



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP55

Site Name: Donaldson House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 10 Francis Street, State Circle Project Area 2

Historic

Brief Description: 18th-20th century standing town home

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9777

Longitude -76.4806

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Annapolis Harbor

#### Saltwater

#### Freshwater

Ocean

Stream/river

Estuary/tidal river

Swamp

Tidewater/marsh

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

### 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

## 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
- 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

## 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

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	8	English Brown	1
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	1	Whiteware	126	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	15	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	96	Pearlware	49			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	3

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

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	357	Activity item(s)	8
Glass (all)	427	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	446	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	370
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	768
Personal items	2	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Donaldson House Site (18AP55) is a deposit of archeological remains associated with the early urban history of Annapolis, Maryland, and specifically associated with an 18th century standing townhome know as the Donaldson-Steuart House (AA-498). The site is situated along Francis Street in the vicinity of State Circle in the City of Annapolis. It is near the intersection of Main and Francis, on the north side of Francis Street. The landscape of the site 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 Donaldson-Steuart House at 10 Francis Street was originally constructed between 1708 and 1715 as a 1 ½ storey, one-room building covered with a gambrel roof. All of the land on the north side of Francis Street between State Circle and the intersection of Main and Francis Streets was surveyed as free school land and was described as such in James Stoddert's 1718 plan of Annapolis. It is believed that by circa 1730, a house was built by Henry or James Donaldson (successful merchants in 18th century Annapolis) on the property at 18AP55. The earliest documentary evidence for a building on the property is mention of rent due to King William's School from H. Donaldson in 1738. From 1738 to 1773, the house on this property was sublet to Dr. George Steuart. During the eighteenth century, the house is referred to in documents as "the Donaldson House".

In 1774, the house at 10 Francis Street was rented by Isaac McHard and William Holder. McHard operated a tavern and inn known as "The Sign of the Indian King" on the premises. In an advertisement which he placed in the Maryland Gazette (March 17, 1774), McHard informs "...his friends and the general public that he...has now opened a tavern in the house where Dr. Steuart formerly live on Francis Street". As part of his lease, McHard was expected to perform certain repairs to windows, locks and bolts and latches on the house.

Between 1782 and 1786, the house was used as a tavern and as a boarding house. From 1786 to the turn of the century, the descendants of Jonas Green operated a printing office for the Maryland Gazette at the site. Besides the printing office, several other businesses were operated here during that period, including a post office, a store, and a tailor shop. By 1798, there were several buildings on the property including a kitchen, a stable, and a combined house/office structure. After 1800, the house changed ownership several times and appears to have been used mainly as a residence, although part of it has been put to commercial use even into modern times.

The original main section of the house was a 1 ½ storey brick (English and Flemish bond), with two rooms on each side of a center hall. It had a gambrel roof and two chimneys on each gable end of the house. Sometime in the late 19th century, a full second storey was added to the house and the front façade was changed to reflect the Victorian architecture of the period. The front porch and the bay window were added at that time. The rear retains the original gambrel roof style and the character of a late 17th/early 18th century dwelling. Today, the house and the addition (which is 12 Francis Street), are the only buildings on the property. All others have disappeared.

The first documented archeological work to occur at the site occurred in the winter of 1989-1990. Archaeology in Annapolis, a cooperative program between the University of Maryland, College Park and the Historic Annapolis Foundation, conducted the excavations in order to satisfy the conditions for compliance set forth in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83b, sections 5-617 and 5-618, prior to the undergrounding of electrical wires by the City of Annapolis. Funding for what was known as the State Circle Archaeological Project was provided by a matching grant from the Maryland State Department of General Services and the City of Annapolis. In the vicinity of 18AP54, the construction work was to entail the installation of an electrical vault and some alterations to the curb lines in the area.

A single 91 X 152 cm (3 X 5 ft) test unit was excavated on this site. Since the Donaldson-Steuart House is not aligned to Francis Street, but rather to Main Street, this unit was opened to look for possible early edges of Francis Street and to recover information about earlier levels of the street. The unit was located in the sidewalk next to the curb. The herringbone brick paving covering the surface of the excavated unit was removed using a jackhammer, and then any underlying concrete was removed by the same means or with sledge hammers. Following this, the unit was excavated by shovel skimming and troweling in natural stratigraphic levels: allowing for precise definition of chronological sequences and feature identification. However, if a stratigraphic level was greater than 15 cm (6 in) in depth, the layer was excavated in arbitrary levels. Soil removed during hand excavation was screened through hardware cloth with the exception of substantial fill levels primarily of 20th century origin. These were sampled, with approximately 33% of fill being screened. The excavated unit was then backfilled in several 15 cm levels which were each tamped by a mechanical tamper before additional fill was added. Features and profiles exposed during excavation were mapped in place. Both soil samples and flotation samples were taken from all intact cultural layers, but no report of their analysis is available at MHT.

Excavation at 18AP55 revealed that the two uppermost levels in the test unit were the modern sidewalk and its associated sand bed. The level below this was likely a sand bed for an earlier brick sidewalk in front of the Donaldson House. The Terminus Post Quem for this second sand layer was 1805. This layer is intruded on by Feature 1a, a probable tree or planting hole located along the curb of Francis Street. This also intruded upon two cultural features (Features 1b and 1c), which appeared to be the former late 18th century edges of Francis Street. Level D, was situated just below the second sand layer (Level C) and is possibly an early 19th century yard layer deposited on top of a rubble layer of mortar, brick, and oyster shell. The next level was a potential fill layer brought in from someplace else, and containing early 18th century artifacts. The level beneath it (Level F) had a Terminus Post Quem of 1779. This is likely the late 18th century yard associated with the Donaldson-Steuart House. Below this was Level G, a thin layer located at the surface of a final layer interpreted as subsoil.

Few artifacts were recovered from Level G. However, based on the absence of any temporally diagnostic artifacts post-dating 1720 (i.e. white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, or pearlware), it is possible that Level G may be the remnant of earlier 18th century levels. It is possible that Level G may be the remnant of earlier 18th century levels. It is possible that deposits dating from the early 18th century to circa 1779 were removed during work on Francis Street, or during renovation to the house. In 1774 the innkeepers Isaac McHard and William Holder took a sublease for the Donaldson House from Charles Steuart. Their lease was for seven years and required them to do repairs to the house, including window glass in the downstairs windows, repairs to the locks, bolts, and latches of the doors, to the window shutters and to other "small decays of the Houses". The paling of the fence was also to be repaired. McHard opened the tavern, the Sign of the Indian King, in the Donaldson House. It is possible that the renovations of McHard and Holder removed earlier deposits from in front of the house. Again, everything below Level G appeared to be sterile subsoils.

The artifact catalog provided in the full site report for the State Circle project is coded. Unfortunately, a legend is not provided. A total of 625 miscellaneous objects were retained from the excavations. Two prehistoric items (see above) were also recovered.



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Unknown

Researchers with Archaeology in Annapolis returned to the site in August of 1990. The primary reason excavation were carried out was to determine the age of the house at 18AP55. There has been some debate among architectural historians about whether this property represents the site of the Kentish Inn (built ca. 1694), or whether it is the Donaldson House (built ca. 1720 or 1730). Documentary evidence seems to support the latter. Locating a builder's trench along the house might provide a date for the house's construction. Another goal was to document the stratigraphy on the property.

Two 76.2 X 152 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) units were excavated at the site. One unit was placed next to the house foundation to discover if a builder's trench was present. The other unit was placed in the center of the backyard to determine if the stratigraphy was intact. The units were excavated in natural stratigraphic levels unless layers were more than 15.24 cm (.5 ft) thick, in which case 15.24 cm arbitrary levels were used. Excavation was conducted using shovels and trowels, and all soil was sifted through hardware cloth. Soil and flotation samples were taken from each layer. Each unit was excavated into subsoil to a depth of at least 30.5 cm (1 ft). In addition, each unit was then cored to substantiate that subsoil had been reached.

The archeological investigation did not discover a builder's trench which would indicate a construction date for the house. This may be because the builder's trench is on the inside of the foundation of the house, or because evidence of it has been obliterated by the growth of large tree roots close to the house. The ground was stratigraphically intact in both of the test units. In the area tested in the backyard, approximately 38.1 cm (1 ft 3 in) of soil appeared to be fill, judging from the mix of 18th, 19th, and 20th century artifacts. Below this level, the layers were intact and show uncontaminated evidence of occupation from the late 19th to the early 18th century.

Artifacts recovered during the August 1990 fieldwork included 8 activity items, 446 architectural artifacts, 1 clothing item (a glass button), 956 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal items (a glass bead and a lead wine seal), 16 tobacco-related artifacts (10 pipe stems and 6 pipe bowls), and 143 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a lead printing type, a lock and its casing, a possible machine part, 4 springs, and a pencil fragment. The architectural assemblage consisted of 57 bricks, 37 mortar fragments, 36 pieces of stone, 11 pieces of wood, 166 window glass fragments, 15 cut nails, and 124 unidentified nails. Kitchen-related artifacts included 357 ceramic sherds (8 tin-glazed earthenware, 96 creamware, 49 pearlware, 4 Chinese export porcelain, 11 other porcelain, 3 black basalt ware, 126 whiteware, 2 yellowware, 22 redware, 18 coarse earthenware, 1 refined earthenware, 1 unidentified earthenware, 1 English Brown Stoneware, 1 Cobalt Blue Stoneware, 3 White Salt-glazed Stoneware, 1 Manganese-mottled Stoneware, 9 miscellaneous stoneware, 1 unidentified ceramic sherd), 229 pieces of glass (15 pieces of table glass, 35 dark olive-green wine glass shards, 1nd 179 piece of miscellaneous bottle glass), 2 bottle caps, 366 faunal objects (295 animal bones, 70 pieces of oyster shell, and 1 clam shell), and 2 seeds/nuts. The miscellaneous objects were 32 unidentified pieces of glass, 2 tin fragments, 2 lead fragments, 33 iron fragments, 1 brass fragment, 7 pieces of plastic, 2 pieces of rubber, 59 coal clinkers, and 5 pieces of charcoal.

The house on the property at 18AP55 is one of the older houses (at least ca. 1730s) in Annapolis, and the property has been continuously occupied since the early 18th century. There were at least 2 outbuildings on the property in the past. The site has significant research potential and therefore, before any landscaping or future building is done at the site which would disturb the intact archeological layers, further excavations should be carried out.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000132, 00000160