



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP1

Site Name: Paca House and Gardens

Prehistoric

Other name(s): William Paca House

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th-20th century standing urban mansion house and formal gardens

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code CpuB

Latitude 38.9805

Longitude -76.4948

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 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) Spa Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 205 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

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

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? Urban

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

formal gardens, urban mansion, tanning boxes

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	500
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> coal

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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	garden wall, canal	
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 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 University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Paca House and Gardens (18AP1) is an archeological site (once numbered 18AN40) associated with the standing 18th-20th century urban mansion (known as the William Paca House or Carvel Hall) and its associated formal gardens in downtown Annapolis. The house and surrounding property have been declared a National Historic Landmark and are also listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP #AA-657). The site is situated at 186 Prince George Street in the heart of the Annapolis Historic District. Most of the surrounding landscape is heavily developed as an urban area within the City of Annapolis. Soils at the site are Monmouth sandy loams as well as some human transported soils.

The Paca House property occupies two lots: Lot #93 and Lots #104 on the 1718 Survey of Annapolis. William Paca purchased this property in 1763, just four days after he had married. The house was built over the next couple of years, between 1763 and 1765 based on a Georgian-style design by Paca himself. The main block stood 2½ stories high with 1½ storey kitchen and office pavilions to either side with connecting hyphens. Paca would go on to historical prominence as a signatory to the Declaration of Independence and a 3 term Governor of Maryland.

An early reference to Paca's gardens is given by Edward Burd in 1778, in which he states that Paca's House, "...is extremely elegant and has a fine garden and 2 acres of ground belonging to it". A painting done of Paca by Charles Wilson Peale portrays him in his garden with a summer house, bridge, bathhouse, and garden wall in the background. This painting has proven to be instrumental in historical reconstruction of the original landscape of the Paca House and grounds.

William Paca sold his property in 1780 and during the subsequent century it changed hands several times, falling into various states of disrepair. The house itself was altered to allow the wings of the house to be rented separately from the main portion. In the late 19th century, the main portion of the house served as a boarding house. In the year 1901, the property was purchased by the Annapolis Hotel Corporation. Until 1965, Paca's house served as a lobby for the 200 room hotel, Carvel Hall, which was constructed on the garden grounds.

In 1965, a developer bought the property and planned to build a high-rise complex on the site, an action which would have destroyed both the hotel and the Paca House and Garden. The Historic Annapolis Foundation, then Historic Annapolis, Inc., raised the funds necessary to purchase the house, and persuaded the General Assembly of Maryland to purchase the 2 acre garden. The Historic Annapolis Foundation now operates out of the house, which is open to the public as a museum and interpretive center, and manages the garden in a lease agreement with the State of Maryland. Today, the house and property have been largely restored to their 18th century appearance. Archeological investigations have played a significant role in the restoration process for the house and garden undertaken by the Historic Annapolis Foundation.

The first documented archeological work at 18AP1 occurred in 1966, when a National Park Service archeologist conducted fieldwork in the garden area. The investigation consisted of five trenches excavated through the use of a backhoe. Two trenches were placed along the west garden wall of the property and were oriented north-south. The remaining trenches were placed on the bottom garden terrace, two oriented east-west and one oriented north-south. The trenches revealed the presence of a single structure dating to the 17th century or early 18th century along the west garden wall of the property. The foundations of the 18th century garden wall and evidence of the summer house were located at the east end of the north-south running trench on the lower terrace.

Additional archeological work was carried out a year later: extensive trenching of the final garden terrace. No field notes or report survive from this period of excavations, but many profiles do exist and a map of trench locations also survives. The investigations revealed early 18th century tanning boxes which predate Paca's occupation, as well as the pond, spring house, canal, and garden wall which date to the late 18th century.

The spring house structure was excavated both inside and outside, revealing a brick-walled structure measuring 2.74 (9 ft) square with 30 cm (1 ft) thick walls. The door opening was determined to be in the middle of the west wall. Outside the door was a brick "stoop" or walk. The recorded stratigraphy consisted of three superimposed brick floors with intervening soil strata. The nature of the fill above the floors is not documented. The top floor (Floor 3) was dated ca. 1840. It was separated thin layer of soil, roots, and water deposited sand, coal and glass fragments from Floor 2. Brick Floor 2 was dated ca. 1825 and was separated from the bottom-most floor (Floor 1) by 15.24 cm (6 in) of soil in two strata.

A wooden water collection box measuring 61 X 76.2 cm (2 X 2.5 ft) and a trough with wooden sides measuring 33.5 X 122 cm (1.1 X 4 ft) were found in an "L" formation in the center area of the Spring House. Supports for these boxes as well as gates and other apparatus were also uncovered which helped to catch and direct the flow of spring water through the house. The spring house was designed to collect water from the spring and channel its overflow to a garden pond to the south and a presumed bath house to the north.

Another excavation was carried out in 1975 in order to increase data on the springhouse first revealed during the 1967 project, and also of the summer house structure first encountered during the 1966 excavations. The exterior of the springhouse had been reconstructed in the intervening years, but more data was requested regarding the interior of the springhouse and the function of the evidence uncovered of the summerhouse was very preliminary. The method of excavation utilized in 1975 is not described in detail in the brief report that does exist, but work entailed removing the fill covering the interior of the reconstructed springhouse and trench excavations in the area of the presumed summerhouse.

Excavations in the springhouse interior exposed many of the same springhouse features revealed in 1967 (covered with backfill and preserved in place). It was determined that the brick and mortar of Floor 1 were identical to that used in the Paca House and, thus, of the same age. A middle 18th century bottle base in the basin muck further supports this connection. The trough and box were not in operation at this time, but were introduced sometime in the early 19th century, but after 1825 based on the presence of a piece of coal. During Paca's occupation a brick floored catchment basin and brick step served to collect the water. The step was probably used to accommodate jars, crocs, and bottles for cooling. The water drained out to the north where it split and drained to the pond and possibly a bath house.

In the area where the summerhouse was potentially located, the excavators in 1975 dug a series of twelve (or more) 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) wide test trenches to sterile subsoil. The goal was to locate additional features with which a more confident determination of the area's function could be made. The previous excavators had found a small rectangular brick ruin with an area of brick and mortar rubble extending to the south. All of the 1975 trenches yielded negative



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information except one which revealed a blackened wooden stake with a sharpened end.

The location of the original "summerhouse" findings was then re-excavated in the same manner as the springhouse. Findings were not significantly different, except that a large postmold was found in the vicinity of the brick ruin and rubble heap. The presence of the postmold bolstered the idea that some form of insubstantial structure was situated here, such as a pavilion or summerhouse. Again, the brick suggests a structure of the same age as the Paca house itself.

No catalog of the artifacts recovered during the 1975 excavations is provided in the site report.

An additional analysis was made of the springhouse in 1982. The work focused on the strata surrounding its features in an attempt to tie it better to work carried out in 1967. Unfortunately, no formal report of this work is available at MHT.

The most recent phase of archeological work at 18AP1 occurred in 1990 and was carried out by Archaeology in Annapolis (AIA), a cooperative partnership between the University of Maryland at College Park and the Historic Annapolis Foundation. At that time, Historic Annapolis was undertaking the repair of the brick garden canal which provides spring water for the Paca Garden pond.

Three units were excavated at the site in 1990 in an effort to reconstruct details about the original garden landscape. Two of the units were .762 X 1.524 m (2.5 X 5 ft) in extent, while the fourth was 1.524 X 1.524 m in size. Excavation proceeded using the natural stratigraphy to define the distinction between layers. When a layer reached a depth of 15.24 cm (6 in), it was arbitrarily ended, and a new layer begun. Soils were excavated using shovels and trowels, and were sifted through a standard hardware cloth. Soil samples and flotation samples were taken of every cultural layer. Samples drawn from 20th century strata were not kept.

The 1990 archeological remains indicated that to the south and east of the current canal, no significant 18th or 19th century layers remain intact. Twentieth century fill episodes rest directly on top of sterile subsoil. Within the canal (to the north and west), the stratigraphy is intact, revealing a late 20th century fill episode, a late 19th century fill episode, and some scant evidence of an 18th century layer. The presence of numerous planting features indicates that the garden was still intact and active during the 19th century. In short, most of the 18th century garden has been disturbed or destroyed altogether by late 19th and 20th century activity. The portion of the garden to the north of the canal provides the best opportunity for discovering 18th century stratigraphy.

No summary table of artifacts is provided in the full site report for the 1990 field project. The total quantity of archeological materials for all field projects at the Paca House is minimally estimated in the tables above at 500 miscellaneous objects.

Although this site has been the subject of several episodes of archeology, most have been poorly documented. The site maps, notes, etc. that do exist reveal that most of the archeology has occurred in the garden and not near the Paca House itself. Intact deposits relating to life in the Paca House may be preserved at the site. Furthermore, the 1990 field project revealed that intact 18th century deposits potentially are preserved to the north of the garden canal. Continued archeological monitoring of any development of these areas is still a necessity. The site still potentially holds significant archeological research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000145, 00000142, Site Files