

THE LAND

a historic landscape

“What persuaded me to buy this piece of earth, however, was the serenity of the gently undulating land, half in woods, half in open fields, traversed by clear running streams...”
—Robert Simon

For thousands of years this part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the land that would become Reston, was used by Native Americans to quarry stone and for winter hunting and gathering camps.

The last Native American tribe, called Dogue by the English, left its homeland, Moyomps (Northern Virginia) in 1675, after the Susquehannock War. Their departure opened Northern Virginia to unrestricted English settlement.

The land that would become Reston was part of a grant (The Northern Neck Proprietary) by King Charles II of England in 1649 to seven loyal Englishmen.

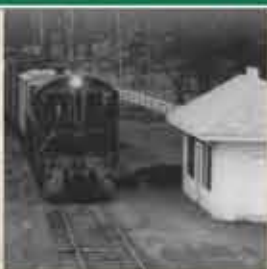
BARON CAMERON AVENUE



Thomas, the Sixth Lord of Fairfax, Baron of Cameron, and Proprietor of the Northern Neck, emigrated to Virginia in 1747.

The property devolved to the son of the 9th Lord of Fairfax and was sold for approximately \$5 an acre in 1852 to Robert Thornton.

RESTON PARKWAY



In 1853 a railroad, which became the Washington & Old Dominion, split the estate into two fairly equal parts. In 1862, after the Battle of Chantilly, General Robert E. Lee led Confederate troops up what is now Reston Parkway through Thornton's Mill Station on the way to Antietam, Maryland, destroying most of the railway in the area.

case 3x3
FPO

Piscataway-type point, ca. A.D. 400 and 200 B.C. Found south of Sunrise Valley Drive, west of Wiehle Avenue by Steve Carry in 2003 after Hurricane Isabel.
On loan to the Reston Museum from Steve Carry. Certified by Michael F. Johnson, Senior Archaeologist, Fairfax County.

WIEHLE AVENUE



In 1886 Dr. Max Wiehle, a German-born physician, purchased the northern half of the property for a little over \$3 an acre.

In 1888 Wiehle commissioned plans for a new town for which the Virginia General Assembly granted a town charter in 1898. The dream of a new community died with Dr. Wiehle in 1901; the town charter was revoked in 1989.

The Wiehle family sold the property in 1908 for approximately \$23 an acre.

case 12x7

FPO

SUNSET HILLS ROAD



In 1923 the property name was changed from Wiehle to Sunset Hills, and in 1927 it was sold to Abram Smith Bowman as a farm.

After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the Bowmans distilled *Virginia Gentleman* bourbon here from 1935 until 1988. Bowman also founded the Fairfax Hunt.

In 1948 the Bowmans rejoined the property north and south of the railroad, and for a time considered development of a satellite, self-contained community, but were dissuaded by zoning and infrastructure obstacles.

DULLES ACCESS ROAD



In 1961 Robert Simon purchased 6,750 acres exclusive of the distillery property for approximately \$1,500 an acre.

The land was situated between the Nation's Capital and the new international airport. The access road to the airport would again divide the property as the railroad had done.

When Robert Simon acquired the land, 3,000 head of cattle populated what would become Reston.

Cannonball

A 2001 cleanup of Snakekin Branch in south Reston unearthed this cannonball, believed to have been part of Union armaments carried to the Battle of Drainesville in December 1861.