



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1257

Site Name: Idlewild Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 17th to early 18th century eroded plantation site; 19th century artifact scatter from nearby site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9310

Longitude -76.6347

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 2-6%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Flat Creek

Saltwater

Freshwater

Ocean

Stream/river

Estuary/tidal river

Swamp

Tidewater/marsh

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 457 m

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

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? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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

Bldg or foundation

Isolated burial

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 Faunal - April Beisaw



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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"/>
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		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Creamware	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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)	<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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input 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

Numerous 17th and 18th century pits and postholes/molds

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 51	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 1248	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 3242
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 63	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1569
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	daub borrow pits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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: +/- 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 Anne Arundel Planning and Zoning?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Idlewild Farm Site (18AN1257) is the eroded remains of a late 17th to early 18th century plantation (as well as a re-deposited 19th century artifact scatter) north of Davidsonville in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated at the base of a knoll near the headwaters of Flat Creek, a tributary of the South River. At the time of the site's discovery, it was in pasturage with the surrounding landscape being rolling hills and some prominent knolls. Soils at the site are predominantly Howell silt loams and Marr fine sandy loams.

The site was part of the Davidsonville crossroads agricultural community throughout the latter half of the 19th century and much of the 20th century. It was part of a tract called Chaney's Resolution and the division of the land in the 1880s refers to several of the original courses of that tract. The site area is part of a 333 acre holding of William G. Mackall, and that was divided among his heirs in a pair of consolidated equity cases. Mackall appears on maps from 1860 and 1878 having purchased the 336 acre Prospect Hill farm from Thomas R. Kent, his wife Mary Dryden Kent, and from Thomas G. and Adeline M. Pratt. Mackall also purchased the 200 acre Stockett's Place farm (including a gristmill) abutting Prospect Hill farm on the north on August 2, 1868, and a 29.5 acre wooded tract adjoining the mill from Thomas R. Kent and others in 1870.

The agricultural schedules of the federal censuses for 1850 and 1870 indicate that William Mackall grew no tobacco. He grew winter wheat, maize, oats, and some potatoes. He had 7 milk cows in both of those years, swine (30, then only 10), and sheep (38 in 1850 and 64 in 1870, yielded 210 and 400 pounds of wool, respectively). Sixteen enslaved Africans, including 10 males between the ages of 4 and 45 and six females between 12 and 50, provided the labor in 1850. In 1870, after passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution, Mackall paid \$1600 in wages. The files stemming from two consolidated equity cases heard in Circuit Court after Mackall's death are quite thick and may contain information on farm tenancy or share-cropping. The file contains a remarkably well-preserved, full-sized broadside that not only advertises the auction of Mackall's two farms and mill at the courthouse steps on January 16, 1883, but provides a lithograph of Mackall's house. An 1882 survey mentions only two barns and a dividing wall between them in the area. The 1882 broadside advertising the sale of Prospect Hill farm notes a dwelling, a barn, cornhouse, and "other outbuildings".

Most of the 300+ acres in which the site lies was purchased by Philip H. Israel from Mackall's heirs in the 1880s. By virtue of a default on his mortgage, held by Farmer's National Bank, attorney James Revell of Baltimore sold lots sub-divided out of the parcel. The portion of the land which includes the site was sold to Frank and Lily Bielder in 1897. From them it passed to Ernest X. and Marble F. Le Seure of Illinois in 1909 and then to R. Lee Slinguff of Baltimore City and local resident William W. Townsend Sr. Mr. Townsend would receive his partner's undivided one-half interest in 1931. The tract remained in the Townsend family until it was sold in the late 20th century, eventually to be acquired by developers.

In 2004, Caruso Homes, Inc. began making preparations to subdivide two parcels on which the site is situated into single-family home lots. Since Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning regulations stipulate consideration for archeological and historical resources as part of the subdivision review process, site 18AN1257 was considered a subject property. The planned residential subdivision was to include 6 lots, all of which were in open meadow at the time. An archeological survey of the parcel in September of 2004 identified an early historic site, portions of it possibly dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The Phase I work entailed shovel testing at 19.8 m (65 ft) intervals. This led to the identification of an artifact cluster warranting further investigation. Artifacts recovered included a handwrought nail, 3 machine-cut nails, a slotted wood screw, fragments of under-fired common red brick (minimally estimated at 2 pieces), 2 pieces of whiteware, 1 piece of gray stoneware, 2 white clay pipe stems, a gunflint (possibly French), a piece of lead shot. Limited Phase II testing was then conducted, which consisted initially of close interval shovel-testing every 7.62 m (25 ft) on transects spaced 15.24 (50 ft) apart. A total of 44 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated during the study. This effort revealed a domestic site dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries, with a low density of artifacts. Since larger excavation units held little promise of recovering significant data, mechanical stripping of the plowzone was conducted. This revealed a number of cultural features, including three pits ranging in size from approximately 1.524 to 2.44 meters (5 to 8 ft) in diameter. Several post holes (some poorly defined and none forming a clear pattern) were also encountered. Artifacts collected from the spoil and exposed surfaces were few, but included a rimsherd of a North Devon sgrafitto pan, a rimsherd of a British brown mug, a painted white earthenware flatware rimsherd, and a handwrought nail. A small, thin sherd of green vessel glass and one white clay pipestem fragment with a 7/64" diameter bore were collected from the top of an ill-defined posthole.

No additional information on the 2004 studies is available at MHT. But, based on the Phase I and II findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended if the site could not be avoided. The site occupies the core of one lot, a lot that was considered integral to the successful subdivision of the larger parcel. Avoidance was not feasible and the development firm requested a Phase III data recovery, which was carried out in the late spring and early summer of 2006.

Phase III work began with the gradall stripping of the plowzone from approximately .75 acres of area. The principal investigator flagged features as they appeared in the field. The field crew then cleaned, documented, and excavated the individual features. Feature documentation included measured drawings (plans and two or more profiles), photographs, and technical notes. Feature soils with little or no ash and few apparent artifacts (a small number of proveniences) were dry-screened in the field through hardware cloth. All ashy soils encountered in pit features were removed from the site and water-screened through nested hardware cloth and then window mesh. Then the residue was floated for later archeobotanical extraction. Given the volume of burned material encountered, ultimately only a sample was examined with the remainder prepared for permanent storage. All artifacts were then cleaned and cataloged.

Mechanical stripping exposed 10 cultural features. Two might have been structural postholes, one a possible cellar hole, and the remaining seven were borrow pits. Several features clustered in the southwest corner of the site were severely truncated by erosion and likely represent the locus of a dwelling. Features in the northeast corner of the site appear to have served as small borrow and daub-mixing pits. The central feature, Feature 1, likely was a borrow pit used for initial construction of an earthfast house. Artifacts were relatively few, but clearly date the site to the last quarter of the 17th century to the first decade or so of the 18th century. Bone preservation was poor in light of acidic soils and very little oyster shell. Much of the recovered bone (71% of 3,234 pieces) was burned, accounting for its survival. Unburned bone tended to be spongy in the field and highly friable. The ashy soils yielded a great deal of charcoal, including carbonized beans and maize.

Artifacts recovered during Phase III work at 18AN1257 included 5 activity items (4 pieces of iron wire and an iron buckle - possibly tackle), 1,240 architectural artifacts (2 pieces of brick, 706 burned daub fragments, 95 unburned daub fragments, 186 handwrought nails, and 251 unidentified nails), 4 clothing items (a glass button & 3 copper alloy pins), 2 furniture items (tacks), 3,319 kitchen-related artifacts, a personal item (a wound bead), 97 tobacco pipe fragments, 61



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arms objects (8 pieces of lead shot & 53 English gun flint flakes), and 1,569 miscellaneous objects (1 unidentified white glass object, 35 pieces of unidentified iron, an lead object, and 1,532 unidentified items from non-feature contexts). The kitchen assemblage included 28 ceramic sherds (2 North Devon gravelly, 2 North Devon Sgraffito, 1 white granite earthenware, 5 Rhenish stoneware, 1 British Brown stoneware, 2 Westerwald stoneware, and 2 miscellaneous stoneware, 2 whiteware, 1 redware), 49 pieces of vessel glass (29 case bottle, 13 hand-tooled vessel glass, and 7 other vessel glass), 2 iron knives, 2 spoons, 3,037 animal bones, 197 pieces of oyster shell, 4 maize fragments and lots of common beans.

Idlewild Farm appears to be an essentially single component site with only a few artifacts in the plowzone emanating from a mid 19th century locus on the knoll to the south. The occupation probably dates between 1680 and 1710, or so and appears to represent a working plantation of that time. Archival research to date has not revealed who this site is likely associated with. Severe erosion has unfortunately destroyed the footprints of all buildings on site. However, recovered burned daub and exposed borrow pits clearly demonstrate that there was at least one dwelling (a heated building) on site. There is weak evidence that the building survived long enough to require replacement of at least one post. The daub and pits indicate that it stood long enough to warrant several repairs to the wattle and daub hearth. The pits yielded useful data on dietary patterns, but the artifacts were too few for any sophisticated analyses of consumer choices and social segregation and separation. Artifact data are adequate for broadly dating the site, but not for dating the individual features. Very low artifact density in the plowzone, likely a product of severe erosion, precluded plowzone sampling and the search for activity areas.

Following the Phase III study, nothing survived of the Idlewild Farm site below ground. Therefore, no significant archeological site would be adversely affected by construction of the new residential development. Permission was granted for the development to proceed, but it appears that an economic downturn may have halted plans. No housing development has been constructed, but regardless, Site 18AN1257 does not appear to retain any additional research value.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002997