



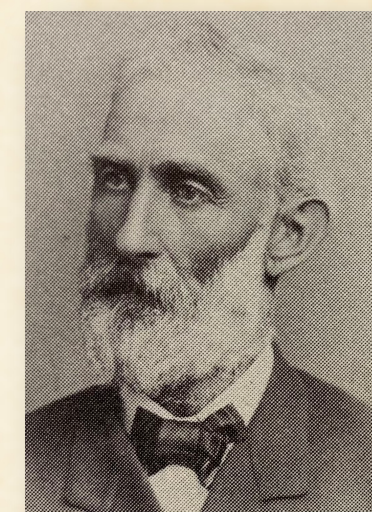
Native Americans Fishing (John White 1585-1593)

Native Americans

Native Americans settled in Arlington along the Potomac River. Among the tribes that nomadically lived in the area were the Pamunkey, Piscataway, and Tauxenent (also known as the Dogue), many of which were in the Algonquin language group and some within the Powhatan Confederacy.

The Febreys

The Febrey family, led by patriarch Nicholas Febrey (1800-1868) and his sons Henry, Moses, and John, were prominent landowners and entrepreneurs. In the late 1850s, John E. Febrey (1831-1893) and his wife, Mary Frances Ball (1835-1914), built a farmhouse a hundred yards north of here called Fairmount. Using enslaved labor, they farmed the surrounding 128 acres of land with corn, oats, and other crops. The family established a private school in a cabin on the property during the Civil War. John became superintendent of the Alexandria public school system in the early 1890s.



John Febrey



Mary Febrey

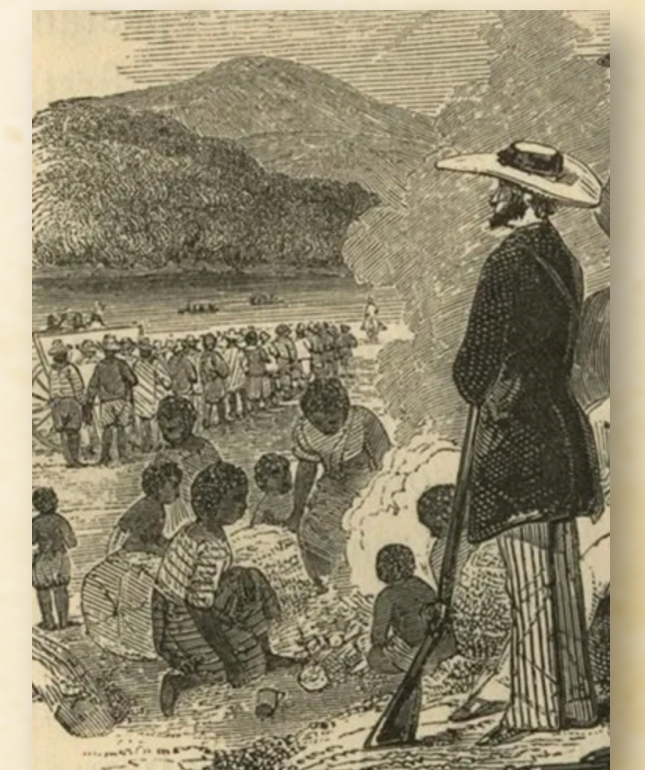


View from Virginia (William Macleod Artist 1856)

Salem, Massachusetts, purchased 250 acres of land that stretched from present-day Washington Boulevard to Leesburg Pike. Their holdings included what would become the Fairmount Estate.

Arlington and Slavery

From 1669 to 1865, hundreds of enslaved persons and freedmen lived and labored near this area. In 1860, the Febrey family had five enslaved people working on their farm. Following the Civil War (1861-1865), about 15 African Americans continued working as domestic servants or farm laborers on the estate.



Enslaved (S. Williams, 1844)



Map of Alexandria County noting plots and landowners around Upton's Hill (1900)

Urbanization

During World War II (1939-1945), thousands of people from all over the United States moved to the Washington, DC area, including Arlington County, for government and military jobs. Subsequently, a local housing shortage encouraged real estate developers, including Mace Properties, to buy and subdivide the land around Upton's Hill. The company's president, Merwin A. "John" Mace, named the subdivision Dominion Hills. Between 1945 and 1955, 420 homes were built.

Early Settlers

In the late 1600s, colonists and enslaved individuals arrived in the area to start farmsteads on the land grants provided by the English Crown. The primary cash crop was tobacco, which relied heavily on enslaved labor and crop rotation. During the 1830s, new settlers seized the opportunity to purchase property to revive its productivity. Locally, in 1836, Samuel and Rebecca Upton from

From Rural to Suburban

In 1920, rural Arlington County, including the Dominion Hills area, had a population of 13,812 residents, 1,900 of whom were African American, accounting for 14% of the total population. The introduction of electric railways resulted in significant growth in both population and residential developments as the County evolved into a suburban area.



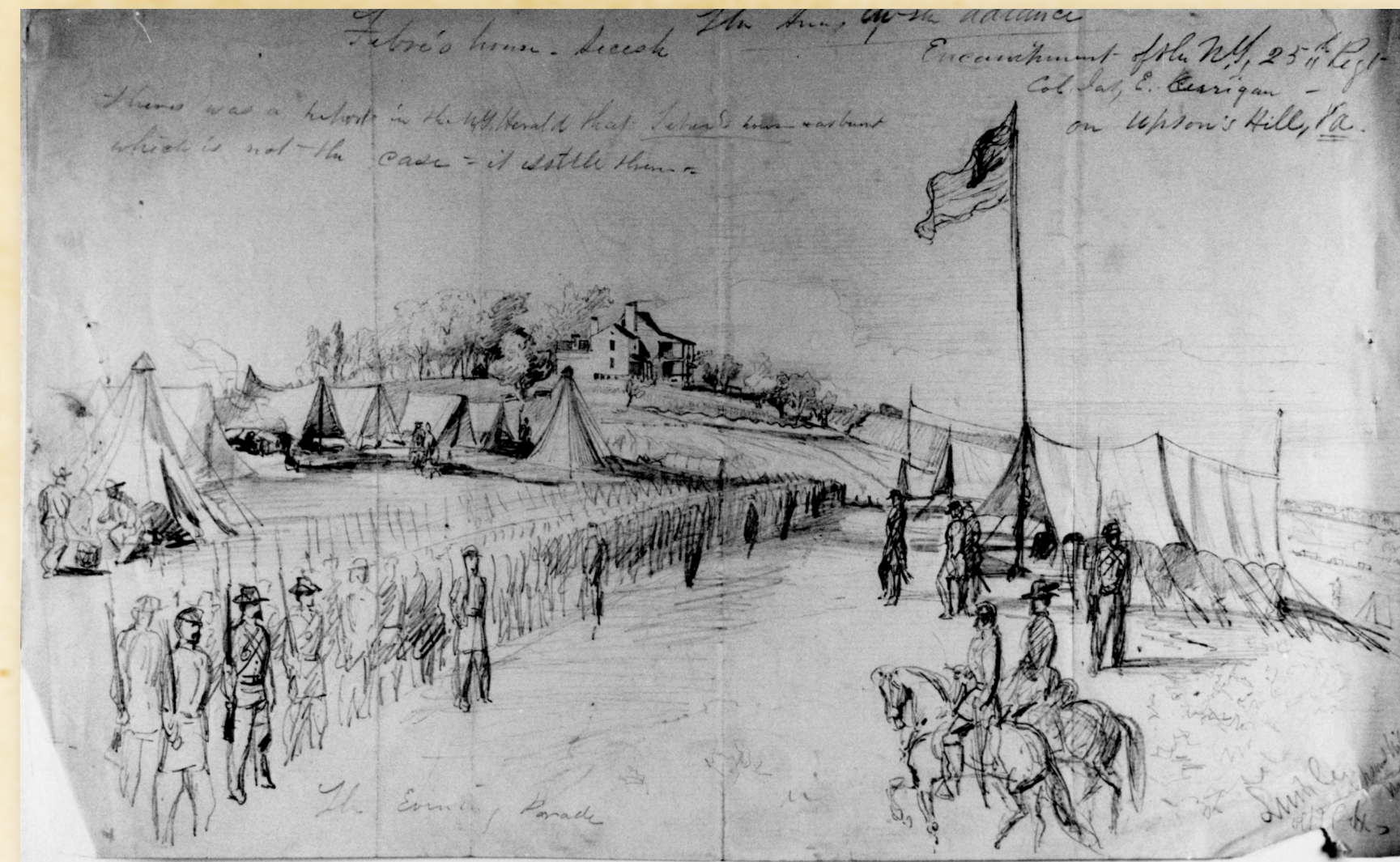
Dominion Hills – Patrick Henry Drive (1947)



For more information visit:
<https://www.dominionhills.net/Historic-Signs>

Witness to War

At the start of the war, Four Mile Run and Upton's Hill witnessed the arrival of thousands of Federal and Confederate soldiers. The area's strategic importance resulted in frequent skirmishing until Confederate troops withdrew from Arlington at the end of September 1861.

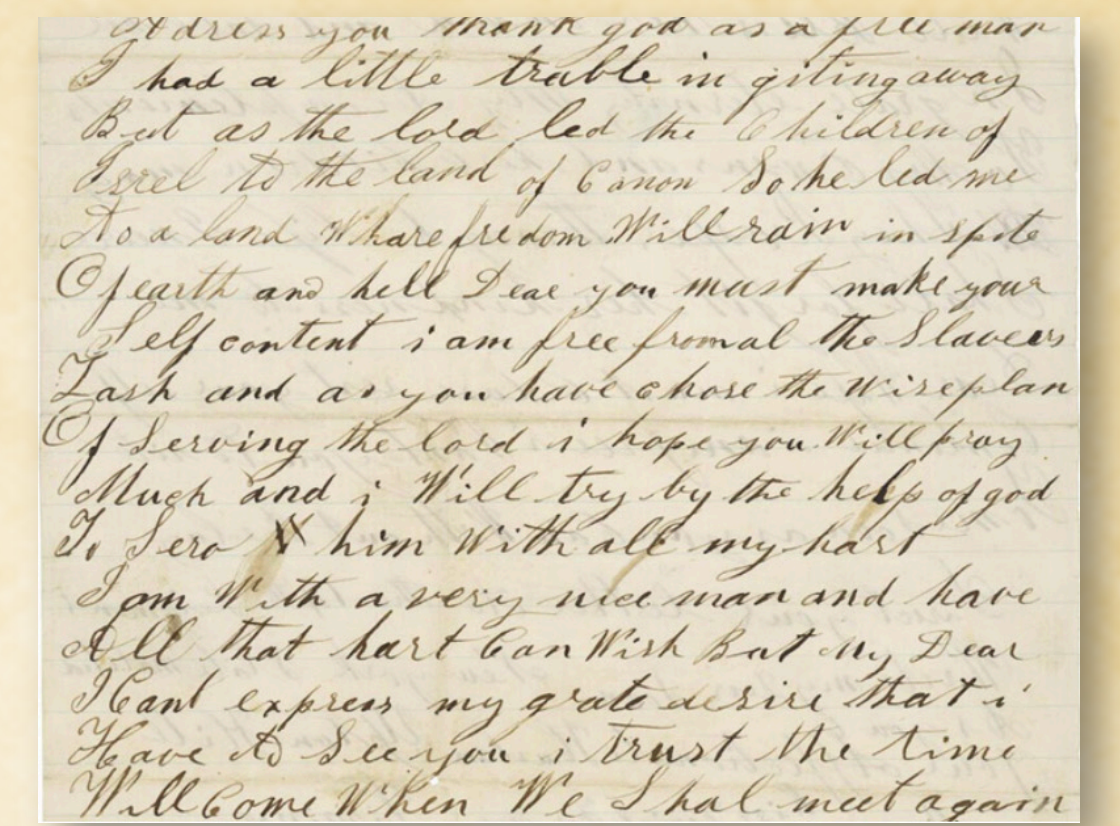


"The Army in the Advance" - Federal troops camping on the Febrey property, Arthur Lumley Artist (1861)

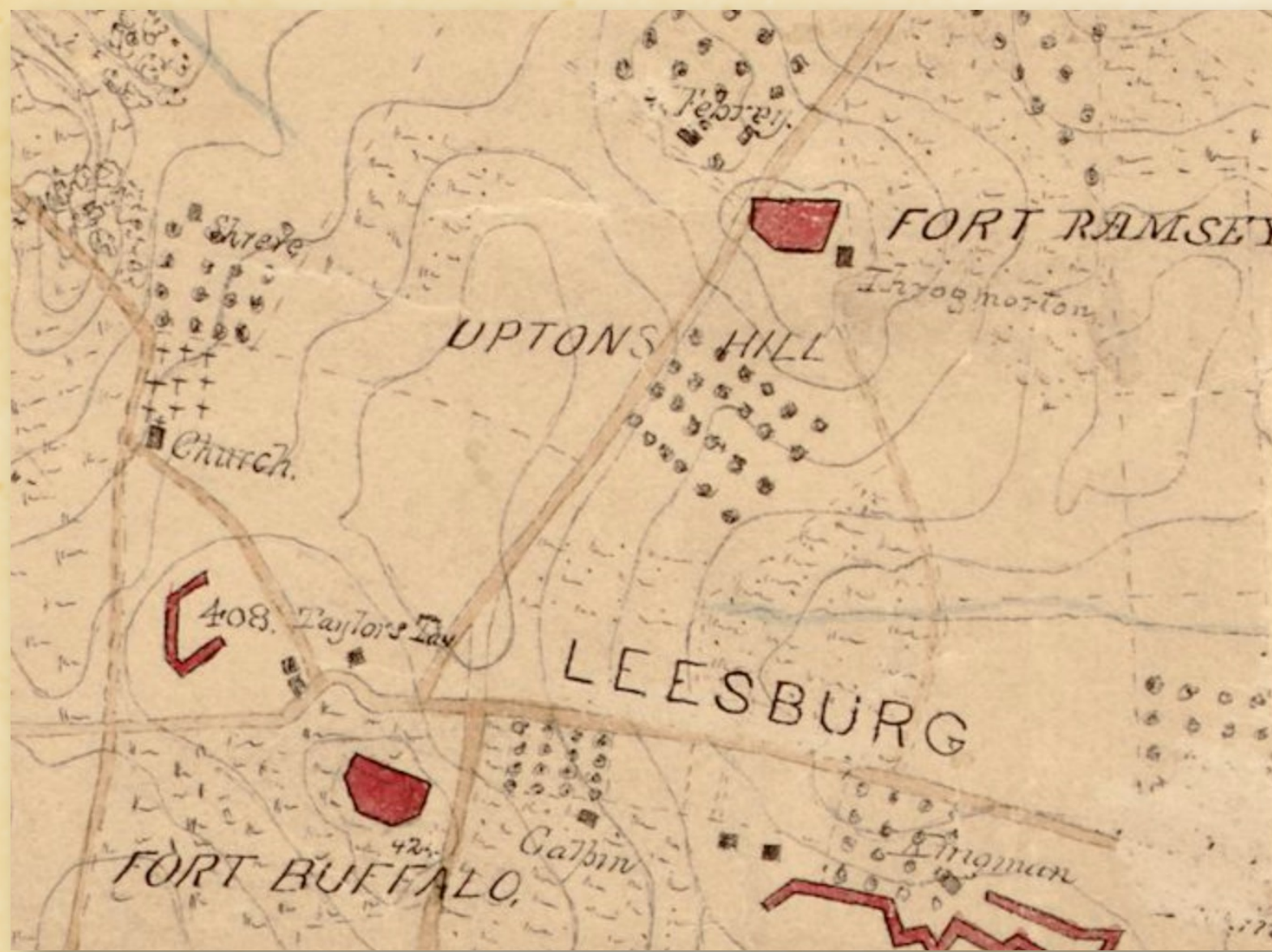
Seeking Freedom

The war drove thousands of enslaved African Americans to seek freedom behind Federal lines. In early January 1862, while fleeing slavery in Maryland, John Boston found refuge with the 14th Brooklyn, a New York regiment encamped at Upton's Hill. He wrote a letter to his wife, Elizabeth, who remained in Owensville, Maryland. Boston celebrated his freedom and hoped to reunite with his family.

"this Day i can Adress you thank god as a free man"



John Boston Letter (1862)



Civil War Map showing Upton's Hill and the Febrey House (1862)

The Febrey Family and the War

The Febrey family had divided loyalties. While John and Mary Febrey supported the Union, his brother Moses enlisted in the Confederate Army. The Febrey house, located on one of the highest points in Arlington, was used as a signal station, hospital, and military headquarters. By the winter of 1862, thousands of Federal soldiers camped on or near the property. According to Southern Claims Commission records, John applied for compensation

from the US government after the war for the livestock and crops taken by Federal troops.



23rd New York Militia, Upton's Hill (1861)

Ball's Crossroads Skirmish

On August 27, 1861, Federal soldiers from the 23rd New York and the 11th Wisconsin on picket duty near Bon Air and Bluemont Park were attacked by Confederates from the 1st Maryland and 13th Virginia occupying Upton's Hill. The incident involved hundreds of Federal and Confederate soldiers.



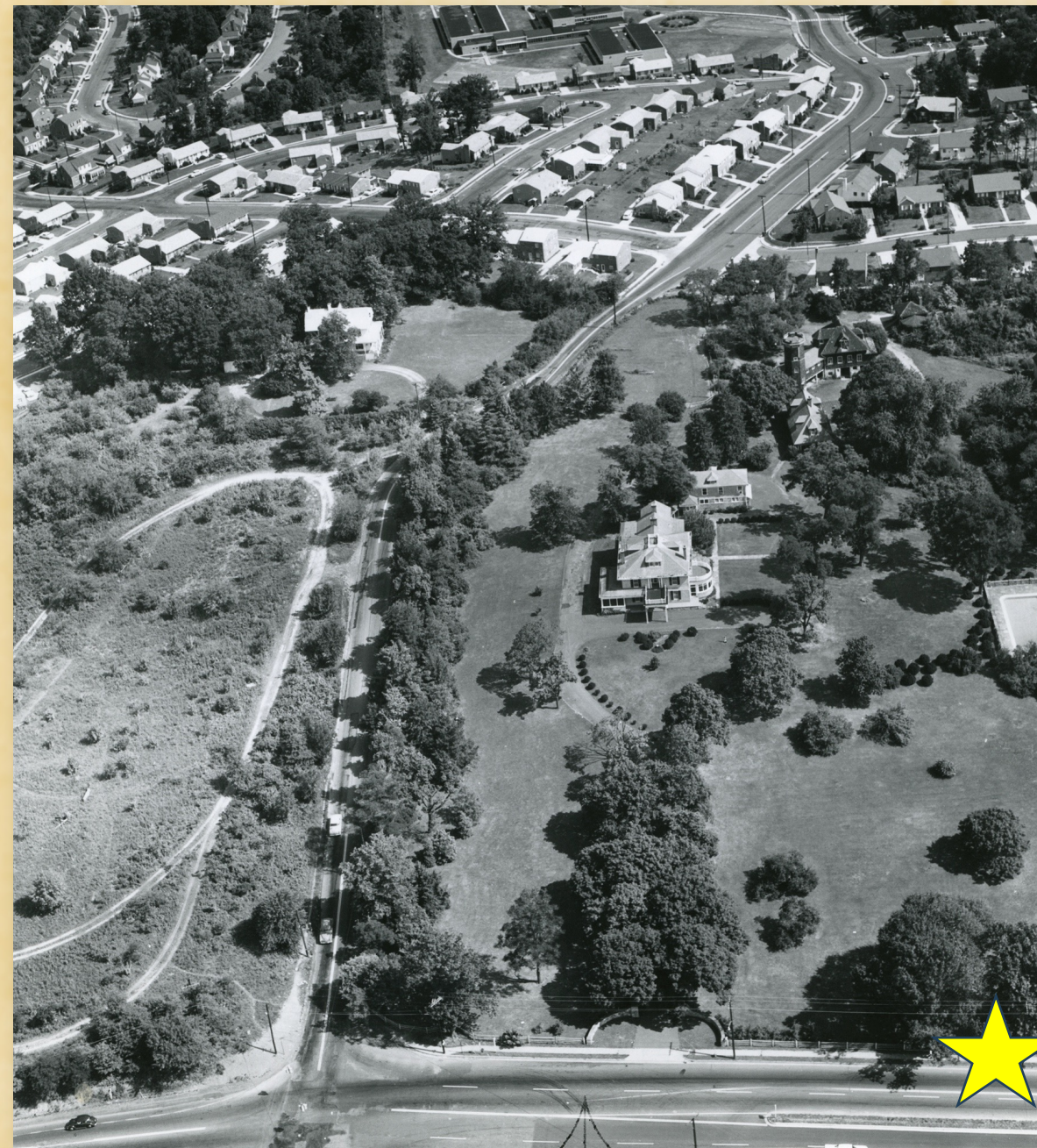
Julia Ward Howe (1865)

Battle Hymn of the Republic

On November 17, 1861, abolitionist and poet Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) traveled from Washington, DC, to Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, to witness President Abraham Lincoln's formal review of Federal troops. Returning to the Willard Hotel that evening, she passed Upton's Hill, saw hundreds of campfires, and heard soldiers singing a popular tune, "John Brown's Body." Later that night, Howe wrote an updated version of the lyrics to one of the Civil War's most popular songs, the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."



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Aerial view of the estate (1960)

(The yellow star indicates the location of historical markers on Wilson Blvd.)

Historic Landowners

William Gunnell (1680-1760) received a 250-acre land grant in 1729. John Hurst purchased the land in 1761. His family, in turn, sold it to Samuel and Rebecca Upton in 1836. After Samuel Upton died in 1840, the land was partitioned and sold to Nicholas Febrey (1800-1868), who later transferred it to his son John Febrey in the 1850s.



Lothrop Estate (2020) Julie Vaselopoulos

Alvin Lothrop

In 1898, Alvin Mason Lothrop (1847-1912), co-founder of the Woodward & Lothrop department stores, bought Fairmount. He hired prominent Washington, DC, architect Victor O. Mindeleff to modernize and expand the estate. The Febreys' original farmhouse was incorporated into the new design's rear wing.



Alvin M. Lothrop (1900)

Fairmount

John E. Febrey (1831-1893) and his wife, Mary Frances Ball (1835-1914), built a farmhouse known as Fairmount on 125 acres of Upton's Hill in the late 1850s. The property evolved into a well-known estate.



Febrey family at Fairmount (1890)



Mindeleff combined stylistic elements, such as the Shingle and Queen Anne styles with a Colonial Revival-style dwelling, carriage house, and barn with an attached tower.



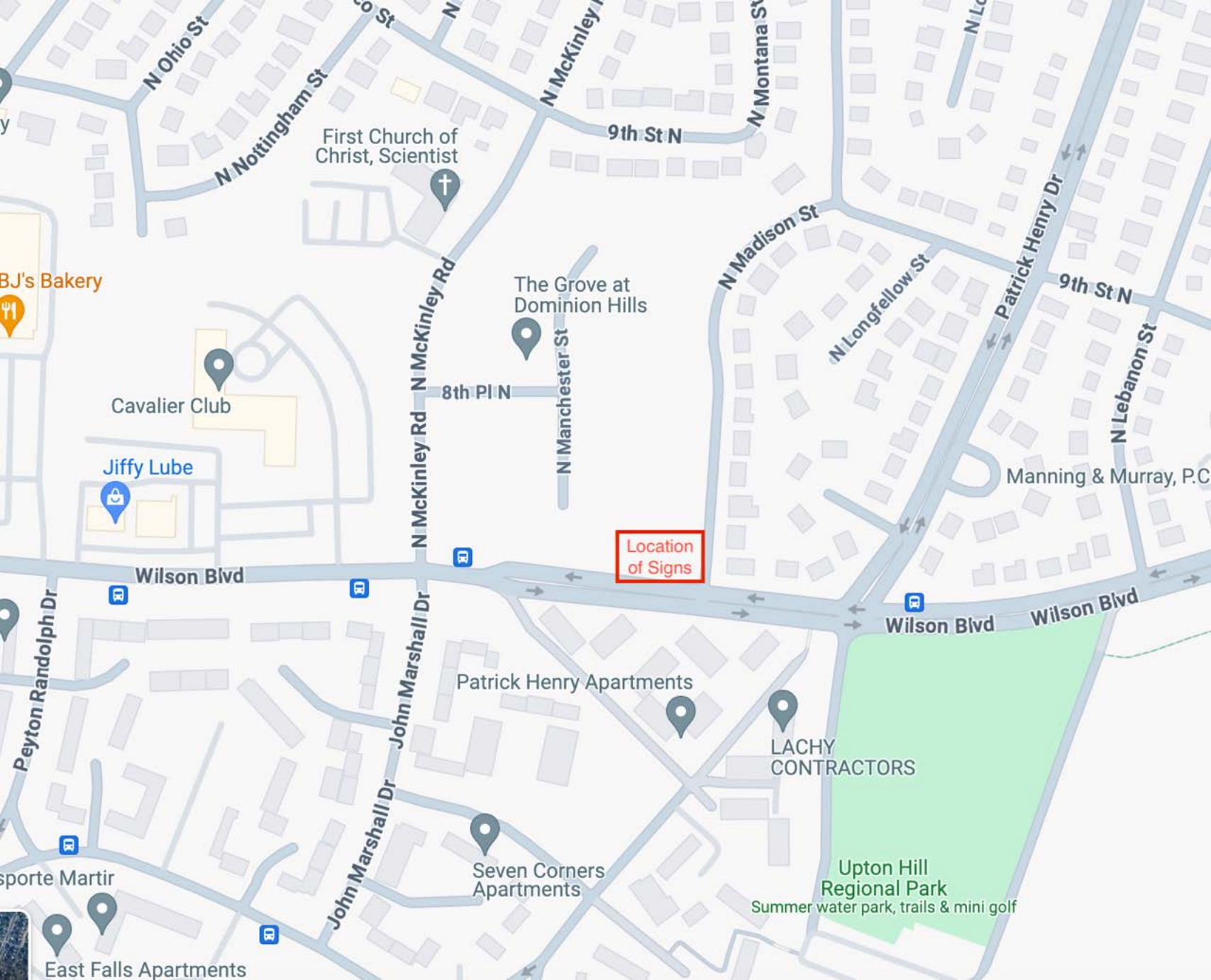
Audrey Meadows and Randolph Rouse (1956)

Randolph Rouse

In 1951, a local real estate developer, Randolph D. Rouse (1916- 2017), bought the Lothrop property. He kept 9.5 acres for himself and built homes on the remaining 16.5 acres, now known as the Dominion Hills neighborhood. In 1956, Rouse married actress Audrey Meadows (1922-1996), best known for her role in the popular 1950s television series "The Honeymooners." They divorced after two years. He married his second wife, Michele O'Brien, in 1983. Following Rouse's death in 2017, the Febrey-Lothrop house and all the secondary buildings were removed in 2021, and the property was sold for "The Grove" at Dominion Hills.



For more information visit:
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Location of Signs

First Church of Christ, Scientist

The Grove at Dominion Hills

Cavalier Club

Jiffy Lube

Wilson Blvd

8th Pl N

N McKinley Rd

N McKinley Rd

Patrick Henry Apartments

LACHY CONTRACTORS

Seven Corners Apartments

Upton Hill Regional Park

Summer water park, trails & mini golf

East Falls Apartments

Manning & Murray, P.C.

BJ's Bakery

Esporte Martir