



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN574

Site Name: Collinson Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP AA-230

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th - 20th century farmstead including a slave/free black tenant cabin

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9191

Longitude -76.5416

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 30 m

Site slope 0

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) Well

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

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

slave cabin ruin

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

Other samples taken

N



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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	605	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	100	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

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

Construction features associated w/ 19th century slave cabin

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	841	Activity item(s)	1002
Glass (all)	2286	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	665	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	134
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	16	Misc.	3709
Personal items	2	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	rock patio	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Collinson Farm Complex (18AN574) is the archeological deposits associated with a late 19th and early 20th Century farmstead (MIHP# AA-230) located Northwest of Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a hilltop in the interior uplands of the Mayo Peninsula on the South River. The farm complex is roughly 2.1 acres in size and has been abandoned since 1981 when the main farm house was demolished. Two ruined log structures, purportedly a smokehouse and a slave cabin, along with a circular brick-lined well were still extant when the site was first examined archeologically in 1985. The slave cabin was built of hand-hewn logs, which were V-notched at the corners, and originally had an open fireplace. The type of machine-cut nails found throughout most of the structure suggest a construction date after 1840. There are no streams or springs in the site vicinity, so the aforementioned well served as the only water source. The surrounding landscape is gently rolling. Since it formerly served as a farm, most of the site is cleared land. Soils at the site are Westphalia and Howell fine sandy loams.

The site area was used for three major purposes during the historic cultural period. The earliest use was as forested land, in which the natural woods was left undisturbed, and/or partially harvested for timber. The second use was for agricultural land, either as pasture or for growing crops. The third and most important use of the terrain began around 1850, when the central farm complex of the Edward Collinson Farm was established.

From ca. 1850-1971, the site area was used for residential and farm utilitarian purposes, and for growing crops. During the period from ca. 1880-1920, it was also the residence of a physician, and was used for consultations as part of his medical practice. During that period, the land continued to be used for residential and farm utilitarian purposes, as well. After ca. 1971, the site's terrain continued to be used for residential purposes until 1981 when the old Collinson House (the farm's main residence) was knocked down by bulldozer and the site was abandoned.

An 1844-1848 US Coastal Survey map of the area depicts a subordinate farm building in the vicinity of 18AN574, but no residential structure or main farm complex is situated on the hilltop. The first evidence for a farm complex in the vicinity of 18AN574 comes from the 1850 Census. The marshals for the 1850 Census recorded information on households and their membership in geographical order. Data on an Edward Collinson (who's descendants owned the property) places him between two neighbors, Dr. Richard Weems and Edward Lee. This geographical sequence conforms to an 1860 map of the area which clearly places Edward Collinson's home on the hilltop at 18AN574. Furthermore, land records from 1850 state that Edward Collinson became the owner of the property (from the Trustees for his father's estate) in that year.

At the time of the 1850 Census, Edward Collinson and his wife had four children. He was also the owner of 15 slaves. The Census also records that a substantial carpentry workforce of free black laborers was located on the site at the time of the census. This suggests that Edward Collinson was establishing a new residence shortly after legally acquiring the property. Archeological work generally supports an 1850 construction date for the house.

By 1860, the Collinson Farm Complex was built and permanently established on the hilltop at 18AN574. That year's Census shows that the free black carpenters who lived there in 1850 had moved to other locations in the vicinity. By that year, Edward Collinson owned fifteen slaves (men, women, and children). However, he is not listed as a registered slave owner in the 1864 Anne Arundel County Register of Slaves. That may mean that he was no longer the owner of slaves in 1864, or that he chose not to register his ownership of any. It was in 1864 that slavery was abolished in Maryland by the promulgation of the state's third Constitution. In that year, he freed one of his male slaves, Henry Johnson, so that he could enlist in the US Army's Colored Troops.

Edward Collinson's wife, Mary Mortimer Collinson, died in 1865. By 1870, the persons residing on Collinson Farm had decreased substantially from the 1850s population. The 1870 Census records that 11 people (five Collinsons and 6 African-Americans) lived on the farm. Two of these individuals were former slaves owned by Edward Collinson, who along with 1 third black male were employed as farm hands. Edward Collinson himself died in 1877. The inventory of his personal estate reveals that he died owning 8 horses with carriage and harness, oxen, 5 plows, 4 cultivators, a tobacco press, and a threshing machine.

After the death of Edward Collinson in 1877, his farm was divided up among his children. Ownership of the main residence, a nearby barn, and the "small quarter or slave house" passed to his two unmarried daughters. Most of the farmland went to his eldest son, John. By 1880, John Collinson had become a medical doctor. The Census of that year records his profession as "Physician". At that time, he was residing in the farm's main house along with the two aforementioned sisters, a black servant woman, and her two children.

The Collinson Farm continued to be used for agricultural purposes even while Dr. John Collinson was a practicing physician. The 1880 Census lists a household situated near Collinson's as being occupied by a William Sherbert, whose occupation is listed as "Manager". The designation suggests that Collinson hired Sherbert to manage the farm while he conducted his medical practice. Within the following year, John Collinson married a woman named Mary and they had their first child (also Mary). Their three other children would be born over the subsequent decade.

By 1900, Dr. John Collinson's two sisters had deeded the main residence to him, and evidently were no longer part of the household. The only residents listed in the 1900 Census are John, his wife Mary, and their four children. The records of the 1910 Census list the residents of the site's main residence as Dr. and Mrs. John Collinson, their three sons, and a married daughter and her family. The occupation of one son, Newton B. Collinson, is listed as a "Farmer" who was working the "Home Farm". The same occupation is listed for the husband of his married daughter (Mr. Nicholas Owings). The residents of the old log "Slave Quarter" are listed as four members of the Charlie Parker family, who were black.

After the death of Dr. Collinson in 1926, the farm complex passed to his son Newton B. Collinson. Sometime in the 1920s, the Parker family moved out of the old log slave quarter, which was not subsequently re-occupied. The remaining farm property and complex continued to be occupied by the Collinson family up until the 1970s. Newton B. Collinson was a farmer, and he actively utilized the Collinson Farm Complex for both residential and farm utilitarian purposes. He died in 1969 and his widow passed away sometime after 1970. Shortly thereafter it was purchased by a developer who rented it to tenants. It ceased to be used for agricultural purposes after that time and the house was finally demolished by bulldozer around 1981.

The site was first examined archeologically in 1985. At that time the site was threatened by the (then) proposed construction of the Mayo Peninsula Wastewater Management Facility. A Phase I survey was conducted over an area totaling roughly 50 acres in size. The wastewater facility would consist of four small structures and a pipeline which might impact known historic resources related to the Collinson Farm Complex. Since the facility would be publically funded, Section 106 regulations came into effect and MHT recommended that the survey be conducted.



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Unknown

Phase I work entailed a systematic series of shovel test pits (STPs) excavated every 15.24 m (50 ft) on a grid across the site. All STPs were 30.5 cm (1 ft) in diameter and were excavated to culturally sterile subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware cloth to ensure uniform recovery of artifacts. In locations where the grid would have placed an STP within the limits of a structure, or in an existing road bed, the test unit was left unexcavated. Appropriate soils, artifact, and other data were recorded on standardized STP data forms. A total of 134 shovel tests were excavated during the 1985 Phase I project.

During the work conducted in laying out the 15.24 m survey grid, as well as during the shovel testing, the ground surface was inspected visually for artifacts. Observed material was noted on shovel test data forms, and collected when it had the potential to provide information useful to this investigation.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase I survey include 36 activity and transportation –related items (2 redware flowerpot sherds and 34 oyster shell fragments likely used for paving), 30 architectural artifacts (17 brick fragments, 4 pieces of mortar, 4 square nails, 4 wire nails, and 1 masonry nail), 28 kitchen-related artifacts (2 coarse earthenware sherds, a porcelain sherd, 3 miscellaneous stoneware sherds, 6 whiteware sherds, 14 container glass fragments, and 2 animal bones), and 43 miscellaneous objects (a piece of modern glass, an unidentified piece of clear glass, 3 unidentified iron fragments, a piece of sandstone, a piece of plastic, and 36 pieces of coal).

Almost all of this material was recovered from shovel test pits rather than as surface finds. Other cultural material observed on the surface within the wastewater facility project area consisted of several large deposits of recent vintage trash and discarded domestic-use artifacts, including a junked car. All this refuse material appears to postdate the year 1950. These modern-period trash deposits (as well as the historic materials listed above) are widespread throughout the vicinity of the farm buildings.

Two specific locations within the Collinson Farm Complex were identified which contain cultural resource deposits of greater historical significance. One of these is the old log Slave Cabin. The other is the terrain encompassing the former Collinson residence and the adjacent smokehouse. However, intact cultural deposits might be situated between the various structures and/or nearby (activity areas, trash pits, privies, etc.). Based on these findings, a Phase II testing program was requested in the vicinity of the farm complex itself using a tighter sampling interval to identify such deposits and better assessment of vertical integrity.

Phase II testing was carried out at 18AN574 later in 1985. Phase II work began with a closely-spaced grid of STPs across the site. These were placed at intervals of 7.62 m (25 ft), utilizing the grid established for the earlier Phase I reconnaissance survey. In addition, STPs were placed at 7.62 m intervals along the alignment of the pipeline right-of-way, which would pass through the historical site area (see above). STPs were excavated in the same manner during the Phase II testing as Phase I STPs. A total of 106 STPs were excavated during the Phase II study, 92 of which produced historic period artifacts.

After the STPs had been completed, a map plotting artifact distributions was prepared. The results of that work were used in determining the specific locations at which 1 X 1 m test units would be situated. Test units were excavated by natural stratigraphic levels to the level of culturally sterile subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware cloth, and the artifacts recovered were placed in marked bags for subsequent cleaning, cataloging, and analysis. A standardized data form was filled out for each unit and photographs were taken. Three test units were situated along the pipeline alignment, 2 were excavated into a deep trash pit deposit, 2 were placed in areas where significant artifact concentrations were encountered during shovel testing, and 3 were excavated in front of, behind, and inside the ruins of the slave cabin.

Cultural features identified during the Phase II testing include a 19th and 20th century refuse pit just south of the slave cabin, brick foundations supports for a lean-to shed formerly attached to the rear of the slave cabin, a sandstone support for the cabin's interior threshold, and a crude flagstone patio for the slave cabin. Artifacts recovered during the Phase II study include 966 activity items, 635 architectural artifacts, 16 clothing items (2 shell buttons and 14 leather fragments), 961 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal items (a 1905 US Quarter and an ivory fragment), 2 kaolin tobacco pipe fragments, and 3,666 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a clay marble, 4 graphite fragments, 147 terra-cotta flowerpot sherds, and 814 oyster shell fragments. The architectural assemblage consisted of 424 brick fragments, 143 mortar/plaster/cement fragments, 21 pieces of ceramic tile, 18 tar/tar paper fragments, 22 flagstone fragments, and 7 wood fragments. The kitchen assemblage included 829 ceramic sherds (41 coarse earthenware, 99 porcelain, 3 ironstone, 599 whiteware, 3 Rockingham, 19 yellowware, and 65 miscellaneous stoneware), 131 animal bone fragments, and a peach pit. The miscellaneous objects were 2,270 glass fragments, 903 pieces of metal, 50 rubber/plastic fragments, 411 pieces of coal, 11 charcoal fragments, 6 pieces of slag, 2 snail shells, and 13 miscellaneous objects. Several prehistoric artifacts were also recovered from the aforementioned 19th-20th century refuse pit. However, one of the farm's 20th century residents, Newton B Collinson, was a well-known avocational archeologist. These materials relate to his collecting activities, but their true provenience is unknown. Thus they have not been included in the artifact tables above. The prehistoric artifacts were a Selby Bay point, Piscataway Point, Holmes Point, Levanna Point, an unidentified stemmed point, a gorget fragment, a use-modified lithic (possible fire-starter), and a sand-tempered sherd.

There is another major cultural feature at 18AN574 that was examined in 1985. It was the well located on the northern side of the log-built smokehouse. This well is circular and brick-lined. A flashlight was lowered by rope to the bottom of the well to inspect it for artifacts. It was found to be dry and the only visible artifacts at the bottom (which was relatively clean) were some bricks that appeared to have fallen from the masonry cap that covered the well.

Of those artifacts which can be assigned a chronological date, nearly all postdate 1870. Very few materials which can conclusively be assigned to the pre-Civil War period of the site's occupation (ca. 1850-1860) were recovered. No historic period artifacts which date exclusively to the period prior to 1850 were found. Thus, no evidence, either documentary or archeologically, has been found that supports the idea of a pre-1850s occupation of 18AN574. In general, the archeological data matches the historical documentation, that the site was initially occupied by the Collinson family (and their slaves) in the 1850s and occupied continuously from then until the 1980s.

Intact subsurface cultural features were found at the site. It is likely that others exist, but were not detected during the subsurface testing. The age of those features is ca. 1850 or later. The cultural materials in the vicinity of the log slave cabin probably have the greatest potential for providing important information relating to the study of Maryland's past. These deposits hold value in their potential to provide data on the interactions between the white and black inhabitants of the site over time: potentially before emancipation as well as after. There are very few documented and well-preserved sites of this type in Maryland. Because of these findings, the plans for the wastewater treatment facility were altered in such a way that they would avoid damaging impacts to these intact deposits. Consequently, the site still retains much of its research value and should be considered a significant archeological resource for future research.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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00000542, 00000541