



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP21

Site Name: Sign O' the Whale

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 99 Main Street, Customs House

Historic

Brief Description:

Early-Mid 18th century earthfast house site, 18th century foundation, 19th-20th century brick structure

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9706

Longitude -76.4917

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope

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 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860 Y

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900 Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930 Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930 Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820 Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

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? Urban

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

store

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

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	Staffordshire	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	8
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	66
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	19
Creamware	32	Pearlware	22	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

18th century structural foundations, builder's trench, and support piers

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	630	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	1287	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1320	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	761
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	2947
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" 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"/>	refuse pits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AP21, also known as Sign O' the Whale, consists of intact archeological deposits and features associated with an Early-Mid 18th century earthfast house and an 18th century foundation in the yard and within the footprint of a standing 19th-20th century brick structure in downtown Annapolis, Maryland. The site is an urban city block, at the corner of Main Street and Green Streets. It lies in the heart of the Historic District of Annapolis, and is near the waterfront, the original source of transportation and commerce for the city. Two buildings comprise the site, but have different directions and different addresses, even though they are adjoined and occupy the entire lot. The surrounding landscape is heavily developed as an urban area. Soils at the site are Collington and Wist sandy loams as well as some human transported soils.

The historic building at 18AP21 is a 4,458 square foot structure that is an outstanding example of a post-Revolution Georgian-style commercial building. In construction, it features Flemish bond brickwork, molded water table and plain belt courses, a heavy wooden cornice with modillions and dentils, and two large interior end chimneys. The building is known locally as the "Sign O' the Whale", after a business that occupied it for 30 years. The three storey brick building adjoins the smaller two storey building facing Garden Street, making 99 Main Street and 196 Green Street two parts of the same building and lot.

The property has had a long list of property owners, and an illustrious one by Annapolis standards. There is little evidence to suggest that the site was occupied prior to the 18th century. In 1712 the property was sold to Amos Garrett by John Wood, Jr. By this time Annapolis had been made the state capital, and a city plan had been drawn up. Garrett was a prominent Annapolitan in his time, and the land at 99 Main Street (then known as Church Street) was becoming more prominent within the cityscape as well.

The new owner, Amos Garrett, was born in England in 1671 and immigrated to Maryland as a free adult by 1701. He served as agent for Sir Thomas Lawrence, one of the richest men in Maryland, and became a merchant planter. He also held a number of political offices. He was the first Mayor of Annapolis, serving from 1708-1720. He was a member of the Lower House representing Annapolis for many years (1712-14, 1715, 1720-21), and was an Annapolis Alderman (c. 1720-1726). Garrett was a single man who had no known progeny. At the time of his death in 1727 he was the richest man in Maryland, with an estate valued at 24,450 pounds sterling, which included over 8,000 acres of land, 68 slaves, and 10 servants. Garrett owned at least 9 lots on the Annapolis survey of 1718, including the location of 18AP21.

At Garrett's death, the property ended up in the hands of Garrett's sisters, Elizabeth Ginn and Mary Woodward. In 1737 the property and parts of several other lots were sold to Dr. Charles Carroll, who already owned a good deal of property in the area. Although the "parts" aren't specified, it was likely the portions of the 18AP21 lot and adjoining lots that faced the water along what would become Main Street.

Carroll rented the property to several tenants. It is unclear whether any structures had already been built on the land before Carroll purchased it. Garrett owned so much land it is unlikely that he ever occupied the property, and the only earlier mention of its use is as pasture. Given that Carroll bought partial lots, it is probably an indication that these areas were undeveloped. By 1745, the property was developed and was occupied by John Chalmers. It is described as "part of a Lot #28 consisting of one dwelling house kitchen and meat house with all that part being the northernmost part of the said Lott from the Northernmost corner of the bakerhouse in the occupation of John Chalmers..." Clearly Chalmers occupied the property and may have had as many as four separate structures - dwelling house, kitchen, meat house, and bakerhouse. It seems more likely that one structure was the "dwelling house kitchen", with the meat house being a small shed. What is unclear is whether the "bakerhouse" is yet another building, or if it is the same structure as the "dwelling house kitchen". This short passage in the property records has strong implications for interpreting archeological remains.

Another major development was the construction of Green Street. The street was laid out in 1752 extending from Duke of Gloucester across Lots #26 and #28 to Church Street. Carroll's placed advertisements in the Maryland Gazette in February of that year to offer lots for sale or lease, "conveniently situated for good air and prospect and building and carrying on any trade or business" along these streets. The addition of Green Street made the lot a prominent corner on the downtown Annapolis waterfront.

In 1755 the property passed from Dr. Charles Carroll to Nicholas and Margaret Carroll. This transfer of ownership was of little consequence, since the property was occupied by tenants. Whether the tenant was still Chalmers or not is unclear, but by 1790, another tenant at the property was Richard Flemming. Flemming was a baker, and apparently using the "bakerhouse" facilities, presumably the same that existed on the property during Chalmers tenure. Perhaps the two both lived on the property, especially if there was a separate tenement.

On January 21st, 1790 a fire broke out that consumed the entire block of Main Street (then called Church Street) between Green and Compromise Streets. The fire originated in Richard Flemming's bakerhouse and, "consumed his dwelling house, with the tenement adjoining thereto, and also the dwelling houses of Mr. Henry Sybell, and Mr. William Wilkins, and three warehouses". According to the article in the Maryland Gazette, the entire block was destroyed.

Soon after the fire, in 1791, Lewis Neth announces in the Maryland Gazette that he has moved from Fleet Street to "the house lately built by Frederick Grammar, opposite the southwest end of the market". Neth had already been operating a store on the dock since at least 1783. Apparently Grammar had built the existing 99 Main Street building, and quickly let it out to Neth. Grammar didn't actually purchase the property from the Carrolls until 1792. Frederick Grammar was born in Wurttemberg, Germany about 1751 and died in 1818. Neth apparently had a 99 year lease as tenant. In the 1798 Direct Tax records, Grammar is the owner, Neth is the tenant, and the property has a brick dwelling house three stories (32 X 30 ft), and a brick kitchen (16 X 14), for a total assessment of \$1,000 dollars. When his heirs received it in 1819, its value had risen to \$3,520. The current 99 Main Street building today is the same three storey house built by Grammar in 1791. Any archeology below that building would presumably reflect the period of the fire and before. The location of the "brick kitchen" is unknown.

When Neth died in 1826, the property was purchased at auction by George Shaw, but also bought from Shaw the same day by John Andrew Grammar, grandson of Frederick Grammar. John Grammar was born about 1792 and died in September 1832. Grammar bought "...the dwelling house thereon and all and Singular the improvements and appurtenances thereon or thereunto belonging to appertaining unto him..." One might think Grammar's purchase was to keep the building in the family. Nevertheless, it was bought shortly thereafter by another colorful Annapolis figure. In 1830 the 99 Main Street building was purchased by Dennis Claude. Claude lived in the Upton Scott House on Shipwright Street and owned properties throughout the city. He had a political career including twice Mayor of Annapolis, from 1828-1837, and again from 1853-54.



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Claude died in 1857 intestate, and in 1857 his son, Dennis Claude, Jr. petitioned to divide his father's holdings. He acquired the, "dwelling house and store on Green and Church Street" by buying out his mother for \$2,455.05. He then built two new brick dwellings on the Green Street side. This is the point at which the property was divided from its original survey lot. In 1871, Claude conveyed the 196 Green Street property to his sister, Marion Howes Pinkard.

From this point forward, there is little evidence to suggest alterations to the property (i.e. improvements) although its specific commercial and residential uses changed over time. In the late 19th century, it functioned as a fruit and confectionary store, dry goods store, and a boarding facility. In 1903, the 99 Main Street and 196 Green Street properties were again reunited when both were acquired by Moses Rolnik. In 1913, both properties were purchased by Louis and Pauline Bloom, who would eventually sell the properties to Port of Annapolis, Inc. in 1959.

In 1928-1929 the property was the Louis Bloom Dry Goods Store. In 1939 it was Bloom Second-hand Furniture and John Gailitis Watch Repair. In 1954, it was the Thomas B. Dunn Sport Shop and Annapolis Pet Shop. It was also a boarding house for several tenants during this time. In the 1950s, a vital structural wall was accidentally demolished, and the city ordered that the building be razed. In 1957, a group of Historic Annapolis Foundation board members formed Port of Annapolis, Inc. to purchase the building and finance its restoration and adaptive reuse as a specialty store and residence. With the help of private investors, the building was purchased for \$21,700. Restoration of the building was completed in 1960, and it housed the Sports and Specialties Shop soon thereafter until 1970 when it became the Sign O' the Whale. Preservation of this critical building marked the beginning of the restoration of the Annapolis waterfront.

In 1958, soon after the Port of Annapolis began the process of purchasing the property, the small yard that lay behind the Green Street property was excavated by Henry Wright, who was working under a contract with Historic Annapolis. This work was done in advance of expansion of the 99 Main Street building, and perhaps also for the installation of sewer lines. He excavated a 3.05 X 1.52 m (10 X 5 ft) trench through the yard to a depth of 81.3 cm (32 in) and established that there were intact archeological remains below the existing building. His notes indicate that it was oriented to the direction of the existing architecture. Among the finds were a brick "walkway" dating to the mid 19th century, substantial remains from a building that burnt in 1790, and evidence of an earthfast structure predating that.

In 1974, a second excavation was undertaken at 18AP21 in the far back yard of the Green Street lot, adjacent to the area of Wright's 1958 work. Historic Annapolis requested an archeological investigation of the area where they planned to construct a new extension at the rear of the Sign O' the Whale shop. Salvage archeological work was requested to mitigate the impact of the proposed extension. The 1974 excavations were to be part of the City Edges Program of the National Endowment for the Arts as a contribution to the knowledge of the history of American Culture in the Annapolis area.

Three (nearly) 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) square were excavated using shovels, trowels, and bamboo slivers. "Much" of the earth was sifted through screen mesh varying in size from ¼ inch to ½ inch in size. A record of horizontal and vertical profiles of the soils and archeological features encountered was kept, along with a daily log of excavations. Photographs were also taken to document the excavations and some (apparently not all) artifacts were retained. The excavations revealed a foundation wall of brick and stone within a layer of burned material from 81 to 132 cm (32 to 52 inches) below grade.

It was concluded that this was the foundation of the 1745 "bakerhouse" that is known to have burned at the location in 1791. The excavators mention nothing below this. Above it was a rubble layer that extended to only 38.1 cm (15 inches) below the surface, where a brick floor surface or walkway of hard red bricks was encountered. What this surface actually was is in question. Very little from the 1974 excavations appears to date to the early 18th century. The "lower level" encountered comprised a significant amount of the excavation (soil moved), but apparently only a handful of sherds that could be from such an early date were recovered.

As artifact catalog (described as preliminary) provided in the full 1974 excavation report listed 650 fragments of glass (both container and window glass), 467 pieces of brick, 386 pottery sherds, 381 pieces of oyster and clam shell, 319 animal bones, 239 pieces of iron (much of it unidentifiable), 180 pieces of coal and slag, 30 pieces of mortar and plaster, 75 pieces of wood and charcoal (presumably from the burning of the bakerhouse), 13 roof shingle fragments, 8 pieces of plastic, 5 modern aluminum objects, a bronze stirrup, an unidentified piece of bronze, a piece of copper wire, and a brass firearms cartridge.

The most recent archeological project to take place at 18AP21 was carried out over 5 days in the summer of 2003. At that time the Historic Annapolis Foundation was planning to construct a museum, called the Annapolis History Center (AHC), in both the building at 99 Main Street and the adjoining 196 Green Street building. Construction plans for the AHC would require disturbance below ground level in two areas: the front room of the Green Street building and an elevator shaft in the back of the Green Street building extension (where the previous excavations occurred). Those two areas of potential impact were the focus of a Phase II investigation directly beneath the floors of the building(s).

A formal test unit was excavated in each area. Unit 1 was situated in the front room area. It was originally 1 X .95 m (3.3 X 3.1 ft) in size and expanded to 1.62 X .95 m (5.3 X 3.1 ft) in extent. Unit 2 was located in the rear extension of the Green Street building in an area that was the backyard for both buildings before being enclosed. The unit measured 1.07 X .97 m (3.5 X 3.18 ft) in size. Both units were oriented to the existing architecture, which put the corners of the units pointing towards cardinal compass directions. Excavation units were dug stratigraphically, with all materials collected in natural levels and all excavated materials screened through hardware mesh. Photographs were taken to document the excavations. Excavated artifacts were washed, counted and catalogued, with the exception of brick, coal, and oyster shell which were counted, weighed and then discarded.

The two test units revealed that Site 18AP21 was the location of three previous constructions. Unit 1 was by far the most revealing of the two. The current building at 99 Main Street, built in 1791, was preceded by an earlier brick dwelling, evidenced by a stout pier of bricks (Feature 9) and an associated builder's trench (Feature 2). This was attached to a wooden-sided structure that stood on a full foundation of brick and stone (Feature 10). Ceramics indicate that these buildings date to the early-middle of the 18th century. More specifically, the dates derived from pottery within the builder's trench associated with the Feature 9 pier coincide with the interpretation of the Feature 9 pier as part of Rthe Chalmers/Flemming occupation of the site (i.e. it was built after 1745 but before 1790). A third structure of post-in-ground construction (evidenced by the recovery of burned posts and wood fragments in Unit 2) likely existed prior to these, but evidence was scant. Aside from the burned post (Feature 5) and wood fragments, the excavations in Unit 2 largely revealed evidence of disturbance from both the 1958 excavations and sewer line installations.

The assemblage of artifacts recovered includes a broad sample of common 18th century pottery such as creamware and Chinese export porcelain, and also includes some early colonial types such as tin-glazed earthenware and various red-bodied slipwares. The artifacts recovered in 2003 included 764 architectural artifacts (including 65 pieces of brick and 124 pieces of mortar), 214 ceramic sherds (including 8 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 5 refined



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earthenware sherds, 8 slipware sherds, 33 unidentified earthenware sherds, 32 creamware sherds, 22 pearlware sherds, 19 porcelain sherds, 66 whiteware sherds, 2 yellowware sherds, 1 highly-refined ware, 2 coarse stonewares, and 16 refined stoneware sherds), 5 pipestems, 61 fragments of shell, 848 other organic objects, 636 pieces of glass, 322 pieces of metal, and 58 fragments of metal.

The 2003 excavations reveal that Site 18AP21 holds potential for understanding Annapolis' early cultural developments, especially in the area of initial settlement and the origins of waterfront commerce. The excavations do not provide conclusive evidence of the construction sequence. Further work was deemed necessary for the construction project to proceed. A scope of work for Phase III excavations was prepared and is included in the MHT site files for 18AP21, however, no data recovery is known to have occurred. Thus, the site retains its significant research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000146, 97002007