



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG277

Site Name: LOCPA West

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Prehistoric lithic scatter; Mid-Late 19th century house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 20

SCS soil & sediment code TvB,MnC

Latitude 39.6333

Longitude -78.3835

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 3-8%

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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Fiftee

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- Multi-component
 - Village
 - Hamlet
 - Base camp
 - Rockshelter/cave
 - Earthen mound
 - Cairn
 - Burial area
 - Misc. ceremonial
 - Rock art
 - Shell midden
 - STU/lithic scatter
 - Quarry/extraction
 - Fish weir
 - Production 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
 - brick clamp
 - 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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Porcelain	<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	69	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	1	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

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

Dated features present at site

mid 19th century brick clamp

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	677
Glass (all)	4	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	438	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	462
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	75
Personal items	8	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	brick clamp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<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: 0 +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The LOCPA West site (18AG277) is an archeological site near Little Orleans in Allegany County, consisting of a prehistoric lithic scatter, a mid 19th century brick clamp, and deposits associated with a mid-late 19th century house. The site is situated on a high terrace and hillslope along both banks of an unnamed tributary of Fifteen Mile Creek. Fifteen Mile Creek itself is just to the east of the site and flows southeast towards its confluence with the Potomac River a short distance away. The surrounding landscape consists of a series of narrow valleys subject to severe periodic floods. Soils at the site are Monongahela and Tyler silt loams.

The site was first identified in 2009 during a Phase I archeological survey within the proposed limits of disturbance for replacement of Bridge No. A-116 (Orleans Road over Fifteen Mile Creek) and associated improvements to Orleans Road South of Appel Road in Allegany County. These investigations were conducted because Allegany County had applied for a joint federal/state permit authorization which requires review of such projects for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and with state historic preservation legislation. At the time, two loci of activity (known as the north locus and south locus) were identified, separated by an intermittent stream.

The Phase I survey of 18AG277 included archival research, interviews with the current landowner, and the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs).

The Phase I researchers defined the northern locus of 18AG277 as encompassing 7 positive STPs, but the two westernmost shovel tests produced a very low quantity of historic artifacts from disturbed contexts. These 2 STPs were subsequently excluded from the northern locus as defined in later studies. These five STPs yielded 185 historic artifacts (66 architectural, 89 kitchen, 3 faunal, and 27 miscellaneous) and 1 prehistoric lithic artifact. The historic artifacts include a variety of functional groups expected from a domestic residential site (ceramics, bottle glass, architectural debris, and faunal remains). Of these 172 historic artifacts, the ceramics and nails provided the most useful chronological information. Analysis of the decorated ceramic sherds from the Phase I STPs indicated an occupation from the mid 19th into the early 20th century. All of the nails and nail fragments from the Phase I testing of the northern locus of 18AG277 are of machine cut manufacture, suggesting a 19th century dating for structural construction here.

The southern locus was defined by 9 positive STPs and one surface find. A 10th isolated STP produced a glass bottle fragment, but this is not thought to be associated with 18AG277. The Phase I survey here yielded 74 historic and 5 prehistoric artifacts (debitage). The prehistoric artifacts were interpreted as representing a pattern of diffuse prehistoric land use across the terraces and footslopes west of Fifteen Mile Creek. The 74 historic artifacts were predominantly brick fragments (n=70), with one example each of mortar, window glass, hardware, and coal. Most of the brick fragments were recovered from an apparent brick clamp feature encountered in one particular STP, while high densities of brick were also noted in the plowzones of adjacent STPs. The historic use of the southern locus of 18AG277 appeared to be focused on the rural industrial activity of brickmaking.

Based on the Phase I results, Phase II testing was recommended prior to the granting of permits for the bridge replacement project. Phase II work entailed more detailed archival research for both the northern and southern loci.

Site 18AG277's early history is poorly documented. The site was originally part of a 124 acre tract known as "Linns Purchase". From 1798 to 1841 the tract was owned by the Osman Family, but the precise location of their farmstead on the tract is unknown. The only relevant documentation located is an 1825 patent for an adjacent tract called "Poet's Corner", which places the Osman farmstead near an intersection immediately north/northeast of the northern locus of 18AG277, raising the possibility of late 18th to early 19th century occupation at the site. This would not be borne out by the Phase II excavations.

In 1841, Richard Caton bought Linns Purchase from the Osman heirs and had the tract resurveyed immediately. This resurvey resulted in the addition of adjacent lands (including a tract called "Resurvey on Sugar Bottom") and the patenting in 1842 of a new 420 acre tract he called "Orleans". The new patent for the Orleans tract was transferred by Caton to Mary Anne Marchioness of Wellesley. These 1838-1842 transactions appear to have involved vacant or tenant-occupied land, as the Osman family moved to Ohio at some point in the 1830s, Richard Caton was a resident of Catonsville in Baltimore County, and Mary Anne Marchioness was a resident of London, England.

The 1841 resurvey of Linns Purchase included a list of improvements on the land at the time. As attested in the patent records by Benjamin Brown, the Allegany County Surveyor, the entire new 420-acre tract called Orleans was surveyed on May 26th, 1841, and at that time included 22 houses valued at \$2 each. These houses must have been insubstantial at that value. Orleans encompassed two tracts that clearly had substantial late 18th-early 19th century farmsteads. Linns Purchase was the residence of three generations of the Osman family until they moved to Ohio at some point in the 1830s. Resurvey on Sugar Bottom was the residence of several generations of the Bevans family. The low valuation of the residences within the Orleans patent suggests that the Osman and Bevans farmsteads were in very poor condition or no longer standing by 1841. The large number of insubstantial houses also suggests that the property may have been the site of C & O Canal construction workers' housing.

At the time of these 1838-1842 transactions, Richard Caton was involved in massive land acquisitions in Allegany County, including various tracts adjoining Linns Purchase. Richard Caton died without a will in 1845 and his widow died in 1846, leaving over 30,000 acres of Allegany County land in the hands of their four daughters. However, Site 18AG277 was within the Orleans tract that Caton had transferred directly to one daughter, Mary Anne Marchioness of Wellesley (London), who remained the absentee owner until her death in 1853. Over the following two decades, 18AG277 was in the ownership of two other London-dwelling daughters of Richard Caton: Elizabeth, the Lady Stafford, from 1853 to 1862, and Louisa, Duchess of Leeds, from 1862 to 1874. These wealthy absentee owners had a local agent or agents who rented out and managed the property, but no evidence from this has yet been found that provides information about structures specifically within 18AG277.

Court records relating to administration of this property after Louisa's 1874 death have provided some useful information. Trustees for the estate rented out two residences, one to the Callan family and one to the McKnight family. It appears that these two residences were located in Little Orleans and were depicted in a ca. 1900 photograph of the 18AG277 property. Comparison of this historic photograph with current conditions demonstrates that a two-storey wooden house stood within the north locus of 18AG277 by ca. 1900. Documents suggest that the house was rented and occupied by the Callan family, who would eventually buy the property in 1906. A second, smaller house to the south was probably rented and occupied by the McKnight family. Census data shows that James T. McKnight grew up in Little Orleans and returned after serving in the Union Army. The 1870 and 1880 censuses list James as the head of household that included his wife Anna, their children, and his mother. James was a "laborer" in 1870 and a "railroader" in 1880. An 1890 veteran's census listed him as



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disabled. The 1900 census listed Anna as a widowed household head. She moved to Cumberland in 1901. Sophia, James, Anna, and other McKnights are buried in the cemetery at nearby St. Patrick's Church.

Documentation of when the house in the northern locus was built has not been located. The 1841 resurvey of Linns Purchase indicates that this house was built after 1841. The first map to show this building was surveyed in 1898 and published in 1900, however, earlier maps (1849 and 1865) are not specific enough of local conditions in Little Orleans to demonstrate whether this particular building was standing at that time. One possible dating of this house relates to the construction of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1860-1861. At that time, the absentee landlord (Elizabeth, the Lady Stafford) joined in a partnership with several local families to finance the construction of the brick church. This effort was likely to have had a major impact on 18AG277. A brick production locale that would ultimately be discovered in the southern locus at the site, is very probably associated with the 1860-1861 construction of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The brickmaker and his laborers would have needed housing near the brick clamp, which the north locus of 18AG277 may have served as the site of. No records relating to the production of bricks for St. Patrick's Church (possibly in the southern locus of the site) have been found.

The structures seen in historic photographs of the site appear to have been of wood construction. MIHP descriptions of the surviving local 19th century structures indicate that local building traditions centered on the construction of log structures with various siding used to cover the log exterior.

In 1906, the court-appointed trustee for the estate of Louisa, Duchess of Leeds finally sold 236.2 acres (including 18AG277) to Charles T. Callan and Harry W. Callan, sons of the merchant Thomas Callan who had been renting land and structures in Little Orleans since the 1850s. Within a few weeks, Charles and Harry sold 220 acres to Charles T. Norris. The Callans retained about 16 acres adjacent to the canal and railroad, which was land their family had been running their mercantile business from and is the land where they then built a frame house that still stands along Orleans Road.

Charles T. Norris was listed on the 1900 and 1910 censuses as a farmer. These and other local censuses list many Norris farming households. It appears that from 1906 to 1917, Charles T. Norris and his family lived in a house north of 18AG277 and put the surrounding agricultural buildings to use as their farmstead. The household listed immediately before Charles T. Norris on the 1910 census was headed by a laborer named Stollemeyer, which probably indicates that the house at 18AG277 was occupied by the family of a farmhand who worked on the Norris farm.

In 1917, the Charles T. Norris farm was transferred to one of his daughters (Mamie) and her husband, Wilber Aronhalt. The Aronhalts lived on the farm for about 10 years and are listed in Little Orleans on the 1920 census. As in earlier censuses, an adjacent household was listed as renting and may have occupied the house at 18AG277. The Aronhalts moved to Cumberland in 1927 or 1928, although they kept the farm as a second home. Wilber Aronhalt was a railroad steam locomotive engineer, but he appears to have enjoyed farming as well. He died at the farm in 1951. Mamie Aronhalt retained title to this land until 1965.

A combination of historic photographs and USDA aerial photographs for the area provide an unusually detailed chronology of construction within the north locus of 18AG277. The first USDA aerial photograph for the area was taken on April 20, 1938, and it shows no structures within the north locus of 18AG277, indicating that the two-storey house seen in the turn-of-the-century photograph was razed sometime between 1900 and 1938. Tax assessment books for the years 1923-1950 are not sufficiently detailed to locate assessments for particular structures, but there was a significant decrease (from \$630 to \$400 in value) for the "other buildings" category on the Aronhalt family's assessment between 1928 and 1939, suggests a possible date range for the razing of the two-storey house.

Later in 1938, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) sent a work crew to Little Orleans to replace the ford on Orleans Road with the low-water bridge that was present until 2012. Fortunately the WPA was careful about documenting its work with photography and the photographs from the 1938 bridge construction are still archived at the University of Maryland. The initial WPA photograph was taken October 12, 1938 and shows in the background an agricultural building under construction, while a later WPA photograph (taken on November 2, 1938) shows this building completed. This building has the distinctive characteristics of a corn crib and it is also present on a 1950 quad map and a 1952 aerial photograph. It was gone by the time a 1989 aerial photograph was taken.

Phase II archeological fieldwork at 18AG277 entailed re-establishment of the Phase I grid at the site, a geophysical survey to identify potential feature locations, mapping of surface features and artifact concentrations (in limited areas), and the stratigraphic excavation of seven 1 X 1 m test units and two 50 X 50 cm test units.

The geophysical survey utilized a magnetometer as well as ground penetrating radar (GPR) to identify possible prehistoric and historic features and to guide the subsequent hand excavations. Magnetometer data was collected covering most of the area of Site 18AG277 that would be impacted by the bridge replacement project. GPR data was collected over a 30 X 30 m area of interest identified by the earlier magnetometer work. This data was used to guide the placement of the formal test units.

Based on all of the preliminary data (Phase I work, surface features, and geophysical results), 3 of the 1 X 1 m test units were placed within the northern locus at 18AG277, and 4 of the 1 X 1 m units and 2 of the 50 X 50 cm units were placed in the southern locus. The test units were excavated with shovel and trowel by natural and/or cultural stratigraphic units, and by arbitrary 10 cm levels within thicker natural/cultural levels. Features were excavated as separate contexts. Excavation of test units generally continued to at least 10 cm below the lowest level containing artifacts, although weather-related constraints modified this in some units where ground water limited depth of excavation. Photographs were taken and plan views drawn as determined appropriate during excavation. After completion of each test unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled clean and photographed. Measured drawings with soil descriptions were done of at least one wall in each test unit and soils in these profiles were described using standard terminology and color descriptions. All excavated non-feature soil was screened through mesh hardware cloth and any artifacts found were retained for identification. Matrix from cultural features was collected for flotation. Depending on the size of the feature, either a matrix sample or all feature matrix was collected. All excavations were backfilled upon completion.

Two distinct stratigraphic patterns were seen in the Phase II excavations in the southern locus. Five of the six units revealed soil profiles that were predictable in light of geomorphologic work and shovel testing done in this area during the Phase I survey in 2009, with a plowzone of variable thickness directly over subsoil. The remaining unit, by contrast, revealed a cultural feature: the complex stratigraphy of a historic brick clamp.

The predominant stratigraphic pattern (plowzone directly over subsoil) indicates that significant erosion has impacted this landscape. Repeated cycles of deforestation and cultivation during the historic period appear to be responsible for this erosion. Three of the six units encountered rotted or burned tree roots which appear to date to late 20th century vegetation clearing activities when this area was returned from brush to pasture. The combination of erosion of the



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surface horizon and associated disturbance of the upper zone of the subsoil had mixed artifacts from the prehistoric and historic occupations of the area, with the majority (67%) of the prehistoric artifacts found with historic artifacts in the Ap horizon. The upper zone of subsoil yielded only historic artifacts (brick fragments) in 2 test units, while the upper zone of subsoil yielded only prehistoric artifacts in the other 4 Phase II units. A significant minority (33%) of the prehistoric artifacts was recovered from subsoil contexts, including one of the two stone tool fragments from the south locus of 18AG277. This suggests some integrity to the prehistoric deposits within this locus.

The density of historic artifacts (mostly brick fragments) in the Ap horizon varied with distance from the brick clamp feature. Overall, six stratigraphic contexts were revealed in the unit over the brick clamp feature, which can be related directly to the construction, firing, and dismantling of the clamp. 1) There was clearly an intentionally fired floor that was cut into the hillslope to provide a flat surface that was baked to a hardness that would have served well as a work surface. 2) Also recognized was the signature of a fire intense enough to thermally alter the subsoil below it (3) and bake the wet brick material intentionally placed over it (4). Once baked into a solid, flat floor, this would have served as the "firing floor" on which to build, fire, and dismantle one or a series of brick clamps. The final dismantling of the brick clamp or clamps led to the discard of underfired, overfired, and broken bricks, producing two thick stratigraphic contexts (5 & 6) of brick rubble.

The baked floor is an interesting feature, as it is not commonly seen in other excavated brick clamps. There are at least two other excavated examples known, however, one at 18CH664 and one at 40ML187. In addition to providing a flat, stable surface for firing bricks, it seems that such a baked floor would have been an ideal location for drying green bricks. As such, this baked floor can be seen as a precursor of the later 19th century development of the "hot floor" for drying green bricks as industrial brick yards.

The combined geophysical (magnetometer and GPR) results indicate that the clamp feature extends over a rectangular area measuring approximately 5 X 7 m in extent, with the long axis aligned along the contours of the slope. However, the location of baked floor in one of the Phase I STPs sited outside this area, suggests that the actual edges of the clamp feature may measure up to 7 X 9 m. Once the stratigraphic results from the brick clamp test unit were made available to the geophysical team, they were able to refine their GPR data to improve their interpretation. The re-analysis revealed that there is a well-defined floor extending into the Phase I STP area, but it was more deeply buried on this western side of the brick clamp.

Phase II historic artifacts in the south locus of 18AG277 included over 577 pieces of brick (counted as activity items due to the brick clamp), 6 cut nails, 2 pieces of hardware, 4 pieces of window glass, 11 pieces of coal (activity), and 3 pieces of charcoal (activity).

The majority of the prehistoric artifacts recovered from the south locus at 18AG277, came from the center of the locus, with over 70% of the prehistoric artifacts recovered from two units. The predominance of debitage indicates that stone tool production and/or maintenance was a main activity at this site. The age of this prehistoric activity within the southern locus was not determined. The two stone tools (a biface fragment and an endscraper) cannot be assigned to specific temporal periods and features with datable carbon were not found. However, the endscraper preform is a tool type that, while not temporally diagnostic, was more commonly made in Paleoindian and Early Archaic times. The rarity of components of this early age argues for significant research potential at the south locus of 18AG277.

Phase II prehistoric artifacts in the south locus of 18AG277 included the two stone tools, 38 pieces of debitage, and a fire-cracked rock.

Investigations of the part of the north locus of 18AG277 within the area of potential effects (APE) found a series of cultural features situated on a colluvial footslope landform. Thin surface horizons here confirm a pattern of significant erosion from repeated cycles of deforestation and cultivation during the historic period. Given this situation, the Phase II excavations did not confirm the presence of intact yard deposits (associated with the ca. 1900 photo dwelling, see above), although more extensive testing may find areas where yard deposits are preserved. However, geophysical survey, mapping of surface features, and the excavation of two of the test units indicate that the core of this historic rural residential site retains intact subsurface features (a pipe trench, a dirt floor, and portions of a demolished stone foundation) associated with high historic artifact densities. Constraints posed by extreme weather and resulting ground water intrusion problems unfortunately limited the extent of excavation within this area. Coupled with this are the problems involved with exposing sufficient areas of the intact features, given the depth and extent of fill associated with historic construction/renovation as well as with the 1980s demolition of the 1938 corn crib. Thus, while the geophysical survey provides useful estimates of the large size of the historic features within the core of this historic rural residential site, the Phase II excavations only sampled small areas within these identified features. The Phase II excavation samples were adequate to positively ground-truth the geophysical data and interpretations, but leave some questions about the characteristics of the earlier features.

The Phase II historic artifacts recovered from the north locus of 18AG277 include over 15 activity items (including 4 lighting glass objects), 357 architectural artifacts, 350 kitchen remains, 20 faunal remains, 8 personal items, and 48 miscellaneous objects (much of it coal and charcoal, etc.). The temporally diagnostic historic artifacts indicate an occupation from the mid 19th into the early 20th century, with evidence also for the mid 20th century agricultural outbuilding (corn crib).

The Phase II excavations in the north locus of 18AG277 resulted in the recovery of 23 prehistoric artifacts. These artifacts include one stone tool (a chert biface), 1 core, and 21 stone debitage fragments. The chert biface is not chronologically diagnostic. All of the prehistoric artifacts in the north locus were found in contexts that also contained historic artifacts and which, thus, cannot be interpreted as intact prehistoric accumulation zones.

Site 18AG277, west of Fifteen Mile Creek, includes two sample loci. The south locus contains the remains of a mid-19th century brick clamp as well as a prehistoric component. The north locus contains the remains of a mid to late 19th century residence. Each loci retains sufficient integrity to provide answers to significant research questions, thus 18AG277 was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. The bridge construction impacts were to include primarily fill activities, along with minimal areas of grading. It was determined that no further investigations were warranted within the APE for this particular project. Other portions of the site retain their research potential and 18AG277 should be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001988