

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 023-0016
Property Name(s): <u>Presque Isle</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1815</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>8183 Fox Groves Road</u> City: <u>Remington</u> Zip: <u>22734</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Culpeper County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Remington, Brandy Station</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>129</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: <u>Presque Isle is situated about nine miles northeast of the Town of Culpeper and 2.4 miles west of Remington. The property is at the end of Route 669, a gravel road that winds through farmland and then crosses both the Rappahannock and Hazel Rivers. The property begins just past a line of trees as the drive slopes upward towards the primary dwelling. Both new and old growth trees surround the primary dwelling. The house faces west towards the Blue Ridge Mountains. Beyond the primary dwelling the property is marked by both open pastureland, some wooded areas and riverfront.</u>	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>There are several secondary resources on the Presque Isle property. Located near the primary dwelling are three buildings all dating to the early 19th century: Two brick slave quarters and a blacksmith shop. Additional agricultural buildings include:</u>	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Dwelling</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Dwelling; Event Space</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Greek Revival</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: _____	
# of stories <u>2</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>None</u>	

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.
Continuous Brick

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.
Brick laid in Flemish Bond

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.
Brick, 18-20" Thick.

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?
25 wooden six-over-six double hung sash, many are original with original glass.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.
Wood, Ionic pedimented portico with modillon and astragal décor, Standing seam metal roof.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.
Side gable, asphalt shingles.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.
4, Brick laid in Flemish Bond

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

Presque Isle is a two-story, five-bay, brick dwelling with topped with a side gable roof with pedimented gable ends. The roof is pierced at the front and rear elevations by two interior chimneys. All of elevations are laid in Flemish Bond. There is a small brick addition off the east elevation with a side gable roof that mimics the roof of the main block. Originally Presque Isle was topped with a hipped roof. After a fire in ca. 1947 the roof was replaced with current side gable roof. The windows on every elevation are 6/6 double-hung wood sash units and they all are topped with jack arch lintels. There are two entryways, one on the north elevation and one on the south elevation. The north elevation which faces pastureland features a centered entry flanked by pilasters supporting a carved pediment. The one-story porch that covers the entryway has a hipped roof and is supported by four ionic columns. Two additional pilasters flank the main entry. The entrance on the South elevation features a porch with a front gable with pediment and dentil moldings. The porch is supported also by four ionic columns and the door is flanked by two engaged ionic columns. The entry features a paired panel door topped by a fanlight and molded surround with a centered keystone.

Interior:

The interior features a double-pile plan with a wide center passage, with two parlors on the front (one converted to a kitchen area) and one parlor and the dining room in the back. The center passage features a finely molded arch with center keystone. The detailed woodwork found in the central passage continues throughout the first story and second story.

Secondary Buildings:

Slave's Quarters, Duplex 1- 1-story, three-bay, brick duplex with a side-gable roof.

Slave's Quarter, Duplex 2 -1-story, three-bay brick duplex with a side gable roof

Blacksmith Shop

Barn

Silos

Secondary Residence.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

PLEASE REFERENCE NOTES IN CURRENT DHR FILE.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
_____		(Name)	(Firm)
_____		(Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)
_____		(Email Address)	(Daytime telephone including area code)
Owner's Signature: _____		Date: _____	
•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••			
In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.			
Contact person: _____			
Daytime Telephone: ()			

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
_____		(Name)	(Firm)
_____		(Address)	(City) (State) (Zip Code)
_____		(Email Address)	(Daytime telephone including area code)
Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____	

Notification			
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
_____		(Name)	(Position)
_____		(Locality)	(Address)
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
 Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Presquise – Brick Duplex 1 (southern building)

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID:

Historical Site Name:

City or Vicinity:

County: Culpeper

State: Virginia

UTM: Easting: 18,249,553 **Northing:** 4,271,607 **Section:** 18

Longitude: **Latitude:**

Investigators: Andrew Stempel; Doug Sanford

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 7/18/07

Project End: 7/18/07

Summary Description:

This brick, one-story, side-gable roofed building with interior end chimneys has a duplex arrangement in which an interior partition divides the structure into two equal-sized rooms, each with end wall fireplaces. There are no stairs in either room and apparently there was no access to the attic above. Originally, each room had an exterior entrance door on the front/east façade, although the doorway for the southern room later was converted to a window, likely a post-bellum alteration that accompanied the insertion of a doorway through the medial partition wall. Measuring approximately 40 ft. long by 18 ft. wide, this building has a symmetrical design, with modular rooms, even placement of doors, and aligned front and rear windows. The rear windows were later converted to doorways, providing access to the modern rear, cinderblock additions. All portions of the building now have standing seam metal roofing.

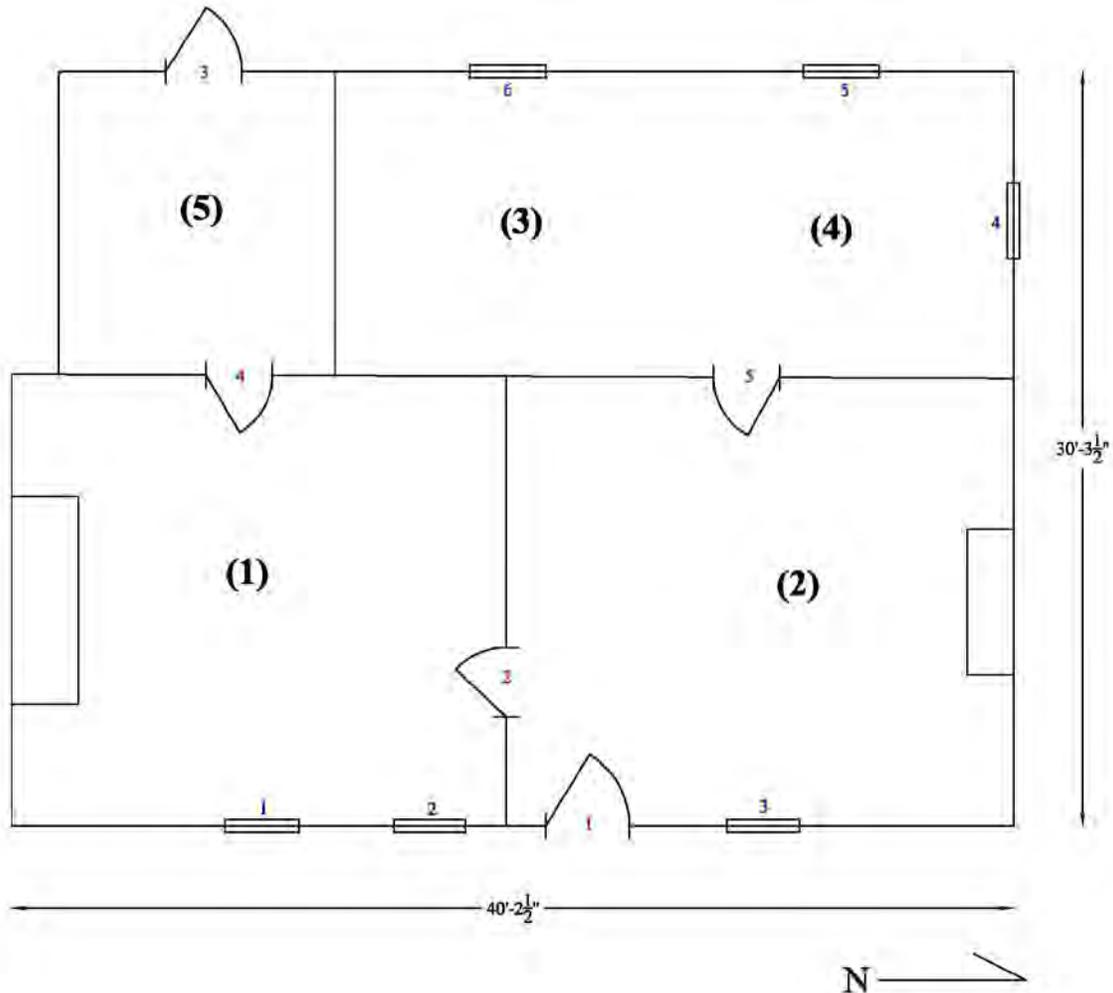
This brick duplex demonstrates a greater degree of architectural elaboration than appears usual, with its 3:1 common bond using a single row of Flemish bond for every three rows of stretchers, along with brick parapets at the gable ends and a corbelled cornice with returns at each corner. The interior rooms had whitewashed surfaces along with wooden nailers set in the walls, likely for hanging clothing or other possessions. While both rooms have the same dimensions, the southern room has a noticeably larger fireplace. Dating evidence for this structure points to an antebellum period context, likely circa 1820s-30s+, based on machine-cut nails, the three-course American bond, and the application of corbelling and parapets for the upper walls' brickwork. This building forms one of two brick duplexes that have the same dimensions, north-south orientation, and construction features.

Notes:

The structure is situated perpendicular to the main house across the gravel road. Modern additions to the rear of the structure are of cinderblock and frame/screen construction, with the same standing seam metal roof found on the original portion. The floor of Room 2 (north) apparently has been raised 6.5 in. above the floor level in Room 1 (south). Room 2 has narrow (2.5 in.) floor boards attached with wire nails; Room 1 has 5-in.-wide floor boards fastened with machine-cut nails. The ceilings in both rooms are modern replacements, with thin grooved boards held with wire nails.

Note closers at every 4th course at SE corner. Front (east) façade windows with headers of 12 soldier bricks with 5 stretchers above (which are 1/4 brick stepped out). Closet added to west side of chimney in Room 2, with modern dimensional lumber and sheet rock. In Room 2, note presence of nailers, two on east wall near door at chair rail height; and two to east and west of chimney at 5 ft. from floor (see similar evidence in second building to north).

Principal Construction Type: Masonry (Brick) **One Story** **Footprint:**



Number of Rooms: 5 (2 original – Phase I; 3 in rear additions – not measured)

Dimensions: (1) 16 ft. 11 in. (E-W) x 18 ft. 11.5 in. (N-S); 8 ft. 1.5 in. (H)

(2) 17 ft. 0 in. (E-W) x 19 ft. 0 in. (N-S); 8 ft. 2.5 in. (H)

Doors: 5

	(1) Exterior, Rm. 2	(2) Interior	(3) Rm. 5
Type:	Board & batten (modern replacement)	5 panel (modern insertion through interior partition)	Not recorded, for modern rear addition (screen porch)
Dimensions:	2 ft. 10.5 in. (W) x 6 ft. 3.5 in. (H)	2 ft. 9.75 in. (W) x 6 ft. 9.5 in. (H)	
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges	Modern butt hinges	
Swing:	In	In (to Room 1)	
Replacement:			

	(4) Rm. 1	(5) Rm. 2	
Type:	Glass & 3 panel (modern)	2 panel (modern; dimensional lumber, wire nails)	
Dimensions:	2 ft. 8 in. (W) x 6 ft. 7 in. (H)	2 ft. 8 in. (W) x 6 ft. 7.5 in. (H)	
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges	Modern butt hinges	
Swing:	In (into Rm. 1)	In (into Rm. 2)	
Replacement:	Yes, former (original) window location	Yes, former (original) window location	

Windows: 6 (modern windows not measured)

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 1	(3) Rm. 2
Type:	6/6; double-hung sash	6/6; double-hung sash	6/6; double-hung sash
Dimensions:	2 ft. 4 in. (W) x 3 ft. 10 in. (H)	2 ft. 3.75 in. (W) x 3 ft. 10 in. (H)	2 ft. 4 in. (W) x 3 ft. 10 in. (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	N/A – note as part of enclosure and fill for former, original door	N/A

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick (8.5 in. x 4 in. x 2.5 in.)

Thickness: Cannot be observed, partially covered with later concrete.

Foundation slightly stepped out on south side.

Height: N/A

Bond: American (3:1)

Mortar Type: Sand, with limestone

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: Yes

Location: Modern screen porch on rear attached to Room 5

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Metal – standing seam (replacement). Note end brick parapets and two-course corbelling with return at corners.

Roof Framing: No access to roof interior (small attic space).

Exposed: No

Form: Common Rafters – Principal Rafters – Other

Rafter Number:

Rafter Dimensions:

Collar Ties: No access to roof interior

Collar Dimensions:

Method of Joining:

Height from Roof Peak:

Height to Floor:

Building Height: @ SW corner, from ground to top of parapet: 12 ft. 2.25 in.; @ SE corner, from ground to top of parapet: 13 ft. 6.5 in.

Ground to Soffit:

Siding to Soffit:

Ground to Apex: at south center; 17 ft. to roof apex

Siding to Apex:

Ground to Top of Eave:

Siding to Top of Eave:

Walls:

Masonry: Brick

Number of Courses: N/A – run full height of building

Bond: American (3:1) – not a header course per se; but Flemish bond every 4th course

Mortar Type: Sand

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1): South room (Rm. 1)

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/ End

Height:

Chimney (2): North room (Rm. 2)

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/End

Height:

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Not applicable; brick wall surfaces

Wall Finish: Whitewash

Fireplace (1): South room (Rm. 1) End (fireplace filled with modern brick, fitted for wood stove)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8 ft. 4 in. (E-W) x 1 ft. 10.5 in.

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 5 ft. 8 in. (W) x ? (H) x ? (D).

Hearth Material:

Hearth Dimensions:

Fireplace (2): North room (Rm. 2) End (fireplace filled with modern brick, fitted for wood stove)

Fireplace Material: Brick – Stone – Wood

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5 ft. 9.5 in. (E-W) x 1 ft. 10.5 in.

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4 ft. 5 in. (W) x 3 ft. 1.5 in. (H) x ? (D)

Hearth Material: Brick – Stone – Other
Stairs: No

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: Room 2 with narrow (2.5 in.) floor boards with wire Nails; a replacement floor that also has been raised 6.5 in. above the level of the Rm.1 floor. Room 1 with floor boards 5 in. wide with machine-cut nails.

Dating: Antebellum period context, likely ca. 1820s-30s+.

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn

Nails: Machine cut

Masonry: 3:1 course American bond; corbelling and parapets for the upper walls' brickwork.

Re: Hackley-Willis, 390± acres

Background: Stock farm of Major family through most of 19th century; originally part of Presqu' Isle (Almost an Island). Sold at auction by John Wellford to John and Samuel Major in 1842. This 390-acre tract, known as Lot 2 of Presqu' Isle, allotted to George Major by partition in 1884. Sold to Walter E. Hackley in 1903, then to Walter M. Hackley in 1926. To James G. Willis in 1953. Nearly all of the present improvements (outbuildings) date from the Hackley years.

Historic Interest: The present early-20th-century horse barn, in relatively good condition, is a fine example of American Vernacular (home-grown) architecture. The stone ice house dates from the Major years or earlier, and could be cleaned out and stabilized. If not it should be filled in, but kept intact.

There are traces of the Wellford's Ford Canal Dam of the 1850's Hazel River Navigation system of the 1850's, but the canal and locks itself or mainly on the Stratton property south of the Hazel. As with Liberty Manor, there are traces of the mid-19th-century Wellford's Ford Road (see the writeup on that tract).

There are several depressions south of the old Major farmstead in an open field. They could very well be gun emplacements overlooking Wellford's Ford.

Comments: The horse barn could be used for a stable or equestrian center. The other barn and corn crib are derelict and should be taken down. I do not know whether the foundations of the old Major house and slave quarters have been disturbed; if not they could be excavated as an archaeological exercise. As mentioned, the ice house can be cleaned out and stabilized, or filled in.

Traces of the Wellford's Ford Road and the canal complex are totally in flood plain. Some of the gun emplacements may be in the flood plain; the others could be preserved in a large-lot residential layout. These depressions are very slight, barely noticeable.

0008103

Re: Willis (Presqu' Isle), 870± acres

Background: Stock and crops (possibly some tobacco in 18th, early 19th centuries. 1273.5 acres under John and Samuel Major ownership; they purchased this "Fork" or "House" tract from John Wellford at auction, 1842. Daniel Grinnan, the Fredericksburg lawyer who had the brick house built, ca. 1813, did not own the property long; evidently ran into financial difficulties. Evidently named Presqu' Isle (Almost and Island) by Mr. Grinnan. A hint as to the name origin appears in an 1816 deed, noting a road from "The Island ford on the Elk River to Freemans ford (now Lakota) on the Hedgmans River. The Elk and Hedgeman's were earlier names for the Hazel and Rappahannock Rivers.

After the 1886 partition of Presqu' Isle (see the Hackley-Willis writeup), Lizzie and John Major kept this tract. She called it Ingleside in her twilight years. Eugene Y. Willis, a physician, bought the property at auction in 1923, and his son, Eugene Y. Willis, Jr., acquired the tract upon Dr. Willis's death in 1935. Nearly all of the tenant houses and barns, outbuildings, et ., date from the Eugene Willis, Jr. years. The early-20th-century improvements mostly date from the Doctor Willis years.

Historic Interest: The brick house built for Mr. Grinnan is a fine example of the Early Republican Style; the hip roof was removed after a fire, ca. 1947, and replaced by a gable roof; thus it lost some integrity. Francis Willis Overton in Richmond has a photograph of the house with its hip roof. As notable are the early-19th-century stone blacksmith shop--the finest I have seen--and the two brick slave quarters. There is also a stone ice house, and a formal garden (later a vegetable garden) lay west of the house in a grove.

The other structures of interest are a brick barn, early 19th century, collapsed in, and an early-20th-century tenant house (the Mason Pollard place), reportedly derelict. The two early-20th-century barns and silos (pre-1937) are not of architectural merit.

There are also some foundations of 19th-century house sites, not of historic importance, and some gun emplacements on bluffs overlooking the Rappahannock River

There are undoubtedly numerous Indian habitation sites on the Hazel River floodplain.

Part of the dam of the Hedgeman's Hole Canal complex of the Rappahannock Navigational system of the 1830's lies on the property. Most of the complex, however, is on the Ham tract across the river in Fauquier (see that writeup for details).

Comments: The brick-house, slave-quarters, and blacksmith-shop complex, and the ice house, and possibly the garden, represent a well-preserved early-19th-century plantation complex, few of which survive in all the above dimensions. The above, with the possible exception of the formal garden (surmised, not located), should be preserved. If the ice house cannot be fully stabilized, part could be filled in. Like all the ice houses on the property this one once had a wooden circular top, and perhaps this one ice house

0008104

Willis (Presqu' Isle) (2)

could again receive its hat. Sections of the old ice-house tops survive on ice houses on the Hackley-Willis and Button tracts.

The front of the blacksmith shop needs shoring up as lower stone has fallen away. The block and frame additions to the slave quarters should be removed. These would be relatively minor cost items. To reinstate the hip roof on the mansion house, however, . . .

The two early-20th-century barns could be kept, though of no architectural merit, if they had a use, such as for horses. The ruins of the brick barn should either be removed, or perhaps several of the lower courses of brick could be kept to identify the barn site.

All of the tenant houses could be removed, except for the Mason Pollard place--a good example of an early-20th-century farmhouse--unless it is unreparable, as reported. It could be used as a guest house on a future property. Perhaps one, or a few, of the masonry ca. 1950 tenant houses could be kept as typical of tenant residences for Afro-Americans in the segregated South.

The two prominent gun emplacements visible--the growth is just too thick for a perfect field check in the northeast bluffs--are on slopes that are not buildable. As I've noted on the map, the entire wooded bluff area could contain additional gun emplacements or Indian habitation sites, and care should be taken in tree removal and excavation. Again, nearly all of this area is steeply sloped and unbuildable.

The Hedgeman's Hole canal complex area and the prime Indian archaeological-site areas are entirely in the flood plain.

There are no historic roads or river crossings on the property. I can find no traces of the reported barge slip near the Presqu' Isle manor house.

2013 USPS Topographical Quad Map

PRESQU'ISLE
CULPEPER COUNTY, VA

- Secondary
- Private
- Highway
- Driveway
- Building
- Tax Parcel



24/1A

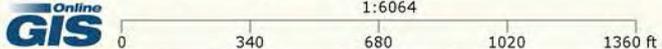
12A

23/12A

1A

QUAD: BRANDY STATION

QUAD: REMINGTON



- Water
- Address
- Subdivision Boundary
- Tax Parcel

Presqu'Isle Site Plan

CULPEPER COUNTY, VA
2013 AERIAL IMAGE



To Fox Groves Road
(State Route 659)

SLAVES' QUARTERS

BLACKSMITH SHOP

MANOR HOUSE

1A

24/1A

12A

23/12A





PRESQU'ISLE - Culpeper County, VA - 'Headquarters' - Matthew Brady, ca. 1864



PRESQU'ISLE - Culpeper Co., VA - Gen. Emory Upton and staff - Unknown, possibly Matthew Brady, ca. 1864