



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code KeB,SaB,SjB

Latitude 39.2837

Longitude -76.6477

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 6-10%

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) Gwynns Falls

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 610 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

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

Y

Hispanic

German American

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

estate,gardens

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken Pollen

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		granite, schist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic artifacts, Middle Woodland shell midden

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

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 990 +/- 70 years BP

Reliability

Low

NO ID NUMBER: carbon collected from shell midden beneath historic garden terraces, containing Mockley sherds, animal bone, debitage, & 2 hammerstones

Sample 2: 940 +/- 60 years BP

Reliability

Low

NO ID NUMBER: carbon collected from shell midden beneath historic garden terraces, containing Mockley sherds, animal bone, debitage, & 2 hammerstones

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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Brief

Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Maryland Historical Society

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Mount Clare (18BC10) is primarily the archeological deposits associated with the 18th C. brick mansion, gardens, & orchards on the former estate of Charles Carroll the Barrister in southwest Baltimore City. The site also has some prehistoric deposits: an apparent Early & Middle Woodland shell midden.

The site is situated on the highest elevation within Carroll Park, which is owned by the City of Baltimore. The mansion itself is listed as a National Historic Landmark on the NRHP & is the only surviving pre-Revolutionary War residential structure within Baltimore city limits. The mansion is a 2 storey brick structure of Georgian style with a partial basement & an attic beneath a gabled roof. There are two finely decorated brick chimneys on the interior of each gable end. The main block of the house is original, but the extant wings & hyphens are reconstructed. These additions do not follow the original plan of the mansion, but the main house has been faithfully restored to its original appearance. It has been owned by the City of Baltimore since 1890, & is now operated as a tourist attraction under a management agreement with the National Society of Colonial Dames (Maryland) & the nearby B&O Railroad Museum.

The area that is now Carroll Park is considerably altered from its native & even from its colonial-era landscape. Planned as a botanical garden in the early 20th C., Carroll Park contains a variety of trees not common to the region. Birds are now the most common form of wildlife in the park, including one or more hawks which nest along the park's north buffer of trees. Soils at the site are primarily Sassafras & Joppa gravelly loams.

Charles Carroll the Barrister was the son of Dr. Charles Carroll & a distant cousin of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the famous signer of the Declaration of Independence. Though born in Annapolis, as a son of one of the wealthiest & most prominent families in Maryland (and the American Colonies for that matter), Charles was educated in Europe. Not long after he returned to Maryland in 1746 or 1747, his father (Dr. Charles Carroll) had constructed a small 1½ storey clapboard house on a hilltop at the approximate location of the site for the use of his family. Although not mentioned in the historic records, there would most likely have been a separate kitchen & other buildings in the immediate vicinity. Charles was by that time living in Annapolis & managing some of the families farming & milling businesses at Carrollton.

In 1751, Charles Carroll made the decision to pursue a profession in law & left Maryland, yet again, for England. He studied at the Middle Temple in London & was accepted to the bar at the Inns of Court in 1755. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Maryland & took up the suffix to his surname "the Barrister" to distinguish himself from the other Charles Carrolls throughout the colony. Shortly after his return to Maryland, Dr. Charles Carroll died, leaving his estate to his surviving son Charles the Barrister. In 1756, Charles appears to have begun making plans to construct a new manor house on the plantation along the Patapsco that he had inherited from his father, which he called "Georgia". Orders through a London agent included window glass, sheet lead, hinges, locks & nails, while other building materials were locally purchased or made. This was to become his summer home, while his "townhouse" would be in Annapolis. At that time, Baltimore was far more rural when compared to the Annapolis of the mid 18th C.

By 1760 Charles had completed construction of the new manor house (possibly on the same spot as his father's earlier home) at Georgia, which he named "Mount Clare" after his grandmother. The plan included the main house (or central block) & at least a 22 X 24 foot kitchen to the east side, & an orangery/pinery. Architectural evidence suggests that part of the central block may have been constructed atop the foundation & cellar constructed by his father. The basement for the central block lies only under the parlor & dining room: the mansion's two south-side rooms. Therefore, Dr. Carroll's earlier house was probably of the common hall-and-parlor floor plan, with one large room & a smaller, more private room.

Around 1767, Carroll directed major renovations & additions to the existing structures, as well as the construction of new buildings at Mt. Clare. The kitchen was likely reconfigured at this time to include a hallway & scullery. It was probably during these renovations that semi-octagonal north ends were added to the kitchen & an office (which may have been built earlier or at that time) wing. The result was a mansion complex, with the main house at the center of two flanking wings to form a Palladian villa-style entrance. The façade of buildings with connecting hyphens & walls stretched approximately 360 feet across the hilltop.

Margaret Carroll (the wife of Charles the Barrister) directed the next series of alterations, probably soon after Charles' death in 1783. Before 1798, additions were added to the far sides of the kitchen wing & the office wing, because in 1798 a Federal tax list documented taxable property at Mt. Clare, including all improvements within two acres of the mansion & these two additions are included in the list. The kitchen & an office wings & additions served as balancing dependencies to the central block. These were connected to the mansion by hyphens or corridors & are depicted in a miniature 1805 painting of Mt. Clare. The date of its construction is uncertain.

James McCubbin Carroll moved to Mt. Clare after Margaret Carroll's death in 1817. His account books reveal that additional changes were made to the structures on the property. After the Civil War, James Carroll Jr. (who had inherited Mt. Clare), leased the mansion & 15 acres to the West Baltimore Schuetzen Association. The Schuetzen were a form of German-American social club, similar to a country club, but typically with an emphasis on the shooting sports rather than on golfing. These tenants were required to make \$19,000 worth of improvements to the property within the first three years. Considering this & evidence from a Civil War era lithograph of the mansion showing the wings in a state of disrepair, it is believed that the Schuetzen Association demolished all of the support buildings flanking the mansion by 1871 as an initial improvement project. The group also appears to have built a new two-storey addition onto the west side of the mansion, where the office wing & west hyphen had been, by 1873. A map of the "Schuetzen Park" established by the club, dated 1876, includes this new wing & a series of winding roads that were also probably Schuetzen improvements as well.

In 1890, the City of Baltimore purchased the house & 20 acres with the intention of creating a major city park. Annual reports of the Park Board Commission detail some of the related improvements. The park property eventually grew to 162 acres, but has since been reduced to around 112 acres. There were several early park improvements: Schuetzen-period buildings & the "tumbled-down" Carrolls' stable were demolished, & landscaping projects included raising the level of the lawn where the Mt. Clare kitchen once stood. Several late 19th & early 20th C. projects left their marks on the kitchen site as well. Among them were planting programs, one of which was sponsored by the Baltimore Cactus Society in 1895. In later years boxwoods were planted on the site.

In 1908, the City added east & west wings with basements to the mansion. The city also hired the Olmstead Brothers landscape architectural firm around this time to develop a plan for additional park improvements. Taking advantage of contours in the park as well as existing Schuetzen-period roads, the Olmstead firm created a system of roads & walking trails that were quite characteristic of projects it carried out for other historic city parks. Many of these latest alterations are still a part of the Carroll Park landscape.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

Unknown

The earliest documented archeological excavations at 18BC10 occurred in 1970 & 1971 & were related to the investigation of a probable historic sump in the basement area. In the 1960s, workmen re-pointing the stone walls in the basement of Mt. Clare discovered the entrance to a brick-lined tunnel about 91 cm (3 ft) high & 61 cm (2 ft) wide. The tunnel led east from the southeast corner of the basement, but was blocked by fill about 4.6 m (15 ft) from its entrance. Examinations made of this tunnel (no excavation is documented to have taken place) at the time suggest that it had an unpaved floor & that late 19th C. debris was scattered along the length of the tunnel & in the fill blocking the end of the tunnel. The artifacts included fragments of hand-blown olive green wine bottles, mold-made clear glass beer mugs, clear window glass, earthenware beer jugs, a semi-porcelain bowl, a few iron objects, & sawed domestic cow bones. Some of the debris coincides with the use of Mt. Clare as a beer garden by the Schuetzen Association in the late 19th C.

The exploration of the tunnel also revealed the presence of a depressed are in the basement's brick floor, near the entrance to the tunnel. The first archeological excavations in 1970 & 1971 were focused on determining the nature of this depression. It was initially speculated that the depression might be caused by a filled in well, cistern, or cooler beneath the brick flooring.

In 1970, volunteers with the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) removed bricks from an area roughly 1 m (3.5 ft) in diameter in the center of the depression & excavated sand, gravel, & cobbles to a depth of around 91 cm (3 ft). The upper part of the fill consisted of loose gravel & the bottom of the test penetrated large cobbles separated by voids. The open spaces in the floor of the exploratory test & the frequent collapse of the loose gravel forming the upper walls of the tested area discouraged further work. Four fragments of late Chinese export porcelain (early 19th C. in age) were recovered.

In August of 1971, personnel from the Maryland Geological Survey expanded the tested area at the entrance to the tunnel. They cleaned a work area around the earlier excavation, established reference lines, & made a measured plan of the previous excavation & nearby features. Bricks between the earlier excavation & the south foundation wall were removed & the excavation proceeded with shovel through loose sand & gravel fill, a compact clay & gravel deposit, & into undisturbed clay subsoil. Large cobbles & loose gravel extending to an undetermined depth were encountered only at the end of the excavation near the test dug by ASM. Additional bricks were then removed on the north & east sides & the excavation expanded in order to establish the size of the cobble deposit. Slumping of loose fill & time limitations prevented excavation of vertical & straight profiles.

The excavations clearly demonstrated that the depressed area in the basement floor related to a pit used as a sump rather than a well or cistern because there was no trace of a lining. The pit contained no debris & the large quartz boulders used in the fill formed open voids, again, suggesting that it served as a sump drain. The relationship between the sump & the tunnel was not readily apparent. In addition to small brick fragments, three artifacts were recovered during the 1971 excavations: a redware rimsherd, a piece of olive green wine bottle glass, & one piece of greenish window glass. These objects are not easily dated, but an easily dated 18th & 19th C. date is probable.

Also in 1971, a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania visited Mt. Clare to conduct remote sensing in the yard around the mansion. Soil resistivity tests were utilized to try to locate the direction that the aforementioned tunnel ran after leaving the house. This testing failed to locate a continuation of the tunnel across the macadam -block driveway and no significant anomalies were indicated in the eastern part of the first terrace, which was also tested. However, a rectangular-shaped feature was detected on the hill of the terrace to the southeast of the corner of the kitchen wing. The resulting maps for this testing were lost, however, and the precise placement of the feature is unknown.

Excavations at 18BC10 occurred again in 1977 as part of a project managed by faculty at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. No final report was ever produced as a result of this fieldwork, but several years later a review of the extant field records, collections, & other materials was made which provides some details. During 1977, an unspecified number of trenches were excavated on the first terrace west of the ca. 1908 West Wing & just south of a small service road. The intended goal of excavation was to locate structural remains of the orangery that dated back to the occupation by Charles & Margaret Carroll.

In the summer of 1978 the crew excavated trenches approximately 5 to 10 m north of the initial trenching & located the orangery's south wall foundation. In addition, that season's work resulted in documentation of east orangery wall remains, interior foundations, the northwest corner of a small structure immediately to the east of the orangery, & stone foundations connecting the two structures. That same season, excavations north of the ca. 1908 East Wing revealed portions of the east & interior foundations for the kitchen wing.

In general, records associated with these excavations lack necessary detail & are in relatively poor physical condition. It appears that researchers were focused primarily on uncovering & following foundations. Foundation remains were occasionally well recorded & mapped, but scaled maps are almost exclusively plan views. No stratigraphic profiles from the excavation have ever been located. It appears that the identified structural remains themselves were not excavated in 1977 & 1978, but were more thoroughly documented during later excavations.

During the summers of 1979 & 1980, vast excavations were carried out in the office wing area (i.e. the west wing). In 1978, two trenches had been excavated immediately north of the office wing's west wall. These trenches, located in "the office wing area, west fence area", were later tied into the two-meter grid system used by the 1979 & 1980 excavators. During the 1979-80 project, most structural remains were exposed & mapped. A portion of the site covered by an asphalt roadway was not excavated, however, part of a macadam block walkway was removed to uncover remains of the structure's west wall & central chimney base. By the end of the 1980 season it was estimated that 95 percent of the structure had been uncovered.

According to a preliminary report (a final product was never produced), fieldwork in 1979 began with the establishment of a 10 m square grid across the site, aligned to north façade of the mansion. These were further subdivided into 2 m squares & excavations were opened up in a grassy area just to the north of the 1908 office (i.e. west) wing. Over the course of the summer, 14 two m squares were excavated to a depth of roughly 40 cm. These units were then backfilled for the winter. In the summer of 1980, those 14 test squares were re-excavated to the level of the plastic protection laid down the previous summer. An additional 17 two m squares were excavated in 1980, bringing to a total of 31 units opened & explored in 1980.

Each 2 m square excavated was divided into four 1 m quadrants. The grass & black topsoil layer was removed by shovel & artifacts in each quadrant were bagged separately. The next layer, a dark brown mottled loam (Strata A), was also excavated in quadrants to a depth of approximately 25 cm, where the layer terminated. Generally at the base of Strata A, one encountered 18th or 19th C. features. At this point the entire square would be cleaned as a unit, then features would be identified & excavated. When adjacent squares were to be excavated, a 20-40 cm balk was left in-between the squares to assist in documenting stratigraphy. The balk was part of the square, not a separate entity & its contents were cataloged accordingly. When it became necessary to better expose a strata or a feature, the balk would be removed & the artifacts cleaned & retained.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

Unknown

The 1979 & 1980 excavations revealed the remains of the 1768 office wing, but there was insufficient time & manpower to adequately test a carriage drive area & 18th C. fence line that were partially exposed. Other features encountered were three square 19th C. postholes, 20th C. landscaping features & planting holes, a macadam walkway, 20th C. utility lines.

The remains of the 1768 office wing were sparse, but sufficient to develop a rough plan view of the outer walls of the wing. The most interesting aspect of the wing was the polygonal (three-sided) shape of its north wall. A ca. 1768 interior H-shaped double fireplace for the wing was also uncovered, indicating that at least two rooms were present in the wing. When the Schuetzen Association received permission to tear down the purportedly dilapidated mansion wings, they removed most of the foundation stones. A few stones were left intact, but more often, the shape of the wing had to be reconstructed from the staining left by the "robbers" trench. After the wing was torn down, a layer of gravel was placed over the area of the building only, for the purpose of providing better drainage. Most of the artifact in the gravel layer & above it, dated to the period of the Schuetzen Association's occupation & use of the site for a beer garden/club house in the late 19th C. (such as the bottom of a green glass beer stein). However, some 1800-1825 era kaolin pipe bowls were recovered in these layers as well, suggesting fill was mixed in from elsewhere, perhaps elsewhere on-site.

Two of the largest artifacts recovered from the site were two huge iron pots (91 cm in diameter & 40 cm deep). The first was encountered sitting on top of the trench for the east-angle wall of the polygonal north wall of the wing. This pot collapsed on itself as it was excavated. A second 19th C. pot was encountered near the center of the wing. This pot was removed from the site intact. It was speculated that these may have served as flower pots.

Little else is known about the 1979 & 1980 excavations at 18BC10. No analysis or even cataloging of artifacts was completed at that time, but later researchers examined these collections & developed small "study collections".

In September of 1983, a local historical architect, monitored the excavation of trenches needed to connect new heat pump units to the house. In the trench that ran from the unit on the east side of the house into the cellar/basement, workmen uncovered a portion of the tunnel explored in the 1960s & 1970s. This was in the vicinity of the first terrace & notes made at the time reveal the tunnel to be a brick & mortar arch supported by stone. Because this section of the tunnel was part of the 4.57 m (15 ft) section that had been previously explored, there was still no evidence that the structure extended beyond the blockage of fill encountered 13 years earlier.

In 1984, two projects were carried out at 18BC10 by the Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology (BCUA). One project focused on test excavations in the previously identified orangery area, while the other project was a shovel test pit (STP) survey of the hillslopes surrounding the mansion & other areas of potential interest throughout Carroll Park.

The 1984 Orangery Project was primarily geared towards identifying whether sufficient evidence existed to justify full excavation. The first priority was to find evidence of the internal arrangement of the Orangery, with a particular focus on understanding the design of any subfloor heating system. A total of twenty 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) units were laid out in a pattern that roughly transected the structure in a north-south direction, with additional units extending to the east & west to further delimit the building footprint.

While limited in scope, the 1984 Orangery Project permitted excavators to identify significant elements of the building, including construction details of a hypocaust (subterranean heating system), & 9 unique strata representing various cultural & natural events. In more general terms, the original ground surface was a slight hill into which a flat surface was cut onto which the foundations & hypocaust air ducts could be constructed. The original orangery appears to have later been extended to the south. Other construction stages may have occurred, but evidence was obscured due to extensive robbing for materials. Eventually, the remaining (mostly robbed) foundation trenches were filled with several layers of fill & abandoned. Several planting holes subsequently disturbed the orangery foundations, & asphalt paving destroyed any archeological deposits at the base of the hill. Other disturbances included an electric cable trench & excavation trenches from the work at the orangery in the 1970s.

There appear to have been two first-floor rooms in the orangery that were heated by a system of sub-floor ducts. In addition, the south room had a south-side extension added to it. The south-room ducts led from a firebox (southeast) to a chimney flue (centered in the north end of the room). Inside the firebox were several individual bricks spaced in uniform fashion on top of the brick surface, which were possibly supports for the firebox roof. Even though the nature of the roof's construction was not determined, hypotheses included a vaulted roof, or a flat brick tile roof/floor supported by brick piers inside the firebox. Ducts were also discovered in the north room leading south to the same central chimney flue, but no north-room firebox was identified.

The 1984 STP Survey carried out by the BCUA entailed the excavation of 974 shovel test pits throughout Carroll Park in an attempt to locate archeologically sensitive areas of the park & make recommendations for future archeological research. Most of the STPs were situated on the hillslopes around Mt. Clare, but some extended further out into Carroll Park (i.e. beyond the current site boundaries). These materials are included in the discussion of 18BC10 as there is a strong likelihood that materials derived from these distant STPs originally derived from activities at Mt. Clare.

Carroll Park was divided into 12 survey areas, which were named alphabetically (A through L) in order of excavation. Transects were established independently for each of the survey areas. The first transect in each area was given a specific compass bearing & all other transects in the area were laid out parallel to the first. Transects within each area were placed 4.57 m (15 ft) apart & STPs were excavated every 4.57 m along each transect. STPs were excavated to an average depth of 30.5 cm (12 in), regardless of whether sterile soil had been identified or not. Excavated soil was sifted through hardware cloth & recovered artifacts were bagged according to provenience. Pertinent STP data was recorded on standardized forms by members of the field crew (primarily middle & secondary school students). The project supervisor oversaw daily excavations, data recordation, & maintained their own separate notebook.

Despite intensive coverage of an area that measured approximately 30 to 35 acres, survey results did not provide a clear picture of Carroll Park's archeological resources. Identifying evidence for early activity with confidence is difficult, because STPs were frequently not excavated to sterile subsoil. As a result, the excavations more thoroughly documented the property's late 19th & early 20th C. history. Survey records provide relatively little information about the landscape during the Carroll family ownership. The artifact assemblage recovered supports this conclusion. Mid to late 19th C. ceramics (later whitewares) dominated the ceramic assemblage & more than half of the entire artifact assemblage is glass (much of it relatively modern clear & amber container glass).

Excavations did identify one area of possible brick foundation remains (northeast of the mansion near the B&O railroad tracks), two suspected historic shell midden deposits (west of the mansion towards Monroe Street), & the probable location of the 18th C. Mt. Clare orchard (a large area between the mansion & an early 20th C. stable containing a higher than normal concentration of gravel). The formal terraced garden, the forecourt, & areas immediately east & west



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC10

Site Name: Mount Clare

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Mount Clare Mansion, Carroll Park

Historic

Brief

Description:

Early & Middle Woodland shell midden, 18th century estate with brick mansion, gardens, and orchards

Unknown

of the two extant wings were not tested. Researchers recommended additional testing of the possible brick foundation northeast of the mansion.

A third project was conducted in 1984, but details of this effort are very sparse. The area immediately south of the mansion consists of 5 garden terraces & four falls, or slopes thought to have been created in the 18th C. However, features across the landscape including fragments of brick steps, asphalt walkways, & trees planted along the forward edges of terraces suggested that they had been altered significantly since the 18th C. Preliminary test excavations were carried out on the terraces directly south of the mansion in 1984 to begin the attempt to reconstruct the original 18th C. landscape south of the mansion. Two units (likely 1.524 X 1.524 m in size) were excavated to record terrace strata, to obtain pollen, flotation, & soil samples, & to see if the results of such analysis could provide information useful in reconstructing the 18th C. landscape & its vegetation. Eighteenth & early 19th C. artifacts were recovered from the lowest artifact-bearing levels, suggesting that at least portions of the second terrace had been left undisturbed. However, results from pollen & floral analysis were considered relatively unsuccessful.

In 1985 & continuing into 1986, BCUA began collaborating with the Colonial Dames of Maryland, management of Carroll Park, & other entities on a project to restore the orchard & vineyard at Mt. Clare. The reconstruction of the orchards was based on contributions from various disciplines, including history, horticulture, landscape architecture, & historical archeology. After completion, the reconstructed orchard would contain historic varieties of 200 apple, pear, peach, quince, plum, & cherry trees covering 4.7 acres. The primary goal of the BCUA excavations in 1985/1986, was to identify a planting pattern for trees in the orchard. Researchers also hoped to discover evidence of fencelines & the tree species planted in the historic orchard.

The BCUA used two principal sources of evidence to identify the general area for the orchard investigations. The first was a 1775 landscape painting by Charles Wilson Peale. The 18th C. painting shows rows of poles or supports, a hedge or fence immediately west of the poles running parallel to the N-S axis of the mansion, & long rows of trees west of the hedge. In the painting, these three features are in a discreet area south of the mansion & west of the terraces. The other major source of information was stratigraphic evidence recovered during the 1984 STP Survey. As previously mentioned, excavators discovered that a large area between the mansion & an early 20th C. stable contained a higher than normal concentration of gravel. This discovery, combined with the depiction in the 1775 painting, led researchers to focus on the slope & terraces west of the mansion known as "Area G".

Initial excavation units for the 1985 Orchard Investigation were placed arbitrarily across Area G. The plan was to identify at least one feature dating to the 18th C. orchard & then to place additional units around the feature(s) at distances recommended in 18th C. gardening books. Researchers expected that by following this technique they would be able to determine the pattern of the orchard & its boundaries. However, after the placement of 156 units (1.524 X 1.524 m in size) failed to reveal a definite planting pattern, field researchers altered plans & hired a gradall operator to strip larger areas in search of archeological features. Unfortunately, however, after a number of larger areas of the site had been mechanically excavated to subsoil, the results were essentially the same. No 18th C. planting pattern for the orchard could be found. Archeologists began to posit that park landscaping projects early in the 20th C. had destroyed archeological evidence of the orchard. As a last resort, an area beneath the shade of an American Elm, estimated to be 160-170 years old, was stripped of topsoil. A pattern of four orchard-period tree stains was discovered.

Two deep trenches were mechanically excavated, one on the south side of the site & one on the north side, so archeologists could record stratigraphic information that they hoped would aid in the reconstruction of the original slope on which the orchard was planted. The strata across the site, consisting of relatively thin topsoil on top of hard packed layers of clay & gravel, generally confirmed suspicions that 1890s-era landscaping projects had severely disturbed large portions of the hillside.

Archeologists had more success just west of the terraces, where post & planting hole stains surrounded by evidence of possible planting bed, formed a much smaller planting pattern than the one established for the orchard. Based on the rows of poles or supports shown in the 1775 Peale painting, archeologists tentatively identified this area as the site of the vineyard. After excavation with a gradall, however, preliminary analysis of the more than 100 features exposed failed to produce any planting pattern. However, soil samples were collected systematically across the area & during analysis of these, it was noted that almost all of the features identified as planting/post holes were neutral or nearly neutral in pH. When the features in question were separated out from the rest of the feature complex, it was determined that the remainder fell into a pattern of 1.83 X 2.74 m (6 X 9 ft) grid cells (i.e. the posts were positioned at the corners of 6 X 9 ft areas). The visibly dog-eared pages of Charles Carroll's original 1754 copy of Phillip Miller's *The Garden Dictionary*, dealing with the planting & care of vineyards supported both the alignment & spacing of this grid pattern. The dictionary recommends a vineyard planting alignment southeast to northwest (the planting pattern was determined to be 27.5° west of north) in rows 6 by 10 ft. Thus, archeological evidence, soil analysis, & evidence from both a 1775 landscape painting & one of Charles Carroll's well used reference books strongly suggest that a vineyard had been planted & maintained west of the terraces. In the same gradall-stripped area, archeologists also discovered a line of post hole stains that were interpreted as evidence for a fenceline which served as a border between the vineyard & the orchard area.

The pattern established for the orchard plantings was an almost square grid with intervals of 8.53 by 9.14 m (28 by 30 ft), considerably smaller than the spacings recommended by Miller or in Thomas Hale's 1759 publication, *A Complete Body of Husbandry*. It did not seem likely that Charles Carroll would so blatantly disregard the recommendations of recognized 18th C. horticultural authorities while following the latest fashions elsewhere on the plantation. It has been suggested that Charles may have inherited an extant orchard layout from his father or that he used an altered layout suggested by Hale for use when, "a hedge is to be used to shelter an orchard or planting of timber..." In such a situation, Hale recommends planting both the hedge & orchard trees in a 30 foot square grid pattern.

Beginning in August of 1985, BCUA undertook excavations on the first terrace south of the mansion as part of the overall scheme for the restoration of the house & grounds to their 18th C. configuration. Previous archeological excavations had not concentrated in this area, so little was known about the resources on the terrace. The two major goals of excavation in the area were to locate the configuration & extent of a bowling green reported to have been located on the first terrace, & to investigate the orientation & potential uses of the tunnel which extended from the east side of the main house. Since no paintings or historic photographs have been located that would illustrate the arrangement of the first terrace, research was

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005651, 00005659, 00005664, 00005579, 00005683, 00005616, 00005617, 00005685, 97000774