



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN973

Site Name: Downs Family Cemetery and Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) AA-8

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-19th to early-20th century cemetery and mid-19th to mid-20th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1036

Longitude -76.7492

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 55 m

Site slope 0-15%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Midway Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 140 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

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

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
							1	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

Early 20th century farmhouse cellar and interwar period military structure foundations

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	1	Tobacco related	5
Glass (all)	74	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	141	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	5
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	14
		Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gravestones

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 type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN973 is the archeological remains of a mid 19th to early 20th century cemetery and mid 19th to mid 20th century farmstead associated with the Downs family of Anne Arundel County. The roughly 3.2 acre site is situated on a hilltop and upland flat at Fort George G. Meade. At the time of the site's evaluation in 2011, the site was within a wooded portion of the base's golf course. A significant portion of the surrounding landscape has been disturbed by military construction, track vehicle operation, and small arms and artillery exercise. Soils at the site are primarily Sassafras sandy loams, Croom gravelly loam, and Evesboro and Galestown loamy sands.

Between 1842 and 1850, William Downs acquired various tracts that made up the entirety of a 305 acre tract known as Ridgely's Chance (on which the site is located). In addition, he acquired another 17 acres, establishing a roughly 322 acre farmstead by the mid 19th century.

Exactly when William Downs first arrived in Anne Arundel County remains unknown. Available documents reveal that he was the son of Maryland natives, Zachariah (1748-1831) and Elizabeth Ann Mason Downs (1750-1820). William was born in Montgomery County, MD, on November 25, 1790. William's parents resided in Montgomery County for the remainder of their lives. Presumably, William would have remained with his parents through childhood and, perhaps, early adulthood. The 1810 Census is not readily available, but the 1820 Census record for Montgomery County shows that William was no longer living in his parents' home. The earliest available record for William consists of a marriage record, indicating that he married Mary Ann Carrick in Prince George's County, MD, on June 2nd, 1827. Census records show that by 1840, he was living in Anne Arundel County. Just two years later he would sign the deed for 122 acres of Ridgely's Chance and begin establishing his farmstead. In 1850, he is listed in the Census as a resident of Anne Arundel County, along with his wife Mary Ann and eight children: William H. (1828-1911), Benjamin C. (b. 1830), Catherine (b. 1832), James T. (1834-1920), Dorcus A. (b. 1836), John Gere (1838-1903), Sarah E. (b. 1843), and Ariel B. (1845-1911). An 1860 map shows William Downs' name near the center or Ridgely's Chance, just southwest of Site 18AN973.

The 1850 slave schedule for District 4 shows that William Downs owned seven slaves, including a 51 year old male, a 45 year old female, and what possibly constituted their family of five children, ages 3, 6, 10, 14, and 16. In 1860, he owned 9 slaves, including 5 males ages 2, 14, 36, 38, and 40, and four females ages 6, 10, 30, and 37. Census records for 1870 and 1880 show that a considerable number of African-American and mixed race residents of Anne Arundel County used the surname Downs. Some of these individuals may have been slaves or descendants of slaves belonging to William Downs, while others may have come from plantations belonging to other branches of the family. William's father, Zachariah, for example, owned a number of slaves. Census records show that William's brothers, Benjamin and Richard M. Downs also owned slaves.

Agricultural Census records for 1850 and 1860 indicate that William owned about 320 acres. Approximately 200 of these acres were improved, while 120 were unimproved. In 1850, the cash value of his farm totaled about \$1,000. He owned five horses, five milk cows, two oxen, eight cattle, 12 sheep, and 10 swine for a total livestock value of about \$200. He harvested 45 bushels of wheat, 30 bushel of rye, 350 bushels of Indian corn, and 4,000 pounds of tobacco. While the farm produced lesser quantities of grain than neighboring farms, Downs produced an above-average yield of tobacco. He also produced \$300 worth of fruit from his orchard and \$800 worth of marketable produce. These figures were about average for the area. Figures for 1860 were similar to those of 1850, but the Downs farm was by then worth \$2,500. Again, the Downs farm produced about 4,000 pounds of tobacco. By 1870, William had retired and his youngest son John Gere Downs continued the farm operation. Like most farmers in northern Anne Arundel County, John likely focused on truck farming for sale to Baltimore markets.

On April 30th, 1873, William Downs transferred his land to his son John according to a plat map of the Downs estate. This transaction does not appear in the grantee/grantor indexes for the county, but an 1878 map of the area clearly shows John as owner of the property. Williams Downs and his wife, Mary Ann died in 1883 and 1875 respectively. They were both buried in the family cemetery located on the Downs property (at 18AN973).

After acquiring the farm from his father in 1873, John Gere Downs kept the 322 acre property intact until 1884, when he sold 2 acres to Stephen Hebron. John sold an additional 8.75 acres to Hebron in 1896. The 1870 population census shows that Stephen Hebron was African-American and a laborer. In 1900, Hebron was listed as a farmer. Hebron's house appears on a 1904 map of the Vicinity of Washington, DC. By 1904, the house appears to have belonged to Stephen's son, Frank Hebron. The Hebron house and property was located towards the southwest corner of the Downs estate.

John and Mary remained on the Downs estate through 1900. The population census for that year shows the couple living with their daughters Susie and Edna. Sarah A. Disney, sister of John Downs, also was living in the house. John and Mary's oldest daughter, Mary Estelle, was living with her husband Summerfield C. Disney, on a farm somewhere in District Four. John died in 1903, leaving his wife Mary to handle the estate. Deed records show that in November 1907, the heirs of John Downs transferred 117.9 acres of the 312 acre Downs estate to William T. Downs, son of James T. Downs and nephew of John. In 1908, Mary transferred the remaining 192.1 acres of John's estate to son-in-law Summerfield C. Disney. Following the sale of her late husband's farm, Mary moved to Baltimore with her daughters Susan and Edna. May survived her husband John by 13 years, dying on February 2nd, 1916.

The cemetery portion of the site is located in a wooded area just west of the former William T. Downs/Post Sergeant Major's House. A low chain link fence borders the cemetery, which contains two marked graves, that of William Downs (November 1790 to September 30, 1883) and his wife Mary Ann Downs (July 27, 1803 to December 21, 1875). William and Mary were grandparents of William T. Downs, original occupant of the Post Sergeant Major's house. It remains unknown whether or not Downs Cemetery contains any unmarked graves.

The Downs Cemetery marks the approximate location of the former Downs family farmstead. The United States Army leased the Downs farm in June 1917. Two years later the Army purchased the property. A 1919 plat map of the property shows that the Downs family retained legal access to the cemetery. Whether or not the family exercised their right of access to the cemetery remains unknown.

Based on historic maps and photos, it appears that during World War I, the 79th Division headquarters occupied the area around the cemetery. Photos from ca. 1918 show a number of temporary wooden buildings and a tall watchtower in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery. To what extent this temporary construction affected the cemetery remains unknown. Presumably, the Army built around the graves but, given the exigencies of wartime measures, construction efforts could have resulted in the damage and removal of headstones. The Army removed the temporary buildings and structures during the 1920s and 1930s, leaving only the former house of William T. Downs and the cemetery itself. The William T. Downs house remained in use as the Post



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Description:

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Unknown

Sergeant Major's residence (Building 6926). During the 1950s, the Army built a golf course in this area, and in the early 1990s, the Army demolished the former house of William T. Downs.

Former Building 6926, also known as the Post Sergeant Major's House, appears to have been built by or for William T. Downs. The house probably was built ca. 1907, when William T. acquired the property from the estate of his uncle John Gere Downs. The 1907 USGS topographic map appears to show the building. Photographs of the house taken in 1991 show that it was a vernacular, one-storey cross-gabled bungalow. There are no extant outbuildings associated with the former house.

Born in 1869, William T. Downs was the son of James T. (1834 – 1920) and Louisa E. Downs (1835 – 1896). William T.'s father, James, was the son of William Downs and older brother of John Gere Downs. This made William T. a grandson of William Downs and nephew to John Downs. Exactly when William T. married his wife Amanda V. (1875 - ?) remains uncertain, but it probably occurred about 1895. The couple had at least seven children.

According to the plat map for the former William/John Downs farm, William T. acquired 117.9 acres of his uncle, John Downs estate on November 27th, 1907. Presumably, William T. built a house on the property about the time he acquired the property or soon thereafter. William T. located his house very near the former farmstead of his grandfather, William Downs, and his uncle, John Downs. This area also included the Downs Cemetery. William T. Downs appears in the 1910 population census as a resident of District Four, Anne Arundel County. He is listed as a truck farmer, which was the predominant type of farming in the area.

In June 1917, the United States Army leased William T. Downs' property as part of its effort to establish a training cantonment. William T. and all of his neighbors vacated their farmsteads as the Army moved in to erect barracks and other buildings and structures necessary for housing and training troops. Although initiated as a temporary war measure, the cantonment, named Camp Meade, soon evolved into a permanent military installation. Finding it more cost-effective to purchase the leased land rather than restore it to its former condition, the Army purchased all the leased properties outright in June 1919. Consequently, William T. and his neighbors never returned to their former farmsteads. By 1920, William T. was living in District Five, Anne Arundel County, and still making his living as a truck farmer. He continued this occupation through at least 1930. It is not known when William T. Downs died or where he was buried.

The area surrounding the Down House has been thoroughly disturbed over the years. Early maps and photos of the camp show that the Army covered much of the surrounding ground with temporary wooden barracks and support facilities, leaving little of the historical, agricultural landscape recognizable. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Army gradually replaced the World War I era buildings with tents, which were erected on platforms built of wood from salvaged buildings. The wood platform tents were, in turn, replaced with tents erected on concrete pads. Over time, these too disappeared as the Army established substantial and permanent buildings around the camp. The area immediately surrounding the former William T. Downs/Post Sergeant Major's House a golf course was constructed in the 1950s for the recreation of Army personnel. If previous grading and construction activities had not already obliterated vestiges of historical landscape features, such as roads, house and outbuilding foundations, and crop and orchard fields, the golf course thoroughly covered whatever survived up until the 1950s. The house was demolished by the Army in the 1990s and all that remains of the former Downs farmstead above ground is the Downs Family Cemetery.

Site 18AN973 was first examined archeologically in 1995 during the course of a Phase I survey of Ft. Meade. At that time, walkover survey and systematic shovel testing were used to survey portions of the property. Systematic shovel testing 18AN973 entailed the excavation of 21 shovel test on a 20 meter grid pattern. The Downs Family Cemetery was described at that time as having a single replacement marker for the graves of Mary A. Downs and William Downs. Also noted were, cement remains on a hilltop northwest of the golf course clubhouse including a cellar, foundation remnants, and a cement pillar. The limited shovel testing produced 1 decorated piece of porcelain, brick, coal, nails (44 wire), and slag. Despite the presence of features and artifacts, these resources were not recorded as a site. These resources were eventually recommended ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

In December of 2011 investigations were conducted in compliance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. The NHPA requires that the Army take into account the effects of undertakings on historic resources, as well as identify, evaluate, and manage historic properties located on Army lands. As part of the Army's efforts to comply with the NHPA, Fort Meade has developed an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan and the 2011 project was carried out in support of this plan. Re-development of the base's golf course facilities was also in the planning stages at that time.

Archeological investigations in 2011 utilized walkover inspection, shovel test pit (STP) excavation, and test unit excavation. Walkover inspection on a 5 m interval was conducted across the site. As cultural material and features were identified, they were marked with green flagging tape, as were potential cultural features and areas of disturbance. A 10 m sampling grid was established using tape and compass, and extended as necessary to areas of interest. Low probability areas (terrain with steep slope) and extensively disturbed areas (other than the Post Sergeant Major's House) were not shovel tested. High probability areas (terrain with less than 15% slope and with intact soil profiles) were subjected to shovel testing on a 10 m grid. Where shovel testing produced cultural material, the interval was reduced to a 5 m grid. Shovel testing was employed to confirm the location of the Post Sergeant Major's House. However, because of the high level of disturbance previously documented shovel testing in the area of the Downs/Post Sergeant Major's House was rather limited. Shovel test result guided the placement of a single 1 X 1 m test unit. A paper map was created reflecting the results of the investigations and recording topography, cultural features, and landscape elements. The area was also mapped using a Trimble GeoXH GPS unit.

Shovel test measured approximately 35 cm in diameter. All STPs were excavated by natural strata to a depth of 50 cm or to a depth sufficient to observe at least 10 cm of culturally sterile subsoil. Soil removed from each shovel test was screened through mesh hardware cloth. Pertinent data, including topography, ground cover, soil texture and color, disturbance, and cultural materials (if any) were recorded for each shovel test on standardized forms, and a soil profile of each STP was drawn. Photographs were taken of field conditions and areas of potential disturbance. Notes were maintained on surface and vegetation conditions, soil characteristics, and the source and extent of any disturbance. The test unit was excavated both stratigraphically and in 10 cm arbitrary levels. Arbitrary levels were used initially, however, after excavation of collapse deposits at the Post Sergeant Major's house began, it became apparent that the fine control afforded by arbitrary level excavation was unnecessary and the excavation was completed using stratigraphic excavation only. All test unit soils were screened. Photographs were taken at the start of test unit excavation, at each stratigraphic interface, and at the end of excavation. The test unit was drawn and photographed in profile following the termination of excavation.

The investigations revealed that the Downs Family Cemetery portion of the site contained only two marked burials within the perimeter fencing, however, there was also some evidence that poorly marked or unmarked graves may be located outside the fenced cemetery. Crude sandstone rocks within the fenced



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cemetery indicate these were used as grave markers and elongated sandstone rocks were also located outside the fence to the east. Also, an east-to-west alignment of sandstone rocks (possibly a headstone and footstone pairing) was identified west of the fenced cemetery. Finally, when the land was sold to the Army, the Downs family exempted a half acre graveyard. This graveyard set-aside far exceeds the area of the current 40 m² fenced cemetery. The large size of the set-aside may indicate family plans for future burials or may reflect an attempt to protect poorly marked or unmarked graves. Unmarked and poorly marked graves are often the final resting place of infants or low status individuals. Establishment of a substantial buffer around the fenced cemetery was recommended to the Army.

The Downs Family Farmstead/Post Sergeant Major's House portion of the site yielded little additional information beyond what was already known from MIHP forms and MHT Site Files. The ca. 1907 farm house is completely demolished and the site has been filled and graded. Despite finding evidence of a driveway and a cellar, there was a dearth of diagnostic material and site integrity was judged to be poor. Moreover, the relationship of the William T. Downs House to the Downs Farmstead was very short: the house was built ca. 1907 and transferred to the Army in 1917 (sold in 1919). Given this short tenure, it is no surprise that no additional elements of the Downs Family Farmstead (i.e. outbuildings, shaft features, etc.) were located. It was determined that the research potential in this portion of the site has been exhausted.

Artifacts recovered during the 2011 research at 18AN973 were few. The artifact assemblage from the vicinity of the William T. Downs House includes 85 architectural artifacts (5 asbestos tile fragments, 6 wood fragments, 1 flooring fragment, 8 pieces of shingle, 2 earthenware tile fragments, 1 piece of fire brick, 7 pieces of brick, 3 pieces of lime mortar, 3 wire nails, 6 unidentified nails, 30 pieces of window glass, 11 porcelain plumbing fixture pieces, 2 unidentified architectural artifacts), 26 kitchen-related artifacts (25 pieces of vessel glass and 1 piece of shell), 5 tobacco-related artifacts (earthenware pipe fragments), and 4 miscellaneous objects (2 fragments of coal, 1 unidentifiable porcelain fragment, and a piece of plastic).

Three Army period concrete foundations and a developed service road were identified in the southern portion of the site during the course of the investigation. These foundations were located within the Downs Family Farmstead landscape, but postdate the civilian occupation. The area around the foundations has been disturbed, and it is difficult to determine whether any of the artifacts recovered in this area are directly related to the structural remains. There is evidence (aerial photography, tree ring data) that the structures date to the interwar years at Fort Meade. Map and photographic evidence suggest that in 1919 the 79th Division Headquarters may have extended into this area. Given the questionable integrity of the remains, however, it is not likely that this portion of the site can provide important information concerning military construction or military life during the interwar period.

The assemblage from this area of the site consisted of 12 architectural artifacts (4 cut nails and 8 unidentified nails), 10 kitchen-related artifacts (vessel glass fragments), and 14 miscellaneous objects (2 corroded metal objects, 1 piece of coal, 1 piece of slag, 9 pieces of melted glass, and 1 piece of coal).

Ultimately, the 2011 investigations at 18AN973 were not able to fully delineate the boundaries of the Downs Family Cemetery. Because the full extent of the cemetery is not known, there is not enough information to determine if this portion of the site is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, however, it was recommended that a significant buffer be created around the extant cemetery fencing to protect any graves that may be located outside its boundaries. The 2011 investigations did demonstrate that neither the William T. Downs House yards, nor the newly discovered Army foundations in the southern portion of the site possess any integrity. These portions of the site do not exhibit any research potential and should not be considered significant.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002090, Site Files