



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1453

Site Name: Landsdale Road Tenant House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Essex Farm Cottage (AA-236A)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid 19th century possible tenant house or slave quarter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code: WaB2-C2

Latitude: 38.8711

Longitude: -76.5808

Physiographic province: Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation: m

Site slope: 2-12%

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): South Fork of Muddy Creek

- | 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: 161 m

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

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

slave/tenant house

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: 18AN1453

Site Name: Landsdale Road Tenant House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Essex Farm Cottage (AA-236A)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid 19th century possible tenant house or slave quarter

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Palmer	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Guilford	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Vernon	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Calvert	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Levanna	<input type="text" value="0"/>	

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Watson	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Mockley	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Vinette	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Page	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Shepard	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Keyser	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Townsend	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Minguannan	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Sullivan Cove	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Moyaone	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Potomac Crk	<input type="text" value="0"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Stoneware	
Earthenware		English Brown	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Astbury	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Borderware	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Buckley	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Rhenish	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Creamware	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Ironstone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Jackfield	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Mn Mottled	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text" value="0"/>
North Devon	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Pearlware	<input type="text" value="0"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Ground stone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Rimsherds	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
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	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="text" value="12"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="text" value="29"/>	
Architectural	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Furniture	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Arms	<input type="text" value="1"/>	
Clothing	<input type="text" value="1"/>	
Personal items	<input type="text" value="2"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="text" value="4"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="text" value="10"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features			
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mill raceway	<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: 18AN1453

Site Name: Landsdale Road Tenant House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Essex Farm Cottage (AA-236A)

Historic

Brief

Description:

Mid 19th century possible tenant house or slave quarter

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN1453, also known as the Landsdale Road Tenant House or Essex Farm Cottage, is a mid-19th century possible tenant house or slave quarter, is located on a hillslope roughly 0.10 mile from the South Fork of Muddy Creek in Anne Arundel County. The site is in the middle of the 390-acre Essex Farm; soils are Westphalia fine sandy loams. Slopes on site range between 2% and 12% and the elevation is 60 ft to 72 ft above mean sea level.

Dr. Franklin Waters' Essex Farm appears on the Martenet (1861) and Hopkins (1878) atlas maps of Anne Arundel County. Ferdinand Battee patented 300 acres as Essex in 1663, and his heirs retained the land until 1822. At that point the Franklin-Waters-Lansdale families acquired the land and they retained it through the 20th century. Physician Franklin Waters (aged 43) resided in the Vansville District of Prince George's County at least until 1850. He lived there with his wife Rachel (né Franklin, aged 40), four children ranging in age from 4 to 16, and three young adult female relatives. Waters valued his personal wealth at \$13,500, including nine mulatto and black slaves aged 3 to 78. Dr. Waters acquired the interests of his wife's sisters in Essex over several years, and moved to the farm in 1851 (Pitard 2006: 7), at which time he built the main house. Documents pertaining to the house and farm allegedly existed within the house and are presumed destroyed as a result of the catastrophic fire of 2008. The Landsdale Road Tenant House may have been built at the same time as the house or soon thereafter.

The dwelling appears always to have been occupied by African Americans, allegedly slaves prior to emancipation and farm laborers and domestic servants afterwards. Farm manager Marjorie Skinner (born 1932), who has lived on the farm most of her life, knew or knew of the various occupants from the 1930s: John and Sophie Johnson (1936/7), Jim Green, Joyce Sellman, James Hopkins, and William (Henry?) and Martha Brent whose niece, Debbie Randall, was the last tenant. Martha Brent and Debbie Randall both worked as maids for the farmers, the Lansdales.

Marjorie Skinner described the house as very small with two rooms on the first floor—a kitchen and bedroom—and a single room above. The stairs to the loft separated the kitchen from the bedroom. She noted that the building was extensively remodeled and a bathroom ell added 15 years earlier (c. 1995). I suspect that those changes occurred much earlier.

One photograph taken by George McDaniel shows the extant outhouse now surrounded by forest. It is constructed of milled lumber and wire nails and rests, although out of plumb, on concrete block piers. McDaniel's (1976) description of the structure and its interior is authoritative and likely the only detailed source. He mislabeled some of the facades and the correct ones appear in the captions below. The color photographs date to September 2007.

The fenestrations in the 1976 photos consists primarily of six-over-six double-hung windows (door does not appear clearly). Those windows were replaced, probably during the rehabilitation effort mentioned by Marjorie Skinner. The fireplace and chimney also were replaced with a concrete block chimney designed to vent an oil or propane heating plant. The bathroom ell clearly existed at least since 1976 and it was clad in the same style board and batten siding used around the house and at the farmhouse. Both sets of photographs depict mortar-laid brick piers. In more recent years the occupants added plywood and corrugated metal skirting.

The outhouse, not hitherto described, is constructed of 8-by-1 vertical planks and 2-by-4 studs. It is 3.9 ft by 3.9 ft with a shed roof that is approximately 8 ft from ground to eave in the front, 6 ft in the rear. The structure tilts more than 15° to the north, exposing concrete block piers. The door remains affixed only by the upper butterfly hinge which appears to be attached to the door frame with pointed, slotted screws.

Historian George McDaniel had recorded the building in 1976 and described it as a dwelling occupied by slaves prior to emancipation (1852-1865) and subsequently by a succession of tenants, most if not all of whom worked on the surrounding Essex Farm or in the nearby farmhouse. The building was deemed highly significant as one of a diminishing, if uncounted, number of surviving slave dwellings in Anne Arundel County.

In 2009 a tree fell on the Landsdale Road Tenant House (AA-236A) effectively destroying the building. The owner removed the ruin without applying for, and receiving, the required demolition permit. The Office of the County Archaeologist, therefore, did not have the opportunity to comment on this action.

The Office of the County Archaeologist requested an archaeological investigation to partially mitigate the loss of information from demolition and removal, stipulating the following tasks:

1. A comprehensive historic context and archival research study for the parcel as it relates to the lost 19th-century resources and related land ownership;
2. A Phase I archaeological survey of the documented boundaries of AA-236A;
3. A detailed site plan of existing structures, ruins or archaeological remnants, outbuildings, and associated landscape features within the area of impact; and
4. A Phase III level investigation of the Tenant House/ Slave Cabin designed in coordination with the Anne Arundel County archaeologist to explore the ante- and post-bellum history of the site and specifically, to study the architecture and material culture of enslaved populations and tenant farmers in the 19th and early 20th century.

No previous archaeological investigation had been undertaken and, although archaeological deposits should have been associated with the standing structure, the extent and integrity of archaeological deposits had not determined prior to demolition.

Surveyors visited the site on April 27, 2010. The surface clearly had been graded and restored. Only a few small scraps of lumber and brick were evident, along with a shallow poured concrete pier that had been displaced during demolition and remains the only obvious clue that a building stood at this spot.

In the area around the building's footprint the surface appeared to be very sandy. This sand is moderately coarse and mixed with silt. It is very different from the fine sandy loams and clays described for the area. My initial impression of the site was that the demolition crew had conducted a thorough removal of the structure, including grubbing and raking and removal of debris. Demolition, grubbing, and debris removal further diminish hopes for encountering intact deposits.

Shovel testing was undertaken on May 21, 2010. Test units were excavated on 21 and 24 May, 2010. Of 68 shovel tests, 29 yielded domestic artifacts, all of which could be attributed to the 20th century. Shovel testing failed to identify features that might provide further architectural details, or midden areas that might illuminate consumption patterns and other strategies of slaves and 19th-century tenants. Required to excavate a minimum two 5 ft by 5 ft units, Gibb Consulting opted to place one immediately outside of the structure's footprint, as staked, to sample some refuse between the house and ravine. They excavated the second inside of the southwest corner of the building's footprint, and expanded the latter unit with a 2.5 ft by 2.5 ft unit to recover information on the brick pier and to seek a cellar.

Unit 1 produced decidedly late 20th-century domestic refuse that was produced by the Brents and their niece, Debbie Randall. The midden survived demolition and grading, probably because of its close proximity to the tree line and the ravine. The fact that the late 20th-century material occurred in thin deposits on the undisturbed B-horizon and earlier material apart from some machine-cut nails from the demolition, suggests that the surface had been severely eroded prior to demolition. This finding also raises the possibility of a 'swept' yard, a custom more commonly encountered in southern Virginia and farther south. Frequent sweeping of yards prevented not only household refuse and animal excrement from accumulating, but it also reduced dust and mud around the house, creating more usable living space out of doors and less dust and mud to track into the house.

Unit 2 revealed only two strata. Stratum 1 is loose sand fill (10YR6/6), ranging in thickness from 0.5 ft to 1.4 ft in the northwest corner, overlying Stratum 2, a 7.5YR5/6 clay with sand mottles (Figure 5-3). The mottles appear to be tread marks from a rubber-tired excavator or loader. The considerably greater thickness of the sand in the northwest corner marks a point at which a toothed excavator bucket dug more deeply into the clay, presumably to remove a building. Gouges from the toothed bucket were irregular, probably from sideways movement of the bucket, but remained discernable. A thin smear of dark soil



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1453

Site Name: Landsdale Road Tenant House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Essex Farm Cottage (AA-236A)

Historic

Brief
Description:

Mid 19th century possible tenant house or slave quarter

Unknown

and rusted iron noted in the southwest corner of the unit was further exposed with a 2.5 ft by 2.5 ft extension of the unit in the expectation that part of one of the piers or its footer survived; but the deposit proved very thin and ephemeral.

Shovel testing and test units failed to uncover any architectural data or evidence of trash middens dating earlier than the late 20th century. The field findings suggest the possibility of a swept yard, at least at the east end of the building, but demolition, cleanup, and surface restoration preclude my drawing any conclusions from the scanty negative evidence.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008670, Site Files