



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA27

Site Name: Fort Garrison

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MHT# BA-33

Historic

Brief Description:

Prehistoric unknown, 18th (and possibly 17th) century fort, 19th century slave quarter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4045

Longitude -76.7080

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 159 m

Site slope 0

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) Slaughter House Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 350 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

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? Rural

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

slave quarter

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	12	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	6	Nottingham	1
Creamware	3	Pearlware	9			Rhenish	1
						Wt Salt-glazed	2

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	61	Activity item(s)	10
Glass (all)	37	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	0	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	4
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	119	Misc.	5
Personal items	3	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> possible ritual items

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 type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Fort Garrison site (18BA27) is an archeological site associated with an extant stone blockhouse reputed to be Fort Garrison, which was an outpost fort of the Maryland Rangers constructed in 1692-93. The building was also reported to have been reactivated during the French and Indian War. Subsequently, the fort was remodeled as a slave quarter around 1800. Prehistoric artifacts were also found at this site including a fully grooved axe that was collected by J. H. Smith in 1964. The site is situated on an open hill that is surrounded by modern houses near Stevenson, Maryland in Baltimore County.

The extant blockhouse reputed to be Fort Garrison is a rectangular, fieldstone building built in the 1690's approximately forty-eight feet long and eighteen feet wide with one stone fireplace on the east end-wall whose chimney is enclosed within that wall. Originally a one-story building with a steep roof, early nineteenth-century alterations raised the height of the fort building adding a second story loft and a wood shingle roof.

Architectural historian Dr. Henry Chandlee Forman inspected the structure in 1963 and determined that "it is possible that the shell of the structure served as a fort and that about 1800 the building was entirely remodeled as a farm outhouse".

Archival research used to support Fort Garrison's 1970 nomination for the NRHP indicates that Fort Garrison is the sole remaining original stone blockhouse in Maryland. Fort Garrison was constructed following a 1693 order from Governor Francis Nicholson and his Council. It originally served as a stronghold against American Indian attacks during the last decade of the seventeenth century and again in 1755 when the fort was used during the French and Indian War. As early as 1681, the Council of Maryland proposed sending a group of rangers to each county to watch for attacks by Native Americans. At first, rangers were recruited on an emergency basis only; however, during the subsequent decade, the Council ordered that a fort be constructed in Baltimore County near the falls of the Patapsco River and near the Susquehanna River giving permanence to their function and a place for the rangers to live as well as defense against attacks from American Indians. The site chosen for the garrison near the Slaughterhouse Run branch of the Jones Falls was convenient to two Indian trails, one used by the Senecas and one by the Delawares. Fort Garrison was the fruition of this order.

In 1694, John Oldton (Oulton, Olton) received an appointment as Captain of the rangers. It is possible that Oldton supervised the construction of Fort Garrison. Oldton (-1709), who had moved to Baltimore County before 1688, is most often associated with Fort Garrison which is sometimes called Oldton's Garrison. Oldton also was granted a patent (1696) for the land within the boundaries on which the fort was built. From the construction of Fort Garrison until Oldton was relieved of his commission in 1698, no American Indians had threatened the garrison. After Oldton left it is doubtful that the fort continued to be occupied in the early 18th century. The vanguard of settlement had reached, if not exceeded, its location, thereby ending its usefulness as a frontier outpost.

The garrison and the land it stood on changed hands several times before the fort again saw duty. In 1755, after General Braddock's defeat in the French and Indian War, Captain John Risteau, a Maryland ranger who owned Fort Garrison, reactivated the fort to defend Baltimore County. However, neither French nor American Indians attacked the garrison. Without a threat of invasion and with the expansion of settlement the usefulness of the building as a point of defense again dwindled.

Around the year 1800, Robert Carman altered the structure into slave quarters by raising the wall to add a second story half floor. The 1798 Federal tax assessment describe the structure as a "Stone Negro Quarter" on a plantation that had 22 enslaved individuals.

The significance of Fort Garrison as an example of a Maryland frontier outpost was unrecognized until the mid-twentieth century. In 1965, Baltimore County Bureau of Recreation and Parks acquired the fort in order to preserve this remnant of Maryland's early history.

Archaeological excavations at site 18BA27 were conducted in 1964 and 1965 by John Sprinkle and members of the Archeological Society of Maryland. The 'fort' was planned for demolition, as part of a housing subdivision, so the ASM conducted emergency excavations to recover evidence of the Ranger garrison. Archaeological fieldwork took place on weekends and involved volunteer excavators with little archaeological experience. During these investigations, portions of the interior of the building were excavated and early floor surfaces were encountered, however the early floors surfaces were heavily impacts by rodent burrows. Two 19th century refuse pits outside of the structure were also excavated. Unfortunately, while most of the objects retrieved during excavation have been kept in storage, a full report was not written on these excavations and the excavation records have been lost.

The Baltimore County Historical Trust eventually prevailed upon the developer to spare the building, and it stands extant today stabilized and intact but surrounded by split-levels on a tiny plot of land.

In 1985, Eric Klingelhofer inventoried the artifacts from Sprinkle's 1964-65 fieldwork and produced a preliminary report (MHT Library: BA 52) and an article published in Historical Archaeology (MHT Library: BA 115), both of which focused on the African-American material culture from Garrison Fort's 19th century use as a slave quarter during the time of the Garrison Plantation. Accordingly, the stated goal of Klingelhofer's research was to describe artifacts associated with the Garrison Plantation, so Klingelhofer only cursorily mentions artifacts that could be associated with the late 17th-18th century military occupations of Garrison Fort.

Klingelhofer reports that the ASM's excavations at Fort Garrison yielded over two thousand individual objects. The majority of the artifacts came from the two large trash pits excavated outside of the building. Based on Klingelhofer's analysis of artifacts from the trash pits, one trash pit dated to the early-mid 19th century and the other trash pit dated to the late 19th century.

Klingelhofer did not describe the full artifact assemblage from 18BA27 in his report and publication, instead focusing on ceramics, clay tobacco pipes, glassware, and potential ritual objects. Accordingly, numerical estimates are provided in this synthesis based on Klingelhofer's report, but are acknowledged to be an incomplete representation of the artifact assemblage from 18BA27.

Earthenwares were particularly numerous at 18BA27. Klingelhofer reports minimum vessel counts for the ceramics. Coarse redwares (18th and early 19th century) comprised sherds from 13 storage jars, one handled storage jar, one pitcher or jug, and one narrow-mouthed jug with an unglazed interior. There were sherds representing four earthenware bowls with glazes from green to brown to orange.



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Refined earthenwares included a fragment of one mug with a dark brown trailed slip decoration perhaps following a German tradition. English earthenwares appeared in sherds from a minimum of one Jackfield cream pitcher and one bottle and one bowl of Whielden ware. Creamware was present in sherds from one bowl and one dish plate. Pearlware appeared in sherds representing three dish plates with a "royal" pattern, two dish plates with green feather-edged rims, one plate with a blue feather-edged decoration, one plate with a blue shell-edged decoration, and one plate with a green diaper decoration. Sherds representing one hand-painted, polychrome pearlware bowl with a floral design, and two bowls of annular ware decorated in blue, white, and brown bands were also reported. Later refined earthenwares consisting of whitewares included sherds from four dish plates and one cup, and one bowl with hand-painted cobalt blue floral decoration. There were noticeably few transfer-printed vessels comprised of sherds from four dish plates in willow pattern, one chamber pot in a cobalt blue Chinese pattern, and one flow blue dish plate.

A limited number of porcelain was recovered from 18BA27. Chinses export porcelain of Canton design was represented by sherds from one cup, one bowl, and one dish plate. European, probably English, porcelains appeared in sherds from one bowl with a blue banded rim and in two bowls with overglaze decoration in gold classical motifs.

Stoneware recovered from 18BA27 included sherds from an assortment of common varieties including jugs and storage jars from buff to brown to grey in color. Other stoneware vessels included a probable Nottingham pitcher, sherds from three similar vessels in a buff fabric with a thick red-brown glaze, and one sherd of a Rhenish Blue and Gray mug. Shreds from one cup and one dish plate of 18th century white salt-glazed stoneware were also recovered.

Glass vessels recovered from the ASM excavations included sherds of at least five cylindrical vials and five rectangular patent medicine bottles. The site also yielded part of what was perhaps a clear glass decanter and a broken stopper that could have belonged to it. There were at least four light green colored rectangular case bottles, and no less than eight green wine bottles. Miscellaneous glass items likely included those deposited after the building was no longer used as a slave dwelling. They comprise three flat-based bottles of clear glass, at least three water glasses, one liquor bottle, two dessert cups, and a wine glass with an heptagonally fluted stem.

Two small fragments of glass were determined to have incised decoration. One is a rim fragment of a tumbler with a running scroll pattern over a curving line enclosing a zone of cross-hatching. The other piece is a fragment of a glass vessel, probably a tumbler, decorated with stars, a type of glassware that was imported into Baltimore from Bohemia in the late 1700's.

The ASM excavations also yielded tobacco pipes, which were analyzed by H.G. Omwake of Smithsonian Institution in 1964 and reported on by Klingelhofer.

Mr. Omwake reported that all but one of the 13 pipe bowls recovered were typical of the mid-18th to mid-19th century. The single exception is a small bowl that likely dates from the last years of the 1600's. This pipebowl strongly supports the identification of the stone blockhouse at 18BA27 as Fort Garrison. Measuring the pipe stem bore diameters from 46 stems, Omwake found that 58% were 5/64" and 26% were 4/64". 5/64" bore pipe stems typically date between 1720-1750 and 4/64" bore pipe stems typically date between 1750-1800.

One hundred and seventeen buttons were recovered from 18BA27, including brass, pewter, bone, and shell varieties. Some of the buttons were gilt or tinned. According to Klingelhofer, buttons formed by far the largest number in the "small find" category. Klingelhofer mentions that "except for military sites, large numbers of buttons are not typical of colonial or historic sites, and quantities of buttons appear corroborated as an indicator of an Afro-American presence". However, 18BA27 is suggested to have a long history as a military structure, so a portion of the buttons may also relate to the military occupations at Garrison Fort.

Two pewter spoons and pewter spew (waste material trimmed from spoons) was recovered at 18BA27. One spoon is badly decayed with no surviving surface. Klingelhofer indicated that the second spoon retains traces of an inscribed decoration that is suggestive of the geometric designs found at Virginia slave sites.

Klingelhofer also posits that 18BA27 yielded a glass "lithic industry" consisting of reworked European manufactured goods. Based on Klingelhofer's analysis, the base of a pressed glass tumbler was carefully chipped into a sharp scraping edge, similar to a scraper made of an 18th century wine bottle from a site in Tidewater Virginia. A small piece of English flint also appeared to Klingelhofer to have been worked into a little scraping tool, if it did not serve in some way as a strike-a-light, or tinderbox component. Klingelhofer attributes this lithic industry to the enslaved peoples who occupied 18BA27 in the early nineteenth century.

Klingelhofer also identified four "ritual objects" that he associated with the enslaved individuals who occupied 18BA27. Klingelhofer recognized that other archaeologists might otherwise discount the objects as oddities or gaming pieces, or perhaps children's items. According to Klingelhofer, the most impressive of the four objects is a polygonal-sided glass stopper of a flattened ovoid form from a cut-and-pressed glass decanter. The stem of the stopper has been broken off, resulting in a crude but functional base. There is also a potsherd, of red earthenware with a thick black glaze on one side, which according to Klingelhofer was deliberately shaped into an isosceles heptagon (or perhaps a truncated octagon) of nearly the same size as the stopper. Klingelhofer also mentions that the potsherd had been shaped so that there is only one side that could keep the object upright when on edge. Similar in size to both of the above is a cut and shaped piece of wood, also an isosceles heptagon, which can be supported on edge by only one side. Klingelhofer argues that the similarity of size and shape strongly suggests that the wood and ceramic objects were created in imitation of the glass piece.

Klingelhofer also identified a smooth, dark stone, probably of local origin as another possible ritual object. The stone is an elongated oval discoid, and according to Klingelhofer was probably shaped to that form, as it displays evidence of having been polished. The central section of one of its long edges has been flattened, so that it too can stand on edge. According to Klingelhofer, the stone's perfect shape makes it unlikely that this stone served an American Indian industrial use as a polisher, and its small size (only 2" wide) makes the flattened surface an unpromising whetstone.

Klingelhofer acknowledges that all four objects could have served as gaming pieces, either lying down as markers for a board game, or more likely upright as targets to be knocked down. However, Klingelhofer further argues that the fact that these objects are decidedly larger than the typical gaming piece, the care in their creation, the notable choice of a different material for each, and the rarity of such items when compared to readily available clay and stone marbles, leads him to propose that these items served another purpose. Klingelhofer says that unless proven otherwise, the four artifacts from Garrison plantation slave quarters should be considered charms or ritual objects.

Klingelhofer also attributes ritual significance to a large oyster shell that was recovered from a trash pit feature outside of the building. The large oyster shell



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had been heavily attacked by marine worms, thus creating many holes in the shell. Klingelhofer argues that the shell was transported to the site because one of the holes situated near the apex of the shell's narrow end was perfectly placed to carry a suspension cord. Accordingly, Klingelhofer states that the shell must have been either purely decorative or served some unknown ritual.

Other material culture recovered from 18BA27 that is cursorily mentioned in Klingelhofer's report include wooden and bone knife handles, a jaw harp, brass rings, scissors, pins, and thimbles. A spoon bit, a screw bit, and an iron "punch" or nail driver were identified by Klingelhofer as woodworking tools. Two paste glass beads, blue or blue/green in color and spherical in shape were also found. One of the beads had been set onto a 3/4" long oval shaped wire hoop, probably as an earring ornament. Horse furniture including a brass bridle boss and an iron stirrup were also recovered.

In sum, the ASM conducted emergency excavations at site 18BA27 in 1964 and 1965 in advanced of planned demolition of the site. Fortunately, the stone blockhouse structure and associated archaeological site were spared from demolition and are extant on a tiny plot of land surrounded by split-levels homes. In the 1980s, Klingelhofer studied the archaeological assemblage generated by the ASM's excavations and reported on material culture that could potentially be associated with the use of the Garrison fort as a quarter for enslaved individuals in the early to mid-19th century. No full report on the ASM's excavations has been produced.

18BA27 and the associated extant stone blockhouse retain significant potential to provide information related to late 17th and 18th century military lifeways and the lives of 19th century enslaved individuals in Baltimore county. Remote sensing could be conducted on site to document any features that may still be present in the small parcel surrounding the stone blockhouse. Investigations into the military related structures, like a potential palisade might be intriguing. The 18BA27 assemblage generated by the ASM's 1964-1965 excavations also could be further analyzed for insights into the military use of Garrison Fort in the late 17th through 18th century.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005461, 00005527