



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP57

Site Name: Shaw House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 21 State Circle, StaTe Circle Project Area 4

Historic

Unknown

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

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9826 Longitude -76.5004

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

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component Misc. ceremonial

Village Rock art

Hamlet Shell midden

Base camp STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound Fish weir

Cairn Production area

Burial area Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

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

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

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	115
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

oil tank

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 Shaw House (18AP57) is a deposit of archeological remains associated with the early urban history of Annapolis, Maryland, and specifically associated with an early 18th century residence known as the John Shaw House (AA-689). The site is situated at 21 State Circle opposite the State House building in the center of downtown Annapolis. It is near the intersection of State Circle and School 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 John Shaw House, served as the Maryland Historical Trust's headquarters from 1975 until 1991. The gambrel-roofed building was constructed in the years between 1720 and 1725 for local butcher Cornelius Brooksby. That modest structure consisted of a two room plan set upon a raised basement. In 1784, established cabinetmaker John Shaw purchased the property, and enlarged the dwelling to include three rooms on each story. Shaw, a prominent citizen who held public office, was recognized not only for his superbly crafted furniture, but for his outfitting and maintenance of the nearby State House. The wood frame Georgian house, which remained in the Shaw family for 123 years, is the oldest documented structure extant on State Circle today. The modern building stands as a seven-bay-long, one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed building featuring a distinctive widow's walk and a full-width front porch. It is owned by the State of Maryland and currently houses offices for some of the governor's staff.

The first documented archeological work 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.

A single 91 X 152 cm (3 X 5 ft) test unit was excavated on this site to look for possible early edges of the inner perimeter of State Circle and to recover information about earlier levels of the circle. The unit was located in the sidewalk next to the former location of the stairs leading up to the porch of the Shaw House. Historic photographs and lithographs depict a fence in this area, which may have been an early circle edge. The long axis of the unit was oriented perpendicular to State Circle and the unit was excavated to an average depth of 1.1 m (3.63 ft).

The brick paving (sidewalk) 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 18AP57 revealed intact features, but very few diagnostic artifacts. The first stratigraphic level excavated was the 20th century brick sidewalk layer. It was quickly realized that major disturbance had occurred in this area. Ultimately, it was determined that the area had been disturbed by the excavation of a trench for the installation of an underground oil tank utilized to heat the Shaw House. Because of this disturbance, no former street edges were identified. Features 1b-d, however, were determined to be remnants of original soil horizons located in front of Shaw House. Despite the extreme disturbance of the soil horizons at this location, several features still remained intact, including the builder's trench for the front porch of the Shaw House (Feature 1a), a brick support pier for the porch (Feature 2) and it's repair trench (Feature 7), and several postmolds (Features 4, 5, and 6). Unfortunately, no datable diagnostic artifacts were uncovered in association with the postmolds, thus, no temporal designations could be assigned to the features with any certainty. It is unknown whether these postmolds were associated with the early 20th century construction of the modern Shaw House porch, or with an early fence.

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 115 miscellaneous objects were retained from the excavations at 18AP57.

Though a massive amount of disturbance was encountered, the excavations at 18AP57 did expose intact archeological features. Some of these could be directly related to features of the extant Shaw House. Others may be related to earlier landscape or architectural features, but lacking diagnostic artifacts, these details have yet to be worked out. Additional work is warranted at Shaw House. The prominence of the site, its relationship to important events in Maryland history, and its status as one of the oldest structures still standing in this part of Annapolis, make 18AP57 an important site worthy of additional investigation.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000132