



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Brief Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code AuB,AuD

Latitude 38.9361 Longitude -76.5321

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
- 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 River

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input 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 <input type="text"/> 0 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 Y ca. 1860 - 1900 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y ca. 1900 - 1930 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y Post 1930
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American Y
- Anglo-American Y
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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 | Furnace/forge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Military</td> <td>Post-in-ground <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Military | Post-in-ground <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Urban/Rural? Urban <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <td>Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmstead <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plantation <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <td>Privy <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Privy <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Townsite <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Townsite <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Religious <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Mill <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td></td> | Mill <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/> <td></td> <td>Ford <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> </td></td> | | Ford <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Educational <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Burial area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Burial area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <td>Cemetery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Cemetery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Trading post <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Sepulchre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Sepulchre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Store <input type="checkbox"/> <td>Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> </td> | Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Tavern/inn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <td>Bldg or foundation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> | Bldg or foundation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Slave related <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Midden/dump <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Artifact scatter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Other context <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | tavern, public house, almshouse |

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken U Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	176	Staffordshire	49	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	432	English Brown	133
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	2437	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	2	Porcelain	200	Nottingham	1
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	274			Rhenish	110
						Wt Salt-glazed	70

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	102	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	1	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	42	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	3	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

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	6437	Activity item(s)	201
Glass (all)	6164	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	14319	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	16	Misc. kitchen	2894
Arms	8	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	137	Misc.	20794
Personal items	314	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Brief Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Londontown Site (18AN48) is the archeological remains and remaining historical structures associated with the late 17th to late 18th century town of London, in modern day Edgewater, Anne Arundel County. It is also the site of an early 19th-mid 20th century almshouse (poor house). It is owned by Anne Arundel County and since 1965 has been operated as a historic site and gardens open to the public.

The site is situated on a peninsula overlooking the South River to the north and east, upriver from where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. To the northwest of the peninsula is Almshouse Creek, and to the southwest, Glebe Creek, which widens into Glebe Bay. The river frontage is heavily eroded, and three ravines, thought to have been streets of the 18th-century port, provide drainage to the South River shore. The slope of the land is slightly less steep on the eastern side of the peninsula, the mass of which is actually a broad knoll, separated by a gentle dip from the mainland to the southwest. The main historic building on the property, the Londontown Publik House (MIHP # AA-165), was the last remaining structure of the 18th-century port of London, once a thriving center of Chesapeake commerce. Most of the site is in thick grass cover with ornamental gardens to the north and west. The experimental Woodland Beach septic management system and bulkheading operation severely disturbed around 30% of the original 10+ acre site, but now serves as an archeological laboratory and museum facility. Soils at the site are primarily Annapolis fine sandy loams and loamy sands.

The Town of London was created by the Maryland Colonial Legislature in 1683. Fearing the lack of towns in the Chesapeake impeded economic growth in the colony, Lord Baltimore prodded the colonial legislature to pass and "An Act for Advancing the Trade of Tobacco" which would create official "ports of entry", and specifically designating as a town a portion of the Burgess property on the South River. By 1684, when Thomas Lynthecombe (or Linthicum) purchased the first lot, this South River town was referred to as the Town of London. The act required that all import and export trade pass through one of the designated town sites. The towns were laid out on 100 acre sites and divided into lots of less than one acre each. The act required lot owners to build a structure of at least 400 square feet or forfeit their property.

A series of deeds, dating between 1685 and 1715, indicates that several tavern/inn keepers purchased property in London. These tavern keepers were attracted by the ferry and colonial roads, no less than five of which converged at London. Private individuals had operated a ferry from the peninsula as early as 1673. From 1684 until 1695, the town was the location of the Anne Arundel County Courthouse. By 1709, the ferry was a public operation requiring a license. Most ferry operators also kept a tavern or inn.

The peak of settlement in the community was the era from 1720 to 1730 when around 300 tradesmen and their families lived there. By 1715, merchants began moving to the town. By the late 1730s, London Town was a thriving port town. Merchants who would play a role in the blossoming of the Annapolis economy in the 1760s arrived in London Town in the 1730s. A large variety of business was conducted at Londontown. Men, and occasionally women, were ferry owners, tavern owners, shipwrights, rope manufacturers, carpenters, sail makers, mariners, and storeowners engaged in the import/export business.

In the late 1740s and early 1750s, a number of London merchants left town to set up stores in Annapolis. There were only a handful of merchants in Annapolis prior to 1750. These merchants faced stiff competition from London merchants, however, between 1715 and the 1750s, the government bureaucracy in Annapolis grew, and merchants and craftsmen slowly left London.

Several economic depressions during the 17th and 18th centuries prompted the Maryland General Assembly to establish standards for the exportation of tobacco. During these depressions, tobacco planters frequently resorted to shipping inferior tobacco in an attempt to make up income lost to low prices. This inferior tobacco turned European buyers to other sources. In 1730, Virginia passed a tobacco inspection act in an attempt to standardize the quality of their export. By the 1740s, Virginia's product achieved a superior reputation to that of Maryland, further depressing the prices Maryland planters could expect. Finally in 1747, Lord Baltimore pushed through legislation establishing quality standards for Maryland tobacco, in part through the creation of public inspection sites.

Londontown was not selected as an official inspection site. Possibly because of this, after 1747, few craftsmen settled in the town. As the older merchants died, younger merchants did not replace them, moving instead to Annapolis and Baltimore. Economic depression during the years leading up to, including, and after the American Revolution may have administered the coup d'gras to the town.

While Annapolis was booming, Londontown declined. During this period of decline, ferryman, innkeeper, and carpenter/joiner William Brown built his own brick town house and tavern in London ca. 1760. As a result of a foreclosure suit successfully prosecuted against Brown in 1793, Brown's London property was sold at auction to John Hoskins Stone. Stone served as governor of Maryland between 1794 and 1797.

Stone probably let the house to tenants during his tenure as governor, although he may have lived there after 1797. In early May 1803, Frederick Green of Baltimore sued Stone for \$150 and 2,192 pounds of tobacco, as well as damages and legal cost of 631 pounds of tobacco. Stone died on 21 May, 1803. Two years later the court ruled in favor of Green. Stone's estate was unable to make payment, and put the brick house on the auction block in 1806. Edward Hall purchased it for \$326 and almost immediately sold the property to James and Mary Larrimore.

The Larrimore family lived in the house from 1806 to 1823. During that period the building probably was both a private home and an inn. Larrimore family tradition states that James Larrimore ran the building as an inn. Larrimore and his partner, Jacob Sleymaker, held the London Ferry concession during the early 19th century. They appear to have run the ferry together until shortly after Larrimore sold the house to Anne Arundel County. Sleymaker continued as the ferry master until his death around 1837.

Larrimore purchased most of the northern portion of the peninsula between 1801 and 1809. Around 1823, he agreed to sell the brick building (the house built by William Brown) and ten surrounding acres to the Trustees of the Poor of Anne Arundel County for use as an almshouse. The deed for the property was not executed until 1828 when the County paid Larrimore \$2,500. The deed states that the County already was using the house as an almshouse. Larrimore sold his remaining acreage on the peninsula to a John Stevens in 1825 for \$4000.

In 1768, a law was established by the Maryland General Assembly to establish poor houses, or "almshouses", throughout the colony, including one in Anne Arundel County. Almshouses provided homes and employment to the county's poor, indigent, and mentally ill through subsidies funded by county taxes. It



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Brief

Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Unknown

appears, based on the 1828 deed, that Anne Arundel County had been using the site of the colonial Town of London, and specifically the William Brown House, for their Almshouse ever since their agreement with Larrimore in 1823. The property would continue to be used in some capacity to house the county's poorer residents until 1965, when Amendments to the Social Security Act lead to its closure.

The site was initially recorded as an archeological site by the Maryland State Archeologist in 1969, based on information received from the Maryland Geological Survey. Some preliminary archeological investigations had already been conducted.

Prior to the onset of restoration efforts for the William Brown House in 1971, an architectural study was carried out on the structure and some associated archeological resources. No report of this work is available at MHT, however, in 1996 the London Town Foundation, Inc. produced a report which includes an overview of this research. This research project primarily established a paint chronology in the building, identified changes, and developed a construction sequence for the building. Reporting on the archeological aspect of the project is sketchy.

Researchers concluded that the east entrance on the river side of the house had always been limited to foot traffic because of the steep slopes and vegetative patterns observed in aerial photographs. Excavation around the east entrance uncovered two small brick piers, 15-20 cm (6-8 inches) below the 1970 land surface. It was concluded that the piers were supports for wooden posts forming the foundations of a stoop and stairs. The piers were in line with two joist pockets cut into the east wall of the house. The fact that the joists were cut into the wall rather than laid in during original construction suggested that they post-dated the original construction of the building. Although subsequent construction obliterated any proof, the 1970 researchers suggested that the original 2.4 X 1.8 m (8 X 6 ft) stoop utilized four wooden support posts on four brick piers. The researchers also uncovered a badly decayed 1.524 m (5 ft) long jack timber which they interpreted as the rest for the bottom stair. An oyster shell and marl area edged by brick also was uncovered for 122 cm (4 ft) beyond the bottom step.

Researchers also noticed a raised area bordered by a distinct line 7.9 m (26 ft) away from the building on the south side, centered on the main entrance of the William Brown House. A trench excavated through this area dates the fill to post-1828 by the presence of coal ash. The report describes a lack of evidence for any changes made prior to 1828. Interestingly, repairs to almshouse stairs were documented in May of 1858. Researchers concluded that the south entrance stoop was entirely brick. At the bottom step, instead of oyster shell and marl, they found a small pad area of flat stones sloping away from the structure. The stone pad was the width of the steps and extended 122 cm (4 ft) beyond the bottom step. It was posited that a small roadbed of oyster shell and marl extended from this bed to the main road.

No architectural remains of stairs were located on the kitchen or north side of the structure. No archeological study was done of the west face of the house due to the presence of a 20th century porch. The report does not state where artifacts, photographs, or notes from the excavation were placed for curation. Nor does the report indicate if a grid was used during excavation, or if a prime datum was established for the site.

A letter from the director of the 1970 project mentions encountering 17th century foundations, and also a map depicting the location of these alleged foundations. No copy of this map has ever been found and the report on the project doesn't mention these foundations at all. In fact, no map has ever been located which depicts the locations or extent of the 1970 excavations. No notes, photographs, or additional reporting are available either.

In 1976 and 1977, a formal underwater survey of the shoreline was conducted. Historic materials (of various ages) had long been noticed along the river front, where the staff of the almshouse and gardens had collected numerous artifacts. The South River frontage was shrinking under heavy erosion, both from natural processes and from constant boat traffic. The narrow modern beach consisted of sand which had at least in part been imported. The river bottom within 22.8 m (75 feet) of the shore was inspected, but visibility was very poor. Several concentrations were noted, including "sector C" immediately in front of the Publik House and the old ferry landing, where a concentration of late 17th through 20th century items included stonewares, green bottle glass, and pipe fragments. A pile of brick, ceramics, pipes, and glass was thought likely to be the remains of a 19th-century bathhouse recalled by a local informant. A large brick concentration further east might have been the remains of a waterside brick warehouse mentioned in a 1772 deed transfer. Diagnostic artifacts recovered included Rhenish stonewares, black glass bottle necks, pipestems, and a worn British penny. Several sections of shell beds may be the remains of old roadways.

A terrestrial survey of the South River was also being conducted in 1977, with some support from the Maryland Geological Survey. Artifacts collected from the shoreline in the vicinity of Londontown included 1 sherd of Chinese blue-on-white porcelain, 1 sherd of Buckley ware, 2 sherds of undecorated whiteware, 3 sherds of blue transfer-printed whiteware, 1 sherd of gray salt-glazed stoneware, 1 sherd of brown salt-glazed stoneware, 1 other sherd of salt-glazed stoneware, and 2 sherds of unidentified stoneware.

The first systematic terrestrial survey of the property occurred in 1978 for the purpose of assessing the potential for surviving 18th-century contexts on the county-owned property. Unfortunately, the quality of the work was quite poor and methods as well as conclusion were often based on assumption rather than logic. In fact, documentation of these excavations only exists in draft form as, apparently, the London Town Publik House Commission, withheld final payment to the archeological contractor as several terms of the contract were not fulfilled and they were not pleased with the quality of the work performed or the conclusions drawn.

Fieldwork included shovel test pit or "core" excavation at 10 m intervals. These were roughly 15 cm in diameter and were excavated to a depth of 20cm. Whether these tests were conducted by shovel, auger, or posthole digger is not known. However, they were also used to sample pH, phosphates, and other aspects of soil chemistry/composition that could indicate the presence of archeological deposits. Two sub-areas were sampled in similar fashion, presumably to a similar depth, on smaller grid intervals. This was followed by the excavation of twenty-two 1 x 1 m test squares, placed in part to test anomalies present on infrared photographs. According to the 1978 report, neither soil chemical data nor artifacts indicated spatial patterning or the presence of archeological features.

The presence of a layer of shell was noted west of the Publik House (William Brown House), situated at a depth of approximately 60 cm and corresponding to the ground level indicated by a 1937 photograph. This shell layer is presently buried by a deposit interpreted as construction fill imported during restoration. The majority of the artifacts recovered in 1978 dated to the 19th and 20th centuries, and researchers concluded that no interpretation of 18th-century activities was feasible. As a result, the site was declared to have little research potential, and little funding for further testing was approved.

Severe shortcomings in the fieldwork and analysis, however, indicate this assessment is flawed. Most of the soil samples were taken in an area which had been plowed, and which also had been repeatedly impregnated with wastewater from a sewage treatment plant, skewing the soil phosphate analyses. In addition, excavations seem to have been stopped at the base of the fill or plowzone layer, not proceeding deep enough to encounter subsurface features.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Brief

Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Unknown

Also, not all soil test units were screened, as the site was declared to be "disrupted and deflated." Artifact assemblages from nearly half of the 22 test units cannot be compared entirely with those from the other half, ensuring that patterns (especially spatial patterns) in materials from the tests would be difficult to demonstrate. Excavation in one of the infrared anomaly areas examined, exposed a masonry foundation (situated between the William Brown House and Visitor's Center). The project archeologist states in the report that the foundation was "disturbed" because it had been excavated during the late 1960s by an amateur archeologist. No evidence that any such work ever occurred has been found. The building foundation was reported to be four courses of mortared brick, two wide in some spots and 1 wide in others. Two rows of large stones evenly divided the rectangular structure into three (possibly interior wall supports). The 1978 project archeologist established a post-1800 date for the structure, but did not explain how he arrived at this date. Once he decided that the structure was from the 19th century, all further work was abandoned. Dimensions of the structure are not given in the report and the project map only shows its approximate location based on clustering of excavation units. The report mentions a map of the foundation in the Appendix, but no map has been found.

Only a very cursory description of the artifact collection from the 1978 project is available. The assemblage consisted of 6,544 architectural artifacts (1,056 nails, 1,538 fragments of brick, and 3,950 fragments of mortar), 246 ceramic sherds, 57 tobacco pipe fragments, and 19,699 miscellaneous objects (12,371 pieces of coal, 241 pieces of slag, 3,121 pieces of unidentified rock, 2,642 pieces of shell, 609 pieces of unidentified iron, and 715 fragments of unidentified glass). Since the context of most of these finds is uncertain, the majority are categorized simply as "miscellaneous finds" in the tables above.

In July of 1979, Phase II testing was conducted at the site during a survey of colonial-era towns for a doctoral dissertation. Testing was conducted to establish the depositional contexts of the soils around the Publik House and to obtain a sample of artifacts for study. Two test units were placed, one east and one south of the Publik House. The 2x2m unit south of the house was initially shovel skimmed, and fill screened. A filled backhoe trench was identified, probably the result of a buried cable. Also, a feature identified as a stump was located. This test unit was excavated entirely within the plowzone, excavated to a depth of 20 cm. Numerous ceramic sherds, 20 pipestem fragments and several miscellaneous artifacts were recovered. The research suggested that while a strong 19th-20th century component was evident, the presence of North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and Chinese porcelain indicated a significant 18th century (and possibly a late 17th century) component. Although all periods of occupation were evident from the retrieved artifacts, the entire deposit was disturbed by plowing. It was suggested that extensive removal of the plowzone might reveal subsurface features or posthole patterns which could shed light on the chronology and activities of this part of the town.

The second 2x2m test, placed next to the northeast corner of the Publik House identified another backhoe trench and the remains of a test unit placed from the study of the previous year. However, one relevant cultural feature was identified, consisting of a square outline filled with fine white clay ("potters clay"). The shell layer identified in 1977 west of the Publik House was revealed again as well. This shell was covered with a refuse scatter that included 18th and 19th century ceramics, glass, animal bone, nails, and miscellaneous other items. These were quite probably pitched out the doors and windows. Several sherds of whiteware indicate that the oyster shell surface was open into the 19th century. As the shell layer was excavated, it became evident that there were two separate layers. Evidently, the lower shell layer had been placed on a slightly steeper slope, and the lower part had been covered by a clayey deposit, following which a second pavement of oyster shells was spread. Ceramics and pipe stems indicate that the lower shell layer was open only for a short period after the Publik House was built. The upper shell layer was possibly laid in place about 1760, and was still open in the 19th century. Testing was concluded and backfilled on July 29, 1979. Artifacts and field records are retained by Anne Arundel County.

In the fall of 1985 a Phase I testing program was carried out on the property already (by then) operated as Historic London Town and Gardens, and on a newly acquired 12-acre parcel adjoining the property. The survey located three previously unknown historic archeological sites (18AN575, 18AN576, and 18AN577) dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, and two prehistoric archeological areas.

Excavation work at 18AN48 during the 1985 study began with re-establishment of the datum and grid utilized during the 1979 dissertation project. The south lawn area was then tested with 30.5 X 61 cm (1 X 2 ft) shovel tests placed at 15.24 m (50 ft) intervals. Artifacts recovered during this STP survey dated from the 17th through 20th centuries. Of the 140 ceramic sherds recovered, 32% dated to the Colonial period, 54% dated to the Late Historic period, and the remaining 14% were non-diagnostic.

Four of the STPs located near a tool shed (since removed) on the lawn near a re-located tobacco barn revealed a large feature. This feature extended at least 9.1 m (30 ft) east/west, the north/south limits of the feature remaining undetermined. The feature increased in depth near its eastern end. In one unit the base of the feature had not been reached when excavation was terminated at a depth of 91 cm below the present surface. It was interpreted as a possible cellar hole. Artifacts within the feature indicate an 18th to 19th century occupation span. A concentration of brick was noted to the south and west of the feature. This concentration may indicate that the feature was associated with a structure. The only other artifact cluster identified was in the area of lawn nearest the Historic London Town and Gardens' entrance gates. The percentage of Colonial period ceramics was greater at this location than elsewhere in the 1985 project area. This area appeared to have been used most intensively during the late 17th and early 18th centuries and may be related to activity along the old ferry road.

In 1985, the foundation area recorded during the 1978 study between the brick house and the visitor's center was re-exposed and examined. This was the foundation allegedly excavated by an amateur archeologist sometime in the 1960s. Artifacts recovered from this area of the site were of late 19th and early 20th century vintage. It was speculated that this foundation might related to a structure built to house African-American residents of the almshouse.

Artifacts recovered during the 1985 study included 1,359 architectural artifacts (1,148 pieces of brick, 24 sand/lime mortar fragments, 13 pieces of roofing slate, 49 window glass fragments, 1 copper pipe fragments, 8 cut nails, 9 wrought nails, 6 wire nails, 100 unidentified nails, and 1 screw), 4 clothing objects (porcelain buttons), 1,077 kitchen-related artifacts (163 ceramic sherds, 3 dark green wine bottle fragments, 5 glass jar fragments, 51 other container glass fragments, a cork, and aluminum pop top, 26 burned/calced bone fragments, 1 pig bone, 1 fish bone, 48 animal bone fragments, and 777 pieces of oyster shell), 2 personal objects (a denture/bridge tooth and a vulcanized rubber comb), 13 tobacco pipe fragments (4 kaolin pipe stems, 8 kaolin pipe bowls, and 1 buff clay pipe stem), 3 flint debitage fragments (counted as arms), and 210 miscellaneous objects (68 pieces of metal, 3 unidentified glass pieces, 1 piece of plastic, 118 pieces of coal, and 20 cinders). Among the ceramic sherd were 13 tin-glazed, 1 Buckley, 1 Astbury, 2 Jackfield, 1 miscellaneous earthenware, 10 creamware, 50 pearlware, 37 whiteware, 21 redware, 7 porcelain, 1 ironstone, 1 Nottingham stoneware, 12 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 3 miscellaneous stoneware sherds.

In the spring of 1994, the London Town Foundation, Inc. contracted for a study of the rear yard of the brick house (William Brown House). A single 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test unit was excavated in the rear yard. Eight stratigraphic levels were removed to a depth of 122 cm (4 ft) below the surface. Levels 1 through 5 consisted of fill deposited since 1938. Beneath this fill were three intact levels. Level 6 yielded whiteware, a possible piece of machine-made bottle glass, a heavy concentration of bone, a glass button, and coal. Beneath Level 6 (which was culturally sterile loam), Level 7 produced a heavy concentration of



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN48

Site Name: London Town

Prehistoric

Other name(s) London Town Publik House (MIHP# AA-165), Londontown

Historic

Brief

Description:

late-17th-late 18th century townsite, early 19th-mid 20th century African-American almshouse

Unknown

artifacts. Most of the artifacts were oyster shell, coal, and coal slag. Other artifacts included whiteware, pearlware, bottle glass, brick fragments, window glass, nails, and a burned doll head. The final layer in the unit was a dark organic layer with a heavy concentration of oyster shell. Other artifacts recovered include painted and sponge-decorated whiteware, pearlware, creamware, bottle glass, a J&G Prince ball clay pipe stem as well as other unmarked pipe stems, brick, mortar, nails, window glass, unidentified ferrous items, coal, and coal slag. This layer bottomed on a clay subsoil.

In addition to unit excavation, two off-shore features (normally covered either by water or beach sand) were observed and measured. These two features were noted on the beach after a sand blowout following a storm in early April of 1994. The first feature was a probable barrel well, possibly made from a hoghead. It measured 76-91 cm (2.5-3 ft) in diameter. The staves of the barrel were noted protruding just above the river bottom. When noted this feature was still offshore under the water, approximately 10 m beyond the river bulkheading. This same barrel was noted during the 1976-77 underwater survey along the property. The second feature was a 91 cm (3 ft) square wooden box which sat at the base of the bulkheading. The feature was oriented at an angle to the shore with several wooden boards noted protruding above the beach sand.

In the summer and fall of 1994, Phase II testing was conducted in the location of a proposed stone drain outfall. Two 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 x 5 ft) excavation units were laid out over the proposed outfall location. Each unit was excavated in stratigraphic layers using shovels and trowels. Soil from each layer was passed through hardware cloth. In the upper layers, which were determined to post-date the mid 1930s, only a sample of soil was screened. All recovered artifacts were retained for analysis with the exceptions of brick mortar, slate, coal, and coal slag (which were sampled). Only the left-handed sides of hinged oyster shells were retained. Profiles were drawn of all walls of the units. Photographs were taken of all profiles in each unit and of major features. Plan views of all major features were also drawn.

Soil strata included a modern fill layer (c. 1934-1994), the Almshouse/Publik House yard and midden layers (c. 1870-c. 1934), Almshouse erosion gully layers (c. 1825-c. 1870), and a pre-Almshouse period (c. 1718-c. 1825). The pre-Almshouse layers included an eroded gully, an oyster shell midden, four erosional layers, an A-horizon, and a series of postmolds excavated into subsoil. This depositional episode lies directly on the subsoil. Ceramics from the oyster shell midden suggest an occupation from 1776-1826. A minimum of 80 vessels were recovered from the midden, most pre-dating the Revolutionary War and associated with food preparation, storage, and presentation. The majority of the post-war vessels were associated with dining and tea activities. Artifacts recovered from the A-horizon include a 1698 William III farthing and early vessel sherds such as Fulham stoneware (a ware appropriate for tavern use).

A large percentage of the artifacts recovered were associated with the 19th-century Publik House occupation, adding to our knowledge of the largely undocumented lifestyles of people living in the almshouse. The presence of in-context deposits associated with an early tavern in the town of London, the occupation of the Publik House by William Brown and his family, and with later tenants and owners indicates that there is a high probability that other deposits dating to at least the early 18th century (if not the 17th century) through the early 19th century may be located within the park. No catalog of the 1994 assemblage is provided in the extant site report available at MHT, thus, the tables above do not include these artifacts.

In 1995, a survey was carried out in the south lawn area of the Historic Londontown House and Gardens. A series of fourteen 45.7 cm (18 in) shovel tests and nine formal test units were excavated in the area. Excavation unit placement was based on an informal cluster analysis of artifacts recovered from the STPs and the identification of features, including two postholes with molds. Identified features contained no coal or coal slag, indicating that they probably pre-date 1842 (the first year for which there is evidence of coal use at the almshouse).

Architectural items from the STPs include brick, window glass, and two window leads (one of which is marked "IH 1725"). Several tobacco pipe fragments were recovered including several mold-decorated varieties dating from the late 18th through the mid 19th centuries. Other items include 18th through 20th century buttons, two beads, a copper alloy Rococo shoe buckle (dated ca. 1730-1815), gun flints, and lead shot. Less than 1% of the artifact were Native American in origin, including quartz, rhyolite, and jasper flakes, a hammerstone, a fragment of fire-cracked rock, and 3 ceramic sherds.

Seven of the formal test units were 1.524 m (5 ft) square and two were 1.524 m X 76.2 cm (5 X 2.5 ft) in size. The majority of artifacts found in the test units were vessel glass, ceramics, and architectural items. A great deal of coal and coal slag were encountered, a sample of which was retained. Both ceramics and architectural items spanned the entire occupation of the site. Ceramics included: Chinese porcelain; Fulham, Nottingham, and white salt-glazed stonewares; tin-glazed earthenware; creamware; pearlware; and whiteware. Architectural items included equal amounts of handwrought nails and common wire nails along with window glass, and unmarked window lead, brick, and slate. Artifacts from a Native American occupation include a quartz-tempered ceramic sherd, a quartzite flake, and two pieces of quartzite shatter.

It was concluded, following the 1995 study, that the results of the first terrestrial survey of the property conducted in 1978 were invalid. That study, which was criticized nearly from the onset, concluded that the site was heavily disturbed and that intact colonial deposits were likely no longer present. The 1994 and 1995 projects clearly showed that while artifacts in the plowzone represent all periods of occupation at the site, artifacts in the subsoil features were mainly of 18th and 19th century origin.

Building on the work begun in 1995, the Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project, conducted a series of excavations over several years funded through grants and support of Anne Arundel County, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the London Town Foundation, Inc. at 18AN48. While the projects were carried out over changing principal investigators over time, the methods used followed the same general pattern and attempted to identify resources noted in the archival record or previously identified as archeological anomalies through survey work. Their efforts were focused on the homelot owned by William Brown (see above) during the 18th century (also known as Lot 86).

All excavation units were dug as a single stratum to the base of the plowzone. The northwest corner was used as the unit datum for artifact recoveries. Mulch and sod were scraped off without screening and all of the underlying plowzone soil was screened through hardware cloth. All units were excavated to the readily defined base of the plowzone (B horizon). All historic and prehistoric artifacts were retained with only minor exceptions. Excavators discarded coal in the field and retained only those oyster shells with intact hinges. Modern trash such as cigarette butts and pull top cans were noted, but not retained.

Ultimately, sixty-three 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) units and one 76.2 X 152.4 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) unit would b

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000536, 00005322, 00005330, 00000547, 00005296, 00005322, 00005330, 97000142, 97001621, 97002005, Site Files