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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADDENDUM TO THE CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Camden National Historic Landmark is located along the south side of the Rappahannock River, approximately two kilometers downriver from the town of Port Royal in Caroline County, Virginia. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places November 17, 1969, Camden was designated a National Historic Landmark November 11, 1971. The 1969 nomination form described the Camden manor house, constructed 1857-1859, as "one of the most complete and best preserved Italianate country houses in America." One archaeological site, 44CE3, was also discussed in the nomination. Summarized in this addendum are subsequent archaeological surveys by the Virginia State Library and the Division of Historic Landmarks which have produced an inventory of an additional 95 archaeological sites at Camden. Extensive evidence of prehistoric occupation dating from the Archaic and Woodland Periods has been identified on the property. The archaeological remains of Historic Period occupation include sites representing late seventeenth century Native American settlement, the expansion of English colonial settlement in the early eighteenth century, and the development and evolution of a major plantation complex spanning the antebellum and postbellem periods.

BACKGROUND

Situated approximately 50 kilometers downstream from the falls, Camden is comprised of 1400 acres of bottomland within the broad valley formed by the Rappahannock River's passage through the Virginia Coastal Plain. From the river shoreline, the lowlying property extends south approximately two kilometers to the base of an upland terrace 150 feet in elevation. The property is bordered on the west by Mill Creek, whose headwaters lie deep within the interior of Caroline County, and by a tributary, Peumansend Creek. A smaller drainage flows through the eastern portion of the property from the base of the uplands to the mouth of Portobago Bay, which forms the northeast boundary of the current tract. The Rappahannock River at Camden, although essentially freshwater, is still affected by tidal fluctuations. Camden is a working farm, and at present the majority of acreage is cultivated. Other portions of the property are wooded or characterized by wetland environments.

Archaeological survey and testing conducted by the Virginia State Library and the Division of Historic Landmarks has identified 96 archaeological sites at Camden. Twelve sites were first identified in survey conducted by the Virginia State Library intermittently from 1964 through 1976. During this period, test excavations were conducted at four sites, 44CE16, 19, 23, and 24. Sites 44CE3 and 4 received more extensive excavation. Beginning in late 1983 and continuing intermittently through 1984 the Division of Historic Landmarks conducted additional archaeological survey at Camden (Figure 1). In the course of this work, the surface of approximately 770 acres of cultivated land on the property was systematically examined along measured transects. In addition to cultivated acreage, portions of the woodlands adjacent to the streams bordering or running through the property were examined both on the surface and below surface through shovel test pitting. Survey by the Division of Historic Landmarks resulted in the identification of 84 archaeological sites.

Prehistoric occupational debris has been found at 47 sites at Camden. The earliest occupation episodes identified thus far date from the Early Archaic Period (ca. 8000 - 6500 B.C.). Projectile points attributable to this period have been found at sites 44CE4, 30, 161, 165, 170, 203, 216, and 217 (Figure 2). Occupation dating to the Middle Archaic Period (ca. 6500 - 3000 B.C.) is represented by projectile points recovered at sites 44CE3, 4, 24, 161, 171, 172, 189, and 217. The Early and Middle Archaic Period sites at Camden likely represent small encampments used as a base for the procurement of subsistence and lithic resources, stone tool manufacture, and various other maintenance activities.

Archaeological evidence for prehistoric occupation dating from the Late Archaic (ca. 3000 - 1000 B.C.), Early Woodland (ca. 1000 - 500 B.C.), and Middle Woodland (ca. 500 B.C. - A.D. 1000) Periods is particularly extensive at Camden. A variety of functional site types are represented including lithic workshops, small short-term encampments, and larger base camps or hamlets. Projectile points and/or ceramic artifacts indicative of Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland Period occupation have found at sites 44CE3, 4, 15, 23, 24, 143, 148, 153, 156, 159, 172, 173, 185, 189, 208, 216, and 217. Further evidence of Late Archaic Period occupation has been found at sites 44CE14, 20, 139, 142, 143, 144, 146, and 171. Sites 44CE16, 19, 147, 150, 151, 161, and 202 contain debris from both the Early and Middle Woodland Periods. Additional evidence for Early Woodland occupation exists at sites 44CE14, 142, 146, 170, 171, and 188, while additional Middle Woodland debris occurs at sites 44CE140, 174, 175, 187, 197, and 198.

Test excavations conducted by the Virginia State Library have confirmed the presence of undisturbed strata or features at five sites occupied during the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, or Middle Woodland Periods. Intact or scattered stone hearths were found below the plowzone at sites 44CE16, 23, and 24. At site 44CE19, not presently cultivated, stone flakes and a burnt sand hearth three inches thick and approximately one and a half feet in diameter were found below what is probably an old plowzone. Excavation of a 775 square foot area at site 44CE4 in 1969 documented the presence of an intact stone hearth sixteen inches below ground surface or eight inches below a plowzone six to eight inches deep. Other intact features uncovered at 44CE4 include a cluster of Middle Woodland Period ceramics at eight to nine inches below ground surface, a cache of four quartzite blades at ten inch depth, and a pebble hearth twenty-two inches in diameter at fourteen inch depth. The results of the excavation also suggest that the earlier preceramic occupational levels are vertically separated stratagraphically from ceramic bearing ones lying above.(MacCord 1970).

Additional archaeological evidence of prehistoric occupation at Camden indicates the property was also inhabited during the Late Woodland Period (ca. A.D. 1000 - 1600). The remains of settlement dating from this period are largely confined to site 44CE23 which, based on the areal distribution and density of artifacts, appears to be a consolidated semi-permanent or permanent village. A map prepared in 1609 by Captain John Smith of the English settlement at Jamestown shows one Indian village, Nandtanghtacund, located in the vicinity of Portobago Bay. While the exact occupation date of site 44CE23 remains to be determined, preliminary analysis of ceramics collected from the surface of the site suggests it was most likely inhabited earlier during the Late Woodland Period than the village indicated by Smith. Late Woodland Period artifacts have also been found on the Camden property at sites 44CE16 and 19. These finds may relate to the village at 44CE23 or may represent non-contemporaneous small procurement camps.

Four sites at Camden dating from the prehistoric period have yielded only non-diagnostic artifacts thus far and, therefore, cannot be attributed to a particular cultural or chronological period. These are 44CE164, 169, 177, and 196.

During the course of the Historic Period, members of a number of different ethnic groups--Native American, Anglo-American, and Afro-American--have at one time called the land that is Camden their home. Of particular note at Camden are remains of Native American settlement dating from the late

seventeenth century which have been identified through archaeological survey and excavation. Native American ceramics attributable to the Historic Period have been found at 30 sites on the property. At several of these locations, lesser amounts of European artifacts dating from the late seventeenth through early eighteenth century have also been recovered.

Twenty sites yielding archaeological remains of Historic Period Native American occupation are located in or adjacent to a 54 acre agricultural field in the northeast sector of the Camden property and are believed to represent individual components of a large village of internally dispersed plan (Figure 3). The sites are situated along a low, wide terrace which runs parallel to the Rappahannock River and is bordered along its northeast edge by a poquoson fringing the shoreline. The field is characterized by a sandy soil underlain by gravel deposits. Quartz debitage and unfinished stone tools are found widely scattered across the surface of the field, attesting to the setting's use during the Archaic and Woodland Periods of prehistory for lithic workshop activities.

Against this background of archaeological debris, sites of Historic Period Native American occupation can be distinquished on the surface of the field as discrete concentrations of ceramic sherds and oyster shell. The majority of ceramics represented are Historic Period wares typologically related to a prehistoric ceramic tradition characteristic of peoples inhabiting the interior Coastal Plain and outer Piedmont regions of northern Virginia and Maryland during the Late Woodland Period. Also present at the sites, however, are lesser amounts of an historic ware derived from a different Late Woodland ceramic tradition representative of the majority of peoples who inhabited the estuarine Coastal Plain of Virginia and Maryland.

Eight of the sites within this field are characterized by very dense concentrations of Native American ceramics, most about 45 meters in diameter, and likely represent the remains of individual households within a large, internally dispersed village. These include sites 44CE3, 13, 14, 15, 20, 146, 147, and 150. Nearby sites which either yield less concentrated debris or are more restricted in size are 44CE4, 30, 135, 139, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 148, 149, and 151.

The Virginia State Library conducted excavations at one of the suspected household sites, 44CE3, in October 1964 and March 1965 (MacCord 1969). In the roughly forty by thirty foot area excavated to twelve inches below the base of the six inch plowzone, intact portions of two features were encountered. One, an oval pit approximately three and a half by two and a half feet in

diameter, was filled with animal bone, oyster shell, and Historic Period Native American ceramics. The other feature was a burnt sand hearth two feet in diameter. From the rest of the excavation, 9,055 Native American sherds were recovered, of which all but less than one percent are attributable to the Historic Period. Other artifacts associated with use of the site during the Historic Period include, but are not limited to: ceramic smoking pipes of both local and English manufacture; copper and glass ornaments; triangular stone projectile points as well as a point made of clear glass; gunflints and gun hardware; European stoneware and refined earthenware ceramics; iron tools such as knives and files; and iron nails (Figure 4). Datable European artifacts are attributable to the period ca. 1680-1710. One of the most notable artifacts of European manufacture recovered was a silver medallion with an engraved floral design on both sides and inscribed "Ye King of Machotick" (Figure 5). In 1832 a similar medallion, inscribed "Ye King of Patomeck", was found at an unrecorded location within the Camden tract. Both medallions are likely badges issued to Native American groups by the colonial government in the late seventeenth century so that native peoples entering areas of colonial settlement could be identified.

Other sites at Camden which have yielded Native American artifacts dating from the Historic Period are 44CE19, 21, 153, 154, 156, 170, 178, 184, 217, and 218. It is possible that two groups of sites among these represent more widely dispersed elements of the large settlement discussed above since they are situated in close proximity to the main village, although separated from it by small drainages. Sites 44CE153, 154, and 156 lie to the southeast of the larger settlement, while sites 44CE217 and 218 lie directly west. Within each of these two areas, artifacts associated with late seventeenth through early eighteenth century Native American occupation are most localized at sites 44CE154 and 218. More scattered debris is found in adjacent portions of the remaining sites. Native American ceramics found at sites 44CE21 and 184 may be contemporaneous with the more predomonant remains of second and/or third quarter eighteenth century Anglo-American occupation which characterizes these sites, or they may represent separate and probably earlier Native American occupations.

Archaeological evidence of Historic Period Native American occupation at Camden is complemented by the numerous references to Native American settlement in the vicinity of Portobago Bay which appear in seventeenth century and early eighteenth century documents. During the mid-seventeenth century, the colonial government set aside several tracts of land along the Rappahannock River as preserves for native peoples in an effort to lessen tensions between the Indians and planters who were moving into the Indians' lands in increasing numbers. By the mid-seventeenth century, the

Nanzattico Indians held a preserve which encompassed acreage on the northern side of the Rappahannock River, traditionally known as Nanzattico, as well as extending across the river into the area near Portobago Bay. In 1657 the village of the Portobago Indians was located within the Nanzattico's acreage, near the mouth of Portobago Creek.

Early patents for the Portobago Bay region indicate that the Nanzattico Indian's lands on the south side of the Rappahannock River extended at least two miles inland. The tract of Thomas Lucas lay "on the south side of the Rappahannock River about two miles above the Portobago Town" and included land "which is now within the bounds ... allocated to the Nanzattico Indians." The Lucas patent lay directly behind that of Sir Thomas Lunsford, which included river frontage and extended inland one mile. (McIlwaine and Kennedy 1905-1915: 1659/60-1693: 41). Portions of both early patents, which abut within the current bounds of the Camden property, are shown on a plat which was prepared in 1738 to resolve a complex land dispute (Figure 6).

Although the relationship between the Portobago and Nanzattico Indians is not clearly defined within the documentary record, the two groups were listed together in the 1669 census as consisting of 110 warriors. In 1680, one leader, Pattanochus, signed the Treaty of Middle Plantation on behalf of the Nanzattico, Portobago, and Nansemond Indians. (The latter was a group then living near modern Port Conway.) In 1684 the Rappahannock Indians were transported to the Nanzattico's land on Portobago Bay at the behest of the colonial government.

As mentioned above, among the earliest colonial patents for lands in the Portobago Bay area was that of Sir Thomas Lunsford, knight and baronet, a Royalist who had fled England for Virginia. Lunsford claimed 3423 acres in 1650. His daughter, Katherine, asserted a claim to her father's lands after his death, receiving permission in 1670 to seat it, provided "that [it] may not prejudice the Indians now living upon part of the said land" (McIlwaine 1924: 227). The plat prepared in 1738 which shows the north-western portion of the old Lunsford patent also identifies it as the "Middle Town", perhaps a reference to an Indian village which had once been on the property (Figure 6). Portions of the Lunsford tract depicted on the plat correspond to the lands at Camden where archaeological remains of a large Native American settlement dating from the late seventeenth century have been recognized.

Among other historical references to Native Americans residing in the vicinity of Portobago Bay is the journal of Durand de Dauphiné, a Frenchman who, during the course of a tour of the American colonies, visited Ralph Wormeley of Rosegill and traveled with him during the winter of 1686 to his plantations along the upper Rappahannock River. De Dauphiné stayed at Wormeley's plantation on the north side of the Rappahannock River at Nanzattico and visited the latter's holdings on the southern shore at Portobago, acquired through marriage to Sir Thomas Lunsford's daughter, Katherine. From his tour of the southern shore, de Dauphiné related that he had seen six houses constructed by Wormeley and went on to describe the Native Americans living in a village which he had noted earlier could be seen from Wormeley's Nanzattico quarters. De Dauphiné wrote: "These savages have rather pretty houses, the walls as well as the roofs ornamented with trees, and so securely fastened together with deer thongs that neither rain nor wind causes them inconvenience" (de Dauphiné 1934: 152). He also noted that both European and traditional deerskin garmets were worn by the native people and stated that the Indian women made "pots, earthen vases and smoking pipes [which] the Christians buying these pots or vases fill them with Indian corn, which is the price of them" (de Dauphiné 1934: 153).

Native American peoples continued to reside along the middle stretches of the Rappahannock River into the eighteenth century, with some peoples remaining in the region into the twentieth century. In May 1704 the Nanzattico Indians lodged an official complaint, alleging that Thomas Kendall of Essex County had broken down their fences, whereas Dr. Lomax had taken the rest of their land. Dr. John Lomax, great-grandson of Sir Thomas Lunsford, had inherited the Lunsford holdings at Portobago. Although the Nanzattico Indians in 1705 were transported to the island of Antigua, banished because some of their people had been found guilty of murdering a frontier family, the Portobago, Nansemond, Rappahannock, and Dogue most likely lived within or just beyond the fringes of the expanding colonial frontier. Robert Beverley reported in 1705 that in Essex County, which then included the Camden property, the Rappahannock Indians consisted of only "a few Families and live scattered upon the English seats," whereas, in Richmond County which lay to the east, "the Port-Tobago has about five Bowmen but [were] wasting" (Beverley 1947: 232-233). In the early twentieth century, approximately 500 persons identified as Rappahannock Indians were residing in Caroline, Essex, and King George Counties.

Archaeological remains associated with Anglo-American and Afro-American occupation during the Historic Period are widespread across the Camden property and are found at 48 sites. Although land at Camden was patented as early as the mid-seventeenth century, the earliest period of colonial occupation yet identified archaeologically dates from ca. 1725. Several sites at Camden have yielded Euro-American artifacts dating from as early as ca. 1680, yet these are interpreted as sites of Native American, not English, settlement.

Upon Ralph Wormeley's death, his property passed into the hands of the two daughters produced from his marriage to Katherine Lunsford. One daughter, Elizabeth, married Dr. John Lomax, the man the Nanzattico Indians had accused of taking their property. The other daughter, Katherine, married Gawin Corbin. Katherine Wormeley Corbin died not long after her marriage and the Lomax couple undertook a property settlement with her widower. As a result of that agreement, Corbin acquired acreage in the easterly part of the old Lunsford patent. The Lomaxes gained an unencumbered title to the westerly section which included portions of the Camden property plus the acreage surrounding Portobago Bay. At that time land which lay along the eastern side of Peumansend Creek, bordering the old Lunsford patent, was owned by Elizabeth Lomax's brother, the younger Ralph Wormeley. This land subsequently passed to the Taliaferro family.

The relatively detailed historical maps of Peter Jefferson and Robert Brooke, prepared in 1747, and those made by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson in 1751-1775, indicate that the Lomax family seat lay on the western side of Portobago Bay, beyond the eastern limits of Camden. Although both of the maps show only major plantation seats, they suggest the vicinity of the present Camden manor house was not occupied during the periods depicted. Development in other sections of the property, however, is depicted on detailed plats prepared between 1720 and 1738 to resolve a cpmplex land dispute. Several features shown on these plats may be tentatively correlated to archaeological sites which have been identified through survey of the Camden property.

The most clearly defined archaeological sites identified at Camden and which date from the first half of the eighteenth century are sites 44CE21, 44CE152, and 44CE184. The initial occupation date of all three sites as indicated by associated artifacts is ca. 1725. Two of these sites may correspond to dwellings shown on a detailed plat prepared in 1738 (Figure 6). Site 44CE21, occupied ca. 1725-1750, may be the remains of Edward Masterson's dwelling. Site 44CE184, which has yielded debris dating from the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century as well as nineteenth century

artifacts, lies in the vicinity of the dwelling of Joseph Reynolds.

Other sites identified archaeologically which may correspond to features indicated on early eighteenth century plats of the area are 44CE19, 167, 168, 217, and 222. At site 44CE222, now a private boat landing, was situated a ferry landing, in existence as early as 1705, which is shown on plats dated 1724 and 1738. A structure above the landing appears on the earlier map. Site 44CE217 would encompass the remains of this structure, although the earliest date indicated by artifacts collected from the site thus far is ca. 1750. Sites 44CE167 and 168 are portions of deeply entrenched roadbeds now overgrown with trees. The road represented by 44CE167 skirts the bottom of the uplands along the southern border of the Camden property and probably represents a section of a major eighteenth century overland route. Site 44CE168 may be the upper portion of a road, depicted on the same 1724 and 1738 plats, which leads from the overland route to the ferry landing (Figure 6). Site 44CE19, situated on the Rappahannock River near the mouth of Mill Creek, has yielded eighteenth century artifacts and may contain remains related to Taliaferros Landing, a feature shown on a 1730 plat. Additional small sites at Camden which have yielded eighteenth century artifacts, but which cannot be dated with precision are 44CE155, 157, 163, 186, and 198.

It was during the late eighteenth century that the evolution of Camden plantation, associated with the Pratt family, began. John Pratt, whose ancestors came from Westmoreland County, built a home at Camden ca. 1790 within 461 1/2 acres along the eastern side of Peumansend Creek purchased from Henry Micou. Later, in July 1802, Pratt bought 1619.3 acres of land, a portion of the old Lunsford patent, from Thomas Lomax, who had inherited the property from his father, Lunsford Lomax, eldest son of John and Elizabeth. (Figure 7). John Pratt named his plantation Camden in honor of Charles Pratt, the first Earl of Camden and champion of the American cause in the Revolutionary War.

John Pratt's house at Camden is illustrated in Mutual Assurance Society policies dated 1796 and 1804, and a depiction of the plan of his plantation seat appears on a U. S. Coastal Survey map of the Rappahannock River shoreline prepared in 1854 (Figure 8). The U.S. Coastal Survey map indicates that the first Pratt house at Camden was situated at or very near the site of the present manor house, constructed 1857-1859. From the house the plantation complex extended east parallel to the river. A large portion of this area, designated as site 44CE217, continues to be maintained as a residential yard

for the present landowner, Richard T. Pratt, and a farm manager. The far eastern section of the plantation complex, however, is now an agricultural field. Dense archaeological debris dating from ca. 1750 through the twentieth century is found concentrated in this area along a low ridge which runs parallel to the Rappahannock River, thus confirming the location of a string of dependencies shown on the 1854 plan (Figure 9).

Also associated with the Pratt family complex are two cemeteries, sites 44CE219 and 220. The latter contains members of the Pratt and Turner families. The cemetery is square in plan, enclosed by a gated brick wall. Individual interments are marked by engraved stones, the earliest dated from the second decade of the nineteenth century. The other cemetery, 44CE219, was initially identified through an interview in 1984 with Mr. Richard T. Pratt, who reported it was used through the early twentieth century by Afro-American slaves and tenants of the plantation. The graves are said to have been marked originally with cedar posts, although no above ground remains of these survive today. In surface reconnaissance of the cemetery it was observed that the area, which lies between two large holly trees at the edge of an agricultural field, is maintained as cleared uncultivated land (Figure 9).

Upon the decease of John Pratt, Camden was inherited by his son and namesake. That John Pratt and his son, John B., resided at Camden during the 1850s. Agricultural census records, which commence in 1850, indicate that the farm then consisted of 900 acres of cleared land and 450 acres of unimproved land. In 1849, wheat, corn, cotton, and a variety of vegetable crops were raised at Camden. The farm's work force, according to Slave Schedules, included 84 Afro-Americans, approximately half of whom were of primary working age.

In 1853 when John Pratt prepared his will, he left Camden, then consisting of 1350 acres, to his son, John B. The elder John Pratt's will was probated in August 1856 following his death, but soon thereafter his son, John B., died without heirs. William C. Pratt, John B.'s brother, then inherited the family seat. It was William C. Pratt who engaged the services of architect N. G. Starkweather to design the current manor house, constructed 1857-1859. In 1860 when a census was made of Caroline County's inhabitants, William C. Pratt and his wife, Eliza, were living at Camden. It is their son, Richard T. Pratt, who currently owns and resides at Camden.

In addition to sites 44CE217, 219, and 220 discussed above, numerous other sites at Camden have yielded artifacts dating from the years during which the current property bounds were consolidated under the Pratt family. Dating from ca. 1780-1850 are sites 44CE160, 162, 180, 181, 183, 184, 191, 192, 193, 195, 196, 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 206, 207, 209, 214, and 215. In general, the distribution of these sites indicates that most development from ca. 1780-1850 occurred in the northwest portion of the property, the same area associated with the earliest Pratt holdings. The southwest corner of the property also experienced development during this period, while the eastern half, held until 1802 by the Lomax family, has yielded only sparse evidence of antebellum occupation.

Archaeological sites dating from the postbellem period at Camden include 44CE16, 152, 158, 176, 179, 182, 190, 194, 199, 206, 210, 211, 212, and 213. Development during this period was widely dispersed across the property, perhaps reflective of changes in the plantation labor system following the Civil War. Two sites dating from the late nineteenth century, 44CE182 and 212, are yards associated with standing structures still in use today as residences of descendents of the late nineteenth century Afro-American population associated with the plantation. The temporal affiliation of one Historic Period site at Camden, 44CE166, which yielded only brick and mortar fragments, has not been determined.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Camden National Historic Landmark possesses high archaeological significance since investigations here should yield important research data pertaining to nearly all periods of man's occupation of the upper Middle Peninsula of Virginia. The 47 prehistoric archaeological sites at Camden, which span the Early Archaic through Late Woodland Periods, are an important data base for studies of environmental adaptation, settlement patterns, and culture history in the interior Coastal Plain region of Virginia. Thirty archaeological sites at Camden contain the remains of Historic Period Native American settlement during the late seventeenth century and should provide significant new information on late contact period cultural adaptations of native peoples in the circum-Chesapeake region during a period of rapidly expanding colonial settlement. The 48 archaeological sites at Camden associated with Anglo-American or Afro-American occupation of the property constitute an excellent research sample for studying historical development within the upper Middle Peninsula of Virginia from the time the area constituted the frontier of colonial settlement through the postbellum period. In addition to the substantive information these sites can provide on the lifeways of the different ethnic and socio-economic classes who once inhabited the property, examination of the sites as a whole should provide insight into patterns in the evolution of settlement plans, land use, and labor systems through the Historic Period.

BACKGROUND

The 47 prehistoric sites at Camden represent a significant archaeological sample useful to the study of regional environmental adaptations and settlement patterns in the interior Coastal Plain of Virginia. The sample is comprised of a variety of site types from different time periods, and includes sites distributed among diverse micro-encironmental settings within an extensive section of Rappahannock River bottomland. Represented from the Early Archaic (ca. 8000 - 6500 B.C.) and Middle Archaic (ca. 6500 - 3000 B.C.) Periods are the archaeological remains of small encampments used as a base for subsistence activities and stone tool manufacture employing locally available materials. These sites are situated both in the outer portions of the Camden bottomland, adjacent to the Rappahannock River or wetlands

fringing its shoreline, and in the inner portions of the tract associated with small drainages near the base of the uplands to the south. The Camden property was used more intensively during the Late Archaic (ca. 3000 - 1000 B.C.), Early Woodland (ca. 1000 - 500 B.C.), and Middle Woodland (ca. 500 B.C. - A.D.1000) Periods. Site types dating from these periods include lithic workshops, small short-term encampments, and larger base camps or hamlets. Larger camps are situated near the Rappahannock River, either adjacent to the mouth of Mill Creek or along the upper portions and southern slope of the isolated terrace located in the northeast sector of the property. Small camps and extensive lithic workshops are found throughout the bottomland in close proximity to drainages that cut through the property. The Late Woodland Period (ca. A.D. 1000 - 1600) at Camden is represented by a consolidated semi-permanent or permanent village located near the mouth of Mill Creek. Additional small procurement camps from this period might also be present.

Located within the interior Coastal Plain, the prehistoric sites at Camden should prove useful to investigations exploring and comparing the nature of interaction through time between coastal and piedmont cultural groups. Archaeological evidence gathered thus far suggests an extended settlement range which included the Piedmont Province characterized the Early and Middle Archaic Period peoples who utilized the Camden tract. For later periods, more localized adaptations with continued interaction outside the region are suggested.

The prehistoric sites at Camden should also prove significant for resolving chronological problems inherent in refinement of a regional culture history for the interior Coastal Plain of Virginia. Artifacts spanning almost 10,000 years of prehistory have been identified on the property and test excavations conducted thus far have documented the presence of intact cultural deposits at several sites. Of particular importance among these are sites dating from the Early and Middle Woodland Periods for which preliminary ceramic analysis has suggested that a number of different occupations dating from within the period ca. 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000 are represented. Intensive excavation at these sites should provide the type of data necessary for controlled study of cultural change through time. Sites at Camden should prove particularly significant for investigating the transition from hunter-gatherer to agricultural economies among the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland Period cultures of the Virginia Coastal Plain.

Among the sites at Camden are some of the most extensive and best preserved archaeological remains of Historic Period Native American settlement dating from the first century of English colonization yet identified in coastal Virginia. At least three different major loci of Historic Period Native American settlement have been found. At one location are the remains of a large village dated ca. 1680-1710. Two smaller concentrations of archaeological debris may represent widely dispersed yet related components of the same village. Although the remains of the larger Native American settlement at Camden lie within a plowed agricultural field, an internally dispersed plan of what are probably individual households within the village are still easily discerned from the distribution of archaeological debris on the ground surface. Test excavations have documented the presence of intact cultural deposits below the plowzone at one site.

The historic Native American sites at Camden represent a late contact period situation in the circum-Chesapeake region, and are significant for the information they can provide on the cultural adaptations of native peoples during this time. Historical documentation suggests the sites may be the remains of a settlement within a preserve established by the colonial government, one which at the time of occupation would have been situated at the frontier of rapidly expanding English colonial settlement. The presence of multiple separate components and the recovery of two different ceramic wares produced by the native peoples within the larger settlement at Camden suggest the archaeological complex will prove particularly important for investigating the nature of interaction among native peoples during a period characterized by the displacement and integration of diverse groups. The presence of Euro-American artifacts and an abundance of certain native ceramic wares believed to have been an item of trade between native peoples and English colonists suggests the complex may additionally provide new insight into economic relations between these two groups.

Forty-eight archaeological sites at Camden have yielded evidence of Anglo-American or Afro-American occupation. As a whole these sites constitute an excellent sample for studying historical development within the upper Middle Peninsula of Virginia over a long span of time beginning with early colonial settlement in the area and continuing through the postbellum period.

The earliest archaeological evidence of English colonial settlement identified thus far at Camden dates to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Although documentary sources suggest that the property may have been occupied by Anglo-American peoples as early as the third quarter of the seventeenth century, remains from this period are yet to be recognized. The archaeological sites at Camden dating from the early eighteenth century are especially suited for examining diverse approaches to colonial settlement along what was then the frontier of the Virginia colony. Both commercial and domestic/agricultural properties are represented as well as the remains of early transportation systems. Three sites, which are likely the remains of the dwellings of middling farmers, were first occupied at approximately the same date, ca. 1725, and provide an interesting sample for the examination and comparison of life among this socio-economic group. The sites may also provide insight into the lives of Native Americans residing in the vicinity of Camden at this time, since what are believed to be Native American ceramics have been recovered at two of the locations.

A large number of archaeological sites at Camden dating from the Historic Period are associated with the early development and subsequent evolution of a major Rappahannock River plantation complex associated with the Pratt family beginning ca. 1790 and continuing through the present. Again, a wide variety of site types relating to this period of occupation are represented. Within the immediate environs of the main plantation seat are the remains of numerous dependencies which should include workshops, overseer and slave quarters, and agricultural structures. Two cemeteries have also been identified: one associated with the Anglo-American landowners and the other with the Afro-American population affiliated with the plantation. Several outlying archaeological sites, which likely represent quarters or tenant dwellings and related agricultural structures, have been identified as well.

The remarkable continuity in family ownership and the physical boundaries of the Camden plantation since ca. 1790 enhance the property's significance for studying the evolution of plantation life through both the antebellum and postbellum periods. Examination of the archaeological sites distributed across the property should answer many questions regarding changes in settlement patterns, land use, and labor systems through time, while also providing data on the lifeways of the different ethnic and socio-economic classes affiliated with the plantation.

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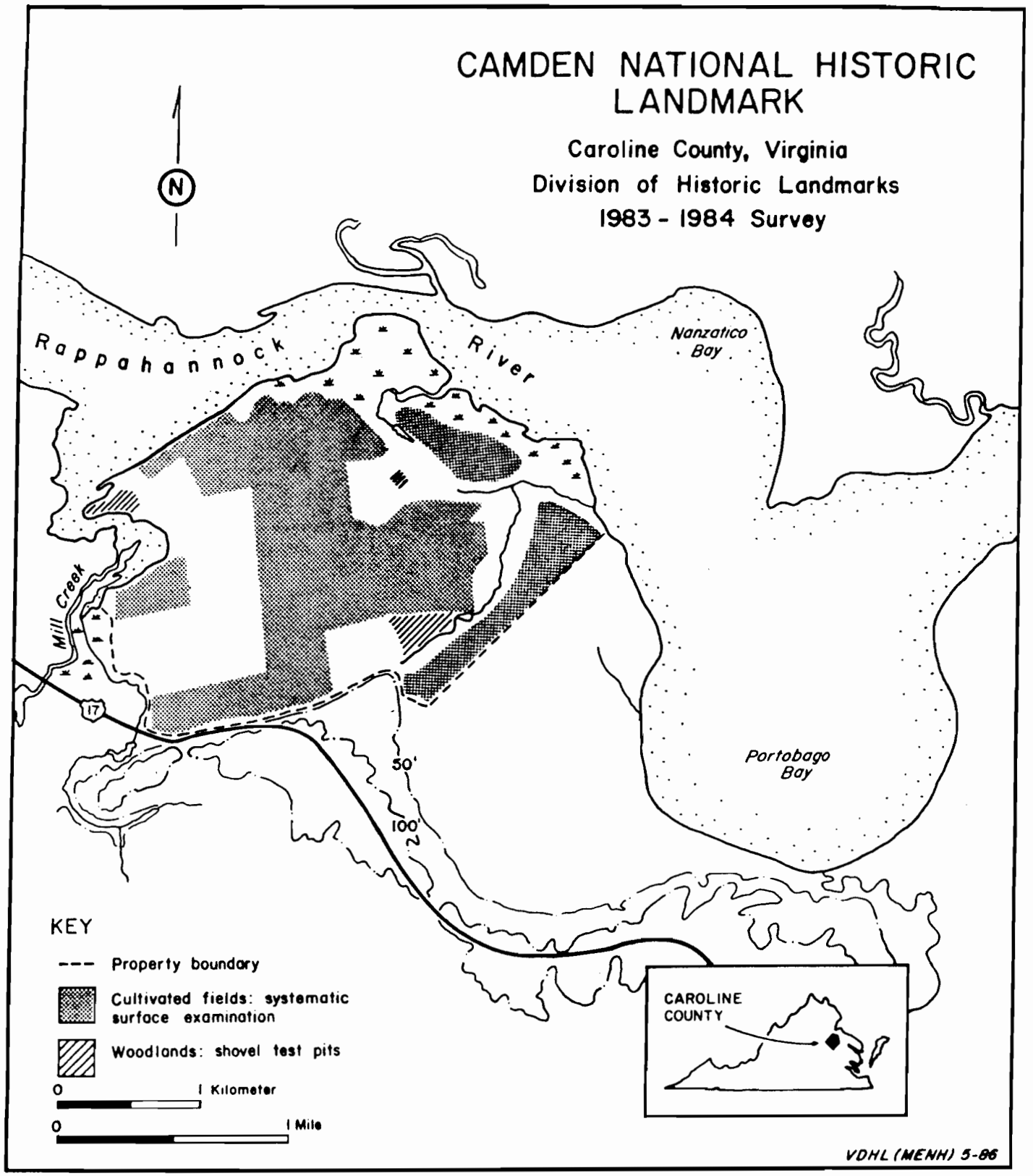
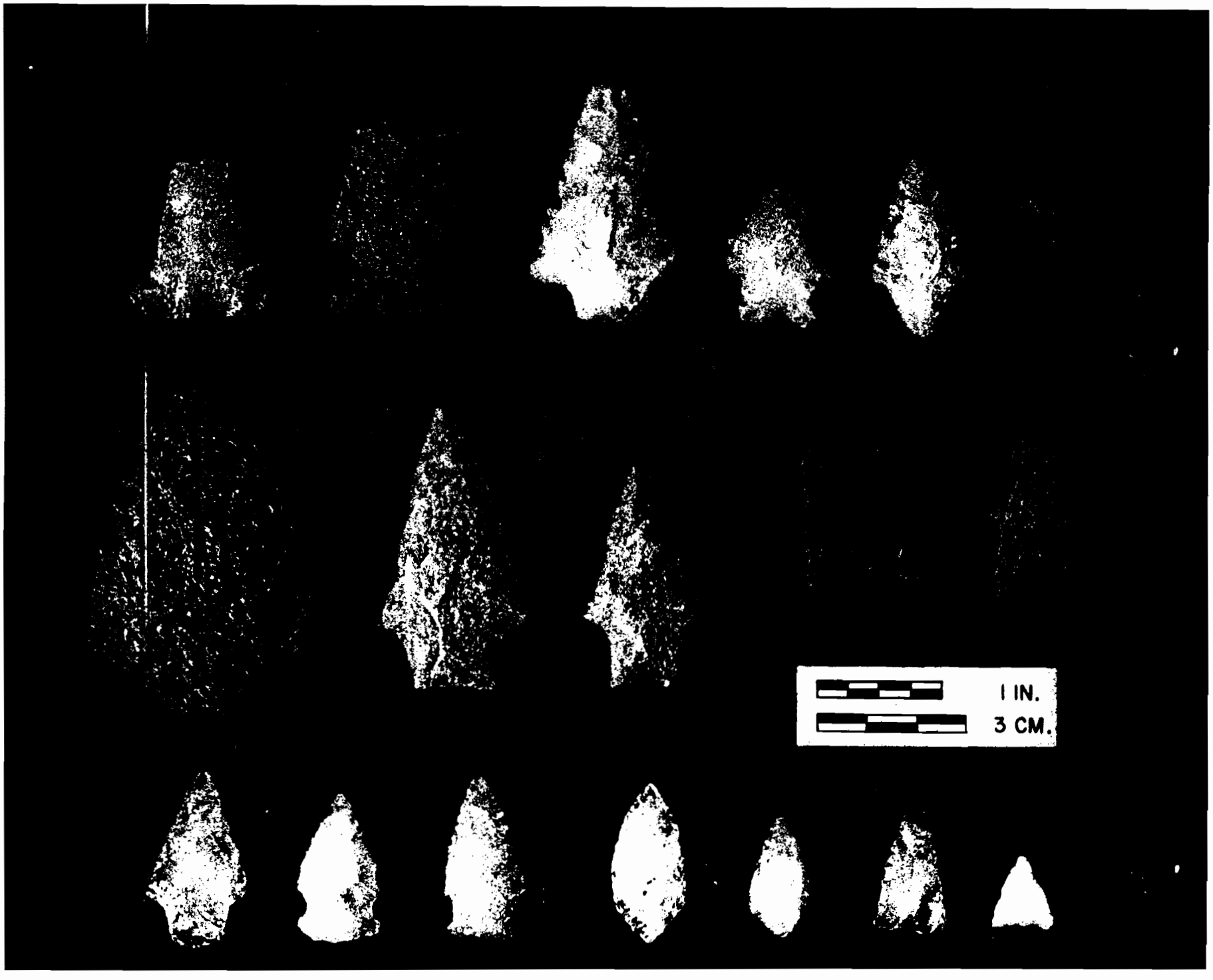

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, Virginia
Division of Historic Landmarks
1983 - 1984 Survey
N
Rappahannock River
Nanzatico Bay
Portobago Bay
Mill Creek
17
50'
100'
KEY
Property boundary
Cultivated fields: systematic surface examination
Woodlands: shovel test pits
0 1 Kilometer
0 1 Mile
CAROLINE COUNTY
VDHL (MENH) 5-86

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1986
Original Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
Map of Camden property indicating lands surveyed by DHL 1983-1984
File No.
Figure: 1

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1986
Negative Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
Selection of stone projectile points dating from the Early Archaic through Late Woodland Periods recovered from archaeological sites at Camden.
File No.
Figure 2

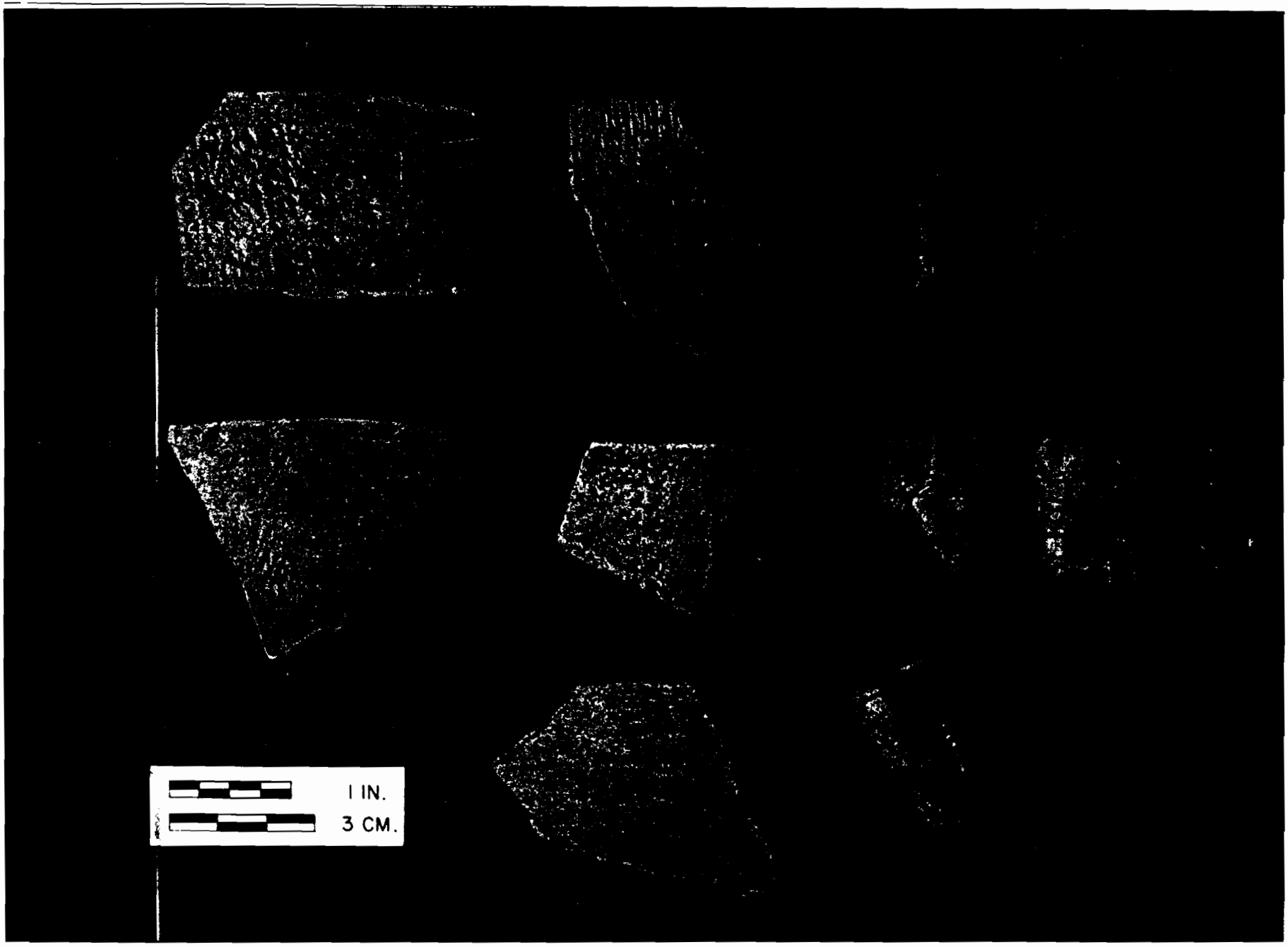

1 IN.
3 CM.

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1986
Negative Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
View of portion of field containing site 44CE3 and other sites constituting large late seventeenth century Native American settlement. The field contains prehistoric Native American sites as well. Facing E
File No.
Figure 3

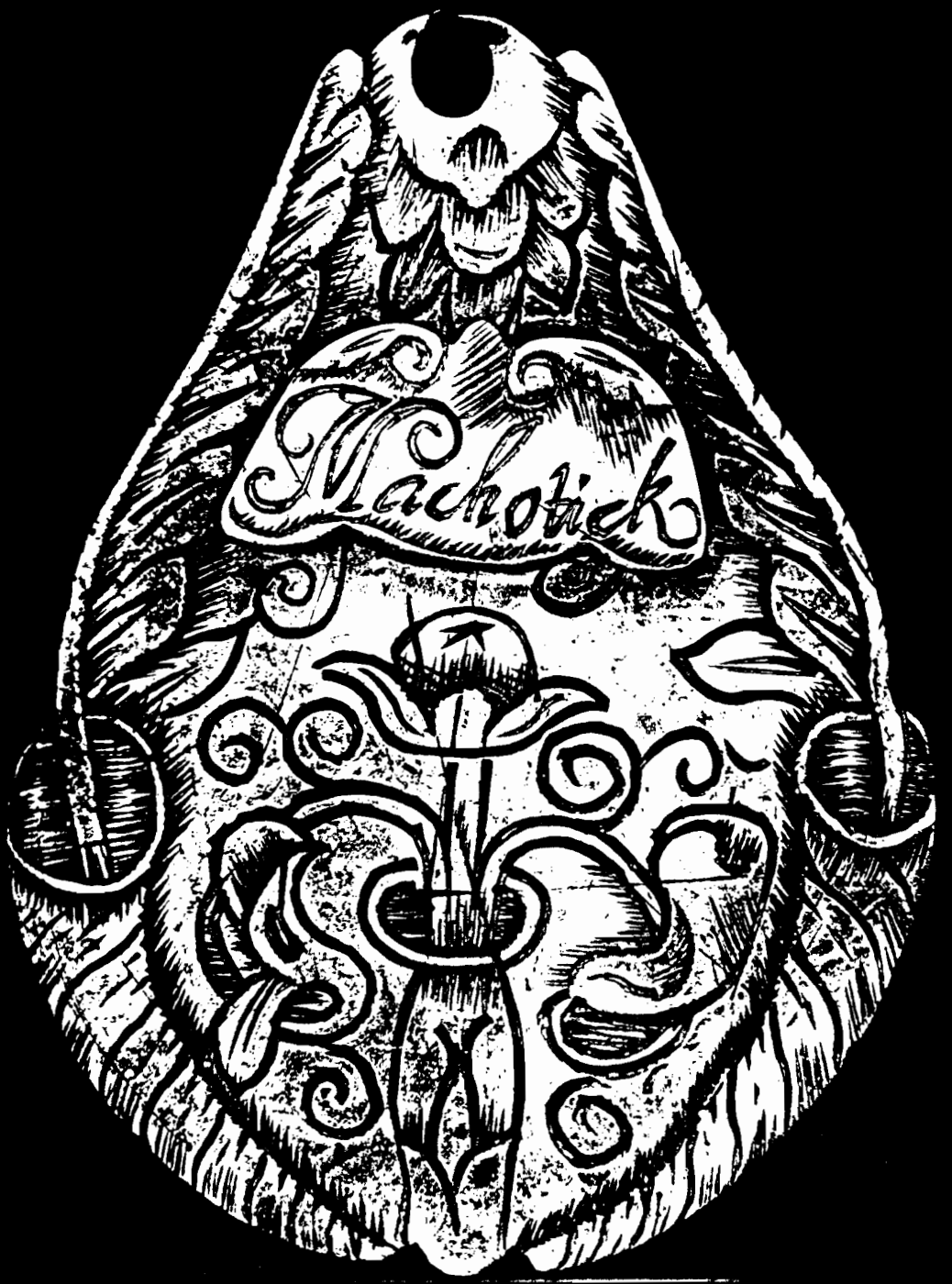
CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1986
Negative Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
Native American ceramic vessel fragments and locally-made smoking pipes recovered during 1964-1965 excavations at site 44CE3, dated ca. 1680-1710
File No.
Figure 4


1 IN.
3 CM.

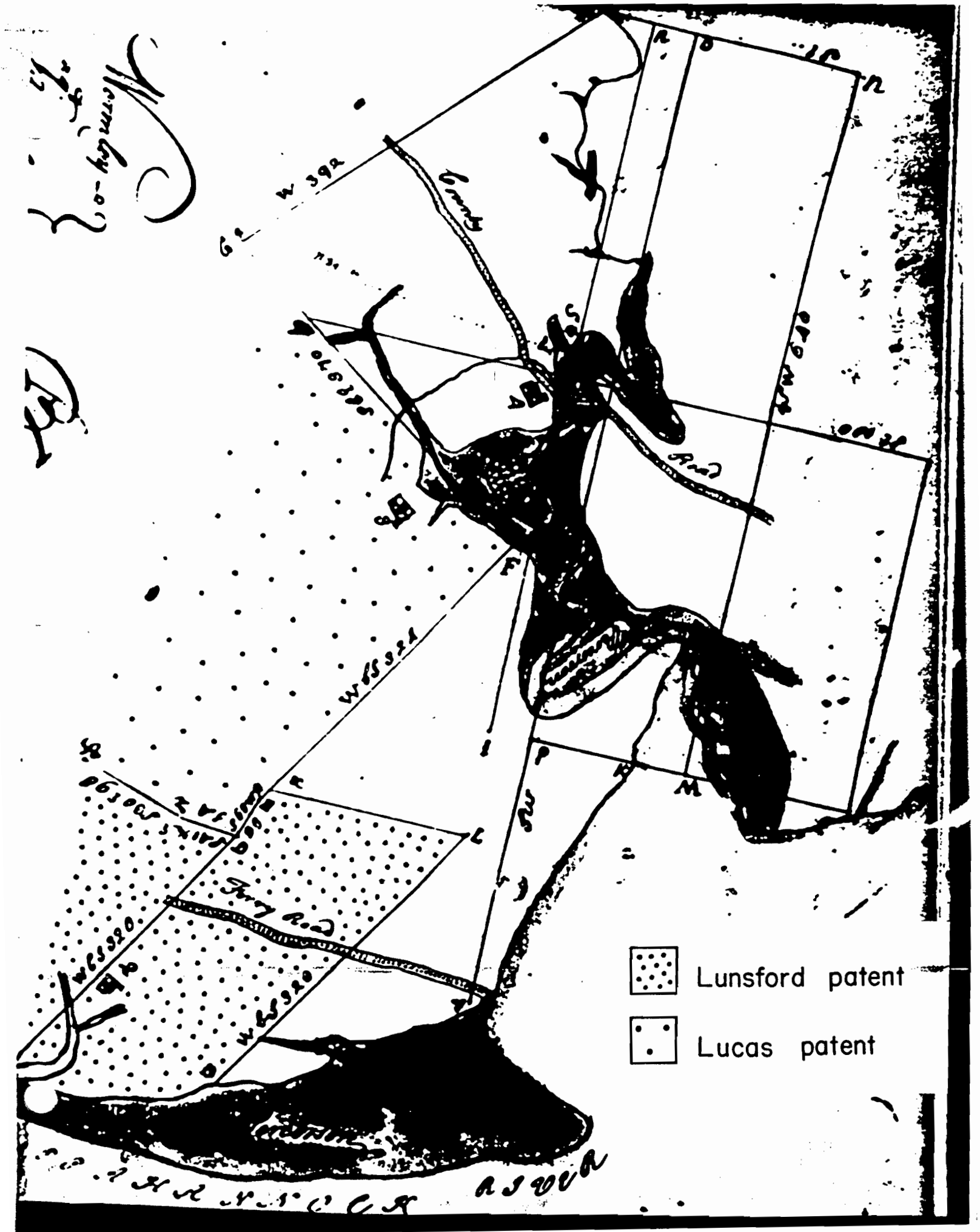
CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1969
Negative Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
Silver medallion (approximately 2 1/2 inches high by 1 1/2 inches wide) recovered in 1964-1965 excavations at site 44CE3. Reverse side reads "Ye King of."
File No.
Figure 5


Nachotick

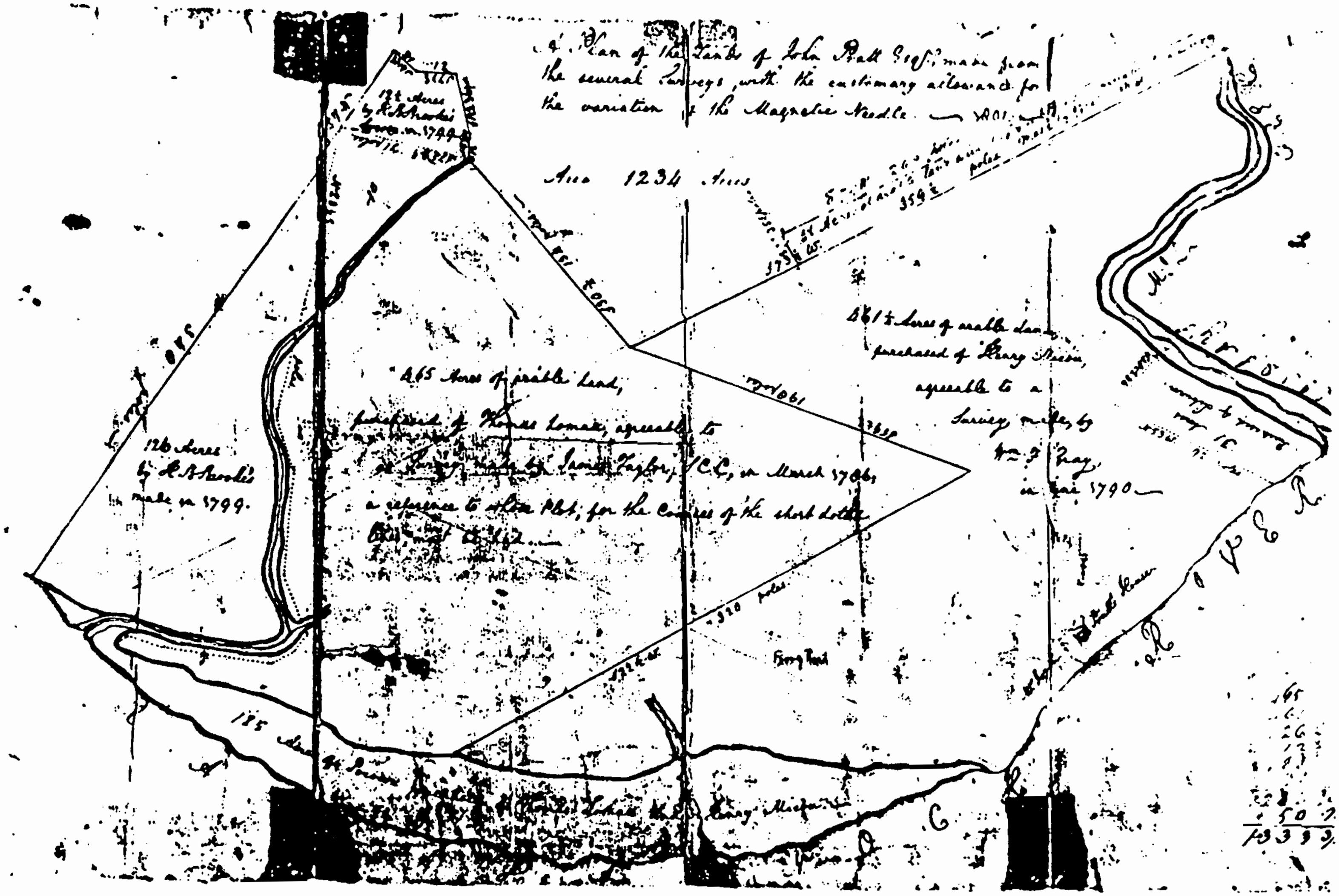
CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VDHL
Date: 1986
Facsimile Filed: VDHL, Richmond, VA
Plat prepared in 1738 showing portions of old Lunsford and Lucas patents where they abut within the Camden property. Site 44CE21 may correlate to the structure depicted within the old Lunsford property, while site 44CE184 lies within the vicinity of the structure shown within the old Lucas patent.
File No.
Figure 6


Lunsford patent
Lucas patent

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

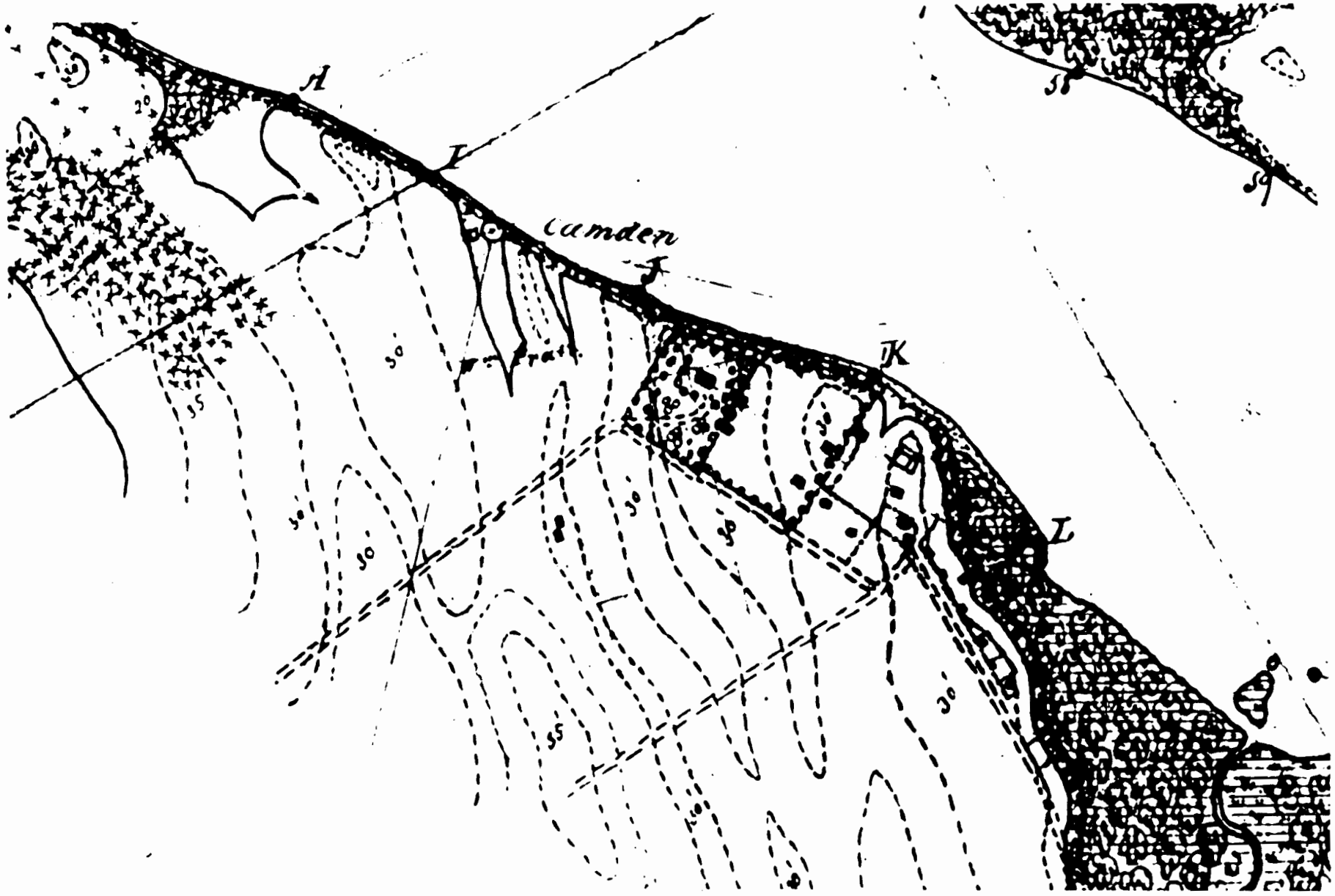
Credit: VDHL
Date: 1986
Facsimile Filed: VDHL, Richmond, VA
1802 map showing the holdings of John Pratt at Camden.
File No.
Figure 7



the several Surveys, with the customary allowance for
the variation of the Magnetic Needle
Area 1234 Acres
126 Acres
made in 1799.
agreeable to a
in 1790
320 poles
Ferry Road
185 Acres

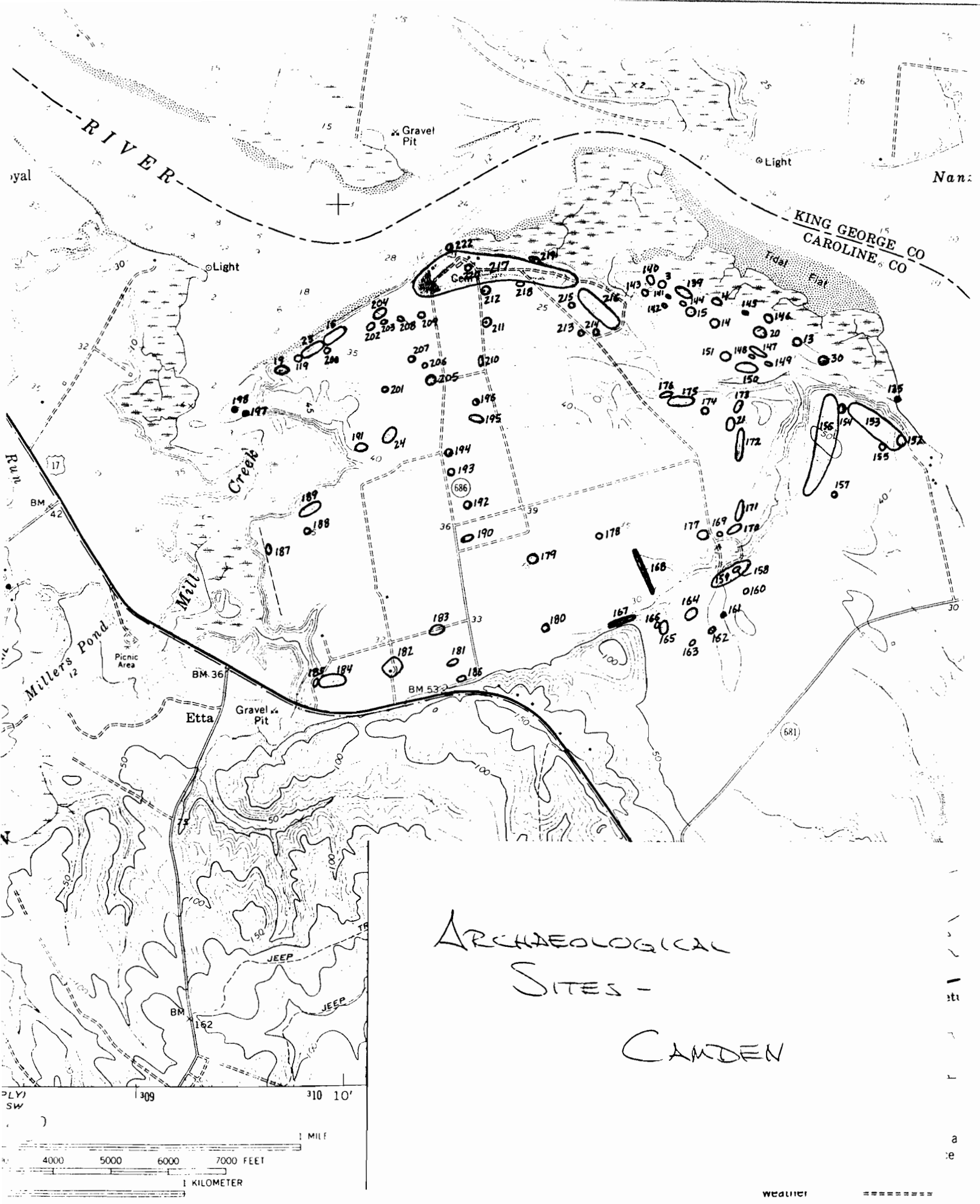
CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VDHL
Date: 1986
Facsimile Filed: VDHL, Richmond, VA
Portion of 1854 U. S. Coastal Survey map prepared by A.D. Bache showing plan of the plantation complex at Camden.
File No.
Figure 8


A
I
Camden
K
L
20
30
35
Trap

CAMDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
Caroline County, VA

Credit: VA Division of Historic Landmarks
Date: 1986
Negative Filed: DHL, Richmond, VA
View of eastern portion of 44CE217 containing remains of outbuildings associated with late eighteenth through twentieth century Camden plantation seat. Site 44CE219, Afro-American cemetery, is in the background situated between two prominant holly trees at edge of woodlands. Facing E
File No.
Figure 9


RIVER
KING GEORGE CO
CAROLINE CO
Gravel Pit
Light
Tidal Flat
Creek
Mill Run
Millers Pond
Picnic Area
Etta
BM 36
BM 53
BM 42
Gravel Pit
JEEP
JEEP
BM 162
686
681
17
309
310
10'
1 MILE
4000
5000
6000
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES - CAMDEN
RVAL 10 FEET
NT 5 FOOT CONTOURS
U. S. Route
State Rou