



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP47

Site Name: Sands House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 17th-20th century standing town home

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9791

Longitude -76.4955

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) Annapolis Harbor

- | Saltwater                                |   | Freshwater                            |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> |   | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minimum distance to water is 107 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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

town home

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

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

### Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

### Prehistoric Features

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

### Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

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 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.	650
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

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

Description:

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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at UMD-College Park, Anne Arundel County-Lost Towns

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Sands House Site (18AP47) consists of the archeological remains associated with one of the earliest standing dwellings of frame construction in Annapolis. According to oral tradition, the structure may have been built as early as the 1680s. Historical documentation has indicated that this house was erected by at least 1706. The site is situated on Prince George Street which slopes gently down towards the nearby Annapolis harbor. The surrounding landscape is heavily developed as an urban area of the city. Soils at the site are Collington and Wist sandy loams, as well as large quantities of human transported soils.

The original portion of the Sands House (MIHP# AA-652) is a small gambrel-roofed frame dwelling with the gambrel end forming the southeast street facade. This three-bay front has a central front door and two floor levels, and a single narrow window at the top of the gambrel lighting the attic space. At the ridge of the roof is a massive chimney with a cap of two bands of projecting courses. This is the single and original interior chimney. The interior of the original portion of the house is divided into five principal rooms: three (including an entrance hall) on the first floor, and two on the second. Architectural experts and colonial historians have long debated the age of the Sands House, and structural and documentary evidence has raised as many questions as answers. Dendrochronological testing on the building's interior rafters provided a date of construction soon after 1681. However, the structure's architectural elements, notably a gambrel roof, suggest a later construction date in the 18th century.

Historical documentation notes that a house stood on Lot 96 (which now encompasses the site), at least by 1706. An entry in the Anne Arundel County land records on May 1st, 1706 notes that Evan Jones, innholder, mortgaged his tenement, Lot 96, along with "a negroe man named Jack, 3 feather beds and furniture, 2 flock beds and furniture,...one large brass kettle and one bay horse..." to Charles Carroll for £250 sterling.

Being that Evan Jones was a "Sober, Trusty person", he was appointed by the governor in 1708 to warn residents in the town at eight and ten o'clock about their fires, and to make sure that all public buildings were secure. Jones held several other positions in Annapolis, including Deputy Collector of Customs and Clerk to the Council and Assitant Clerk of the Assembly. In 1718 and 1719 he was commissioned to print the laws of the Maryland Assembly. Jones died in 1722 and never paid off his mortgage to Carroll. In 1739, Evan Jones widow and son, then living in Prince George's County, deeded full title to the house and lot to Dr. Charles Carroll of Annapolis.

Between 1739-1744, Carroll sold ¼ of the northwest end of the lot to Patrick Creagh and the middle ½ to John Irvin. The lower ¼ of Lot 96, which is where the structure at 18AP47 is now located, was purchased by Joseph Evitts, a joiner. At the death of Evitts in 1767, his daughter, Martha (married to Thomas Brooke Hodgekins), inherited his property. The following year, Hodgekins sold the house to John Carty (a shipwright) who in turn sold it in 1771 to John Sands for £50 Pennsylvania currency.

John Sands identified himself as a mariner when he purchased the house in 1771. By 1780, he had acquired an ordinary license, which he maintained at his house until his death in 1791. His son Joseph inherited the house and the 1798 Federal Direct Tax List charged him with a one-storey dwelling (40 X 40 ft) and a smokehouse (10 X 10 ft) The assessment was valued at \$250. The house remained in the Sands family until well into the 20th century. It is presently owned by Historic Annapolis, Inc.

The first documented archeological work at the site occurred in the winter/early spring of 1988. The work was carried out on behalf of the Historic Annapolis Foundation. During the early months of that year, Mrs. Margaret Dowsett, proprietor of the Sands House informed Historic Annapolis, Inc. of renovations being performed to her house which would disturb portions of the property. Mitigation was deemed necessary in order to collect and record significant archeological resources and possibly help determine a construction date for the house. Fieldwork was carried out by Archaeology in Annapolis, a partnership between Historic Annapolis and the University of Maryland, College Park.

A total of 13 formal test units were excavated at the Sands House. The western room, a dining room within a later addition to the house, had its floor removed during renovation work. Most of the excavated units were located in this room, which would have been in the west yard of the original structure. A grid system was laid in the room consisting of eight 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) test squares, and three roughly 76 X 152 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) test units abutting the west wall of the dining room. Three other units (76 X 76 cm) were also excavated outside the dining room, all within what would have been the backyard of the original structure. All units were oriented to the walls of the house.

All units were excavated according to stratigraphic layers, and if any layer was thicker than 15.24 cm (.5 ft), it was arbitrarily terminated, and a new arbitrary level begun. Excavations were conducted by shovel skimming and troweling, and all soil was screened through hardware cloth.

Six "megastrata" were identified throughout the excavation units at 18AP47. Megastratum 1, the uppermost, was associated with the mid 19th through 20th century and documented a 1904 renovation to the house. This major structural work involved raising the entire house (because the sidewalks and streets outside the house had been elevated), tearing down an addition at the rear of the house, and building a new addition in its place. Six features in this megastratum were builder's trenches associated with this renovation work, while three were rodent runs. Megastratum 2 consisted of soil layers and features dated to the early to mid 19th century. One feature was a foundation trench associated with repair work on the north side of the house. Three features were post holes (2 on the north side of the house and one near the southwestern corner). Two features were rodent runs.

Megastratum 3 consisted of soil layers and features dated to the mid to late 18th century. These were associated with two episodes: construction of the western addition that housed the dining room, and foundation renovation that added brick piers below the Sands House. Two builder's trenches for the western addition were identified, which was dated to the late 18th century based on architectural evidence as well as archeological remains. Four postholes were also identified along the wall for this addition. A trench-like feature was identified running parallel to the south wall of the western addition. The other four features identified in this megastratum were 4 rodent runs and an animal burial.

Megastratum 4 dated to the early to mid 18th century and was associated with a ca. 1720's addition of a fieldstone foundation to the core of the Sands House. Identified features included the fieldstone foundation itself, a builder's trench, postholes that probably predate the western addition, dark stains in the subsoil that resemble shovel divots, a dripline from the original house footprint, and two trash deposits just outside the southwestern corner of the Sands House.



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Megastratum 5 consisted of soil layers and features dated to the late 17th century. These were thought to be associated with the ca. 1700 earthfast structure that was the original Sands House. Two postholes with molds were identified, along with two late 17th century trash pits near the southwest corner of the house. Some prehistoric artifacts were found intermingled in these pits as well. And finally, Megastratum 6 contained only prehistoric artifacts. A possible posthole along the western wall of the structure was identified, along with a dark soil stain attributable to seepage from outside the modern foundation. The sparse nature of the prehistoric archeological remains on this makes it difficult to interpret activities in this period.

Artifacts recovered during the 1988 excavations are not described in the full site report. Though an artifact catalog is provided in an appendix, it is heavily coded and difficult to interpret. Thus, artifacts recovered during the 1988 excavations are simply estimated in the table above as 500 miscellaneous historic objects.

Additional excavations were carried out at 18AP47 around 1994, but no formal report of the work or update site form available to MHT. The work appears to have been carried out by the University of Maryland, College Park.

The most recent documented archeological work at the Sands House occurred in May and June of 2010 and was carried out by Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project. This collaborative project was sponsored by the Four Rivers Heritage Area and Sands House Foundation as part a FY2010 Mini-Grant. The research design for this project was approved by the Chief of Historic Preservation for the City of Annapolis.

The original 2010 research plan called for the excavation of two 1.37 X 1.37 m (4.5 X 4.5 ft) units or 1.88 m<sup>2</sup> (20.25 ft<sup>2</sup>) in proximity to the house. Efforts were made to place units comparable to this total area, in the most strategic locations possible. Opportunities were severely limited due to later construction and disturbance. A single 1.52 X 1.5 m (5 X 4.9 ft) unit was placed in a corner at the rear of the original Sands House, where it meets the ca. 1904 rear wing addition. Two smaller 61 X 122 cm (2 X 4 ft) units were placed along the west side of the house in an effort to see if the earthfast building uncovered by Archaeology in Annapolis extended outside the western confines of the 1786 addition.

The excavation of the two small units along the side of the Sands House documented a mid-19th century brick drain, as well as extensive disturbances due to the placement of sewer and gas lines. Evidence of 18th century material culture in a 19th-century context was discovered beneath the brick drain in one unit, including ceramics, glass, and architectural items.

The large unit placed in the rear of the house was found to contain a kitchen-related ash pit comprised of many types of 18th century artifacts, notable ceramics and several types of animal bones. Noteworthy among the ceramics were fragments of refined mid-18th century types, including agate ware, tortoise shell ware, porcelain, and dry bodied red stoneware. The placement of the ash pit is intriguing and raised important questions. Notably, what are the dimensions of the pit? What is the relationship of the pit to the wooden sill of the early Sand's House and the later brick foundation added in 1904? Additional testing would be necessary to answer these questions.

A full catalog of the artifacts recovered during the 2010 excavation is not available, thus a minimal estimate of 150 miscellaneous objects is all that is provided in the table above.

Past archeological work at 18AP47 has revealed intact features and artifact deposits, including materials that are diagnostic to the various periods of occupation at the Sands House. The most recent research exposed previously undocumented features, but did not fully expose said features. It is highly likely that other intact features relevant to the history of one of the earliest frame dwellings in Annapolis would be encountered should future work be conducted at the site.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005669, AALT-2010