

# THE HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE OF FERRY FARM

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## PURPOSE:

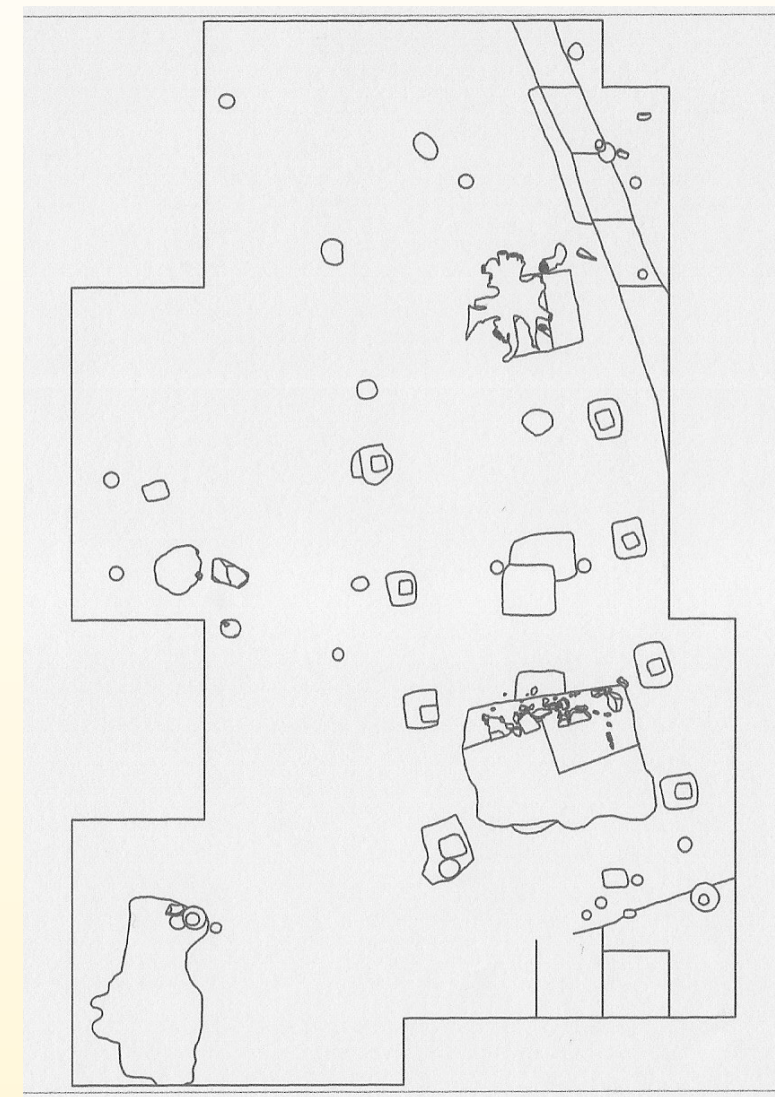


Most visitors to the Ferry Farm property are attracted to the site due to its link to the Washington family, and the story told at the site relates largely to George Washington's childhood there.

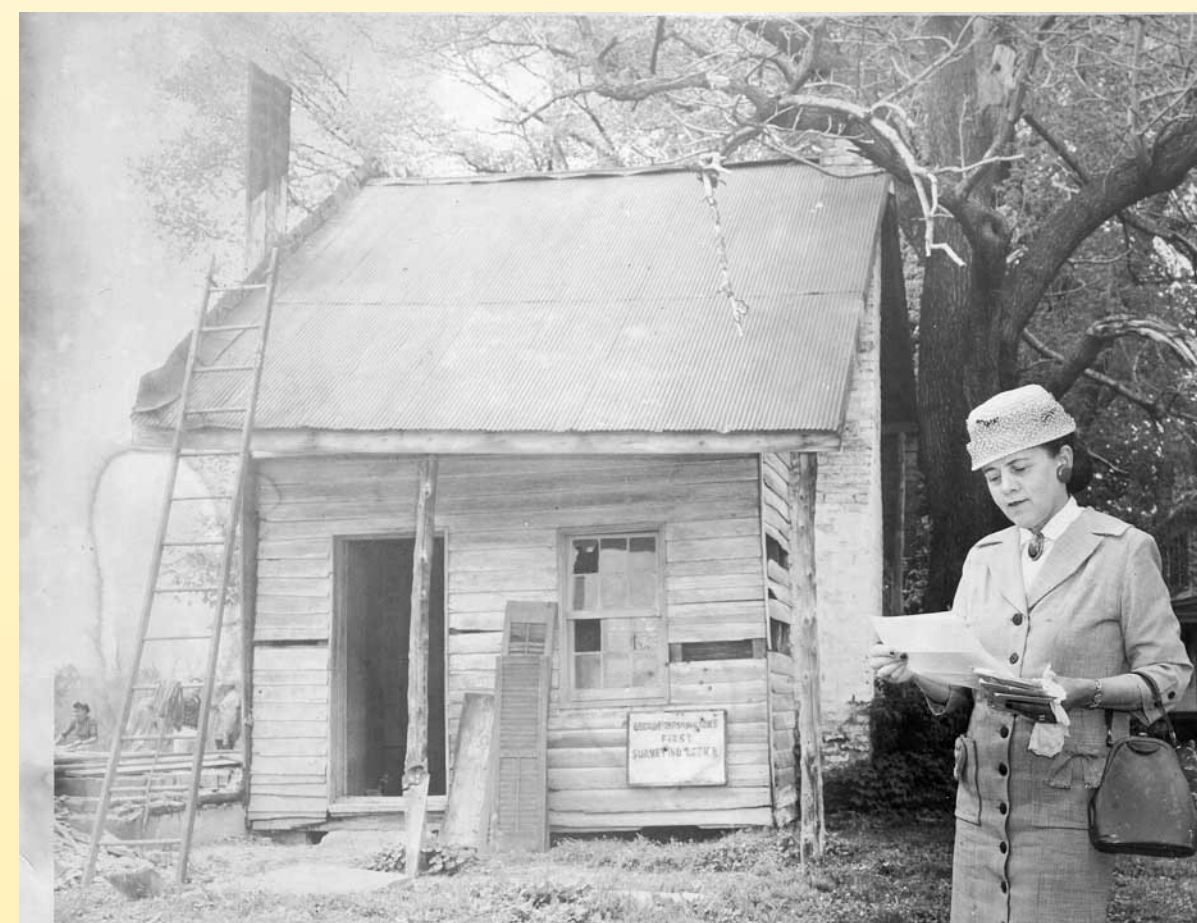
In reality, Ferry Farm has been inhabited by numerous families throughout history, and has a much more encompassing story to tell. The purpose of our project is to inform visitors of a wider history of the property, beginning in 1700 through the mid 20th century.

## PRODUCT:

In order to understand the chronology of the site, it is instrumental to understand the spatial relationships of what once stood there. Therefore, we pieced together a two dimensional map of architectural remains found through past excavation at Ferry Farm. We then placed this map on to a aerial view of the property's terrain using Google Earth, and attached information to each feature with pins. In end product is visually engaging, interactive, and highly informative of the history of the property. It will be used by Ferry Farm on the museum's website as an educational resource for visitors.



This map is an example of our starting point, one of several maps that were combined into the overall layout.



This photograph shows the only historical structure still standing on the Ferry Farm Property. Though we now know it was constructed in the late 1800s, locals it to be the building where Washington house his surveying tools.

## RESOURCES USED:

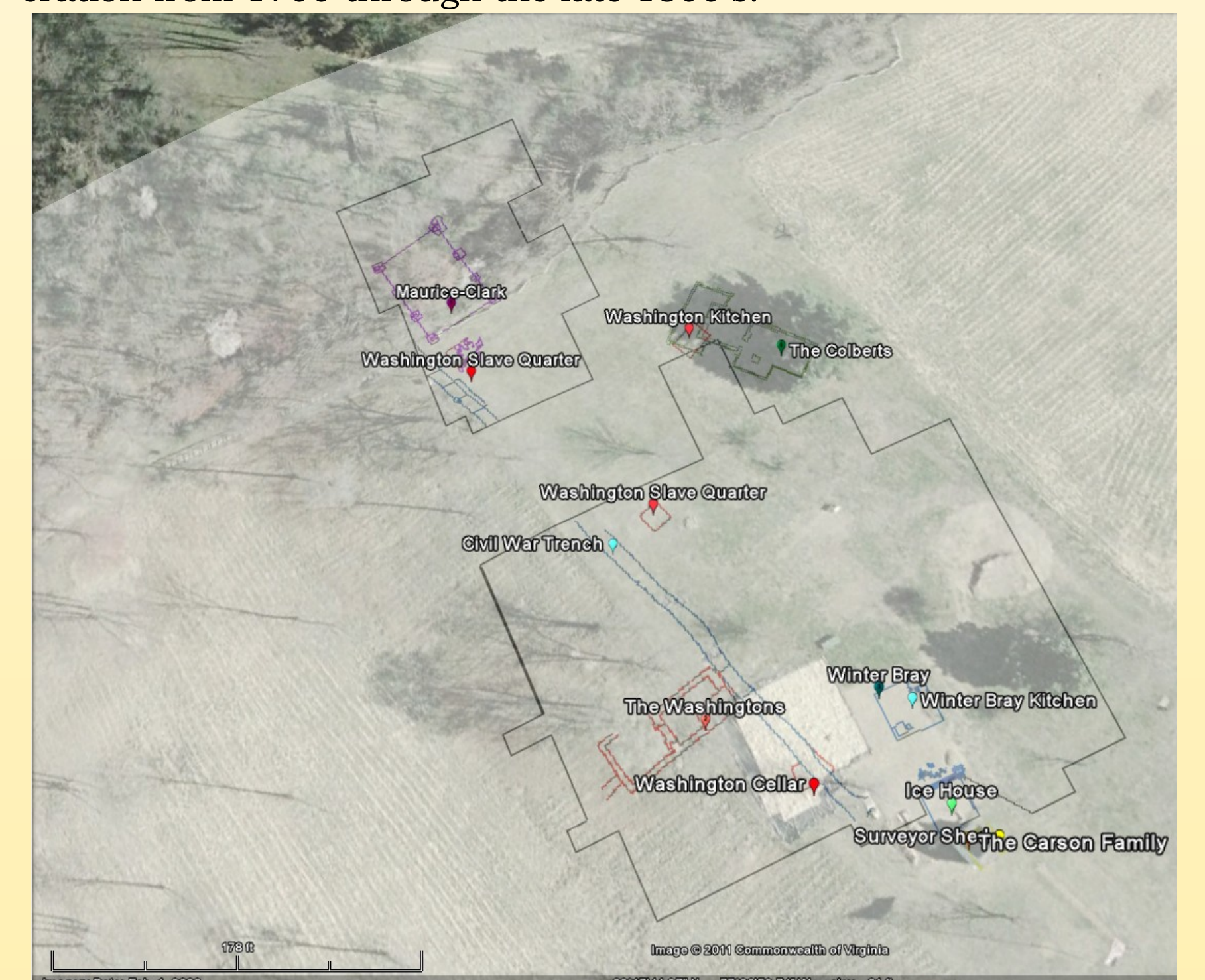
We gathered historical information from the archives in the Ferry Farm archaeological department. This included field reports, excavation maps, photographs, and historical documents such as property inventories and newspaper articles.

## PROCESS:

We began our project with AutoCAD maps of excavations conducted at Ferry Farm. As these excavations were completed over the course of fifteen years with rotating staff, many of the features were oriented along separate grids and according to different scales. We cross checked these drawings with the coordinates of the site and with the help of head of archaeology, Dave Muraca, we were able to combine all these maps into one overall layout. We then simplified the maps so that they could be easily understood by the public, and color coded each according to the time period or household. Finally, we imported to completed map into Google Earth and added information that we had compiled on the historical evolution of the property.



This view of the ferry crossing on the Rappahannock was painted by American artist John Gadsy Chapman when he visited the farm in 1833. This ferry, which has given the property its name, was in operation from 1700 through the late 1800's.



A screenshot of the final product in Google earth. The overall massing visible in this shot encloses the excavation area, and the colored dots explain each feature when clicked.