

D.C. Department of Recreation Project

Phase II

July 31, 1986

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ES ENGINEERING-SCIENCE

intact historic or prehistoric ground surfaces were encountered, and the hand tools used could not penetrate the fill to reach natural ground surfaces. Since the property is predicted to have high prehistoric and historic site potential, it is highly recommended that an archaeological testing program be implemented on the playground, using heavy machinery, prior to any site development.

Kalorama Park is U.S. Reservation 655 in Northwest Washington, D.C., bounded by Columbia and Kalorama Roads, 19th Street and Mintwood Place. The property was part of large plantations in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and was held by the Holmead family until the 1800s when William Holmead's estate was subdivided. By the 1850s, the Little family built a country home on this park site, and the structure remained through the nineteenth century.

The house site foundations were located during the archaeological testing program and historic surfaces were intact west of the house site related to the occupation of the dwelling. This area is likely to contain significant archaeological materials, and it is recommended that the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Other areas of Kalorama Park have been disturbed by twentieth century construction activities and would be excluded from the archaeological site.

Emery Playground is in Northwest Washington, D.C., bounded by Georgia and Missouri Avenues, and Madison and 9th Streets. This property was developed by at least the mid-nineteenth century when it was adjacent to the Seventh Street Turnpike and Milkhouse Road. The site is noted for the home of Matthew Emery, Mayor of Washington, but it also played a significant role in the Civil War and the defense of Fort Stevens. It was a strategically important location, before, during and after the Emery occupation the site.

Study Area D contains the archaeological remains of Emery Place, the home of Matthew Emery. This site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and should be preserved, if possible. All other areas of the playground have been disturbed by twentieth century construction activities or contain no intact archaeological sites.

7. Kalorama

Location: Kalorama Park is bounded by Columbia Road on the southeast, by 19th Street on the southwest and by private residences and apartment buildings facing Mintwood Place on the north and by Kalorama Road on the south. The park is located in the Kalorama area, a D.C. Category III Landmark which contributes to the visual beauty of the District of Columbia. When new squares were assigned by the city, the square in which Kalorama Park is located was not assigned a number because, at that time, it was a U.S. Reservation, number 655 (Figure 11).

Owner: D.C. Department of Recreation

Representation in Existing Surveys: Preliminary Archaeological Survey: 23 Recreation Facilities (Artemel, Parker and Crowell 1984)

Description: Presently there are basketball and volleyball courts on the property, as well as a small Recreation center structure. The property contains 3.1 acres. The park is on a terrace 186 feet above sea level. The ground slopes to the west toward Rock Creek which is located only 1200 feet away. Large trees are situated on the site's sloping contours, more densely clustered in the areas near the former location of a nineteenth century house. The land has been terraced to some degree.

History of the Property: Kalorama Park was originally a part of the land tract Widow's Mite, which was surveyed in 1664 and patented in 1686 by William Langworth (Charles County Liber IB&IL#C, f.166). In 1714 the two surviving daughters of William Langworth sold the Widow's Mite to Thomas Fletchall, who built his dwelling house there. The property was divided and the upper half, 206 acres given to his son Thomas. Thomas Fletchall, the son, sold the 206 acres to James Holmead, planter, in 1727. The property remained in the Holmead family into the nineteenth century. Eighteenth century documents reveal the presence of numerous improvements on the property, including dwellings, mills, outbuildings, orchards, and gardens. At this time it is not clear that any of these were on the Kalorama Park property. It is quite possible that some type of structure was erected there, however, since it was adjacent to the road to Rock Creek Church from Georgetown, and on a terrace overlooking much of the surrounding countryside.

The 1861 Boshke map illustrates several dwelling houses and out buildings on the parcel that was to become Kalorama Park, labelled 'J. Little'. These structures also appear on a map made in 1859-60 by H.L. Abbott and F.W. Vaughan entitled "The District north of Washington, D.C." They were adjacent to Taylors Lane Road or the road to Rock Creek

Church from Georgetown. Little's large home remained on the site at least until 1894 (Figure 13).

A 1927 aerial photograph of the site shows that the structure once on the site was gone by that time. Shadows of the foundation and the driveway configuration are still clear, however.

Specific Methodology: For the purposes of analysis, the Kalorama Recreation Area was divided into five study areas (Figure 14). Study Area A was the grass and tree covered plot in the eastern central location of the park. This area is completely surrounded by an oval concrete sidewalk. Twenty five shovel test pits were located in this area at twenty five foot intervals. Upon encountering building demolition rubble, 7 excavation units were established to locate and trace the house foundation.

Study Area B was located to the west of the known nineteenth century structure (and Study Area A) and represents the extended backyard of the structure. Seven shovel tests were judgementally located in this study area. In addition, two test units were excavated in this area to investigate archaeological features.

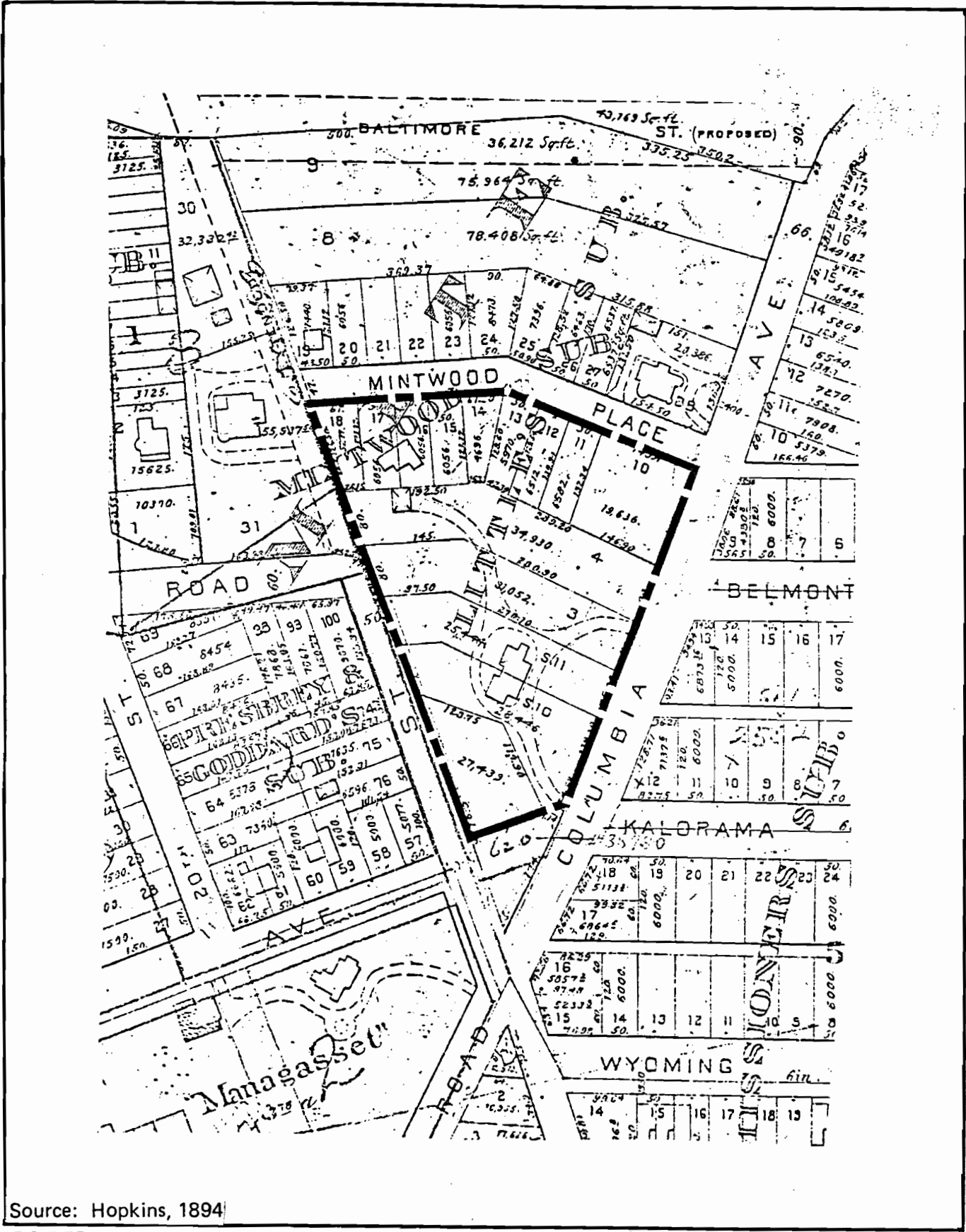
Study Area C is the grassy area to the east of Study Area A. Three shovel tests were excavated in this area.

Study Area D was located to the south of Study Area A. Four shovel tests were excavated in this area.

Study Area E was the northern area of the site, west of the Recreation Center structure east of the basketball courts, and north of the walk linking Nineteenth Street to Columbia Road. Two shovel tests were excavated in this study area.

Archaeological Findings: Historic records indicate that a large structure existed on this property as early as 1860. The structure would have been located at the highest elevation on this property, Study Area A. It was anticipated that shovel testing would reveal foundations and demolition rubble associated with the property.

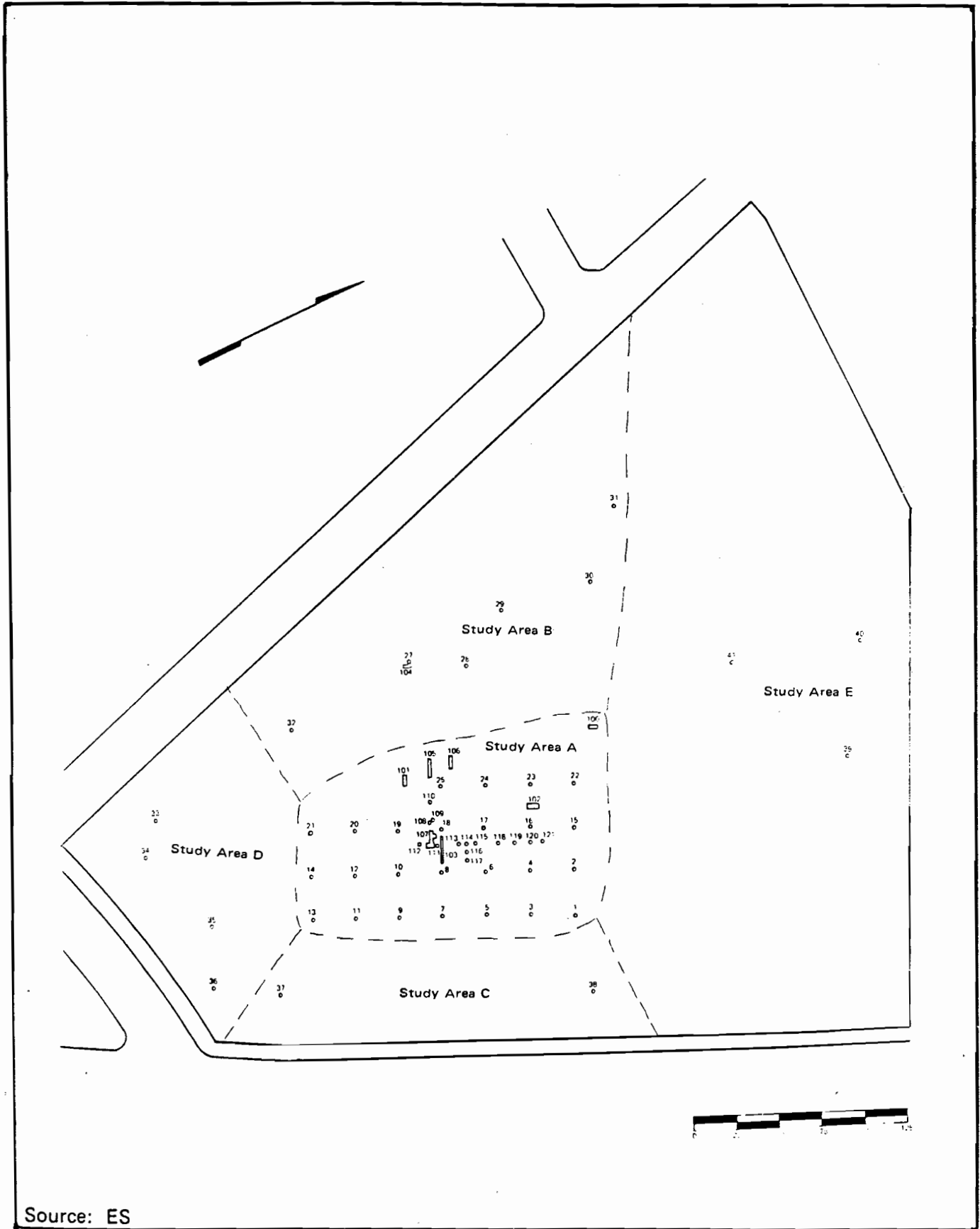
Present topsoil and several strata of silty clay fill overlaid the stratum of demolition debris. Upon encountering demolition rubble in Shovel Test 16 and 18, two test trenches were established to locate the foundations. Test Unit 102, located west of Shovel Test 16, revealed additional demolition debris, but no wall. Test Unit 103 revealed a three course wide brick wall running north-south approximately 0.2 meters below the present ground surface. An attempt to trace the foundation with a metal probe proved unreliable because of the concentration of architectural



Source: Hopkins, 1894

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Figure 13 |
Kalorama Playground



Source: ES

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Figure 14
Kalorama Playground
Site Map

rubble above the foundation. Test Unit 107, 4 to 5 feet south of Unit 103 showed that the wall took a ninety degree turn to the west. In an effort to discover the southwest corner of the southern wall, four additional units were excavated. Although demolition rubble was present, no continuation of the wall was evident.

Nine test units were established in an attempt to locate the east wall. None of the units revealed the wall, however demolition rubble was encountered in four of the tests. Test Unit 120 was excavated through the demolition to a depth of 1 meter below surface where a flat concrete floor impeded further excavation. It is probable that this concrete surface represents a floor in the cellar, which was filled with architectural debris at the time of demolition.

It also appears that part of the structure's walls may have been disturbed when the recreation center was established, and by associated utilities and landscaping.

The area surrounding the brick structure in Test Unit was investigated to locate a builder's trench. The presence of building demolition debris on both sides of the structure indicated that the visible brick represented a wall rather than a subsurface foundation. No intact living surfaces associated with this structure were discovered in the study area.

Study Area B, to the west of Study Area A contained seven shovel tests. Shovel Test 26 revealed a horizontal soil change. Expansion of the shovel test into a 2 by 4 foot unit revealed that the soil anomaly was a trench, filled with clay and cobbles, probably for a utility line. Shovel Test 27 revealed a flat stone surface at a depth of 0.14 meters below surface. The shovel test was expanded into a test unit that revealed five additional flat flagstones. These stones likely represent a floor or walkway.

The three shovel tests excavated in Study Area C yielded no artifacts. Three strata were encountered in these tests, existing topsoil, yellow brown mottled silty clay fill, and yellow brown silty clay. Stratum C may represent subsoil. If so, no buried topsoil was found in association.

Shovel tests excavated in Study Area D located only fill. These shovel tests were excavated to a maximum depth below the surface of 0.67 meters.

Study Area E contained two shovel tests, one of which revealed an ash layer containing a 1950 penny atop a brick foundation. The shovel test was expanded to a unit which revealed a small foundation, likely a barbecue. Local

residents recounted the presence of barbecues in this area of the site dating back to the 1940's.

Recommendations: Study Areas A and B contain intact archaeological remains which relate to the occupation and use of the nineteenth century structure. These areas represent a sensitive archaeological zone and would require mitigation measures prior to any construction or disturbance to the archaeological remains.

Study Area C, D, and E contain no archaeological remains and require no further testing. Disturbance to areas presently capped by concrete and macadam would necessitate further archaeological investigation.

Artifact Inventory
Kalorama

Shovel Test 5, Stratum B:

1 U.S. Penny, dated 1939
1 iron wire
brick

Shovel Test 6, Stratum B:

1 fragment window glass
1 fragment decorative marbled glass
1 fragment aluminum ring pull tab
1 oyster shell
coal
brick
mortar

Shovel Test 6, Stratum C:

brick

Shovel Test 10, Stratum B:

1 fragment clear bottle glass
coal
brick

Shovel Test 11, Stratum B:

1 wire nail
brick

Shovel Test 12, Stratum B

brick
1 fragment blue bottle glass

Shovel Test 13, Stratum B:

1 sherd whiteware
coal

Shovel Test 14, Stratum C:

1 unrecognizable ferrous object

Shovel Test 16, Stratum C:

1 fragment window glass
1 fragment asphalt siding/roofing material
brick
mortar

Shovel Test 17, Stratum B:

coal
brick

Shovel Test 18, Stratum B:

1 cut nail
2 cinders
1 sherd unglazed red ware

Shovel Test 18, Stratum C:
slate
brick

Shovel Test 19, Stratum B:
2 cut nails
4 fragments window glass

Shovel Test 20, Stratum C:
2 fragments clear bottle glass
brick

Shovel Test 21, Stratum C:
mortar

Shovel Test 23, Stratum B:
1 fragment green bottle glass
coal
brick

Shovel Test 23, Stratum C:
1 fragment clear bottle glass
brick

Shovel Test 25, Stratum B:
3 fragments clear bottle glass

Shovel Test 25, Stratum C:
brick

Shovel Test 26, Stratum B:
1 fragment olive bottle glass

Shovel Test 26, Stratum C:
1 cut nail

Shovel Test 28, Stratum B:
3 fragments clear bottle glass
1 fragment olive bottle glass
1 fragment acid-etched window glass
1 oyster shell
coal
brick
1 sherd porcelain
3 sherds whiteware

Shovel Test 28, Stratum C:
1 sherd unglazed redware

1 oyster shell
1 wire nail
brick
3 fragments window glass

Shovel Test 39, Stratum B:

1 sherd blue overglaze hand painted whiteware
brick

Shovel Test 40, Stratum B:

1 fragment clear drinking glass
9 fragments clear bottle glass
1 crown style bottle cap
1 unrecognizable ferrous object
1 iron gasket or washer
coal
brick
1 iron interior hardware fragment
1 U.S. Penny dated 1950
1 fragment very light blue bottle glass
1 fragment very pale green bottle glass

Unit 101, Stratum B:

6 fragments clear bottle glass
1 fragment amber bottle glass
1 sherd whiteware
1 sherd green slip decorated whiteware
brick
mortar
1 fragment red plastic

Unit 101, Stratum C:

1 fragment window glass
mortar
coal
slate
1 animal bone

Unit 102, Stratum B:

1 sherd salt glazed stoneware
4 sherds ironstone
1 sherd green shell-edged pearlware
1 fragment dark olive green blown bottle glass
8 fragments clear bottle glass
1 fragment black plastic
brick
coal
slate
1 unrecognizable ferrous object
1 cut nail
1 wire nail
1 unrecognizable nail fragment

Unit 102, Stratum C:

1 sherd unglazed earthenware
1 fragment clear bottle glass
2 unrecognizable nail fragments
slate
coal
brick
1 fragment terra cotton drainage pipe

Unit 102, Stratum D:

1 fragment dark olive bottle glass
4 fragments clear bottle glass
mortar
1 unrecognizable ferrous object

Unit 103, Stratum B:

1 unrecognizable nail fragment
1 fragment terra cotta architectural block
1 oyster shell
slate
3 wire nails
7 fragments window glass
1 sherd whiteware
1 fragment green bottle glass
2 fragments amber bottle glass
1 fragment olive bottle glass
3 fragments clear bottle glass
1 fragment light green bottle glass

Unit 103, Stratum C:

1 sherd blue and white transfer printed whiteware
1 copper alloy shell casing
1 fragment dark olive bottle glass
1 fragment light green bottle glass
2 fragments window glass
1 oyster shell
1 quartz chip, white translucent
1 quartz flake, white transparent, distal
mortar
cinder
1 animal bone
1 fragment asphalt
2 wire nails
2 cut nails
1 unrecognizable nail fragment

Unit 103, Stratum F:

painted mortar & plaster

Unit 103, Stratum G:

1 iron window latch

1 iron hardware fragment
mortar
Unit 103, builder's trench
brick
Unit 104, Stratum C
2 sherds porcelain
4 sherds ironstone
1 fragment clear bottle glass with aluminum cap
2 fragments amber bottle glass
2 fragments light blue bottle glass
11 fragments clear bottle glass
1 iron buckle fragment with leather/woven rope attachment
1 oyster shell
2 animal bones
brick
1 unrecognizable nail fragment
1 fragment window glass

Unit 113, Stratum C:
1 fragment clear bottle glass
2 cut nails
1 wire nail
1 whole safety pin
mortar

Unit 114, Stratum F:
3 cut nails

Unit 118, Stratum B:
4 fragments clear bottle glass
1 fragment green bottle glass
1 whole clear milk bottle
1 oyster shell
3 fragments window glass
1 cut nail
3 unrecognizable nail fragments

Unit 118, Stratum C:
2 cut nails
1 unrecognizable nail fragment
coal

Unit 120, Stratum B:
1 sherd ironstone
1 fragment window glass
1 fragment copper alloy screen
1 iron hardware fragment
1 cut nail
2 unrecognizable nails

Unit 120, Stratum C:
1 fragment blue-green glass vessel, burnt

3 fragments window glass
1 copper alloy curtain ring
1 cut nail
3 fragments copper alloy tubing
5 wood fragments

Unit 121, Stratum B:

5 fragments clear vessel glass
1 unrecognizable nail fragment
mortar
slate

**PRELIMINARY ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
23 RECREATION CENTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.**



ENGINEERING-SCIENCE

1201 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

STUDY UNIT III.1
KALORAMA

Location: Kalorama Park is bounded by Columbia Road on the southeast, by 19th Street on the southwest and by private residences and apartment buildings facing Mintwood Place on the north. The park is located in the Kalorama area, a D.C. Category III Landmark which contributes to the visual beauty of the District of Columbia. When new square were assigned by the city, the square in which Kalorama Park is located was not assigned a number because, at that time, it was a U.S. Reservation, number 655.

Owner: D.C. Recreation Department

Representation in Existing Surveys: None

Description: Presently there are a few recreation-associated features on the property, including a basketball and volleyball court and a small recreation center buildings situated on the 3.1 acre site. The park is on a terrace 186 feet above sea level. The ground slopes downward to the west toward Rock Creek which is only 1200 feet to the west. Large trees are located on the site's sloping contours, more densely clustered in the areas near the former location of a nineteenth century house. The land has been terraced to some degree.

Kalorama Park was originally a part of the land tract Widow's Mite, which was surveyed in 1664 and patented in 1686 by William Langworth (Charles County Liber IB&IL#C, f.166). In 1714 the two surviving daughters of William Langworth sold the Widow's Mite to Thomas Fletchall, who built his dwelling house there. The property was divided and the upper half, 206 acres given to his son, Thomas. Thomas Fletchall, the son, sold the 206 acres to James Holmeard, planter, in 1727. The property remained the the Holmead family into the nineteenth century. Eighteenth century documents reveal the presence of numerous improvements on the property, including dwellings, mills, out buildings, orchards, and gardens. At this time it is not clear of any of these were on the Kalorama Park property. It is quite possible that some type of structure was erected there, however, since it was adjacent to the road to Rock Creek Church from Georgetown, and on a terrace overlooking much of the surrounding countryside.

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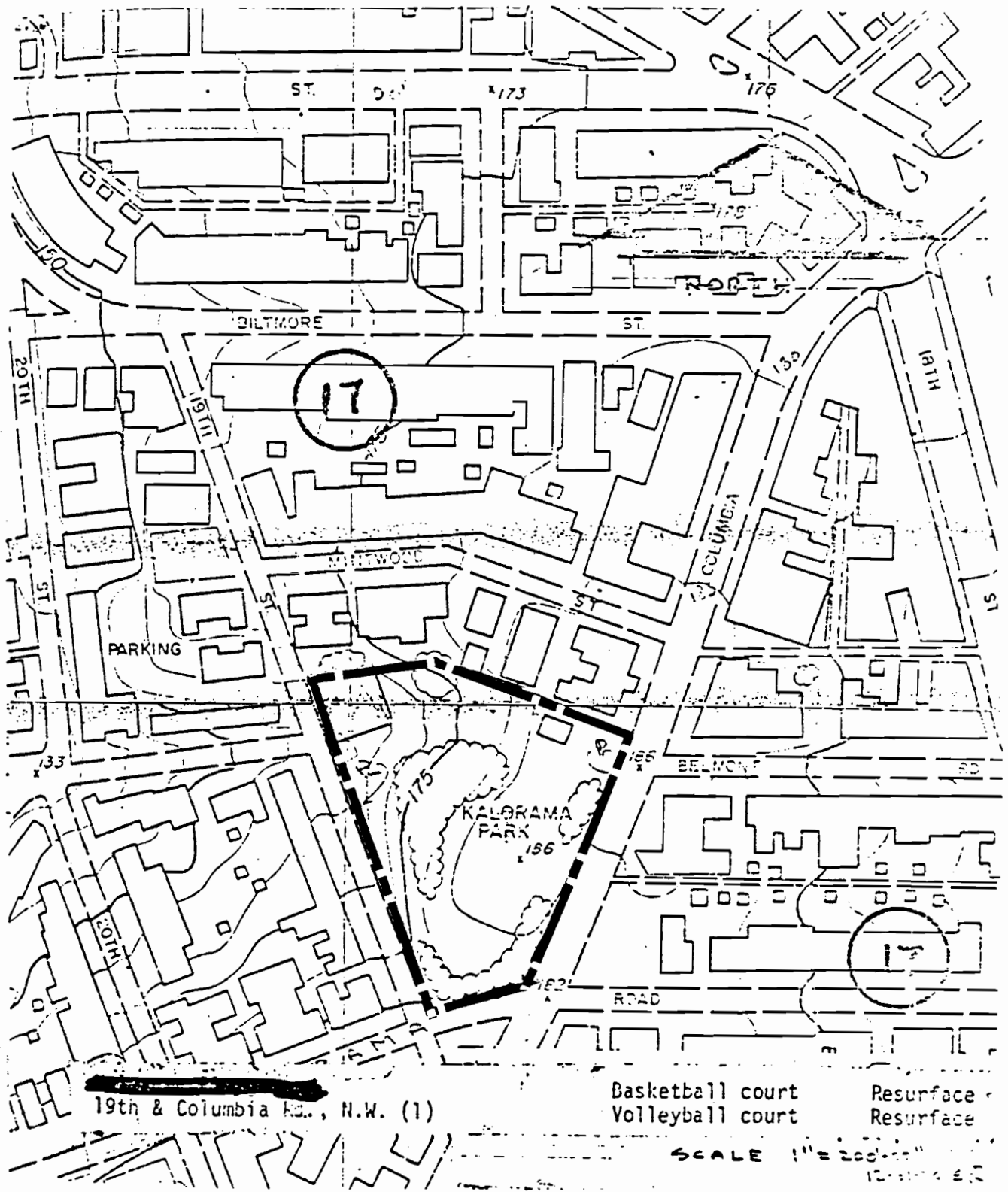


Figure III-1.A
Current Site Map

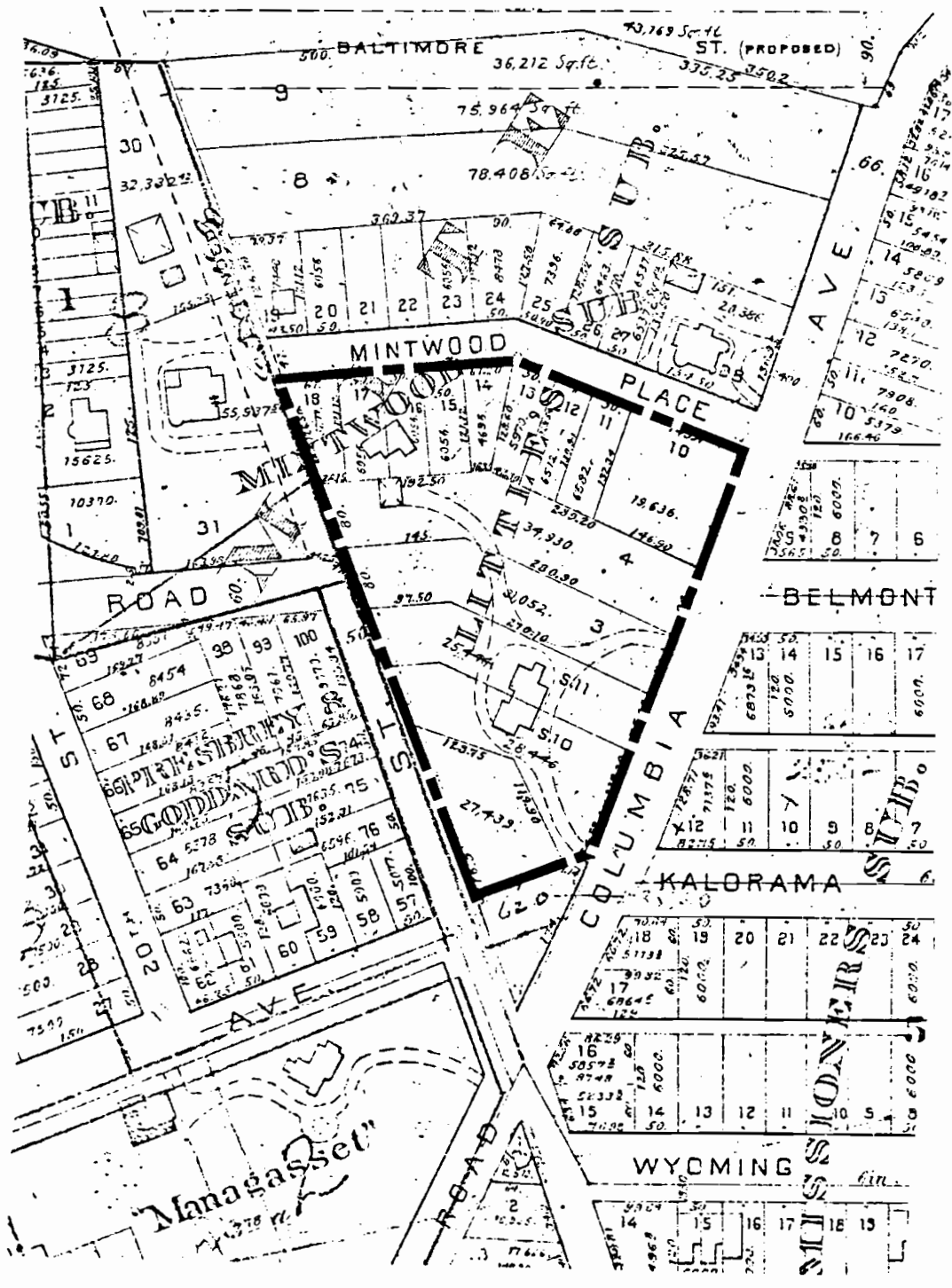


Figure III-1.B
Hopkins 1894

were adjacent to Taylors Lane Road or the road to Rock Creek Church from Georgetown. Little's large home remained on the site until 1894 when shown on a Baist Real Estate Atlas. No further research was conducted on the structures or their occupants.

A 1927 aerial photograph of the site shows that the structure once on the site was gone by the time of the photograph. Shadows of the foundation and the driveway configuration are still clear, however.

Archeological Sensitivity: The Kalorama Park is located on a high elevation directly east of prehistoric quarry sites located during the nineteenth century. No aboriginal sites have been located on this site, but it is possible that prehistoric occupation or use could have taken place here, adjacent to lithic and food resources.

The nineteenth century occupation is evident from the map and deed survey, but sufficient research has not been done to trace possible earlier occupation during the historic period. No subsurface testing was conducted at the site to determine presence of prehistoric or historic sites. There was no evidence located, however, to indicate that twentieth century activities on the properties have destroyed evidence of prior occupation.

Archeological Significance. It is suggested that further archival research be conducted to review nineteenth and earlier use of the property. There may be remains of early farming activities from colonial and later periods on the site. Archeological testing should be implemented on selected areas to determine presence of both prehistoric and historic occupation, and the integrity of such remains.