

An Archaeological Plan for the Camp Security Preservation Area

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Introduction

After more than a decade, land thought to contain the remnants of Revolutionary War prison camps, known as Camp Security and Camp Indulgence, has been saved from commercial and residential development threats. The preserved area is now administered by Springettsbury Township, York County. The purpose of this plan is to discuss archaeological research required to locate, investigate, and interpret these nationally significant sites. Knowledge of exact camp locations is unknown and required to enable sensitive land management, preservation, systematic scientific exploration for educational purposes, and public interpretation.

By necessity, archaeological methods described herein are general. Specific investigation techniques are best determined in light of field conditions and the nature of discovery – artifacts and features (soil disturbances resulting from human activity) realized or anticipated.

Knowledge of Camp Security and Camp Indulgence is preserved in documentary and archaeological evidence. These two records of the past are independent, yet complementary. One can be used to test the other.

The historic record, composed of items like legal documents, diaries, letters, maps, paintings, photographs, and oral histories, is intentional. Each is written or produced with purpose. They often capture incredible detail about former people, events, and activities but are sometimes tainted by the subjectivity of their authors and subjects. Moreover, because literacy, land ownership, the right to hold public office, etc. were reserved for affluent white males in colonial America, large segments of society, such as women, minorities, and poor white men, were under-registered or simply not recorded in any manner. Hence, the historic record may be incomplete.

The archaeological record, on the other hand, is an unintentional history of past behavior and events. It consists of soil features and refuse – bits and pieces of objects made and/or used by people and eventually discarded. Those who disposed of their trash so long ago never intended for it to be found, analyzed, or understood. Because all humans generate refuse, archaeological evidence is often considered to be more "democratic" or "fair." Yet, not all materials survive the ravages of time. As a result, interpretations of the past based on artifacts alone may be biased by what has or has not been preserved and found.

Obviously, the best way to learn about those who lived before us is to combine the results of historic and archaeological research. Where the testimony of sources agrees, confirmation or "truth" can be assumed. Where disagreement occurs, we are forced to ask why, prompting reevaluation of existing evidence and renewed search.

The following section summarizes current information collected from both the documentary and archaeological records.

Previous Research

The Documentary Record

The camps were built on land owned by Lancaster resident, David Brubaker, approximately 4 ½ miles east of York in 1781. A portion of Brubaker's 280 acre tract was farmed by a tenant and included 100 acres of cleared land and structures. Significant acreage, however, was in wood lot. While the camps were active and after closure in 1783, Brubaker made claims for losses he incurred. The claims demonstrate, beyond doubt, that the camps were located on the Brubaker tract and provide some clues as to initial camp construction. In his 1781 claim he states:

That above 100 Acres thereof being already cleared, the persons employed constructing the **Stockade & Huts** for the **Prisoners & Guards** have made use of large quantities of wood growing on the said Plantation, & have already cleared 30 Acres of wood land thereon, so that the Plantation aforesaid is considerably impaired in value.

That the Guards have used & destroyed almost all the Rails on the Plantation, utterly depriving the Tenant of the Indian Corn thereon, & the benefit of the Pasturage of his Meadow.

(Brubaker 1896; emphasis added)

The first camp, later called Indulgence, was built in July 1781 to contain so-called Convention Army prisoners – members of Lt. General John Burgoyne's army who surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777. In November of 1781 the Continental Board of War noted that the camp was made up of "huts surrounded with pickets" (Catts and Roberts 2000:7). This description is corroborated by the 1781 Brubaker claim (above). Yet, in 1782 at least one prisoner, Captain Samuel Graham, states Camp Indulgence was "without stockade or guard" (Graham 1862:73). A possible explanation for this discrepancy is that the Convention Army prisoners, who were reported to be lethargic and demonstrated little interest in escape, were moved out of the stockaded compound and

permitted to build a less secure "village of huts" before additional prisoners entered the camp in 1782 (cf., Mitzell 1979:20).

Camp Indulgence was composed of nearly 800-1000 people, including captured soldiers, women, and children (Stayer, personal communication 2014). They were afforded "very great privileges," including parole permits to work in the surrounding region (Lamb 1809:397-398).

In the winter of 1782 a contingent of approximately 800 British soldiers, women, and children captured at Yorktown, Virginia, were sent to the York camp. If the original stockaded camp was not used for the Yorktown prisoners (see above), this may have required the construction of a second, more secure, compound. In either event, Yorktown prisoners were moved into a camp made up of "huts newly constructed... surrounded by a high stockade" and "strictly guarded" (Graham 1862:73-74). The camp was called Security and reportedly enclosed a space of about two or three acres (see Lamb 1809:397). According to the accounts of two prisoners, Samuel Graham and Roger Lamb, Camp Indulgence was located approximately 200 yards from Security and "upon a rising ground" (see Graham 1862, Lamb 1809).

It is likely that defined areas near one or both camps were set aside for kitchens and latrines. It is also possible that a distinct work area attended Camp Indulgence (see Baumgardt [2000]:6-7). The nature of camp industry was described by Lamb.

Men, women, and even the children were employed making lace, buckles, spoons and exercising other mechanical trades which they had learned during their captivity.

(Lamb 1809:398)

The detention complex was composed of more than just Camps Indulgence and Security. In 1781 construction of a hospital began. However, Benjamin Shield, a former Surgeon's Mate in Burgoyne's Canada Army, reported it was not completed due to an outbreak of disease and death that affected camp inhabitants.

... they having in about five weeks Buried upwards of forty Men, women, and children ... **having no hospital** ... is an unusual trouble ... the Men had laid the foundation for an Hospital but falling Sick so fast there was not Men enough to attend the Sick ...

(Sellers 1895; emphasis added)

The hospital's location is not known nor is it known if construction was completed.

A cemetery was required for burial of the dead. In 1781 Corporal James Fox, a Convention Army prisoner, noted that "after the huts were builded we sunk wells and made a grave yard [a quarter-mile] from the camp..." (Houlding and Yates 1990:34-35). The location of the camp cemetery is unknown but may also lie in the Preservation Area.

The Archaeological Record

Limited archaeological excavations were conducted on the Wiest Farm property in 1979 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) in partnership with Springettsbury Township and Historic York, Inc. [The Wiest Farm property is located in the western third of the Camp Security Preservation Area.] The project successfully recovered artifacts and several refuse-filled pits dating to the camp period (see Hunter 1979). Although investigators pronounced the discovery to be the site of Camp Security, re-examination of collected artifacts and the lack of below-ground structural evidence, such as a stockade trench and postholes, suggest the site is more likely affiliated with Camp Indulgence. The large quantity of brass straight pins and bone button blanks found during the excavation may identify the location as a work area set aside from the residential compound (see Baumgardt [2000]:6-7).

In May 2000, a Phase I archaeological survey was conducted on the Wiest Farm property to evaluate the effects of a proposed housing subdivision on buried cultural resources associated with Camp Security/Indulgence (see Catts and Roberts 2000). Utilizing techniques of surface survey and shovel tests, investigators recovered additional camp period artifacts and features. Based on evidence collected during the 1979 and 2000 studies and inferences drawn from documentary accounts, approximate boundaries of Camp Security/Indulgence were postulated. Although not explicitly stated, Catts and Roberts suggest that Camp Indulgence lies in the so-called Upper Field where PHMC investigations were conducted in 1979; whereas, Camp Security was located in the so-called Lower Field north of the PHMC investigation site (2000:15-15).

In August-September 2009 Historic York, Inc. sponsored archaeological investigations on the Schultz House property, formerly the Rowe farm house (see Warfel 2010). The mid-18th century structure was the principal house on the David Brubaker tract when the camps were built and placed into service. Oral tradition and local histories have long-held that the building was used as a headquarters for camp guards (Stayer 1981:22), even though the 1781 Brubaker claim indicates huts were built for guards near the camp. The excavation of seventy-nine close interval test holes discovered only a handful of 18th century artifacts, none of which are directly associated with military activity. Hence, investigations were unable to verify that the house was used by camp guards.

Other Hypotheses

Since the 1979 PHMC investigation, additional hypotheses have been developed which suggest where the two camps might lie on the modern landscape. In an undergraduate research paper Jonathan Stayer aptly notes "The exact location of the camp [Security] has long been a point of contention" (1981:22). He does go on to suggest that "the stockade [Security] was to the west of the creek on the gentle slope, and the village [Indulgence] was on the higher plateau east of the creek [dividing the Rowe and Wiest Farms] and directly south of the [Schultz] house" (1981:23). Figure 1 is a reproduction of Stayer's Figure C, showing possible camp locations.

In an undated manuscript written after the 2000 Phase I study, Ken Baumgardt relies on British castramentation (17th and 18th century rules for "the scientific practice of designing military camps"), documentary evidence, and landscape features to arrive at a well-reasoned theory for the location of Camps Security and Indulgence. He interprets 1979 excavation findings to be the likely remains of a work area associated with Camp Indulgence ([2000]:6-7). Figure 2 illustrates Baumgardt's proposed locations of the two camps and associated activity areas.

Remote Sensing

In December 2012 Dr. Russell Quick of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. conducted a geophysical survey, aerial photograph analysis, and LiDar analysis on the Camp Security Preservation Area tract. A Geoscan Research FM-256 gradiometer was systematically employed to collect magnetic data, identifying areas of interest relating to the Revolutionary War camps (Quick 2013:i). According to Quick,

Based on the magnetic survey, six areas with a high potential for subsurface cultural features were documented. Three of these areas may be related to the Revolutionary War era Camp Security. The three other areas are probably related to the Schultz Farm and its associated infrastructure. The southeastern-most area of high magnetic readings is suggested as the probable location of Camp Security.

(2013:1)

Quick's Figure 13, showing the six areas of high magnetic reading (circled), is reproduced in Figure 3.

Interestingly, two of the areas that exhibited high magnetic readings in the southwest sector of the project area are locations that were previously surveyed and/or tested during 1979 and 2000 archaeological investigations. Both produced camp period artifacts. No work has been done in the area of high magnetic reading favored by Quick as the probable location of Camp Security (the circled area near Q1 in Figure 3).

In summary, the historical and archaeological records provide fascinating glimpses and some material evidence of Camps Security and Indulgence. Thus far, neither have identified their exact locations on the modern landscape. Unless newfound documents come to light, only renewed archaeological investigation promises to reveal their position in the Camp Security Preservation Area.

Proposed Exploratory Archaeological Investigations

Although it is assumed that the two camps were once located on the Preservation Area tract, preserved land only accounts for a portion of the 18th century Brubaker farm. Brubaker farmlands outside of the Preservation Area have already been impacted by residential development. Hence, it is possible that some parts of the detention complex may not survive.

To determine which camps or camp-associated deposits lie on preserved lands, exploratory archaeological investigations will be conducted. These investigations will target locations identified as "hot spots" during the 2012 geophysical survey, ones identified by Baumgardt in his manuscript, and revisit locations where camp period artifacts were found in 1979 and 2000. The following methodology will be employed in all target areas. These methods meet or exceed those recommended for archaeological investigation in Pennsylvania (see Bureau for Historic Preservation 2008).

Systematic Controlled Surface Survey

Farm field will be plowed, disked, and preferably watered (by rain). A grid (size to be determined) will be superimposed on the prepared field using a surveyor's transit. Professional staff [senior archaeologist and paid assistant(s)] will work with volunteers to conduct a systematic controlled surface inspection in search of artifacts. Investigators will walk the field, spaced at arm's length. Artifact locations will be marked with pin flags. The entire project area will then be surface surveyed in a direction perpendicular to the first inspection. Artifacts will be collected only after discovery locations are precisely mapped with respect to the grid.

Following the mapping and collection of artifacts found on the surface, a metal detector sweep will be conducted across the entire project area. Target locations will be marked with pin flags. Excavators will use round point shovels to remove soil at each flag location and screen it through ¼" hardware cloth. Collected artifacts will be mapped with respect to horizontal location within the grid and discovery depth.

Upon the conclusion of the metal detector sweep, test units (holes or trenches; unit type, size, and number to be determined in the field) will be dug and excavated according to natural and/or cultural soil levels, defined by soil color and/or texture change. Excavated soils will be dry-screened through ¼" hardware cloth. Recovered artifacts will be sorted and bagged in relation to soil layer and/or feature soil level within each test unit.

All test units and discovered features will be recorded in plan view and profile, when appropriate. Digital photography will document excavation progress and findings. Specially-designed recording forms and a daily field journal, maintained by the senior archaeologist, will preserve a permanent record of observations and site investigation.

If a distinct pattern or concentration of camp period artifacts is observed as a result of the surface survey and metal detector sweep, test holes will explore the pattern to determine if subsurface features, resulting from camp activity, are present. Additional test holes

will then be dug at systematic close intervals radiating from the center of the artifact concentration to define site limits or boundaries.

Should few or no camp period artifact concentrations be identified as a result of surface survey, 2'-square test holes (number to be determined in the field), will be dug to a depth of undisturbed soil. Units will be spaced at forty-five foot (45') intervals on transects located forty-five feet apart. Furthermore, the placement of units will be staggered. This type of systematic unaligned sampling strategy is more precise than a simple random design and offers greater opportunity to discover artifacts and subsurface features (man-made soil disturbances resulting from past activities) [see Berry and Baker 1968:94]. If features are discovered, subject test units will be expanded to obtain a larger artifact sample and ascertain, to the extent possible, the date and purpose of below-ground disturbance.

Block Excavation and/or Topsoil Stripping

Where significant artifact concentrations are found as a result of surface survey and test unit excavation, grid blocks (number and size to be determined in the field) will be excavated. This process involves the hand-removal and sifting of all topsoil in the blocks to maximize the recovery of artifacts and expose subsurface features. The present land surface is the same land surface inhabited in the 18th century. Although disturbed by farming, it contains camp period objects related to construction and daily activities.

If only light artifact scatter and/or feature distributions are observed as a result of controlled surface survey and testing, the topsoil will be mechanically stripped to explore for and expose cultural features. These features will appear as dark soil stains in the underlying subsoil. Should mechanical stripping encounter camp period features, stripping will be halted. Excavation will revert to block excavation so as to maximize artifact recovery and further explore for subsurface deposits.

Mechanical stripping involves the use of earth-moving equipment, such as a bulldozer or Grade All, to remove topsoil from the selected area. After topsoil is removed, a grid of squares will be imposed on the work area. Excavators, using sharpened flat shovels, hoes, and/or masons trowels will clean the top of the subsurface, thereby defining features if extant. All features will be carefully mapped with respect to grid locations and photographed before investigation with small hand tools. Excavated feature soils will be screened through ¼" hardware cloth. The nature of feature fills will be recorded in detail. If more than one type of fill, distinguished by color and/or texture, is found in a feature, artifacts will be collected and bagged according to the fill layer in which they were found.

Select features (decision to be made in the field) may be subject to soil flotation. Soil flotation is a specialized technique used to recover micro-botanical and -faunal evidence resulting from site activity. Such evidence, when preserved, is analyzed by a specialist and can be used to reconstruct characteristics of diet as well as former environments.

Site Restoration

At the close of each field season Preservation Area grounds disrupted by shovel testing, block excavation, or mechanical stripping will be back-filled. Restored areas will not be raked and seeded when investigations have been conducted in farm field. Because the Preservation Area is accessible to the public, restoration will limit liability and ensure no open holes present a hazard to site visitors.

Artifact Processing, Analysis, and Reporting

Following each field season, recovered artifacts will be cleaned and labeled according to professional archaeology standards (see State Museum of Pennsylvania 2006). Volunteers will work under the guidance of the senior archaeologist and paid assistant(s). This task will be accomplished in a space (location to be determined) where access to work tables, chairs, good lighting, and clean water is available.

Products: Investigation Report, Artifact Inventory, and Curation-ready Artifact Collection

Processed artifacts will be transported to the home of the senior archaeologist where they will be inventoried and entered into a Microsoft Access database. Objects will be analyzed and a comprehensive investigation report will be prepared. The report will be supplemented with maps, select excavation photographs, and select drawings of excavation unit plan and profile drawings converted into a CAD format. No later than nine months after a project's conclusion the senior archaeologist will deliver to the Friends of Camp Security and Springettsbury Township:

- one hard copy of the excavation report and comprehensive artifact inventory
- one electronic copy of the excavation report and artifact inventory (produced in Microsoft Word)

The entire collection, consisting of artifacts, field records, maps, daily journal, digital photographs, final report, artifact inventory, etc. will be submitted to The State Museum of Pennsylvania for long-term curation as per standards established by the museum (see State Museum of Pennsylvania 2006: Section 6). The museum currently curates all archaeological collections generated by previous work on the property. By letter from John Holman to Carol Tanzola, dated March 13, 2014, Springettsbury Township, owner of the Preservation Area, has agreed to sign a Gift Agreement with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the state agency that administers The State Museum, "for any and all artifacts found at the site."

Schedule and Budget

Schedule

It is simply impossible to predict how long it will take to identify, define, and investigate each site in the Camp Security/Indulgence complex. Site locations, size, and complexity are unknown at this time. Likewise, the availability of volunteer participants, upon which excavation and artifact processing tasks depend, is unknown.

It is recommended that research be conducted annually in the summer months when students (16 years or older) and volunteers are most likely available. Field seasons of four to eight weeks in duration are more affordable and permit collected information to be analyzed, synthesized, and interpreted before the start of the next season.

Given the number of related sites that may exist on Preservation Area land, it is estimated that five to ten years (two-month-long field seasons each year) are required to realize project objectives.

Budget

Again, because there so many unknowns, it is impossible to place a precise price tag on the project. At a minimum, each field season (excavation and artifact processing), consisting on average of 40 days (20 work days/month) in the field and 10 days in the lab, requires a budget of:

field wages (senior archaeologist, assistant).....	\$14,400
lab wages (senior archaeologist, assistant).....	3,600
field tools, recording forms, lab supplies, archival bags and boxes, rentals, miscellaneous.....	1,850

Field seasons in which mechanical stripping is done:

bulldozer & operator (~\$100/hr. x 12hrs.).....	1,200
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Additionally, the following tasks are required at the end of each season.

artifact inventory & analysis by senior archaeologist..... (10-15 days depending on the number of collected artifacts)	2,400-3,600
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Investigation report and preparation of curation-ready	2,400-3,600
artifact collection by senior archaeologist (includes database entry, conversion of field drawings to CAD, report preparation, collection preparation for curation)	

Estimated budget total for each year: \$25,850 - 28,250

Finally, it should be noted that special analyses and/or services by experts may be required to analyze faunal (animal) remains, micro-botanical and –faunal remains collected by soil flotation, human remains (if burials are encountered), and artifact conservation. The costs associated with these analyses and services fluctuates and will be determined on a case-by-case basis when needed.

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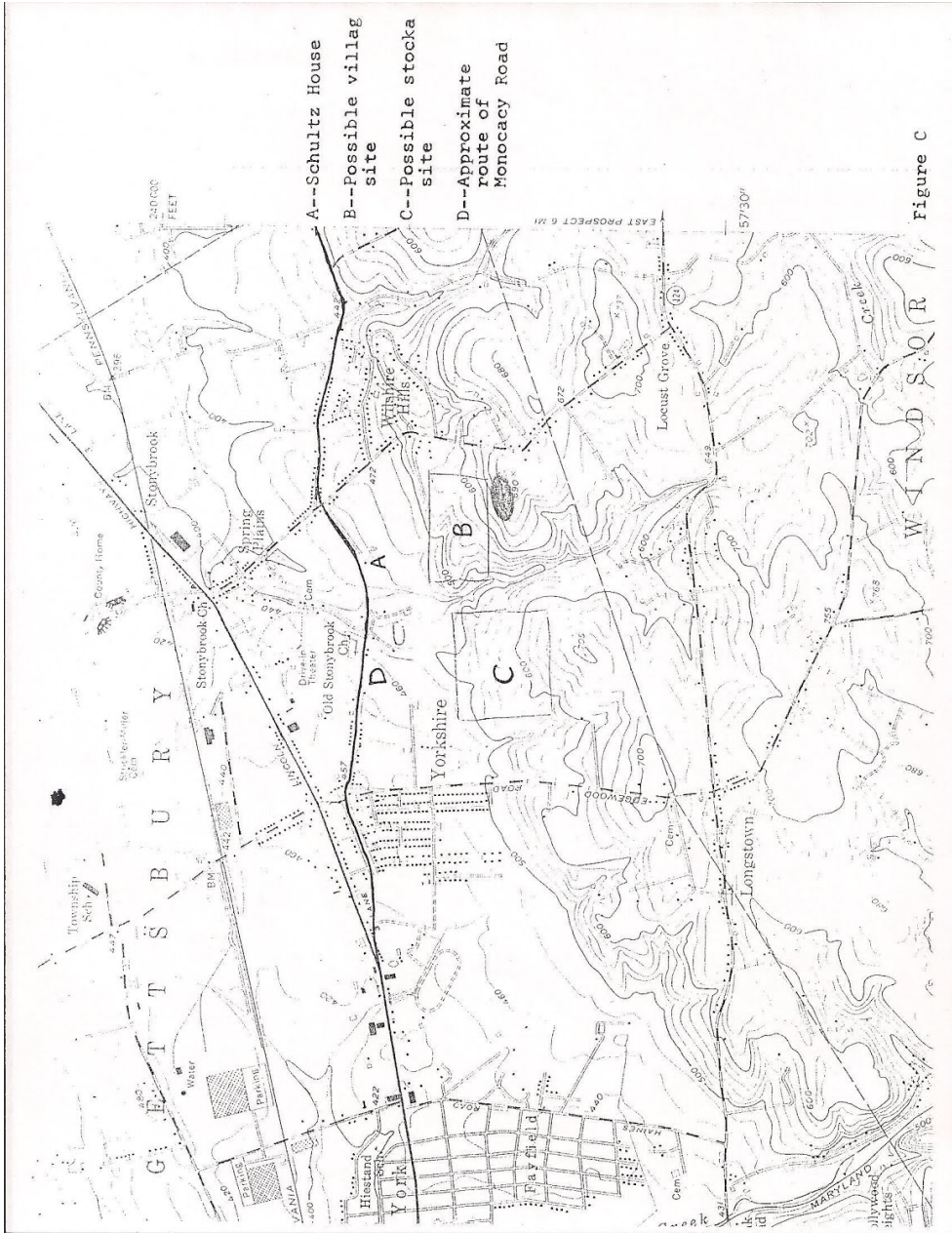


Figure C

Figure 1. Stayer's plan, showing possible camp locations.

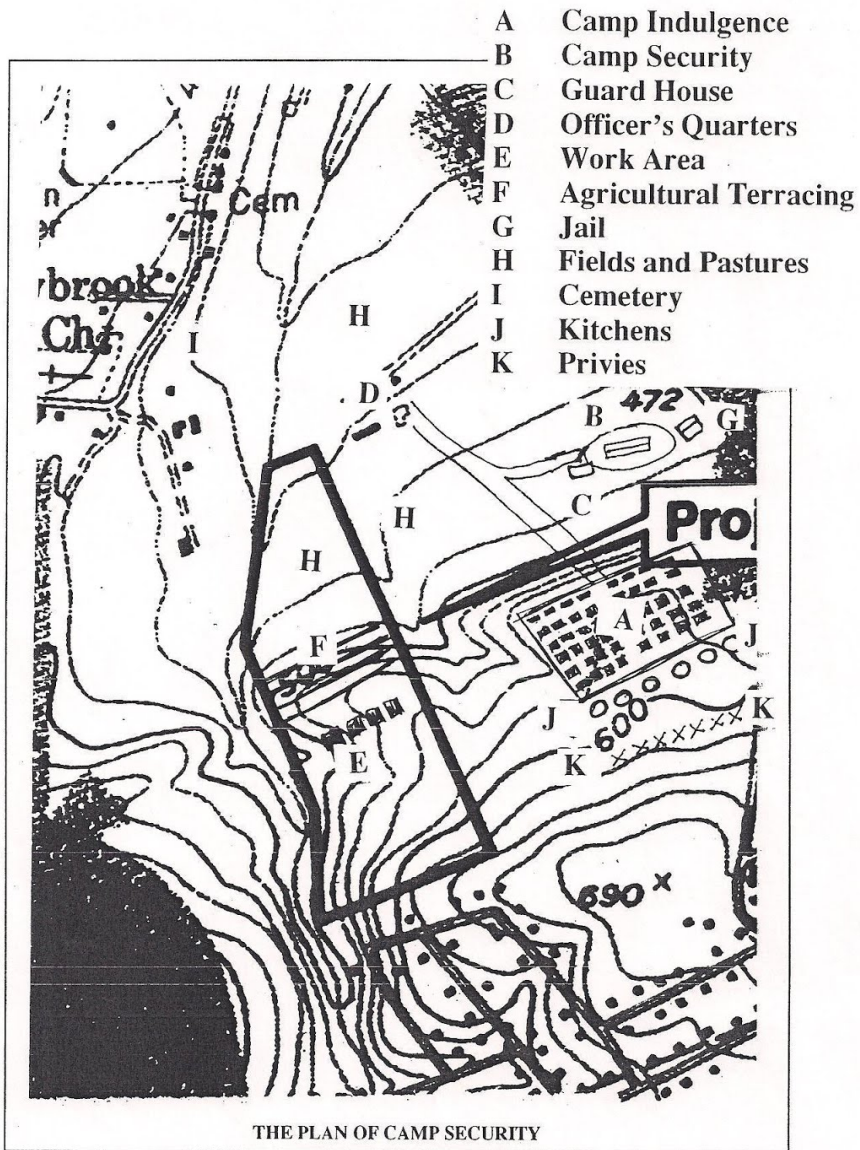


Figure 2. Baumgardt's plan, showing camp and associated activity area locations. Note: 1979 PHMC investigations were conducted in the vicinity of "E" on the plan.



Figure 13. Magnetic areas of the Walters field.

Figure 3. Quick's plan, showing locations of high magnetic reading.