Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AP50 **Site Name:** Bordley-Randall House

Other name(s) Boardley-Randall

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th-20th century standing house with later additions

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.9776 Longitude -76.4841

Elevation m Site slope

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

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 7 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Topography

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

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) College Creek

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☐
Estuary/tidal river	☑	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	Y
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		

Unknown prehistoric context ☐ Unknown historic 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	☐	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	☑	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☑
Mansion	☑	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☑
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☑
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☑	mansion, terraced garden	
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

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

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Cr			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			
Stoneware					
English Brown					
Eng Dry-bodie					
Nottingham					
Rhenish					
Wt Salt-glazed					

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone		Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☐	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☐	Sandstone	☐		

☑ **Dated features present at site**

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic artifacts

Historic Artifacts

Tobacco related			
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☑
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	324
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☑	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☑	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☑	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
				Unknown	☐
				Other	☑

retaining wall,pit,drain

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 Bordley-Randall House Site (18AP50) consists of the archeological remains associated with a standing 18th century house (with later additions), just off State Circle in the National Historic Landmark district of Annapolis. The extant Bordley-Randall House (MIHP# AA-670) is one of Annapolis' early and historic structures, however, it is also one of the most altered. The original one-storey brick house is believed to have had a gambrel roof and was erected prior to 1718 by the Bordley family. In the mid 18th century, the roof was raised a full 2½ stories, and wings with hyphens were added. More large additions were made in the 19th century. Thus, not only is it an early structure, but it also shows the evolution of a structure through time. The site is situated in the center of a five-sided city block bounded by State Circle, Maryland Avenue, Prince George Street, College Avenue, and North Street. The present landscape is flat with slight rises adjacent to the front and rear of the house. Most of the surrounding landscape is heavily developed as part of the urban landscape of Annapolis. Soils at the site are Monmouth sandy loams.

The Bordley-Randall archeological site is associated with some of the most important of Annapolis' families. The first known use of this site is by Thomas Bordley. Bordley emigrated, with his older brother Stephen, from Yorkshire, England in 1694 to Kent County on Maryland's eastern shore. Stephen Bordley was an Anglican Minister who had acquired an assignment which brought him to Maryland. Thomas came along with his brother hoping to improve his prospects in the colonies through the tobacco trade. After only a few years in Kent County, Thomas had acquired a taste for law and for politics and decided to move to Annapolis, the new capital of the colony, shortly after the turn of the century, probably around 1704.

Once settled, Thomas married Mrs. Rachel Beard in 1708 and started a family. His eldest son, Stephen, was born in 1710. In the same year, Thomas started his rise to prominence in public life through election to the Lower House of the Assembly, a position he held on and off until his death representing either the City of Annapolis or Anne Arundel County. In 1717, Thomas acquired the much sought after position of Surveyor General of the Western Shore which was very high-paying inasmuch as the position set property values. Finally, a year later, Thomas reached the pinnacle of his legal and political career through his appointment to the rank of Attorney General for the Colony, the highest position to be held in the colony by a colonist.

An unfortunate house fire in 1704 has obscured fro historians the view of just exactly how Bordley and others came to hold power in the first years of the 18th century in Annapolis. However, this same fire may have a great deal to do with Thomas Bordley's success. After the fire, which destroyed the city's land records, Bordley and a few others laid claim to great tracts of the city's property. It is likely that the site of the Bordley-Randall house was already occupied by Bordley, however, his claim of ownership over other land in the city not previously in his possession may have been an move to enhance his personal worth and his social standing. By 1718, we know that Bordley owned and occupied the lots bounded by State Circle, North Street, College Avenue, Prince George Street, and Maryland Avenue. The site contained a dwelling and, presumably, a garden with some outbuildings. It is believed that the main house was located in the center of the block near where Lots 77, 78, 79, and 80 met, however other structures likely stood along the streets. Deed transactions recording the sale of lands on Lots 78, 79, and 80 demonstrate this.

Lot 78 was leased by Thomas Bordley in 1722 to Benjamin and Anne Getchell. The deed of this transaction states that the lease was of a lot, "adjoining to the lot whereon the said Thomas Bordley now lives on part of which said lot the said Thomas has built a house and otherwise improved the same to the value of 100 pounds". The deed also states that there was a house already on Lot 78, probably facing North Street. Upon the deaths of the Getchells, the land reverted to the Bordleys.

Lot 79 is the only one of the five lots making up the Bordley-Randall site to face State Circle, as well as facing a good part of Maryland Avenue. It is likely that houses or other buildings would have stood in this prime location early in the 18th century. These houses may have served as dwellings and offices of state officials like Bordley. The land records seem to indicate that in the early 18th century the lot was in a subdivided state and the various parcels changed hands frequently. The 1718 survey of the city even mentions multiple owners for Lot 79 (William Bladen and William Tasker). Bordley acquired Lot 79 from Tasker in 1726.

Lot 80 is believed to be the site of George Valentine's inn. This dwelling and lot were sold to Thomas Bordley in 1712. From the deed, this lot and house appear to have stood on the corner of Prince George and Maryland Avenue, now off the present Bordley-Randall property and under a 19th century structure known as the opera house. Tenements and dwelling houses may have been present here as early as 1701.

Thus, by the close of the second decade of the 18th century, Thomas Borldey had acquired the entire block by consolidating the various smaller parcels. The dwelling house at the time was believed to be located in the center of the block. Architectural analysis suggests that the house was originally a 1½ storey gambrel-roofed building, but there is some debate in this regard. According to the recollections of Elizabeth Bordley, Thomas' daughter, she was born in the house in 1717, so the house was extant by then.

After Thomas Bordley's death, Thomas' will passed his extensive Annapolis properties to his eldest son Stephen. Thomas' second wife, Ariana, was executrix of the estate. At the time of his death, Stephen Bordley was living in London studying law at the Inns of Court. During the time while he was away, his step-mother Ariana had married Edmund Jennings, and these two took control of the management of Thomas' estate. They did not aggressively defend Stephen's right to certain lands in Annapolis (the area of the future St. John's College and other parcels) inherited by his father, but claimed by Lord Baltimore, who had recently returned to power. Stephen was unsuccessful in his attempts to litigate to retain the lands from across the Atlantic and ultimately lost the lands to the Calverts.

Stephen returned to Annapolis in 1733. He lived in the property at 18AP50 (which he was able to keep), but never married and appears to have made no major changes to the house. Stephen lived there with his sister Elizabeth, his several younger brothers, a ward named Sarah Turner, and other relatives. Stephen is reported to have been an exceptional entertainer and, with his sister Elizabeth, used the house as a backdrop to enjoy the benefits of life that his eventually very successful law career could support. Stephen eventually followed the path laid by his father in politics and was promoted to the position of Attorney General in 1756, a position he held until 1763. In addition to his law practice, Stephen also ran a plantation he owned near Annapolis called Sandgate. Stephen suffered a stroke in 1763 which forced him to withdraw from public life. He died in December of 1764. In his will he left his properties to his youngest half-brother John Beale Bordley under the condition that Elizabeth retain use of his Annapolis dwelling house and other property.

Elizabeth Bordley was born in 1715 in Annapolis. She lived her whole life in Annapolis and was a well-respected woman of her class and of society in general.

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Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

For the most part, the documentary record makes little note of Elizabeth. However, her likeness was painted in 1770 by Charles Wilson Peale. The portrait shows what is called the “old Annapolis home” in the background. It shows a five-part Georgian house much like the one standing at 18AP50 today, confirming that it was at least present by 1770. Elizabeth continued to live in the house, with long excursions to her brother John Beale Bordley’s plantation on Wye Island, until her death in 1789. John Beale Bordley (1727-1804), who had found Philadelphia more appealing , then rented the house out for the next several years. One of the tenants was Philip Barton Key, lawyer and uncle to Francis Scott Key, author of the “Star-Spangled Banner”. Another was John Johnson, later Chancellor of Maryland.

At the end of the 18th century, the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 assessed John Beale Bordley with one brick dwelling house with two wings, 38 X 18 ft each, a 10 X 10 ft meat house, and a 50 X 12 ft cow house. This assessment does not mention any other structures. Thus, at the turn of the 19th century there seems to have been little change in the house or its property since Thomas Bordley consolidated the lots and built the house by the 1720s.

Sometime before 1804 John Beale Bordley agreed to sell the property to his tenant John Johnson, but this did not take place until 1811, after John Beale’s death. The house was sold to Johnson for £1,000 on June 19th through a transaction made between John Beale’s executor, John F. Mifflin, and Johnson. Within a month Johnson had sold the house to William S. Green for £3,300.

Annapolis suffered a depression in the early years of the 19th century which was caused in large part by a lack of investment in local affairs. There was a steady decline in small industry and shipbuilding in Annapolis as much of that activity shifted to Baltimore. The new owners of the property, the Greens, suffered as well. On September 3rd, 1839, William Green and his wife, Matilda, put the house up for mortgage with the Farmer’s National Bank of Annapolis in order to guarantee the payment of $7,680 in notes owed the bank by the Greens as well as a court order against them for $3,000”. These same troubles eventually led to a suit initiated by the state Attorney General, Josiah Bayley in 1845, when the house was taken from the Greens and put under the Trusteeship of James Boyle who was order to sell the property. Boyle sold the property to Alexander Randall on June 23rd, 1847 for $2,750.

Alexander Randall was born in Annapolis in 1803 in his father’s house on the city dock. His wife Elizabeth Blanchard Randall wrote that, “his education commenced at an early age in a school kept by a mulatto woman nearby…[w]hen he was old enough to learn to read, he was put in the charge of Miss Sally Ross who had for many years brought forward the youth of Annapolis, in the good old way, with plentiful use of the rod. Next he was promoted to the charge of Mr. Thomas Bassford and remained for some years under his care”. As a young boy he played throughout the city and especially in the undeveloped areas around the city. There he learned a great deal about nature and according to his wife could have, “rivaled Audubon in his ornithological knowledge”. Though intrigued by nature Alexander chose law as his career. He attended St. John’s in Annapolis beginning in 1818 and passed the bar in 1824 after studying in the office of Addison Ridout.

Randall was a civic leader from early on in his life. He assumed the position of the Collector of the Port of Annapolis in 1825 after his father’s death. In 1830 Randall became Commissioner of Public Schools in Anne Arundel County. In 1832 he became one of the St. John’s College Trustees, and in the same year he became the Auditor of the Court of Chancery. Then, ultimately, he was elected as a Whig to the US House of Representatives in 1840. This was not the last of his public roles, but it was the last before he moved into the Bordley house in 1847.

After his time in Washington, Randall returned to Annapolis and the house on the dock where he was born. Within a year he married Catherine Wirt of Baltimore, a woman who had rejected him previously because her parents were unimpressed by, “a struggling young lawyer in a quiet town little more than a village”. However, after his election to Congress they apparently changed their minds and Catherine moved to Annapolis in 1841. By 1846 the couple were parents to four children and Randall’s mother-in-law had also moved in. This overextended the capacity of the household and Alexander sought a new home. With his family he moved into the former Bordley house. Randall may several changes to the property including removing the front columns at the property and replacing them with a new porch and nursery, and the installation of extensive gardens and fruit trees (a passion of Randall’s).

In 1853, Catherine died after having eight children. Alexander then married Elizabeth Philpot Blanchard in 1856. These two had 7 children. Thus, Alexander Randall was the father to 15 children, 12 of whom lived to maturity. As such, the household was full until Alexander Randall’s death in 1881.

In the years during and after the Civil War, Randall resumed his role as a civic leader. He was elected Attorney General for the State as a representative of the Union Party in 1864. He also stayed close to home by initiating and leading the city’s modernization in the construction of a water works, a gas works, a public bath, and a failed manufactory company during the 1860s and 1870s. Randall was also instrumental in lobbying for the return of the Naval Academy to Annapolis after the Civil War. At the same time, he began to subdivide the property around his dwelling and advertized them up for sale by 1868. By 1878, several lots had been built up along Maryland Avenue as can be seen on an atlas produced that year. Several structures were built subsequently on Maryland Avenue between 1878 and 1883.

Alexander Randall died in November of 1881 and in his will he left all of his Annapolis property to his wife Elizabeth Blanchard Randall. Over the next 14 years, the lot underwent more changes. Additional houses were built and sold off, but the main house remained intact. Elizabeth died in 1895 and left the house to the trust of her step-son John Wirt and her son Blanchard as executors of her estate. The Randall Trustees laid a circular cobble walkway that replaced a brick walk running directly from the house to State Circle. This circular path removed direct visual access to the main house and moved pedestrians around the perimeter of the property before accessing the central doorway of the Randall house. The walkway also served to establish a lawn in the front of the house which has never been built over, while at the same time, providing access to the entrances to later houses built along North Street and at the corner of Maryland Avenue and State Circle. These houses all face in on a block now known as “Randall Court”.

The main house was also altered. Henry Randall (one of the sons) renovated the west wing of the house and built a new dwelling house along College Avenue between 1895 and 1897. Both of these structures were built in the colonial revival style. Several other houses on the property can be seen in turn-of-the-century photographs. These houses were built to house the adult children of the Randalls and replaced the old outbuildings of the estate. The frame stable and brick smoke house were removed from the west side of the property transforming it from a dwelling house and garden to a more modern dwelling house and yard. This effectively limited the productive use of the land at 18AP50, and thus modern urban dwelling was realized.

Thus, by the end of the first decade of the 20th century, the lot Alexander Randall purchased was considerably divided up among both his descendants and non-related occupants of the several new dwelling houses built along North Street, College Avenue, Prince George Street, and State Circle. Maryland Avenue was built up as well, but with commercial establishments instead. Most of these peripheral buildings are still standing. By the turn of the century, the gardens which Randall had laid out and planted were effectively removed and the grounds were laid over simply with sod.

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Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 18th-20th century standing house with later additions

In 1929, the Randall Trustees sold the main house and its yard to St. John's College. Adele Randall (Alexander and Elizabeth's youngest child) remained in residence in the west wing and the college rented the main block of the house to R.T.H. Halsey, a former director of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Halsey removed many of the original interior features of the house.

In 1939 Captain and Mrs. P.V.H. Weems bought the house from the college. Capt. Weems was a Naval Academy graduate of 1912 and an inventor of the famous Weems Navigation system. The Weems modernized the property, converting a 20th century smokehouse into a garage and apartment, and moved the kitchen from the east wing into the east hyphen, transforming the east wing into an apartment. The Weems-Dodd family still held the property in the late 20th century when the first archeological work was conducted at the site.

The first documented archeological work at 18AP50 occurred in 1988 under the auspices of Historic Annapolis, Inc. The work entailed the excavation of three test units. Units #1 and #2 were located near the east wing of the house. Unit #3 was located in the front yard between the house and State Circle. The units were located according to a geometric plan based on the width of the original 18th century block of the Bordley-Randall House (60 feet or 18.29 m). Test units #1 and #2 were located on line with the east edge of the east wing 12.5 and 25 feet (3.81 and 7.62 m) to the south of the southeast corner of the wing. All of the test units were 76.2 X 76.2 cm (2.5 X 2.5 ft) in size.

Test Unit #1 revealed five natural strata. The upper three levels seemed to be top soils and late 19th century fill soils. The fourth layer was a thick deposit dating to the 19th century. The fifth level was a thinner deposit with early 18th century materials mixed with those dating to the late 18th and early 19th century. Further excavation in this unit was undertaken with a posthole digger to locate the depth of sterile subsoil. The posthole instead exposed more deeply buried deposits, including a "mortar floor" approximately 1.524 m (5 ft) below the modern ground surface. The soils above the floor probably represent fill soils used to create terraced gardens. Test Unit #2 exposed brick rubble believed to be from the demolition of a building as well as a dry laid stone wall. These features were, however, disturbed by a sewer pipe trenching running through the unit. These all were found to lay over a continuation of the "mortar floor" 91 cm (3 ft) below the surface believed to have been exposed prior to the construction of the terrace. Test Unit #3in the front yard of the house exposed fill soils used to bury a brick walkway which ran from State Circle to the front door of the house during the late 19th century. A "great number" of artifacts were recovered during the 1988 excavations, but specific types and their quantities are not known.

Additional excavations were undertaken in the winter of 1989-1990 as part a larger project by Archaeology in Annapolis to test deposits associated with the evolution of State Circle. This excavation was focused on the circle itself rather than on the Bordley-Randall site. The excavation was of a single 91 X 152 cm (3 X 5 ft) test unit on the public sidewalk to the west of the current front gate. It was excavated to test for possible earlier edges of State Circle. The excavations exposed soils and features believed to be associated with the construction of the nearby Queen Anne style double-house at the corner of State Circle and North Street. A sewage pipe ran through the unit and its construction disturbed all of the deposits excavated. The house was constructed in 1878 and the sewage pipe is believed to be related to the construction of the house. The lowest two levels dated t the late 18th and early 19th centuries respectively. They are believed to represent the surface prior to the construction of the ca. 1878 Queen Anne house. No evidence for earlier edges of State Circle was encountered. A total of 324 artifacts were recovered during the State Circle excavations at 18AP50.

In March 1990 an excavation was undertaken at 18AP50 to assess the potential impact of a planned excavation in front of the east hyphen for the purposes of drainage control. Animal disturbance and subsequent water damage had undermined the foundation of the porch in front of the east hyphen. The property owners, while cleaning and preparing the area for repairs, discovered artifacts dating to the 18th century. They contacted archeologists from Archaeology in Annapolis to test the area. One 91 X 152 cm excavation unit was excavated in front of the west wall of the east wing and directly against the porch foundation in front of the hyphen.

The 1990 excavation first exposed a sandstone footer for a pillar believed to have once served as a feature of a porch entrance into the east façade. Soils near the surface were related to the construction of the 19th century. These lay over fill soils dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries. The fill soils covered over the levels dating to the early and mid-18th century and are related to the early occupation of the house. The stratigraphy that was exposed in this excavation did not clearly relate to that of the 1988 excavations. But the evidence of the richness of the strata and artifacts in the area around the east wing was expanded. The stratigraphy shows an early surface which was buried by fill soils. Later disturbances associated with the construction of the 19th century porch disturbed the fill, but left the earliest deposits intact.

The most significant archeological project at the site occurred over the summers of 1994-1995. The work was carried out by Archaeology in Annapolis (AIA) and students in the University of Maryland, College Park's urban archeology fieldschool. These fieldschools were also carried out as support for dissertation research by a Columbia University student. Archaeology in Annapolis often receives public monies through the University of Maryland and periodic grants from the City of Annapolis to support their summer field programs.

Fieldwork over the three summers entailed the excavation of 37 individual test units. The size of the individual units ranged from as small as 61 X 61 cm to as large as .91 X 6.1 m (3 X 20 ft) depending on the circumstances of excavation conditions and strategies. Five distinct areas were tested, the kitchen yard (Area 1), the kitchen interior (Area EW), the back yard (Area 2), the front yard within the drive (Area 3), and the yard in front of the West Wing (Area 4). All levels within the units were dug in natural/cultural strata using masonry trowels, shovels, and other implements. Arbitrary levels were used for many layers exceeding 15.24 cm (6 in) in depth. Recorded data for each excavated level included photographs, maps (profile and plan view), a listing of artifacts, soil definition, and elevations taken either with a transit or with line levels pulled from known elevations. All soils were screened through hardware cloth and soil samples were collected for important levels or features, but MHT does not have a copy of any analyses done on the soil samples. In most cases units were excavated to sterile subsoil, however, time did not permit full excavation in some circumstances. These units were lined with plastic and backfilled for potential future investigation.

Excavations in the front portion of the kitchen wing area (Area 1a) demonstrated some of the great changes that have occurred to the landscape of the site over time. In tact archeological deposits are present which represent an early 18th century surface buried in front of the kitchen wing, as deep as 1.524 m (5 ft) below the modern ground surface in some locations. These deposits can be correlated with other deposits in Area 1 to show that the present east wing is associated with a well-worn ground surface by about 1720. This early surface sloped upwards towards the north and was the surface first built on by Thomas Bordley.

Researchers were not able to determine exactly when the wings of the house were constructed based on evidence from the front of the kitchen wing. However, from the stratigraphy of Area 1a it is certain that the east wing was standing by at least 1748. The stratigraphy suggests the following. The earliest level of occupation abuts the south foundation of the wing, approximately 1.524 m (5 ft) below the modern ground surface. The foundation in the front of the

Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AP50 **Site Name:** Bordley-Randall House

Other name(s) Boardley-Randall

Brief Description: 18th-20th century standing house with later additions

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

kitchen was faced and it was intended to be seen above ground. This is not the case on the east or north sides of the east wing marking the front of the wing as a true façade to be viewed by onlookers from State Circle. All of this construction dates to prior to 1748.

For some years, the ground surface in front of the new wing was quite far below the front entrance. It is likely that there was a set of wooden stairs which allowed access to the kitchen from the front yard. A concentration of large debris in front of the wing (Feature 124) represents the area under these stairs while the cleaner area around it represents the grounds surface around the stairway. It seems the Bordleys soon tired of these stairs and radically changed the relationship of the kitchen wing to its surrounding yard. At the same time, they hoped to enhance the view of their house from the public areas around it. To affect this, a great deal of building material (plaster, mortar, brick, etc.) and refuse (bones, ceramics, bottle glass, etc.) was piled up in front of the door and buried. The construction debris suggests that more than just filling was taking place. Perhaps buildings which had stood on the corners of the lot were removed and their debris used to reshape the landscape around what was then Stephen Bordley's house. A retaining wall encountered in several parts of Area 1 suggests that the ground surface around the wing was raised to create an "artificial hill" and terrace, which remained the ground surface through the late 18th century until the mid 19th century. This may have been an attempt to enhance the "prestige" of the location in relation to nearby State Circle and the government buildings that sat opposite.

Tucked into the "artificial hill" fill was a pipe bowl, probably used by one of the laborers doing the heavy work. The bowl was marked with "TD". These initials indicate that the pipe was made by Thomas Dormer of London whose pipe manufacturing operation began in 1748. Also associated with the fill are the kinds of ceramics commonly used by wealthy Annapolitan households in the mid 18th century: scratch-blue and molded white salt-glazed stoneware, tin-glazed earthenware, Chinese porcelains, and red earthenware. Thus, it was concluded with a great deal of certainty, that this fill was deposited after 1748. The fact that the fill abutted the foundation, indicates that the foundation was already present by this date. That a great deal of debris found below the fill also abutted the foundation and had accumulated as a living surface, indicates that this surface was exposed for a long while, perhaps decades.

Within a few years another retaining wall was built just a little further out from the wing. In the 1.37 m (4.5 ft) between these walls Bordley first laid a lens of mortar. This is likely the same "mortar floor" encountered during earlier excavations. Rather than serving as a "floor", it is more likely that the mortar and the brick above it were construction debris used by Bordley to extend his terrace a few more feet out from the wing. Over this fill were laid clean garden soils which served as the surface of the south end of the expanded terrace in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Just why Bordley so rapidly renovated his terracing is unclear. Perhaps this was an experiment, or perhaps this demonstrates an attempt to make the terrace meet its stylistic functions more appropriately.

The area in front of the kitchen wing was not much altered in later decades. Instead of alterations, the archeology of later eras shows modernization. This is evident first through a series of pipes recovered in several of the units in Area 1a. The first encountered was a 1 inch copper pipe which served to supply water to fountains which are seen in 19th century photographs of the house. The pipe runs from east to west roughly parallel to the façade of the east wing slightly more than 6.4 m (21 ft) form the front of the wing. A second pipe (2 in) was discovered running slightly east of north. This was perhaps the entrance of water into the house from a water main off the property. Thus, water for both utility and for aesthetics was brought in. A trench of unidentified function was also located in Area 1a, dating to the mid 19th century. It contained a rich mix of building debris including white plaster and bricks as well as cleaner fill soils.

The 19th century pipe and trench features were eventually covered over by the end of the 19th century with a new fill layer that raised the ground surface by approximately 30.5 cm (1 ft). Another pipe was laid in this strata similar in size and function to the first of the two mentioned above. Finally this level was covered by a brick walkway adjacent to the house and by garden soils and sod further out.

The archeology of the area along the east side of the kitchen wing (Area 1b) provides better understanding of the construction sequence of the kitchen yard. Of primary importance was the existence of archeological deposits indicating the presence of former outbuildings and a terrace. As in the front of the kitchen, the earliest deposits dated to the early 18th century and were represented by a buried ground surface. This sloped down to the southeast towards an intermittent stream once called Sunshine Creek. This wash is now under the paved roadway running along the east edge of the current property. In the north end of Area 1b, this surface consisted of several levels of accumulation sloping down to the east. It was suggested that this accumulation represents the use of the slope down to the east as a dumping area for household refuse. In the area directly to the east of the standing kitchen wing these soils are organically richer. The difference between the levels here from those to the north may be explained by the existence of more organic debris such as lawn in the area toward the front of the lot. Those found to the north were more closely related to household maintenance and disposal. Regardless, these soils all date to the early 18th century and were deposited in conjunction with the activities associated with the kitchen wing.

Associated with these deposits was a lens of debris abutting the kitchen foundation and consisting of crushed shell, mortar, and plaster. This is believed to be debris left on the surface. Included with this debris were fragments of a ribbed-edge white salt-glazed stoneware plate which dates after 1740. This deposit further demonstrates that the wing was standing by the mid 18th century.

This surface was subsequently buried in an effort to raise the ground surface around the wing, one level with the doors to the wing. This was accomplished by constructing the terrace and associated retaining wall previously mentioned. The intact portions of the retaining wall exposed n Area 1b revealed that it was built in a step-like fashion , allowing it to support the weight of the soil against it. To the south of the intact portion a trench was discovered where the wall once ran, but which had since been robbed of its stone. This trench was backfilled with a great deal of brick and other debris. The angle of the wall suggests that it joined up with the retaining wall from the front of the kitchen wing, forming a continuous retainer for the terrace. The location of this wall followed a natural contour or dip in the surface believed to have been present on the early 18th century surface.

The fill used to make the terrace in this area consisted of several layers of varied soil. Against the house, a thick layer of clay was laid down. The use of clay near the house may have provided a more stable base to support foot traffic, as well as for the structure itself. Further out from the house to the east, this fill turned towa

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005065, Site Files