

~~DEVELOPMENT PLAN~~

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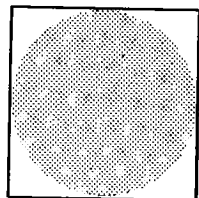
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MASTER PLAN
**GEORGE WASHINGTON
BIRTHPLACE**

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MASTER PLAN

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE

NATIONAL MONUMENT VIRGINIA



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1968

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE
MASTER PLAN**

Recommended

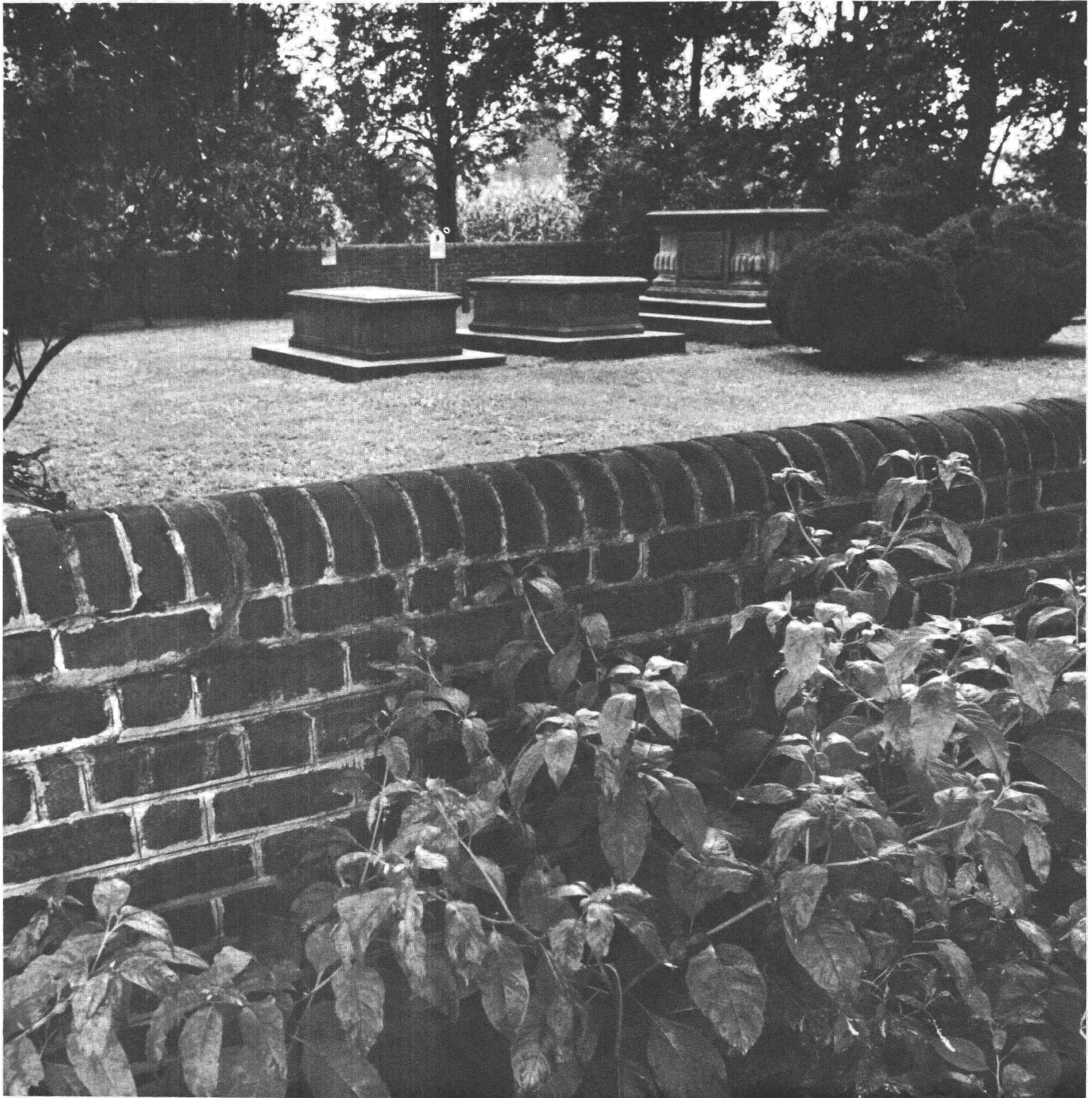
Regional Director

J.E.N. Jensen 6/6/67
Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Raymond L. Freeman 6/6/67
Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities
Acting

Edward A. Hummel 6/13/67
Assistant Director, Operations date

Approved _____ Howard W. Baker 6/6/67
Acting Director



The Washington family burial ground at Bridges Creek.

CONTENTS

Mission / 6

Objectives / 7

Visitor Use / 7

Resource Conservation / 7

Communication / 9

Basic Information / 11

A Plan for George Washington Birthplace National Monument / 28

Management of Resources / 28

Visitor Use / 37

Administration / 58

Management and Development Priorities / 61

List of Maps

Regional Map / 14

History Map / 22

Archeological Map / 23

Land Acquisition Plan / 36

General Development Plan / 66

List of Graphs

Annual Number of Visitors / 27

Number of Visitors Per Month / 27

Average Number of Visitors Per Day / 27

Number of Visitors in Organized Groups / 27

MISSION

The mission of George Washington Birthplace National Monument is to commemorate the birth and boyhood of George Washington and to present the story of his family background, influences, and training in the formative years, foreshadowing his later greatness as a military leader and as our first President.

This park is to be managed as an historical area.

OBJECTIVES

VISITOR USE

To Provide For The Highest Quality Of Use And Enjoyment

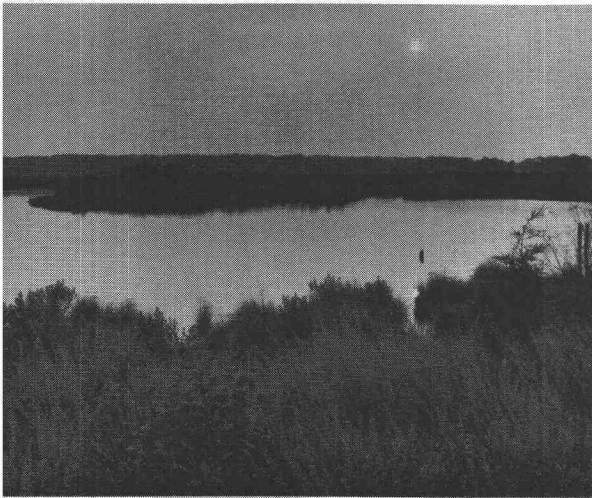
1. Develop the monument primarily as a day-use area.
2. Provide the day-use facilities needed by the visitor to this isolated site.
3. Encourage enjoyment and use of the park's variety of natural features by developing walking trails, sitting areas and access to the shores of the Potomac, Popes Creek and to the woodland and marsh environment of the monument.
4. Support the endeavor of nearby communities, and of Federal and State agencies to provide adequate facilities required by visitors for active recreation. Visitor activities at the monument will emphasize interpretive, cultural and passive outdoor recreation programs.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

To Conserve And Manage For Their Highest Purpose The Natural, Historical And Recreational Resources

1. Stabilize, preserve and reconstruct, if deemed desirable, historic structures or ruins of structures as evidence of occupation of this land by the Washington family and especially the presence of George Washington.

2. Continue to manage the Memorial House, stressing its restoration, as a self-sufficient farm home of the first half of the 18th Century.
3. Preserve and restore to the extent practicable and desirable, the historic ground cover and agrarian land uses of the 18th century farm where George Washington was born and lived as a boy.
4. Preserve by scenic easement, acquisition or other available means those neighboring properties which are essential to protection of the quality of the historic and natural scene.
5. Restrict new developments to sites which will intrude the least on the plantation scene in the vicinity of the birthplace site and the John Washington burial ground.
6. Assist in the conduct of historical, archeological and natural history research necessary to guide interpretation and preservation of features of the Washington farm, and to direct the selection of development sites.
7. Cooperate with local organizations, and with State and Federal agencies in the conduct of historical preservation, conservation and other programs important to protecting the resources and values of the Washington farm and related historic and scenic values.
8. Develop and maintain historical collections including both artifacts and documentary materials related to the



Marsh lands along Popes Creek which must be preserved.

monument's interpretive theme and significant values and to its research needs.

COMMUNICATION

To Communicate The Cultural, Inspirational And Recreational Significance Of The American Heritage

1. Interpret the theme of the early years of Washington's life as lived by the moderately well-to-do Washington family on a Virginia Tidewater farm. This should emphasize the English background, early beginnings in America, events climaxed by the birth of George Washington on February 22, 1732, and subsequent events and environment concerned with his early years. Important secondary themes include 18th Century farm activities on the Washington farm and the natural history of this tidewater area.
2. Improve initial contact and information services for the visitor seeking an understanding of the story of Washington's family background and early years and a view of the monument's inspirational scenic and historic resources.
3. Develop an interpretive program, including both introductory interpretation and on-site interpretation, which will emphasize the major theme of Washington's family background, birth and early years, and those structures and features related to the farm story.

4. Present the Memorial House and kitchen as period exhibits commemorating the birth and boyhood of George Washington.
5. Continue to emphasize personal interpretive contacts at the memorial house and on the grounds to the fullest extent possible as a primary means of assuring an outstanding visitor experience.
6. Interpret natural history resources primarily as they relate to the 18th century scene known to Washington.
7. Encourage use of the monument by educational groups through special services and programs depicting Washington's early years and their influence on his later leadership.
8. Continue the presentation of monument and National Park Service themes to schools, historical and conservation associations and other interested organizations in the local area through such media as off-site interpretive programs, educational television and radio, travelling exhibits, etc.

BASIC INFORMATION

ACCESS

<u>Major Highway</u>	<u>Location</u>	
I-95	42 miles west of monument	Main route for North-South travel
U.S. 301	15 miles west of monument	Major North-South highway
U.S. 17	22 miles southwest of monument	Major route between Washington Birthplace National Monument and southeast Virginia (Williamsburg) also connections with Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
Virginia 3	2 miles south of monument	Main route to Fredericksburg and lower Northern Neck
Virginia 204	Connects monument with Route 3	
George Washington Country Parkway (proposed)	1 mile south	Connects Washington, D.C. with Williamsburg-Yorktown-Jamestown area

Visitors arrive by private automobile and organized groups by chartered buses.

Entrance to monument: 1960 - 85,909; 1965 - 81,569

SURROUNDINGS

Population Centers

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Counties 1950 - 1960</u>
Fredericksburg	13,639 (1960 census)	Westmoreland-10,148-11,042
Colonial Beach	1,500 (estimate)	King George- 6,710- 7,243
		Stafford- 11,902-16,876
		Richmond- 6,189- 6,375
		Caroline- 12,471-12,725
		Essex- 6,530- 6,690

Characteristics George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located in Tidewater, Virginia on the narrow peninsula formed by the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers as they flow

into the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay. This water-locked peninsula is known throughout Virginia as the Northern Neck. At the tip of the neck, the breadth from river to river is scarcely more than 25 miles. The monument is some 40 miles up river from the Chesapeake Bay where the neck narrows to about 10 miles. It borders the Potomac River on the north and extends south and west to the banks of Popes Creek, a tidal tributary of the Potomac. The Northern Neck is still predominantly a rural area, retaining much of the feeling and atmosphere of the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Land Use The surrounding lands are all in private ownership and are used for agricultural purposes. Products are timber, feed grains, truck farming, and livestock.

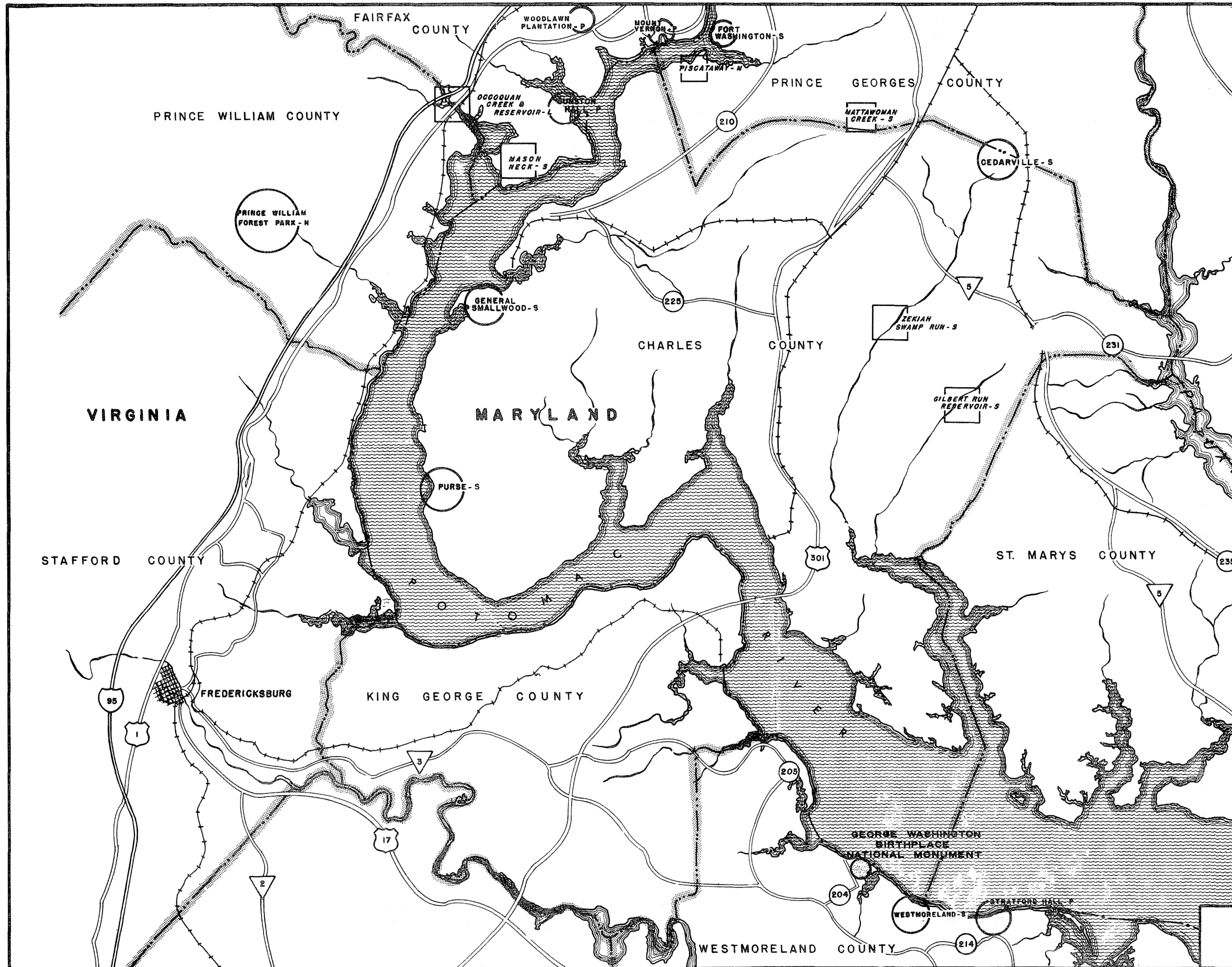
Inholdings are potential housing developments for summer and retired living.

Hunting and commercial fishing on waters of Popes Creek are an important incompatible use.

Features of Interest Visitors to George Washington Birthplace National Monument may visit other areas of historic and recreational interest in Virginia's Northern Neck and adjoining counties.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

<u>Area</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania	
National Military Park	40 miles



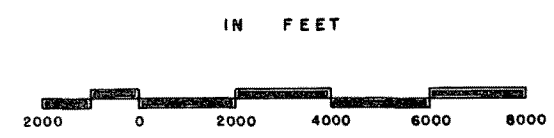
P A R K S

- EXISTING
- POTENTIAL
- N NATIONAL
- S STATE
- L LOCAL
- P PRIVATE - PUBLIC

R O A D S

- INTERSTATE
- U.S. HIGHWAYS
- STATE HIGHWAYS
- STATE ROADS

S C A L E



north

ON MICROFILM

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REGIONAL MAP

REGIONAL MAP



State Parks

Westmoreland State Park 8 miles

County or City Parks

St. Clair Brooks Park - in Stafford

County near Fredericksburg 40 miles

Historic Places Open to Public (Not NPS)

Mary Washington House - Home in which George Washington's
mother lived - in Fredericksburg

Kenmore - Colonial Mansion of Col. Fielding Lewis, George
Washington's brother-in-law in Fredericksburg

Masonic Lodge #4 - George Washington's Mother Lodge - in
Fredericksburg

Stoner's Museum - 19th Century General Store - in Fredericks-
burg

Rising Sun Tavern - Colonial Meeting Place - in Fredericks-
burg

Mercer's Apothecary Shop - 18th Century establishment kept
by Hugh Mercer, killed in Revolu-
tion - in Fredericksburg

James Monroe Law Office - Museum and Memorial Library - in
Fredericksburg

Stratford - Birthplace of R. E. Lee 9 miles

Ferry Farm - George Washington's Boyhood Home 38 miles

LEGAL FACTORS

Establishment The birth site and burial grounds were conveyed to the United States by the State of Virginia by Act of April 12, 1882. Additional land purchased by the government or donated by the Wakefield National Memorial Association and Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., brought the acreage in 1931 to 393.68 acres.

On January 23, 1930, the area was established by Act of Congress as George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

Special Provisions The Act provides for acquisition of those lands owned by the association.

CLIMATE

Record temperatures by months:

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>
Maximum	67	73	74	89	93	102
Minimum	11	12	26	36	41	53
	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Maximum	102	98	92	90	80	65
Minimum	58	58	42	36	24	24

Construction could be undertaken throughout the year but frequent delays should be expected from late November to April because of rain, snow and cold.

Precipitation Annual rainfall, 39.24 inches. Maximum snow pack, 10 inches; estimated average moisture content, 10%.

Wind Prevailing wind southwest in summer and northwest in winter. Maximum recorded velocity, gusts of 100 mph.

Special Conditions The area is subject to occasional electrical storms and strong winds. Humidity is generally quite high.

FIRE HISTORY

Picnic shelter burned in 1958. No record of any major fire.

CHARACTERISTICS

The monument is on rather flat terrain near the junction of the Potomac River and Popes Creek. At this point the Potomac is about five miles wide and Popes Creek is about 1700 feet wide. The lowest point on the area is the Dancing Marsh swamp which serves as a drainage outlet for a fresh water pond. The highest elevation is 28 feet at the Memorial Mansion. The terrain and vegetation are typical of that of Tidewater, Virginia.

SOILS

The soil in the area is predominantly a sandy loam. The lower elevations are marshy. Depth of water table about 20 feet. Water permeability medium but variable in spots. Frost penetration, 10 feet. Special foundation or soil problems: sand, excessive moisture, and seepage area.

RESOURCES

Water The area is bounded in part by the Potomac River,



Popes Creek, and Bridges Creek. Dancing Marsh lies within the area and drains into Popes Creek.

Wildlife The water areas around the monument are in important stopping place and wintering ground for waterfowl populations, including the whistling swan, geese and ducks. The bald eagle is also a resident of the area.

History The significant resources of the monument are the fields, the woods, the marshes, the waterfront along Popes Creek and the river and the sites of the historic structures that stood here. The heart of the plantation owned by Augustine Washington, George Washington's father, is included within monument boundaries. First among the sites on the plantation grounds is Augustine Washington's home where George was born on February 22, 1732. In the yard of the homeplace stood the kitchen building and undoubtedly barns, smokehouse and other outbuildings common to the pattern of the plantation group. On the banks of Bridges Creek, near the Potomac, stood the second home of John Washington, George's great grandfather and the first Washington to settle on the neck. Nearby is the Washington family burial ground, the final resting place for George Washington's father and other ancestors.

The approximate site of Augustine Washington's home, birthplace of George Washington, is marked by the Memorial House a story and a half brick structure with dormer windows. The Memorial House, as its name suggests, is not a replica of the original home. Lacking authentic details for a faithful reconstruction, the decision was reached, when the house was

built in 1931, to erect a home typical of the residence of a family in moderate circumstances in the 1700's drawing upon existing homes still standing in the vicinity for size, type of construction, and floor plans. Nearby on the site of an 18th century foundation is the reconstructed colonial kitchen building, and between the mansion and Popes Creek, the restored colonial herb and flower gardens. A Memorial Shaft erected by the Federal Government in 1896 stands at the monument entrance. Originally placed to mark the home site, it was moved to its present location when the Memorial House was built.

The setting of fields, woods, and marshes, with the structure described above, recreates the feeling of the plantation as George Washington knew it in his early days.

One of the most valuable resources of the monument is the collection of artifacts assembled during the course of archeological investigations at the homeplace and at other sites on the plantation. These artifacts include such fascinating objects associated with the Washington family as wine bottle seals carrying the initials of George Washington's ancestors and serve to illustrate through a wealth of other household objects of all sorts much of the daily life, habits, and customs of the Washington family. A selected group of these interesting objects is displayed in the temporary museum in the colonial kitchen building for visitor study and information. The monument library and files have available for study and research maps, prints, manuscripts, publications, and photographs relating to the Washington family and the plantation.



The Memorial Mansion.

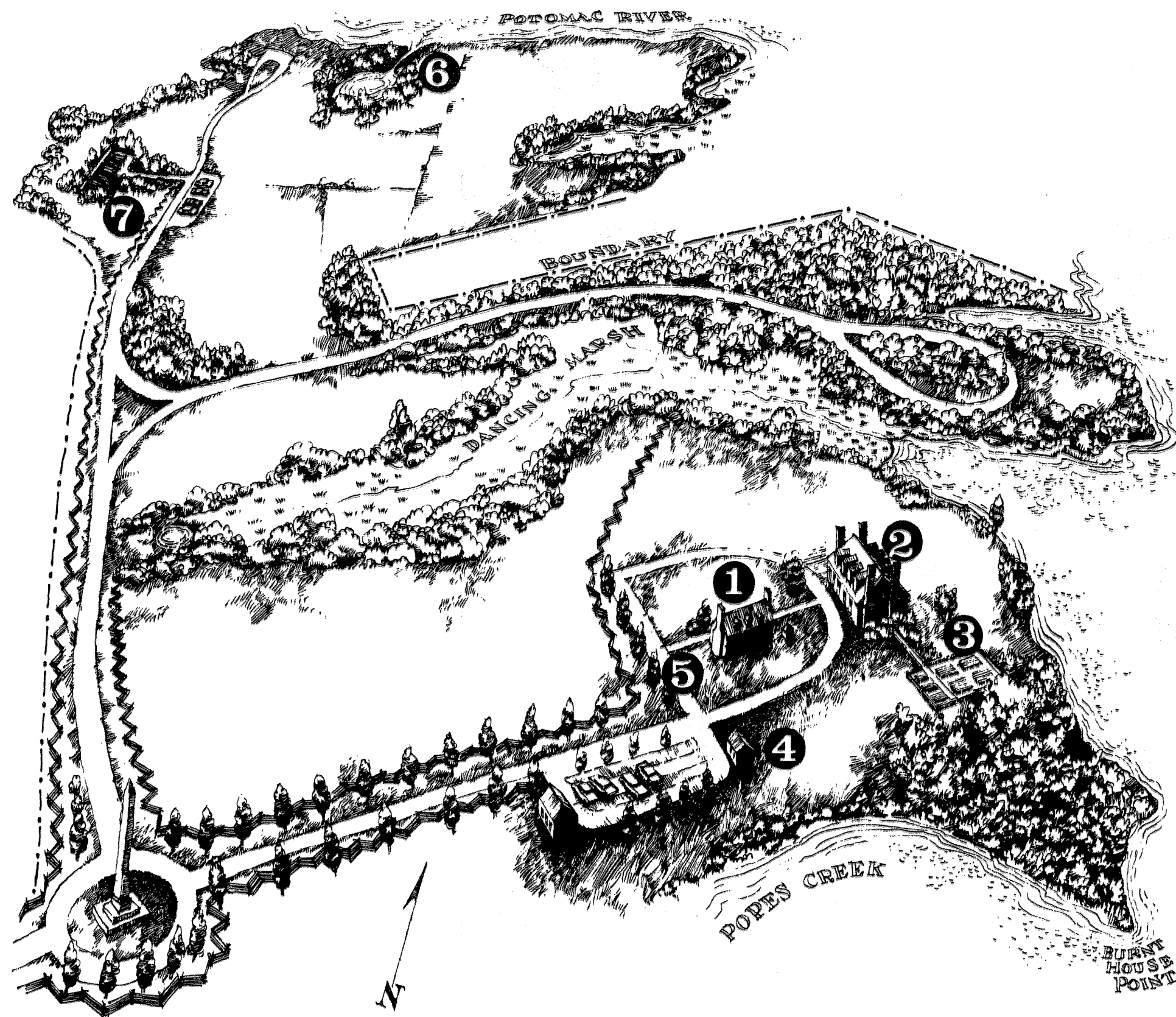


Records preserved in the clerk's office of Westmoreland County, the county in which the monument is located, are unusually complete, dating back to the 17th century. From these records much of the background information for the Washington family has been derived.

Another resource is the possibility that "Building X" actually constitutes the foundation remains of the building in which George Washington was born. Archeological and historical studies, undertaken years ago but unfinished, should be re-instituted to determine whether these foundations are in fact the birthplace house.

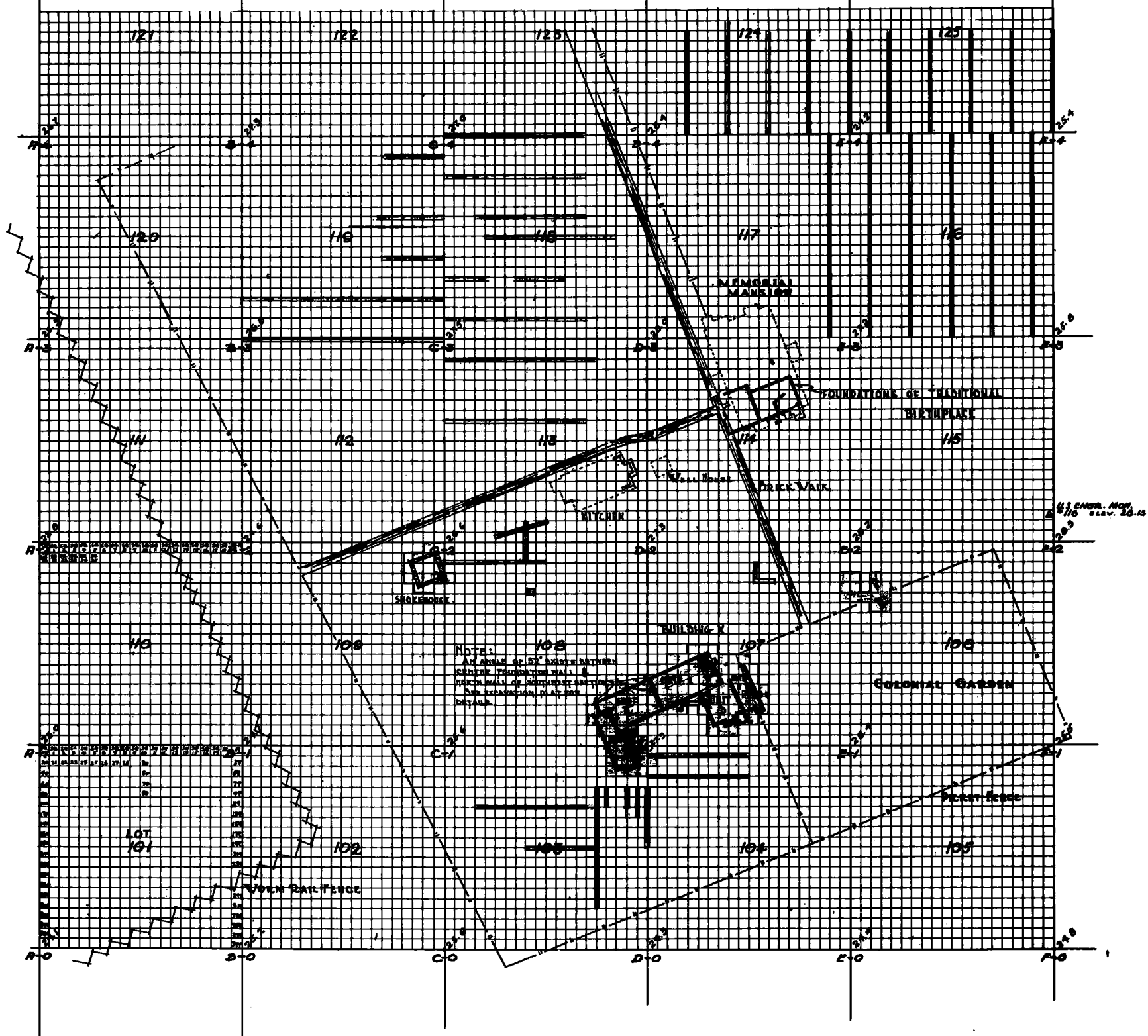
The story told at the birthplace is centered on the Washington family history. It traces the coming of John Washington, George's great grandfather to the shores of the Potomac in the 17th century, his marriage and building of his second home on the banks of Bridges Creek. It follows the course of the family through the purchase by Augustine Washington, of the original tract which developed into the plantation, his marriage to Mary Ball, the building of the home, and the birth of George on February 22, 1732.

Three and a half years later, Augustine Washington moved his family up the Potomac River to his Hunting Creek farm (now Mount Vernon) and in 1739 moved again to a farm across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg. Augustine Washington died in 1743 when George was 11 years old. The homeplace on Popes Creek was willed to George's half brother, Augustine Jr., and remained in the Washington family. On



- HISTORICAL RESOURCES
1. Foundation of an early 18th-century chimney, unearthed in 1896.
 2. Foundation of an early 18th-century building, traditionally the one in which George Washington was born. Unearthed in 1896.
 3. Foundation of a small brick structure, unearthed in 1936. Use unknown.
 4. Foundation of an old structure known as "Building X," possibly the ruins of the birth-place house. Unearthed by the NPS in 1930; re-excavated in 1936.
 5. Foundation of an early 18th-century building, probably a smoke house. Uncovered by the NPS in 1936.
 6. Foundation of a 17th-century building located 1/4 mile north-east of the burial ground. Uncovered in 1934.
 7. Foundation of a building unearthed 180 feet southeast of the burial ground in 1930 and 1934. Probably an outbuilding.
-

HISTORY MAP



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAP

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT

SCALE



LEGEND

- Buildings above ground
- ==== Excavations
- //// Historical foundations unearthed 1936 - 37
- ==== Historical foundations from previous records

Christmas Day, 1779, the birthplace house was destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt.

Young George was a frequent visitor to his brother's home during these years continuing his association with the birthplace, until he began his career as surveyor, soldier and farmer. The narrative of his life and services to his country after this date belongs properly to the years at Mount Vernon but is developed in the birthplace story to show the influence of his early days on his later career.

Supplementing the outline of the Washington family history and the formative years of George Washington is the cultural background of Tidewater Virginia in the 1700's reaching into the fields of social, religious, political, and farming practices of this period. These factors with the intimate family life is the environment in which George Washington's future life was shaped.

The monument grounds, the memorials to this great patriot, and the intangible associations gathered here are immediately inspiring and create in the monument visitor a desire to know more about George Washington, his lifelong service and devotion to his State and country, and the influence he exercised in shaping our Nation's history.

Recreational The monument is not adaptable to recreation other than that which comes with visiting a lovely historic site. Spending a few minutes or hours in the mansion, colonial garden, burial ground, and on the place generally



The herb garden

develops a love of and respect for the quiet, rural, history-filled past.

Special Scenic Features From the Memorial House, Burnt House Point, and Duck Hall areas, the outlook across Popes Creek and the Potomac River is superb. Combined with the major monument features, an altogether charming situation results.

Land Status Acreages within the present boundaries are as follows:

Federal 393.68 Private inholdings 264.8

Visitor Activities

Activities	Participants			
	1958	1963	Maximum 24-Hr. Period	
Automobile Sightseeing	74,686	95,732	1335	7/4/63
Attended Station	74,686	95,732	1335	7/4/63
Self-Guiding	74,686	95,732	1335	7/4/63
Water Uses - Swimming (E)	4,000	2,000	No record	
Picnicking (E)	7,000	4,000		

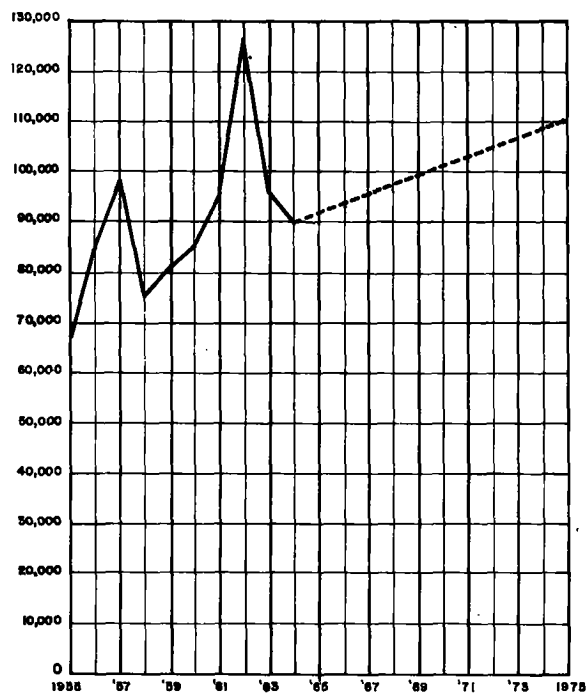
(E) Estimated

The low figures for swimming and picnicking for 1963 are attributable to the occurrence of a large fish kill during the summer months of that year. The beach area was closed off much of the summer.

ANNUAL NUMBER OF VISITORS

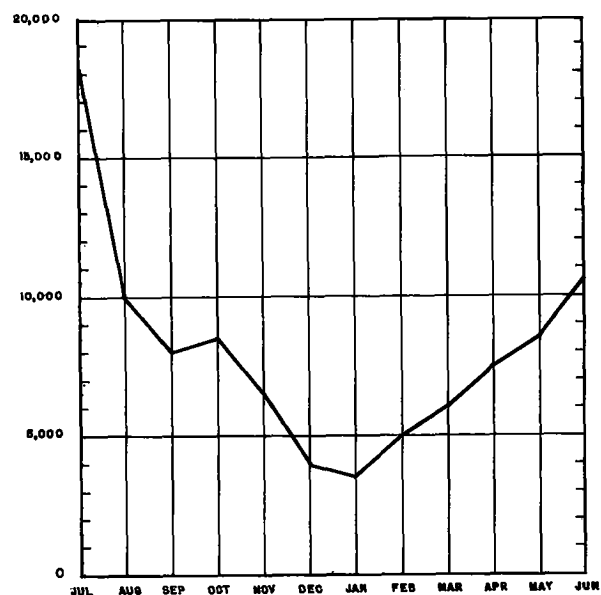
1955 - 1964

PROJECTED TO 1975



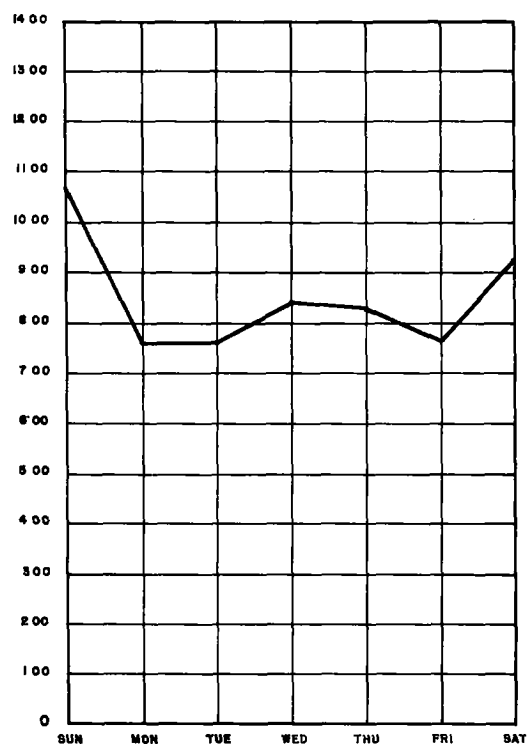
NUMBER OF VISITORS PER MONTH

JULY 1963 - JUNE 1964



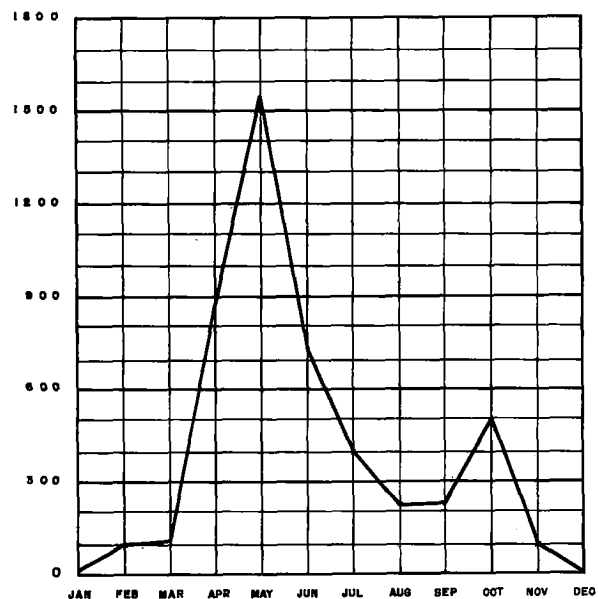
AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITORS PER DAY

(THREE HIGHEST MONTHS)



NUMBER OF VISITORS IN ORGANIZED GROUPS

(MONTHLY AVERAGES JANUARY 1961 - SEPTEMBER 1964)



A PLAN FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT

MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Control Of Undesirable Plants

Planning Considerations Honeysuckle and poison ivy infest portions of the public use area.

Requirements A continuous, thorough program for the safe use of appropriate and duly approved herbicides and bramblecides should be established until poison ivy, honeysuckle, and other undesirable plants have been controlled in the developed areas.

Fire Control

Planning Considerations A potential threat exists on most of the park's 394 acres. Although no major woods fire has occurred, there have been minor ones that could have developed into serious situations. Larger fires on lands adjoining have also occurred, but fortunately were suppressed before entering park lands.

Should there be a fire during working hours, personnel present would be available for suppression action; the maximum number of available park personnel would be two men. However, should the fire occur at any other time there may be no one present. Fire extinguishers, 75-gallon pumper, garden tools, hand tools and backpack pumps are the means by which structural and woods fires may be fought until help arrives.

The nearest fire fighting units are located at Montross and Colonial Beach, these units being about 12 miles away. They are both volunteer organizations which work with Westmoreland County and the State. Although no cooperative agreement exists with them, both units have cooperated fully in the past.

Telephone services is provided by the Tidewater Telephone Company. This service unfortunately is unreliable in particular in emergencies when efficient communication is essential.

Requirements The present level of good public and park neighbor relations must be maintained to assure their assistance in such a fire emergency.

The Management Assistant is the only man who lives in the park and is the only one present from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. To protect the area adequately, two other permanent employees should live in the park.

There is also an immediate need for radio equipment to supplement the undependable local telephone system in order to provide reliable communication with local emergency units. If feasible, a tie-in with the Fredericksburg park system should be sought.

Control Of Insect Pests And Tree Diseases

Planning Considerations The park contains several hundred ornamental and fruit trees and trees in the cedar grove picnic area, cemetery, and along roadsides which need periodic care. Recurrent spraying of elms is required on a scheduled

basis for control of the elm bark beetle as a means of preventing infestation by the Dutch elm disease. The available mobile tank sprayer is not capable of reaching the tops of the taller trees that need spraying. One such tree, in the mansion area, is a progeny, by cutting, from the famous Cambridge Washington Elm and should be preserved.

Requirements For more efficient service, tree spraying work should be done by contract with a tree service company. Such programs should be conducted with continuing concern for the effect on the natural environment, and only after clearance of Pesticide Project Proposals by the Director's Office.

Wildlife Protection

Planning Considerations Road and foot patrols are made, when possible, by the Management Assistant to apprehend hunters and contact those whose hounds are running through park lands. At times when the Management Assistant is away working hours, the area is, unfortunately, unprotected against these violations.

Requirements Effective patrols will be possible only by having additional employees live within the park. In this way wildlife protection needs will be more adequately met.

A program should be undertaken to meet with the members of local hunting clubs and other groups and individuals in an effort to elicit their cooperation, understanding and observance of Service rules and regulations.

MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC SCENE

I Historic Structures

Planning Considerations The objective of this program is authentic re-creation, wherever practicable, of the scene of the farm where Washington was born. The primary existing feature is the reconstructed, period-style Memorial House located on one of the many archeological sites in the historic area. A reconstructed period kitchen, colonial-type garden, and other features recreate a semblance of the colonial environment. These structures, as well as the archeological sites of the houses and outbuildings of several early colonial residences of the Washington family and the Washington Family Burial Ground, are located on 394 acres of land that were part of the original Washington plantation.

Present knowledge is still inconclusive on the exact site of the birthplace building, and more general data on the historic appearance of the farm is still seriously lacking.

The Memorial House and its furnishings represent a Virginia farm house of the mid-18th century. It commemorates the birthplace and boyhood of George Washington. The colonial-style kitchen and garden supplement the period character of the mansion. None, by their site, size, design, or character, insofar as we know, preserve any definitive historical feature of the birthplace.

The existing post office, parking area and temporary administrative office are sufficiently poor in quality and located

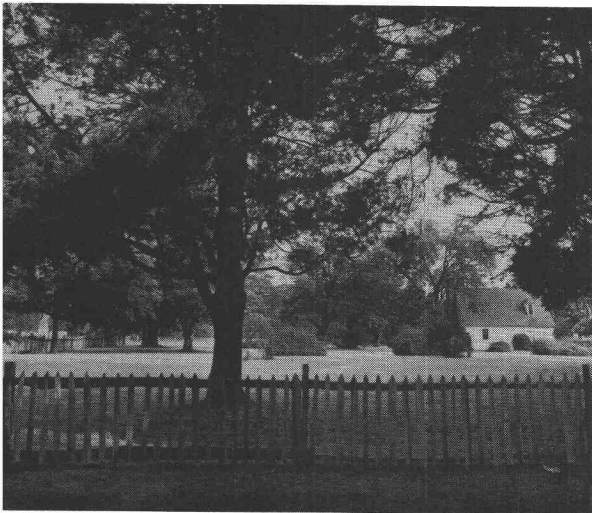
close enough to the very heart of the commemorative features as to be considered important intrusions.

Requirements The existing program to preserve and maintain the setting will be continued as long as it does not conflict with authenticated historical and archeological findings. Roads will be restricted to those necessary for visitor and administrative use.

Inasmuch as the sites of structures and other features are so vitally important to the preservation and interpretation program of this national monument, there is an immediate need for initiating historical and archeological studies. Their primary purpose would be to ascertain, if at all possible, the site, size, design, and character of the birthplace, dependencies and other physical features of the Augustine Washington home at Popes Creek farm and the sites of the other colonial farm houses and outbuildings on the 394 acres. Historic and Archeological Base Maps should be prepared in conjunction with these studies.

A furnishing plan is needed to guide the refurnishing of the Memorial House and kitchen stressing display of those pieces which are appropriate as furnishings of the Washington birth and boyhood period.

When the research program is completed, the findings of these studies should be incorporated to present a visual setting which will be appropriate to the true character of the Washington farm.



The ruins of "Building X" lie underground to the right of this tree.

Development of the major interpretive facility should move forward only after salvage studies to insure protection of any archeological resources which might be present. The buildings should also be located to avoid unnecessarily objectionable encroachment on the heart of the plantation setting along Popes Creek while still allowing reasonable visitor access to primary interpretive and scenic areas. Consideration should also be given stabilizing and exhibit of significant and/or interesting ruins of farm structures associated with both the Washington birthplace complex and John Washington story.

II LAND USE CONTROL OF NEARBY LANDS

Planning Considerations Significant elements in the scene viewed by the visitor to the monument are uses of waters of Popes Creek, the agricultural land uses on adjacent properties and, in particular, on lands on the opposite side of Popes Creek. Present private farming operations are a compatible type of land use we would wish to see continued indefinitely. Hunting and commercial activities on Popes Creek are incompatible uses.

Requirements In order to insure the preservation of this rural scene, the use of lands on both sides of Popes Creek, land along the west boundary of the park, the interior properties bounded by monument lands and the Potomac River, and land bordering State 204 between the parkway and monument entrance should be controlled. Any of the following

methods might be considered: acquisition and leaseback or resale of certain rights, perpetual easements, county zoning, acquisition itself, or other practical methods of control.

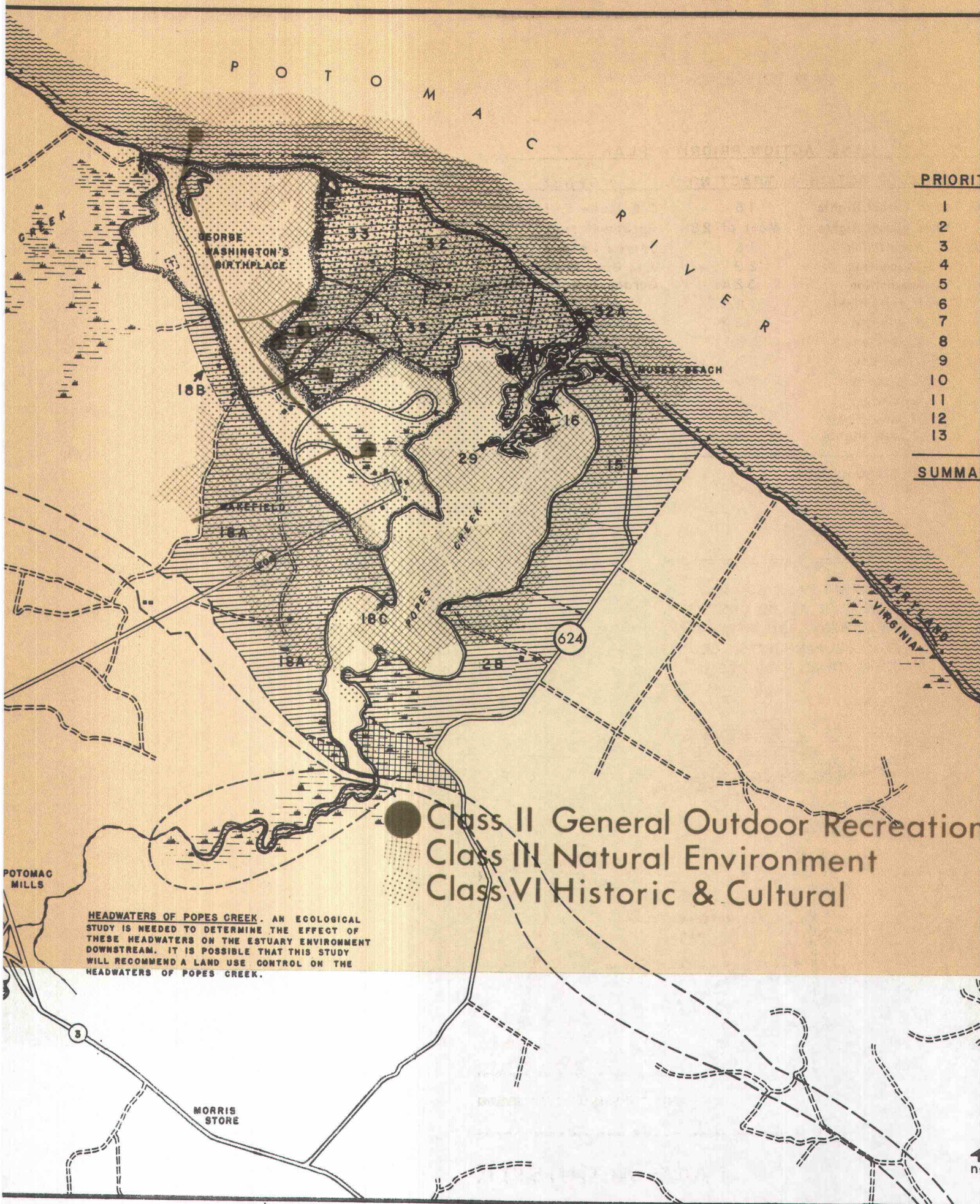
The waters of Popes Creek fronting on the monument should also be protected through regulations developed in cooperation with the State of Virginia. This use should be restricted to non-powered boats, and adverse uses such as hunting and commercial activities eliminated.

An ecological study should be made of the wetlands along the upper reaches of Popes Creek. This study should determine what effect the disturbance of natural conditions along the upper part of the creek would have on the overall ecology of the Popes Creek estuary. From the study, scenic easement or other control of this wetlands resource may be recommended.

III Agricultural Uses On Monument

Planning Considerations Agricultural use of 170 acres of park land is accomplished by Special Use Permit as a measure necessary to retain the farm character of the area. This includes both crop raising and cattle grazing. The Wakefield National Memorial Association grazes sheep to further enhance the agricultural character of the scene.

Requirements The historic base maps will guide the proposed restoration of appropriate farm buildings, roads, and fences, planting of period crops, and raising of period farm animals by 18th century means which will provide the visitor with an authentic picture of farming operations (on a limited scale)



PRIORITY

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SUMMARY

Class II General Outdoor Recreation
Class III Natural Environment
Class VI Historic & Cultural

HEADWATERS OF POPES CREEK. AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY IS NEEDED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF THESE HEADWATERS ON THE ESTUARY ENVIRONMENT DOWNSTREAM. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS STUDY WILL RECOMMEND A LAND USE CONTROL ON THE HEADWATERS OF POPES CREEK.

as Washington knew it as a boy. This restoration should be restricted to the primary area of historic interpretation south of the Memorial House (approximately 20 acres) unless research gives important justification for alternate development sites. The 170 acres presently under special agricultural permit should be held in this use until it is needed for use in the expanded historic farm operation.

VISITOR USE

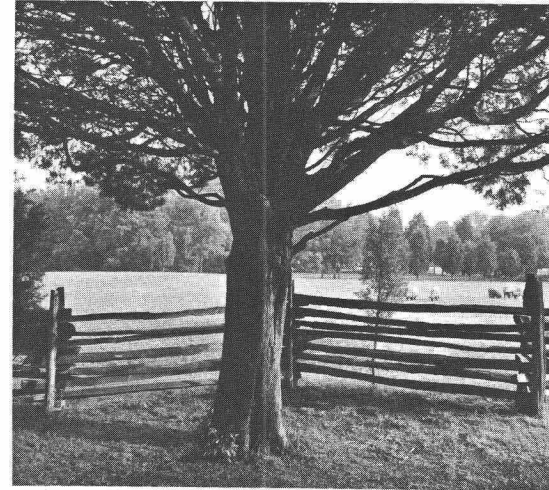
Introduction Of Visitor To Area

Planning Considerations In summer, initial visitor contact is made at the gate house located on the Monument Circle. Here an entrance admission fee is collected by a uniformed employee, and the park's free informational folder provided. This fee is presently collected only during the summer travel season.

The visitor's route to Washington's birthplace is either northwest or southeast of Virginia Route #3, then east two miles on Route #204. A few signs on Route #3 direct the sharp-eyed visitor to the Route #204 turnoff. Less observant motorists may miss these signs; the lack of adequate directional devices are by far our biggest complaint.

The park is open throughout the year, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At this time there are two permanent Park Guides and, during the summer months, two seasonal Ranger-Historians to man entrance and interpretive stations. When annual leave or sick leave is taken, the informational and interpretive program is seriously impaired.



Requirements One of the present needs for visitor introduction is more efficient directional signing. The Sign and Wayside Exhibit Plan when approved, gives guidance to this element of the program.

The paramount requirements for effective introduction of visitor to park is an informational and interpretive facility. All of the park's information and interpretation program is vitally dependent upon the development of a modern visitor use facility. Without it, it is very difficult to orient and inform the visitor, and interpret the birthplace.

The proposed George Washington Country Parkway will include as a significant value the George Washington Birthplace. With the completion of the parkway into the vicinity of the monument, land use controls should be obtained along Route #204 between the parkway and monument entrance. This will insure preservation of a pleasant approach drive to the monument.

Administrative control should be acquired over Route #204 between the parkway and the monument entrance.

The entrance station should be eliminated and the entrance road relocated to the proposed information-interpretation facility. This will relocate the road to a route east of and outside the restored living farm operation.

Signing should direct visitors to this facility as the desirable starting point of a visit to the monument.

Fee collection should be established at this facility.

Accommodation for the sales operations of the Wakefield National Memorial Association should also be included.

Information Services

Planning Considerations The object of the information program is to give the visitor the information on the use of public services and facilities, and to inform them of the significance of the area's important historical resources.

This is now done by direct visitor contact with the uniformed employee at the Memorial Mansion. During the summer months another uniformed employee is stationed at the gate house, but his main function is to sell tickets and give directional advice to the park and its surrounding area.

Free informational literature is provided by the uniformed employee stationed at the mansion or in summer at the entrance station. With no audiovisual or other devices available, the visitor is almost wholly dependent on personal contact for help during his park visit. Trailside exhibits or other devices are absent except for two explanatory signs, one at the burial ground site and the other at the path leading to the mansion grounds. Little if any contact is made with the public on the site other than these two stations.

Recommendation and guidelines relative to the park's informational program is provided by Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Requirements An interpretive-information facility at George Washington Birthplace would fulfill all requirements for information needs. The facility would be the main contact and orientation point before the public visits the memorial grounds. Personal information services provided by friendly and informed receptionists, revised informational literature on the facilities and services, and other informational devices will be needed in the facility. A system of outdoor directional devices are needed for walking tours of the site.

An Interpretive Prospectus is needed to detail the specific informational methods required.

The Sign & Wayside Exhibit Plan should be prepared to guide installation of informational devices throughout the monument.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

I Interpretive Introduction

Planning Considerations The present program of interpretation stresses the educational and inspirational qualities found in the charming replica Memorial House, kitchen, and garden and the natural beauties which the memorial grounds have to offer.

Overall, the program does not develop, stress, nor essentially provide an efficient and provocative interpretation of George Washington, his family background, birth, and their significance upon his times and our Nation. Interpretation, due to the lack of historical and archeological evidence, remains largely memorial in character.

Requirements The principle theme at the George Washington Birthplace should be interpretation of the birth and boyhood of Washington, his family background and associations with his birthplace and boyhood home. With this, our selected theme, every effort should be devoted to the earliest clarification, if at all possible, of the historic site location of the birthplace, and the size, design, and character of the home in which George Washington was born. This requires the research, archeological and historical, already called for in the program, Re-creation of the Historic Scene.

The primary facility needed is an Interpretive Facility featuring introduction to the man's beginnings and the farm influences that provided the foundation for a career that would carry him to a position of greatness on the American scene. Significant aspects of the story of Washington's early life should be highlighted with liberal use of historic objects associated with the site to lend reality and authenticity to interpretation.

Additional literature will be needed to interpret important aspects of the Washington birthplace story for post-visit use. In particular, literature suitable for children is needed.

Location of the Interpretive Facility should take advantage of scenic views of Popes Creek and farm vistas short of providing an unnecessary intrusion in itself.

Conducted tours for educational groups and other interested

persons may be provided to insure maximum visitor enjoyment and benefit from the visit.

II Historic Buildings

Planning Considerations At the house, the principal interpretation is provided by the staff on duty. Talks and brief historic tour aid the visitor in understanding life on a colonial Virginia farm such as George Washington would have experienced, with associations, wherever feasible to the park theme - the birth and boyhood of Washington. In the self-guided portions of the house tour, notably the second floor, there is little in the way of meaningful interpretation.

With no historian on the staff, training and appraisal of the effectiveness of the guides is limited.

The refurnished colonial kitchen is a self-guided exhibit which is not fully effective because of intrusive protection devices and lack of explanatory aids. The adjacent exhibit area presents Washington's birth and early years through outdated exhibits in a mediocre museum setting.

Interpretive publications sold at the kitchen by the Wakefield Association partially meet the needs of literature for post-visit study of the area's Washington theme.

Requirements Interpretation of the Memorial House and colonial kitchen as period house and kitchen exhibits should be improved by completing the furnishings of both structures with

items appropriate to the theme period and by installing improved interpretive devices. When exhibits are removed from the backroom of the kitchen, this room will be furnished according to recommendations laid down by research studies.

Additional permanent and seasonal interpretive personnel will be needed to man the memorial house and environs and Interpretive Facility, and to guide on-site interpretive and resource management programs.

III Interpreting Historic Grounds

Planning Considerations Outside the memorial buildings, a walk leads to the colonial garden, featuring period herbs, flowers, etc., which are identified by simple markers. Possibly the most memorable inspirational experience results as one stands overlooking the broad front lawns of the house and the distant creek and river scene. Other field interpretation is limited to interpretive signs at the burial ground of the Washington family, and the rural setting established by present agricultural activities.

Requirements Since the present Memorial House, kitchen, and garden tend to overshadow the interpretive theme, the tour of the historic area should be redesigned to emphasize features related importantly to the birth and boyhood theme. At the conclusion of archeological and historical studies, the interpretation of significant findings including interesting or important structural ruins (including Building

X) or other historical features, should be incorporated in the walking tour of the site. Building X, the possible birthplace site, should be interpreted as a primary feature on this walking tour. Important structural ruins related to the John Washington and Henry Brooks sites may also be opened and interpreted for public benefit.

In conjunction with interpretation of the complex of buildings and ruins associated with the Wakefield home, the story of Wakefield as an operating 18th century farm should be presented. This story should also weave around the Washington theme - presentation of the farm as the boy Washington knew it. Through reconstruction of functional farm structures, raising of period crops and livestock, and demonstration of 18th century farm methods and activities an accurate portrayal of the Washington farm at Wakefield (in reduced scale) should be possible. Research will be needed to provide a historic base map and other data necessary to recreate effectively this living farm operation.

In keeping with the 18th century theme of Washington's early life, interpretation should include self-guiding nature/history walks along Popes Creek south and north of Dancing Marsh which will, where possible, relate natural history features to colonial life and, in particular, Washington's experiences. Seasonal interpretation of waterfowl populations on nearby waters is also appropriate.

An Interpretive Prospectus will be needed to guide the detailed development of the area program.



A soybean field, part of the farm setting that will be maintained.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

Planning Considerations It is the responsibility of the Management Assistant, and his very limited staff, to protect the area resources and facilities, and to provide for visitor protection. Local law enforcement assistance is welcomed in this respect and the highway patrolmen have been encouraged to patrol park roads, although they have been on park premises very infrequently in the past. During the summer, when park use is heaviest, their undermanned force is kept busy on the higher speed highways in the county. They are available for emergency calls, but can do very little patrolling on park roads and in the four parking areas during the period of heaviest use. It is at this time that road patrols by enforcement personnel, State and/or Service would be most productive. Very little staff time can be assigned to this function during the summer due to the need for uniformed personnel elsewhere.

The beach area, in particular, is a trouble spot during the summer months when local groups gather to have parties, swim and engage in other activities which are inconsistent with the purpose for which this historical area was established. Although the area is closed at night beyond the burial ground parking lot, cars can park in the latter area, and their occupants can, and do, proceed on foot to the beach for recreational activities. Unless the resident Management Assistant happens to make a nightly road patrol, these activities go on unhindered.

Permission is granted to those visitors wanting to use the beach for swimming during the day, but signs discourage this activity. The water line is the Maryland-Virginia State boundary and the water, therefore, is in Maryland. The users of the beach are told when passing the entrance station that the changing of clothes on the beach is prohibited. Without adequate personnel to patrol this area, it is not possible to enforce these rules.

Requirements Continuing and increased efforts by the Management Assistant and staff are necessary for handling traffic control and law enforcement functions during the peak travel periods.

Additional employees, living in the area, would help to provide more adequate law enforcement and traffic control and contribute to visitor protection and enjoyment of the park.

More effective control of beach use and adverse night time uses is needed through (1) control of land uses on inholdings in the monument, (2) gating the main entrance to the area, (3) closing the road past the burial ground to vehicular use, and (4) special regulations prohibiting swimming in the monument.

Water use control on Popes Creek should be sought to eliminate commercial activities and adverse recreational uses such as power boating and hunting. This may be achieved through outright acquisition and permit or cooperation with the State of Virginia.

EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID

Planning Considerations Park safety meetings with all employees attending are now being held periodically. Active group participation at the meetings helps to effectuate the safety program.

The park is located 40 miles from the nearest hospital, in Fredericksburg, and 10 miles from the nearest rescue squad, at Colonial Beach. This is a factor to be contended with in any serious accident. The rescue squad and/or doctor has to be notified by telephone and the time lag may be quite long before help arrives. The telephone system available to the area, as in the surrounding county, is undependable. Breakdowns are not uncommon and a serious accident could occur when the telephone is out of order.

Requirements The current safety program, including first aid training for all permanent employees, is to be pursued.

Radio communication, as previously proposed, is particularly needed for emergencies.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

I Swimming

Planning Considerations Local groups use the beach along the Potomac River for swimming and other activities inconsistent with the purpose of this area. This activity is permitted during the day although staff control is severely limited due to lack of personnel.

Westmoreland State Park and Colonial Beach both have public swimming facilities available for those visitors interested in this type of recreation.

Requirements With neighboring recreational areas (Colonial Beach and Westmoreland State Park) providing satisfactory outlets for those interested in active recreation such as boating, swimming and camping, the birthplace stands in a unique position to offer a contrasting opportunity for quiet, contemplative use of the beautiful wooded shores and swamps bordering Popes Creek and the Potomac River. Special regulations are needed to prohibit swimming at the monument.

II Walking And Other Passive Recreation

Planning Considerations There have existed in the past over two and one-half miles of foot trails, mainly through the Duck Hall woods. During World War II these trails were abandoned. They served a dual purpose. Primarily they enabled visitors to get an outdoor experience in the forest area where George Washington may have walked as a boy. Secondly, the trails served as firebreaks. The trails are still discernible.

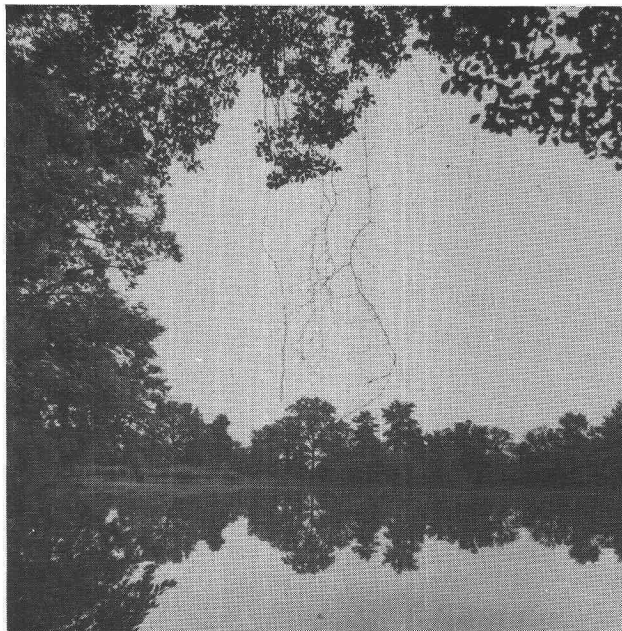
Requirements A system of foot trails should be developed to give access to interesting and scenic natural areas of the park including the river shore. Activities in this respect should include walking, nature observations, sitting and other passive enjoyment of outdoor resources and river overlooks.

III Picnicking And Other Food Services

Planning Considerations The park has a 14-unit picnic area in a very pleasant setting overlooking Popes Creek. This picnic area, which adequately serves normal use, contains tables, fireplaces, water fountains, and restrooms.

Requirements With completion of proposed development and the resultant lengthened visitor stay, the demand for picnicking sites in such an attractive area will undoubtedly rise. Two additional picnic sites are proposed, both closely associated with views of the monument's pond and creek environment. One area, overlooking the pond near the Henry Brooks House site, will also serve as a starting point for foot trails to interpretive and scenic points of interest.

The expected increased use resulting from development and the construction of the George Washington Country Parkway may also open the way to provision of meal services on the



The pond near Bridges Creek.
A nature trail will begin here.

monument. In a setting ideally suited to a pleasant meal stop, with visitors spending more time in the park, and isolated as the monument is from day-use facilities and services normally provided by neighboring communities, there is a potential need for a restaurant facility. When the visitation reaches a level where demand may support a restaurant operation, a study should be made of its desirability and feasibility.



The Log Tea Room in 1938. This plan proposes that meal services be considered here.

IV Overnight Accommodations

Planning Considerations Camping facilities are available at Westmoreland State Park and several privately-operated camp sites in the vicinity.

Requirements Future consideration should be given to the establishment of this area as an overnight stopping place

for users of the Potomac Heritage Trail, if the trail is ultimately developed and the need for a site here becomes evident.

Historical Collections

Planning Considerations The existing collection is comprised of some 50,000 items largely resulting from past archeological work on the site. These are maintained and stored in the basement of the house. Responsibility for preserving, cataloguing and other curatorial work belongs to the park staff with the technical aid of specialists in the Washington and Regional Offices. A regular schedule of cleaning has been established and a dehumidifying system installed to insure preservation of fragile textiles and other furnishings in the house.

Requirements Study is needed to determine and record historical data on the objects and to give direction to management in determining the usefulness of these materials for future research, exhibit and other interpretive purposes.

STAFF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

I Administrative Services

Planning Considerations With an office at the monument, the Management Assistant, under supervision of the Superintendent at Fredericksburg, directs operations to accomplish the Park Mission. He manages, evaluates and coordinates the work of the monument staff and applies policy directives and sched-

ules for proper conduct of area programs. In accordance with established procedures, he participates in long range management and development planning, in preparation of Master Plans and in programming and supervising construction programs. An important phase is the maintenance of good relations with park neighbors and with agencies concerned with various aspects of the monument operation. He holds membership in or provides liaison with the following groups:

Westmoreland County Authorities

Virginia State Police

Colonial Beach Fire Department

Colonial Beach Rescue Squad

Regional Civil Defense Authorities

Dahlgren Naval Proving Grounds

Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation

Wakefield National Memorial Association.

The Administrative Assistant in Fredericksburg performs necessary and appropriate administrative services.

Requirements The proposed interpretive facility will provide adequate office, storage, concession and post office facilities. Combination of Fredericksburg Interpretive and Protection Divisions and reorganization of the Fredericksburg Maintenance Division will provide a better overall management program.

When proposed programs such as the living historic farm gets underway, it may be necessary to conduct a management

appraisal to determine the need for assigning more administrative responsibilities to the on-site staff. Also when the George Washington Country Parkway is opened, study should be made of coordinating use of staff and facilities for maintenance and protection of both the monument and the adjacent parkway.

II Maintenance of Facilities

Planning Considerations Preventive and corrective measures are necessary to maintain buildings and utilities, except telephone and power systems maintained by a public utility company, 4.5 miles of roads and 2.59 miles of trails; grounds and fences; signs and markers; and other miscellaneous facilities in a manner contributing to the park visitor's welfare, and to the dependability and long life of park facilities. Operations are directed by the Management Assistant in coordination with plans devised by him and the Superintendent of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

Maintenance of this 394-acre national monument commemorating the birth of George Washington is a steadily expanding operation. For the most part, no new facilities have been added, nor has any appreciable change taken place in the present physical plant and its environs since the 1930's. Termites and deterioration due to weathering and old age are taking their toll.

Maintenance operations for Washington Birthplace are based

at the utility area. The utility building is a partly converted stable and only partially heated. The space needed for covered storage is not adequately served by this structure.

Gas, paints, oils, chemicals and volatile solvents are stored in a nearby 8' x 10' building of wood frame construction which is too small and is a fire hazard in itself. The building is unheated, and near zero weather destroys the usefulness of some of its paints and other stores.

The maintenance staff consists of one permanent caretaker and one permanent gardener. When, and if, funds are available, seasonal laborers are hired.

Fifteen acres in and about the Memorial House are mowed to maintain the open appearance of the historic period. The feeding and care of livestock, which is the property of the Wakefield National Memorial Association, is done by the staff. The number of animals, now down to nine sheep, is the lowest for many years.

Special housekeeping and preservation measures are necessary for the proper maintenance of the memorial house and kitchen.

The recently rejuvenated colonial herb garden contains over 100 species of herbs, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Most of the varieties of plants in the restored garden are those known to have been cultivated 200 years ago or longer.

The Wakefield Memorial Association maintains a hothouse and

cutting garden for developing sales items and to aid in management of the colonial garden.

Two existing water systems are installed in 1931-32 and very little has been done since to modernize them. The line leading from the pond pump house is not capable of carrying sufficient amounts of water to the needed areas during peak use.

The new well will serve as a supply to the proposed visitor center and other buildings now present.

Vehicle access to the present utility area is by way of the monument circle, through the parking area and on the gravel road in back of the memorial house and kitchen. The road is mistakenly used by many visitors who have to then turn around at the maintenance area to return to the proper parking area. The road and maintenance area are intrusions on the mansion grounds' colonial environment.

Requirements The existing maintenance area should be removed from the historic scene and new facilities for storage and work space developed at a site outside the critical historic zones. Increased staffing of the maintenance section, which is at a very low point, is needed to assure proper care of existing and proposed buildings and utilities, to meet increasing requirements of grounds maintenance at proposed developed areas, and to maintain roads and trails and other expanding miscellaneous facilities.

Any construction project should be preceded by archeological investigation to avert damage to and/or overlaying of buried ruins or sites which may be valuable to the story of Washington's birthplace.

Historic farm roads restored as part of the living historic farm may be used to provide essential maintenance services to the farm complex.

PROTECTION OF FACILITIES

I Building Fire Control

Planning Considerations In the event of a fire emergency, a fire pumper and fire extinguishers are available in all park structures including quarters. Cooperative fire units, as noted under the subject Fire Control, are available for assistance. A building fire, should it occur during normal working hours, would most likely be fought by the available staff and the local fire departments when they arrive. A fire occurring at any other time would have to be reported by the resident Management Assistant who is the only one living on the premises. Should he be away on annual leave or for any other reason, there would be no one except park neighbors, who live over a mile away, to report it.

Requirements Radio communication is needed as mentioned in the Fire Control program.

Since there may be no one at all in the park during absences of the Management Assistant additional permanent employees should be in residence on the area.

II Protection From Vandalism

Planning Considerations After working hours the Management Assistant is responsible for vandal controls with such patrolling as he can do at night. When he is gone there is, for all purposes, no protection except as a highway patrol man happens to drive in at night. The Federal Government has proprietorial jurisdiction on all park lands. Cooperation with local law enforcement authorities is good. Vandalism has not been too much of a problem up until now, but it may increase in the future. Vandalism control is a continuing activity which increases during the summer and school vacations.

Requirements Protection staffing is needed to accomplish effective law enforcement and other control activities.

Continued and increased cooperation with the local law enforcement officials is necessary so that their services can be counted on when needed.

STAFF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Planning Considerations There are two residences in the park at present. These employee quarters are in good condition. The remainder of the staff live in the adjoining community and for the most part own their own homes. Rental housing is scarce and substandard.

Colonial Beach, Montross and Fredericksburg furnish facilities and services necessary to community life.

Requirements Construction of one additional residence is needed to provide adequate protection. Major protection need is at night and during periods when the Management Assistant is on leave or away from the monument for other reasons. The occupant will furnish protection for an isolated area where considerable investment has been made and is in prospect.

When the living farm begins operation it may be necessary to provide quarters for some farm employees.

The log tea room and adjoining kitchen-furnace wing should be renovated for temporary use as seasonal quarters. Extensive rehabilitation of the kitchen-heating and sleeping facilities in the wing will be required.

ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

Planning Considerations Monument headquarters is a small, temporary building. Space is inadequate for efficient administrative operations.

Requirements The proposed Interpretive Facility will provide adequate space for administrative services and facilities (including office and storage for interpretive, protection, and maintenance staffing.

ORGANIZATION

Existing Organization

Office of Management Assistant

Management Assistant	1
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Visitor Services

Park Guides	2
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Seasonal Personnel	0.5 M.Y.
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Maintenance

Gardener	1
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Caretakers	1
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Charwoman	0.4 M.Y.
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Seasonal Laborers (WAE)	1 M.Y.
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Requirements Staff increases are needed for the following functions:

Office of Management Assistant

To provide part time clerical help for the Management Assistant.

Visitor Services

To man the proposed Interpretive Facility as a permanent visitor contact station.

To provide effective on-site supervision of the program of interpretive services.

To guide programs involving management of historical, natural, and archeological resources.

To provide more effective 24-hour protection of resources and visitors to meet present needs, and in the face of expected increases in visitation, expanding visitor activities and increasing property responsibilities.

To provide improved information and interpretive contacts on the grounds during the travel season, in particular, as related to the living farm operation and use of the shoreline of the monument.

Maintenance

To maintain proposed Interpretive Facility

To provide maintenance and repair of an expanded system of roads and trails.

To maintain the several staff facilities proposed by this plan including residences and maintenance area.

To operate and maintain the living farm exhibition year-round including operation of demonstration projects and care of gardens and livestock.

OTHER AGENCIES

Planning Considerations A concession is operated by the Wakefield National Memorial Association. Business consists of sales of boxwood slips, good quality mementos, and park interpretive literature.

Sales facilities and storage for sales items for the Association are woefully inadequate.

Requirements Sales and storage facilities for the Wakefield Memorial Association should be incorporated in the Interpretive Facility.

Future Association sales should be expanded to include new publications relating to the interpretive themes of the monument, and sales items derived from the living farm operation. Association sales facilities should be open throughout hours of operation of the visitor center.

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

	1	2	3	4
<u>Protection Of Area Resources</u>				
Control of undesirable plants	x	x	x	x
Provide radio communication system	x			
Provide protection staffing		x		
Construct employee housing			x	

Historical Features

Historical and archeological research on birthplace farm	x			
Control land uses along Popes Creek	x			
Conduct salvage archeology before development	x			
Conduct ecological study of Popes Creek	x			
Stabilize and display important ruins		x		
Regulate water use on Popes Creek		x		
Prepare furnishing plan for memorial house and kitchen	x			

	1	2	3	4
Evaluate historic collections		x		
Restore living farm exhibition			x	
Complete refurnishings for memorial house and kitchen			x	
<u>Maintenance Of Facilities</u>				
Construct maintenance facilities		x		
Remove existing maintenance facilities			x	
Provide increased maintenance staffing			x	
<u>Information-Interpretation</u>				
Interpretive Prospectus	x			
Prepare Sign and Wayside Exhibit Plan	x			
Construct Information and Interpretive Facility		x		
Relocate monument entrance road		x		
Providing staffing to operate interpretive programs		x	x	
Develop directional signs			x	
Develop interpretive tour of site			x	
Obtain easements along approach road to monument		x		
Develop natural history interpretive trail		x		
<u>Visitor Protection</u>				
Control use of Popes Creek waters	x			
Acquire first aid equipment	x			
Acquire inholdings		x		

	1	2	3	4
Close road beyond burying ground			x	
Gate monument entrance			x	
Establish regulations prohibiting swimming			x	
<u>Recreation</u>				
Rehabilitate log tea room for interim seasonal quarters	x			
Develop trail system			x	
Study potential for restaurant operation				x
<u>Staff Facilities</u>				
Construct quarters for farm employees			x	

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN