



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA324

Site Name: McDermott Tavern

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MHT Structure # BA-1833, Lot 11

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th to 20th century tavern or store and two duplex houses

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 15

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4703

Longitude -76.6517

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-2%

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) Unnamed tributary of Beav

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 180 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

Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Y

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Irish American

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

tavern,commercial services

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

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware			9			English Brown	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	4	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	25	Nottingham	
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	3	Rhenish	
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Wt Salt-glazed	

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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

19th century privy, 20th century ice house

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	244	Activity item(s)	9
Glass (all)	732	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	260	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	97
Arms	1	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	138
Personal items	8	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The McDermott Tavern Site (18BA324) consists of the remains of a 19th-20th tavern and attached dwellings. The building complex is a stone and frame building with two additions. The first of the three structures was a two-storey stone duplex that may have been built as early as 1849. The middle section represents some of the earliest housing in the town. It was probably built sometime around the late 1830s or early 1840s as a single family home. The third section of the housing complex was a small two-storey structure and the probable location of the tavern recorded on maps as early as 1850. The McDermott Tavern Site is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as BA-1833. It is located in the town of Texas, Baltimore County, Maryland. It is bordered by roads on two sides and an adjacent, but not adjoining, structure on a third side. The east side/rear yard was bordered by an asphalt driveway. The entire site encompasses an area of approximately 15 x 30 meters.

The village of Texas was a 19th century Irish Catholic community where limestone quarrying and the production of lime was the principal economic activity. Even into modern times, quarrying activities continue to exploit the natural limestone resources and large sections of the local landscape have been heavily altered by the quarrying and later landfilling activities. The town is situated in a valley (Limestone Valley) that was once part of St. Paul's Parish and in the Backs River Upper Hundred, one of the three original 'Hundreds' in the county. The area of Texas was first settled in 1703 by Joseph Taylor. In 1725, Thomas Cockey purchased Taylor's improved house and lands. Then in 1804, John Clark began a small-scale quarrying and lime operation on land that he was probably leasing from Cockey's son, who had inherited that land at his father's death (in 1849 John Clark finally purchased a 23 acre parcel of Lot #3 and called it 'Clark's Switch'). By 1810, Cockey's descendants had divided the family land holdings into several lots, Quarryville (as Texas was then known) being one of those lots. All of Lot #3, approximately 168 acre, and a strip of Lot #4 would become the village of Texas. During the 19th century, the valley was primarily agricultural and lime was used as a soil conditioner. Prior to its being made commercial, many local farmers operated their own lime kilns.

The arrival of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad in the village in 1832 had encouraged the limestone business and provided transportation of the product. In the 1840s, Irish immigrants coming to America to escape the famine at home settled in what was then known as Ellengowan, and worked at the kilns and quarries or ran local businesses that supplied the community with goods and services. The town received its final name of Texas in the late 1840s during the Mexican-American War. It was said to have been named to honor a local rifle company called the "Texas Greens" who fought in the war. In 1849, Samuel Griscom purchased a 44 acre parcel (to the north of Clark's land holding) that formed the center of Texas. Griscom devised a town plan that involved building a number of duplexes along either side of the railway line in order to keep the workers close to work. Industry in Texas peaked between 1850 and 1880. By 1852 there were 37 individually owned kilns operating in Texas. The industry gradually declined into the 20th century, due mainly to a lack of modernization, but was revived in the 1930s when the Campbell Company (now part of Genstar) bought and consolidated most of the quarries in Texas.

Site 18BA324 is located on a parcel of the land that was purchased from the Cockey family by Samuel Griscom (designated on the 1854 plat map as Lot 11). A map dated to 1850 depicted a tavern owned by Cockey on the property; however, a later 1854 map did not show a structure on the property (although this was probably not a good indicator of the presence or absence of structures). An 1866 plat showed 2 structures on the property, one that may have been the tavern. There were also 2 adjacent but unattached buildings on the land. The 1877 map identified the property with A. Manning but did not indicate any business operating at that location. In 1880, the Kenny family acquired the property and they held it until ca. 1948. Only tenant properties, and no tavern, were recorded in the deed of sale; however, according to census data the Kenny's continued to run the tavern. By 1915, a hotel and tavern were listed in the Baltimore County Directory as being located at the property. In 1953 (or the late 1940s depending on the source), James McDermott bought the property and operated a tavern there until 1991. Architectural surveys were done on the three attached structures in the late 1970s.

In 1982, a document describing the 19th century history of Texas, Maryland was prepared by a local resident. The work resulted in the preparation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination to classify a section of the town as a Historic District with historical and architectural significance. The McDermott Tavern was listed on the nomination form at that time (but not assigned a site number). In 2003, the district was determined not eligible for listing to the National Register.

In the summer of 1985, a Phase I archeological survey was conducted ahead of the proposed highway traffic flow improvement project at Beaver Dam Road. The goal was to determine the effects of four proposed new road alignments on cultural resources located within the project area. The four road alignments, each with a width of 15.24 m (50 ft), were oriented in a general north-south direction and crossed through the middle of the Texas community. Prior to subsurface investigations, a windshield survey of the study area was conducted that indicated there was a great amount of disturbance due to historical and current industrial activity. Areas defined as having potential to contain intact cultural resources were identified through document research and interviews with local informants and historians. A pedestrian survey was carried out along the entirety of each of the 4 proposed alignments. In areas with little to no disturbance a probing rod was used to search for buried features. Probing was also used to confirm that disturbance had occurred. The pedestrian survey and probing was followed with subsurface testing. All excavated soils were screened and all materials were retained.

Site 18BA324 was encountered during the testing of proposed Alignment 4. This alignment was positioned along the Genstar Quarry fence and it eventually met the rail line and continued south along the railroad. The site was encountered on the east side of the railroad tracks and was identified through the excavation of a single shovel test pit (STP). At the time of the Phase I survey the building was still standing. STP 20 was placed 3.048 m (10 ft) east of the eastern wall of the tavern. It was dug to a depth of 0.58 m (1.9 ft) through a rubble fill. When the STP was discontinued, an auger was used to determine that the fill continued deeper.

A total of 374 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase I pedestrian reconnaissance and subsurface excavation at the Tavern site. Activity items included 1 porcelain doll fragment, 1 shard of lamp glass, and 1 modern paint-by-number plastic paint jar. There were 14 architectural items including 6 wire nails, 4 cut nails, 1 threaded rod, and 3 pieces of mortar. The only furniture item recovered was a stove bolt. The largest collection of materials was kitchen-related. There were 333 bottle glass fragments, 1 porcelain sherd, 4 Jackfield sherds, 1 whiteware sherd, 2 crown caps, 1 screw cap, and 9 animal bone fragments. Five pieces of coal (discarded) made up the miscellaneous group.

Although Alignment 4 would not itself directly impact the cultural resource, the position of the alignment would necessitate relocation of the railroad tracks to the east. The relocation would result in the destruction of the building complex along this route. Therefore, it was recommended that a more detailed Phase II archeological evaluation of the site be conducted in order to evaluate cultural significance, site integrity, and research potential.



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Phase II site examination was conducted at the site in the fall of 1986. The purpose of the research was to evaluate the significance and potential eligibility of the site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This involved determining the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the site, assessing the integrity of the resource, and acquiring sufficient data to address the nature and function of the site. The area investigated consisted of the approximately 7.62 x 9.144 m (25x30 ft) rear yard which was located on the east side of the site. As the landscape was covered with grass, no surface collection was employed. Two 0.9144 m² (3 ft) test units (EU 1 and EU 2) and one 0.609 m² (2 ft) test unit (TU 1) were excavated. It was anticipated that the primary cultural resources to be encountered were yard artifact scatters, refuse deposits, and shaft features. No additional subsurface testing was done because of the extent of observed modern cultural materials in a disturbed context. Only a sample of diagnostic materials was retained during the screening of all excavated soil.

EU 1 was placed in the southeastern corner of the study area. This was the farthest removed location from the building and from the streets and would be the most likely spot for the location of a privy or buried refuse deposit. All of the strata above the bedrock, except for the topsoil, consisted of compacted fill material. The artifacts recovered from the fill were modern (post-1950) in origin. TU 1 was excavated west of EU 1 in order to define the boundaries of the fill. The observed strata and artifacts conformed to those encountered in EU 1. EU 2 was placed in the center of the yard/study area, northwest of and up slope from EU 1, in order to determine the extent of the fill deposits and to identify a yard scatter if present. Compacted fill deposits were again encountered. However, the lowest strata sitting on the bedrock contained a culturally sterile layer 6 cm thick. Again, the fill material contained modern artifacts that conformed to the types already identified in EU 1 and TU 1.

As noted above, only a sample of diagnostic artifacts was collected during the Phase II investigation at the site. In all, 445 historic artifacts were collected. There were 6 activity items (1 staple, 3 plastic toys, 1 rubber balloon, and 1 drill bit). The 166 architectural items included 5 brick fragments, 44 cut nails, 74 wire nails, 26 window glass fragments, 5 spikes, 1 screw, 7 nuts/bolts, 1 length of electrical wire, 1 ceramic tile, 1 asbestos tile, and 1 piece of plaster. The only clothing artifacts found was a rubber button and the only furniture item recovered was a glass towel holder. There were 236 kitchen-related items, consisting primarily of 171 bottle glass fragments but also including 1 table glass shard, 1 piece of milk glass, 38 ceramic sherds (1 buff-bodied earthenware, 2 porcelain, 9 ironstone, 1 stoneware, 24 whiteware, and 1 redware), and 25 miscellaneous kitchen items (2 milk glass jar lids, 1 marble butter stamp with a cow pattern, 1 pull tab, 3 crown caps, 7 tin can fragments, and 11 animal bone fragments). The 33 miscellaneous items recovered from the site included 10 unidentified metal objects, 2 iron rods of unknown function, 1 copper spring, 18 pieces of plastic, 1 asphalt fragment, and 1 piece of coal. A single personal item (1 milk glass bead) and a single arms-related item (a .38 caliber bullet casing) were also retained.

Archeological testing revealed that the entire tested site area had been subjected to extensive landscape alteration nearly to subsoil. Substantial fill has been introduced to the site and no pre-1950 material cultural appeared to have survived in situ. Therefore, the site was not considered to be culturally significant. The buildings were demolished to make room for the realignment of the railroad when Beaver Dam was widened and lengthened in accordance with the proposed Alignment. The site is currently a vacant lot owned by Baltimore County.

Although the site was determined to lack integrity and cultural significance during the Phase II investigation, in the summer of 2009 archeology students and staff from the University of Maryland chose the site as the location for a field school. This was part of a multi-year program investigating Irish immigrant life and labor in the 19th century town of Texas. The goals of the investigations were: 1) to recover as much archeological and historical data as possible to aid in understanding and interpreting daily life in Texas through time; and 2) to conduct multi-disciplinary research in order to develop a more nuanced study of the transformation of the social and physical landscape of the community. The ultimate aim of the work is to devise an archeological and historical database that can be utilized across a broad region and chronological span to determine similarities and differences in working class Irish identities.

The 2009 excavations were conducted within what would have been the rear yard of the building complex. As noted above, the structure was torn down following the Phase II site evaluation. A permanent benchmark was placed adjoining the Cockey family cemetery at a vantage point to cover all of the village's original domestic and industrial lots along the east side of Railroad Avenue and a portion of the houses along Church Lane. The benchmark was designated 5000N/1000E. The site baseline generally corresponded to magnetic north. Twenty-seven 1x1 m test units and a single 1x0.5 m test unit were excavated. All excavated soils were screened and the majority of artifacts retained. Materials such as coal, slag, brick, oyster shell, charcoal, as well as hazardous materials, were described and counted but not collected. Eighteen distinct soil strata were identified across the site but all units had a uniform topsoil described as very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) to dark grayish brown silt loam (10YR3/3). Other strata appeared to have resulted from modification to the natural soil layering. In some cases this included ash deposits or burned layers, gravel and rock concentrations, or artifact rich fill layers.

A total of 36 features were identified and excavated. The features were classified into three groups designated walls and foundations (including a builder's trench), pits, and fence posts. Seven postholes were identified and 5 of these (Features K, V, X, Y, and AG) were mostly like modern post holes for chain link fences and at least one end of a laundry line. Feature B (Unit 9) and Feature AA (Unit 17) both consisted of a cluster of rocks aligned around a posthole to provide support for the post. Associated artifacts included nails, ceramics, metal and glass.

Feature AD/AI consisted of limestone stone walls that made up the north and south walls of a rectangular structure thought to be a privy dating to the end of the 19th century. The walls were parallel and dry-laid, and were oriented in an east to west direction. Feature AI was designated as such in-field but was shown to be part of the existing southern wall of the truncated rectangular foundation designated as Feature AD. The portion of the north wall was truncated during construction of the ice house (Feature N).

Feature N was identified as a rectangular-shaped structure made of dry-laid limestone covered or coated with a layer of Portland cement. The feature was interpreted to be an icehouse because during excavation several nails were found in the cement walls along with joist holes every couple of feet suggesting the presence of a wood or slat floor commonly found in icehouses. The dimensions of the structure were 2.13x1.43 m and approximately 1.5 m wide. Impressions of the wood form used during pouring the cement were found on the inside as well as all but the west and south sides of the icehouse. The west wall had convex marks suggesting the cement was poured against the exposed soil. Further, the interior along the west side had artifacts adhered to the cemented wall suggesting the area was refilled quickly after pouring the cement. The cement covered all portions of Feature N with the exception of the lower third of the southern wall. In that area, the eastern half of the southern wall of Feature AD/AI was still intact. Associated with Feature N was a builder's trench (Feature P). It was identified along the south wall of the icehouse. The trench extended down to the level of Feature AD/AI. Hundreds of beer and liquor bottles dating between 1950s and the late 1980s, as well as other items such as a credit card, modern dentures, and prescription medicine bottles found within Feature N reflected its relatively recent closing. Feature AB was determined to be wall fall. It was identified as loose stones in Units 39, 40, 42, and 45. The stones may have been associated with the construction of Feature N.

The biggest trash pit encountered at the site was Feature O, which seemed to have been deposited in the privy after the privy went into disuse. Artifacts from the pit fill were mixed and included mid-20th century beer bottles at the upper most layer and late 19th century objects such as clay pipe bowl and stem



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fragments and late nineteenth-century bottles towards the bottom. Other diagnostic artifacts recovered from the pit included a 1901 penny and a ceramic sherd stamped with a mark that dated to the piece between 1891 and 1907. Therefore, the terminus post quem, or the date after which the privy was most likely closed, was 1907. A coin dated to 1861 may be an indicator of the time when the feature was in use. Fifteen other trash pits were excavated. Associated artifacts included eggshell and oyster shell, animal bone, nails, ceramics, slag and coal, fragments of plaster, and a piece of a broken copper watch. Nine other pits were found at the site, 5 of which may have been related (possibly parts of a large pit but this was not clear). Besides the domestic and architectural materials noted above, brick fragments, mortar, pipe stem fragments, and a lice comb were recovered from the fill of these pits.

Over 10,000 artifacts were recovered during the 2009 investigation at the McDermott Tavern Site. Based on a preliminary assessment of the diagnostic artifacts, the date range for the collection was determined to be between 1861 and 1990. The analysis of the artifacts was ongoing at the time of this synopsis; therefore, the counts provided are minimum estimates of the types of materials described in the preliminary report. Architectural materials (n=80) included brick fragments, mortar, stoneware drainage tile pieces, and nails. Kitchen-related items included 200 bottle and container glass shards, 200 ceramic sherds, 40 pieces of animal bone, 10 eggshell fragments, and 10 other shell (presumably oyster and/or clam) fragments. Personal items (n=7) such as a lice comb, war medallions, coins dating to 1861 and 1907, and fragments of a copper watch were also collected. Miscellaneous objects (n=100) included slag, coal, charcoal, metal fragments, pieces of plastic, and modern (post-1950) artifacts. Tobacco-related items (n=15) consisted of bowl and pipe stem fragments. A final report on the archeological investigations and the artifact assemblage is forthcoming.

The McDermott Tavern Site (18BA324) consists of the remains of a 19th-20th tavern and attached dwellings. The original 1830s or 1840s structure is a one-story stone and frame building with two ca. mid-19th century additions. No significant cultural features or deposits were identified at the site as a result of the Phase I and II investigations. However, the Phase III (2009) test unit excavations in the rear yard of the building complex yielded thousands of late 19th and early 20th century artifacts and revealed a variety of features including trash middens, postholes, a 19th century stone privy, and a 20th century Portland cement lined icehouse. Although the landscape of Texas has been extensively altered as a result of historic and modern quarrying and landscaping, archeological testing has indicated that cultural remains from at least the height of industrial activity in the mid-19th century are still to be found there. Any construction activities undertaken in the location of Site 18BA324 should consider the possibility of encountering further intact strata and features and proceed accordingly.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005448, 00005459, Site Files