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# An Analysis of Primary Resources Used as Tools for Discovery and Research at Archaeological Sites: Nomini Hall Case Study

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**An Analysis of Primary Resources Used as Tools for Discovery  
and Research at Archaeological Sites:  
Nomini Hall Case Study**

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Dedicated to the Memory of:  
Andrew Bridger Outlaw

*Best friend. Brother. Confidant. Supporter. Inspiration.*

You were all of these things to me, and so much more.

Thank you for having been a part of my life...  
For helping me to realize that dreaming can get you anywhere you want to go...  
For making sure that I never stopped dreaming...  
And, more than anything, for inspiring me, and so many others, to live our lives to the  
fullest, and to help each other, instead of helping ourselves...

I will forever and always remember all that you taught me, and will never stop dreaming.  
I love you, brother – always.

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## INTRODUCTION

Acquiring information on an archaeological site may be done in several ways. There are numerous high technological systems and surveying methods that allow archaeologists to discover features under the ground. There are, however, a few archaeologists in the present day that do not use either of these as their main path of discovery, but as aids along the way. These archaeologists use primary resources in order to discover archaeological sites. Primary resources may range from journals and letters, land deeds and court documents, to paintings and maps. Primary documentation has aided in the discovery of many features at Colonial Williamsburg and other world-renowned sites, and also at smaller sites such as Robert “Councillor” Carter III’s Nomini Hall plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Longwood University anthropology students have been participating in archaeological excavations at Nomini Hall since 1993 when Dr. James W. Jordan took his first group of students there. A primary document entitled, *Journal & Letters of Philip Vickers Fithian 1773-1774: A Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion*, written by the Carter children’s tutor has been the leading tool in the use of discovery and research at Nomini Hall. At the excavation in 1993, using the dimensions stated within the journal, Dr. Jordan and his team of students discovered a brick wall where Fithian taught. Over recent excavations, research has come to the conclusion this is not the schoolhouse foundation but a boundary or garden wall. In this Senior Thesis, I will present research and materials that may help answer the question of the Fithian schoolhouse location, and support Fithian as a reliable resource as to the location of the schoolhouse, even though archaeological evidence has been negative.

## BACKGROUND HISTORY

Robert “King” Carter, the grandfather of Robert “Councillor” Carter III, could be considered as one of Virginia’s most influential persons in colonial history. He was born to his father, Colonel John Carter of Corotoman, and mother, Elizabeth Sherley, in 1663 – the same year that his father joined the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg. Col. John Carter died six years later in 1669, leaving, as Katharine L. Brown in her book, *Robert “King” Carter: Builder of Christ Church*, writes, “1,000 acres of Lancaster county land, one-third of the personal estate, and several books of theology, enough for a respectable independence” (8). Col. John Carter gained most of that land through the head right system, as Louis Morton writes, “In the Northern Neck, grants could be taken out in the office of the agent of the Proprietor. Through the importation of indentured servants and other persons, a man could secure a ‘head right’ or specified number of acres for each individual he brought into the colony” (62). This system had been able to gain him quite a bit of land with numerous family members and slaves. Also, according to his father’s will, he received a substantial education in order to care for the land and third of the estate he had inherited from his father, receiving a classical education in his early years and then going on to London to be further trained in business matters.

While in London, Robert Carter had been under the watchful eye of Arthur Bailey who had many connections to the Carter family previously, “Arthur Bailey had come to Virginia as a young man, taken up land, and served in the House of Burgesses. In the 1650s he was a ship captain and part owner of several ships active in the tobacco trade. By the mid-1660s, he had settled in Upper Shadwell, London, as a merchant. He had

been John Carter's agent and is mentioned as 'Captain Bailey' in the codicil to his will in 1669" (Brown 11-12). Bailey made sure that Carter received the full education that Col. John Carter would have been proud of, and that benefited Robert fully. He went to a classic day school and learned all aspects of the tobacco trade from Bailey himself. Not only had he been able to delve into those aspects of education, as Brown writes,

There was another type of education available to Robert Carter on the streets of London - a valuable lesson in the building trades and in architecture. He arrived in the metropolis just six or seven years after the devastating Great Fire that destroyed the medieval heart of the city along the Thames from the Tower westward past St. Paul's. Construction was rampant all over the old city in the 1670s when young Carter was there (14).

These activities surrounding Carter at the time were enough to guide his interests towards his eventual fame and fortune back home in Virginia just a few years later.

Between 1678 and 1679, Robert Carter came back to Virginia to live at Corotoman plantation with his older brother John, and his wife, Elizabeth Travers Carter. In 1688, Robert "King" Carter married Judith Armistead – a daughter of a very prominent Virginia family. Just a year later, John Carter would die, and would leave Robert with two-thirds of his land amongst other possessions. With inheriting the Corotoman plantation land, and the original 1,000 acres he had from his father, Robert Carter had around 7,000 acres to his name. Throughout the years, Carter would continue to gain more land and build up many plantations and trades. Louis Morton writes of the land acquisition in his book, *Robert Carter of Nomini Hall*, "Carter patented for himself and his family altogether some 110,000 acres in the Northern Neck. These lands, together with the original grants in that area and additional granted beyond the Blue Ridge, now totaled close to 300,000 acres"(17-18). During this time, he had helped to bring fifteen



children into the world, five of them dying, as well as his first wife Elizabeth. He remarried in 1701 to Betty Landon Willis who produced the last seven children. The 300,000 acres he had obtained were to be split between his four sons: John, Robert II, Charles and Landon. During this land acquisition, the land which would become Nomini Hall would be purchased.

Robert “King” Carter had always been in the ‘business’ of land holding and owning, and had acquired the property for Nomini Hall and twelve other Westmoreland County plantations in the early 1700s. In 1730, just two years before his death, Carter split the land he had recently acquired between his four sons - the land on the Northern Neck of Virginia, including Nomini Hall, went to Robert Carter II. Robert “King” Carter died on August 4, 1732. Brown writes of a poem that had been published in the *Maryland Gazette* in Robert “King” Carter’s honor,

One of the stanzas is a stunning tribute to a remarkable man. ‘Great Carter’s dead - His smiles proceeded from his human thoughts - His frowns not bent on persons, but on faults, - His jus acquests, his well-pois’d soul maintain’d – Above all fraud, not by ambitions stain’d – His generous heart with malice could not swell, - And knew no pride by that of doing well’ (78).

This poem not only shows what Robert “King” Carter meant to individuals, but proved that he had a strong influence on the colonies, and had been a great leader and man. He left behind many family members, land holdings, plantations and Christ Church in Lancaster, Virginia which he had designed and built.

Robert Carter II married Priscilla Bladen, who gave birth to Robert Carter III in 1730, two years after their daughter, Elizabeth, came into the world in 1728. Carter II had been acting as a naval officer of the Rappahannock River and a surveying assistant

during his short adult life. After his grandfather's death, and the death of his father, Robert Carter II, in 1734, young Robert Carter III inherited all of the land that belonged to the Nomini Hall plantation, and the rest of the properties remaining in the Northern Neck. In his book on Robert Carter III, *The First Emancipator*, Andrew Levy writes, "By his fourth birthday, an age when the typical gentry boy was still wearing a petticoat, a frock, and a rope around the waist tied to something or someone sturdy, Robert Carter III had suddenly inherited one of the largest fortunes in America" (11). Robert Carter III had, quite suddenly, become not only very wealthy in money, but also in property, owning both land and slaves. At the very young age of four, this toddler who would eventually become known as Robert "Councillor" Carter, had his name known throughout the colony of Virginia.

### ROBERT “COUNCILLOR” CARTER III

Robert Carter III had to become an aristocratic businessman very early in life. He received a very formal education in his younger years. At the age of twenty-one, people began to expect great things to come of him. Already he had land, slaves and business, and by the time of his twenty-first birthday Robert Carter III went on to inherit much, as Levy describes, “He inherited his one hundred slaves and his sixty-five thousand acres, parceled out across the Northern Neck, areas near Winchester and Alexandria, and several rugged tracts along the Shenandoah River to the west”(15). Robert Carter III went to England for two years in order to study business in 1749. He returned to Virginia in 1751. He came back to Nomini Hall, living the life of a Virginia gentry man.

Many would come to compare him to his grandfather, Robert “King” Carter, in the way that his life played out. There are definitely many similarities including the fact that both of their fathers died when they were very young, both went to England to be trained and educated in business and they were both very wealthy landowners. Morton writes of the 70,000 acres that Robert “Councillor” Carter held by the time of his death,

For the most part they lay in the back country of the Northern Neck and in the Valley...In Northumberland county, he owned about 2,000 acres in a tract called Fiedling’s Quarter. Down to about 1760, this was used as a plantation...but after...it was divided into tenements.... In Richmond county there were about 3,000 acres, comprising two plantations, a number of tenements and a mill for the grinding of corn. In Westmoreland county was located his father’s seat, Nomini Hall, the largest of his operating units, together with six other plantations, ‘a spinnery’ and two other tracts containing about 2,000 acres which were leased to tenants. In Loudon county, Carter had his largest holdings, more than 41,000 acres, which were divided into one plantation and four other tracts (64, 66).

The amount of land that he gained did not come close to the acreage that his grandfather had acquired throughout his lifetime, but it still had a great effect on his status in the

colony, and at the way people viewed him. Robert “Councillor” Carter III proved himself not an ordinary person – he showed great promise, and this promise had begun to show at a very young age.

After returning from England in 1751 Carter started to work, and also found the need for a wife and family. While on a trip to Baltimore, Maryland, Carter III met sixteen-year old Frances Ann Tasker, who would soon become his new wife. Her father, a fine, up-standing businessman in Maryland, owned the Baltimore Iron Works company. Morton writes, “By his marriage to Frances Tasker, Robert Carter formed new and valuable connections. The Tasker family of Maryland was an honorable one, related by marriage to many distinguished families in America and in England. In addition, Robert’s connection with the family enabled him to secure a one-fifth control of the Baltimore Iron Works” (37, 39). By marrying Frances Ann Tasker, Carter improved his social status. This is also what started his smooth progression into the world of “big business and trade” with the family connections at the Baltimore Iron Works company.

The Carters were not only expanding on their land, slave, trade and business ownership, but also on their family. In total, there were seventeen children birthed to Frances Ann Tasker and Robert “Councillor” Carter III. With their very large family, the Carters made Nomini Hall, for the most part, their permanent living quarters, which also, eventually helped with the expansion of trade and business. Most of the Carter family trades were located at the plantation, or within a few miles of it. However, in 1758, Carter found himself, after a great deal of struggle, attempting to be elected into the House of Burgesses as Westmoreland’s representative, elected to the Governor’s Council.

As a representative for the Governor's Council, and in 1760 at the beginning of the French and Indian War having to be in the capitol city often, he and his family moved to Williamsburg in 1761.

Their house and property (still standing today) in Williamsburg is located directly to the left of the Governor's Palace. This helped to show their wealth and status as a family in the colony of Virginia, and gave Carter a chance to easily socialize with fellow leaders such as his neighbor, George Wythe, and his relative, Peyton Randolph. He also designed the interior of the house in a wealthy manner as Morton describes, "Carter's Williamsburg home was expensively furnished in the best manner of the day. [The wallpaper for three rooms came from London.] One room was done in crimson, one in white with large green leaf decorations, the third in especially good paper, yellow flower on a blue background" (45). The house showed off the money that Carter had, which had always been the goal of the gentry class during the eighteenth century. Robert Carter and his wife would easily become great entertainers of the day, participating in staging many social events. During that ten year period, the Carters would refer to Nomini Hall as their "summer home". However, in May 1772, after a ten year period in the capitol city, Carter and his family moved back to Nomini Hall, having lived the life of an elite socialite long enough.

Nomini Hall had become the Carter family's refuge from the bustling city life. Located in Westmoreland County, an area of peace and simplicity, Carter felt comfortable here, as did his family. Even with all of his other landholdings, Nomini Hall continued to be his favorite. He respected this land that his grandfather had obtained, and

that his father had left to him.

His father, Robert Carter II's, presence remained at Nomini Hall, for this is where he had been buried. According to his wishes, Carter II had been buried in one of the front gardens directly in front of the main house. This is where Philip Vickers Fithian first comes into play, with a description of a conversation between Robert and Frances Carter about eventual burials in his journal entitled, *Journal & Letters of Philip Vickers Fithian, 1773-1774: A Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion*, "He told us, that with his own hands he planted, & is with great diligence raising a *Catalpa*-Tree at the Head of his Father who lies in his Garden" (81). In the garden possibly the descendant of that very *Catalpa* tree and the area where the tomb of Robert Carter II lays, may still be seen today. However, without this description from Fithian – it would be quite possible that no one would ever know where this burial plot layed, for it is not marked, except for the tree itself. But this act of kindness and respect, even to a father that he barely knew, showed greatly Carter's personality – not overpowering or hard, but intelligent and caring.

Robert "Councillor" Carter III's personality had also been shown in a more extravagant, out-going way that could be recognized by all of the colonies much later on in his life. Most of the six hundred, or so, slaves that Carter owned were given to him from his father's will, or by them being born to other slaves on the property. He did, however, hire slaves, to help with his numerous trades, as Morton writes, "Although Carter rarely ever bought or sold slaves, he did hire them frequently when a special task was to be performed and all his own black were otherwise engaged" (106). He, like his grandfather, "King" Carter, did not believe fully in the slave trade, or in the buying and

selling of slaves. In his book, *Foul Means*, Anthony Parents writes of Robert “King” Carter’s ideas on slavery while talking about the slave triangle between Africa, the Caribbean, and North America, “Recruitment of enslaved workers, wrote Robert ‘King’ Carter in 1721, ‘swallows a great deal of money’” (93). Thought it would be necessary back then for the elite to own slaves, it would still be possible for men to not want to, such as the case with the Carter’s.

Even while being a man whose prosperity, power and status came from the many trades that he developed located at and around Nomini Hall and being one of the largest slave owners with around six hundred slaves to his name, he still saw fit to release them all. Andrew Levy writes in his book of a story about the historic day, “There is a story, passed down through the descendants of Robert Carter’s freed slaves, that Carter emancipated his slaves with a grand gesture, a speech made from a ‘great big pulpit’ on his front lawn on some slow, hot August morning in 1791” (136). Whether the emancipation of his slaves really occurred in such an elaborate way is questionable, as it has been told again and again throughout many generations. But, it is fact that he did emancipate his slaves in August 1791. And with the emancipation of his slaves, Robert Carter III also began to put a halt on the businesses and trades that he had been a part of, began and had been working for numerous years. Already he had split from the Baltimore Iron Works company in the 1780s. However, after August 1791, a slow decline in the trades and businesses under his operation came about, and the production slowed down greatly. Never did the rest of them fully stop, however, until Robert Carter III left Nomini Hall. The family did leave Nomini Hall just two years later in 1793,

heading to Baltimore, Maryland where Frances Anne Tasker Carter's family still lived.

In 1804, Robert Carter died inside the family house in Baltimore, Maryland. However, his body does not rest in Baltimore. Fithian writes of Robert Carter's burial wishes remaining from that same conversation he had with Mr. and Mrs. Carter that one day, "He told us he proposes to make his own Coffin & use it for a Chest til its proper use shall be required – That no Stone, nor Inscription to be put over him – And the he would choose to be laid under a shady Tree where he might be undisturbed, & sleep in peace & obscurity" (81). This spot that he preferred to be buried at is the one beside his father, Robert Carter II. Even now there is no marker at the head of his tomb, except, again, that one Catalpa tree. The only marker that stands is one in the middle of the cemetery that shows the names of all of those Carters and Arnests (the Arnests being direct descendants of the Carters) that have no headstones or inscriptions. Robert "Councillor" Carter, the great businessman, continues to lay peacefully, undisturbed, just as he wished.



### NOMINI HALL TRADES

The Baltimore Iron Works is considered to be Robert “Councillor” Carter’s first steps into the manufacturing world. After Benjamin Tasker died, Carter acquired one-fifth ownership of the Iron Works factory. Morton describes the trade that Carter had going from Baltimore to Westmoreland County and vice versa, “the records show that by 1769, the Councillor was busy managing his interests in the Works, sending his share of corn, wheat, and slaves needed for it, and receiving shipments of bar and pig iron in return” (167). He became active in the company by trading with them. The Potomac River, located near his property, had become a great help when it came to trade. He became active in the company by trading with them when it came to sending his wheat, corn and slaves to the Iron Works factory, and receiving iron from them. This would benefit him greatly in two different ways. Carter could have much corn and wheat to send up, as well as to keep for other trade reasons, and also receive iron in return which he could sell to fellow Virginians and also in England. The partial ownership in the Baltimore Iron Works Company had become a winning situation for him. In the late 1780s the Carters were to turn away from the company.

The manufacturing of textiles is the next trade which Carter stepped into after getting into the Iron Works. It first started with the making of stockings, and then moved on to wool, cotton and linen. Carter brought over a number of artisans from Europe to work in his production factories, and bought new looms for them to work. Morton also mentions, “By 1782, however, Carter had begun to employ Negro laborers in his factory, men and women who had been trained, no doubt, by the white workers. The

Negroes were used to shear the sheep, deliver the wool, spin it and make it into cloth” (176). Carter had around six-hundred slaves, and used them wherever he could find them useful – even in factories.

Robert Carter III did not just produce wheat and corn for the sole purpose of the Baltimore Iron Works. The granary had been established, which is why he continued the production of corn and wheat. Morton states, “Robert Carter not only converted wheat and corn into flour and baked bread for the state, but, as has been observed, he also required the overseers of man of his plantations to have their corn ground at his mill and to buy their flour and bread from him” (181). At the mill, Carter began producing large amounts of wheat and corn for those specific uses. Fithian describes the amount in, what seemed to him, shocking proportions, “Mr *Carter* received word to day that he has had brought very lately for his Mill 7000 Bushels of Wheat at 4 [pounds]...6D pr Bushel. – I am at a Loss to know where he will dispose of such vast Quantities!” (249). The mill became the main source of trade for the family.

Carter is known as one of the producers of the finest brick during this time. The bricks that he generally produced were called bing bricks. This type of brick could hold and withstand water pressure under ground, making them very strong and sturdy bricks for foundations, especially in the lower level areas. Almost all of the bricks made by Carter were glazed, showing his wealth and the quality that he produced. Much of the brick that Carter produced had been used to build onto his buildings, the terraces and walls surrounding the property, and for trading.

**PHILIP VICKERS FITHIAN**

The point at which the Carter's decided to make Nomini Hall their place of residence is when Philip Vickers Fithian enters the picture in 1773, as the Carter children's tutor. Fithian, at the age of twenty-three, would come to Westmoreland, Virginia from New Jersey. Throughout his time at Nomini Hall he kept a very detailed journal, entitled, *Journal & Letters of Philip Vickers Fithian 1773-1774: A Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion*. Within this journal are stories of normal day's events, his personal thoughts and views, and detailed measurements and property layouts from the trade areas, to the area surrounding the main house. Because of Philip Vickers Fithian, the students and professors at Longwood University have the ability to research and conduct archaeology at Nomini Hall, using his journal as a guide.

Philip Vickers Fithian, the eldest child of Joseph Fithian and Hannah Vickers, had been destined throughout his early years to be a minister. His education, classically based, geared him towards religious studies and the Presbyterian beliefs. In his dissertation, *The Life and Times of Philip Vickers Fithian*, from New York University, Vincent S. McCluskey, writes of Fithian's higher education,

Of middle-class background, like most of his neighbors, Joseph Fithian was able to finance his son's education, which culminated with a degree from Princeton, or the College of New Jersey as it was then known. Princeton under President John Witherspoon, an ordained Scottish Presbyterian minister, was not officially a seminary. Religion, however, permeated the life and daily routine of all the undergraduates, and many Princetonians did in fact become ministers (2-3).

Being a part of the ministry had always been what Philip had wanted. After finishing his undergraduate work at Princeton and accepting the position as tutor for the Carter children, this dream and his education did not fall to the wayside.

Fithian, during his time as a tutor at Nomini Hall continued to practice his ministering, giving sermons at the Presbyterian Church in Westmoreland. In his journal, Fithian often writes of practicing his sermons at the plantation, “After dinner I begun the Lecture, wrote an introduction – Towards evening I took my hat & a Sermon, & retired to a Shady Green where I rambled about til dusk committing my Sermon to memory...” (114). Never letting go of his religious studies, teachings and practices, after leaving Nomini Hall, Fithian went back to Princeton to receive his Master’s degree in theology (McCluskey 3).

After the end of his undergraduate education at Princeton, Fithian would move to Westmoreland County in order to fulfill his duties as tutor to Robert Carter’s children. McCluskey writes of the journey that Fithian took,

After a journey of seven days covering 260 miles, at the expense of about three and a half pounds, Fithian arrived at the Carter plantation, Nomini Hall, on Thursday, October 28, 1773, ‘by two o’Clock in the Afternoon’, recorded the new tutor with his usual precision. ‘Both Myself, and my Horse seem neither tired nor Dispirited.’ Carter’s wastebook under the date of October 26, 1773 records: ‘Mr. Philip Fythion Tutor came to Nomony Hall” (116).

Fithian would be welcomed to Nomini as not only a tutor, but almost as a member of the family. Invited to breakfast, dinner, church, balls and dances quite frequently, he became well known in the area. However, as a tutor, he had also been well established. The classical and religious based education that he had received from Princeton, and later from Deerfield, gave him a basis of study for his pupils. An example of subjects taught at the school from Fithian’s Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1773, entry “We began School...The eldest Son is reading Salust; Gramatical Exercises, and latin Grammer...The eldest daughter is Reading the Spectator; Writing; & beginning to Cypher...” (20). He would

teach the oldest seven Carter children, as well as a nearby cousin. The educational materials would always be kept up-to-date. McCluskey writes of Robert Carter's help and influence, "Fithian was fortunate that Carter spared no expense in providing him with the latest books on grammar, pronunciation, Latin, and arithmetic for the education of the Carter children" (149). This proves further how Carter stressed a good education, and also the respect between Philip Vickers Fithian and Robert Carter.

The respect that Fithian held did not just hold with the Carters, but with Virginia life as a whole. Throughout his stay in Westmoreland County, Fithian experienced and learned much in the way of the culture of the area and of the Virginia gentry. His journal, able to provide insight into all of these factors, brings together a culmination of studies,

One might expect to find social, economic, military, and religious considerations intermingled and analyzed in Fithian's writings, as indeed they are. It is, however, for his role as cultural observer, in Virginia or near the frontier, that Fithian is most deserving of our attention. Music, painting, sculpture, architecture, and literature all come under his scrutiny...He also gave eyewitness account of how wide and pervasive educational institutions, mainly under Presbyterian auspices, had become... (Fithian 362).

The fact that he not only mentions all of these subjects, and so much more, in his journal, but goes into detail about each of them shows how much Fithian learned while in Virginia. It might also make one consider how far he would have gone if he had not died only a mere two years after leaving Nomini Hall. He had become a military chaplain, and died shortly after the battle of White Plains in 1776. The editor of his journal states, "Though his promise to visit the family at 'Nomini Hall' again was never fulfilled, the letters he wrote to members of the Carter household after his departure reveal the tender regard in which all were held" (Fithian xxxii). Even though he could never visit Nomini

Hall physically again, it is a personal belief that his spirit continues to live on there, and comes to life anytime someone picks up a copy of his journal. The influence that Philip Vickers Fithian has on Virginia colonial history today is astounding, and he continues, to be of great service to researchers, professors and students, and is also a teacher himself through the words of his journal.

## NOMINI HALL PROPERTY

Looking at the property that the main house sits on now, there are a few traces of the Nomini Hall once owned by Robert “Councillor” Carter III. The Poplar Avenue remains, a family graveyard, and the woods hiding trades locations and slave quarters just beyond its boundaries still survive. The house standing now is built on the footing of the original house, after it burnt down in October 1850. However, in order to understand what one is looking at they would have to have some prior knowledge on the property design in the eighteenth century. This is where the journal of Philip Vickers Fithian comes into play in this Senior Honors Research Thesis.

It is well known, and has been stated prior in this paper, that Fithian’s journal is very detailed. These details include many descriptions of the property and trades locations, measurements and materials of buildings, and measurements of the space from one building to another. Having all of these details at our disposal, it is easy to picture the property as it would have been in the eighteenth century with Col. and Mrs. Carter, their seventeen children, around six hundred slaves and Fithian living on it. Fithian writes in his journal,

Due East of the Great House are two Rows of tall, flourishing, beautiful, Poplars beginning on a Line drawn from the School to the Wash-House; these Rows are something wider than the House, & are about 300 yards Long, at the Eastermost end of which is the great Road leading through Westmorland to Richmond...another branch of the River runs on the West of us, on which and at a small distance above the House stands Mr Carters Merchant Mill...to go to the mill from the House we descend I imagine above 100 Feet; the Dam is so broad that two carriages may pass conveniently on it; & the Pond from twelve to Eighteen Foot water – at the fork Mr Carter has a Granary, where he lands his Wheat, for the mill Iron from the Works &c (81-82).

It is easy to see, after reading these descriptions made by Fithian, why the property and

family hold so much importance in colonial Virginia history. It also helps the professors and students at Longwood University to better understand what happened on the property and the placement of major landmarks and locations relevant to the Carter family. With this understanding, the students participating in the archaeological excavation and research at Nomini Hall may better appreciate Fithian and all of the information that he has provided.

While at Nomini Hall, Dr. Jordan takes the students on walks around the property, using Fithian's journal as a guide to these locations. The Poplar Avenue remains as strong as ever now, except with a modern road and large ravine cutting directly through it. The Richmond Road is the one driven on in order to reach the property. No longer visible as it once had been during the eighteenth century, the river remains as strong as ever. Going through what are now cow pastures and then through the woods and down a worn pathway, students may see glimpses of the past. Deep inside a ravine, and on top of a mound, remnants of brick remain. The double mill and dam is easily visible with an open field leading out to it, which would have once been the pond leading out to the granary on the point of land far out across it. At each location, the students stop to look around, listen to Dr. Jordan discuss theories and facts, and then to hear the words of Fithian having to deal with each location being read. Without Fithian's journal the students would not be able to see these places, unless the locations and their significance were to be known previously. Being able to see these places helps students to better understand the life of the Carter's and Fithian during the eighteenth century, and also to see more clearly how primary resources, such as Fithian's journal, help archaeologists to



discover and research sites.

Adding to our understanding of the basic history surrounding Nomini Hall and the Carter family, is the knowledge of building locations surrounding the main house during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Prior to speaking of the outbuildings, Fithian gives a description of the main house,

This house is built with Brick, but the bricks have been covered with strong lime Mortar; so that the building is now perfectly white; It is seventy-six Feet long from East to west; & forty-four wide from North to South, two Stories high; the Pitch of the lowery story seventeen Feet, & the upper Story twelve – It has five Stacks of Chimneys, tho two of these serve only for ornament. There is a beautiful Jutt, on the South side, eighteen feet long, & eight Feet deep from the wall which is supported by three tall pillars...As this House is large, & stands on a high piece of Land it may be seen a considerable distance; I have seen it at the Distance of six Miles... (80).

This description of the main house is just the beginning, for Fithian goes even further in describing the dependances surrounding it. However, having this information about the main house helps archaeologists and researchers out in many different ways. First, they know which direction the house faced during the eighteenth century – which is the time period being researched. Secondly, the measurements of the house and the “Jutt” (or portico) off of the front of it is a matter of importance, explained later on.

Fithian provides more in depth coverage of the area surrounding the main house (which is the “Building” discussed),

At equal Distances from each corner of this Building stand four other considerable Houses, which I shall next a little describe. First, at the North East corner, & at 100 yards Distance stands the School-House; At the North-West Corner, & at the same Distance, stand the Coach-House; And lastly, at the South-East corner, & at an equal distance stands the Work-House. These four Houses are the corner of a Square of which the Great-House is the Center (80-81).

With descriptions such as these, archaeological and surveying research has been made

relatively easy. Fithian provides us with all the basic information that is needed in order to discover the schoolhouse and other surrounding outbuildings.

Combining the information about the main house and outbuildings, it is easy to see the formation of a grand, equilateral square with ninety degree angles at each corner of the house leaving each side with a one hundred and eighty degree angle. This basic understanding of the property makes it much easier to survey, as well as knowing the exact measurements from Fithian. In theory, if one were to take a tape measure from the north-east corner of the house, measure out one hundred yards on a forty-five degree angle (this being done with the help of survey equipment), and then carefully dig a few feet – one should find the schoolhouse. However, sometimes theories don't end up being one hundred percent correct, as revealed in the following chapter.

## SCHOOLHOUSE

First the School-House is forty five feet long, from East to West, & twenty-seven from North to South; It has five well-finished convenient Rooms, three below stairs, & two above; It is built with Brick a Story & a half high with Dormant Windows; In each Room is a fire; In the large Room below-Stairs we keep our School; the other two Rooms below which are smaller are allowed to Mr. Randolph the Clerk; The Room above the School-Room Ben and I live in; & the other Room above Stairs belongs to *Harry & Bob* (Fithian 81).

Dr. Jordan and his students started excavations at Nomini Hall in 1993. The main goal of this excavation: use the journal of Philip Vickers Fithian as a basis of information in order to discover the schoolhouse that he once lived and taught in. Dr. Jordan and his team of students would use all of the previous descriptions of the main house and property provided by Fithian in order to set up locations for all measuring and survey equipment. Whether Fithian's descriptions and measurements were correct, and whether this would actually provide any positive findings had been a mystery to the team of archaeologists.

Just as the theory stated at the end of the previous chapter suggests, they started by taking measuring tapes from the northeast corner of the house now standing, and measuring one hundred yards, using survey equipment as a guide to angles. Actual digging commenced by way of sondages. This is one of the basic archaeology surveying methods in which archaeologists shovel a shallow trench to see if any feature may be found underneath the sod level. They located these sondages at the place where all measurements from Fithian and the surveying led. The result of the archaeological survey at the end of the excavation had been a positive discovery. A brick wall had been found then believed to be the foundation of the schoolhouse.

For many years following, students who came on the four day excavations with Dr. Jordan each semester continued to believe that what they were digging had once been the schoolhouse. Everything seemed to fit together, and no questions had ever entered into the minds of anyone before. However, in 1996, two students would go to Dr. Jordan with research that they had done while they were at the archaeological excavation for the Introduction to Anthropology Honors course. This would begin the questioning of whether or not this feature was, in fact, Fithian's schoolhouse.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Students in 1996 began the initial research suggesting that this feature may not be the schoolhouse. Jason Milne (now an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Studies) and Lisa Goodell were the two students who first questioned whether this brick wall was the remains of the schoolhouse. Milne, in a paper for his Honors Introduction to Anthropology class entitled, "Fithian: Nomini Hall Discrepancies", wrote of these discrepancies, "When listing the four corners on page eighty, Fithian lists the schoolhouse, workhouse, stable and coachhouse, but on page eighty-one when addressing the area of the triangle he says that the triangle made by washhouse, stable, and schoolhouse is perfectly level" (8). Here he shows that Fithian at one point had been calling the washhouse the workhouse in his descriptions. Milne continues to write, "For, the even 'square' which Fithian talks about the buildings forming, can only be appropriate with the washhouse being in the southeast corner. I believe that the workhouse is a structure that Fithian discusses is a structure that was back behind the house on the west end" (9). This seems to be a perfectly straightforward and reasonable assumption on Milne's part. It also correlates with the other descriptions within Fithian on the rest of the property. With the discrepancies discovered by Milne and Goodell in 1996, and the information gained and assessed by me ten years later in 2006, it is easy to see that something is wrong. With so many of the places that Fithian describes accurately noted (i.e. the double mill, dam, pond, granary, poplar avenue, etc.), it does not seem that he could have been mistaken when it comes to the measurement or placement of the schoolhouse. But the question remains: Where is the schoolhouse and

how do we find it?

For years students continued to excavate the wall that had been uncovered in 1993 by the first initial team in order to gain as much information about the feature as possible. Even though it had been suggested that this feature may not be the schoolhouse that Philip Vickers Fithian discussed in his journal, they continued on a quest to figure out this mystery. The possibility that it could be the schoolhouse still lingered, with the possibility of Fithian's measurements being off. The wall is certainly very strong and made with the finest bing bricks, which help to protect from any water damage beneath the surface and also, as an added bonus, look nice, showing off the Carter's wealth. These facts lead to the possibility of this wall being a foundation wall for a substantial structure. Also the fact that the wall had been discovered in the location that Fithian documented led to the continued belief that this should be the schoolhouse, since he never mentioned any other buildings or walls surrounding it.

Within the past two years, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Bates and their students continued questioning as to whether this was actually the schoolhouse. The main problems that arose beginning in 2007 were the length of the wall, the style of bricks and the depth. There were two different excavations, one being in the Spring 2007 semester, the other in the Fall 2007 semester. After a group comprising of eight students from Dr. Jordan's Honors Prehistoric Human Life class (including myself) excavated the wall beyond the forty-seven feet, we came to the decision that what we were looking at could not be the schoolhouse, unless Fithian's measurements were off entirely. The wall continued, never stopping, at sixty-seven feet, with further indications that the wall continued to go on in

both directions. That is twenty-two feet longer than the wall of the schoolhouse in Fithian's description. After excavating, the students covered up the site with thoughts on what could possibly be occurring with the feature, how we could come to understand what the feature is, and the ever present question of, "Where is Fithian's schoolhouse?"

The Fall 2007 semester arrived, and soon two classes would be going to Westmoreland County to participate in further excavations to try to answer to the numerous questions. Dr. Jordan's Honors Introduction to Anthropology class, and Dr. Bates's Archaeological Laboratory Methods class (I was in this class) would all gather around the wall, trying to figure out what to do. Deciding that it would be best to see how far the wall actually went, two 5'x5' units were set up at the west and east ends of the existing wall. Students excavated these specific areas to see whether or not the wall would continue. Unit I to the west proved negative. Nothing came of it. However, Unit II continued on an eastward path. The exposed amount of wall would now be measured at seventy-nine feet. After the short three day excavation, the conclusion was that this definitely could not be Fithian's schoolhouse, even with a mistake in measurement. After exposing the wall further and being able to study the different sections of it, one could see that the wall had been built for something other than a foundation. The wall was extremely thick, and the bricks definitely began rounding off at the top coming into the form of a vaulted wall. No foundation wall could ever be vaulted, and none would ever be made to be that thick – especially for a small, two story schoolhouse.

Spring 2008 brought another Honors Prehistoric Human Life class of Dr. Jordan's to Nomini Hall, along with Dr. Bates's Advanced Archaeology class. A

research design had been drawn up by the students of Dr. Bates's class. (Plate 4) Our goal, somewhat altered from previous semesters: to try and find the location of the schoolhouse, and to further expand to the south-east Unit II, which had been excavated the previous semester. With a few students located in Unit II, most would work on the survey to hopefully gain some leads on the schoolhouse.

The students laid out a basic Shovel Test Pit survey (teams digging 30" holes, with a diameter of about 14" in order to see whether any signs of features could be uncovered) covering 50'x50' to the south of the all ready exposed wall. The goal of this plan had been to see whether A) we had mistaken the angle or measurement from Fithian, or B) to consider that, if for some reason the exposed wall had been a part of the schoolhouse foundation, the opposite side had to be twenty-seven feet to the south or north. Three-quarters of the STPs dug in the 50'50' area to the south came up positive with small artifacts such as shell, brick bat, and some glass, but there were not any definite signs of a feature (Plates 5 – 9).

The students also organized an electro-magnetic experiment plan, called dowsing. Dowsing is where one person carries a pair of metal rods, and when they cross over an anomaly underground, the rods will either spread out or cross each other. To the west, all STPs from the dowsing experiment were positive with brick, but only a STP twenty feet directly straight to the west of Unit I came up with a solid brick wall. None of the STPs dug to the east or south came up with brick, but produced oyster shells. An experiment conducted by Dr. Bates with himself dowsing and one other student, Mark Foresman, carrying a probe, showed signs of a possible shell carriage road much further away to the



south east.

The students in Unit II found the wall to be continuing to the east. The STP survey showed us that the schoolhouse, or any opposing wall to the exposed one could not be located to the south. The dowsing experiments to the west showed the brick wall continuing to at least twenty feet from the exposed wall on the west side, and that there could possibly be a road that went around the property. However, even with all of this new information, Fithian's schoolhouse still evaded us.

Dr. Jordan, Dr. Bates and their classes went, once again, to Nomini Hall in the Fall 2008 semester. This time I went on the excavation as a part of my research for this thesis. The schoolhouse's evasive location still lingered on everyone's minds, but, this time, so did the possible road. The advanced students on the trip, comprising six of us, organized another Shovel Test Pit survey, this time to the north of the wall. Aerial reconnaissance showed a dark rectangular patch just north of the wall. Pursuing the idea that this could possibly be the schoolhouse, we set up the survey to try and trace where exactly this possible feature could be. In a 75'x50' survey, all but the four easternmost STPs were positive with brick bat or brick, oyster shells, glass, and metals, including nails and hinges. True, the schoolhouse had not been found again, but it gave everyone a sense of being closer to the ultimate goal. Also, a number of the northernmost STPs provided charcoal and fire cracked rocks and bricks. The schoolhouse had, at one point, caught fire, as Fithian describes in his journal on Saturday, January 29, 1774,

After Dinner when I went over to my Room I was very much surprised to find my Room full of Smoke & Flame! – A kind Providence only prevented the total Loss of our School-House & all its Furniture, & our own Clothes Books &c! – A Coal of Fire had by accident (as the Hearth is very narrow) fall'n on the floor, it took

fire, & when I entered it was burning rapidly – It had burnt three Boards about eight Inches from the Hearth, & most certainly in a short time would have been inextinguishable – I put it out however speedily, & had all the fire removed (60).

It could be a possibility that these were remnants from that fire, or from the second fire which actually burnt the schoolhouse down much later after Fithian left the Carter's.

Also, three sondages proved that a road did come from the Poplar Avenue to the north-east around the boundary or garden wall all ready exposed. However, once again, the schoolhouse's location remained a mystery.

## PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The journal of Philip Vickers Fithian is an amazing primary resource that has led to the affirmation of different sites at Nomini Hall, as well as various cultural practices and a general knowledge of life for the gentry class in Virginia. Why the numerous teams of students have not been able to discover the schoolhouse, as of yet, using the diary of Fithian is inconclusive. We do not know whether it is our ways of surveying and excavating, or his measurements and descriptions. It is more than likely that a combination of both factors is leaving us empty handed. However, there is more to it than that, I believe.

An idea to further expand research is to find other forms of primary documentation to see if there are any differences or other indications that Fithian might not be informing us of in his journal. While doing research on the property of Nomini Hall I discovered three different pieces of art that depict Nomini Hall. The first is a watercolor portrait, done by E. Maund (Plate 1). Maund married Robert Carter's daughter, Nancy. They resided at Nomini Hall until the fire of October 1850. It shows variances in the land, with numerous terraces, which Fithian mentions in his journal, "...covered finely with Green turf, & about five foot high with a slope of eight feet, which appears exceeding well to persons coming to the front of the House..." (81). Another drawing done by a man named R.E. Collins prior to 1850, shows raised lands and also gives a birds-eye view of the property (Plate 2). This is the most detailed image that I have been able to find. The final is a drawing completed by Fithian of the front of the house (Plate 3). Just to the left one may see what would be the schoolhouse, with

further back left being the wash-house. The watercolor and drawing (Plates 1 & 2) had been completed after Robert Carter had gone, so therefore, alterations would have, more than likely, been made of the property. They are all still good primary resources that allow you to see an actual image, especially Fithian's.

I have recommendations on future excavations regarding the discovery of the schoolhouse. First, I do not think that we should abandon Fithian's journal. He is, in my opinion, a very accurate and reliable source of information. The rest of his descriptions have proven to be quite accurate. I do not believe it possible for a young man with his education to get something as simple as a few measurements and angles wrong, especially when it has been proven that numerous times he had been correct. It is quite possible however, that *we* are surveying the land from another angle, with differences in measurement units and angles. Another thing to take into consideration is that the modern house faces the east instead of the south towards the river as it did in Robert "Councillor" Carter III's time. This could have caused a difference in measuring and angling as well.

I propose that in future excavations, these two factors of differences in measurements and angles be examined. Instead of looking at the property, especially the main house, from the modern day perspective, look at it from the eighteenth century perspective – from Fithian's eyes. His journal, as stated many times previously, has many details so clear and concise that you could close your eyes and picture it all in your mind.

Instead of continuing to survey the land from the modern house's perspective, flip

it around. Take measurements beginning at the north-east corner of the modern house (since it is supposedly built on the footing of the original), seventy-six feet from the east to west. Then continue to measure, beginning at the north-east corner again, to the south forty-four feet to obtain the width. If this is done correctly, at that point, even though the north-east corner will not have changed, the angles at which everything is placed will be different. At this point it would be time to mark the 90 degree and 180 degree triangles that would form the equilateral square surrounding the house, keeping to the original one hundred yards. If time permits, possibly doing sondages or shovel test pit surveys on a small scale might be beneficial to see if any of the other main outbuildings at the four corners could be found. If any of these other outbuildings are found, these would be a great measuring points to use in order to obtain the location of the schoolhouse.

There are other options to discovering Fithian's schoolhouse, as well, rather than ground survey. These other methods would be classified as remote sensing, using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) or electrical resistivity in order to penetrate further into the ground to see if there is something that we have been missing. In using GPR, an electromagnetic pulse is sent into the ground which reflects changes in the soil and any features that might be underneath. Electrical resistivity would require electrical pulses to go through the soil, hit any resistance, and then allowing archaeologists or scientists to measure the resistance through the current it sent back to the meter. Both of these are very expensive, but they are productive. No matter how it is done, however, I believe that the key to discovering the schoolhouse is to look at it through the eyes of Fithian by

completing this survey of the land by way of his exact documentation from 1773-1774,  
rather than 2009 or later.

## EXAMPLES OF OTHER SITES

There are many other well known archaeological sites that have used primary documentation to aid in the discovery and gaining of information. The most notable would be the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation using what is known as the Frenchman's Map. A French soldier serving under General Rochambeau between 1780 and 1782 drew this map now famously known as the Frenchman's Map. Alan Simpson, in his book, *The Mysteries of the "Frenchman's Map" of Williamsburg, Virginia*, writes of the map and what it depicts,

This is a town plan of Williamsburg showing the entrance roads, the three main streets and the cross streets, the heads of the creeks and ravines, the house lots with fences around them, and most of the buildings inside or outside the fences, each marked by a scaled rectangular block. Several public buildings, such as the College of William and Mary at the west end of the long main street, the Capitol at the east end, the Palace on the north, the Public Hospital in the south, and the Courthouse of 1770 and Power Magazine in the middle, are indicate by name. Bruton Parish Church and a windmill lat the foot of Mill Street are shown by unmistakable diagrams. It is a manuscript map, 25 ½ x 16 ½ inches, in pen and ink and color with the title, scale, and about half of the place-names in French, the other half in English. It is well drawn but clearly unfinished... (1).

This map, though unfinished, is extremely accurate. It has been used by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for years in the discovering of sites, and gaining the basic information on them from the scaled drawings. No one knows the identity of the French soldier who drew it and surveyed the town so carefully. Whoever did take the time to do this has helped archaeologists out in the past and in the present, and will more than likely in the future.

Another site would be one built in the 1790s, but factored into the Civil War. Belle Grove, located near Middletown, Virginia, is an interesting site, as Tim O.

Rockwell, writes in his book, *Belle Grove Excavations*, “Archaeological research at Belle Grove is affected both by the continuous use of the house and surrounding farmland since 1794 and by the occupation of the property by Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War” (11). Two sketches were drawn by James E. Taylor, who, as Rockwell writes, was, “an artist who accompanied Gen. Philip Sheridan up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864, are these [depicting] Belle Grove as Sheridan’s headquarters and as the scene of the Battle of Cedar Creek” (8). These are very useful in gaining information, not only on what had occurred, but also on the house and nearby grounds.

Another site near Colonial Williamsburg, and also very close to the Carter family uses primary resources as guides for discovery of archaeological sites and information. Carter’s Grove, purchased by Robert “King” Carter, had been passed on to his daughter, Elizabeth’s son, Carter Burwell. Ivor Noel Hume would be the leading archaeologist that the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation hired in an attempt to find the missing eighteenth century buildings from the property. In looking for primary resources, Hume only had one as a guide, that being a French military map drawn in 1782, “We had only one eighteenth-century map to guide us; drawn at the end of the Revolution it showed, in a corner of the sheet, only a small segment of the Carter’s Grove tract...” (9). Even though the map itself did not show much of Carter’s Grove, it did help with looking at an overhead view and seeing the surrounding areas, giving them some perspective on location. Oral histories were also a large portion of research at Carter’s Grove, especially since a distinct one that is always heard have actually proven true by the site itself. Mrs. McCrea, who had lived in the house for much of her life, told Hume a story, “...in 1781,



the British cavalry commander Colonel Banistre Tarleton had ridden his horse up the stairs to waken laggardly troops quarter on the second floor. To emphasize his displeasure, Taleton had slashed at the banisters with his sabre – and there was the proof, the tip of his blade still impaled in the post” (5). This helps to conclude that not all primary resources have to be documents – they may be sights and stories that go along with them, as well.

## CONCLUSION

Primary documentation is of great help to archaeologists, no matter the site nor the circumstance. At places like Colonial Williamsburg, Belle Grove, Carter's Grove and Nomini Hall, help has come through primary documentation in many different ways from journals to paintings, from maps to oral histories. It is true that the archaeological excavations at Nomini Hall for Philip Vickers Fithian's schoolhouse have been confusing. Even with that though, it has continued to be an aid for us, the students, and Dr. Bates and Dr. Jordan. Without Fithian I fully believe that we would not have been as successful as we are with our findings at Nomini Hall. Nor would we ever have known where locations such as the double mill, dam, granary, pond, brickyard, shady green or even the graves of Robert Carter II and Robert "Councillor" Carter III would be. Just like the Frenchman's Map, the sketches by James E. Taylor, the French Military Map of 1782 and Tarleton's sabre tip, Fithian has helped bring Nomini Hall, the Carter family and the schoolhouse to life for us. He has kept us guessing, leading and encouraging us to search for further details, and has always engaged us in a way that no other could. Even though Philip Vickers Fithian died in 1776, he has continued to go on as a great teacher to those of us who have heard his words, seen his detailed descriptions in real life, and ever excavated that land in hopes of someday finding the schoolhouse. If we keep looking to Fithian as a guide and teacher, I believe that we will someday find the missing schoolhouse. Maybe this is the lesson after all – that even though we are unsuccessful in finding one building, we are successful in discovering and learning so much more.

**PLATES**

Plate 1 – Watercolor sketch by E. Maund



The great house at Nomini Hall from a rough water color sketch by an amateur artist, E. Maund, made shortly before the house burned in 1850. Reproduced through the courtesy of Mrs. T. M. Arnett of Nomini Hall.



Not for  
Publication

Plate 2 – Sketch by R.E. Collins

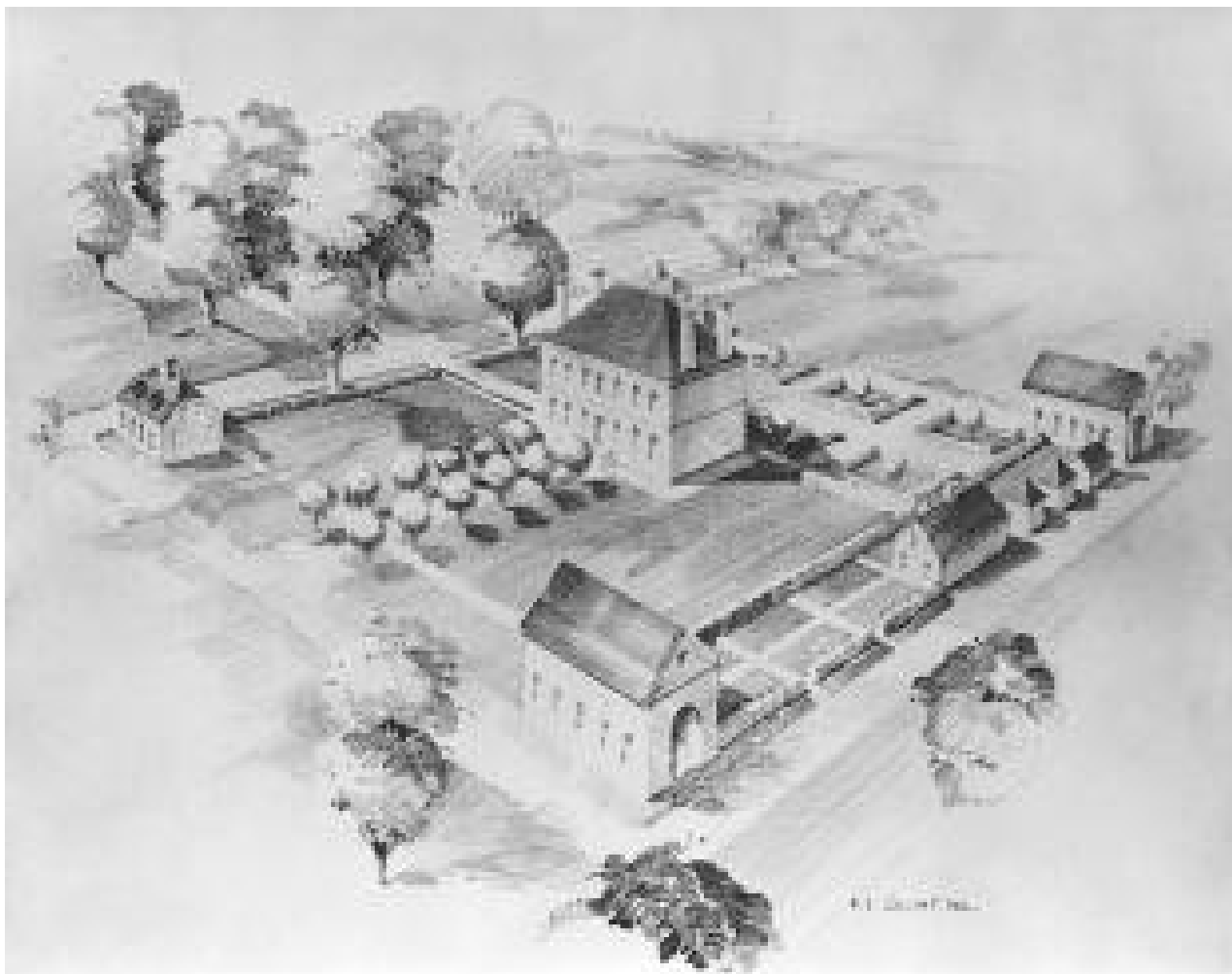


Plate 3 – Sketch by Philip Vickers Fithian



*Nomini Hall. Sketch by Fithian*

Plate 4 – Spring 2008 Research Design

**Research Design**

**I. West End of Wall Excavation**

- a. Continue and expand Unit 1 up to 20 feet to the west
- b. Excavate 5'x5' units at 10-foot intervals to “chase” the wall feature westward.
  - i. One unit, initially, others as necessary
- c. Dig shovel test pits (STP's) on a 5-foot interval westward from the end of Unit 1 to “chase” the wall feature

**II. East End of Wall Excavation**

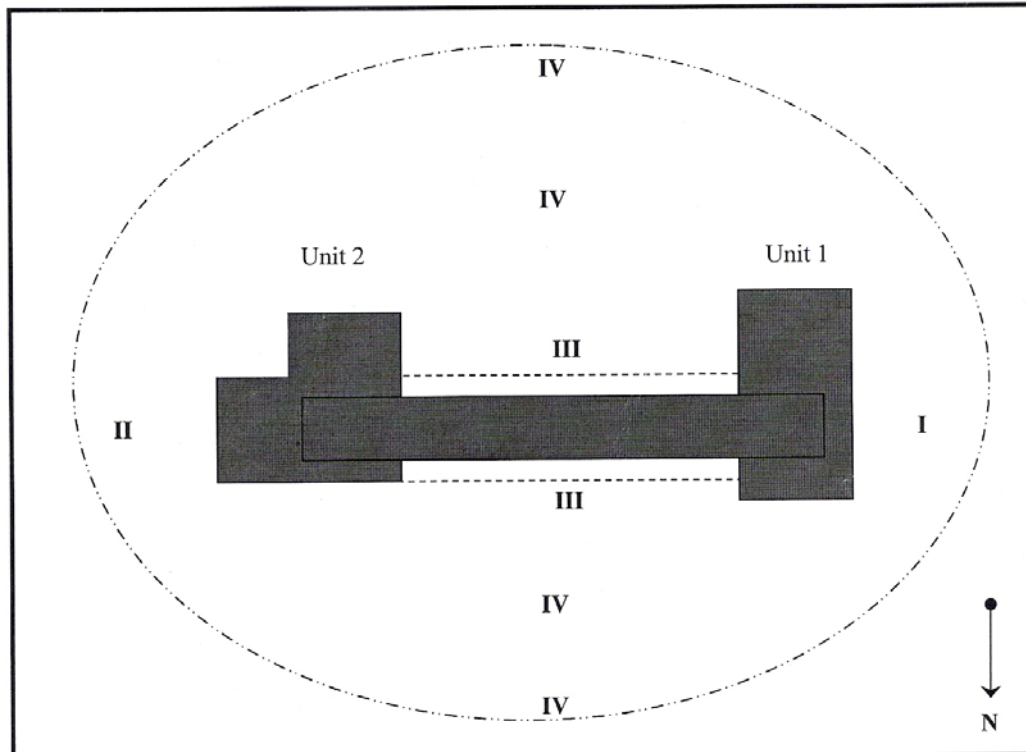
- a. Continue Unit 2 to the south and east
- b. Modify approach at end of day 1; possibly adopt approach employed at west end of excavation depending upon results

**III. Depth of Wall**

- a. A team of people to excavate on the north and south sides of the wall feature to expose the maximum depth of the feature.
- b. This team will also “dress-up” the excavation trench along the wall feature to the east and west

**IV. Other Buried Features/Walls**

- a. STP survey to the north and south of the wall
  - i. Close interval – every 5 or 10 feet?
  - ii. Coverage Area – 100'x100'? Smaller? Larger?



Plates 5-9: Shovel Test Record from Spring 2008 Excavation

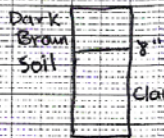
(page 1)

Longwood Archaeology Field School

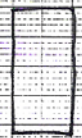
Shovel Test Record

Project Wamini Trail Site \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/21/08  
Spring 2008  
Dowling

S. T. No. N10, E80  
Location N10, E80  
Depth 22" / Diameter: 13"  
Contents Tiny brick



S. T. No. N14, E80  
Location N14, E80  
Depth 21 inches  
Contents N/A



S. T. No. N16, E49  
Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth 30 inches  
Contents N/A



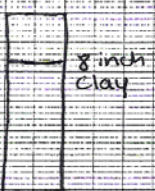
S. T. No. N17, E59  
Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth 30 inches  
Contents brick at 15 inch



S. T. No. N17, E80  
Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth 30 inches  
Contents brick frag, glass piece, pottery piece



S. T. No. N23, E48  
Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth 30 inches  
Contents brick, glass



46 1510

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER  
KEUFFEL & ESSNER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

(page 2)

Longwood Archaeology Field School

Shovel Test Record

Project Womani Hall  
Spring 2008  
Dowsing

Site \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3/21/08

S. T. No. N23, E62

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 30.5 inches

Contents \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

S. T. No. N23, E65

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 29 inches

Contents nail

nail

S. T. No. N25, E69

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 30 inches

Contents charcoal

mortar

S. T. No. N25, E51

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 30 inches

Contents brick, glass,

mortar.

brick  
glass

Brown

mortar

clay

S. T. No. N26, E69

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 25 inches

Contents brick frag,

Charcoal

S. T. No. N27, E67

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth 30 inches

Contents 2 pieces

of glass

46 1510

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.



(page 3)

Longwood Archaeology Field School

Shovel Test Record

Project Nomini Hall Site \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/21/08  
Spring 2008  
Dowsing

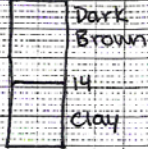
S. T. No. S12, E72

Location S12, E72

Depth 29in/Diam: 14in

Contents Brick,

glass, mortar  
\*brick - below 14in



S. T. No. S12, E85

Location S12, E85

Depth 20in

Contents N/A



S. T. No. S12, E87

Location S12, E87

Depth 21 in

Contents 2 pieces  
of brick



S. T. No. S13, E70

Location S13, E70

Depth 32 in

Contents N/A



S. T. No. S15, E50

Location S15, E50

Depth 20in 8 in

Contents Solid brick



S. T. No. S15, E75

Location S15, E75

Depth 18 in

Contents glass,  
lithic, organic



46 1510

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

(page 4)

Longwood Archaeology Field School

Shovel Test Record

Project Nonini Hall Site \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/21/08  
Spring 2008  
Dowsing

S. T. No. S15, E85

Location S15, E85

Depth 20 in

Contents \_\_\_\_\_



S. T. No. S19, W74

Location S19, W74

Depth 30 in

Contents glass  
and brick



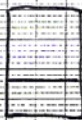
lighter

S. T. No. S19, W80

Location S19, W80

Depth 18 in

Contents Brick,  
glass, ceramic



Dark  
Brown  
clay

S. T. No. S27, W67

Location S27, W67

Depth 30 in

Contents glass,  
nail, ceramic,  
some brick



S. T. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth \_\_\_\_\_

Contents \_\_\_\_\_

S. T. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Depth \_\_\_\_\_

Contents \_\_\_\_\_

46 1510

10 X 10 TO THE CENTIMETER 10 X 2 1/2 IN.  
NEUFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.

Plate 10 – Nomini Hall circa 1850



Plate 11 – Examining the brick wall in question



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Photographs by: Joe Garcia and Stephanie Neeley

