secondary route to the working complex, or it may have been part of a later site circulation system. The road to Chiswell's Ordinary can be seen as a trace in parts of the site and other road traces (undated but assumed late 19th or 20th century)

The biggest change to the circulation system within the site boundaries was the realignment of the present Route 614 from the west side of the built core to the east side, which occurred between 1781 and 1864. An 1864 map and the 1927 USGS Quad show slightly differing alignments, which may indicate yet another realignment in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. This realignment virtually sliced through the low-lying swampy lands to the southeast of the mansion complex and created a linear corridor through the current park boundaries. McCartney suggests that this realignment was completed concurrent with the construction of the Ludwell Lee mansion in 1797, although this is not documented. Until a better understanding of the historic site circulation system is understood, the importance of Route 614 to the Ludwell Lee mansion may not be known. The significance of this road may be difficult to determine without a more complete understanding of the significance of this particular route within the larger area historic circulation system.

Circulation
Major circulation networks that existed from Berkeley's era are likely forerunners to the major routes today. The Soane Map of 1683 indicates a rough path of what was likely the forerunner of Route 614 as it .

Existing Conditions

Circulation on the Green Spring site is a combination of modernized historic roads and road traces. Route 614 extends northwest from Jamestown . At its intersection with Route 5, Route 614 shifts east and continues in a straight line bisecting the Green Spring site. Route 5 forms the southern boundary of the site. Road traces include the former entrance drive to Green Spring, thought constructed originally by Berkeley but likely retained as the primary entrance at least until 1800. This trace enters what has been identified as the mansion forecourt on axis, but there is also a trace that branches to the west. This trace appears to branch just south of the entrance to the formal forecourt, curving west of the forecourt and running in between the location of the outbuilding or 'jail' and the mansion house site. Louis Caywood indicates this road on his survey from the 1950s as a road trace but its origins are unclear. He also indicates that in the 1950s it connected to Route 614. Parts of the historic road to Chiswell's Ordinary cross the western part of the site along the ridge line and the remains of what are thought to be twentieth century farm lanes . Current access to the site is off Route 614.

Summary

The integrity of the historic circulation system as a whole appears low, however, the remaining traces that do survive and their relationship to other site features provide strong evidence of site planning approaches of the era. The entry drive road trace with its axial relationship to the Berkeley/Ludwell mansion and portions of the Road to Chiswell's Ordinary on its ridgetop location are the only remaining evidence of the onsite circulation known to be of the Berkeley and Ludwell eras. Additional research and archeology may help find other road traces that are linked to the plantation. It may also help answer questions about the origin and use of an apparent road trace that curves west off the main entry trace and the evolution of Route 614 and its importance, if any, to the Ludwell Lee mansion house.

**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chiswell's Ordinary road trace (CLI# 16) (L,LL) | 98458 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Entry drive road trace (CLI# 15) (B,L,L,LL) | 98758 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Route 614 (CLI# 17) (LL) | 99008 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| West branch trace (CLI# 18) (B?) | 99009 | Undetermined | | | | | No |

**Landscape Characteristic: Land Use**

Historic Conditions

Green Spring was once the location of a thriving plantation that combined agriculture, industry, and commerce to create a self-contained community. Within the core of the vast landholdings lay the domestic household with its designed landscape

Agricultural Use
Agriculture was the dominant land use from the mid-seventeenth century through the Civil War. Although there is little documentary evidence of what the landscape looked like during the Berkeley and early Ludwell family eras, it is known that Berkeley experimented widely with a range of agricultural crops and that he increased his land holdings from approximately 1000 acres to 7000 acres, much of this contiguous with the current Green Spring site. Since the additional lands likely encompassed some of the most fertile uplands suitable for crop cultivation and it is known that Berkeley was cultivating many crops that thrived on well-drained upland soils, it is likely that much of this land was put into cultivation or pasture. Documentary evidence also reveals that Berkeley experimented with rice cultivation. The large expanses of lowland marsh areas found throughout his land-holdings likely were the location of this venture. Physical evidence of extensive ditches suggests that rice cultivation may have occurred in the lowland, swampy areas directly south of the mansion site(see discussion below).

Records from the Ludwell and Ludwell Lee eras suggest that an extensive amount of upland was farmed, since dominant crops included tobacco, corn and wheat. There are also indications that agricultural practices were poor and perhaps lands were becoming exhausted. Documentary evidence also suggests that, especially during the later periods, swampy lands, were drained and put into Timothy meadows and pasturage.

Domestic Land Use
The predominant domestic land use concentrated on the upper terraces of the Green Spring site and included elaborate manor mansion and garden terraces of the Berkeley's and the Ludwell Lees and later the mansion and garden terraces of the Ludwell Lee family. Other domestic land users included slaves, tenants, overseers and farm managers. Although evidence is indirect, both documentary and archeological findings indicate the presence of slave quarters and tenant houses on the Green Spring site.

Industrial Land Use
Documentary evidence that supports more recent archeological evidence indicates that Governor Berkeley and the Ludwell's engaged in industrial activities that included pottery, glassmaking, indigo

processing, and timber production. Archeological evidence of a Berkeley era pottery located southeast of the mansion , a potential indigo processing plant on an adjacent tract and several millstones are evidence of this potential. Later land use on the Green Spring tract included timbering.

Existing Conditions

Green Spring is currently an undeveloped unit of Colonial NHP and is not officially opened to the public. The park has provided several special tours of the site. There are no agricultural activities on the site, however park staff do maintain the open fields through mowings.

The most direct remaining physical evidence of the agricultural activities on this site is ditch remants found throughout the 196 acres, the most extensive of which lies in the low wet marsh land on the lower southeast site terrace. This ditch system, which would have required a tremendous amount of labor to construct and maintain, possibly evolved over several generations. It seems likely, however, that this system reached its peak of usefulness in the early to mid-nineteenth century, since open ditches were replaced by lower maintenance tile systems. The southern most ditch, part of which appears to be an engineered connection between a tributary of the Powhatan Creek and the Deep Creek (now Shellbank Creek) was a seventeenth century boundary between the Green Spring tract and the Governor's tract. Aerial photographs from 1937 indicate that the ditch system extended far beyond the current Green Spring site and site field surveys confirmed this on the eastern park boundaries.

Though it is possible that the extensive ditch system along the southeast edge of the site was the location of Berkeley's rice cultivation experiments, at least two sources from later periods indicate that, as the location of the only entrance road to the site, this area was drained. Therefore, the system evident today was likely worked over by several generations and may reflect predominantly a drainage system rather than an elaborate system designed to flood and drain a rice field. Other ditch features on the site, some of which appear to directly link with the upland wetlands draining it to the adjacent watersheds, is consistent with late eighteenth century approaches to wetlands management (see p. for further discussion). Since erosion was a primary enemy of a colonial Tidewater plantation, it is also possible that the steep ditches are actually gullies caused by poor land management and extreme runoff or by dragging logs during the early twentieth century logging operations.

Summary

Land use at Green Spring bears little resemblance to its historic land use of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Although overall, this characteristic at Green Spring retains low integrity, the open fields and ditch system remnants are important character-defining features of its historic land use. Several questions must be answered, however, to fully understand the surviving features and their significance to the site: 1) how were the ditches used and when were they constructed 2) Are some of the ditches really just huge eroded gullies resulting from the poor agricultural practices of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Open fields (CLI#1) (B,L,LL) | 99015 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Berkeley/Ludwell domestic core (CLI#2) (B,L) | 99010 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Ludwell Lee domestic core (CLI#3) (LL) | 99014 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Ditch system #1 (CLI#12) (B?,L,L) | 99011 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Ditch system #2 (CLI#13) (B,L,L) | 99012 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Ditch system #3 (CLI#13-A) (B,L,L) | 99013 | Contributing | | | | | No |

**Landscape Characteristic:** **Spatial Organization**

Historic Conditions

Built Core

Governor William Berkeley sited his manor house high on a level terrace apparently facing west. According to Louis Caywood, ornamental gardens likely would have extended west during this early period. No extant structures survive, but foundations of a kitchen, manor house, garden wall, pottery, and glasshouse have been revealed. During the late Berkeley period or the Philip Ludwell I period, site organization of the built core changed when a new addition was built on the old manor house. The dwelling, kitchen, spring house, outbuilding or “jail” and orangery formed a tight core around which domestic activities could take place. The new addition, which included new rooms and an exterior arcade, faced south creating a strong axis from the house to the entrance drive and the road to Jamestown. A south-facing, extensively graded forecourt with a straight garden wall was later the focus of extensive renovations. New serpentine walls were constructed and enclosed the terraced forecourt that was raised 22 inches above the previous forecourt grade. Later garden development included the general spatial arrangement of this built core that remained constant until the William Ludwell Lee era when the first mansion was demolished and a new mansion with raised, south facing terraces was constructed to the north. Although the location of the structure was changed the strong axial relationship appears to have been retained, although it is unclear if the entry sequence from Route 5 to the new structure was retained during this period. The basic above-ground organization of the built environment appears to have remained the same until the Civil War when the house was burned and remained in ruins until the twentieth century. Aerial photographs in the 1920s show numerous farm buildings. Subsequent owners used Green Spring predominantly as an investment only and timbering was likely a primary enterprise.

Surrounding Landscape

Evidence is scattered about the physical appearance of the landscape surrounding the built core during the earliest periods. Contemporary maps and verbal descriptions from the mid to late eighteenth century forward suggest that the landscape contained broad clear areas on the uplands and forested areas in the lowlands. Although forests were abundant, the core Berkeley/Ludwell land appear mostly cleared. From as early as the Berkeley era agriculture dominated the plantation

activities and the landscape was likely organized in response to available resources. The uplands contained the most fertile soil and likely would have been the first areas cleared and cultivated. Although tobacco was the most extensively grown crop in this part of Virginia, Berkeley's plantation contained a diverse mix of crops, orchards and livestock. There is no documentary evidence specific to Green Spring, however, typically marshy land remained undrained in this area and likely supported areas of thick forest and/or wetland vegetation. Although the stream corridors may have remained largely forested, water power was harnessed in some areas as was evidenced by the archeological findings of a glassworks and an indigo processing plant. Outlying domestic sites and slaves dwellings may have dotted the landscape also on the upland terraces.

The first documentation describing the open character, the views to other plantations, the roads to Jamestown and Williamsburg, the drained marsh south of the mansions and the forested stream corridors came during and just after the Revolutionary War. The general organization of open fields to forested stream corridors characterized the Green Spring landscape likely through the Hutchinson era. After the Ludwell Lee house burned during the Civil War and the site was owned by a succession of absentee owners, the percentage of wooded areas likely increased dramatically. The 1937 aerial photograph shows large expanses of land in what appears to be early forest succession.

Existing Conditions

Today, the site is enclosed on all sides by forest and contains approximately 50 acres of open field in the central parts of the site. Relatively level upland terraces extend through middle of the site and are bordered by sloping swampy lands to the west and south, and off site to the east. The sites of the Berkeley/Ludwell and Ludwell Lee mansions are perched on the high ground overlooking the sloping marshy land towards the James River and the raised road trace extends from Route 5 on axis with the Berkeley/Ludwell mansion site. The brick ruins of the "jail" and the ruins of the springhouse and orangery wall mark the edges of the domestic complex and are the only standing structures. Barbed wire and wood-post fencing edge several open areas. Route 614 bisects the site. Modern development, existing and future, encloses the site on and planned development encloses

Summary

The above –ground spatial organization of the landscape bears only a slight relationship to its historic character. Unlike Hampton National Historic Site in Maryland, also the remnant core of a once vast plantation which contains highly intact above ground structures, landscapes and visual relationships, Green Spring's core acreage with its forest-enclosed edges belies the vast, self-contained community that once existed. Open views to adjacent lands that might give the sense of the enormity of the historic plantation are no longer possible. The open fields on the higher ground recall the broader spatial patterns of open cultivated fields and forested stream corridors but the built core is no longer visible above ground, and the surrounding landscape is rapidly being consumed by modern development.

**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Archeological remains-built core post 1780 (CLI#3) (LL) | 99016 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Archeological remains-built core pre 1780 (CLI#2) (pre,B,L) | 99017 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Remnant fields (CLI#1) (B,L,LL) | 99018 | Contributing | | | | | No |

**Landscape Characteristic: Topography**

Natural Features and Systems and Topography

Historic Conditions

Topography and natural systems likely played a dominant role in the site planning of the Green Spring plantation. The land that Berkeley patented extended from Gordon's Creek to Powhatan Creek. The site Berkeley chose for his dwelling divided the Deep Creek and Powhatan drainages. The abundant and varied natural resources provided high, gently sloping but well drained soils for agriculture and construction, running creeks to power industry, and forests for harvesting wood. The most noteworthy natural feature, the green spring, which gave the site its name, was clearly a drawing point for Governor Berkeley as well as Native American settlers. Soils map for James City County indicate that the most arable land, including the Slagel Fine Sandy loams and the Emporia fine sandy loams appear in abundance on the upland areas to the north of the mansion site. If Governor Berkeley followed the trends of the period, he likely would have concentrated his agricultural operations to these areas, leaving the poorly drained, clayey soils in the stream corridors for other activities such as pottery, his early rice cultivation experiments or woodlots. Later observers to Green Spring noted poor agricultural practices, which suggests that Green Spring, typical of the area, had exhausted much of its arable land perhaps through extensive tobacco production.

Swampy, pestilent,wet conditions are documented throughout the history of Green Spring, undoubtedly supported by the warm Virginia climate and the abundance of marsh land. There is evidence that Berkeley drained part of the Powhatan Swamp abutting the entrance drive, and later Ludwell's drained other marshy lands for pasturage. The stream corridors provided important resource for both Berkeley and the Ludwells. Berkeley harnessed the water power available by building a glassworks. Documentary evidence indicates that Ludwell's (and likely Berkeley) used either Deep Creek or Powhatan Creek for transportation and perhaps commerce.

Governor Berkeley, the Ludwell family, and the Ludwell Lee family all manipulated the naturally terraced site topography around their dwellings to create extensive garden terraces. A mound of earth lies to the east of the Berkeley/Ludwell mansion house. This topography is shown in the 1781 Dasandrouin map and may have been a natural feature.  Some suggest that this is part of a designed landscape.

Existing Conditions

Togography and natural systems at Green Spring are dominant character-defining features and

consist of the natural lay of the land, manipulated land forms, natural water systems, and site soils. The green Spring site divides the Powhatan Creek drainage to the east and the Shellbank Creek drainage to the west and site elevations range from approximately 20’ to 70’ above sea level. The existing Green Spring site consists of three relatively level terraces separated by two steep slopes (scarps). Within the northern 60% of the site is part of a gently sloping upland and is the location of the core remains of the Berkeley/Ludwell/Ludwell-Lee domestic sites. A scarp running generally from the northwestern portion of the site southeast across the central portion of the site divides the generally flat, loamy well-drained uplands with the low, clayey, fine-grained soils of the southern terrace. The western portion of the site is steep and dissected by ravines. The flat northern portion of the site consist of soils that are well suited to agriculture. One relatively small pocket in that northern portion consists of the poorly-drained Bethera silt loam and is the location of a significant wetland. (EIS: 31) All of Green Springs open fields lay within areas that are prime agricultural lands while the wetter, less arable soils to the west and south are under forest cover. Both the Berkeley/ Ludwell and Ludwell-Lee house sites contained formal entrance terraces each of which were likely at least leveled if not augmented with additional fill. Architectonic earth formations in the locations of both house sites appear to support this supposition. Other significant earthforms include a mound located to the east of the domestic core adjacent to Route 614 and a mound in the southwest corner of the site along Route 5. The uses of these mounds have not been confirmed.

Summary

Topography and natural systems appear to retain a moderate degree of historic integrity and provide useful insight into the qualities that made Green Spring such an attractive location for the colonial governor.

**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berkeley/Ludwell/Lee terraces (CLI# 5) (B,L,L) | 99019 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Creeks (CLI# 11) (B,L,L,LL) | 99020 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Ludwell/Lee terraces (CLI# 6) (LL) | 99021 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Mound #1 (CLI# 7) ) (B?,L?,L?,LL?) | 99022 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Mound #2 (CLI# 8) (?) | 99023 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Powhatan Swamp Area (CLI# 10) (B,L,L,LL) | 99024 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Spring (CLI# 4) (B,L,L) | 99025 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Upper Wetland (CLI# 11-A) | 99026 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| West ravine (CLI# 9) (B,L,L,LL) | 99027 | Contributing | | | | | No |

**Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation**

Historic Conditions

There is scattered and broad documentary evidence about the specific historic vegetative cover at Green Spring. General sources suggest that in 1500 as much as 95% of the coastal plain region was covered in mature old-growth forests and that by 1775 about thirty percent of this cover had been cut over by colonists developing farms and plantations. Oaks and hickories dominated the higher ground while red maples, sweet gums, Atlantic white cedar and bald cypress grew in swampy lowlands. Loblolly and other pines grew in poor or sandy soils. European colonists quickly revealed a preference for lands already cleared by Indians. Because of the desirability of the Green Spring tract and the strong concentration of Americans Indians prior to colonial patents, it is possible that the land already had a combination of cleared and forested areas, which likely would have determined where Berkeley chose to concentrate his agricultural activities. Berkeley experimented widely with agricultural products, such as grapes, rice, hemp,silk, oranges, flax and timber and boasted a thriving orchard of 1500 trees. Vegetation on his plantation appears to have been dominated by these crops of potential economic value and likely by forests especially in the lowlands and other areas unsuitable for cultivation. During the Lady Frances and Philip Ludwell era, the plantation was rented to two Virginia governors. Records indicate that agricultural activities continued, perhaps through tenants or sharecroppers. Although the patchwork of experimental crops may have dwindled during this period, the mix of open fields in crops and pasturage and forested wetlands likely continued. Philp Ludwell II resided at Green Spring and although there are few records indicating how he used the land, Historian McCartney believes he likely raised tobacco and other crops and used some of the land for pasturage, therefore crops, pastures and forests continued to dominate the vegetative composition. During Philip Ludwell III era, records show a passion for horticulture and a determination to run the plantation. Ludwell III raised many exotic plants and during this period the plantation may have contained well-tended ornamental gardens as well as extensive cropped fields, and forests. William Lee continued agricultural practices and during this period is the first reference to creating Timothy meadows in drained swamps. Also noted was the use of white mulberry trees to be planted round all open fields. The Desandrouin map of 1781 shows broad patterns of open and forested lands – at Green Spring open fields dominate the higher ground close to the mansion and the sloping low area containing the entrance drive directly south while the waterways all appear to remain in forest. Philip Ludwell II and III made the most sweeping changes to Green Spring since Governor Berkeley's era. This likely had an impact on where gardens, especially ornamental gardens, may have been located but little evidence to suggest that it had had an impact on the type of vegetation found on the plantation. Latrobe notes the extensive forests surrounding Green Spring Records also indicate that Berkeley drained part of the Powhatan swamp along the south/southeastern boundary.

Existing Conditions

Today vegetation on the 196 acre Green Spring site is a combination of forests and open fields. The central parts of the site located on the higher elevations where agriculture and development dominated consist largely of infrequently mown fields, and successional grasslands. Forests nearly envelope the site and consist of successional pine forest to the north/northeast, a lowland pine/mixed hardwood forest to the south, and upland mixed hardwood forest to the west (Ingram: 14)

Forested wetlands dominate the lowland areas in the southern third of the site and include more water tolerant species of green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), red maple (Acer rubrum), black willow (Salix nigra), and sweetgum (Liquidambar styricaflua), American elm, Ulmus americana, and Southern red oak (Quercus falcata). The understory in this area consists primarily of dense patches of spicebush (Lindera benzoin) with a ground cover of forbs and grasses. The trees in this area appear mature but likely date to the 20th century. Aerial photographs for 1937 indicate that this area may have been in early successional stages, with a patchwork of open areas and young tree cover. West of the mown field is a sloping area bisected by ravines and is composed mainly of sweetgum (Liquidambar styriciflua), oak species (Quercus sp), beech (Fagus grandifolia), and tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera) with an understory of dogwood (Cornus florida), hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana), and ericaceous shrubs. North of the mown field is an area of successional pine forest and is largely dominated by young loblolly pines (Pinus taeda)

Although most of the tree cover appears to be twentieth century three extremely large willow oaks

(6' DBH) were found along the upland edges of the southern wetlands just west of the developed area and large southern red oaks were found amidst the eastern ditches. Although it is possible that the willow oaks were part of an earlier designed planting, there is no documentary evidence to support this. Several exotic and native species exist on the site that may have their origins in Berkeley/Ludwell/Lee/or Ludwell Lee eras. These include two narcissus species found in the mown fields adjacent to the house site (Telemonius plenus and Narcissus biflorus), white mulberry (Morus albus) black walnut (Juglans nigra), pear (pyrus communis), asparagus (Asparagus officianalis) and Phleum pratense (timothy). Since the most intensive use of the site occurred during the Berkeley and his descendants, it is highly likely that one or more of these species were introduced during this period. The Narcissus, however, were not specifically noted in reviewed documentation and without further documentary evidence, it is difficult to definitively trace this to the colonial era. Telemonious plenus, for example, was found in abundance at Thomas Stone National Historic Site in southern Maryland and a similar discussion arose. It was very popular with the early colonists but it also had a later revival, therefore it could have been planted by Berkeley or by later Ludwells who had a keen interest in horticulture or even during the early nineteenth century. It also could have been introduced by one of the many plantation tenants and farm managers.

Summary

Although there are patterns that broadly reflect the vegetative patterns from the Berkeley through the Ludwell Lee eras, the absence of agricultural crops, managed meadows, and ornamental plantings in designed combinations renders vegetation on the site low integrity. There is the opportunity to interpret historic species and their uses, since the site contains many exotic and native species known to be used during the Berkeley Ludwell era. Core dating the large oaks on the property could also confirm the age of the trees and provide yet further interpretive opportunities.

**Landscape Features:**

| Feature Name | CLI Feature ID | Feature Contribution | CRIS-HS Resource ID | Associated CRIS-AR ID | FMSS Record Type | FMSS Record Number | FMSS Exact Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Specimen Oaks (CLI# 14) (B?,L?,LL?) | 99033 | Contributing | | | | | No |
| Forested stream corridors (B,L,L,LL) | 99029 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| Naturalized narcissus (B,L,L,LL) | 99031 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| Black Walnuts (B) | 99028 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| Native grapes (B) | 99030 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| Pears (B,L) | 99032 | Undetermined | | | | | No |
| White Mulberry (B,L) | 99034 | Undetermined | | | | | No |

# Condition

**Assessment Interval (Years):** 8

**Next Assessment Due Date:** 09/30/2033

**Condition Assessment and Impacts**

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/2025

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/21/2021

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 08/27/2008

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Superintendent, in consultation with Karen Rehm, Chief of Interpretation at the park, agreed with this assessment. A "good" assessment 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.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/12/2002

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

This condition assessment was completed in consultation with the park superintendent.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/1999

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

## Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Adjacent Lands

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Narrative:** Subdivision development has occurred to the south along Route 5 and Route 614. Patriot's Colony, a retirement community has been constructed along the site's western boundary. Both of these limit the potential for off-site views and noise levels may affect the site. Traffic on Route 614 casues some increase in noise level.

**Date Identified:** 07/29/2005

**Type of Impact:** Erosion

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Narrative:** The site contains substantial remnants of a field drainage system that is currently completely under forest cover. Plans to remove forest from the site slopes or drainage ditches must be carefully weighed since this can put them danger of eroding. Monitor ditches annually and after major storm events for signs of erosion.

**Date Identified:** 07/29/2005

**Type of Impact:** Exposure to Elements

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Narrative:** Archeological sites must be carefully monitored to ensure stability.

**Date Identified:** 07/29/2005

**Type of Impact:** Release To Succession

**Other Impact:**

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Narrative:** Some open fields in the center of the site are in early stages of succession. Since the open fields are the only remnants of possible agriculture, these are contributing features and should be actively managed.

**Date Identified:** 07/29/2005

# Treatment

### Stabilization Measures

## Treatment Documents

# Bibliography and Supplemental Information

**Bibliography:**

| Citation Author | Citation Title | Year of Publication | Citation Publisher | Citation Type | Citation Location | Citation Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cultural Resources Inc. | Phase I Archeological Survey of the 196 acre Green Spring Plantation Site (Draft) | 1998 | | Narrative | | |
| Caywood, Louis R. | Excavations at Green Spring Plantation, Archeological Report | 1955 | | Narrative | | 010740 |
| McCartney, Martha W. | The History of Green Spring Plantation, James City County, Virginia | 1998 | | Narrative | | |
| Gray, Lewis C. | History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860 | 1933 | | Narrative | | |
| Ingram, Amanda | Floral Survey of Green Spring Unit, Colonial National Historical Park | 1998 | | Narrative | | |
| Hall, A.R. | Erosion Control Practices in Virginia, Misc. Publication 256 | | | Narrative | | |
| United States Departement of the Interior | Environmental Impact Statement DRAFT | 1999 | | Narrative | | |
| Stigloe, John R. | Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845 | 1982 | | Narrative | | |
| Bradford, M.E. | Arator, Being a Series of Agricultural Essays, Practical and Political: in Sixty-Four Numbers by John Taylor | 1977 | | Narrative | | |

**Supplemental Information:**

**Supplemental Information Title:** www.chesapeakebay.net

**Supplemental Information Narrative:**

A Landscape History of the Chesapeake Heartland from 1.3 Billion Ago to 2000: The main purpose of this landscape history is to give readers accurate, up to date, and easy to understand information on the natural and cultural heritages of the Chesapeake Bay heartland.

**Landscape Documents:**

| File Name | Date | Attachment Type |
|---|---|---|
| COLO_GreenSp-Moore-Nelson-Village_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf | | |

| Source |
| --- |
| |