



**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

*Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.*

**DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff)** 029-7602

**1. General Property Information**

Property name: Washington Defense Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Site Installation No. 3233, W-51, Hybla Valley

Property address: 6901 S. Kings Highway  
City or Town: Alexandria  
Zip code: 22310

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Fairfax County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building  Site  Structure  Object

**2. Physical Aspects**

Acreage: Approximately 8 acres within Huntley Meadows Park, a 1500 acre Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) site

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban  Suburban  Town  Village  Hamlet  Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Hybla Valley AAA Site is located on the Hike-Bike Trail near the S. Kings Highway entrance to Huntley Meadows Park. The Hike-Bike trail was built on top of what was the main road of the AAA site that ran down the middle of the installation through the barracks and other buildings down to the circular gun array. The main gate posts are on either side of the beginning of the Hike-Bike Trail. Remains of concrete walkways lie on either side of the Hike-Bike Trail. Huntley Meadows Park lies within a broad low area called Hybla Valley in southeastern Fairfax County.

Huntley Meadows Park was established in 1975, soon after Fairfax County acquired the land through the Federal Lands to Parks program. The federal government owned the land beginning in 1941. Subsequently the Bureau of Public Roads (1941-1954), Army (1951-1959) and the Naval Research Laboratory (1957-1973) used the property for various purposes. The property became federal surplus land by 1973.

The terrain within the approximately 8 acres of the AAA site is mostly flat and covered in second growth forest that has grown up since the site was closed and the buildings removed in 1958-9.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): 1950s Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Site Installation Remains

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: \_\_\_\_\_

If the builder is known, please list here: US Army

Date of construction (can be approximate): c. 1951

#### **Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):**

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

Current use of the property is a public park trail and parkland managed by Huntley Meadows Park, part of the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Former use prior to federal government ownership was farmland. From 1951-1959 the Hybla Valley Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Site was one of 27 AAA Gun Sites surrounding Washington DC protecting it from Soviet threat during the Cold War.

Remains of the Hybla Valley AAA site include: metal gate posts and peripheral fence posts, drainage ditches on both sides of the Hike-Bike Trail, concrete walkways and bridges over the drainage ditches leading to former building locations, concrete foundations and footings, part of the 30' metal light pole that stood in the middle of the circular gun array, circular gun array landform clearly visible on Lidar images and where few trees grow because of the compacted soil, an artesian well, wooden posts and other unidentified structures.

In the Huntley Meadows Park archives there is a 2003 draft report on the Washington DC AAA Gun Sites by Jon Paul Jones of the US Army Corps of Engineers. "A minimum of 11 pre-fab buildings called by the soldiers 'Butler buildings' were erected on each site. The buildings came out of kits and had metal sides and roof, wooden floors and concrete pillar foundations, augmented with wood. The buildings were about 30 feet by 10 feet in size." (Army Corps of Engineers Draft Report "Washington DC AAA Gun Sites" by Jon Paul Jones, 2003).

In 1990 Huntley Meadows Park staff interviewed the former Commanding Officer of Battery D, 125<sup>th</sup> Gun Battalion of the Virginia National Guard which operated the Hybla Valley AAA Site from 1954-1959. James N. Young donated photographs and sketch maps drawn from memory. He donated the battalion's guidon which is now stored in FCPA Collections. An audiotape of the interview with a written summary is archived at Historic Huntley.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

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#### 4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site was one of 27 AAA Gun Sites in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia protecting the capital during the Cold War. These sites were armed with 90mm and 120mm guns. There were four guns at the Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site. The ballistics could reach heights of 50,000 feet and provided last resort protection in case long-range Soviet bomber aircraft were to get past US bombers.

Battalions that operated the Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site were 1951-May 1952 Battery C? 710<sup>th</sup> AAA Battalion Virginia National Guard, June 1952-April 1953 Battery B, 14<sup>th</sup> AAA Battalion, October 1953-July 1954 Battery A, 71<sup>st</sup> AAA Battalion, and 1954-1959 Battery D, 125<sup>th</sup> AAA Battalion Virginia Army National Guard. (Army Corps of Engineers Draft Report "Washington DC AAA Gun Sites" by Jon Paul Jones, 2003).

From 1954 to 1959 four officers and 130 Virginia National guardsmen rotated through the Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site with about 10 soldiers there at any point in time. (James N. Young interview, 1990).

**Significance: The Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site appears to be the only site out of the 27 sites that once surrounded the capital that still has physical remains that are publicly accessible.** This suggests Huntley Meadows Park is one of the few places in the region where this important phase of the Cold War can be interpreted for public education using the physical evidence in situ.

Beginning in the 1950s, Washington DC AAA Gun Sites were replaced with newer technology. Remains of Nike Missile sites exist in three Fairfax County Park Authority sites, Great Falls Nike Park, Pope's Head Park and Lorton.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- James N. Young interview, 1990
- Army Corps of Engineers Draft Report "Washington DC AAA Gun Sites" by Jon Paul Jones, 2003
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**5. Property Ownership** (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: \_\_\_\_\_ Public\Local X Public\State \_\_\_\_\_ Public\Federal \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: \_\_\_\_\_

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: \_\_\_\_\_

city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal 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)

name/title: Carolyn Gamble

organization: Friends of Historic Huntley

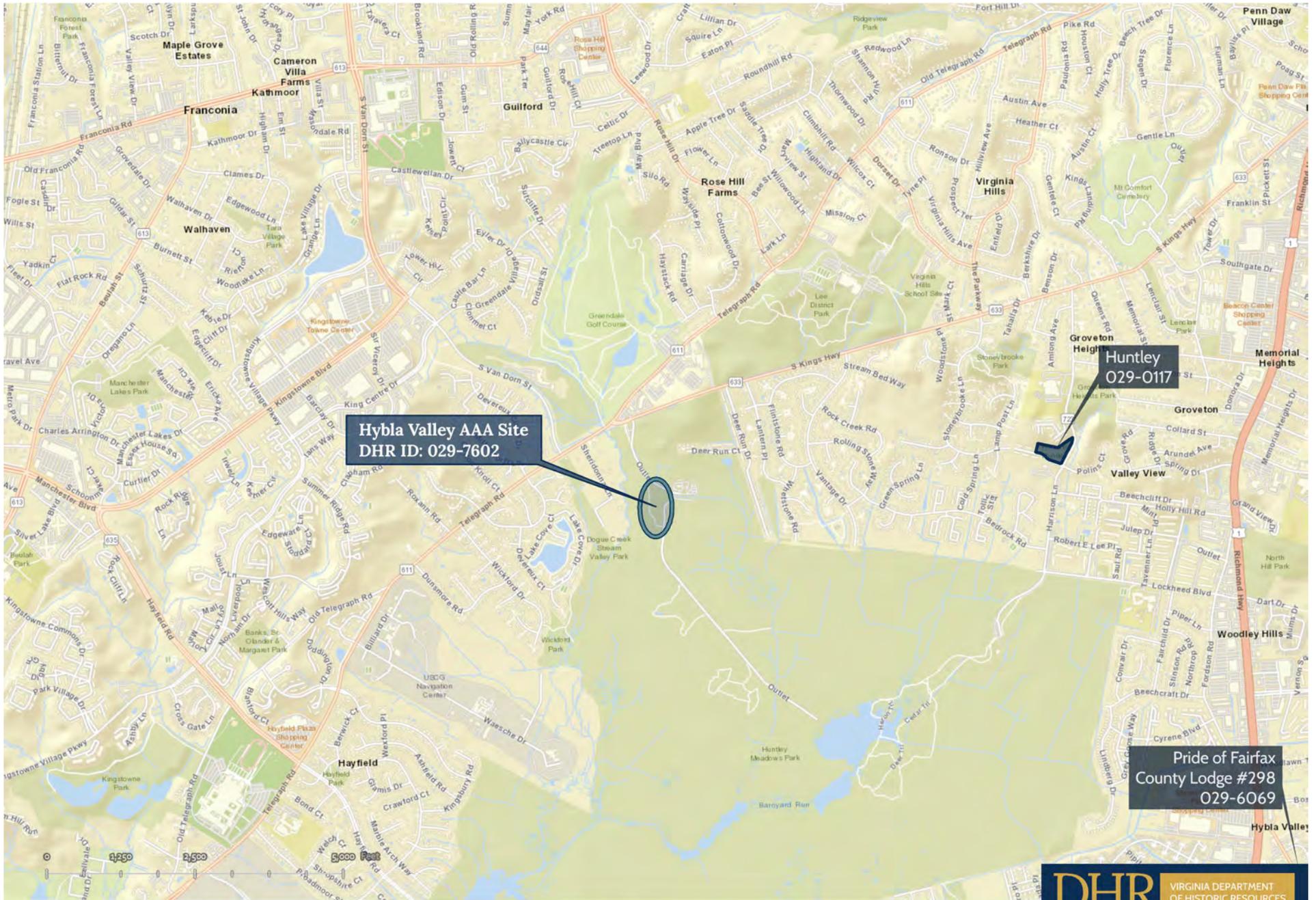
street & number: 1505 Belle View Boulevard A-1

city or town: Alexandria state: Virginia zip code: 22307

e-mail: carolynjgamble@hotmail.com telephone: 703-678-6805

Date: October 30, 2025

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



**Hybla Valley AAA Site**  
**Fairfax County, Virginia**  
**DHR ID: 029-7602**

- 029-7601
- VLR/NRHP/NHL Listed



**DHR** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Created By: D. Bascone, 2/4/2026  
 Sources: VDHR 2026, ESRI 2026, VDOT 2026, VGIN 2026  
 Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation data and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is." Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.



**Hybla Valley AAA Site**  
**Fairfax County, Virginia**  
**DHR ID: 029-7602**

 029-7601



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**Hybla Valley AAA Site**  
**Fairfax County, Virginia**  
**DHR ID: 029-7602**

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LOCATION MAP – 2025 PIF, Hybla Valley AAA Site, Fairfax County, 029-7602

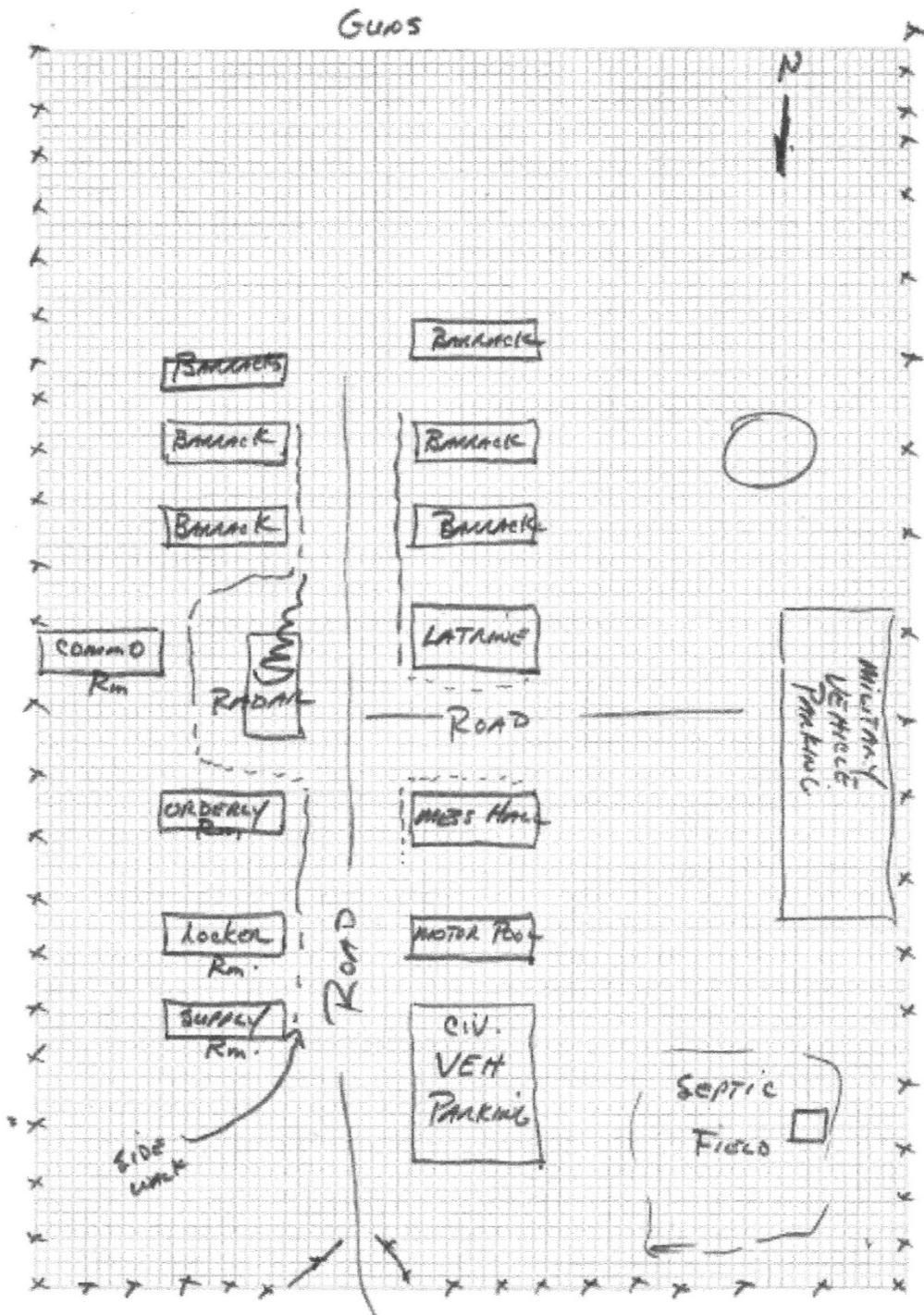


6901 S. Kings Highway Alexandria VA 22310

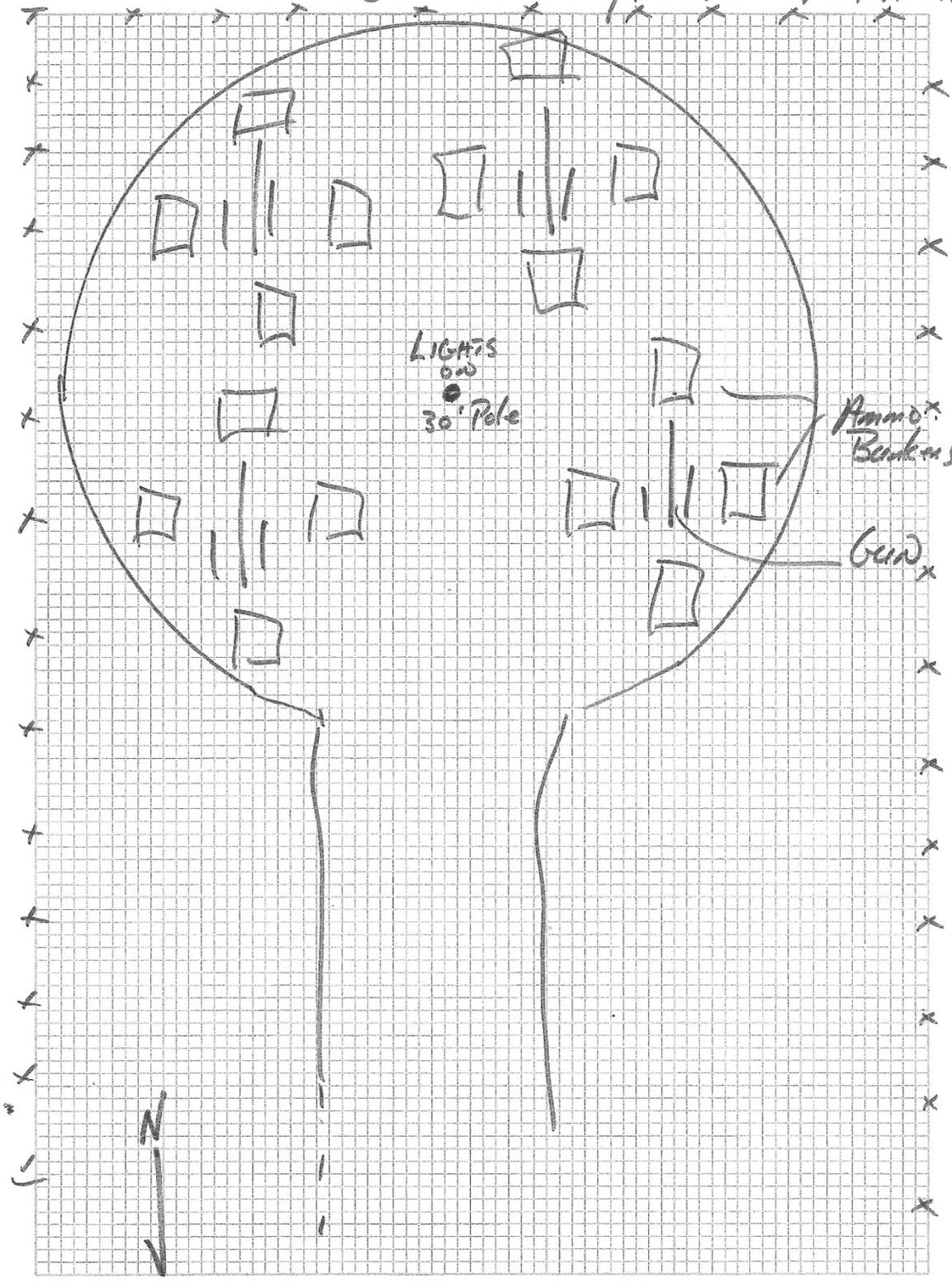
Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site remains location indicated by red circle

SKETCHES

Hybla Valley AAA Gun Site Drawn from memory by former commanding officer James N. Young, 1990



GUNS.. 90/120 mm Antiaircraft



218 5415 2400000, 2018 185000



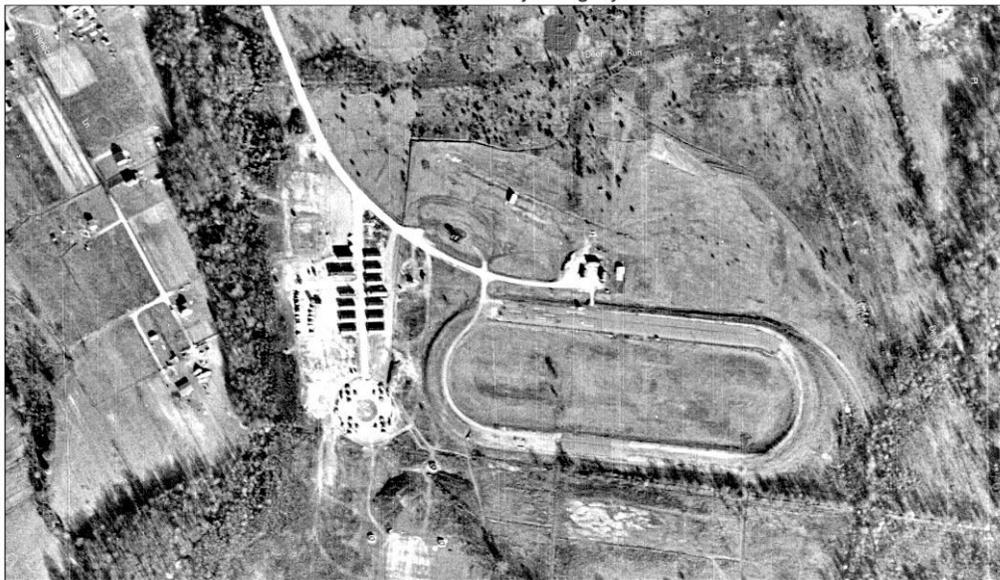
# PHOTOGRAPHS

## Washington Defense Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Site, Hybla Valley



Photo courtesy of James N. Young. Huntley Meadows Park Archives. C.1955

### Fairfax County Imagery



1/3/2022, 10:57:10 AM  
County Border

1:4,514  
0 0.03 0.06 0.12 mi  
0 0.05 0.1 0.19 km  
Fairfax County, Virginia, Fairfax County, VA, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, USDA

Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer  
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | Fairfax County, Virginia | The shared efforts of the USGS, NGS and Fairfax County DPW&ES/Surveys branch for verification and upkeep of the actual ground monuments, Fairfax County GIS staff and contractors for portrayal and review of

## 1953 Fairfax County Aerial Photograph



Photographs courtesy of James N. Young. Huntley Meadows Park Archives. c.1955.



Huntley Meadows Park Archives. One of two gate posts. 2016.



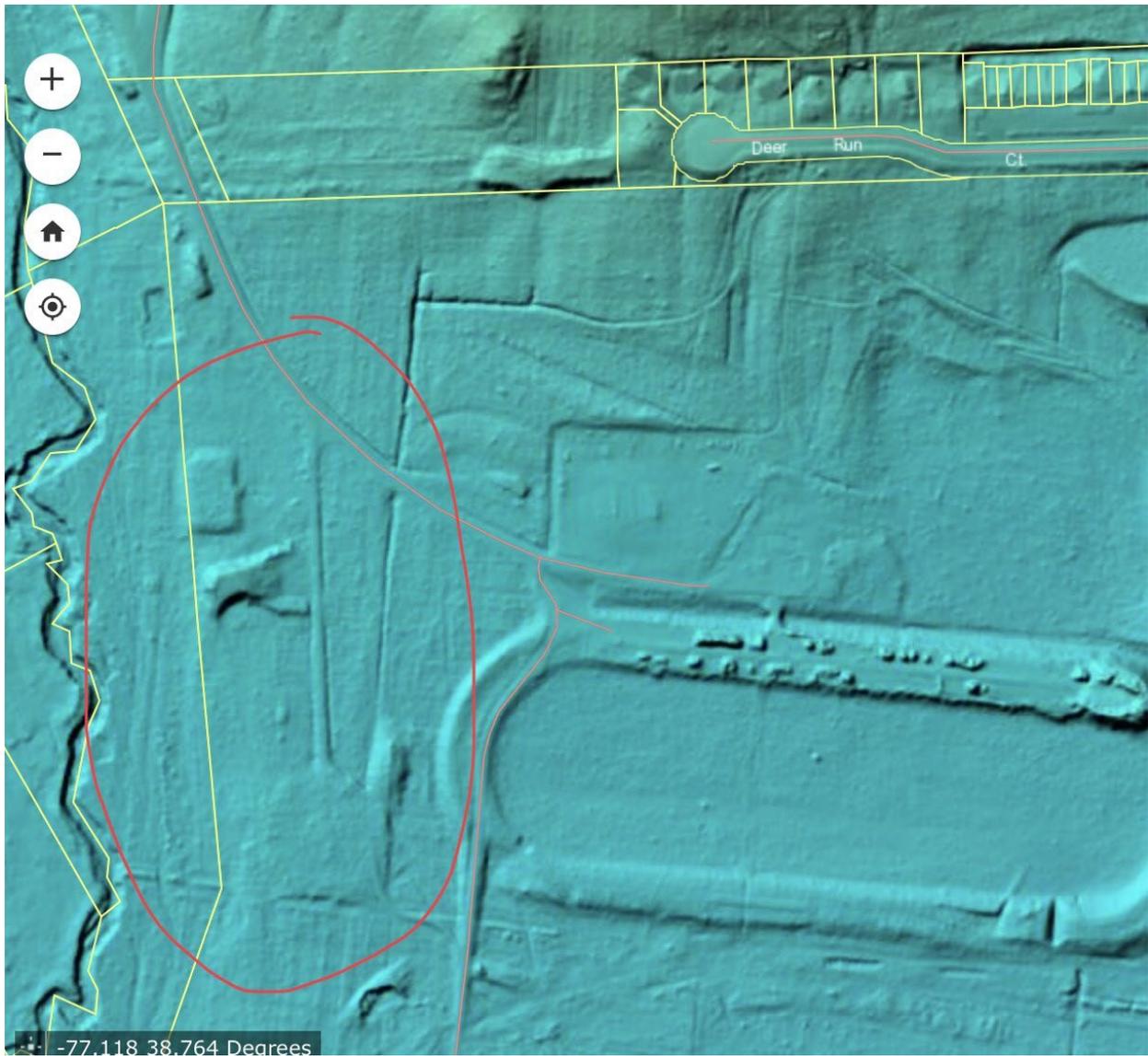
Huntley Meadows Park Archives 30' light pole on ground, 2016.



Huntley Meadows Park Archives. Concrete walkway. 1995.



Huntley Meadows Park Archives. Concrete foundation and footing. 1995.



Fairfax County 2018 LIDAR image showing AAA landforms