



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP63

Site Name: Courthouse

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 86-90 Franklin Street

Historic

Brief Description:

Mid 19th-Mid 20th century townhouses, city block, 17th & 18th century forge and houses, & African-American

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9775

Longitude -76.4998

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Spa Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 183 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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 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

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		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	4	Jackfield	5	Tin Glazed	22	English Brown	4
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	1273	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	8	Porcelain	241	Nottingham	2
Creamware	404	Pearlware	942			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	11

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1	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

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	7170	Activity item(s)	448
Glass (all)	4285	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4785	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	11544
Arms	1	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	122	Misc.	2204
Personal items	4	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" 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 Courthouse Site (18AP63) consists of a city block and the former townhomes associated with a mid 19th-mid 20th century African-American neighborhood in downtown Annapolis. Some earlier 17th and 18th century deposits have also been encountered at the site. It is situated near the top of a small hill whose apex, Church Circle, drains towards the Annapolis Harbor. The site is bounded on the North and East by the Anne Arundel County Courthouse, on the West by Franklin Street, and on the South by Cathedral Street. Most of the surrounding landscape is heavily developed as an urban area within the City of Annapolis. Soils at the site are Monmouth sandy loams as well as some human transported soils.

The block bounded by Franklin (known as Doctor Street until circa 1913), Cathedral, and South Streets was identified as Lots #58 and #59 on the 1718 Survey of Annapolis. On that plan of the city, the block was bisected from Church Circle to Cathedral Street by Temple Street, but it is not known whether Temple Street was ever built or was ever anything more than a "paper street". "Temple Street" did serve as the boundary marker for Lots #58 and #59. Lot #59 fronted on Church Circle and ran the length of the block with Doctor, Temple, and Cathedral Streets serving as the boundary markers. Lot #58 was identified as being bounded by Temple, Cathedral, and South streets.

After the 1718 map of the city, the first documentation of Lot #58 was in 1730 when John Beale sold the lot to William Nicholson. Beale imposed the provision that title transfer would not take place until Beale's death, but it permitted Nicholson to build on the property prior to Beale's death. It was also noted that Beale was already living on the property. Unfortunately, Nicholson died before Beale, in 1732. Nicholson's will directed his wife Elizabeth to sell the "unfinished house in Annapolis". In October, 1732 Elizabeth Nicholson and John Beale conveyed the property and unfinished house to Daniel Dulany, who also was to become involved in the activities on Lot #59.

Lot #59 (along with Lots #60 and #61) was first set aside by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1747 for lease by St. Anne's Parish. The agreement was for the property to be leased by St. Anne's for a period of 63 years. Two years later, St. Anne's leased Lot #59 to Daniel Dulany for £3 Sterling. Daniel Dulany I was a prominent official in the colony of Maryland. He was the Attorney General from 1721-1725 and again from 1734-44, and he held the position of Commissary General from 1734 until his death in 1753. After Dulany's death, Lot #58 continued to be owned and #59 managed by his descendants (i.e. first his son Daniel Dulany II, and then his wife Rebecca and son Benjamin).

During the first part of the 19th century the Dulany's land began to be divided into smaller parcels. In 1801 Lot #58 was passed from Rebecca Dulany to William Cooke in trust with the instructions that it was to be sold for Rebecca if necessary. It is not clear when this land passed out of Dulany hands, but it was not owned by the Dulany's by the 1820s. An 1820s Chancery Court case over Rebecca and Benjamin's property did not include Lot #58 among their properties. Cooke apparently took over the lease for Lot #59, because in 1810 the Register of St. Anne's Vestry "is requested to inform Mr. W. Cooke that the lot leased to Daniel Dulany expired 1 Sept. 1810".

In 1812 St. Anne's leased the property to Thomas Brown, who in 1817 granted a 99-year lease on the property to John Shaw for \$150. On July 6, 1818 John Shaw bought Lot #59 outright from St. Anne's for \$275. Three months after that Shaw advertised the lot for sale. He noted that the lot would be sold with the brick basement of an unfinished 30' by 40' house and the materials to finish the house. Shaw did not sell any part of Lot #59 until 1821, when he sold a 33' by 77' portion of lot 59 to Jacob H. Slemeker for \$165. This portion of the property was the land on Church Circle opposite the modern-day Banneker-Douglass Museum. At the same time, Shaw also sold five feet of Lot #59 that ran along Doctor Street to the Corporation of Annapolis to widen the street. The County Courthouse was being built at this time on land which would have been owned by Shaw, but there is no record of a transfer in ownership to either the city or the county.

Between 1825 and 1870, the lots on which the site is located were extensively subdivided. This subdivision is evident on an 1877 map of the city. In addition to the subdivision of the block, there also was a shift from a predominantly White-occupied area to one that was largely African-American. In 1874, several members of Annapolis' Black community purchased a parcel fronting Doctor Street on which they built Mt. Moriah African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The church was built for an African-American congregation which was established in Annapolis as early as 1803. The church building now serves as the home of the Banneker-Douglass Museum of African-American heritage.

In the 1880 census the majority of the block was of African descent. The census data for the 1880-1910 period presents an image of a well-established community. A comparison of the names listed on the 1880 and 1900 lists record at least six families who lived on that block both in 1880 and 1900. This continuity continued between 1900 and 1910. The 1900 census lists all the occupants of Cathedral Street homes as African-American. Between 1900 and 1910 half of the residents remained on that street. In addition, roughly a quarter of the homes on the Franklin-Cathedral-South Street block were owned by African Americans. This figure excludes Bellis Court, which was built around 1903. Like Gott's Court, Bellis Court was located on the interior of the block and rented to economically marginalized African-Americans.

The occupations listed for the neighborhood cataloged a variety of skilled and semi-skilled positions. In both the 1880 and 1900 censuses "laborer" was the most frequently listed occupation. By 1910, "laundress" was the most commonly cited occupation. The 1910 census indicates increasing occupational diversity within the black community. Jobs listed as being held by African Americans in 1910 included lawyer, physician, tinsmith, storekeeper, and nurse.

The area continued to be a predominantly African-American neighborhood until the 1950s when the county began to purchase properties on the block for the construction of a County Courthouse addition and a parking lot. Oral history accounts of African-Americans who lived on the block argue that the destruction of this neighborhood was also a systematic political effort to break up one of the few African-American voting blocks in the city. By destroying the neighborhood, the predominantly black residents were dispersed as voting block and compelled to move to the city's periphery. One former resident of the area recalled that his, "feeling was that a lot of people didn't want to leave...As the Courthouse expanded they needed more and more and more and so that was the end of it. I don't think they [the block's residents] wanted to move, any of them".

Consequently, the neighborhood was destroyed between the 1950s and about 1970. Homes along South Street were demolished first, followed by Cathedral and Franklin Streets. The only vestige of the neighborhoods historic African-American roots left standing was the old Mount Moriah AME Church, which is now the home of the Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Maryland Commission on African-American Heritage and Culture.



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Unknown

The first documented archeological work at 18AP63 occurred in the spring of 1990. Archaeology in Annapolis (AIA), which is partially publically funded through the University of Maryland and periodic grants from the City of Annapolis, carried out preliminary (Phase I/II) investigations of the lower or southwestern quadrant of the city block in preparation for the expansion of the Anne Arundel County Courthouse. The 1990 investigations included a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey (only a small portion of which was analyzed) and the excavation of fifteen formal test units. The excavations documented sparse evidence of 18th century use of the area and even some 17th century materials. Archeological visibility increased greatly, however, for the 19th and 20th century habitation of the block.

Ground penetrating radar was used to survey an extensive portion of the parking lot for the Anne Arundel County Courthouse. This new addition for the courthouse was to be constructed in the location of the parking lot. The equipment used for testing had a 500 MHz antenna with a range of 20 nanoseconds, recording at 12.8 scans per second. The data was recorded on magnetic tape in the field and uploaded for computer software interpretation. The GPR unit was pulled along transects spaced at 1.524 m (5 ft) intervals aligned in both north-south and east-west directions. The radar survey was, however, constrained by cars left in the lot over the weekends (during which the survey occurred). Occupied parking spaces were avoided.

The GPR testing was provided free-of-charge to AIA and was used principally by the engineering firm providing the service as a means to field test new equipment. Project archeologists were provided with a complete set of printouts of the data, but interpretation was not provided by the geophysicists and was left to the archeologists. Only a small portion of the radar data was analyzed, but thirteen areas of potential interest were identified and used for subsequent "ground-truthing" fieldwork.

Fifteen 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units and 1.524 X .762 m (5 X 2.5 ft) half units were dug during the 1990 field season to assess the integrity of archeological remains at the site. Excavation techniques consisted of a combination of hand troweling and shovel-skimming once the asphalt layer of the parking lot had been removed by hydraulic jack-hammer. All units beneath this asphalt surface were excavated by natural stratigraphic layers up to 15.24 cm (6 in) in thickness. Strata thicker than this were terminated arbitrarily and continued as a new level. All soils were screened through hardware cloth and wet screen samples were taken for all features and selected deposits in other areas. All wet-screened soils were run through 1/32 inch mesh screening.

Although some prehistoric materials (i.e. a quartz stemmed point) were recovered, it appeared that the prehistoric potential of the site was low. Recorded features and recorded artifacts, however, clearly suggested greater use of the area during historic periods. North Devon sherds found in a single unit in the north-central part of the parking lot indicated potential for occupation of the site as far back as the 17th century. Sheet refuse deposits from the 18th century were also uncovered, which suggested that related structures and features might exist in the area.

Archeological visibility increased greatly with the 19th and 20th centuries. Rich deposits from these periods were uncovered including house basements, a partial barrel privy, and a dog burial. These provided a good indication of the types of deposits that could be expected for the remainder of the block.

Artifacts recovered during the course of the 1990 Phase I/II program included 385 activity items (11 earthenware marbles, 4 stone marbles, 1 stoneware marble, 11 glass marbles, 350 pieces of lamp glass, and 8 coarse earthenware flowerpot fragments), 104 clothing objects (all buttons), 2,460 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item (an Indian Head penny), and 1 prehistoric artifact (a quartzite stemmed point). The kitchen assemblage consisted of 752 ceramic sherds (7 North Devon, 1 Jackfield, 4 Astbury, 2 Fulham, 1 Whieldonware, 18 tin-glazed earthenware, 3 slipware, 68 creamware, 46 pearlware, 4 refined earthenware, 33 coarse earthenware, 253 whiteware, 10 Chinese porcelain, 11 porcelain, 4 bone china, 13 ironstone, 18 Rockingham, 21 yellowware, 6 white salt-glazed stoneware, 4 English Brown stoneware, 2 Nottingham stoneware, 2 Westerwald, 13 domestic stoneware, 5 miscellaneous stoneware, and 203 unidentified), 10 pieces of table glass, 3 bottle glass fragments, and 1,695 animal bones. In addition, architectural artifacts such as nails, brick, and mortar were recovered, but are not quantified in the body of the full site report. These materials have not been included in the tables above.

Phase III work for the Courthouse Site was undertaken again by Archaeology in Annapolis in the summer of 1994. The work was, again, undertaken as a result of the impending expansion of the Anne Arundel County Courthouse addition. The impact area included both upper and lower parking lot areas used by Courthouse employees. The excavations set out to address the potential for 17th century occupation of the site as well as to examine three areas of interest expressed by members of the local African-American community. There was particular interest in learning more about the people living in the six unit alley dwellings known as Bellis Court (built around the turn of the 20th century and located within the interior spaces of the Courthouse block). Interest was expressed in the archeology of the Mt. Moriah AME Church and the associated Parish house a few doors down Franklin Street. Lastly, the community wanted to learn more about the businesses present on the block during this period. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and city directories suggest the presence of several businesses on the block, including small grocery stores, a cobbler's shop, a jeweler's shop, a candy store, and a tailor's shop.

A total of 10 exploratory trenches and 31 additional excavation units were distributed across the undisturbed portions of the block. Backhoe trenches were approximately 1.22 m (4 ft) by 3.05 m (10 ft) in size and were dug without regard to stratigraphic layers. These were dug as exploratory excavations in areas with a high potential for intact remains and to provide quick information for the future placement of excavation units. Backhoe excavation was monitored and observed cultural remains were collected and provenienced to their respective trench number. No screening of soils was done for trenches. Drawings and photos of trench sections were done along with brief written descriptions of soil colors and textures. Any trench excavated to a depth greater than 1.37 m (4.5 ft) below the asphalt surface was examined and recorded from the side surface of the trench.

The standard excavation unit measured 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) in size. However, this varied occasionally after considering field conditions and recovery potential in some areas. Excavation units were dug by hand troweling and shovel skimming using largely the same methods as in the 1990 study. Due to time constraints, some upper levels (where disturbed) were removed using the backhoe. Soils were passed through hardware cloth and all cultural materials were collected with the exception of brick and mortar, samples of which were taken. Soil samples were collected for select features and strata for flotation analysis and/or wet screening using a finer mesh screen.

Relating to the African-American component of the site, excavators did locate Bellis Court. Sampling was done for the backyards of these dwellings and a substantial privy relating to the court was found and partially excavated. Minimum vessel analyses for ceramics and glass were done and provided a mean date of ca. 1909 with a TPQ date of around 1920 (probably around the date that the privy was taken out of service) for the upper portions of the privy. A second, deeper level of privy deposit came up with a mean date of 1893. A smaller barrel privy was found in the lower portion of that particular excavation block. This privy was believed to have been associated with the church's parish house. Minimum vessel counts were done for this privy as well, and provided a mean date of 1901 with a TPQ of around 1920. Examination of the businesses on the block was done under significant constraints due to limited time and budget.



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Portions of the foundation of a house occupied by William H. Bellis in the 1870s were also exposed during the 1994 excavations. Construction of this house was begun by William Nicholson around 1730 and completed by Daniel Dulany in 1732-1733. It was demolished in 1896 by James Munroe, a Trustee for Bellis. Excavations in the area of the Bellis house also revealed the remains of an early 18th century wood-lined cellar, believed to be part of the earliest known structure on the block. After an initially rapid deposition of fill around 1828, the remainder of the cellar hole was gradually filled over the remaining 19th century. This fill deposit yielded a mixed assemblage of artifacts that included sherds of early materials such as North Devon gravel-tempered earthenware, North Devon sgraffito and Northern Italian slipware, along with creamwares, pearlwares, and whitewares.

An assemblage of late 17th century/early 18th century materials and several associated slag deposits from an early forge were also recovered in the southern portion of the block. The materials associated with a forge, including portions of a crucible, provided evidence of early industry in Annapolis.

Only a subset of the artifacts recovered during the 1994 project were analyzed and quantified in the body of the full site report. The analyzed assemblage consisted of a minimum of 13 activity items (lamp glass), 6,107 kitchen-related artifacts (2,112 ceramic sherds, 42 pieces of table glass, 175 container glass fragments, 3,841 animal bones), and 3 miscellaneous objects (unidentified glass fragments). The ceramic assemblage included at minimum 1 North Devon vessel, 2 Jackfield, 3 tin-glazed earthenware, 2 creamware, 13 pearlware, 4 refined earthenware, 52 whiteware, 28 porcelain, 2 bone china, 26 ironstone, 2 Rockingham, 2 yellowware, 14 redware, 5 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 29 miscellaneous stoneware vessels.

Recommendations from the 1994 excavations noted the area north of the Banneker-Douglass Museum held some significant research potential. Noting early development of this block along Franklin Street, future excavations, it was argued, could yield important insights into the post-Revolutionary War and early Federal periods. Future work was recommended should these deposits become threatened.

Excavation in the areas to the north of the Banneker-Douglass Museum came up in the summer of 2000 when a Phase I/II project was conducted prior to the expansion of the museum. The proposed expansion would encompass the remaining open space on the north side of the Museum and would destroy any/all remaining archeological resources in that area. The work was initiated by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to comply with the state historic preservation law, Article 83B, Sections 5-617 and 5-618 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

At the time of the 2000 excavations, this portion of the site was an open, grassy lot. Background archival research had shown that this area, during the late 19th and early 20th century, held four separate dwellings. Three mechanical trenches and five hand-dug units were used to evaluate the archeological integrity of the site and to evaluate the age and diversity of archeological deposits.

A backhoe was used to dig the three .91 X 3.05 m (3 X 10 ft) test trenches, allowing for a quick assessment of the integrity and nature of the deposits in this area. These trenches also provided the opportunity to evaluate the decision to avoid cellars and the interiors of dwellings. The trenches were not dug with regard to stratigraphic layers. This excavation was monitored and obvious cultural materials collected and provenienced to their respective trench. No screening was done for trenches. Trenches were located to provide quick information for subsequent locations of excavation units. Drawings and photos of trench profiles were done along with brief written descriptions of soil colors and textures.

The five test units were hand-excavated and each measured 1.524 X 1.524 m in size. Units were excavated according to natural and cultural stratigraphic layers except when individual strata exceeded 15.24 cm (6 in) in thickness. Strata thicker than this were terminated arbitrarily and continued as a new level. Initial fill layers associated with the (then) recent courthouse addition construction were stripped away. After this, all soils were excavated in the manner described above and screened through hardware cloth. Units were dug to sterile subsoil where depths and time constraints allowed. Pertinent data was recorded on standardized forms, which were supplemented with field notes kept by the project archeologists and technicians. Documentation also included detailed maps, drawings, and photographs. When features were encountered, assessments were made in consultation with MHT archeologists about the utility of feature excavation and many were preserved in place for work the following summer.

Several features associated with the African-American occupation of the block were encountered. These included portions of two different household's privies, a root cellar/storage pit, a possible wood shed, midden and yard deposits, as well as other structural features. These features provided a particularly important archeological opportunity to examine the African-American material world between about 1850 and 1930.

The two privies were only partially excavated during the 2000 excavations. One of the privies encountered was in the backyard of 88 Franklin Street. The second was found in the 90 Franklin Street yard. With the advent of indoor plumbing between about 1910 and 1930, it is likely that these privies reflect the period between 1870 and 1930. Ceramics provided some indication of dates for these features through comparison of their production dates and calculated means. The privy associated with 88 Franklin Street was found to have a mean ceramic date of 1863. The 90 Franklin Street privy had a mean date of 1855. In both privies, however, other diagnostics found with the ceramics point to dates around the turn of the 20th century. Both privies show evidence of their being filled. Ash was present in the upper portions and some clearly early 20th century materials were mixed in with earlier artifacts. It remained unclear whether or not the two privies were cleaned out before being abandoned, though the privy at 88 Franklin Street showed some signs that earlier deposits might still be intact.

The root cellar at 86 Franklin Street was exposed, but not excavated during the 2000 Phase I/II study. In the yard area of this same household, a rich deposit of artifacts was encountered. More than 1,200 objects were recovered from a single stratigraphic level. Ceramics were varied, but generally fell within a range of production around the mid-19th century. Glass objects included several embossed bottles or forms that suggest their original contents. Metal objects such as the axe head, the printing plate, the fare token, are all unique objects rich in detail. There was some evidence that suggested the material was the result of redeposition of soils when the ca. 1910 addition was built onto 88 Franklin Street. This artifact rich level needs further examination, as it was not fully exposed and appeared to be part of a much larger sheet midden. Similarly, evidence of three posts within this small area begs for clarification. These may prove to be evidence of an outbuilding.

Artifacts recovered included 29 activity items (lamp glass), 2,248 architectural artifacts (979 nails, 487 pieces of flat glass, and 782 miscellaneous objects), 4 clothing items (1 glass button, 1 rubber Goodyear button, and 2 other buttons), 3,650 kitchen-related objects (51 porcelain sherds, 923 earthenware sherds, 44 stoneware sherds, 402 other ceramic sherds, 607 container glass fragments, 819 pieces of bone, and 804 shell fragments), 56 tobacco pipe fragments, 1 arms object (a gunflint) and 1,514 miscellaneous objects (781 coal fragments, 2 ferrous objects, 483 other metal objects, 246 pieces of glass, and 2 stones).

The most recent archeological project carried out at 18AP63 was a follow-up Phase III in July and August of 2001, carried out by AIA in preparation for the



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP63

Site Name: Courthouse

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 86-90 Franklin Street

Historic

Brief

Description:

Mid 19th-Mid 20th century townhouses, city block, 17th & 18th century forge and houses, & African-American

Unknown

same museum expansion project as the 2000 Phase I/II study. Five "block excavation areas" were opened and the recent overburden was mechanically removed in order to identify subsurface features. Within these areas, 13 new excavation units were placed and excavated by hand.

All mechanical excavation was monitored by project archeologists. While no screening of these soils took place, observed artifacts were collected. Each area was then shovel-scraped to provide a clear view of the sub-fill surface. These were photographed and all features or further disturbances encountered were logged, photographed, and mapped. The 13 hand-excavated units were generally 1.524 X 1.524 m in extent and were excavated in the same manner as in the previous AIA projects. All soils from hand excavations were screened using hardware mesh. Brick and mortar, which is found in abundance throughout urban sites such as this, were sometimes sampled, weighed and discarded in the field. Soil samples were collected from identified privies, which were water-screened using a fine mesh to collect small artifacts. Units were dug to culturally sterile subsoils where depths and time constraints allowed. A separate record was kept for each provenience giving elevation readings, soil color and texture, inclusions (such as brick, slate, coal, shell), stratigraphic relationships, and a general list of artifacts. Photographs and plan drawing were made of the top of each stratum, but additional visual records were made to show detail at other points. All profiles were drawn, unless the excavation unit wall was also a brick wall or when it showed only recent disturbance.

Archeological contexts dating as far back as the 17th century have been found at the Courthouse Site. This was not, however, the case in the area of the proposed Banneker-Douglass Museum expansion. No cultural context (or even the stray artifact) was found from this early settlement period (1634-1750). The deepest contexts (those found just above culturally sterile subsoils) held artifacts that date back as far as the period of rural agrarian intensification and town development (1750-1815). Nowhere within the project area was evidence of intense activity associated with this period found. No features were identified with this period. It is clear from the previous archeological work that the area investigated in 2001 was not far from the 18th century home of Daniel Dulany. The few artifacts recovered from these levels and their association with more recent objects is consistent with this area being undeveloped, open space during this time.

Evidence of development during the first part of the 19th century was more widespread. Historic records note that a Jacob Slemaker acquired the portion of the property that became Numbers 88 and 90 Franklin Street in 1821. In Slemaker's 1835 will, mention is made of two frame houses built since his purchase of the property. The archeological work in 2001 corroborated the structures' presence in the 1830s, but also gave additional information about how these structures were originally laid out and built. A cellar cut in one unit showed clearly that the front sections of these two buildings were constructed without cellars. A rather insubstantial partition wall in another unit made it clear that the 88 and 90 Franklin Street dwellings were built together, with a common wall between them.

The portion of the site that constituted 86 and 84 Franklin Street was part of a parcel bought by Charity Bishop, a free black woman, in 1832. The entire length of Franklin Street was developed by 1878, but details about how these lots were developed are unknown. Materials collected from under the 86 Franklin Street house shed some light on when these buildings were built. The soils determined to have accumulated below the house while it was standing contained a wide range of artifacts reflecting the nearly 100 years the building is known to have stood. An 1884 penny was found in this context and provides a solid TPQ for this accumulation.

The soils below this can be assumed either to have been brought in with the construction of the building or to have been in place before the building's construction. In either case, materials from these strata can provide some idea of when these dwellings were built. The ceramics from these levels, with mean ceramic dates of 1841 and 1843, and an 1860 penny suggest the mid 19th century. The two pennies provide a very good picture of when the two buildings were built: sometime after 1860. Historic records show the buildings in place by at least 1871. As 1860 was also the starting year of the American Civil War, it is likely that these buildings were built for a post-emancipation Annapolis. Importantly, they were built by African-Americans for African-Americans. This shows the nature of Annapolis' African-American community at this major junction of change in their lives.

Archeology from the rest of the 2001 project area gave further material with which to look at subsequent development of this community. The 88 and 90 Franklin Street privies were excavated further. The 88 Franklin Street privy was found to contain artifacts that accumulated during the 1870s and 1880s. The 90 Franklin Street privy dates to the early 1890s. Comparing these two privies is of some interest as one is related to a white household and the other is most likely African-American. Similarities are remarkable. Both privies are comprised of similar types and compositions of ceramics. The number of teawares accounted for the only substantial difference. The 88 Franklin Street privy (the probable African-American family) held more tea or coffee related vessels and, presumably, tea or coffee consumption was more important in that household. The glass assemblages were also similar.

The faunal assemblage of the two privies exhibit far more marked divergences, but both assemblages were quite small for serious statistical analyses. The most notable difference in the faunal assemblages was the number of different species identified. While both show a variety in diet by the addition of fish and fowl, a greater variety is present in the 88 Franklin Street privy. This assemblage also suggests the inclusion of wild game in the diet, which is not as apparent in the 90 Franklin Street (white household) assemblage.

Comparing the privy assemblage from 88 Franklin Street to that of the Bellis Court privy (excavated in 1994) shows that alcohol-related container glass is the most common vessel glass, but a much greater volume of container glass was recovered from the Bellis Court context. The Bellis Court privy dated to the early 20th century rather than the latter 19th century. Similarly, while both assemblages exhibit a preference for the consumption of pork, the 88 Franklin Street privy exhibited a much more diverse assemblage of meat sources.

The yard space between 86 and 84 Franklin Street was also targeted archeologically. Materials from this area were not, however, analyzed to the extent that the privy contents were. Still, the recovered artifacts did provide some interesting insights into the lives of the individuals who lived there. The archeology suggests intensive use of this particular area. Several post holes were found along the lot line between the two households. This suggests that the yards were once separated by a fence. By 1913, this fence was replaced by the south wall of the 88 Franklin Street addition. A large number of artifacts were found accumulated near this fence line. This includes unique items such as an ad plate for the Mabley and Carew clothing store in Baltimore, and a fare token from a Washington, DC trolley line. To the south, towards the center of the yard, a much greater degree of disturbance and activity was found. This appears to have been a rather busy workspace for the household, full of stored coal. Churned up yard surfaces and a board walkway suggested a good degree of everyday household traffic through the yard.

Evidence of post 1930s occupation at the site was found everywhere, but it was almost a

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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00000154, 00000165, 97000679, 97001264