



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA494

Site Name: E-1 Gunther Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Scharf/Gunther Farmstead

Historic

Brief Description: 19th-early 20th century farmstead

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1960

Longitude -76.4427

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 m

Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Old Road Bay

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minimum distance to water is 75 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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						Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	19	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	296	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	1	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	22	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Pearlware	2			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	5	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Features in Block A contained mid- to late 19th century artifacts related to the Scharf and Gunther occupations

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	563	Tobacco related	2
Glass (all)	3347	Activity item(s)	38
Architectural	2203	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	96	Misc. kitchen	485
Clothing	16	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	1	Misc.	552
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

E-1 Gunther Farm (18BA494) is the site of a 19th to early 20th century farmstead. The site is located on the North Point peninsula in Baltimore County, Maryland. It is on the Fort Howard Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) property overlooking the Patapsco River to the west. The site area encompassed 3 extant buildings that were part of a larger group of Victorian style dwellings constructed ca. 1903 as officer's quarters. Segments of two local roads run through the western and central portions of the site. The topography is generally flat in the area but the site slopes down along a terrace that parallels the Patapsco River. A typical soil profile for the site consisted of a gray brown silt loam underlain by a light olive brown to yellow brown silt clay subsoil that is characteristic of the Mattapex series mapped for this area.

Archival research indicated that Site 18BA494 may have been occupied by the beginning of the 19th century. Already by the 18th century much of the North Point peninsula had been incorporated into 2 adjacent land grants known as "Todd's Inheritance" and "Todd's Neighbor." The southern portions of those 2 properties form the nucleus of today's Fort Howard. Two parcels of the Todd properties were sold in 1840 (by auction) to John Scharf. An 1850 map depicts a dwelling designated as "Mr. Scharf" in the approximate location of Site 18BA494. During the 19th century, the land that includes Site 18BA494 was one of four parcels that made up the current Fort Howard property. Sometime in the 1890s the properties passed from the Scharfs to the Gunther family. An 1895 map shows the Gunther farm complex with a cluster of 9 buildings in the general vicinity of the Scharf residence that was documented several years earlier. All of the Gunther properties at North Point were transferred to the United States government in 1900. The Gunther lands together with the addition of the lighthouse tract in 1918 (see Site 18BA495) formed the nucleus of what would become Fort Howard. Records indicated that ca. 1900 several wood-framed single- and multi-family officers' quarters were constructed and by 1911 no buildings associated with the 19th century Scharf or Gunther ownership remained. In 1940, the Veterans Administration assumed control of Fort Howard. Structures built in the 20th century within the site boundaries are still extant and are used for housing by the Veterans Administration.

Archival and archeological investigations were undertaken at the Fort Howard VAMC (designated MIHP #BA-939) in late 2001 as part of a larger disturbance assessment and feasibility study. The overall purpose of the investigations was to identify significant prehistoric and historic archeological resources within the project area. Specific goals were to identify areas of high and low archeological probability, to identify any intact cultural resources within those areas, to corroborate disturbance and investigate any potentially intact soils, and to provide recommendations for additional archeological work. Prior to the 2001 testing, no previous archeological surveys had been undertaken within the Fort Howard VAMC complex, and no sites had been identified within the project area. Fort Howard occupies about 38.45 hectares (95 ac) at the southern terminus of the peninsula. It is bounded on the west by Old Road Bay and on the east by the Fort Howard Waterfront Park which is administered by Baltimore County. The project area included a medical hospital, residences, support facilities, and other structures as well as paved roads and sidewalks. Military structures razed in the mid-20th century were once located in the now grass covered lawn areas.

Site 18BA494 was located across portions of Survey Areas E, F, and M of the survey area for the Veterans Administration property. The boundaries of Site 18BA494 were determined primarily by the locations of farm buildings depicted on late 19th century plans of the area. The delineated site dimensions were about 100 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south. During the Phase I testing, a total of 23 STPs were excavated in Area E, and 3 STPs each in Areas F and M. More than 300 artifacts were recovered from 25 of the STPs. In order to complete a preliminary assessment of the site, three 1 m² excavation units were dug; no additional STPs were excavated.

A total of 312 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase I excavations at Site 18BA494. Activity-related items found were 1 piece of barbed wire, 1 staple, and 4 pieces of lamp glass. There were 106 architectural materials including 4 brick fragments, 45 window glass shards, 21 cut nails, 2 wire nails, 32 indeterminate nails, 1 nut, and 1 spike. There was 1 clothing item in the assemblage (1 porcelain button). Kitchen-related materials consisted of 75 bottle glass shards, 10 table glass fragments, 55 ceramic sherds (4 ironstone, 1 Astbury, 1 red-bodied earthenware, 3 Rockingham/Bennington, 2 transitional pearl/whiteware, 9 unidentified earthenware, 26 whiteware, 4 brown stoneware, 5 gray stoneware), 1 measuring spoon bowl, 2 parts of a whole spoon, 8 animal bone fragments (some cut), and 1 oyster shell fragment. There were 47 artifacts in the arms-related group including 46 rimfire cartridges and 1 bullet.

One quartz flake comprised the prehistoric collection of artifacts recovered during the Phase I.

At least one cultural feature related to the mid-19th occupation at the site was encountered during the supplemental Phase I study. Based on the artifact density, identification of a feature (presumably this was an artifact concentration), and the depositional integrity of the site area, Phase II investigations were recommended in order to assess the site's eligibility for listing to the National Register of Historic Places

Phase II testing at Site 18BA495 consisted of the excavation of 14 test units (twelve 1 m² and two 0.5 x 1 meter) and 33 additional STPs. Investigations focused primarily in the southern portion of the site between Buildings 6 and 8 (the two most southern structures) where a concentration of artifacts was identified during the Phase I survey. Seven of the STPs contained only modern debris or coal and brick, which were noted but not collected. The majority of the artifacts collected during the shovel testing derived from the second stratum, a soil layer mixed with brick, mortar, and coal.

Seven contiguous units (Units 1, 4-5, and 11-14) were designated Block A. The block was excavated in order to expose a complex of features (Features 1-01, 1-02, 1-03, 4-01, and 11-01) that were identified between Buildings 6 and 8. Feature 1-01 was shallow ovoid pit that appeared to have used as a trash pit. It was recorded underlying Stratum II (light olive brown compact silt loam) and was 120 cm in diameter with a flat base. The feature fill contained 1,103 artifacts, most dated to the mid- to late 19th century, and contained high numbers of items related to the storage, preparation and serving of food, as well as architectural debris. Many of the recovered ceramic sherds were refits, in some cases representing up to a quarter of the complete vessel form. However, the similarity of the materials in the feature and in the overlying Stratum II suggested that the feature was probably filled at the time of the site destruction and that the feature and Stratum II derived from similar sources. Features 1-02, 1-03, and 4-01 were all located north and east of Feature 1-01 and appeared to have been postholes. Each posthole measured about 30 cm in diameter. Artifacts recovered from the feature fill were similar to those noted for Stratum III, the historic ground surface, and included dense brick and artifact concentrations. The fill may have been placed in the postholes either as shim or the holes were infilled at the time the posts were pulled. Feature 11-01 was comprised of 2 shallow, intersecting (T-shaped) trenches located just south of the edge of Feature 1-01. Each trench was approximately 20 cm deep. The feature extended from Unit 11 into Units 5, 13, and 14 but only the portion of the feature located within Unit 11 was excavated. The interface between the feature and Stratum I produced the greatest density of artifacts from Unit 11. A total of 36 artifacts were recovered from the feature fill. The function of Feature 11-01 could not be determined. It did appear that the feature was cut by the Feature 1-01



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Brief

Description: 19th-early 20th century farmstead

Unknown

Description:

pit which indicates that Feature 11-01 predates the pit.

Test Unit 2 was placed in the western portion of the site, near the edge of a level terrace above the sea wall, in order to identify possible features associated with the Scharf/Gunther farmstead. The stratigraphic sequence in this portion of the site appeared to be partially disturbed and no significant deposits were noted. The limited number of artifacts collected from the unit (n=28) and the lack of identified cultural features suggested that this was not a historic locus of activity. The area also lacked depositional and stratigraphic integrity.

Test Unit 3 was excavated near the eastern edge of the site, on the east side of Building 8, in order to identify potential intact deposits associated with the Scharf/Gunther farmstead. Phase I shovel testing in the area had uncovered a soil stratum that contained large quantities of brick and architectural debris that was thought to possibly have been associated with farm structures. A modern utility trench was the only cultural feature encountered in the unit. Only 85 artifacts were collected from Unit 3. The majority of identified diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the destruction debris layer (Stratum III) deposited on top of the historic occupation surface (Stratum IV) in the unit. All of the ceramic types recovered from Unit 3 were also present in the 19th century feature deposits of Block A.

Test Unit 6 was placed in the central portion of the site, north of Block A, in order to identify any additional features that may have been associated with the features in Block A or with any intact subsurface deposits associated with the 19th century occupation of the site. Intact soil strata were identified in the unit but no cultural features were encountered. Stratum VI was identified as the historic ground surface below a fill layer and a 2-3 cm thick lens of charcoal and burned debris. A total of 649 artifacts were collected during the excavation of Unit 6, the majority being glass and metal objects. Artifact concentrations were highest in Stratum VI. The artifact assemblage appeared to have derived either from secondary deposition in fill deposits, or in strata associated with the destruction of the farmstead structures. A single quartz flake was also recovered from the unit.

Test Unit 7 was also excavated in the central portion of the site about 20 meters south of Unit 1. The unit was placed in order to identify the horizontal extent of the intact soils and features associated with Block A. As with Unit 2 in the western portion of the site, the limited number of artifacts collected from Unit 7 (n=122) and the lack of identified cultural features suggested that this was not a historic locus of activity.

Test Units 8 and 9 were excavated in the southern portion of the site, south of Patapsco Street, in order to test an area outside of the main activity area of the site centered on Block A and to look for outlying deposits associated with the farmstead. Unit 8 was dug to further investigate the presence of brick fragments and atypical stratigraphy identified during shovel testing. Only 8 artifacts were recovered from Unit 8, all from disturbed strata or fill deposits. A modest 11 artifacts were recovered from Unit 9. Stratum II contained 19th century diagnostic materials. Excavations determined that the southern portion of the site had been subjected to extensive ground disturbance and that it contained very limited and disturbed cultural deposits, and therefore, had very limited research potential.

Test Unit 10 was placed in the northern portion of the site, approximately 5 meters southwest of the front porch of extant Building 6, in order to locate any intact deposits or features associated with the farmstead occupation. Excavations did reveal a relatively undisturbed soil profile but the limited number of artifacts and lack of identified cultural features indicated that this was not an intensively occupied portion of the site. A total of 281 artifacts were recovered from the unit. The presence of large amounts of cut bone and oyster shell indicated that this area may have served as an occasional refuse dump for kitchen waste.

A total of 5,703 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase II excavations at Site 18BA494. The activity items (n=32) found were 25 iron straps, some with tacks still in them, 2 possible machine parts, 1 staple, 1 piece of lamp glass, and 3 porcelain doll parts. There were 2,097 architectural materials including 306 brick fragments, 1,243 window glass shards, 22 cut nails, 32 wire nails, 384 indeterminate nails, 104 pieces of mortar, 1 piece of electrical wire, 2 spikes, 1 screw, 1 porcelain tile, and 1 possible latch. There were 15 clothing items in the assemblage including 3 glass buttons, 10 porcelain buttons, 1 belt buckle, and 1 safety pin. Kitchen-related materials consisted of 1,738 bottle glass fragments (95 machine made), 228 table glass fragments, 8 milk glass fragments, 508 ceramic sherds (22 porcelain (4 bone China), 1 creamware, 15 ironstone, 2 pearlware, 17 red-bodied earthenware, 9 Rockingham/Bennington, 31 transitional pearl/whiteware, 16 unidentified earthenware, 270 whiteware, 17 yellowware, 57 brown stoneware, 51 gray stoneware), 1 pull tab, 2 utensil parts, 2 glass stoppers, 100 animal bone fragments, 3 clam shells, 3 eggshells and 362 oyster shell fragments. Not all of the oyster shell was retained. The only personal found was a quarter coin (1967). A total of 552 miscellaneous objects were retained. These consisted of 173 indeterminate/ hardware metal objects, 198 indeterminate iron objects, 14 pieces of slag, 1 piece of cinder, 149 pieces of coal, 2 pieces of plastic, and 15 pieces of wood. Only 2 white clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were found. There were 49 artifacts in the arms-related group 32 gun shells, 1 shotgun cartridge, 3 rimfire cartridges, 12 bullets, and a possible gun site mount.

Four quartz flakes comprised the prehistoric collection of artifacts recovered from the site.

E-1 Gunther Farm (18BA494) is the site of a 19th to early 20th century farmstead at what is now Fort Howard. The site boundaries were established based on historic deed records and were refined through archeological testing. Several identified features appeared to have been infilled at, or just prior to, the destruction of the farmstead structures at the turn of the 20th century when all of the Gunther properties at North Point were transferred to the United States government. A destruction layer overlay most of the features which suggested a generalized leveling of structures prior to construction of the extant buildings. A dwelling was first depicted in the site area in 1850, and in 1895 a complex of 9 buildings was depicted there. This indicated a mid- to late 19th century occupation of the site. Analysis of the diagnostic artifacts recovered during archeological investigations supports the date established by documentary evidence. Only a small area of the site displayed enough integrity sufficient to provide useful data. However, the deposits were not extensive enough to provide enough information to confer eligibility. The remainder of the site has been altered by the razing of the 19th century structures, and by modifications to the landscape to prevent flooding. Consequently, the site was determined not eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. The extant 20th century buildings on the site have already been listed on the National Register. No additional archeological investigations are recommended for Site 18BA494.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001146