



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1519

Site Name: Ferguson

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Wooddell/Savage Property; Ferguson Site at Londontown

Historic

Brief Description:

Mid-Late 18th century domestic site; 19th century domestic site; Early 20th century house

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code AuD,AuB

Latitude 38.9383 Longitude -76.5287

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-15%

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

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) South River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 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  Y

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900  Y

ca. 1675 - 1720  Y ca. 1900 - 1930  Y

ca. 1720 - 1780  Y Post 1930  Y

ca. 1780 - 1820  Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American  Asian American

African American  Unknown  Y

Anglo-American  Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component  Misc. ceremonial

Village  Rock art

Hamlet  Shell midden

Base camp  STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave  Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound  Fish weir

Cairn  Production area

Burial area  Unknown

Other context

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

### Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

## 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		0	
Clovis	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Susquehana	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Palmer	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Vernon	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Piscataway	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Calvert	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Le Croy	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Guilford	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Brewerton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Otter Creek	<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"/>	Shepard	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Keyser	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Townsend	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Watson	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Mockley	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Page	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="text" value="0"/>		

## Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text" value="6"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text" value="0"/>	English Brown	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Borderware	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text" value="241"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Buckley	<input type="text" value="0"/>	North Devon	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Creamware	<input type="text" value="117"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text" value="93"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text" value="4"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text" value="67"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay		0	
Flaked stone	<input type="text" value="17"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ground stone	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Stone bowls	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text" value="0"/>		
Rimsherds	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		65	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text" value="1038"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="text" value="13"/>		
Glass (all)	<input type="text" value="1943"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	<input type="text" value="4298"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="text" value="1937"/>		
Arms	<input type="text" value="28"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	<input type="text" value="12"/>	Misc.	<input type="text" value="935"/>		
Personal items	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Historic

Brief Description:

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Ferguson site (18AN1519) was home to domestic and commercial structures, as well as a ferry landing and associated road / causeway, from the 18th century to the present. It is located on the South River of Maryland's western shore, in the town of Edgewater on Londontown Court. The site was a part of the original colonial seaport of London Town. The property is currently a residence with most of the land being a grass lawn.

The Ferguson site (18AN1519) is located within the original town of London, founded 1683 by the Act for the Advancement of Trade. Occupying Lots 90 and 91, the site is a mere 500 feet from Historic London Town and Gardens (which preserves 23 acres of the original 100 acre town) and the circa 1760s William Brown House, a National Historic Landmark. Most of the early deeds for the sale of Lots 90 and 91 are not extant because the records were destroyed by a fire in 1704. Unfortunately a few gaps still exist, but the general outlines are discernible.

A 1719 deed described Lot 91 as being laid out for Mary Macklefresh. She and her husband Benjamin Freeman conveyed the lot to Samuel Peele, a prominent merchant in London Town. Peele died intestate by 1733, leaving a brother William Peele, also a merchant in London Town, as his only heir in Maryland. Samuel Peele owned substantial land, including nine lots in London Town. In 1749 William Peele sold Lot 91 to Alexander Ferguson, a tailor newly established in London Town.

A 1704 deed described Lot 90 as being formerly possessed by Richard Jones, Sr., perhaps the original owner. Col. Thomas Taylor, a Marylander who had moved back to London, England, was the owner by 1697. Samuel Chew, acting as an attorney for Taylor, sold the lot to David Macklefresh, an innkeeper, in 1704. Macklefresh acquired six more lots in London Town in his lifetime and was living there, but not on Lot 90, at the time of his death in 1711. He bequeathed Lot 90 to his youngest son Thomas Macklefresh. In 1727 he sold the lot to Dr. Richard Hill. Hill was a physician, businessman, botanist, and landowner who lived in London Town for several years. Business failures and indebtedness forced Hill to sell his properties before leaving Maryland in 1739. The mechanism used for the transfer were mortgage deeds executed to John Galloway in 1737, meaning that land titles would become vested in Galloway if Hill failed to pay the debts outlined in the document. Galloway then assigned his interests to Daniel Dulaney and Dr. Charles Carroll. None of these records listed Lot 90, although other London Town lots were specified

No documentation for the conveyance of Lot 90 after the acquisition by Dr. Hill has been found, but it is known that Alexander Ferguson had obtained the lot some time before his death in 1770.

Ferguson was a tailor who first lived in Annapolis and then moved his business and family to London Town around the time he purchased Lot 91 in 1749. He also established an ordinary on the lot, obtaining his first license in 1756. In 1757 and 1764 Ferguson acquired six more lots in the same general area as Lots 90 and 91. He conveyed one of them to his son Andrew in 1767. Thus, when Alexander Ferguson died in 1770 he owned seven lots in the town, including Lot 90 for which the means of acquisition remains unknown. In his will he bequeathed the dwelling house and Lot 91 to his wife Elizabeth for her life. All other land, consisting of lots in London Town and Annapolis, was to be sold by the executors. In 1772 Elizabeth Ferguson purchased Lots 90 and 57, located to the east of Lots 90 and 91, from the estate of her husband. She continued to operate the ordinary through 1773 and the tailor business. She remained a resident of the town and owned the three lots through at least 1783.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, after the town became less commercially important, most lots were consolidated and many converted into farms. James Larimore was one of the individuals who accumulated several lots between 1801 and 1810, including the William Brown house and ten acres ultimately sold to the county for use as an almshouse. Some of the deeds mentioned lot numbers, and others did not. None of them specified Lots 90 or 91, but later documents clearly included the land encompassing these areas.

In 1825 Larimore conveyed his lots in London Town, except for the almshouse property, to John Stevens to hold in trust for himself and his son James Larimore, Jr. Five years later the three of them sold the accumulated lots to Jacob H. Slemaker, after they had been surveyed as one parcel totaling 58 ¼ acres which encompassed a ferry landing. For many years before then a ferry had been operating along the shoreline of the South River, separate from the public one run by William Brown in the 18th century.

Slemaker farmed the land and ran the ferry until his death in 1837. He bequeathed the farm, ferry boat, Negro rower, and half the ferry proceeds to his daughter Emeline Smith. Another daughter, Elizabeth Duval, received the other half of the ferry income, ferry boat, and land on the north side of the South River. In 1847 Emeline Smith and husband James B., residents of Baltimore City, transferred the land in trust to Joseph J. Speed who shortly thereafter sold it to Josias H. Hanson. The property was described as London Town Farm, consisting of 80 acres and improved by a large dwelling house, storehouse, stable, barn, outbuildings, and wind mill. The deeds included the ferry boat and half the income of the ferry operation.

Ownership of the farm and the ferry changed hands several times between 1855 and 1857. Facing financial difficulties Hanson and his wife in 1855 conveyed the property to two trustees who sold it at auction to Francis H. Stockett. A new survey set the acreage at 66 ¾ acres. Thereafter ownership went to Samuel H. Dorsett and then to Jesse Walton who in 1857 sold the farm and ferry boat to John Walton.

John Walton died intestate in 1871 and his three sons divided the inherited lands among themselves the next year. Edward Walton acquired the London Town Farm, but the ferry was no longer being mentioned. Shortly thereafter Walton sold the land to Daniel W. Higgins. In 1897 Higgins conveyed the farm to Edith Frances Beltz, wife of Peter Jacob Beltz, residents of Buxton, ND. Two years later they transferred it to Thomas W. Fleet, a resident of Baltimore. The Fleet deed referenced the wharf and shore rights attached to the farm.

Fleet died intestate in 1905, leaving a widow Matilda A. Fleet and son A. Gordon Fleet. The son conveyed his interests in the farm to his mother in 1918. Within a few years Matilda A. Fleet began to subdivide the 66 ¾ acres. In 1933 she had 1.67 acres surveyed, the outline of which more or less follows the original lines of Lots 90 and 91, shown by the plat recorded with the subsequent deed. This parcel was sold to John G. Woelfel and wife Catherine V., and in 1941 they contracted to sell the parcel and house to Eric A. Savage and wife Margaret L. The Savages lived there while making the monthly payments and finally received a deed in 1947. Eric A. Savage died in 1980, and in 1999 Margaret L. Savage set up a living trust with her son Eric A. Savage, Jr. as successor trustee. She died in 2003, and in 2012 her son sold the property to James B. Wooddell and wife Nancy J.



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Prehistoric

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Historic

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Unknown

James and Nancy Wooddell contacted the Lost Towns Project shortly after acquiring the property to better understand the potential archaeological resources on their new parcel. Their enthusiasm and interest quickly turned the conversation to the possibilities of conducting formal excavations on their property. In May of 2013, Phase I testing began and the property and the Ferguson site (18AN1519) was recorded by Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project based on the discoveries thereof.

Phase I testing included 71 systematically dug STPs at 25 and 10 ft intervals. The recovery of wrought nails, white salt-glazed stoneware, white-slip salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, Rhenish stoneware, and various tobacco pipes, from shovel test pits dug at the site strongly indicates the presence of an 18th century foundation; the excavation of marble, brick, glass, and oyster midden pits further supports the existence of a building foundation on the Ferguson site (18AN1519). Other diagnostic artifacts have also been found, including whitewares and pearlwares, porcelain, and cut nails, all of which suggests an inhabitation of the same area into the 19th century. Lastly, a standing structure from the 1930s was still visible on the location of the site in 2013, which the Wooddells demolished in 2019.

Stratigraphic sampling of the site revealed a disparity in soil layers, indicating a heavily disturbed site in some places, which is obvious with the discovery of backfill layers containing foundation rubble, ceramics, glass, and nails, among other artifacts. In contrast to the heavily disturbed stratigraphic layers, some areas on the site were less disrupted, and the intact subsoil can be easily found within a half-foot to a foot of digging down. This supported the hypothesis of heavy, perhaps continuous rebuilding, at the site, which is not contemporaneous to any one period. At least two building phases were evident, given the artifactual assemblage collected; the later and most clearly identifiable phase was the early 20th century house that stood at the site, while the foundational evidence, in addition to 18th century diagnostic artifacts, excavated from Lots 90 and 91 was indicative of the 18th century Ferguson property. Furthermore, the soil types evident in the excavated stratigraphic layers included mostly sand loam and clay loam, with either pure clay or sand predominant in the lowest levels of the STPs under current investigation. Moreover, inclusions of ferrous soils have been identified in some STPs.

Phase II testing conducted by the Lost Towns Project in June of 2013 included the excavation of four units: two behind the house and two close to the edge of the South River. Phase I and II testing of the site revealed that a scant percentage of the site may have intact features beneath and intermixed with the array of fill horizons. A very small area in front of where the house stood in 2013 displayed a colonial component, evidenced by the artifact collection as well as the discovery of a post hole feature in an STP. The test units near the bank of the South River displayed a possible oyster shell foundation that may represent that of a structure depicted in an 1840s painting created from a view across the South River.

Between April 4 and May 4, 2016, Lost Towns Project staff returned to the site. Excavations were undertaken to discover more about the intact features near the South River in light of the fact that they were damaged by flooding during 2012 Hurricane Sandy and were still at risk of future damage via flooding. Research questions of the 2016 investigations were related to the historical information that could be derived from the features at the site, the present integrity of the features at the site, and the vulnerability of the features at the site to future flood damage. The investigations were not expansive enough to fully elucidate the use of this part of the Ferguson site (18AN1519) over time, but a few conclusions were drawn, particularly about the nineteenth century occupation.

The grid from the 2013 excavations was reestablished and used for plotting excavation units. In total, four 5 x 2.5 foot excavation units (EUs), one 6 x 2.5 foot excavation unit, one 4 x 3 foot excavation unit, and two shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated. STPs were placed where subsurface probing indicated abnormally hard surfaces. The nonstandard size of EUs was employed to best expose features uncovered in the 2013 excavations and by the two 2016 STPs. EUs and STPs were excavated via natural and cultural stratigraphic layers. Select features were partially excavated to investigate their vertical dimensions. Artifacts were processed and analyzed at the Anne Arundel County Archaeological Laboratory in Edgewater, Maryland.

The linear oyster and brick feature uncovered in EUs 5-8 extended roughly SSE for at least 33ft from its northern terminus in EU5. The southern end was not found. The surface of the northern 20ft consists of unarticulated brick bats and oyster shell while the southern portion consists primarily of layers of oyster shell over brick rubble and shell. A portion of this shell lens was excavated as F2 in EU8 and while the lens itself was quite shallow, further excavations revealed these deposits to be nearly 1ft thick. These lenses of shell and brick were nestled between several layers of fill and sheet wash and culturally sterile soil was still not encountered at 2.5ft below ground surface (BGS) when the groundwater inundated the unit. This lowest horizon revealed several pieces of rotting wood oriented in roughly the same direction as the overlying feature. Based on this information and the artifacts, it would seem as if this was once the road that led down to the ferry landing that required a tremendous amount of maintenance during the nineteenth century. Excavators postulated that the wood was added as a sort of corduroy log road very early in the nineteenth century, and a fork and a coral fragment were two interesting artifacts found just on top of it. The wood was found in a grey and clay matrix, suggesting it is subjected to frequent inundation from rising and falling groundwater.

The articulated brick and stone feature uncovered in EUs 9 and 10 appeared to be part of a structure. It was at least 17ft long and F3 dug at the southern end suggested that this foundation was robbed for building materials at some point. Diagnostics discovered in the layers surrounding the foundation support a mid-nineteenth century occupation. It seems likely that this foundation is a remnant of a building shown in the circa 1840 painting of the area. Interestingly, this was painted at a time when two daughters of the Slemaker family owned both the north and south ends of the ferry line (Emeline Smith on the Ferguson site (18AN1519) in the south, and her sister Elizabeth Duvall on the north). The amount of domestic artifacts, including several clothing-related items, recovered from EUs 9 and 10 suggest that this was an inhabited structure for ferry workers or even a custom house as opposed to an equipment shed. A substantial amount of faunal remains and pottery was recovered from EU10 Stratum 4, excavated around the foundation, further suggesting some sort of nineteenth century occupation. Given the similar diagnostics around the building and the nearby road, it seems likely that the artifacts found in the road fill washed there during use of the building.

The historical and archaeological importance of the Ferguson site (18AN1519) is relevant to a study of domestic establishments, as well as mercantile and business behaviors, in the 18th century. Ferguson's clothier and tailor institution was one of the earliest businesses to be established in the historic London Town area; further investigation of the site may reveal patterns concerning foundational and building practices of business establishments during this period. The 18th century occupations identified from excavation work completed on the Ferguson site can be instrumental in the development of interpretations concerning the early history of London Town. Also, the London Town Publik House, dating to the same period, is nearby (less than 500 meters), implying a further significance of the Ferguson site, given its close proximity to a clearly influential public institution; this underscores the potential importance of the Ferguson site as a location for the recovery of significant archaeological and historical data. From the recognition of certain domestic accouterments, such as ceramics and glassware, that are repetitive in the preserved material record, it is possible to gain an impression of those appliances that the 18th century inhabitants of the site may have preferred. Additionally, the prolific intact deposits found show great potential for expanding knowledge of post-colonial London



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Town. However the low lying nature of the site in direct proximity to the South River renders it vulnerable to inundation from rising seas above and rising groundwater levels below. Further investigations are recommended to expand our knowledge of this period of London Town's history. Portions of the site exhibit intact stratigraphy, retain integrity, and are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2015, in response to the tremendous damage caused by Hurricane Sandy, the National Park Service (NPS) directed grant funding to the affected East Coast states to "...preserve the historic and archaeological resources impacted by Hurricane Sandy... [and]...funding shall be used for the preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation and repair of historic properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy in federally declared disaster relief locations..." The Lost Towns Project, Inc. was awarded \$100,000 of this grant funding to conduct emergency excavation and documentation of five storm-damaged sites located throughout Anne Arundel County. The Ferguson Site was one of the five sites surveyed. Hurricane Sandy caused damage to the nearby site of London Town and we must conclude that it also negatively impacted Ferguson, particularly the deepest and oldest horizons. The Colonial and prehistoric horizons were not uncovered due to groundwater inundation and are most likely destroyed.

The portion of the site excavated in 2016 centered on the apparent 19th century component. It was used as a ferry landing since the late 17th century but few artifacts had been found that date to the Colonial time period.

The 2016 excavations revealed that portions of a nineteenth century ferry road and a related building are still intact, but rising sea levels and groundwater still threaten the buried resources. Two STPs and six test units (EUs) were completed as part of this work.

The linear oyster and brick feature uncovered in EUs 5-8 extends roughly SSE for at least 33ft from its northern terminus in EU5. The southern end was not found. The surface of the northern 20ft consists of unarticulated brick bats and oyster shell while the southern portion consists primarily of layers of oyster shell over brick rubble and shell. A portion of this shell lens was excavated as F2 in EU8 and while the lens itself was quite shallow, further excavations revealed these deposits to be nearly 1ft thick. These lenses of shell and brick were nestled between several layers of fill and sheet wash and culturally sterile soil was still not encountered at 2.5ft BGS when the groundwater inundated the unit. This lowest horizon revealed several pieces of rotting wood oriented in roughly the same direction as the overlying feature. Based on this information and the artifacts, it would seem as if this was once the road that led down to the ferry landing that required a tremendous amount of maintenance during the nineteenth century. Excavators postulated that the wood was added as a sort of corduroy road very early in the nineteenth century, and a fork and a coral fragment were two interesting artifacts found just on top of it. The wood was found in a gley and clay matrix, suggesting it is subjected to frequent inundation from rising and falling groundwater.

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The prolific intact deposits found show great potential for expanding knowledge of post-colonial London Town. However the low lying nature of the site in direct proximity to the South River renders it vulnerable to inundation from rising seas above and rising groundwater levels below. Further investigations are recommended to expand knowledge of this period of London Town's history.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002271, 95002798, 18AN1519 SF