



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN169

Site Name: Hancock's Resolution

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th century standing stone house

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code EoB

Latitude 39.1316

Longitude -76.4409

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation

Site slope 0-5%

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) Bodkin Creek

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 152 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

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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Dendrochronology, paint analysis



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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"/> 1

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

### Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/> 33			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
						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"/> 11	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"/> 2	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

18th and 19th century building features

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 155	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 22
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 161	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 338	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 56
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1850
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	charcoal conc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input 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 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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Hancock's Resolution (18AN169) is a late 18th century standing stone house, plantation outbuildings, and associated archeological remains near Pasadena, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on the eastern portion of Hog Neck peninsula, which juts out into the Chesapeake at its intersection with the Patapsco River. The topography of the area is generally flat and the immediate landscape consists of old fields/meadows surrounded by secondary forest and wetlands. Soils at the site are primarily Evesboro, Klej, and Rumford loamy sands.

The standing main house at Hancock's Resolution (MIHP# AA-129) is a two-story gambrel-roofed stone house with shed-roofed dormers and interior end chimneys. The original stone section of the building was constructed ca. 1785 by Stephen Hancock, Jr. A 1 1/2-story board-and-batten kitchen wing was built in 1855, and connected to the main block by a ca. 1900 frame hyphen. The simple one-room wing is covered with wooden shingles over the original board-and-batten siding. Stone and frame outbuildings also remain on-site, including a one-story gable-roofed stone dairy to the northwest of the house. A cemetery bearing Hancock family gravestones also lies on the property.

Hancock's Resolution is architecturally significant as one of the few existing 18th century stone dwellings in Anne Arundel County. After establishing the farmstead as a tobacco plantation in the 18th century, the Hancock family switched to truck farming, growing fruit and vegetables, in the 19th century. Its location near the water, less than 10 miles from Baltimore, provided convenient shipping of tobacco and other agricultural and marine products to Tidewater Maryland. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Hancock's Resolution underwent a thorough restoration in 2000 and is now open to the public as a historic park operated by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks in cooperation with the Friends of Hancock's Resolution, Inc.

The land upon which the house was constructed was part of a 100 acre tract surveyed for Davy Johnson in 1665 and patented as "Dividing Points". Adjoining this tract was a 300 acre parcel of land patented by a John Homewood in 1672 and called Homewood's Range. Sometime between 1700 and 1730, Homewood acquired Dividing Points and in 1730 he sold the combined 400 acres to William Worthington. That same year, Worthington leased the 400 acres to Benjamin Hammond. Documents show that three years later, in 1733, Hammond sold the remainder of his lease to William Hancock, Sr., to take effect December 1, 1734.

A Stephen Hancock is believed to be the first member of the Hancock family in America. He emigrated to Maryland as an indentured servant to one Thomas Vaughan, from whom he acquired his first 50 acres. He married a wealthy heiress named Rebecca Crouch, who was the daughter of a prominent planter in Annapolis named William Crouch. Stephen did not live at Hancock's Resolution and died in 1701. William Hancock, Sr. (who acquired the aforementioned lease of 400 acres in 1734) was the eldest son of Stephen and his wife, Rebecca. William Hancock and his son William, Jr. farmed the property for twenty years at which time a legal dispute arose concerning ownership of the 100 acres formally known as Dividing Points (on which 18AN169 sits).

Charles Homewood, apparently a relative of Thomas Homewood, applied for a warrant and resurveyed the 100 acres that originally had been purchased from Davy Johnson. The 100 acres were to be combined with 35 additional contiguous acres to create a tract to be known as "Heirusalem" (or Fair Jerusalem). Homewood assigned the rights to this tract to Thomas Jennings who formally patented Heirusalem in 1758. That same year, Jennings filed patent on 48 adjacent acres to be called "Peggie and Mollie's Delight". In 1758 Jennings also initiated an ejectment suit against Stephen Hancock, son of William, Sr., and a tenant on both Heirusalem and Peggie and Mollie's Delight. While this dispute was under litigation, Charles Homewood brought suit against Worthington to recover the 300 acres of Homewood's Range. In 1763, a provincial court settled the matter deciding against Homewood and for Jennings. Worthington retained Homewood's Range but Jennings became the new owner of Heirusalem (the largest part of which was originally Dividing Points) and the 48 acre tract called Peggie and Mollie's Delight. The decision in favor of Jennings would seem to have gone against Stephen Hancock in that he apparently was ejected from a portion of the property his father had leased (through Hammond) from Worthington. It was perhaps as a result of the ejectment that the Hancocks sold the remainder of their lease back to Worthington.

In 1766 Stephen Hancock bought from the heirs of Thomas Jennings the 48 acres of Peggie and Mollie's Delight and the 135 acres of Heirusalem, the latter tract containing Site 18AN169. To these tracts, the son of Stephen (also named Stephen) added 127.5 acres of what had been a part of Homewood's Range in 1790. Stephen combined that 127.5 acres with 67.5 additional vacant acres and patented "Hancock's Resolution" in 1793. Interestingly, the Hancock's came into possession of the land on which Site 18AN169 sits in 1766, when Stephen Hancock purchased Heirusalem. Heirusalem was adjacent to, but separate from, Hancock's Resolution. Hence, the site was never technically on the plantation which gave it its name. This does not, however, diminish the applicability of the name as it applies to a site which was also owned by the Hancock's and operated as their family farmstead/plantation.

It is unlikely that the Hancocks would have constructed a substantial structure, such as a stone house, on leased land. The 1793 Direct Federal Tax shows Stephen Hancock in ownership of a 2 storey stone house, and three outbuildings situated on two acres and valued at \$300. In addition, in 1789 Stephen mortgaged his property to Charles Ridgely. The records state that improvements had been made to the property, though a house is not mentioned by name. So, based on archival documentation the house was very likely built between 1766 and 1789. Architectural analyses have narrowed the date down further. MHT records state that a dendrochronological analysis in 1997 identified floor joist wood which was growing as a tree in the summer of 1783. Careful analysis of architectural details (construction form, nails used, etc. points to a construction date ca. 1785.

In 1800, Francis Hancock (Stephen's eldest son) purchased from his father 85 acres of the tract patented as Hancock's Resolution. In 1806, Stephen combined all of his holdings (Heirusalem, Peggie and Mollie's Delight, the remainder of Hancock's Resolution, and a portion of Homewood's Range) into a 409.5 acre tract called "Long Meadows". This tract was resurveyed and formally patented in 1807. Francis sold back to his father the 85 acres he purchased in 1800 and in turn bought 93 acres of Long Meadows (likely a legal maneuver to clear title).

Stephen died in 1809 and Francis bought interest to the land from his siblings and other heirs and obtained full ownership of Long Meadows by about 1820. In 1828 Francis sold 100 acres of Long Meadows to his son John. The property sold to John had upon it the stone house at 18AN169. This 100 acres was farmed by John and, upon his death in 1853, was deeded to his children. The property stayed within the family until the 1960s. John Henry Hancock sold off much of the 100 acre tract shortly before his death in 1962. He also placed the family cemetery plot (located south of the house) into a perpetual trust. In John Henry's will, provision was made for the disposition of the stone building and the surrounding area to an appropriate and responsible historic society. Historic Annapolis, Inc. was the eventual devisee of this bequest and took formal title to the property in 1964.



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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

18th century standing stone house

Unknown

The site was first examined archeologically in the late summer of 1971. This occurred at a time when Historic Annapolis, Inc. was first considering restoration of the structure and property. The excavations were undertaken to provide evidence about the date of construction for the main house and to assist architects in the task of restoring and interpreting the site. Nine trenches were excavated in six areas of the site. Each trench was 61 cm wide, but varied in lengths varying from 1.22 m to as much as 9.8 m. Test trenches were situated in the cellar of the main house, extending perpendicular to and outward from the west, south, and east walls of the main house, from the east exterior wall of a stone dependency, and in the vicinity of a stone feature east of the main house. No inventory of artifacts is provided in the brief 1971 field report, but artifacts were generally 18th and early 19th century in age.

On the basis of the 1971 excavations, it appeared that the builders of the house first dug out a cellar hole utilizing a shallow swale among a group of sandy knolls upon which the house and outbuildings were situated. The cellar hole was approximately 1.37 m (4.5 ft) deep and 2.42 meters square (26 square feet) and the foundation was built up from the bottom of this pit.

On the basis of the distribution of stone flakes (debitage from shaping raw stone into blocks) the one storey high front walls of the main house appear to have been built in a single construction phase. The higher north and south walls were constructed in a second phase after the gap between the foundation walls and the cellar hole had been filled in.

These excavations also identified the possible remnants of the original 18th century log kitchen. In a series of three parallel trenches east of the house, excavators exposed a stone chimney base and a filled cellar. A portion of the cellar was excavated, and evidence of corner posts and plank cribbing was documented on the sides of the cellar. The cellar was probably around .46 m<sup>2</sup> (5 ft<sup>2</sup>) in size. This kitchen was thought to have been dismantled in the early 19th century, when a series of repairs and changes occurred in and about the house.

Gray sand filled the space between the house and the walls of the cellar pit. This sand was interpreted as fill within an irregular trench which had been dug around the house, possibly to facilitate re-pointing of the foundation. Eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts mixed in a brown sand layer were interpreted as spoil from a clearing and deepening of the cellar. Again, all of these changes were thought to have taken place early in the 19th century.

The second archeological operation carried out at the site was a small-scale investigation conducted in 1981. It involved the inspection of spoils derived from borings made prior to the installation of posts for a chain link fence surrounding the house and outbuildings. On the basis of the materials recovered, a number of general statements were proffered concerning land use at the site. Areas on the east, south, and west sides of the house had not been used for the deposition of trash. Food remains (bone and shell) were recovered north of the house, near the stone outbuilding, and it was suggested that these may have been associated with the 18th century kitchen identified in 1971. Whole brick was identified in the spoils in the northeast portion of the fenceline and these were possibly derived from the dismantling of the 18th century kitchen or another outbuilding. No artifact inventory from this project is available at MHT.

In the summer of 1986, volunteer archaeological work was conducted at 18AN169 under the supervision of professional archeologists associated with the Archaeology in Annapolis consortium. The investigations were undertaken for dual purposes. Most important was that the site was to be disturbed during the stabilization and renovation of the Hancock family home by Anne Arundel County. In particular, the ground immediately adjacent to the foundation walls was to be trenched in order to inspect and repair sub-grade masonry, which would destroy any archeological deposits in the vicinity. The need for investigation was further reinforced by the 1971 project, which suggested deposits were present which would be valuable for research.

The entire site area was gridded into 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) squares. These squares served as excavation units, 31 of which were excavated at 18AN169. However, many of the units were smaller where they were situated adjacent to the house foundation. The units ranged in size from full 1.524 X 1.524 m units to as small as 46 cm (1.5 ft) by 1.524 meters in size. Excavation proceeded by natural layers using hand troweling and shovel skimming to sterile soil. Excavation layers greater than 15.24 cm (6 in) in thickness were divided into sub-layers. Soils from the units were screened through hardware cloth. All artifactual materials (with the exception of demonstrably recent bone) were collected. In most instances, two vertical profiles were drawn for each of the excavated units. When features were encountered, they were bisected and drawn in profile, before being fully excavated. Features layers were sub-divided and cataloged separately. The excavation units were documented on standardized forms, and in black and white and color photographs.

The 31 units were located on each of the four sides of the house and in the cellar of the house. Units were also excavated adjacent to the kitchen addition. With respect to both structure, units were placed outside of doorways, beneath windows and in the yard surrounding the structures. The excavations resulted in the recovery of cultural materials that addressed project research questions and resulted in identifying the location of former structures and architectural features. In addition, stratigraphic information was recovered that would facilitate the development of a better understanding of the landscape modifications conducted about the house.

On the basis of refuse disposal at the house, it was speculated that there was a shift in the orientation of the house over time. Until ca. 1860, the "front" of the house was the east side, oriented to the water. With the increasing importance of the inland road system, the house became oriented to the west.

Sixty-nine archeological features were identified in the field, forty-five of which were postmolds and/or potholes. These were exposed principally around the kitchen addition. Without broader excavation coverage, these patterns were difficult to interpret. They probably represent a complex set of activities and structures, including scaffolding from the construction of the house, outbuildings, and porch supports. Eleven trench features were identified. Eight of these features were exposed in units adjacent to the house and were associated with its construction and a later period of re-pointing for the sub-grade masonry. Two of the trenches were exposed in units excavated adjacent to the kitchen addition and are likely associated with the construction of that structure. The final trench feature was associated with a bulkhead located on the south side of the house. Other architectural features included a brick patio on the east side of the house, 5 sections of a drip line feature, a sand lens "lining" for one of the construction trenches, and a concentration of charcoal (probably from the burning of construction debris). The remaining features were refuse disposal areas and refuse pits.

An overall tally of artifacts collected during the 1986 study is not provided in the full site report, so these have not been included in the tables above.

In 1997, the Maritime Archeological and Historical Society (MAHS) conducted a survey of wharf remains west of the Hancock house on Back Creek. The wharf is located on the shoreline adjacent to an adjoining private property. Interviews with long-time local residents revealed that the wharf was used in the 20th century for shipping produce to market. The underwater survey involved a wading reconnaissance of the wharf area as well as a nearby cove. While no significant features or artifactual materials were found in the nearby cove, investigations revealed a wharf approximately 21.3 m (70 ft) long and 12.2 m (40 ft) wide. The wharf was constructed of wood cribbing filled with earth and rubble. The water depth at the end of the wharf was between 2.44 and 3.05 meters (8



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and 10 ft) of depth. This was more than adequate depth for the Bugeye boats that came to Hancock's Resolution. Two artifacts were recovered: bottle bottoms found in the water on the raised wharf portion dating to the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1997, Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project conducted an archeological survey at Hancock's Resolution and a nearby beach area. Eleven acres of fields/meadows and woods surrounding the Hancock's home lot were investigated using a systematic shovel-testing regime totaling 221 STPs. Of these, only 52 (24%) lacked some form of cultural material. The remaining 169 STPs yielded a total of 965 artifacts, failing to reveal any obvious site boundaries. The final report for this project is not available at MHT. The artifacts are cataloged above simply as miscellaneous historic objects.

Another portion of the 1997 Lost Towns investigation involved re-examining and re-interpretation of earlier excavations. The researchers determined that two features (a fieldstone chimney base and a cellar) were probably part of a detached kitchen structure that was built in the late 18th to early 19th century and demolished in the second quarter of the 19th century. Other work at Hancock's Resolution included the clearing and mapping of the Hancock family cemetery located northwest of the home lot.

A general conclusion of the 1997 Lost Towns study was that the previously observed pattern of change in the orientation of activities around the house lot from east to west around the middle decade of the 19th century holds true for the landscape of the larger plantation as well. However, the water side of the property continued in use and importance throughout the 19th century, despite the increasing use of land west of the house.

In 1998, Anne Arundel County also purchased two additional lots (totaling 12.9 acres) adjacent to the existing park. Neither lot had ever been archeologically surveyed in any systematic way. Both properties were deemed critical as "passive buffers for landscape and forest preservation, screening of intrusive uses and noise, and for enhanced security of interpretive and archeological areas of the historic site. The two properties were considered to have a high probability for containing historical archeological resources related to Hancock's Resolution. Thus, systematic survey and testing was carried out by County Archeologists in the fall of 1999 and spring of 2000 as part of the Lost Towns Project to document resources on the newly acquired land.

The 1999/2000 work entailed a limited geophysical survey of four areas of interest, an STP survey on the two newly acquired properties, some limited Phase II excavations in areas of interest, and a one-day shoreline survey of Back Creek.

The details of the geophysical survey are outlined in a Memorandum provided to Lost Towns personnel. No copy of the memorandum exists in the MHT library, but work was focused principally on the extant stone outbuilding northeast of the dwelling, an early 20th century retail store which the Hancock operated on the property, the no longer extant kitchen area, and surrounding brick pavement off the south façade of the house.

The STP survey was conducted on the site grid previously established by Lost Towns in their 1997 survey. An electronic transit and fiberglass tapes were used to systematically extend the grid across the two newly acquired properties. Because of dense undergrowth, a great deal of time was spent clearing transect lines throughout the woods. Initially, 154 STPs were excavated at 15.24 m (50 ft) intervals. Following preliminary analysis of the artifact distributions from these excavations, 137 supplemental STPs were excavated at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals around STPs where cultural material was recovered. A total of 291 shovel test pits were excavated. All STPs were approximately 46 cm (18 inches) in diameter. Field crews did not stratigraphically excavate STPs, as the poor soil structure made this impractical. Instead, they made careful notes of the soils in each pit and noted strata that contained concentrations of artifacts or unique features. All artifacts were retained except when large numbers of oyster shell or surface scatters of modern debris were encountered. In that case, samples of oyster fragments were retained (mainly whole valves retaining hinges). The results were used to make GIS maps of artifact distribution.

The survey revealed the presence of three activity areas on the new parcels. Area 1 was an extensive, thick Woodland shell midden. A surface scatter of 20th century debris is also present in the southeastern part of Area 1. Area 2 appears to relate to activity that dates from the 17th century up through the 19th century. Area 3 may represent an outbuilding or complex of buildings associated with Hancock's Resolution.

Area 1 is located on the western parcel of the two new property acquisitions, northwest of the main house (18AN169). Area 1 is comprised of an oyster shell midden, dense in some places, with lithic flakes and prehistoric pottery, most of which date to the Early Woodland. In some places this deposit was present near the surface, but was generally buried up to 34 cm below ground surface. Several STPs displayed intact, buried "A" horizon consisting of a thick oyster shell midden between 25 cm below ground surface to subsoil at around 32 cm. Early and Middle woodland pottery, quartz and quartzite flakes, and fire-cracked rock. These materials were determined to be a continuation of the prehistoric shell midden at 18AN1005. That site's boundaries were subsequently expanded and the artifacts recovered are cataloged with the synopsis report for 18AN1005 rather than here.

A 20th century summer cottage and surface trash scatter are also located in Area 1. The house remains consist of a 7.32 X 4.9 m (24 X 16 ft) cinderblock basement with and adjoining 3.5 X 4 m (10 X 13 ft) section of cinderblock foundation. Just north of this structure are two clusters of parallel ironstone blocks. These blocks are suspected to demarcate the outlines of a driveway associated with the summer cottage. A surface scatter of 20th century debris including a bottle and can dump are present in this area. This deposit is probably the product of periodic dumping throughout the most recent decades of the 20th century and trash deposits associated with the summer cottage. Other features associated with the house include a stone and mortar barbeque southwest of the cottage, a cistern to the east, a concrete and cinderblock well is located just north of the cistern. When questioned about the cottage and its associated features, the previous owners (the Crue family) stated it was a house rented by a Harry Hancock and was occupied primarily during the summer.

Area 2 is an artifact concentration located approximately 91.4 m (300 ft) grid east/southeast of the Hancock dwelling on a slight ridge crest above a cove. Artifacts from Area 2 consist of a cluster of prehistoric and historic period artifacts. The historic component of Area 2 consisted of a relatively sparse distribution of 17th century artifacts and a denser concentration of 18th and 19th century artifacts. This concentration probably represents the remains of an early structure or a midden used in the late 17th century with continued use into the 19th century. Thirteen 17th century artifacts were recovered from a cluster of 8 STPs. Eighty STPs total were excavated in Area 2. Due to the very distinct nature of the materials here, this area received a new site number of 18AN1177.

Area 3 was roughly 91.4 to 106.7 m (300-350 ft) in diameter, located adjacent to the north side of the cemetery. Its boundaries enclose a cluster of 18th and 19th century artifacts and architectural materials recovered from 44 STPs. Thirty-nine of the STPs (88%) contain architectural materials, strongly suggesting the presence of one or more outbuildings. One subsurface feature was encountered in an STP in this area, a shell-filled pit. No diagnostic artifacts were encountered within the feature itself, but a sherd of gray salt-glazed stoneware, a sherd of lead-glazed redware, a piece of flint, coal, and architectural debris was encountered in the upper stratum of the STP.



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN169

Site Name: Hancock's Resolution

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

18th century standing stone house

Unknown

Area 3 contains both historic and prehistoric resources, as well as intact buried features. Further work is necessary to determine the precise relationship between this activity area, the Hancock's Resolution house and graveyard, and the nearby wharf. Future work in this area should attempt to locate more subsurface features and determine the context of the feature exposed during shovel testing.

Limited Phase II investigations were conducted on the stone dependency, known as the "dairy", located northeast of the dwelling house at Hancock's Resolution. The dairy itself is 1 storey gable roof structure constructed of sandstone and white lime mortar. It is very similar in construction methods and materials to those used in the dwelling house. Lost Towns Project excavators hoped that limited archeological excavation within the footprint of the building could assist in interpreting its historical function. Geophysical testing in this area suggested that there was little physical depth to the underlying deposits.

The field crew excavated one 61 cm X 1.524 m (2 X 5 ft) test unit just inside the front door of the structure, beneath the extant floorboards. Removal of the floorboards revealed a thin layer of unconsolidated sand atop a broken mortar/concrete or rough coat plaster floor. This may be the remnants of an early floor for the building. Only a small area in the southeast corner of the unit was free of this floor. This feature was excavated and determined to be a rodent burrow. No evidence of a builder's trench was exposed, but a small concentration of brick and mortar and late 18th-early 19th century artifacts was exposed beneath the floor. These materials may have been moved by rodent activity as well. Researchers concluded that a shallow cellar may have been present beneath the structure at one time, based on the lack of any evidence for a builder's trench. Thus intact deposits may exist in this area. Materials recovered during the excavation of this unit include plate window glass, a bone toothbrush handle, 3 pieces of mortar, plaster, a brass oil lamp head, a brass drawer pull, a folded top iron canister fragment, wire nails, a molded black basalt handle, several shoe parts, an eyeglass lens, and semi-vitreous ware. Little was found that give a clue to the possible uses of the stone "dairy".

A frame store seated on ironstone piers stood in the yard at Hancock's Resolution as late as 1980. By this time it had become badly dilapidated. It served the Hancock family as a retail business beginning in the 1920s, when they constructed the building to replace the stone dairy, which had been used as a store prior to that time (according to family oral history). Investigators performed limited excavations, probing, surface clearing, and magnetometer survey in the area of the 20th century retail store. The goal of the 1999 excavations on the site of the store was to precisely re-locate the position of the store and any in situ remains of archeological features.

One 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) excavation unit placed within the footprint of the store area was excavated to a depth of approximately 36.6 cm (1.2 ft) below grade. Excavations revealed three aligned ironstone blocks that served as a portion of the building's foundation. The tops of these piers were not deeply buried and the remaining piers were located using a rod to probe the soil. All probe hits were exposed by clearing away the duff and recently formed humus. This process revealed three rows of north-south trending sandstone piers, spaced 2.1-3.05 m (7-10 ft) apart, and a threshold stone on the west (road) side of the structure. The entire structure would have been roughly 5.3 X 4.3 m (17.5 X 14 ft) in dimension. Bioturbation was noted in the northern portion of the unit.

Excavation exposed 21 creamware sherds, 21 pearlware sherds, 2 hard-paste porcelain sherds, 1 black basalt sherd, 22 whiteware sherds, 3 semi-vitreous sherds, 1 Rhenish gray stoneware sherd, 1 English Brown stoneware sherd, and 2 unidentified stoneware sherds. A pipe marked with the initials W.G. on either side of the heel can be attributed to either William Goulding II (a known London exporter who manufactured pipes from 1733-1762), or William Greenland (also of London who manufactured pipes from 1795-1817). Most of the earlier diagnostics come from the second stratum encountered within the unit. Other materials were encountered, but are not described in the body of the full report of the excavations.

Documentary sources indicate that an attached lean-to addition, used as a summer kitchen, stood on the east end of Hancock's Resolution from the second or third quarter of the 19th century until it was dismantled in 1966. It was bordered on its south side by a brick patio and grape arbor, which stood into the 20th century. Field crews in 1999 cleared the duff and humus off of this patio to expose and map its location. They noted several stones in alignment at the eastern extremity of the patio. The functions of these stones are unknown. Similar stones located in the vicinity of the store served as part of a pier system supporting the sill and floor of the structure. Since previous investigation site plans fail to note the presence of stones, they were likely moved to their current location when the kitchen was demolished.

The final locale where Phase II-level investigations were undertaken was the location of a window on the north side of the house. This was basically a re-excavation of one of the 1986 test units at the site. The basement interior wall adjacent to this window exhibits damage due to water seepage around the window edges. The goal of the re-excavation was to attempt to determine if this particular window was original to the structure and whether a window well had ever been present beneath the window.

The 1986 unit was re-excavated and its south wall was profiled (i.e. exposing the north wall of the Hancock dwelling house). The window exhibited evidence of a repair or replacement. Examination of the mortar around the window suggested repair and re-pointing within an area measuring 91.4 X 60 cm (3 X 1.95 ft), and it is possible that a larger window was once located in this space. No evidence of a previously existing window well was discovered. Examination of the mortar below the ground surface revealed no galleting, which would be likely to appear on portions of the wall that were meant to be exposed. It is unlikely that Hancock's Resolution ever possessed window wells.

Finally, a shoreline survey was conducted along Back Creek in an attempt to identify the provenience of a large timber discovered on shore following a storm. The timber was approximately 5.5 meters (18 ft) long, cut and flattened, and had two cut notches. The entire timber was encrusted with barnacles. Surveying methods included walking the shoreline to locate submerged structures and objects, opportunistic examination of areas of extreme shoreline erosion, and probing in a tidal marsh that was probably once a cove. Ultimately, the provenience of the timber could not be confirmed, but its form suggests that it was probably part of the crib style wharf first identified by MAHS.

Additional fieldwork was carried out at Hancock's Resolution occurred in June of 2002. This work was also carried out by crews from the Lost Towns Project. The fieldwork addressed three separate issues: testing and subsequent mitigation of an area for a new cistern and well, monitoring of a utility trench that will provide power to the new cistern and well pump, and mapping a series of ironstone blocks located in a garden area.

A 1.524 X 1.524 m unit was placed in the area where the cistern would be located and a 76.2 X 76.2 cm (2.5 X 2.5 ft) unit was placed where the well and pump would be located. All soils were screened through hardware cloth.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000458, 00000555, 97000749, 97001733, 95002377, Site Files