



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN944

Site Name: Town Neck

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Ralph Williams, Towne Neck

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: mid-17th century plantation

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9832

Longitude -76.4541

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Carr Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

Y

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- 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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken oyster shell, brick



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

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

17th century earthfast structure and cellar hole

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	21	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	33	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	707	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	237
Arms	6	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	136
Personal items	1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Town Neck (18AN944), also known as Towne Neck or the Ralph Williams Site, is the remains of a mid-17th century plantation on US Navy property in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on Greenbury Point, a small peninsula bounded by Carr Creek, the Severn River, the Chesapeake Bay, and Mill Creek. At the time of the site's discovery, it was situated on a fairly undeveloped and heavily vegetated portion of the US Naval Reservation/Naval Academy properties in Annapolis, just to the west of a Naval Radio Transmitter Facility (radio tower and antenna hut). The site is situated immediately east of a relict streamhead that once drained into Carr Creek, north of a silted-over inlet formerly known as Utie's Cove. In Colonial times, the Severn River, as well as Carr Creek and other interior tributary stream, would have enjoyed the benefits of a more sheltered harbor and a more easily navigable deep water-channel than is present in the locale today. This area near the mouth of the Severn forms part of the Severn Estuary, an area of low shorelines and open water. The Estuary remains a particularly rich resource base, offering oyster beds, bottom fish, blue crabs, and an assortment of birds. The bird population presently includes gulls, herons, ospreys, grebes, swans, owls, and a variety of geese and ducks. Soils in the site area itself are primarily Collington, Wist, and Westphalia sandy loams.

The first European settlement of the Town Neck area occurred in the mid-17th Century. There was significant political tension at the time due to the ascendancy of Cromwell's Protestant roundheads. Religious differences were important enough during this period to motivate a series of political stratagems designed to blur the distinctions between the English colonies of Maryland (predominantly Catholic) and Virginia (predominantly Anglican). In August of 1648, Lord Baltimore removed Thomas Greene, a Catholic, as Governor of Maryland, and appointed in his place William Stone, a Protestant (who in fact was also a Virginian). One of Stone's first acts as governor was to invite a group of Virginia Puritans lead by a Richard Bennett to settle along the Chesapeake north of the settlement at St. Mary's.

Bennett's group was amenable to this invitation because they had been persecuted on religious grounds in Virginia. They settled the area at the mouth of the Severn. The relocation of this group served two purposes: it reaffirmed Lord Baltimore's philosophy of religious tolerance, while at the same time demonstrating friendship towards Cromwell's Roundheads.

Richard Bennett, along with seven other landholders, received 250 acres along the eastern bank of the Severn, on the peninsula that terminates at Greenbury Point. The terms of Bennett's grant assigned 15 acres, probably as headrights, to each of the 7 others in Bennett's party, with the remainder of the grant going to Bennett himself. The acreage granted to Bennett took up much of this peninsula, extending northward to the mouth of Mill Creek. Bennett and his group christened this grant Towne Neck.

At mid-century, Towne Neck offered level, rich soils that were ideal for growing tobacco. Collington loams, in particular, having developed over marls and glauconitic sands, were perfectly suited for this crop. Settlement at Greenbury Point may have originally been concentrated at the end of the peninsula. Bennett and his original group of landholders may have initially lived inside a fortification at the tip of the point until individual parcels could be surveyed and suitable individual family dwellings erected. They may have actually taken possession of the land as early as 1649. Following a pattern observable elsewhere in Maryland and in Virginia, planters gradually established themselves in relatively isolated farmsteads dispersed along major streams and tributaries. Greenbury Point would have been unusually suitable for this pattern, since it offered the added advantage of mutual defense from Indian attack. If Bennett and his 7 associates actually did settle and build on the patent in 1649, there could have been as many as 8 house sites on and around the peninsula prior to 1658. The historic record is silent on this point though.

The first recorded transaction, on February 4, 1658, names each of Bennett's group of 8 settlers at Towne Neck and records their joint sale of Towne Neck to a Nathaniel Utie, who at that time was serving as secretary to Governor Stone. In a second entry made on October 20th of that year, the title history of the property to date is recounted in greater detail. Sometime after the original grant to Bennett and his group, the entire 250 acre parcel became the sole property of Bennett. In 1658, Bennett (recognized in this deed as the sole proprietor) sold Towne Neck to Nathaniel Utie, a kinsmen of Bennett's wife.

In 1661, Utie sold Towne Neck to William Penny, who almost immediately sold it to Ralph Williams, a Bristol merchant who was also serving as a magistrate in Anne Arundel County. Williams added to his holdings by purchasing an additional 145 acres "at the head of Towne Neck" in 1662. In addition, he purchased more parcels in Anne Arundel County in 1663, 1664, 1666, and 1672. Williams held the property at Towne Neck until his death in 1673. Upon his passing, Towne Neck was inherited by relatives of Williams in his town of Bristol, England. In 1685, Williams' heirs sold the property to Edward Perrin, who in turn sold it to Nicholas Greenberry (who renamed the area Greenberry's Point). From that time until its sale to the United States of America in 1909, the parcel that contains 18AN944 appears to have been used as a farmstead.

Ralph William's probate inventory (filed June 17th, 1676) contains the only specific mention of land use at Towne Neck during the 17th Century. Two entries in the probate inventory mention payments to carpenters hired to perform several tasks in conjunction with Williams' funeral. The carpentered fenced in Williams' grave and made some repairs to a house on his plantation. The same probate inventory mentions that Richard Bennett had rented Williams' fields for the 1677 growing season. A final draft of the probate inventory, filed on April 12, 1678 mentions a Mr. Thomas Daniel and his wife Rebecca, who were evidently living on the plantation at that point in time. The reference is unclear as to the status of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel. They may have been renting fields directly from the Williams' estate, or they may have been tenants working the plantation under some kind of arrangement with Bennett.

Mr. Williams' will contains no information about where he was living at the time of his death. It, and the inventory of his estate suggest that he was, by colonial standards, a wealthy man. Later deeds and mortgages for the property mention improvements from time to time, but only in a general and formulaic way. No detailed descriptions of the property are presented in any of these later documents beyond the conventional traverse points and distances that make up the property's metes and bounds. No maps or survey plats have survived that depict the former Towne Neck property in any kind of useful detail.

The site was first identified in 1993 during construction of a sediment trap. Construction of the trap was scheduled as part of a larger project to install athletic facilities in the area around the Naval Radio Transmitter Facility. Plans called for the construction of a lacrosse field, a basketball court, multi-purpose athletic fields, and a baseball diamond. Seventeenth Century archeological deposits were exposed in the eastern and western walls of the sediment trap. Upon discovery of the deposits, and in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, construction work was halted so that an assessment could be made of the find. A Phase II archeological study was carried out on behalf of the Department of the Navy and the United States Naval Academy. In addition, the Anne Arundel Archeological Society (a volunteer group) carried out excavations to document the features already exposed by the construction of



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the sediment trap.

Construction of the sediment trap removed one corner of a buried cellar hole (referred to as Feature 1) from what appeared to be a 17th century earthfast structure, and also exposed a borrow pit (Feature 2) filled with 17th century materials. The cellar hole was visible in the eastern wall of the sediment trap. The borrow pit was located at the lip of the more gently sloping western wall of the trap. The site had, thus, already been directly impacted by construction activities prior to the beginning of fieldwork, and has been subject to additional impacts from natural erosional forces since its first discovery.

Compliance-driven fieldwork commenced in December 1993 and was completed in March of 1994. However, prior to the start of the Phase II project, volunteers with the Anne Arundel Archeological Society (AAAS) and Navy personnel, under the supervision of the County Archeologist, performed some salvage work on the exposed features in October and November of 1993. Artifacts from Feature 1 were collected from the floor of the sediment trap. In addition, deposits of fill that had fallen out of Feature 1 and onto the floor of the sediment trap were screened for artifacts. The materials recovered are included in the tables above and in the count of Artifacts from Feature 1 that follows discussion of the Phase II testing below. Some of the materials recovered include a window lead manufactured by Frances Goode in 1661, medallion fragments from at least two Rhenish stoneware vessels, lead musket balls, wrought nails, a small brass jewelry chain, and a Llewellyn Evans pipe bowl. In addition, some intrusive 18th and 19th century materials were recovered.

Because of its position in the then-exposed wall of the sediment trap, Feature 1 had been under constant erosional pressure from wind, rain, freezing, thawing, and runoff. As water accumulated in the sediment trap, the base of Feature 1 also began to erode at the water line. To help curtail these processes a 25.4 cm (10 in) deep section of plowzone above the feature was removed to decrease the weight of overburden over the feature and thereby lessen the likelihood of the wall collapsing over the feature. All of these plowzone soils were screened. Seventeenth century materials in the plowzone included 24 pieces of lead shot, and two 17th century tobacco pipe fragments. The exposed portion of the feature was then covered with a plastic liner to protect it until Phase II investigations could be carried out.

When first exposed, Feature 2 appeared as a dark brown to black stain on the southwest lip of the sediment trap, and was clearly visible in that part of the B horizon exposed by the earth-moving equipment constructing the sediment trap. In the days that followed its exposure, Navy personnel picked up animal bone, fragments of decorated redware, Rhenish stoneware, a wrought nail, and parts of several glazed redware floor tiles. Taken together, these materials indicated a 17th century date (i.e. that it was contemporaneous with Feature 1). The feature was partially excavated by AAAS during November of 1993. Society volunteers removed and screened the plowzone soils, and drew the feature in plan view as it appeared under the base of the plowzone. The society then excavated the feature at its eastern and western extremes, leaving a balk at the feature's center.

The artifacts recovered from Feature 2 appeared to date from the mid to late 17th century. Three strata were recognizable within the feature. The deepest stratum contained a dense concentration of wrought nails, ash, and architectural rubble. The two overlying strata contained more bottle glass and ceramic sherds. It was posited that the lower level was associated with the destruction of a 17th century building (possibly the one associated with the Feature 1 cellar hole) and burial of the architectural debris, while the two upper levels document continued use of this "borrow pit" as a trash dump.

The "official" Phase II testing project got underway in December of 1993. The fieldwork included an array of shovel test pits (STPs) east and north of the sediment trap that exposed the site, the excavation of two 1 X 1 m units within the area covered by the STPs, a 1 m X 50 cm column into the profile of Feature 1, the examination of soil profile columns across the exposed face of the sediment trap, further examination of exposed features, soil coring, and topographic mapping of the site area.

Shovel test pits were excavated to locate site boundaries, and in so doing, to sample selected areas for prehistoric and historic materials, and to document prior disturbances and alterations to the landscape. STPs were initially positioned along the periphery of a silt fence every 3.05 m (10 ft). Wherever any STP yielded 17th century materials, a control line was extended outward (beyond the silt fence), and additional shovel tests were excavated at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals. This procedure continued until 17th century materials were no longer being recovered. Each shovel test measured 57 cm in diameter and was excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil, unless obstructed. In areas where extensive fill was encountered, soil cores were taken using an auger with a 2.54 cm (1 in) barrel from the bottom of the shovel test. Soils were removed by natural strata and sifted through hardware cloth. Appropriate soil, artifact, and excavation data were recorded on standardized forms and field maps. The STPs helped to define the approximate limits of the site, but did not lead to the discovery of any additional features.

Two test units were excavated in the shovel tested area, their placement based on the STP survey findings. Test units were 1 X 1 m squares and were excavated in 10 cm levels, within natural and cultural strata. Soil samples were recovered from each natural and cultural stratum encountered, and were retained as bulk samples for future specialized analyses. Excavated soils were sifted through hardware cloth and two walls of each test unit were drawn in profile, and the units were backfilled. Test Unit 1 was excavated to explore a deep deposit of 17th century artifacts at the southeastern corner of the site. Test unit 2 was excavated to examine the soil structure of a non-productive area near the site's northeastern border.

The results of excavation in Test Unit 1 indicated that the deep artifact deposits were centered in what was once a shallow gully or natural depression. Thus, it appeared that most of the artifacts in Test Unit 1 washed into this depression from elsewhere. It was posited that some of the materials near the bottom may have been intentionally deposited there. No lenses were noted (as would be expected with intentional refuse disposal) except in this lower level where a dense deposit of oyster shell and some lead sprue was encountered. Dense gravel was encountered in Test Unit 2 and this, combined with the freezing of the ground lead to the abandonment of the attempted excavation. Only a "smattering" of artifacts (which appeared to have been transported and re-deposited within the gravels and clays of the site) was recovered from this unit.

Adverse weather conditions hampered the Phase II excavation efforts, dictating alterations to the planned research project. Initially, an additional 1 X 1 unit planned to examine Feature 1. Unseasonably cold and frozen ground made the excavation of a unit over the cellar hole impractical. Instead, a 1m X 50 cm column was excavated into the exposed face of the cellar hole once the ground had thawed sufficiently. This procedure enabled researchers to recover artifacts from a series of controlled contexts within the cellar hole, as had been originally planned. Excavations methods were identical to those used for the 1 X 1 m units (see above).

Feature 1, the most prominent of the site's 17th century features, appears to be the remnant of a timber-lined cellar. Excavation revealed that much of the fill of the feature and surrounding soils had been burned. Almost all wood recovered was charcoal. The fill also revealed a wide variety of materials dating to the third quarter of the 17th century.



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Since the exposed wall of the sediment trap presented a long and continuous exposed soil profile face, a series of 5 control profiles were laid out so that profiles could be examined both in the area of the exposed feature and outside of it. A column, 50 to 60 cm wide was excavated into the northeast wall of the sediment trap from the ground surface to the base of the sediment trap. These profiles were then mapped and soils data was recorded. Two of these profiles, the southernmost and northern most were also subjected to controlled excavations to establish a comparative standard of artifact recovery. These two columns were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata, extending at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil. The soils removed in excavating these two columns were screened through hardware mesh. Basically the five profiles revealed a 10-20 cm thick deposit of re-deposited fill (of unknown age) overlap an intact 10 cm thick Ap horizon. Underlying the Ap was a very thick (44-56 cm) B/E horizon above several layers that contained no cultural materials.

As field personnel scraped the wall of the sediment trap to prepare one of the 5 control profiles (described above), they exposed a postmold extending some 51 cm beneath the base of the plowzone layer. This postmold (Postmold 1) actually appeared to contain the seats of two different posts, both potentially associated with the 17th century occupation (based on artifacts eventually recovered from the feature fill). This postmold could not be excavated during the Phase II project due to weather conditions, but would later be excavated by AAAS in the early spring of 1994. Over the winter of 1993/1994, two additional postmolds (and potentially others) would be exposed through fortuitous erosion at the site. Three postmolds would ultimately be excavated and drawn by AAAS volunteers (including Postmold 1). Collectively, they seemed to define the limits of an earthfast structure that sat atop the Feature 1 cellar hole. Artifacts recovered by AAAS seemed consistent with the late 17th century date.

To delineate the approximate shape and orientation of the cellar hole, an auger was used to sample the area immediately east of the sediment trap (i.e. the area that hadn't been excavated during construction of the sediment trap). A total of at least 13 soil core samples were taken from areas both within and surrounding the perimeter of Feature 1 (NOTE: the full site report says 13 soil cores were taken in one place and 15 in another). All samples were excavated using either a 10.16 cm (4 in) diameter bucket auger, or a 6.62 cm (3 in) Dutch auger, and were extended to depths exceeding 1 m unless an obstruction or sterile subsoil was encountered. Each auger received a detailed description of color, texture, and composition of each soil type, depth below surface, and presence or absence of cultural material and/or feature fill. Upon completion, each auger hole was marked with a pin flag and mapped.

The soil coring revealed feature fill at a depth of approximately 20-30 cm below ground surface extending vertically beyond 1 meter. In one core sample an immovable object was encountered at 88 cm below the surface. This object felt rather large, and traces of it recovered from the tip of the bucket auger suggest a large sandstone rock (perhaps a foundation or chimney stone), or a large pile of Dutch yellow brick. These data suggested that Feature 1 was roughly 5 meters X 5.5 meters in extent.

An artifact catalog is provided in the full site report from the Phase II excavations at 18AN944. It includes the artifact counts from the work conducted by the AAAS. Unfortunately, most of the catalog is coded in a way that makes providing a simple site-level count of artifact classes and categories here quite difficult. However, the artifact counts for feature 1 are not coded. These are provided below.

Artifacts recovered during the excavation of Feature 1 included 1 activity item (a quill tip), 707 architectural artifacts, 1 clothing item (a straight pin), 282 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item (a hat/hair pin), 43 tobacco-related artifacts (11 kaolin pipe fragments, 3 terra cotta pipe stems, 28 other pipe fragments, and 1 nearly complete pipe), 6 arms objects (1 gunflint, 2 pieces of flint shatter, and 3 musket balls), and 136 miscellaneous artifacts. The architectural artifacts were 230 pieces of red brick, 36 pieces of yellow brick, 22 mortar fragments, 58 earthenware tile pieces (Dutch Tiles), 190 other tile fragments, 12 pieces of building stone, 2 window lead fragments, 78 wrought nails, and 79 unidentified nails. The kitchen-related artifacts were 21 ceramic sherds (9 tin-glazed earthenware, 3 North Devon Sgraffito, 5 redware, 1 unglazed earthenware, 1 Rhenish stoneware, and 2 unidentified ceramic sherds), 25 pieces of glass (24 case bottle glass and 1 green container glass), 234 faunal remains (168 animal bones, 1 eggshell, 55 oyster shells, 4 fish scales, and 6 pieces of shell), and 3 floral remains (1 corn cob, 1 burnt seed, and 1 cherry pit). The miscellaneous objects were 8 pieces of unidentified glass, 2 copper fragments, 4 pieces of unidentified metal, 3 pieces of burnt clay, 11 miscellaneous lithics (may be prehistoric), 15 pieces of snail shell, 91 charcoal fragments, and a piece of slag.

Site 18AN944 is situated on the former property of Ralph Williams, a merchant who also served as a magistrate in Colonial Anne Arundel County. Williams, who migrated to Maryland from Bristol, England, acquired property on what is now Greenbury Point in 1661. He held it until his death in 1673. Thereafter, his estate was controlled by heirs in Bristol until they sold it to Nicholas Greenbury in 1685. The material evidence recovered in 1993 and 1994 indicates that 18AN944 dates principally to Williams' tenure as the proprietor of this estate. Artifacts recovered from the cellar fill and from nearby features and deposits have yielded a variety of materials dating to the third quarter of the 17th century. These include a Bristol farthing struck in 1660, along with window leads manufactured in 1661. The assemblage also contains considerable number of clay tobacco pipes and ceramic wares that are consistent with this time period. The tobacco pipes bear the marks of at least three Bristol pipemakers who were producing between 1660 and 1680.

Seventeenth Century Features 1 and 2 as well as at least 3 postmolds lie beneath a modern overburden and a plowzone. Together, these layers extend to an average depth of 40.6 cm (16 in) beneath the modern ground surface. The plowzone in the immediate vicinity of these features, however, contains 17th century materials. The boundaries of the site are defined by topographic relief to the southwest of the sediment trap, and in other directions by the distribution of 17th century materials in the plowzone. In three instances, this material includes architectural debris (brick and nails) that are similar to architectural materials directly associated with Features 1 and 2.

The most prominent of the 17th century features beneath the plowzone is Feature 1. The feature was interpreted as the remains of a timber-lined cellar or half-cellar that is typical of the earthfast structures of the period. The timbers at the cellar's base burned in place during the 17th century. This event will likely have preserved elements of architectural detail that would ordinarily not be visible in the archeological record. Three postmolds, each positioned fortuitously along the northern edge of the sediment trap, flank Feature 1. The three postmolds may partially define the ground plan and directional orientation of the dwelling.

The site also contains Feature 2, a seventeenth century trash pit filled with artifacts that appear to be contemporaneous with the cellar fill. Feature 2 was located on the southwestern lip of the sediment trap, and may be associated with a second occupation of the site soon after the burning and collapse of the structure over Feature 1.

During the Phase II study, a deep deposit of 17th century materials (located approximately 61 meters southeast of the cellar hole) was investigated. This deposit was located and sampled in the process of defining site boundaries, and appears to lie in a shallow gully or depression. This depression, visible on mid 19th century maps of Greenbury Point, has since been filled in. Most of the artifacts recovered at this location appear to have been washed into the depression. Some materials at the bottom of the gully, however, may have been intentionally deposited there.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN944

Site Name: Town Neck

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Ralph Williams, Towne Neck

Historic

Brief Description:

mid-17th century plantation

Unknown

The site also yielded some materials of Native American manufacture, and historic-era materials dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. The Phase II STPs and excavation units yielded a small grit-tempered Late Woodland potsherd and several chert and jasper flakes. Their context and associations, along with information on early colonial trade in the Annapolis area, imply the likelihood of contact between British colonists and Native groups during the site's 17th century occupation. All of these materials have thus far been directly associated with 17th century European materials or have been bracketed by strata containing 17th century artifacts. Collections made from the back dirt of the sediment trap have yielded other stone artifacts that are likely of Native American manufacture.

Eighteenth century ceramics and 19th century Navy ironstone have been recovered from the backdirt of the sediment trap, but virtually none of this material can be provenienced to discrete features. When present, these materials have been within overburden deposits or transported fill, or within plowzone deposits located outside the boundaries of the 17th century component.

The archeological deposits at the Town Neck site (18AN944) are capable of addressing a broad range of questions related to Maryland colonial history. The evidence suggests that the bulk of the earthfast structure's ground plan is intact beneath the plowzone. Furthermore, because the structure burned during the 17th century and was filled-in shortly afterward, it is likely that the fire preserved some details of cellar construction that would not normally have survived. Because the features had already been damaged (leading to the site's discovery) three options were presented to the US Navy for consideration to mitigate further negative impacts to the site. These were 1) stabilization and perseveration against further adverse impact, 2) the conduct of appropriate archeological research to preserve the entire site's research value, or 3) some combination of these first two options. Option 1, preservation in place, appears to have been chosen. Thus, the intact portions of the earthfast structure and possibly additional features remain intact at the site. Site 18AN944 should be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000756