



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC111

Site Name: Hampstead Hill Cem & Rowhouses

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Hampstead Hills

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th-mid-19th century cemetery, mid-19th to early 20th century brick rowhouses

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code UKB,UB

Latitude 39.2935

Longitude -76.5978

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-8%

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) Northwest Branch of Patap

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 1525 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

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

Hispanic

Russian, E. European, Jewish

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? 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

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

potter's field, rowhouses

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken

Human skeletal:
Ph II Doug
Owsley, III Chris
Ruff



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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

late 18th-mid-19th century burials, mid-19th to early 20th century brick rowhouse related features

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

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Hampstead Hill site (18BC111) consists of late 18th-mid-19th century cemeteries, as well as mid-19th to early 20th century brick rowhouses in East Baltimore. The site is on the campus of the Johns Hopkins Health Care System (JHHCS) on the corner of Broadway and Orleans Street in downtown Baltimore. The landscape surrounding the site is heavily developed and the soils are intensely modified from their native state. Soils mapped for the area are classified as "Urban Land" meaning that 80% of the surface is covered either by buildings or by impervious surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.

Hampstead Hill was once part of "Mounteneys Neck", a 200 acre tract patented by Alexander Mounteney in 1663, the southernmost boundary of which was the Patapsco River. Harford Run (now beneath Central Avenue) ran through the center of the tract. Throughout the 18th century, land speculators bought and sold Mounteneys Neck, subdividing the large parcel into smaller and smaller holdings. By the 1790s, the site area was part of two smaller parcels in the possession of David Williamson and Jeremiah Yellot. These parcels lay just outside the boundaries of Baltimore Town, a mercantile center established in 1729.

In the early 1790s, the Baltimore Town commissioners began negotiations with the State of Maryland for a charter of incorporation as a city. The charter was granted in 1797. The negotiation process may have prompted the town commissioners to review the conditions of the town streets. During this review, the commissioners noted that the poorer inhabitants of the town were burying their dead beneath the town's streets and alleys. Early in 1793, several notices appeared in the Baltimore Daily Repository calling for the establishment of a 'potter's field' in the eastern portion of the city for the burial of the indigent and unknown. A committee, headed by Joseph Townsend (a local Quaker merchant), raised funds to purchase land for this purpose.

By the end of January 1793, the committee had settled on David Williamson's property on the northern side of Hampstead Hill along the Market Road (now Broadway) leading from Fells Point. On 15 April, 1793, the eastern "Old" Potter's Field opened. The sale of the property was completed in 1794. A second deed between David Williamson, John Coulter, Joseph Townsend, John Brown, and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore was executed in 1798, a year after the city received its charter. This deed specifically states that the property was to be used for the purposes of a burial ground only and for no other purpose.

At the same time that the City of Baltimore was purchasing its eastern Potter's Field, the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopalian Parish began to search for a burial ground for their congregation at Christ Church in East Baltimore. Two parcels of land were purchased from David Williamson on 3 March 1800. The first parcel consisted of 2 acres adjoining the west side of the Old Potter's Field. This parcel was used as the burial ground. The second parcel was adjacent to the west side of the first parcel and contained three acres which fronted on Broadway. Williamson issued the vestry a confirmatory deed for both parcels in May of 1801. Sale of lots in the burial ground began in April of 1800. According to records filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court in the 1855 equity case *The Vestry of Christ Church, et al. vs. Benjamin Baker, et al.*, 226 lots were sold within Christ Church burial ground. These lots were divided into two types of plots: small plots which measured at least 12 feet on two sides, and large plots which measured at least 24 feet on two sides.

Early in 1800, Maryland Hospital opened on the hill to the north of the Potter's Field and Christ Church burial ground. The Mayor and City Council purchased the land for the hospital from Jeremiah Yellot in 1798. The southern boundary of this 6 3/4 acre parcel was adjacent to the northern boundary of the Potter's Field. Eventually, the Potter's Field would extend north across the property line and would occupy part of the Maryland Hospital grounds. The hospital was authorized by the Maryland Legislature in 1797 as a place to treat the indigent sick and the insane. Maryland Hospital was heavily trafficked during the yellow fever epidemic in the summer of 1800. Although the city had been plagued by yellow fever every summer since 1794, the yellow fever epidemic of 1800 was especially severe. The poor were the segment of the population hit hardest and east Baltimore was impacted particularly hard.

Maryland Hospital remained on Hampstead Hill until the late 19th century. During the Battle of Baltimore in 1814, 234 sick and wounded soldiers were sent to the hospital. The State of Maryland purchased the hospital in 1826, changing the name to the Maryland Hospital for the Insane. In 1872, the asylum moved to Spring Grove near Catonsville, Maryland. Johns Hopkins purchased the East Baltimore land and buildings of Maryland Hospital shortly before his death in 1873. His trustees used this land for the location of the new Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The land surrounding the Potter's Field and Christ Church burial ground was largely undeveloped when the two burial grounds were opened in 1793 and 1800 respectively. Both burial grounds were located outside the town limits when they were first opened. In 1816 the City of Baltimore annexed land to its north and east. This annexation included both the Potter's Field and Christ Church burial grounds. By the 1850s, rowhouses stretched along Broadway and Orleans Street. Urban development was pressing up against the edges of the two burial grounds.

By 1826, Baltimore's Old Potter's Field was no longer used as a burial ground and by 1832 the city was renting out their property behind the hospital, including the remainder of the graveyard. No burials were recorded for the Old Potter's Field between 1834 and 1840 and it is likely that a new graveyard for the indigent had been established. An 1822 plan of the city shows a "potter's field" northeast of the Old Potter's Field. This new field was in use from at least the early 1820s until 1876, when the city again moved its public burial ground farther east.

Christ Church burial ground was in use between 1800 and 1852. St. Paul's vestry kept a joint death register for both the main St. Paul's Church and Christ Church until the parish split into two autonomous congregations in 1828. The St. Paul's records do not indicate whether a deceased parishioner was buried in St. Paul's burial ground or in Christ Church burial ground. Nor do the later Christ Church records indicate where deceased parishioners were buried. However, theoretically, many of them should have been buried in Christ Church burial ground. Two-hundred and twenty-six individuals or families from Christ Church owned lots in the burial ground. As Baltimore City grew toward the burial ground, interment there became less frequent and the graves and grave markers were often vandalized.

In 1850, the City filed a bill against the heirs at law of David Williamson for the sale of the Potter's Field property. Baltimore City proposed to take the proceeds from the sale and apply them to the purchase of a larger lot to be used for the same purpose. The Williamson heirs objected to the sale and took the City to court. In the Court of Equity in the case *Julianna Williamson, et al. vs. the Mayor and the City Council of Baltimore*, the Williamsons claimed the entire lot on the grounds that it should be forfeited by the City, since the City no longer maintained the property for the purposes intended by David Williamson (i.e. as a burial ground). The case was settled on appeal in 1863. The City and Williamson heirs agreed to a compromise settlement in which the land was sold with one half of the net sales going to the City, while the other half was distributed among the Williamson heirs.



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Unknown

While the City of Baltimore and the Williamson heirs were in court battling over the future of the Old Potter's Field, the Vestry of Christ Church was struggling to make a similar decision concerning their burial ground. The vestry and various lot holders were in basic agreement that the property should be sold. However, the vestry needed permission from the court in order to sell the burial ground. On 23 June, 1855 the Vestry of Christ Church filed a motion in the Circuit Court of Baltimore for a decree to allow it to sell Christ Church burial ground. The Vestry and descendants of individuals buried within the graveyard promised to remove all human remains in the burial ground for reburial elsewhere. Known descendants would pay for the exhumation and reinterment of those whose families were unable to afford the costs and for unclaimed burials. These remains were reinterred in Greenmount Cemetery and in the new Baltimore and London Park Cemeteries, which opened in the early 1850s.

Development of land surrounding the site into a residential neighborhood began in the late 1840s with improvements to existing streets and the construction of new ones. Broadway was widened between Baltimore Street and Monument Street around 1846. Jefferson was opened from Broadway east to Cannon Street in 1852. On 2 May, 1863, the Mayor and City Council approved a resolution which awarded damages to property owners along the new road bed. The resolution also awarded \$1,000 for the removal of the dead from that part of the Potter's Field within the condemned roadbed. Orleans Street was paved in 1857 and Regester Street was opened between Orleans and Jefferson in 1868.

Sale of the Broadway lots within the 3 acre plot purchased by Christ Church in 1800 began in the early 1850s. The actual sale of lots within the two burial grounds probably did not occur until after 1856 on the Christ Church parcel and after 1863 on the "Old" Potter's Field parcel. Baltimore City tax assessment records reflect rapid residential development of the project area in the 1860s. These lots were developed with substantial two-storey and three-storey brick rowhouses, and almost all had brick or wooden frame back buildings. Of the 28 residences appearing in the 1866 city tax assessments, 17 entries (61%) list tenants, 6 entries (21%) list the owner as resident, 5 residences (18%) have no occupant listed. Among the 17 tenants identified in the assessment, 11 (39%) are explicitly identified as "Jewish".

Before 1820, Jewish immigration into Baltimore and the United States as a whole was generally by single individuals and families. Between 1820 and 1880 the American Jewish population increased from 10,000 to 250,000 individuals. Many of these immigrants were German Jews who were escaping revolutions and wars sweeping through the various German principalities throughout the period. Between 1880 and 1920 changing social patterns in Eastern Europe and pogroms in Russia provided incentives for 2,000,000 Jews to emigrate to the United States. Many of these immigrants were unskilled laborers who quickly entered the American factory system. In Baltimore, the new Jewish immigrants entered East Baltimore's garment industry in large numbers.

By the beginning of the 20th century, African-American laborers were beginning to concentrate in housing in the back alleys of Baltimore. Demographic profiles show an influx of mainly native Maryland African-Americans into Baltimore in the late 19th century. Baltimore's African-American population nearly tripled from a population of 28,000 in 1860, to 79,000 in 1900. This development in housing concentrated the city's poor into a classic "alley life" pattern. Demographic information from the 1910 US Federal Census presents a different community profile from that reconstructed from the 1866 city tax assessment records. Of the 26 households sampled, 17 were renters and 9 were owners. Families listed as African-Americans numbered 15. Fourteen families were natives of Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia and one family was native of North Carolina. Families headed by German immigrants numbered 5. One family was headed by an American-born German who married a German immigrant. Two households were composed of related Russian Jewish immigrants. Four households consisted of native, white Marylanders. The final household sampled consisted of a pair of unrelated Chinese immigrants, one the owner of a laundry and the other his boarder. In general, white households appeared on Broadway, Jefferson, and Orleans Streets, while black households appeared on Regester Street, and on McCubbin and Short Alleys.

By the 1930s, the neighborhoods around Johns Hopkins Hospital were largely inhabited by African-Americans. Racial discrimination and high unemployment during the Depression Era kept many of the area inhabitants in low-paying jobs. Real estate values in the area had been in decline since the depression of 1893. In the 1920s, property values in the area had decreased in general. During this decade two movements of population took place which changed the racial composition of the neighborhood. Suburban development in the 1920s in the northwest portion of the city and Baltimore County lured the largely Jewish population of East Baltimore out of the inner city to the suburbs. Vacant housing in the eastern portion of the city was rapidly filled by African-American tenants moving into the city from rural areas of Maryland and the South. This migration of blacks from rural to urban areas was part of a national trend which had begun early in the century. In 1910, 3 out of 4 African-Americans nationally lived in rural areas. By 1960, 75% lived in urban areas. In the early 20th century, African-Americans arriving in Baltimore tended to settle in rented houses in the alleys and back streets of the city, such as McCubbin Alley and Regester Street. Yards to the rear of these houses were typically small and surrounded by tall, board fences which enclosed privies and other outbuildings. Many of these yards remained this way into the 1950s. As the century progressed, African-Americans also began to occupy the homes facing on Broadway, and Orleans and Jefferson Streets.

In 1950 a survey of the city's 250,000 houses placed 90,000 within "blighted" areas of the city. Within the blighted areas, 45,000 houses were classified as substandard. Another 18,000 structures were classified as dilapidated. One-third of the city's population lived in these homes. In order to stimulate growth in the city, the city government embarked on a plan of urban renewal. In 1951 a 27 block area of East Baltimore was selected for a pilot study in this program.

By 1959 the city had purchased all of Block 1633, which included Site 18BC111. The entire block was leveled and lay empty until 1961 when it was purchased by the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The block was turned into a parking lot for the hospital. Eventually, two multi-storey parking garages were placed on the eastern half of the block and Maryland Hospital Laundry was built in the southeast corner of the block. The western half of the block, which contains the site, was used as a parking lot between 1961 and the summer of 1995.

The site was first investigated archeologically in June of 1995. At that time, Phase I and II archeological testing was carried out throughout the then extant parking lot to satisfy legal requirement for the planned construction of a new Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Cancer Care Center. Because construction of the new cancer center involved state bond monies, the project area was reviewed for the existence of cultural resources by the Maryland Historical Trust pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, subsections 5-617 and 5-618, and archeological work was deemed warranted.

Phase I and II work was carried out in June and August of 1995 respectively, but little is known about the methods employed or the results of the research. The work was carried out by the Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology (BCUA), which was defunct only a few months later. Final reports are not known to exist, though an interim Phase III report (for work completed from September 1995-July 1996) provides a limited amount of data on the Phase I/II project and slightly more on the subsequent Phase III excavations. A National Register Internal Eligibility Review form provides some additional data. The extant collections, excavation notes, and other materials from the excavation produced by BCUA were eventually provided to the Maryland Historical Society.



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Phase I work appears to have been primarily archival in nature with some preliminary field reconnaissance. Phase II work consisted of some form of mechanical trenching. The trench excavations determined that the site contains intact resources representing the block's historic occupation and use from the late 18th through early 20th centuries. The site's components include portions of the Christ Church and Potter's Field cemeteries and the remains of subsequent residential occupation from the mid-19th-early 20th centuries. Testing demonstrated that portions of the site include intact cultural features and deposits related to these components. Test trenches identified thirty-seven burial shafts, including several brick vaults, with varying degrees of preservation ranging from good to poor. In addition, the project area contained numerous intact features and deposits (including structural foundations, privies, intact yard deposits) related to its residential uses. Based on these findings Phase III data recovery was recommended and was carried out from September 1995 until July of 1996.

During the course of the Phase III investigation 180 non-burial features were defined and recorded and 832 grave shafts were identified, recorded and excavated. Four hundred and thirty-nine of these burials contained human remains.

The study area was sub-divided into 5 areas (Sections I-V) for field analysis. All five sections were stripped mechanically to a depth just above the coffins within the grave shafts as determined during Phase II testing and observations in the field. All mechanical stripping was monitored by BCUA personnel. Stripping was done with a Gradall in Sections I through V, but in Section V, a backhoe was also employed. All soil and fill removed from the site by mechanical stripping was disposed of off-site. None of it was sifted through screens. Distinct strata identified during Phase II testing were "grab-sampled" in Sections I, II, and III. Grab-sampling is a technique in which soil is rapidly sorted with a trowel. Temporally diagnostic artifacts noted during this sorting were retained for analysis. Features identified in Sections I through IV were also grab-sampled. None of the features identified in Section V were grab-sampled.

Once an area was stripped mechanically, it was cleaned by hand using hoes, shovels, and trowels. Hand cleaning was done in order to delineate clearly the edges of grave shafts and features. Each grave shaft was mapped and drawn to scale, and tied to the grid established during Phase II testing. A written description of the physical characteristics of each grave shaft was made which included shape, Munsell value, soil type, and description of any disturbance to the shaft (such as trash pit and privy intrusions). Only a representative sample of the grave shaft surfaces were photographed, since we felt that the information collected in this manner became redundant after the first one hundred graves had been excavated.

Although excavation of each individual grave shaft had the potential to provide data concerning approximate date of interment (and possibly the season), the time limits imposed by the construction schedule did not allow for this. Approximately 30.5 cm (1 ft) of shaft fill was left above each burial in Section I. However, only a few of the shafts were grab-sampled. An even smaller number of these shafts were screened. The percentage of shafts treated in this manner did not provide a statistically valid sample of artifacts. Shaft fill lying over the burials in Sections II, III, and IV was generally less than 30.5 cm in depth. None of the grave shafts in Section V were grab-sampled.

In Sections I through III only those burials containing individuals in fair to excellent states of preservation were completely excavated by the archeologists. The head and pelvic regions of the body were opened first in order to determine the state of preservation for each burial. These sections of the body were selected as the target areas because of their utility in determining the age and sex of the individuals. Burials which contained individuals whose head and pelvic regions were in a poor state of preservation, or which were empty, were not excavated further by the archeologists. Once it was ascertained that the remains offered little in the way of osteological study, excavation of the burial was stopped and the remains were removed by a funeral home in Baltimore for reburial elsewhere.

In Sections IV and V, most of the grave shafts opened by the archeologists which contained human remains were retained for osteological study regardless of preservation. The limited amount of time available during excavation of these sections did not allow researchers to be as selective about preservation quality as had been the case during the excavations in Sections I through III. Certain areas within Section IV were selected for intensive archeological investigation, since preservation in adjacent areas of Sections I through III had been good. Other areas in Section IV which were adjacent to areas of Sections I through III with poor preservation were immediately assigned to the funeral home for exhumation. Selection of grave shafts for archeological excavation in Section V was based on the surface appearance of the shaft. Those grave shafts not selected for archeological excavation were assigned to the funeral home for exhumation and eventual reburial. The reburied remains from the site were reinterred at Oak Lawn Cemetery on Eastern Avenue in Baltimore.

During archeological excavation of the human remains from intact burials, flotation and chemical soil samples were retained. No results have been reported from the analysis of these samples. A total of 158 sets of human remains from burials were retained for osteological analysis. These burials were transferred to an osteologist at the Catholic University of America, with one year allotted for study before reburial at the Oak Lawn Cemetery. The status of this analysis and the planned reburials is not reported in the interim report available at MHT.

Non-burial features located during mechanical stripping were numbered, mapped to scale, and tied in the site grid. A feature form with a written description of the feature's physical characteristics was completed for each individual feature. These descriptions included the shape, Munsell value, and soil type of the feature, as well as a description of feature function (if known) and any disturbance to the feature. Only features which were excavated were photographed. A plan drawing of each feature was done as part of the overall site map. Artifacts were grab-sampled from within features during mechanical stripping and from exposed surfaces after mechanical stripping was completed. Two non-burial features (a well/cistern and a privy) were excavated during Phase III mitigation of Sections I through III. None were excavated in Sections IV or V. The excavated well/cistern and privy were each bisected and excavated stratigraphically. The well/cistern excavation was terminated at 30.5 cm below the level of mechanical stripping because it was deemed hazardous to dig further due to the threat of inward collapse. The privy feature was also terminated prematurely, but due to time constraints rather than safety considerations.

Field investigations of Sections I through V identified 832 grave shafts and 180 non-burial features. A little more than half of the grave shafts (52% of 430) were located within the "Old" Potter's Field portion of the site. Another 46% (387 grave shafts) were identified within the Christ Church burial ground portion of the site. The remaining 2% (15) were ultimately determined to be non-burials (8) or, were destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Opal in October of 1995 (3) or by bulldozer during excavation of Section V (1). Three grave shafts identified during Phase II or III work could not be relocated for excavation at later dates.

Within the Potter's Field, 332 (77%) of the 430 grave shafts were determined to be associated with adult burials (either due to the size of the grave shaft or preliminary analysis of human remains). The remaining 98 (23%) of the 430 grave shafts in the Potter's Field were identified as child burials (including infants, prepubescent children, and adolescents). The majority of the children (80% or 78 burials) were buried in two separate children's areas of the burial ground. One was located in the northwest corner of Section I and contained 54 burials, the other was located in the center of Section IV and contained 24 burials. One of the child burials in this section was placed in the same grave shaft as an adult burial. The remaining 20 children's burials were located throughout the Potter's Field. The coffins used in burials in the Potter's Field appeared to be rather Spartan, with coffin hardware consisting entirely of nails.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC111

Site Name: Hampstead Hill Cem & Rowhouses

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Hampstead Hills

Historic

Brief Description:

late 18th-mid-19th century cemetery, mid-19th to early 20th century brick rowhouses

Unknown

Phase III mitigation in Christ Church burial ground identified 387 grave shafts. In 1855, as part of the subdivision of the burial ground into building lots, the Vestry of Christ Church and the descendants of individuals buried in the burial ground agreed to exhumation and reburial (see above). However, not all the burials were removed. Overall, 63% (245) of the burials were removed, but 142 burials (37%) were left behind. Of these 142 burials, 120 were classified as adults and 22 were classified as children. Of the previously exhumed burials, 186 appeared to be exhumed adults based on the size of the grave shafts. Unlike burials within the Potter's Field, several burials in Christ Church yielded coffin hardware other than nails (hinges, latches, inner wood liners, interior cloth linings (as evidences by tacks), traces of gold plating, etc.)

The layout of burials in the two burial grounds contrasted sharply. In the Potter's Field, graves were placed in regimented rows. In the Christ Church burial ground, the graves were placed in rows within family groupings or plots. In the Potter's Field 80% of the children were buried in one of the two separate children's sections. These children generally were buried within individual grave shafts. In Christ Church the children were placed in the same family plot or group as the adults (i.e. there was no special section set apart for children).

Another noted difference between the two graveyards was the use of some brick-lined vaults and shafts in the Christ Church graveyard. Such burial receptacles were often used to thwart would-be grave robbers, who were interested in procuring bodies for medical dissection. The location of the Christ Church burial ground next to the new Maryland Hospital may have been cause for concern among some of the families burying their dead there. Beginning in 1818, and continuing through at least the 1820s, the doctors at Maryland Hospital gave lectures to students and these may have involved cadaver dissection. Nine grave vaults were used at the Christ Church burial ground.

Several fragments of tombstones were also recovered at the Christ Church burial ground and some identify individuals by name. These are detailed in the aforementioned interim report.

The most frequently encountered non-burial features were postholes (51 or 28% of all features). Most of these were associated with boundary markers for the two burial grounds. Overall, 43% of the non-burial features were associated with the rowhouses. Trash pits (29) and privies (21) accounted for 28% of all features. These were associated with the rowhouses on Broadway, Orleans, Jefferson, McCubbin, and Register Streets. The trash pits were circular or square and frequently had trash, coal, or ash lying on their surfaces. The privies were square or rectangular and were wood-lined. Only one privy was excavated: a privy associated with the rowhouse at 1705 Jefferson Street, occupied by Jewish families for at least 50 years. Seven cisterns or wells were also discovered, associated with buildings on Broadway, Jefferson, and Orleans Streets. One of these was partially excavated, but it is not known which household it was associated with. Other features associated with the rowhouses included a brick support pier, two barrels, 7 rowhouse foundation walls, and 9 slag/coal/charcoal heaps. Twentieth century features encountered during Phase III excavation included 9 utility lines, 9 trenches, and 6 storm drains. The remaining features were 26 unidentified features, 2 amorphous-shaped pits, and a rodent burrow.

Site 18BC111 was clearly a significant archeological resource. Unfortunately, the circumstance of excavation did not present an ideal environment for proper documentation of the site. The collapse of the BCUA occurred simultaneous to the very complex and sensitive excavation of this site. The extant collections, field notes, and incomplete analyses associated with the site (which were ultimately provided to the Maryland Historical Society) are the best avenue for future research. The site itself has now been largely destroyed.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

18BC111 SF