



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC137

Site Name: Rice Baking Company

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early 20th century industrial complex ruin

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.2891 Longitude -76.6034  
Elevation 7 m Site slope

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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

Spring

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 900 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

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  baking com

### 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

industrial,

## 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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC137

Site Name: Rice Baking Company

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early 20th century industrial complex ruin

## 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	10	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	3	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	92	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	37	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	61	Pearlware	217			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 type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input 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

Series of features associated with a 20th century commercial complex

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	516	Activity item(s)	3
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	135	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	5	Misc.	18
Personal items	6	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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input 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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC137

Site Name: Rice Baking Company

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

early 20th century industrial complex ruin

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Rice Baking Company or "Mechanics Court South" (18BC137) is the ruin of an early 20th century industrial complex in a neighborhood north of the Inner Harbor in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. The site is situated within the former right-of-way (ROW) for Mechanic's Court within Baltimore's Old Town area, immediately east of the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83). 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.

The area of the site was originally partitioned into lots during the mid-18th century. Federal direct tax return in 1798 and Baltimore City tax assessment records also had demonstrated that some lots, principally along Bridge (originally Gay) street, had been developed by the end of the 18th century, although the exact locations of these buildings could not be ascertained.

Mechanics Court, originally an alleyway known as "Mechanical Street" that connected High and Front streets, was in existence by the second decade of the 19th century. Until 1812, this area was owned by Jacob Stansbury who, together with his brother-in-law and business partner, John Edwards, controlled virtually all of the block bounded by Gay (or Bridge), High, Hillen, and Front streets. Stansbury willed his property within this block, which already had been subdivided, to his four siblings, William, Abraham, John, and Elizabeth and/or their heirs. Abraham's children subsequently sued the other three to gain possession of specific lots that had been assigned to their father.

Depositions and exhibits filed in connection with the case included a copy of Jacob Stansbury's will, which listed all the lots he owned in the area. These lot descriptions not only provided significant information about the configuration of the block, they also suggested that development of individual parcels had begun. The metes and bounds of 13 individual parcels all included frontage on Mechanical Street. One Mechanical Street parcel had been developed with a brick dwelling and 7 others already had been rented to tenants. Tenants for the lots on Mechanical Street included William Massey, Benjamin Meeds, James Nelson, Runyon Harris, Benjamin Watters, and Daniel Hutchins (an African American).

By 1824, both the configuration of the lots in the area and the ownership of the parcels within it had begun to change. Mechanical Street had become Mechanics Court, suggesting that development of the Bull Head Tavern property to the west (see synopsis report for 18BC139) may have closed the alleyway's outlet to Front Street. The Stansbury heirs had begun to sell their Mechanics Court properties. A mixture of owner-occupied and tenant-occupied dwellings characterized the area. Ethnically, the number of African-Americans living in the block appears to have declined.

By 1837, the Stansbury family had disposed of nearly all of the parcels along Mechanics Court. Baltimore City tax records for 1845 indicate that the population of the alley had increased substantially. Most of the dwellings along the south side of Mechanics Court stood until ca. 1914 when Sanborn Maps of the area show that expansion of the Rice Baking Company complex resulted in their demolition.

The site was first investigated beginning in 1996 as part of a combined Phase I, II, and III archeological investigation undertaken at the site of a new Juvenile Justice Center in Baltimore, MD. The site of the (then) proposed Baltimore Juvenile Justice Center encompassed two heavily developed blocks which encompassed Site 18BC137. A total of eight archeological sites were the subject of the investigation at the Phase I/II level of inquiry. At 18BC137, investigations only rose to the Phase II level. These investigations were required under the terms of Section 83-B, Paragraphs 6-517 and 5-618, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and pursuant to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement concluded between the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

In order to locate sites, fieldwork initially employed the mechanical removal of overlying modern features or surfaces, followed by the excavation of 5 m long mechanized trenches to assess stratigraphy and site integrity of the underlying deposits. The size of trenches were sometimes altered to better delineate features and to accommodate conditions in the field.

At 18BC137 a single mechanized trench was initially placed across the site to sample the cultural remains of the area south of the former ROW of Mechanics Court. Portions of the stratigraphic profile in the trench exhibited partially intact stratigraphic development. Removal of asphalt paving and its gravel base revealed a partially disturbed and pitted Ao horizon containing architectural debris and gravel, but beneath this (in places) was what appeared to be a relatively intact A1 horizon. Cultural materials recovered from a volumetric sample of the Ao/A1 horizons at the extreme northwestern end of the trench encompassed a temporal range that extended from the early to mid-18th century through the 20th century. This prompted researchers to further expose the Ao/A1 horizons with the mechanical excavation of a 7.62 X 6.62 m (25 X 25 ft) area, followed by the selective testing of features and exposed surfaces subsequently encountered within both mechanically excavated areas.

Stratigraphy within the mechanically excavated units was recorded on excavation unit sheets, utilizing standard pedological nomenclature and Munsell readings. Stratigraphy and features within each unit were also drawn in plan and profile (as appropriate) and were photographed in both black and white and color. To reduce the potential for Phase I sampling bias, a uniform 15-gallon volumetric sample was recovered from each mechanically excavated natural/cultural stratum. These soils were screened through hardware mesh and all cultural materials recovered from this procedure were retained for analysis.

A total of 7 cultural features (builder's trenches, pits, portions of a brick wall, and portions of a poured concrete pad) were identified during the combined Phase I/II project at 18BC137. Collectively, these features consist of a disarticulated complex of brick, stone, and concrete features that represented foundations and floor surfaces of one or more buildings associated with an early 20th century commercial bakery: the Rice Baking Company. This commercial complex was constructed prior to 1914. The cultural materials recovered from all strata of the associated deposits and the excavated features yielded terminus post quem of 1898 or later, thus demonstrating the 20th century origin of both features and deposits.

However, functional analysis of these same deposits also indicated that the majority of materials were domestic in origin, rather than those that might be expected from a modern industrial or commercial site. The full assemblage consisted of 3 activity items, 135 architectural artifacts, 5 clothing objects, 1 furniture item, 516 kitchen/domestic ceramics (including 3 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 61 creamware sherds, 217 pearlware sherds, 14 Chinese export porcelain, 23 other porcelain sherds, 10 ironstone sherds, 92 whiteware sherds, 61 redware sherds, and 35 stoneware sherds), 6 personal objects, and 18 miscellaneous objects. Materials related to food preparation, service, and storage (represented by ceramics, glass, and faunal remains) overwhelmingly



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC137

Site Name: Rice Baking Company

Prehistoric 

Other name(s)

Historic Brief  
Description:

early 20th century industrial complex ruin

Unknown 

dominated the assemblages in both test units. Moreover, analysis of the ware types contained within the combined ceramic sub-assemblages from all contexts within the two mechanized units showed that ware types clearly characteristic of the 18th to early 19th centuries comprised a large portion of the diagnostic materials recovered. Clearly, the architectural features of the 20th century bakery had intruded into the disturbed deposits that represented an early to middle 19th century occupation level. Because no structural features could be linked directly to these earlier deposits, the deposits were interpreted as a sheet midden, possibly associated with early residential lot development along the south side of Mechanics Court.

The features in both test units were overlain and surrounded by a series of fill horizons that contained modern building debris and early 19th century artifacts. These features were disarticulated and did not form an identifiable, intact structural entity. While some items within the artifact assemblage may have derived from earlier occupation or use of Mechanics Court, no intact features or strata were identified. Hence, the Rice Baking Company site lacked integrity and cannot be considered a significant archeological resource.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

97000183