



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG120

Site Name: Emerick House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle and Late Archaic short-term camp, 19th century house

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 22

SCS soil & sediment code WeE

Latitude 39.5758

Longitude -78.7292

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 600 m

Site slope >30%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

### Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other
- knoll

### Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) N. Branch Potomac

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 60 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860  Y

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900  Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930  Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930  Y

Middle archaic  Y

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820  Y

Late archaic  Y

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

#### Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

#### Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

#### Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

#### Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

#### Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

#### Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

#### Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

#### Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

homestead

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	78	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	105	Activity item(s)	7
Glass (all)	107	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	124	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	23
Arms	2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	99
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 2:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 3:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 4:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 5:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 6:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 7:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 8:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 9:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Emerick House (18AG120) consists of the archeological remains associated with a potential late 18th century log dwelling south of Cumberland in rural Allegany County. The site was also a locus of prehistoric activity with Middle and Late Archaic components present. The site is situated on a high terrace overlooking the Potomac River floodplain and the C&O Canal Towpath. Soils at the site are Buchanan gravelly loams.

The most prominent building at the site today is a large historic farmhouse known as the Emerick House, or Rice's Orchard Frame and Log House (MIHP# AL-III-B-018), part of which may have been the site of "Derbin's Tavern", referenced on a 1794 map of Maryland. The scale of the 1794 map makes precise identification impossible, but the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form for the site notes that the two structures may be contemporaneous, if not one and the same. The house has gone through many transformations, and is presently a large rectangular structure four bays wide and two and a half storeys high. The original structure was an 18' X 24' log building which is now located in the right hand rear portion of the building and is covered by weatherboard. This part of the structure, in all probability, dates from the late 18th century.

The land on which the house stands was originally granted to Michael Collier dated May 23, 1793, and was known as "Collier's Discovery". Collier was to sell the land two years later to Jacob Slagel of Hampshire County, Virginia. Since the property remained in the Slagel family for some time following this transaction, it is possible that Jacob Slagel or some member of his family built the original log structure.

Archeological investigations at 18AG120 occurred in 1982 as part of a reconnaissance project along a 1.5 km (1 mi) segment of MD Route 51. Given that most of the proposed construction would be in an area already disturbed by MD Route 51 and the abandoned Western MD Railroad, the need for field reconnaissance was obviated for the majority of the project area. However, the Emerick House was situated at the southern end of the project area, and given the documented age of the standing structure, archeological remains in this locus were deemed likely. As a result, preliminary test excavations were carried out in a narrow impact strip fronting the structure (18AG120). The work was carried out by the Maryland Geological Survey - Division of Archeology (MGS), on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration, which was engaged in a publically-funded undertaking subject to Section 106 of the NHPA.

A preliminary surface examination and 2 shovel test pits indicated that archeological remains and possibly features might be present. A scatter of historic and prehistoric debris was noted on the surface of a freshly plowed garden south of the structure. The two STPs revealed that these deposits extended below the plowzone. Based on preliminary design plans, it was anticipated that avoidance of the site would be a practical mitigative alternative. Subsequent data provided by the MD State Highway Administration indicated that a narrow strip of the site would be disturbed, so MGS researchers returned to the site to carry out testing work.

In the fall of 1982, Nine 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within or adjacent to the proposed impact area in the front yard area of the Emerick House. These squares were evenly spaced along the right-of-way line in an attempt to achieve representative coverage of the impact area. One gap in the spacing was left when an area had to be avoided due to evidence of prior disturbance.

In general, the testing at 18AG120 documented various forms of prior disturbance. These included grading associated with the existing MD Route 51 road cut, limited recent gardening activities, drain installation, and slopewash in the northern part of the area investigated. No significant archeological features were encountered during the testing, although a structure may be indicated outside the right-of-way.

Despite the reported early date of the original portion of the Emerick House, artifacts from the impact zone consistently post-dated the early 19th century. Their presence was interpreted as a general scatter on the fringes of the site resulting from years of use (i.e. no purposeful trash deposits were noted). The lack of 18th century artifacts associated with the original log structure is inexplicable, although it is presumed that these artifacts were deposited either closer to the front of the structure (perhaps under later additions) or in areas oriented away from the front of the house.

The historic assemblage included 7 activity items (a porcelain doll part, 2 pieces of lamp glass, an iron tool, 1 brass rivet, 1 flower pot sherd, and a metal plant tag), 124 architectural artifacts (20 piece of brick, a mortar fragment, a piece of stone and mortar, 31 window glass fragments, 2 wrought nails, 17 cut nails, 4 wire nails, 44 unidentified nails, 2 spikes, a plumbing part, and a possible lock part), 1 clothing item (a copper or brass button), 142 kitchen-related artifacts (72 whiteware sherds, 15 redware sherds, 1 other earthenware sherd, 16 stoneware sherds, 1 other ceramic sherd, a glass stopper, 3 jar fragments, 10 bottle fragments, 4 metal can fragments, 18 animal bones, 1 burned bone), 3 tobacco-related artifacts (a kaolin pipe bowl and 2 kaolin pipe stems), 2 arms objects (shotgun shells), and 99 miscellaneous objects (9 pieces of metal, 62 glass fragments, 7 pieces of chrome plating, 4 cinders, and 17 pieces of coal).

A brief re-examination of the surface of one of the gardens at the Emerick House during the testing phase revealed two diagnostic aboriginal artifacts and several tools. One chert projectile point was a bifurcate base type dating to ca. 6400 BC. The other point, while not classifiable as to type, is characteristic of Late Archaic stemmed points and presumably dates to between 3,000 and 1,000 BC. Although relatively few prehistoric artifacts were recovered, the aboriginal component at the site can be characterized as an intermittent campsite utilized throughout the Archaic period (ca. 8,000 to 1,000 BC). The artifact inventory includes projectile points, scrapers, bifaces, a possible hammerstone, and debitage. Activities indicated include hunting and tool manufacture and probably reflect the site's use as a staging area for forays into the Potomac lowlands.

The prehistoric assemblage included a bifurcate point, a stemmed point, 4 bifaces, an end scraper, a side scraper, 65 flakes, 5 chunks, and a hammerstone.

While no significant features were encountered during the testing at 18AG120, given the early date of the Emerick House site, the possibility of intact archeological features in the main part of the site (which was not investigated), and possibly the architectural significance of the original log structure, the site may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the prehistoric component at the site may be potentially significant in answering questions related to aboriginal settlement/subsistence patterns in the Potomac uplands of western Maryland. However, such determinations of significance would require additional archeological and historical research.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000086

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Other name(s)

Historic

Brief  
Description:

Unknown