



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BA495

Site Name: H-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Lighthouse Keeper's Compound

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early 19th century lighthouse keeper's compound

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1954

Longitude -76.4446

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

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 120 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

Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

lighthouse station

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		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	67	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	10	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	4	Pearlware	14			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	4	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	132	Activity item(s)	4
Glass (all)	3687	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2308	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	111
Arms	7	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	26	Misc.	92
Personal items	4	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site H-1 (18BA495) is the location of an early 19th century lighthouse keeper's compound. The site is located at the southern end of the North Point peninsula in Baltimore County, Maryland. It is situated in the southern portion of the Fort Howard Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) property on a small rise overlooking the Patapsco River. The topography slopes up to a small hillock in the central portion of the area, and down to the west towards the Patapsco River. The site landform was at one time separated from the northern peninsula by a low marshland. Soils in the site area are of the Mattapex series.

Archival research revealed that the lighthouse complex at North Point was authorized by special act of Congress in 1820, and in 1821 the approximately 2.8 hectare (7 ac) parcel on the western half of the peninsula was obtained through eminent domain when the land owner apparently demanded an extortionist sum for the property. The North Point Range beacon included 2 stone towers. A 1½-story keeper's house with an attached kitchen was associated with the 2 light towers. The house measured 6.096 x 10.67 meters (20x 35 ft) and contained a living room and one or two bedrooms. By 1830 the lights had developed structural defects and a contractor was hired to shore their foundations. However, both the lights and the keeper's complex at North Point continued to deteriorate. The lights continued to function until about 1873 after which time they were replaced with the 2 lights presently in place of Fort Howard and Sparrows Point. The new lights were finally constructed in 1885/6 and in 1886 the new keeper's house was completed. At that time, the grounds of the compound had been graded, drained, and fenced. The dwelling and grounds were renovated in 1890. Four gates were installed along with brick walkways and a 137 meter (450 ft) picket fence that enclosed the compound. In 1918, an act of Congress transferred the property to the United States Army as part of Fort Howard. The keeper's residence apparently stood as Quarters Building 108 at Fort Howard until at least 1940 and was dismantled after the Veterans Administration assumed control of Fort Howard.

Archival and archeological investigations were undertaken at the Fort Howard VAMC (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 to investigate any potentially intact soils, and to provide recommendations for additional archeological work. Prior to the 2001 testing, no previous archeological 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.

The project included Phase I survey and Phase II testing at 18BA495. The site was located in Survey Area H in the southern portion of the VA property. During the Phase I testing, historic materials were recovered from 8 shovel test pits (STPs) and 3 backhoe trenches. The nature of the artifact assemblage suggested a domestic occupation and indicated the possibility of a razed structure in the immediate area. A brick and concrete foundation (Feature 7-01) was identified in Trench 7, and concentrations of brick and concrete rubble (Feature 6-01) in Trench 6 confirmed that a structure had one time been located there. These features were related to Building 108, believed to be the former lighthouse keeper's residence. Other identified features including iron utility pipes and distinctive soil lenses containing large amounts of rubble were probably associated with the lighthouse keeper's compound.

A total of 59 historic artifacts were retained from Site 18BA495 during the Phase I survey. Activity items consisted of 1 clay marble. There were 32 architectural materials including 12 window glass sherds, 3 cut nails, 4 wire nails, 3 unidentified nails, 2 fragments of mortar, 1 fragment of plaster, 4 pieces of concrete, 1 asbestos shingle fragment, and 2 ceramic sewer pipe tiles. Kitchen-related artifacts consisted of 10 bottle glass shards, 2 pieces of milk glass, 6 ceramic sherds (3 whiteware, 1 yellowware, 2 porcelain), and 4 oyster shell fragments (although it is unclear if the oyster represented food consumption or fertilizer for agricultural activity). The miscellaneous items consisted of 3 pieces of coal and 1 piece of limestone.

The primary research objective of the Phase II fieldwork at the site was the determination of the level of stratigraphic and depositional integrity remaining at the site. Investigations consisted of close interval shovel testing in order to identify the site's boundaries, to confirm locations of the foundations within the lighthouse property, and to identify any concentrations of cultural materials that were present at the site. Test units were then placed to investigate identified features and cultural deposits. A total of 51 additional STPs were dug at 5 meter intervals, and two 0.5 x 1 m test units (TUs 1 and 2), one 0.5 x 2 m test unit (TU 3), and four 1m² test units (TUs 4-7) were excavated during the Phase II testing. Shovel testing was limited to an approximately 50 x 30 meter area that covered the fenced in compound.

Generally, the STPs had profiles indicating disturbed and highly disturbed soils in the northern portion of the site where lenses of coal and gravel possibly associated with the supply railroad grade (located just north of the site) were observed. The location of a historic paved surface was suggested by the identification of a layer of crumbled asphalt in the northwestern portion of the site. Near the center of the site several layers of disturbed soils with extensive inclusions of brick, mortar, concrete, and other architectural materials were encountered. Soils in the southern and eastern extents of the site showed a relatively undisturbed stratigraphy and contained the lowest density of cultural materials. The majority of artifacts recovered from the site derived from an upper topsoil stratum of brown loam. This stratum may have represented a redistributed Ap horizon and was most prevalent in the center of the site.

Including those identified during Phase I testing, a total of 9 features were identified at the site. Five of the features were associated with the former Building 108/lighthouse keeper's residence. TUs 1 and 2 were excavated across the northern extension of the brick and concrete wall identified in Trench 7. Feature 1-01 was a brick and concrete foundation corner or pier/footer probably for a porch addition on Building 108. The feature was related to foundation feature 7-01 identified during the Phase I testing. The 2 features displayed similar construction and were oriented along the same axis. A total of 661 artifacts, primarily window glass and nail fragments, were recovered from TUs 1 and 2, supporting the presence of a razed structure or structures on the site. The diagnostic materials that were identified cover a wide range of time.

A portion of the eastern concrete foundation wall (Feature 3-01) for Building 108 was found in TU 3 and located less than a meter south of Feature 7-01. The foundation, believed to be fairly modern, was of poured concrete construction with 30 cm thick walls that extended at least 1.65 meters below the historic ground surface. On the interior of the foundation, probing revealed the existence of some type of solid floor to the structure. Feature 3-01 was interpreted to possibly be the foundation of the dwelling's attached kitchen, but it may instead have represent a separate outbuilding associated with the compound. In all, 275 artifacts were recovered from TU 3, primarily wire nails and window glass shards. Many large and intact specimens were found in the interior fill suggesting the material had come from a primary deposit. The presence of wire nails and machine made bottles indicated a late 19th century and later



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assemblage and cut nails (n=17) in the assemblage represented the earliest artifacts recovered from the unit.

Three features were encountered in TU 4, excavated in the west-central portion of the site just 2 meters east of Trench 6. The typical disturbed and fill strata were encountered in the upper strata of this unit; however, Stratum III was identified as a coarse sand layer that caps the structural debris associated with the lighthouse keepers' residence and Stratum IV was suggested to begin at the approximate level of the floor of the first story of the structure. The Stratum IV floor and other structural elements were demolished and pushed into the basement of the dwelling. Feature 6-01, originally encountered during Phase I, continued into TU 4. Excavation within the unit further revealed a section of tiered brick wall not in its original position (Feature 4-01). Below Feature 4-01, mortar walls (Feature 4-02), and concrete stairs and a poured concrete floor (Feature 4-03) were encountered. They represented the basement of the building. Remnants of grayish-green paint remained on the stairs and the floor. A total of 1,315 historic artifacts were recovered from TU 4, the majority being comprised of window glass (n=981) and nails. The large quantity of window glass suggested that the unit was placed near the location of one or more windows. Most of the diagnostics were dated to the 20th century although a small group of early- to mid-19th century ceramics was recovered from the upper levels of the unit. This material was likely deposited with the introduced fill.

Two features were recovered from TU 5, located near the eastern edge of the site. Feature 5-01 was a 60 cm deep posthole feature that may have been associated with a ca. 1890 fence that surrounded the keeper's compound. Feature 5-02 consisted of a ceramic drain pipe and its trench. Based on their stratigraphic relationship (Feature 5-01 cut into the Feature 5-02 trench), it would appear that the pipe predates the post. Only 66 artifacts were recovered from TU 5. Of those 24 were animal bones and no ceramics were found. The assemblage also included machine made bottle glass and wire nails.

TU 6 was excavated in the southern portion of the site, away from the main area of activity, in order to test for outlying deposits, to confirm the site's boundaries, and to look for undisturbed soils in order to observe a natural soil sequence for the site. Stratum II in the soil sequence was a historic Ap horizon and 2 plowscars were located at the interface of Strata II and III. The 117 historic artifacts and 2 oyster shell fragments recovered from this unit were found primarily in the disturbed Stratum II plowzone. The artifacts included a wide temporal range of materials.

TU 7 was excavated in the western portion of the site, just west of Phase I Feature 6-01. Excavations revealed that no intact soils remain in that portion of the site. A total of 70 historic artifacts were recovered from TU 7. The majority of artifacts were architectural materials. Wire nails comprised the majority of the found nails and whiteware the most common ceramic in the assemblage. Early ceramics were identified in Stratum I but, like elsewhere at the site, were introduced with fill.

A total of 4,648 historic artifacts were recorded during the Phase II survey. Activity items included 1 clay marble and 1 green glass marble, and 1 staple. There were 2,276 architectural materials including 22 brick fragments, 1,650 window glass shards, 139 cut nails, 220 wire nails, 171 unidentified nails, 3 fragments of mortar, 1 fragment of plaster, 2 pieces of concrete, 18 asbestos shingle fragments, 7 glazed stoneware sewer pipe sherds, 1 ceramic drain tile, 14 wire screen pieces, 2 miscellaneous hardware items, 5 screws, 1 metal rod, 2 pieces of rebar, 4 spikes, 1 nut/bolt, 7 bolts, 1 ceramic electrical insulator, 1 pulley hardware and 2 iron weights (possibly from a sash window), and 2 pieces of iron wire (possibly electrical). Clothing-related items consisted of 5 buttons (1 bone, 1 glass, and 3 porcelain) and 21 leather shoe fragments. Kitchen-related artifacts consisted of 1,972 bottle glass fragments (43 machine made), 36 table glass shards, 3 pieces of milk glass, 126 ceramic sherds (4 creamware, 7 ironstone, 14 pearlware, 10 red-bodied earthenware, 1 Rockingham/Bennington, 7 transitional pearlware/ whiteware, 64 whiteware, 1 yellowware, 8 porcelain), 45 animal bone fragments (2 burnt) and 38 oyster shell fragments (although it is unclear if the oyster represented food consumption or fertilizer for agricultural activity), and 2 metal bottle caps, 20 can fragments, and 2 metal and plastic can lids. Miscellaneous items (n=88) included 38 unidentified metal fragments, 2 unidentified glass shards (1 melted), 1 unidentified silver object, 4 pieces of wood, 22 pieces of coal, 1 cinder, 4 pieces of slag, 2 pieces of limestone, 1 Bakelite object, 10 pieces of plastic, 2 pieces of rubber, and 1 unidentifiable object. The 4 personal items recovered were a 1943 nickel, 1 mirror fragment, and 2 pieces of a broken molded/decorated glass bead. Several arms-related items were retained including 2 shotgun shells, 2 rimfire cartridges, and 3 centerfire bullets/cartridges. All of these artifacts were recorded in the artifact inventory but not all brick fragments, pieces of coal, or unidentified pieces of metal were retained. Four prehistoric artifacts were also recorded: 1 piece of chert debitage and 3 pieces of quartz debitage.

Excavations at Site H-1 (18BA495) revealed architectural features associated with the non-extant Building 108, thought to be the former 19th century lighthouse keeper's dwelling. Another identified feature may have represented an outbuilding associated with the lighthouse compound and a posthole may have been associated with a fence that enclosed the compound. The plowzone identified at the southern edge of the site provided evidence of earlier agricultural activity at the location. Although archival research suggested that the dwelling was constructed and occupied in the 1820s, no intact stratigraphy from that period was encountered. The majority of artifacts collected from the site were datable to the 20th century. A small number of materials dated to the end of the 19th century were recovered mainly from disturbed topsoil/fill strata. The stratigraphy of the site was severely altered first by drastic renovations done in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and then by the destruction and razing of the former structures ca. 1940. Based on the recorded stratigraphy, on the mixture of modern and historic materials within the identified features and artifact-bearing strata, and on the lack of any intact deposits associated with 19th century occupational activity at the site, there did not appear to be sufficient integrity at Site 18BA495 that warrants its eligibility for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. No further archeological testing is recommended at the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001146