



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1206

Site Name: Marvista Locus B

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th & 20th century possible night soil staging area

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1596

Longitude -76.5915

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6 m

Site slope

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) Marley Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 229 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic 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
- 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?

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1206

Site Name: Marvista Locus B

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

19th & 20th century possible night soil staging area

Unknown

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

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

Historic Sherd Types				Stoneware	
Earthenware	Ironstone	6	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown
Astbury	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied
Borderware	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	113	Nottingham
Buckley	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	21	Rhenish
Creamware	Pearlware	11			Wt Salt-glazed

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	1953	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	8573	Activity item(s)	92
Architectural	2946	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	35	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arms	12	Misc. kitchen	1333
Clothing	54	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	25	Misc.	2343
		Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> kiln furniture

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1206

Site Name: Marvista Locus B

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

19th & 20th century possible night soil staging area

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Marvista Locus B, or 18AN1206, is what appears to be a 19th & 20th century night soil dumping area near Glen Burnie in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a high, relatively flat terrace situated between two ephemeral streams, which drain into nearby Marley Creek. The local landscape consists of gently rolling sand terraces, with an overall slope down towards the north. Modern vegetation varies from mixed deciduous and conifer forest to secondary growth scrub. The entire site area has been pockmarked with holes dug by bottle hunters. Soils at the site are Rumford loamy sand with occasional gravel and borrow pits.

The site was first identified in 2001 during the Phase I survey of approximately 25.7 acres in the proposed Marvista Subdivision. Archeological investigations in the (then) proposed housing development, were undertaken in compliance with requirements provided by the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, pursuant to Article 26, Title 3-109 of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision regulations. This piece of legislation mandates consideration for archeological resources as part of the development review process. The area was determined to have high potential for encompassing archeological deposits by the County Archeologist. Grading and construction would have had an adverse impact on the integrity of any cultural resources within the project area.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of 200 shovel test pits (STPs) on a grid at 20 m intervals, as well as judgmental placement of additional STPs at 10 m intervals near positive finds. This led to the identification of Locus B (18AN1206) as a concentration of historic artifacts in the western portion of the survey area. A total of 20 STPs were excavated in Locus B, 19 of which produced historic artifacts. Numerous surface finds were also made in this area. Shovel tests measured approximately 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth of 40 cm below surface or 10 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever occurred first. Excavated soils were removed by natural strata and screened through hardware cloth. Basic excavation data for each STP was recorded on standardized forms.

Site 18AN1206 (Marvista Locus B) contained an extremely high artifact density (396 artifacts per m²) and was hypothesized to have comprised a centralized primary dumping location for nightsoil material. The project area also contained a small prehistoric scatter (Locus A) within the midst of a more generalized, diffuse historic refuse scatter found across the entire survey area. The historic assemblage from the non-locus areas of the survey probably represents the more diffuse spread of nightsoils in surrounding agricultural fields.

Artifacts recovered from 18AN1206 during the 2001 Phase I Survey include 21 activity items, 165 architectural artifacts, 10 clothing items, 513 kitchen-related artifacts, 5 personal objects, and 30 miscellaneous items. The activity items were 2 porcelain doll fragments, 3 pieces of lamp glass, a porcelain lamp part, a lead candlestick, 3 pieces of non-electrical wire, 4 fragments of strap, a horseshoe, a sandstone wheel (for sharpening ?), 3 flowerpot fragments, and 2 clay pigeon fragments. The architectural assemblage included 8 pieces of brick, 1 floor tile fragment, 79 pieces of window glass, 62 nails (2 cut, 2 wire, 58 unidentified), 1 spike, 7 bolts, 1 screw, 2 door hinges, 1 pintle, a ceramic doorknob fragment, a milkglass insulator, and a stoneware sewer pipe fragment. Clothing items were 4 buttons (1 bone, 1 milkglass, 1 lead, and 1 shell), 5 pieces of shoe leather, and a brass shoe eye. The kitchen-related assemblage includes 177 ceramic sherds (2 creamware, 11 pearlware, 2 buff-bodied earthenware, 19 porcelain, 6 ironstone, 108 whiteware, 5 yellowware, 7 redware, 5 domestic brown stoneware, 4 domestic gray stoneware, 8 miscellaneous stoneware), 334 pieces of glass (36 table glass, 1 milk glass lid liner, 1 misc. milk glass, 296 bottle glass fragments), and 2 crown caps. Personal items were 2 plastic comb fragments and 3 other comb fragments. Miscellaneous objects consisted of 11 unidentified iron objects, 1 unidentified brass object, 5 unidentified glass shards, 2 unidentified ceramic objects, 3 pieces of plastic, 1 cinder, 4 coal fragments, and 3 pieces of slag. Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended at 18AN1206.

A significant component of the Phase II work was an extensive archival review to place the site in its appropriate cultural context. Archival research suggests that the site was used primarily for agricultural purposes up until the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries. A William R. Della acquired the lot on which the site is situated in 1903. A review of the listings in R.L. Polk's Baltimore City directories for the first third of the 20th century showed that William R. Della lived in Baltimore, not at the site, and owned several properties in southern Baltimore and Anne Arundel County, including 3 lots that adjoined the lot on which the site is located.

The Polk directories consistently indicate that William R. Della was a contractor by trade, although the earliest listings do not specify exactly what kind of contracting work he engaged in. By 1917, however, the directory entries become more specific and Della's occupation is listed as "sand" contractor. None of the directories indicate that Della used a separate location (other than his home) to conduct business. Della unified and retained the four adjoining Anne Arundel County parcels (including the site), totaling 74 acres, until 1917, when he conveyed all four parcels to Howard R. Della and George W. Pierson. Howard Della's relationship to William Della is uncertain. Howard Della and George Pierson would continue to hold the property until 1951.

Howard R. Della was first referenced in the Baltimore City directories in 1900. At that time, he resided in the household of a Charles M. Della, whose occupation was listed as an "Odorless Excavator", with offices located at 2 St. Paul Street, Baltimore. Advertising copy in this and subsequent city directories indicates precisely what an "odorless excavator" did: mechanically clean out the city's privies, cesspools, and sinks. During the 19th and 20th centuries, when human waste and garbage were disposed of in such "sinks", cesspools, or privies, such receptacles routinely were emptied by licensed private contractors known as "nightsoil" men. Howard's occupation in that same year was that of a "driver", possibly for one of the machines used in the privy excavation operation. An Andrew Della functioned as a clerk for the business and a William E. Della was identified as a "farmer". It is posited that Howard R., Andrew, and William E. might be brothers, the sons of Charles M. Della.

By 1903, Andrew had taken over the "sink-cleaning" business, advertising himself as the "successor to Charles M. Della". His advertising copy also indicates that the company did "well-digging" and "sewer pipe" work. During this period, Andrew, Howard, and William E. (now listed as a "teamster") lived together at 1144 Hanover Street, Baltimore. It is important to note that this residence is located less than 2 blocks from that of William R. Della.

By 1908, Howard, William, and Andrew Della may have abandoned the nightsoil business and shifted their focus to generalized contracting. Their advertising copy in the 1908 directory lists them as the "Della Excavating Company", but also mentions that they are "sand" contractors. The Anne Arundel County soil survey indicates that the area of the site has been subjected to sand and gravel mining. Although their residence did not change, their place of business moved from St. Paul Street to #30 W. West Street. By 1912, Andrew was no longer in the picture. Whether he had passed away or simply had moved is unclear. However, his (probable) brothers Howard and William E. continued to reside at 1144 Hanover Street. Howard's contracting business specialized in cementing, excavating, and sand", with William serving as a "teamster" for the company. Neither the Della's residence nor the family's general occupation



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1206

Site Name: Marvista Locus B

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

19th & 20th century possible night soil staging area

Unknown

changed for the next quarter of a century. The 1937 Baltimore Directory shows that Howard Della still owned and occupied the Hanover Street house, and that he continued to be engaged in the general construction business as a "concrete contractor". Howard Della died in 1951, leaving his estate to his son George W. Della.

George W.H. Pierson was designated as a tenant-in-common with Howard Della when the pair purchased William Della's Anne Arundel properties in 1917. The Pierson and Della families retained joint possession of the combined tracts until their heirs sold the land to a development company in 1951.

George W.H. Pierson was associated with the Baltimore firm of Henry Pierson and Sons, Builders and Contractors, whose construction business operated in a block of buildings located on Olive Street in Baltimore. In 1908, Henry Pierson, presumably the founder of the business and probably George's father was still alive and lived two houses down from his father on Hanover Street. A second son, J. Henry Pierson was also associated with the company.

Polk's 1917 Baltimore City Directory continued to list the firm of Henry Pierson & Sons as "Contractors and Builders". An advertisement in the directory indicates that George W.H. Pierson had assumed sole proprietorship of the business, despite the fact that the corporate name remained unchanged. His home at 1013 Hanover Street, Baltimore was less than 2 blocks from the residence of Howard R. Della. Although George eventually moved his residence to a location on North Charles Street, his profession continued to be that of a "building contractor" as late as 1937.

When George Pierson died in 1943, he bequeathed his properties, including his share of the Anne Arundel tracts, to his wife Margaret, who in turn left them to (probable) son, Kirvan. Kirvan Pierson was the heir who, jointly with George W. Della, sold the former Anne Arundel tracts in 1951.

Phase I work at 18AN1206 identified an artifact concentration approximately 120 m by 80 m in size. Phase II fieldwork was conducted in 2003 and entailed the excavation of ten 1 X 1 m test units. These test units were placed across the site to test artifact concentrations identified during the Phase I shovel testing. The test units were excavated in 20 cm levels within natural stratigraphy. Overall, few stratigraphic breaks in the fill deposits were noted in the field. All soils were screened through hardware cloth. Soil characteristics, including color and texture, were recorded on standardized forms using standard nomenclature and procedures. All visible features were sampled sufficiently to define their nature and if possible, their cultural affiliation. Each feature was drawn to scale and photographed.

All of the test units revealed evidence for fill horizons of varying depths. Six of the test units revealed one to four layers of dark, highly organic fill, with dense concentrations of artifacts, underlain by subsoil. The cultural fill horizons in these units extended to depths of 54 to 80 cm below the surface. Three other units contained a dark, highly organic fill layer underlain by a lighter soil horizon and then by one to three dark, highly organic fill layers to depths of 65 – 107 cm below surface, down to subsoil. The final unit was unlike all of the others and appears to represent post-depositional disturbance by bottle hunters.

The artifact assemblage from the 10 test units excavated during the 2003 Phase II investigations included a total of 14,262 items. The Phase II assemblage consisted of 69 activity items (23 ceramic items, 2 glass objects, 5 composite items, 23 pieces of lamp glass, 11 kiln furniture items, and 5 other objects), 2,759 architectural artifacts (139 brick, 7 mortar, 2 plaster, 1,662 window glass, 46 cut nails, 220 wire nails, 658 unidentified nails, 13 manufactured items, 6 wood objects, and 6 other architectural items), 44 clothing items, 35 furniture objects (34 ceramic, 1 metal), 9,017 kitchen-related artifacts (1,767 ceramic sherds, 5,924 pieces of kitchen glass, 1,274 faunal remains, and 52 other kitchen items), 12 arms objects, 20 personal artifacts, and 2,306 miscellaneous objects (79 ceramic, 526 glass, 1,427 glass artifacts, 19 organic items, 54 manufactured objects, 173 stone pieces, 24 synthetic objects, and 4 composite items). The temporally diagnostic materials suggested that the deposition of the refuse at Site 18AN1206 occurred primarily during the late 1910s or early 1920s. The vertical distribution of temporally diagnostic artifacts in the fill layers demonstrated that there is no apparent chronological or functional distinction between materials deposited across the site.

The period of site deposition appears to correspond to the property ownership of William Della (1903-1917) and/or Howard R. Della and George W.H. Pierson (1917-1951). These owners were associated with sand mining, excavating, concrete contracting, and building. The Anne Arundel County soil survey indicates that the property has been subjected to sand and gravel mining. It can also be documented archivally that, prior to his acquisition of the property, Howard R. Della had worked in the "sink-cleaning" business during the first decade of the 20th century. Therefore, several possible scenarios can account for the formation of the site.

The site was likely generated by an episode of sand/gravel excavation, followed by (1) the dumping of construction/demolition debris from Baltimore, or (2) the deposition of nightsoil from "sink-cleaning" operation in Baltimore, or (3) some combination of both (1) and (2). It seems most probable that the property was used by the Della family as part of their sand mining operations, followed by the dumping within the site area of materials extracted during "sink-cleaning" operations. This interpretation assumes that the Dellas or colleagues may have continued in the privy clean-out business after they stopped advertising such activities in 1908.

Additional investigations were carried out at 18AN1206 in August and September of 2003, focusing on a historic wharf that was present on the south side of Marley Creek, at the foot of a sloping hill. The study was undertaken to assist the Marvista developers in satisfying the responsibilities of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). A pier/marina was planned for the development of Marley Creek and would entail impacts on an existing wharf and dredging and/or placements of pilings in the creek.

Testing of the wharf at 18AN1206 entailed detailed mapping of the extant structure, the excavation of four shovel test pits, probing and examination of exposed timber scantlings and joinery to ascertain the manner of the wharf's construction.

The historic wharf structure lies on the south side of Marley Creek, at the foot of a long sloping hill. A sunken dirt road leads down to the wharf. A large washout area has cut through the structure, causing the collapse of the east side of the wharf on the landward side, and washed away both fill and timber structure. The resultant deposit of both wharf fill and soil from the hillside also caused the shallowing of water east of the wharf. The west side of the wharf on the landward side had also collapsed and a good deal of the fill had been eroded away by tide and storm. Exterior side timbers had been lost due to ice rafting during unusually cold winters. An intact strip of fill/land survived in the middle of the wharf.

The end of the wharf structure was capped with a layer of non-reinforced concrete measuring approximately 30.5 cm (1 ft) thick. This cap had collapsed and fragmented as a result of the loss of material through erosion from beneath the cap. The concrete cap was rectangular and laid on fill. As the external sides of the wharf fell away over time, the fill washed out from beneath the pad and caused it to collapse and fragment on all except the central landward side. The wharf has been used as a fishing stage in modern times. Line and hooks, some of them still packaged, lures, and a functional fishing reel were all found on



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1206

Site Name: Marvista Locus B

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

19th & 20th century possible night soil staging area

Unknown

the site.

The wharf at Marley Creek exhibits two distinct construction events. An early period wharf structure may be dated to the terminal 19th century, based on cultural material found within the lower levels of the four shovel test pits. It was constructed as a projecting crib wharf. These are generally rectangular structures, typically projecting out at 90° from the land and consisting of solid exterior bulkheads held together with crossties that may sometimes be laid on and supported by longitudinal stringers. These cribs are then backfilled to create the surface of the wharf. This early wharf corresponds closely to the end of the period when the property was owned by a James Spencer (1871-1884). It is thought that the wharf was probably built by Spencer and used to ship both farm and forest products to Baltimore on his sloop Greyhound. Following his death in 1884, Spencer's heirs may have continued to use the wharf until the bank foreclosed on the property in 1896.

An addition, or later period wharf, was added onto the north end of the original wharf, most likely around 1903 when Baltimore contractor William R. Della purchased the property. Though there are no definitive diagnostic features or otherwise definitively dateable evidence for this assumption, the nature of his business would have made it very advantageous to carry out such an extension. William R. Della would have used the wharf for the loading of sand extracted from the adjacent property and possibly for bringing in the nightsoil deposits found in nearby Site 18AN1206. Such cargoes are heavy, requiring a sturdy platform for wagons or trucks. Such a cargo would cause a vessel or barge to draw more water than farm produce and so the added length of the wharf would have provided Della's cargo carriers more depth than the previous wharf. During the second period of wharf construction, some disturbance of the upper fill of the original wharf occurred.

Howard Della with his partner George Pierson purchased the wharf and adjacent lot of land in 1917 after he moved into the sand and concrete contracting business himself. It is likely that motorized vehicles were used on the wharf during this period. He was in this business as late as 1937 and may well have been actively employed in his trade until his death in 1951, at which time the wharf and adjacent property were sold to the Marley Creek Development Company by the heirs.

Artifacts recovered during the testing at the wharf included 2 iron rods, 9 pieces of window glass, 1 cut nail, 4 wire nails, 7 unidentified nails, 1 iron screw, 9 ceramic sherds (5 whiteware sherds, 2 porcelain sherds, and 2 gray stoneware sherds), 33 pieces of bottle glass, 1 piece of milk glass, 5 pieces of shell, a piece of slate, 2 pieces of slag, a piece of plastic, and 3 pieces of iron.

While the archival and archeological investigations leave it unclear whether Site 18AN1206 ever was a processing area for nightsoils from Baltimore, these investigations do suggest that the site represents a primary dumping of materials from Baltimore privies, probably late in the sequence of such disposal from an urban context. The late date for the primary deposit, however, reduces the overall value of this assemblage. In addition, although the wharf at 18AN1206 (18AN1226) is reasonably intact, it was determined to be ineligible for listing on the NRHP under all of the NHPA criteria. The site, as a whole (both 18AN1206 and 18AN1226), was not considered a significant enough archeological resource to proceed to a Phase III level of investigation and approvals were granted for the housing development to proceed. Today, several home lots sit atop the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002455, 97001729, 97002122