



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN932

Site Name: Field Site # AA 3.4

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-late 19th and early 20th century possible Patuxent Forge Post Office & General Store (Portland Station)

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0908

Longitude -76.7623

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 37 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
- 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) Unnamed trib. of Little Patu

- | 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 500 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

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/>  | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Y      |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/>   | Other <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>         |   |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

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

### 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

post office, store

## 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Late 19th and early 20th century foundation remnants

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	8
Glass (all)	140	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	362	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	1
Arms	9	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	101
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

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

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18AN932, also known as Field Site # AA 3.4, is the probable remains of a mid-late 19th and early 20th century post office and general store. This complex of five buildings was once part of the Patuxent Forge Post Office & General Store and a later complex known as Portland Station that were in the vicinity of this portion of the modern Fort George G. Meade property in western Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on the southwestern flank of a low, forested first terrace above the Little Patuxent River. Soils at the site are primarily Woodstown and Fallsington sandy loams. The surrounding landscape ranges from suburban to semi-rural land use.

The site was first documented during a 1981 survey by personnel of the Maryland Geological Survey, Division of Archeology, prior to a highway expansion project for MD route 32. As a state-funded highway construction project, Section 106 review was mandated before project approvals could move forward. Fieldwork consisted, primarily of pedestrian reconnaissance of exposed ground surfaces and historical background research and led to the identification of a disturbed concrete foundation in the vicinity of the site. No investigation was undertaken at that time and no site number was assigned. At that time, the resource was thought to possibly be related to a late 19th century blacksmith's shop, a resource considered to be relatively ubiquitous in the area and well documented.

The site was assigned a site number in 1993. At that time, the US Army Corps of Engineers was developing a Cultural Resource Management Plan for Fort George G. Meade. This was being prepared to comply with Army Regulation 420-40 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended.

The 1993 Phase I survey entailed pedestrian reconnaissance and the excavation of 206 shovel test pits (STPs) and nine auxiliary shovel tests along the first terrace east of the Little Patuxent river and adjoining upland areas. Shovel tests were initially placed at 20 m intervals and measured between 35 and 50 cm in diameter. These were excavated to at least 50 cm below surface, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever came first. Soils were removed by natural strata and were sifted through hardware cloth. The position of each shovel test, the depths of individual soil horizons, and the presence or absence of cultural material was recorded in the field on standardized forms.

The site was not identified through the shovel test survey work. However, a historic cobble and concrete mortar foundation was observed during pedestrian reconnaissance (presumably the same one identified in 1981). Upon discovery of the foundation, the STP interval was reduced to 10 meters in the nearby area. Site 18AN932 consists of this foundation, a second associated outbuilding foundation of similar construction, and two concrete pier and sill outbuilding foundations found after further inspection of the area. A series of meandering historic road traces connect this complex with a nearby State Highway.

The series of close-interval (10 m) shovel tests excavated near this complex failed to recover any cultural materials associated with the occupation of the component structures. Although no in situ cultural materials were recovered during the Phase I work at 18AN932, the presence of this complex of foundations suggested that the site might contain data related to late 19th and early 20th century settlement patterning in northern Anne Arundel County. Additional work was recommended if the site area should be threatened by future expansion of Ft. Meade.

In 2003, at the request of the US Army's Department of Public Works-Environmental Management Office at Fort George G. Meade, a combined Phase I/II investigation was conducted on several previously identified archeological sites at Fort Meade. The investigation was warranted because a 50 year lease was signed in 2002 on 1,000 acres of property at the installation for the construction of approximately 308 new family housing units (for military families), ancillary support facilities, and associated storm water management and other facilities. The construction constituted an undertaking that was subject to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The archeological studies were also carried out in accordance with Army Regulation 200-4 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which requires that all archeological investigations on federal property be carried out by permit issued by the Federal land manager.

Phase II testing at 18AN932 included excavation of eight 1 X 1 m test units to determine stratigraphic integrity and to recover artifacts that would indicate the temporal affiliation of the five structures. Test units were excavated stratigraphically to culturally sterile soils and soils were screened through hardware cloth. Appropriate data was recorded on standardized forms. Drawings and photographs were taken of the soil profiles. Photographs were also taken of any cultural features and to document field conditions.

The two cobble with concrete mortar foundations were designated Building 1 and Building 2. Building 1 (the southernmost) was investigated with 3 test units and Building 2 was investigated with 2 test units. Buildings 3 and 4 are in the central and northernmost portion of the site respectively. Both buildings appear to be of poured concrete construction, but with concrete piers associated with the former. Also, Building 3 is bisected by a road. It was investigated with a single test unit on the south side of the road, while Building 4 was investigated with two test units. A possible Building 5, just northeast of Building 3 is represented by another small cluster of concrete piers.

Buildings 1 and 2 appear to have been built at around the same time because both have stone block foundations. These buildings may have been constructed in the mid to late 19th century. Buildings 3 and 4, with the poured concrete foundations, and possible fifth building with concrete footer only may have been built in the late 19th or early 20th century, when concrete construction was becoming commonplace. The association of the two groups of buildings is unclear, but Buildings 1 and 2 may have been part of the original Patuxent Forge Post Office and General Store, while Buildings 3, 4, and 5 may be related to later facilities known as the Portland Station.

In the early 1700s, iron ore was discovered along the Patuxent River, around the area of the Stoney and Piney Runs. The rich timber resources and discovery of iron ore facilitated the formation of an early iron industry to supplement the income from tobacco crops on some of the large plantations of the era. Richard Snowden Jr., with four partners, erected the first iron works in Maryland along the Little Patuxent River. The Little Patuxent was also relied upon for hydropower to operate the forge. This forge, just to the south of site 18AN932, gave rise to the village of Patuxent Forge.

In the 1840s, several towns sprang up along the newly built railroad lines in Anne Arundel County. Hotels, general stores, and post offices were established at important transfer points. At the village of Patuxent Forge, which lay along the Annapolis & Elkridge Railroad, a general store and post office were added and the forge was expanded. The Patuxent Forge Post Office and store are indicated on a map drawn in 1860.



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Mid-late 19th and early 20th century possible Patuxent Forge Post Office & General Store (Portland Station)

Unknown

By the mid 19th century, the iron forge and the village of Patuxent Forge were on a decline. Timber, a required fuel for the furnaces, was in serious decline and the furnaces were not converted for coal use. In addition, the iron ore sources were being depleted. In 1856, the furnaces were dismantled because they had been deemed to be no longer profitable. By 1878, the village at Patuxent Forge was no longer a viable community and the name of the station and post office was changed to Patuxent Switch on an 1878 map. According to the 1878 Maryland Directory, many of the larger farming families in the area of Patuxent Switch were receiving and sending their mail from other community post offices, including the newly formed communities of Odenton, Sappington, and Gambrills. It is likely that the Patuxent Switch Post Office gradually went into disuse and closed.

The US War Department established Camp Annapolis Junction in 1917 on a tract of land between Odenton and the Annapolis railroad junction. At this time, the community of Patuxent Switch again had its name changed, this time to Portland Station, with the anticipation of the construction of a large military housing project which never materialized. Portland Station is indicated on the Camp Meade property survey map completed in 1919, and the town is still identified as Portland Station on a 1940 USGS topographic quadrangle map of the area. It is unclear if any buildings associated with 18AN932 were still in use in the 1940s.

Few artifacts were recovered during the Phase II evaluation, with the exception of architectural materials. The only diagnostic artifacts found include 84 cut nails (1790-1880), 50 wire nails (1860-present), and two bottles that were blown in a two-part vertical mold with a separate base and hand-tool finished (1850-1920). These results support the structural evidence for a mid to late 19th century date for the site. Because both cut and wire nails were recovered from each of the buildings, a finer sequence of building construction could not be established beyond the presumed order based on construction materials (i.e. stone buildings before concrete).

The full assemblage collected in 2003 includes 8 activity items (a possible tether hoop of metal, 5 metal hooks, an iron pulley, and an iron strap fragment), 362 architectural artifacts (3 pieces of brick, 40 chimney pot fragments, 24 pieces of mortar, 3 building stones, 127 pieces of window glass, 84 cut nails, 50 wire nails, 16 unidentified nails, a wood screw, a door lock, and 13 wooden post fragments), 1 possible furniture item (a mica sheet that may be a window for an oven), 13 kitchen pieces of kitchen glass (2 mason jar lid liners, a piece of table glass, 10 bottle fragments) and a tin can fragment, 9 arms objects (M-14 and M-16 cartridges), and 101 miscellaneous objects (29 flat/sheet metal pieces, 8 unidentified iron objects, an unidentified metal and wood object, a piece of gravel, and 62 charcoal fragments).

Based on the paucity of artifacts recovered from 18AN932, additional excavation is unlikely to yield additional information significant to the history of the region. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000748, 97002686, Site Files