

## Government Island Historic Park Stafford County, Virginia

**Project Team Members:**

Cultural Resources, Inc.

**Key Project Personnel:**

Michael Clem

M. Amanda Lee

Kimberly S. Zawacki

**Firm's Responsibilities:**

Phase I cultural resources survey  
of Government Island and  
proposed access trail  
Meetings and coordination  
with federal, state, and local  
representatives

Interpretive panels

NRHP nomination

NHL nomination

Long-term maintenance plan

**Client Contact:**

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**Completion Date:**

Projected late 2006

**Total Project Costs:**

\$37,750

**Disciplines Involved:**

Archaeology—35%

Public Education—25%

Archival Studies—30%

GIS Mapping—5%

Artifact Curation—5%

In January 2006, Cultural Resources, Inc. (CRI) began the Government Island project by facilitating a roundtable discussion regarding the proposed Phase I archaeological survey and development of the island as a Stafford County, Virginia, Historic Park. Government Island, located in north Stafford County in the Potomac River, served as one of the principal Aquia freestone quarries that provided building materials for the U.S. Capitol and White House. Participants in the development process and participants in the roundtable included County Administration, County Code Administration, the Historic Commission, the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development and Tourism, the Government Island Committee, Dominion Virginia Power, the National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The Phase I Cultural Resources Survey was completed in February 2006. Prehistoric artifacts were recovered from across the entire length of the island, and a small historic house site was examined during the course of the survey. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from the site included Woodland period pottery and a mid-section of a Paleo projectile point, suggesting use of the island by Native Americans throughout prehistory. The historic component of the site includes a small domestic scatter and structural ruins associated with the early to mid 19th century use of the island as a stone quarry.



The island is currently listed on the Virginia Landmark Register (VLR). The information obtained as part of the Phase I Survey will aid in updating the NRHP nomination form and the development of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination and interpretive panels for the site. As part of the site interpretation and a long-term maintenance plan, CRI will be participating in discussions regarding ADA compliance and the overall management of the site and cultural resources. CRI is also responsible for holding a second roundtable discussion to elicit comments from federal, state, and local agencies and all the various consulting parties and representatives, synthesizing the results of the meeting, and incorporating the action points into the management document for future use and interpretation of the historic park.