

# Cultural Resources

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## Early History

MCB, Quantico "Crossroads of the Marine Corps" has been a crossroads of history as well. As with other parts of the country, Native Americans inhabited the region for at least the past 10,000 years. A group known as the Pamacocack was living on Mainside when Capt. John Smith explored the Potomac River in 1608, while the Patawomeck were located along Aquia Creek on Guadalcanal side. These were Algonquian speaking people, the Pamacocack allied with the Piscataway, and the Patawomeck allied with the Powhatan. The Mannahoak inhabited the upper



Rappahannock, and perhaps areas to the north of that area. The Manahoak are thought to have been Siouan speaking people. Searching for precious metals, the explorers made forays up Aquia Creek and into the interior within the bounds of what is now MCB, Quantico. European settlement of the area began in the 1650's along Aquia Creek. Scottish merchants established a thriving port at Dumfries in the 1700's, for the export of tobacco to Europe and other colonies. The Quantico-Dumfries tobacco trade, which suffered during the Revolutionary War, never recovered after the war, as soil erosion diminished crops and silted the channel of Quantico Creek.

During the Civil War, Quantico regained importance as a location for several Confederate batteries and encampments near Quantico Creek that attempted to block passage of Union ships on the Potomac. After the Civil War, Quantico continued to decline in population and strategic importance. At the turn of the century, "The Quantico Company" promoted the town as a fishing village, tourist center and as "The New Industrial Center." Quantico Shipyard was constructed at Hospital Point in 1916. The initial acquisition of land for Marine Corps Base Quantico was in 1917 and consisted of leasing approximately 5,300 acres fronting the Potomac River, now known as the Mainside area of the Base. In 1918, the leased land plus 1,200 acres were purchased and Quantico was officially declared a Marine Corps Base. In 1943, to support additional training requirements, 51,000 adjacent acres to the west were acquired, as well as an additional 4,262 acres of Special Use Permit (SUP) land from the Department of Interior.

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## Quantico Marine Corps Base Historic District



The Quantico Marine Corps Base Historic District is located on the Mainside area of the Base and consists of 122 buildings, 2 landscapes (Butler Stadium and the Marine Corps Air Facility), 1 object, (Iron Mike Statue), and one structure (Water Tower 1706) that have been identified as contributing to the Historic District.

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## **Archaeological Sites**

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 requires federal permits for excavations and/or removal of artifacts from Federal lands and provides stiff penalties for anyone caught making an unauthorized excavation, removal, or causing damage to an archaeological resource located on public lands. Federal land managers are required to complete surveys of lands under their control and protect sites determined to be significant. Archaeological surveys are conducted on a regular basis at MCB Quantico for ground disturbing activities, and to inventory unrecorded sites. These areas must be surveyed prior to any ground disturbing activities to ensure that a potentially significant site is not disturbed. Upon completion of the ongoing surveys, sites that have been found to be significant will be nominated for inclusion in the National Register. To date of over 273 archaeological sites, including 25 significant sites and more than two dozen potentially significant sites, have been identified aboard MCB Quantico and new sites continue to be identified.

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## **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is an act that "Establishes a Program for the Preservation of Historic Properties" throughout the Nation. It establishes a National Register of Historic Places and requires Federal Agencies to identify, evaluate, register, and protect properties of historic, archeological, architectural, engineering, or cultural significance. In accordance with this act, a survey of structures aboard MCBQ was completed and archaeological surveys are finding potentially significant sites in various areas of the Base. Section 106 of the NHPA requires "The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register." To comply with this, projects that will have an effect on any of the potentially significant buildings or sites aboard the Base must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. An Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan that details the process for treatment of significant buildings and sites has been completed. The cultural resources being managed at the Base are prehistoric and historic archaeological sites; historic structures and landscapes.