



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP81

Site Name: USNA Mess Hall/Seamanship Bldg

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th century Naval Academy mess hall/seamanship building

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9857

Longitude -76.4949

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 6 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) Severn River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 366 m

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

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

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	<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"/>
	4		7			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

19th century structural foundations

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	17	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	14	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	81	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	13
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	41
Personal items	3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AP81 (also known as Tecumseh Court) consists of the archeological deposits associated with the 19th century Mess Hall and Seamanship Building on the campus of the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis. The site is situated in the Tecumseh Court area in the vicinity of today's Bancroft Hall on the Ellipse at the USNA. Most of the surrounding landscape is heavily developed either with extant Academy structures or managed landscaping. Soils at the site are Collington sandy loams and loamy sands.

The Mess Hall (or Seamanship Building) at 18AP81 was built in the mid 19th century. Official correspondence files for this period suggest that the original block of this building, which was aligned with the west end of the midshipmen's quarters complex known as Stribling Row, was one of the first structures erected by the Navy after it took over Fort Severn in 1845. The buildings along Stribling Row had been banked into the slope of the Severn River shoreline, so that each building had a full basement level.

By 1852, the Mess Hall facility already had proved inadequate and its expansion became the subject of numerous written exchanges between Superintendent Stribling and Commodore Morris. The architect for the proposed additions to the Mess Hall was Ebenezer Faxon of Baltimore whose correspondence with the Superintendent aptly describes the wing additions. The initial \$5,000 appropriated for these modifications ultimately was not sufficient. The project went over budget by \$3,250. The expanded Mess Hall included a front central wing and a front porch along the side wings.

After the 1853 modifications, the building apparently continued to function as a Mess Hall, with a separate mess facility and sitting room for Associate Professors and other staff. Sometime between 1857 and 1876, it was converted to the Seamanship Building. The last reference to this structure, a 1902 property appraisal list of extant Academy buildings, suggests that the structure last housed the Superintendent's and other Offices of the Academy. Notations on this list indicate that the "southern half of this building was completed in 1847", when the first floor was utilized as a Mess Hall and the second floor functioned as a library and lyceum. Shortly after the building was appraised at a value of approximately \$17,809 in 1902, it was demolished to make way for the first phase of construction of Bancroft Hall.

Although numerous archeological investigations have been conducted within the main campus of the Naval Academy, Site 18AP81 was not identified until 1997. However, some work was conducted on the site prior to that time. In 1993, a survey was carried out across the Naval Academy campus to provide the Navy with information about what types of cultural resources exist on Department of Defense (DOD) property. The Department of Defense (obviously publically funded) stipulated that inventories of such resources be undertaken on all DOD properties.

Field investigations in 1993 entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs), small "slot trenches", and 61 X 61 cm (2 X 2 ft) units, as well as trenches of varying size. In the vicinity of 18AP81, this work entailed only the excavation of STPs. One hundred and twenty-four STPs were excavated across the USNA campus, but only 2 STPs were sited within the confines of 18AP81. STPs were 30.5 X 30.5 cm (1 X 1 ft) in size and were dug stratigraphically and screened through hardware cloth.

The two STPs produced 1 activity item (a piece of metal strap), 57 architectural artifacts (41 pieces of brick, 2 fragments of mortar, 8 pieces of window glass, and 6 nails), 1 potential furniture item (a brad/tack), 32 kitchen-related artifacts (4 creamware sherds, 6 pearlware sherds, 2 refined earthenware sherds, 3 coarse earthenware sherds, 3 dark olive green bottle glass shards, another bottle fragment, 7 animal bones, and 6 pieces of shell), 1 personal item (a 1972 penny), 6 tobacco-related artifacts (1 pipe stem and 5 bowl fragments), 1 potential arms object (stone worked into 'flints'), and 41 miscellaneous objects (11 fragments of bog iron, 1 piece of slate, 1 piece of quartz, 5 other stones, 1 unidentified glass fragment, 21 pieces of coal or clinkers, and 1 unidentified object). A distinct site was not identified based on these findings, but additional work was recommended in the vicinity of the Ellipse if development of the area were to occur.

In 1997, a combined Phase I-II research project was undertaken at Site 18AP81. This work was related to the replacement of high temperature water (HTW) and potable water piping, and the construction of new chilled water lines in and around the Ellipse. These investigations were designed to comply with the Statement of Architectural-Engineering Services for the project, as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and with applicable Federal and US Navy regulations.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of 18 backhoe trenches and several hand-excavated units across the area that would be impacted by the proposed installations. The trenches averaged 1.22 m (4 ft) wide and between 4.6 and 7.62 m (15 and 25 ft) long. In the vicinity of 18AP81 this entailed the excavation of nine backhoe trenches, three of which would lead to the identification of the site. Documentation of the backhoe trench profiles included preparation of detailed scale drawings and black and white and color photographs of at least one wall. Diagnostic artifacts that were observed to be within a stratum during backhoe excavation, so that the context could be defined, were retained. Non-diagnostic material such as brick and other structural debris, coal, and shell, were noted but not collected. The soils in the trenches were not screened.

Three trenches placed near the intersection of Stribling Walk and Tecumseh Court (on the Ellipse) identified archeological remains associated with one of the 19th century structures that comprised the core of the early Naval Academy. Archival research suggested that the stone foundations exposed, were likely remnants of the former Mess Hall/Seamanship Building. Based on these findings, the project proceeded to a Phase II level of research in this area.

Phase II archeological evaluation of the cultural resources at Site 18AP81 consisted of the mechanical enlargement of the southwestern-most of the 3 Phase I trenches and hand excavation of a 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) unit within it, as well as the mechanical excavation of two additional trenches in the Tecumseh Court area. Mechanical excavation was carried out as described previously. The test units were excavated by cultural strata and soils from the units were screened through hardware mesh. All diagnostic artifacts were retained, and a sample of non-diagnostic material was collected.

Phase I and II trench excavations at 18AP81 revealed numerous cultural resources associated with the 19th century Mess Hall/Seamanship Building. These cultural resources consisted of landscape features, such as crushed shell and rock walkways, and structural features, such as a remnant granite foundation, brick walls, and the stone cellar floor of the Mess Hall/Seamanship Building. All of these features were found beneath 1.524 m (5 ft) or more of fill material. The Phase I and II testing within the area of Tecumseh Court demonstrated that portions of the historic landscape (representing occupation of and activities within the historic Academy grounds) remained intact below the planned depth of construction.



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Rather than conducting mitigative excavations, archeological monitoring was utilized during excavation of the pipeline trenches to ensure that the intact soils below the 1.524 m of fill were not impacted. A granite wall was encountered during the archeological monitoring that took place during pipeline installation. This was situated just north of Tecumseh Court at a depth of roughly 1.524-1.83 m (5-6 ft). This was a portion of one of the foundation remnants previously identified. Archeologists found that excavation had in-fact proceeded below the 1.524 m maximum that was set during the planning stage. It was also discovered that additional planned trench excavations would go even deeper. Based on these findings, additional monitoring was carried out and additional remnants of the aforementioned foundations and cellar features were exposed.

As the trench for the main water line were extended east, two different construction episodes wer recognized for the Mess Hall/Seamanship building. A deep granite floor represented the original 1846 building, while a shallower concrete-like floor represented the 1853 expansion of the building. When this information was added to a GIS overlay of the historic footprint of the building, it confirmed that brick features noted early on were surface or landscape feature outside the building and not foundation remnants.

Very few artifacts were recovered during the Phase I-II project in 1997 and the subsequent archeological monitoring. The reported assemblage consisted of 1 activity item (a glass marble), 24 architectural artifacts (2 slate roof pieces, 5 pieces of plaster, 3 machine cut nails, 2 wrought nails, 9 wire nails, a screw, a bolt and bracket, and a ceramic insulator), 3 kitchen-related artifacts (1 pearlware sherd, a domestic gray stoneware sherd, and a piece of milk glass), and 2 personal objects (a 1929 penny and a 1972 penny).

The research potential of Site 18AP81 is high, based on its ability to provide valuable information concerning the landscape and physical plant of the 19th century Naval Academy. However, the integrity of the resources had been compromised by changes in the surrounding landscape, through demolition, filling, construction of utilities, and other modifications. The structural features (remnant walls and cellar floors) represented the demolished Mess Hall/Seamanship Building. The presence of intact landscape features in front of and behind the building indicated that some degree of integrity existed for 19th century features. Site 18AP281 was determined eligible for listing on the NRHP based on the degree of integrity and research potential. It should be considered a significant archeological resource and additional work should be carried out if the site is threatened by future improvements.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000157, 00007025