

Prior to the growth and expansion of the city limits, the property was located along the western edge of the City of Alexandria, nestled between the corporate limits and the original line for the District of Columbia. This area was the location of several butchers' and tanneries, which were not allowed to be located within the city limits. Circa 1792, Lawrence Hooff established a slaughterhouse along the tributary that now bears his name; the land to the south, including the project area, was known as Hooff's Meadow and was used to pasture horse and cattle throughout the 19th century. The Prince Street project area remained vacant until the Alexandria Floral Company moved to this location in the mid-twentieth century. Geoarcheological testing revealed that the property was originally a wetland setting subject to frequent inundation. These findings are compatible with descriptions of the property and historic land use as an area that largely was uninhabitable until modern fill episodes brought it in line with the city street grid system.