



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP60

Site Name: Nicholson's Lot

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 46 State Circle, State Cir. Project Area 16 & 17

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th-19th century store/residence, 20th century theater

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9757

Longitude -76.4866

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 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American Y
- 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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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"/>	Porcelain	<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 checked="" 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.	351
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input 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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Governor Nicholson's Lot (18AP60) is a deposit of archeological remains associated with a 20th century theatre in downtown Annapolis. The locale was also the site of an 18th-19th century store and/or residence. This site includes the area along State Circle from its intersection with Cornhill Street to its intersection with East Street. This is the location of the Circle Theatre building (AA-1595), a massive Neo-classical structure built in the early 20th century. 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 site is located on a lot allocated to Governor Francis Nicholson in 1695. Cornhill was the last radial street to be constructed in association with State Circle, and this location is not believed to have been occupied until near the end of the 18th century. The lot was occupied by a building (or possibly buildings) used as a store in the 18th century. It was possibly a residence during part of the 19th century, and was a restaurant by the turn of the century.

The extant Circle Theatre building (also known as the Circle Playhouse) was constructed in 1919-1920 by Circle Playhouse, Inc. at a cost of over \$131,000. The finished theatre was opened to the public in September of 1920. The architect was Henry P. Hopkins. The theatre closed in 1979 or 1980 and then stood empty until it was converted into the Annapolis Theatre of Magic. In modern times, the structure was renovated for mixed use as retail and office space (and possibly condominium homes).

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. In the vicinity of 18AP60, the construction work was to entail the undergrounding of overhead utility wires and the replacement of existing underground pipes.

Two 91 X 152 cm (3 X 5 ft) test units were excavated on this site to look for possible early edges of State Circle and to recover information about earlier levels of the circle and earlier State Circle intersections with Cornhill and with East Street. One unit was placed in the sidewalk area at the corner of East Street and State Circle. The second unit was placed in the street area at the junction of State Circle and Cornhill.

The brick paving covering the surface of each 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 of the unit at the corner of East Street and State Circle revealed extensive evidence of disturbance. The construction of the Circle Theatre in ca. 1920 and the laying of a city water line in front of the theatre resulted in the complete destruction of intact archeological deposits at this location.

The uppermost levels in the excavation of the unit at the corner of Cornhill Street and State Circle were the brick road surface and a concrete bed laid in 1902-1904 when the present road surface was constructed. A part granite/part concrete curbstone between Cornhill and State Circle was designated Feature 1. A builder's trench associated with the concrete portion of Feature 1 was designated Feature 3. The next level encountered was a Belgian Block road laid in 1897, with the level below it (Level D) being either a bed laid for it or a dirt road dating to the 19th century (TPQ equals 1820). A brick gutter was laid on the surface of Level D and designated Feature 2. As the brick gutter was located flush with the extant curb, this would indicate that the curb has been located in this position since at least 1897, as the bids for the job included curbing as well as grading and paving. Features 4 and 5 were a builder's trenches associated with the granite portion of the curb stones. These were situated atop two fill layers associated with 19th century road bed(s) on Francis Street. Beneath this was sterile subsoil.

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 351 miscellaneous objects were retained from the excavations. Diagnostic materials described on a 1990 site file prepared for MHT include transfer printed whitewares and wire nails. Since no tallies of these objects are available, they are simply included as "miscellaneous objects" in the tables above.

While one unit at 18AP60 proved to be heavily disturbed, the other unit provided data concerning three dimensional changes to Cornhill Street. The materials recovered are representative of the period from 1870-1930 during which the state of Maryland shifted away from primary economic dependence on agriculture toward a dependence on industry and commerce, with urban areas becoming increasingly important. Any potential that remains at the site likely is related to this era, rather than earlier uses of the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

0000132