



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA443

Site Name: Patapsco Neck Methodist Church

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late 18th through early 20th century log meeting houses and cemetery; Late Archaic lithic scatter

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code KuB

Latitude 39.2882

Longitude -76.4976

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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
- 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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Bread and Cheese Creek

- | Saltwater                                |  | Freshwater                                   |                                |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/>            | Spring <input type="checkbox"/>              |                                |
| Minimum distance to water is 116 m       |  |  |                                |

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860  Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900  Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930  Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930

Late archaic  Y

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820  Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/>             | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/>            | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>        |
| Anglo-American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y | Other <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>                    |   |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Multi-component <input type="checkbox"/>  | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/>          | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/>                      |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/>           | Shell midden <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| Base camp <input type="checkbox"/>        | STU/lithic scatter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/>    | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/>            | Production area <input type="checkbox"/>               |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/>      | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/>    |  |

### 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

school, meetinghouse

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Skeletal analysis by Dr. Douglas Owsley, Smithsonian Institution



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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	1	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	31	Staffordshire		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	219	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	56	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	18	Pearlware	43			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	2

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	2	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)	2	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

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

## Dated features present at site

Burials dated by coffin hardware and a few domestic materials; Foundation Feature 4 dated to the mid-18th to early 19th century

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	519	Activity item(s)	192
Glass (all)	1237	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	603	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	232	Misc. kitchen	109
Arms	19	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	53	Misc.	165
Personal items	50	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		headstone/grave stone base	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	post h/m, trash	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Baltimore County Historical Society, Smithsonian

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Patapsco Neck Methodist Church (Site 18BA443) is the site of the late 18th through early 20th century Patapsco Neck Methodist Meeting House and burial ground. The site sits at the northern end of the Patapsco Neck peninsula in Baltimore County, Maryland. There are no standing structures on the site but there is a granite monument that was erected in 1914 by the Patriotic Order, Sons of America in Maryland, commemorating the Methodist Church and its role as a hospital in the Battle of North Point in 1814. According to historical accounts, the area was heavily wooded until late in the 19th century. Now, the site area contains two catalpa trees, shrouded in poison ivy, which overhang the monument. The site is bordered to the southwest and southeast by local roads and by open field to the northeast. Bread and Cheese Creek is situated to the northwest of the site. The site soils are poorly drained Keyport silt loam. Prior to its use by the Methodist church, the property was heavily wooded timber land.

Archival and archeological investigations were conducted at the site with grant support from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Baltimore County Historical Trust. The site sits on a parcel that was part of a 2.8 hectare (7 acre) family owned tract. It was previously owned by the Patapsco Neck (now Patapsco United) Methodist Church. During a visit to the battlefield monument in 1990, a chance meeting with the landowner resulted in a request for an archeological proposal by the family (particularly by the father). As there were no immediate plans for development, the preference was for minimally invasive testing. To that end, a proposal was presented to use ground-penetrating radar to survey the entire 2.8 hectares in order to identify remains of the church as well as other structural anomalies. However, shortly thereafter, the father passed away and the land was inherited by his 2 sons. The project was put on hold for several years and in the interim the project archeologist conducted extensive archival research of the property. Finally, in 1994 the owners contacted the archeologist because the parcel was to be developed with the construction of townhouses. A new plan was devised for an investigation of a 0.4 hectare parcel that research indicated had a high potential for containing significant cultural resources (Site 18BA443). The study objectives were: 1) to identify the exact location of the meeting house or houses and the schoolhouse and to determine their dates of construction; 2) to locate any artifacts or features related to the military occupation of the site; and, 3) to determine the presence of a cemetery on the site. Ultimately, the housing development plan was abandoned by the landowners in favor of building a commercial storage facility on the northeastern portion of the parcel along one of the local roads.

Archival research indicated that the 0.4 hectare site was originally part of a single, large land tract that was first patented in 1672. By the late 17th century, the site was composed of parcels from two land tracts called "Ferry's Range" and "Swan Harbour". It is believed that at that time (ca. 1679) the property was first lived on. When the owner of Swan Harbour (John Boreing) died, leaving a widow, 3 sons and 1 daughter, the widow married the owner of Ferry's Range who in turn left Ferry's Range to his "sons-in-law". This meant that by 1698 the Boreing sons owned all of Swan Harbour and Ferry's Range (and essentially a great portion of Patapsco Neck). Between 1725 and 1737 the Boreings sold parcels of their land. Part of Ferry's Range that comprised the southern ¾ of the site area was included in a ca. 1760 resurvey of lands owned by Alexander Lawson who had purchased that property in 1737. When Lawson died 1760 he left the property to his son. In 1773 those holdings were finally re-patented as "Swan Harbour". After going through several more hands, in 1811 William Weatherby (Sr.) finally purchased 37.4 hectares (92.5 ac) of Swann Harbour inclusive of the southern ¾ of the site.

The northern ¼ of the site was a separately owned portion of Ferry's Range. David and Urath Sindall and their children owned this part of Ferry's Range from 1761 to 1813. In 1795, following David Sindall's death, his widow married William Weatherby (Sr.). In 1810, William Sr. purchased 5/6 of the property that was inherited by David's sister Rosannah Wells, and was at that time owned by 5 of her children. William Sr. died in 1811 leaving the property to his and Urath's son William C. Weatherby. In 1817, when he became an adult, William C. took control of the property and purchased the remaining 1/6 parcel from Rosannah's heirs. Weatherby's holding now included the entire 0.4 hectares comprising the site. Weatherby later transferred the deed to his property to his mother-in-law which started a 20 year law suit between Weatherby and several creditors. A lawyer named Robert Purviance was appointed trustee. During the process, Weatherby died. His widow remarried sometime prior to 1845. The widow and her new husband, Ebenezer Nutz, sold for '\$1, one acre' to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Finally, in 1847 all the original Weatherby property except the tract sold to the Methodist church (and another parcel called "Well's Angel" sold to James Smith) was auctioned off.

According to the research, Methodism was first introduced to the Patapsco Neck in 1763 when Rev. Robert Strawbridge preached at the home of Nathaniel Perrigo near Old North Point Road and the present day Eastern Avenue. Strawbridge was a local preacher who had emigrated from Ireland in 1760 and settled in Frederick County, Maryland. The first cartographic evidence of the log Meeting House at Patapsco Neck was its identification on a map dated 1794 and it was again identified on a 1797 map. Archival research revealed a record from 1794 that indicated accounts had not yet "come to hand" for the quarterly meeting at the "New Meeting House in the Neck". This could indicate the first meeting following its construction; what is clear is that by at least 1794 there was a Meeting House in the location. Various circuit ministers recorded preaching at private homes on the Neck in the 1770s and 1780s, yet no mention was made of preaching at a meeting house until the late 1790s. Sometime between 1794 and 1803 a schoolhouse was built on the site. From 1794 to 1803, the meeting house is referred to interchangeably as the "New Meeting House, New Chappelle, Patapsco Church, Patapsco Meeting House, and Patapsco Chappelle" in the Quarterly Conference book, which details issues of the local congregation. From 1803-1814, collections were taken both at the Patapsco Meeting House and the "Patapsco School House" suggesting that there were 2 structures where meetings, or 'classes' as they were called, were held. After 1814, the school house is no longer mentioned in the quarterly books. Various dates have been given for the construction of the meeting house: 1807, 1809, and 1810. Another source noted that church services were moved to the school house in 1804 following the death of Nathaniel Perrigo. These dates could not apply to the first meeting house because a church already stood on the site by the late 18th century.

The site is also important for its role in the 1814 Battle of North Point. When the American militia was moving towards the British invasion fleet off North Point in 1814, the group of 3200 men advanced as far as the Methodist Meeting House and made camp for the night. Early the next morning (September 12) British troops landed at North Point. Their goal was to seize Baltimore. The meeting of the two armies came to be known as the Battle of North Point. The British pushed the American forces back to the north side of the Bread and Cheese Creek. Subsequently, the British camped for the night on the grounds of the Meeting House and along both sides of Bread and Cheese Creek. On the night and day following the engagement, the Meeting House served as one of several field hospitals housing wounded soldiers from both sides. According to one report, the schoolhouse was also converted for use as a field hospital. Beginning in 1815, veterans of the battle, called the "Old Defenders," and others gathered at the Meeting House to commemorate the Battle of North Point. The last of the Old Defenders died late in the 19th century. In 1914 the Patriotic Order, Sons of America in Maryland, erected a monument at the site commemorating the Methodist Church and its role as a hospital in the battle.

During the Civil War, the congregation was split over the abolition issue. The pro-abolition group remained at the site as the "Battleground Methodist Episcopal Church" and they continued to meet at the site until 1888 when a new church was constructed about 1.6 km down the road. However, the congregation



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continued to use the meeting house for oyster suppers and other social functions. The pro-south faction moved a short distance down North Point Road and formed the "Methodist-Episcopal Church South." Between 1917 and 1925, the African American congregation from the Galilee Baptist Church used the old meeting house while raising money to construct their own church. In 1925 their building was completed on an adjacent lot. That same year the Methodist church sold the lot to Frederick Heim, who ca. 1927 razed the building. Heim described the second meeting House as facing south down old North Point Road. It was constructed of chestnut, white pine and locust with pegged mortise and tenon construction on a stone foundation. The interior walls had lathe and plaster, with wide oak plank flooring and a high ceiling with a slave galley in the back. This description of the Meeting House coincides with early 20th century photos and depictions records related to the War of 1812. No bullet holes were noted by Mr. Heim but he attributed that to the replacement of the siding in the 20th century. Mr. Heim also noted that there was another building on the lot that was demolished at the same time as the Meeting House. This was described as an earlier log cabin that had bullet holes in it. This could very well have been the schoolhouse. An elderly couple had lived in the log building and kept an eye on the church. The informant went on to note that there were burials on the north and west sides of the Meeting House. It appears that an unknown number of burials were disturbed in the 1920s during the widening of Old North Point Road. References to the existence of a cemetery associated with site were also encountered during the archival research.

Fieldwork began at the site in October 1994 and consisted of surface collection and subsurface testing. Work was hampered first by severe draught then by torrential rains, hail, and a tornado which flooded the site. The site boundaries were established using the metes and bounds as given in the 1845 deed from Ebenezer Nutz to the trustees of the Methodist church. A datum was established at the junction of the first and second lines as contained in the deed, with the first line being given the arbitrary designation north and the second line the arbitrary designation west. The site area was plowed and disked and laid out in a 3.048 meter (10 ft) grid. A buried boundary stone dating to the later 19th century was found on the north baseline at 34 meters (112 ft) from the datum. During the surface collection, artifacts were collected from each 3.048 m grid unit. Following surface collection, the plowzone was removed mechanically from three-quarters of the site. The plowzone ranged from 7.62-35.5 cm (3-14 in) in depth. According to the Site File, soil samples were collected but the location of the samples was not specified.

At the start of the fieldwork, a local collector arrived at the site with a large amount of materials he had acquired during his 10 years of metal detecting there. He claimed that he had turned up every portion of the site; this was confirmed archeologically when only a few musket balls were recovered from the southern edge of the site during the 1994 metal detecting. In all likelihood, he was only one of many collectors who had visited the site. His collection included numerous military buttons dated to the 19th and 20th century, testaments to the yearly Battle of North Point anniversary commemorations at the monument. Other artifacts in the collection (listed as Lot 266 in the Artifact Inventory) included musket balls, coins, nails, toys, dog license tags, bottle tops and scrap iron. It should be stressed that the exact limits of the collection within the larger landscape were not clearly stated in the text. It is presumed that the items derive from the general vicinity of Site 18BA443 but the report states only that the collector "had collected the site."

A total of 99 historic artifacts were recorded from that collection (as Lot 266) in the original site report's Artifact Inventory. The 8 activity-related items included 1 bronze, lead-backed Martingale heart, 6 copper alloy harness or strap buckles, and 1 spur buckle. Several clothing items, comprised solely of 35 buttons, were recovered. These included 18 plain copper alloy late 18th-mid-19th century buttons, 6 late 19th/early 20th century Army buttons, 1 post-1870 gilt "MC" button (possibly Maryland Cadet), 1 early 20th century "US" copper alloy collar insignia, 7 assorted metal civilian late 19th/early 20th century buttons, 1 late 19th century lead "Boston" button, and 1 "Metropolitan Police DC" gilt button (possibly ca.1890-1910). The only furniture items retained by the collector were 3 decorative coffin tacks. Only 3 miscellaneous objects were collected from the site: 1 unidentifiable bronze object and 2 pieces of lead. Numerous personal artifacts were also collected from the site. These included 15 coins: 2 George III half-pennies (1770-1775), a 1786 Spanish Carlos III silver coin, 4 Liberty cent pieces (1830, 1838, unknown), 3 Indian head pennies (1864, 1882, 1898), an 1889 Liberty head nickel, an unidentified 1901 silver coin, a 1913 penny, a 1949 copper coin from Hong Kong, and 1 Chinese coin. Other personal materials collected from the site included 3 early 19th century dog license tags, 9 assorted tokens (at least some of these may have been picker's checks), 1 Epworth League pin (a young adult Methodist organization), an 1882 Polish Catholic medal, a 19th century brooch, 8 assorted jewelry parts, and 1 key (last patented in 1915). Arms-related materials consisted of 11 musket balls (dated by the archeologist to 1814). One of these musket balls contained the dental impressions of at least 10 separate individuals. In a time before anesthetics, a battlefield patient who needed surgery was often given a bullet to clench down on. He would be told to "bite the bullet" to avoid biting through his tongue. That bullet was on extended loan to the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore.

Hundreds of artifacts were retained during the surface collection. However, the assemblage must be viewed with caution because the Patapsco Neck was one of several sites where Baltimore City disposed of its nightsoil (from outhouses) and other garbage from the early 19th century into the 20th century. Much of this material was spread across fields. This was confirmed by the current landowner. A concentration of ceramic kiln furniture found in the western portion of the site (likely used as packing materials in china crates) argued for them having been dumped in situ. The larger quantity of dishes may have reflected the oyster suppers held at the Meeting House in the late 19th century. Although several artifacts reflected the disturbed nature of the site, mid-18th to early 19th century ceramics and glass were likely related to activities at the Meeting House. These materials support a late 18th century construction date for the first church.

Several features including 2 brick vaults, 33 grave shafts (in-ground burials), and a stone foundation (Feature 4) were encountered during the mechanical excavations in the western portion of the site. Five test units and 3 cross-sections were hand excavated according to natural stratigraphy in the area of the Feature 4 foundation. Grave shafts were plotted; however, only the two brick vaults and 3 plain in-ground burials were excavated. Other features identified at Site 18BA443 were a fence line along the western boundary, a portion of a gravel walkway, an oyster shell walkway, and 20 other features. The gravel walkway led to the large, double-hung door of the first Meeting House. The oyster shell walkway leading up to what was once the front of the building was the only archeological evidence of the location of the second Meeting House, the structural remains and associated artifacts having been obliterated by demolition, plowing and looting. Features 1, 3, 7, 8, and 19 proved to be plant or trees molds. Features 12 and 16 were determined to be post hole and molds and Features 13 and 14 were post molds with no holes. The post features did not suggest they were part of a single fence line (or lines) but were suggested to have possibly represented hitching posts. Features 2 and 15 were small trash pits containing a variety of domestic and architectural materials. Features 5, 6, and 9 were determined to be small fire pits, void of artifacts, which were likely the result of campfires made when the grounds were used by soldiers in 1814. Feature 10 consisted of 3 foundation stones (not part of an in situ foundation) and Feature 11 was identified as a mortar stain. Feature 20 was a plowscar located across Burial #27.

The Feature 4 stone foundation was located during the initial plowing in the west-southwest corner of the site, on top of the retaining wall along Old North Point Road. A large portion of the foundation was destroyed when the road was widened in the 1920s. The remaining section consisted of the north wall which measured 10.97 meters (36 ft) in length and portions of the west and east walls that measured approximately 3.65 x 4.57 meters (12 and 15 ft). No foundation trench was observed; the stones appeared to have been dry laid on top of the surface (although they have since slumped down to the subsoil). Windows appeared to have been present on all three (remaining) sides as suggested by the presence of numerous plate glass shards. Seven burials had impacted the



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Unknown

foundation and window glass was found in all the shafts and one burial contained large foundation stones, one of which had smashed through the foot of the coffin. Units excavated across the foundation failed to reveal any undisturbed stratigraphy; however, over half of the mid-18th to early 19th century artifacts collected from the site derived from the area of foundation. It was postulated that this was the foundation for the first log Meeting House. In addition to the ceramics, coins, architectural and other domestic materials recovered from the area of the foundation by the metal detector and through excavation, a group of 5 musket balls were found at the eastern corner of the foundation. They were all .68 caliber or less, indicating that they were American, since British soldiers typically fired .73 or .75 caliber balls from their muskets.

A total of 35 burials were delineated during the archeological investigations. The excavators believed that there may have been up to 40 or 50 burials, many disturbed or removed during the widening of Old North Point Road in the 1920s. Coffin hardware from at least 3 burials was found distributed across the plowzone and in unrelated grave shafts. Additionally, the extreme drought followed by intense flooding made it difficult to discern burials in the subsoil. A local informant suggested that some of the remains were removed to other cemeteries prior to the road widening but there was no physical evidence for that. Due to budget and time constraints, work focused on establishing the boundaries of the cemetery rather than individual burials. Only 1 burial (Burial 24) was not aligned in the east-west orientation usually associated with Christian burial practices. Burial 24 was lying in a north-south orientation through the stone foundation. The two brick vaults and 3 plain in-ground burials were excavated. The first brick burial vault (Burial 1) was encountered approximately 15.24 cm (6 in) below the ground surface during plowing and disking of the site. While clearing the area around Burial 1, Burial 2 was encountered approximately 0.914 meters (3 ft) to the south. Personnel from the Smithsonian Institution went out the site and exhumed both burials.

Burial 1 was poorly constructed using 17.78 x 7.62 cm (7x3 in) bricks that were laid without mortar. The floor of the burial had 3 brick coffin supports resting on subsoil (at the head, mid-body, and feet). Four quartzite capstones covered the vault. The coffin and the human remains were in poor condition. The coffin was rectangular with an upper viewing panel that folded down onto the lid on 2 decorative hinges. Forensic examination of the remains indicated that the person was an elderly female (ca. 60 years old) who suffered from osteoporosis. Two glass buttons found at the neck indicated that the body was buried in a shroud, or possibly a nightshirt. Burial 2 was a rectangular vault that was originally domed. The dome had collapsed and the vault was filled with bricks and top soil. This allowed for water to penetrate the coffin accounting for the poor condition of the remains. Unlike Burial 1, the 17.78 x 7.62 cm bricks were tightly mortared. The shape of the coffin could not be determined with certainty but the viewing panel and hinges were in the same locations as identified for Burial 1. The exterior of the coffin was painted white and about half the number of tacks were found associated with Burial 2 as with Burial 1. The skull had been crushed by the collapsed brick but a hair comb was found in place in the back. A thin line of oxidized metal indicated that a copper alloy hair pin had held the comb in place. The hair comb was made from rubber that was generally in use for common objects by the mid-19th century. Forensic examination determined that this was the body of female aged 30-39 years of age. As with Burial 1, glass buttons found at the neck indicated that the body was buried in a shroud, or possibly a nightshirt.

The 3 plain in-ground burials were excavated but no human remains were recovered. The presence of coffin hardware unassociated with the burials suggested that there were interments after the road widening. The consequent destruction of several burials resulted in the admixing of coffin hardware with the soils in the later burials. This was supported by the seemingly later date of the coffin hardware found in Burial 24. The 4 coffin handles belonging to Burial 24 were gilded white metal, ornately molded, and sat flush against the side of the casket. Decorated wooden dowels with gilded finials ran through double supports on each plate to create the handle. Like Burial 24, Burial 33/Feature 18 (it was first thought to be a trash pit) bisected the stone foundation, but on an east-west axis. It was soon realized that this was a child's coffin. It measured 60.96 cm by 25.4 cm (2 ft by 10 in) and was slightly hipped and tapered. The lid had an oval glass viewing window under a wood panel and the interior of the coffin was painted white. Again, unassociated coffin hardware was recovered from the burial fill along with domestic artifacts and several pieces of olive green bottle that represented at least 3 bottles that had been smashed across the foundation. Burial 11 was opened just west of the brick vaults on the western side of the site. The coffin was totally deteriorated and contained no hardware or remains. The possibility that this burial predated Burials 24 and 33 was postulated. Presumably this was based on the lack of later ceramics recovered from the burial fill (creamware, pearlware and glazed redware were noted). Although no other burials were excavated, artifacts recovered from the tops of the grave shafts of Burials 9, 10, and 13 included creamware, pearlware and glazed redware as well as two 18th century glass buttons that were not associated with the burials. With the exception of the materials described above (the hair comb and buttons), no other grave goods of any kind were found. With the exception of Burial 24, all of the coffin hardware was of types mass-produced in the 19th century. The only formal grave marker was a polished red granite tombstone placed at the head of Burial 34; however, 4 other graves were marked with fieldstones.

The majority of the graves were positioned in an L-shape around the location of the second Meeting House which clearly indicated they were associated with that structure. The precise location of many of the graves along the western boundary of the property, which was demarcated by a fence, would suggest that the burials were not dug until after the boundary was established by deed in 1845. The recovered coffin hardware also supported a post-1845 date. However, Burials 9, 10, 11, and 13 were also located along the western property boundary but had a terminus ante quem of 1820. This suggested the possibility that the 1845 boundary line was determined by the presence of these earlier burials rather than the other way around; there is no evidence that these were reburials.

A total of 2,851 historic artifacts were recovered during the surface and subsurface testing at Site 18BA443. Some of the coal slag and window glass was presented as weights and not counts. In those cases, a minimum estimate of 2 was applied to the total. There were 184 activity-related items in the assemblage. These consisted of 6 marbles (1 clay, 5 glass), 1 dish from a toy tea set, 4 pieces of lamp chimney glass, 1 lamp part, 1 light bulb, 137 pieces of kiln furniture/packing material, 10 terra cotta flower pot sherds, 11 slate pencils and pencil fragments, 2 pencil leads, 1 mechanical part/pulley, 1 battery part, 2 metal rings, 4 metal tools (3 unidentified, 1 awl), 1 length of iron chain, and 2 bridle rosettes. The 603 architectural materials consisted of 77 brick fragments, 9 wrought nails, 22 cut nails, 29 wire nails, 1 roofing nail, 183 unidentified nails, 235 pieces of window glass (23 of these derived from Burial 33 and at least some may be from the glass viewing window), 5 pieces of other flat glass, 5 fragments of mortar, 1 piece of concrete, 5 spikes and 1 screw, 11 nuts and bolts and 1 pintle, 4 pieces of ceramic sewer pipe, 2 stones with adhering mortar, 2 iron hooks, 2 pieces of asbestos siding, 1 door lock plate, 1 iron tack, 1 porcelain insulator, 1 iron knob, and 4 miscellaneous hardware items, 3 of which were described as ornamental. Eighteen clothing items were identified and included 16 buttons (8 milk glass, 2 black glass, 2 copper alloy, 3 porcelain, and 1 Bakelite), 1 rubber shoe heel, and 1 unidentified copper alloy fastener. The 229 items that comprise the furniture group consisted mainly of coffin-related artifacts. There were 10 pieces of coffin wood, 153 pieces of various coffin hardware such as handles, hinges, and decorative tacks, and 65 coffin nails. The only other furniture item was a cabinet door handle, described as modern. In all, 1,625 artifacts belonging to the kitchen-related group were retained. The bulk of the group consisted of 823 pieces of bottle glass. There were also 31 unidentified glass vessels, 133 pieces of table glass, and 10 pieces of milk glass. The 519 ceramic sherds included 6 buff-bodied earthenware, 1 unidentified coarse earthenware, 18 creamware, 43 pearlware, 56 porcelain, 31 ironstone, 6 Albany slipped stoneware, 14 salt-glazed blue and gray stoneware, 20 gray salt-glazed stoneware, 2 white salt-glazed stoneware, 10 unidentified buff stoneware, 219 whiteware, 2 yellowware, 69 glazed and unglazed redware, and 22 unidentified white-bodied ceramics. The 109 miscellaneous kitchen items included 3 utensils (1 teaspoon, 1 silver-plated tablespoon, and 1 metal and bone handle), 2 canning jar seals, 53 animal bone fragments, 45 oyster shell fragments (recovered from feature fill and burials), and 6 clam shells. The 162 miscellaneous materials were comprised primarily of 91 pieces of coal and coal slag and 29 pieces of charcoal, but also included



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA443

Site Name: Patapsco Neck Methodist Church

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief Description:**

Late 18th through early 20th century log meeting houses and cemetery; Late Archaic lithic scatter

Unknown

17 unidentified metal objects, 1 unidentified rubber object, 2 pieces of plastic, 18 pieces of slate, 1 cobble with some cortex removed, and 3 pieces of fire-cracked rock that was likely associated with military camp fires. Only 11 personal items were encountered and included 1 mirror fragment, 1 broken Bakelite comb, 1 hard rubber (Goodyear) decorative hair comb, 1 finger ring, 1 three-cent coin from 1872, 3 pennies (dated 1910, 1920, and 1956), 1 white glass bead, and 2 thermometers. Only 11 tobacco-related items were found including 5 white clay pipe stems and 1 white clay pipe bowl, a gray stoneware pipe bowl dated to the late 19th century, and 4 'redware' pipe bowls with ribbing. Lastly, 8 arms-related items were recovered. This included 1 shotgun shell base and 6 unfired .68 caliber and 1 unfired .67 caliber musket balls.

The prehistoric component at the site was represented by 1 broken quartz corner-notched Brewerton point, 1 quartz endscraper, and 2 quartzite hammerstones. These artifacts were found near the northern baseline. The limited amount of recovered material did not suggest an occupation in the site area. Instead, it was suggested that the isolated finds may have been related to unidentified sites outside of the project area.

Patapsco Neck Methodist Church (Site 18BA443) is the site of the late 18th through early 20th century Patapsco Neck Methodist Meeting House(s) and burial ground. Archeological investigations revealed several features including 2 brick domed vault burials, 33 grave shafts (in-ground burials), a stone foundation (Feature 4), a fence line along the western boundary, a portion of a gravel walkway, an oyster shell walkway, post holes and molds, 2 small trash pits, and 3 small fire pits. It was determined that the first Meeting House was constructed ca. 1793. The log building was built on a surface-laid stone foundation and measured approximately 10.97 meters in length by 7.62-9.144 meters (25-30 ft) across. Sometime between 1794 and 1803 a schoolhouse was built on the site. Sometime prior to 1814 the first Meeting House was demolished and a second Meeting House was constructed. The second building stood 7-9 meters behind the first. It was of mortise and tenon log construction, covered with clapboard, on a stone foundation. The site also played an important role in the 1814 Battle of North Point, hosting both the American and the British military and with the Meeting House and possibly the schoolhouse serving as hospitals. At the time of the archeological investigation, the landowner had no immediate plans to develop the site area. It was the excavator's recommendation that the portion of the site containing the significant features (about 0.13 hectares) be a protected space. Furthermore, any work done on the Old North Point road retaining wall, which was in a state of disrepair, would impact the stone foundation and several burials. Therefore, it was strongly suggested that any road work conducted in that area be observed by an archeologist. Any road widening or straightening in that area should be prohibited for the same reasons. It was further recommended that the remains presently being held at the Smithsonian be reburied on the site with the participation of the Patapsco United Methodist Church. As an aside, it was determined that the remaining portion of the 2.8 hectare tract that was part of the initial archeological study did not retain integrity and does not warrant further archeological investigation.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005535