



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN534

Site Name: Sandy Point Farmhouse

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # AA-330

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 19th century brick farmhouse

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 17) BuB2

Latitude 39.0190 Longitude -76.4078

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation m 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 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) Mezick Ponds

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 188 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 ca. 1860 - 1900 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American Asian American
- African American Unknown
- Anglo-American Y 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 N
 Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	4	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	2	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	15	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	brick sidewalk, concrete pad	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Sandy Point Farmhouse (18AN534) consists of a standing 19th century brick farmhouse (MIHP # AA 330) and associated archeological landscape on the Sandy Point State Park property in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The farmhouse itself is built on a five-part plan, with a 2 storey central block with wings on either side connected to the main block by single storey hyphens. The house was built around 1815, but in an 18th century style. The site is situated on Sandy Point, between Mezick Ponds and the Chesapeake Bay. The area around the farmhouse is presently in lawn, as has been its general condition for many years. To the north is a swamp overgrown with reeds, trees, and ground cover of briars, vines, etc. Most of the historic agricultural fields and activity areas were situated to the northwest. The immediate area of the farmhouse was not plowed during the occupation of the farmhouse, except for occasional flower beds. Soils at the site are primarily Mattapex and Butlertown silt loams.

The farmhouse is owned by the State of Maryland which acquired the property in 1949 for the establishment of a park. However, the farmhouse continued to be inhabited until 1966. After 1966, the farmhouse and two nearby outbuildings were allowed to fall into disrepair.

In 1975, plans began to be formulated for the restoration and improvement of the park property. Archeological surveys were carried out at the park beginning in the 1970s and essentially determined that the only significant archeological deposits on the park property were likely to be those in proximity to the farmhouse structure itself. With this in mind, archeological testing was carried out in 1982 at the farmhouse and associated yard areas when the State of Maryland began planning to restore the deteriorated structure.

The purpose of the 1982 archeological investigation was to locate, identify, and mitigate archeological features in the (then) proposed areas of renovation and stabilization at the Sandy Point farmhouse. The Sandy Point Farmhouse renovation project was designed to arrest the devastating deterioration of the structure and provide upgraded water service to the farmhouse for eventual use by the park for public programs. Testing was limited to only areas of proposed disturbance (i.e. areas of utility installation and the immediate area around the standing house). Renovations to the state-owned property were being funded by public monies and, thus, state regulations relating to the protection of archeological resources came into play.

To accomplish the required testing, shovel test pits (STPs) were placed along the water and sanitation lines that were to be installed in the west front lawn area and 1 meter square test units were placed around the building foundation and an associated walkway. All excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Along the south sanitation line, extending west from the south wing, shovel test pits were placed at 5 m intervals. No cultural features were encountered, but some artifacts were recovered in two of the STPs. Along the west sanitation line (connecting the north and south lines) and the north line, extending west from the north wing hyphen, the STPs were placed at 2 meter intervals. This change was deemed necessary because the north wing had served as the kitchen and more debris was expected in the vicinity of the kitchen. Along the west water/sanitation line, 9 STPs were excavated and along the north line 8 STPs were excavated. The only feature encountered was a layer of gravel encountered in two adjacent STPs along the west sanitation line. These STPs were near a bush and the gravel may have been added for drainage purposes for gardening beds. A number of artifacts were recovered as well.

Artifacts recovered during the shovel test pitting included 1 activity item (part of a pulley), 15 architectural artifacts (4 brick fragments, 2 wire nails, 3 machine cut nails, 4 unidentified nails, a hinge, and a bolt), and 7 kitchen-related artifacts (2 whiteware sherds, 1 yellowware sherd, 1 gray salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 2 pieces of olive green bottle glass, and a piece of animal bone). Generally, the paucity of artifact finds and lack of features suggest that this part of the site was little used. Interviews with a former occupant of the site suggest that the area was maintained as lawn (with a few flower beds) from at least 1938 on. It was determined that the sanitation line installations would not impact significant archeological resources in the area of the west front yard.

The archeological testing of the area immediately around the house, where major renovation to the farm house exterior and porches was to take place, did provide some additional information related to the historic record. This testing entailed the excavation of eight 1 X 1 m test units along the foundation of the north (kitchen) wing and hyphen. A ninth test unit planned for the interior basement area of the structure was not excavated due to safety concerns.

There were several construction phases to the house, though the archeology could not provide specific dates for those construction periods. The kitchen wing and the east or garden front each had a brick patio of a herringbone pattern placed perpendicular to the structure's walls. Whether they were contemporaneous or when they were placed was not evident in the archeological record. It was evident, however, that the porches of the kitchen wing and the east front intruded into these earlier patios. The kitchen wing porch completely covered the earlier brick patio, while the east front porch covered only 1/2 to 3/4 of the original patio.

A second herringbone brick pattern was placed at a 45° angle to the structure's walls, encircling the entire structure, and ending at the remaining visible portion of the east patio. This brick walkway was exposed in the test units along the north wing, but was also visible at the surface along the south wing. Here it was only partially exposed, but subsequent probing proved that it wrapped completely around the structure and exposed concrete postholes suggest that it was once covered by a roof supported by wooden posts embedded into the concrete edge. The use of concrete in the piers supporting the porches and in the setting of the south wing roof supports, indicates a post Civil War construction date, as concrete was not widely used in the United States until after the Civil War. However, the archeological data was unable to provide a more refined date for any of the architectural features noted. Immediately below the encircling brick path, a builder's trench was exposed in the north wing test units. Based on these findings, the recommendation was made to restore the pathway roof to better retain the historical look of the structure and that the brick path on the south wing be restored to serve as a walkway for visitors. Reportedly, no artifacts (other than brick) were recovered during the excavation of the 1 X 1 m test units.

The current status of the site and whether the work conducted was adequate for mitigative purposes is something of an unknown at this point. The 2 regulatory agencies involved in the project at the time, the Maryland Historical Trust and the State Office of Archeology (which at that time was part of the MD Geological Survey) seem to have disagreed about the adequacy of the work and conclusions about site significance. The latter agency felt that the work (or at least the reporting of it) was inadequate. The fact that the full report states that absolutely no artifacts were found in eight fully excavated and screened 1 X 1 m units adjacent to a historic farmhouse, casts doubt on the caliber of the work. Consequently it is difficult to make any statement about the site's potential to address ongoing research questions related to Maryland history.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Historic

Brief
Description:

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Unknown

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