



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC17

Site Name: Robert Long House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

mid-18th-19th century brick house, 20th century commercial building

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2769

Longitude -76.5812

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 5 m

Site slope 0-5%

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
- Made land

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Northwest Branch of Patap

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimum distance to water is 9 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

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

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

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

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban

Domestic

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

Industrial

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

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

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

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mtn	<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 Cr	<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-bodie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	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

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Human remain(s)	<input 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"/> 3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC (2003.032.001)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Robert Long House (18BC17) consists of a mid 18th-19th century brick house and 20th century commercial building in downtown Baltimore. The site is situated at 812 S. Ann Street within the National Register Historic District of the Fells Point section of Baltimore. It lies near the waterfront of the northwest branch of the Patapsco River, just across Thames Street from the wharves that have existed there since the early 18th century. Most of the area surrounding the site is heavily developed. 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.

Site 18BC17 is situated within City Lot 145, which was later subdivided into multiple properties. The lot extended from Thames Street (originally called George Street) on the south to Lancaster Street (originally Lancaster Alley) on the north. The lot was platted to John Bond and Edward Fell in 1763.

In 1765, John Bond, the attorney representing landowner Edward Fell, leased all of Lots 76, 144, and 145 to a merchant named Robert Long for an annual ground rent. Long had come to Fells Point in 1763 seeking property, and soon built himself a house on Lot 145, as stipulated in his lease. Lot 76, which lay to the south of the other lots, was across George (Thames) Street along the waterfront. Long soon built a wharf and a brick warehouse there.

Little is known of Robert Long's origins, other than the fact that he first came to Baltimore in 1763. He may have been from Pennsylvania based on some of the characteristics of the home he built on Lot 145, the fact that many early Fells Point residents came from Philadelphia or Chester, PA, and the mention of £500 "Pennsylvania money" in one of the early Long deeds. Pennsylvania money appears in other deeds for the area and may have been a common currency in Fells Point.

In 1770, Long had some financial trouble and mortgaged all three of his Fells Point lots to Sara Brice of Anne Arundel County for £500 sterling. As the original leases for Lots 144 and 145 cannot be located, this mortgage document provides the first extant property descriptions for these lots. Long's fortunes seem to have been on a downturn, as him soon became indebted to Thomas Ewing and Samuel Brown for £1,089. The sheriff of Baltimore seized Lot 76 as payment for the debt in June 1771, and it was sold that fall to Ebenezer Makie for £1,000. Long kept Lots 144 and 145.

By 1774, Robert Long had attained sufficient wealth to leave the merchant class and call himself a gentleman. Toward the end of that year, Long made preparations to marry a widow named Mary Fitzsimmons Norwood. In a deed of trust made 10 December 1774, he placed the entirety of Lot 145, including its buildings, household contents, and slaves, in trust for his intended bride. The deed stated that if Long were to leave the marriage, Mary would receive all of the household furnishings and £500 Pennsylvania money. The couple married soon afterward. Mary brought two children from her first marriage (John and Mary Norwood) into the home.

During the Revolutionary War, Robert Long appears to have been involved with the Continental cause. In early 1780, the Commissioners of Baltimore Town wrote the Governor of Maryland that Long was familiar with the countryside around Baltimore and had offered his assistance in their search for wheat, flour, horse, and wagons to supply the Continental Army. Long also partnered with another Fells Point businessman, General Mordecai Gist, to purchase properties that had been confiscated from Tory sympathizers. In 1781, Gist and Long purchased Lot 76, which Long had been forced to sell to Ebenezer Makie in 1771. Makie, a Tory, fled Maryland during the war. The same year, Gist and Long bought 1,106 acres of confiscated property that had been part of the Principio Iron Company.

After buying the Principio lands in 1781, Robert Long sold his house on Ann Street and moved to another property he owned on the Philadelphia Road near Herring Run in Baltimore County. The family now included Elizabeth Long who was born between 1775 and 1782 when her mother made a last will. Mary Norwood Long (Robert Long's wife) died in 1783, leaving most of her own property to her two older children, John and Mary Norwood.

Following his wife's death, Robert Long was married a second time, to a woman named Sarah. The presence of another Robert Long in Baltimore results in some confusion as to Sarah's full name and the date of the marriage. A marriage was recorded between Robert Long and Sarah Wilson on 4 May, 1784, and another Robert Long marriage to Sarah Carnaghan was recorded on 11 October 1797. In any case, Robert and Sarah Long's marriage produced at least two children by late 1799, sons Robert and William Long.

Other than Robert Long's own home on Ann Street at Site 18BC17, there were no houses on Lot 145 by 1781. However, on 10 November, 1781, Robert Long assigned the eastern third of Lot 144 and all of Lot 145 to William Travers for £1,200. The property was also subject to an annual ground rent of £4, 10 shillings. Three years later, Travers subdivided and began selling off portions of Lot 145. Many of the portions went to his children. The prices of the various lots indicate that there were no buildings on any of the parcels except that containing the former Long House. Despite the fact that several purchasers were members of the Travers family, they appear to have paid market rate for the properties. Travers also was described as a "gentleman" in one transaction.

On an unknown date in early 1784, William Travers sold the former Robert Long house to Matthew and Henry Travers for £600, plus a token two-pence ground rent. Matthew and Henry may have been William's sons. The property began on Ann Street, 54 ft. north of its intersection with George Street. It ran 56 ft. north and then west 60 ft. to the edge of Lot 144. Lot 145 was further subdivided in the years shortly thereafter. One of the subdivisions, the creation of 1738 Thames Street, contained a 20 inch wide segment of the Robert Long House's south chimney stack. This chimney stack became the property of the John McCallister, who then used it to vent the family's fireplaces when they constructed their home. The Travers family had to build a new internal chimney to service fireplaces on that side of the house.

The remainder of Lot 145 north of the former Long house was sold by Travers to Amely (Amelia) Travers on 3 January, 1785 for £300, plus £3 annual ground rent. This property fronted 90 ft. on Ann Street and 60 ft. west from Ann Street on Lancaster Alley. This section was later subdivided further into 4 ½ building lots along Ann Street. The half lot was later conjoined with part of the Robert Long House property to construct 808 S. Ann Street. No buildings were ever constructed fronting on Lancaster Street, as houses along the northern portion of the Ann Street frontage had full 60 ft. deep rear yards.

Sanborn fire insurance maps as well as Baltimore city directories from the late 19th through the 20th century suggest that the Robert Long House was used for both residential and commercial activities at varying points over the decades. In 1973, Cigarette Service, Inc. sold the property to the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill, Montgomery Street, and Fells Point for an undisclosed amount. Under the Preservation Society's ownership, the house was



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Unknown

restored to its original appearance and became the society's headquarters. A visitor's center was constructed at 808 South Ann, and a courtyard created at 810 South Ann, replacing a concrete block shop building that had been erected there.

The Robert Long House (18BC17) was excavated in the late 1970s and early 1980s by members of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM), a group of amateur archeologists. The property at 810 Ann Street, the garden just north of the Robert Long House, may have been excavated at the same time by the ASM. The property at 808 Ann Street has probably not been excavated archeologically. It is completely occupied by the Preservation Society visitor's center. No formal report was ever written for these excavations.

In 2001, an attempt was made to assess previously conducted archeological work at historic properties in the Fells Point area of Baltimore. The ASM work of the 1970s at 18BC17 was included in this study.

The review of previous work was conducted to assess the archeological potential of the area prior to planned renovations to several properties by the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fells Point (hereafter the Preservation Society). These properties (including 18BC17) are under easements to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), thus the necessity for archeological evaluation prior to any development that could potentially compromise any archeological deposits. With respect to 18BC17, this work entailed reviewing the newsletter of the ASM, newspaper articles published at the time of these excavations, and locating brief reports concerning the excavations. Several attempts were also made to contact people associated with ASM who worked on the Robert Long House project, but these efforts were unsuccessful.

The work in the 1970s and 1980s entailed excavation both within the Robert Long House, as well as within the rear yard and garden of the house as well as in the basement of the house itself. It is uncertain whether the garden north of the house was ever excavated.

Excavations in the basement of the house were conducted by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Central Chapter. Apparently, an attempt was made to conduct a scientific, methodical excavation. The basement was divided into 91 cm (3 ft) test squares, numbered on a grid system, and the layers in each unit were numbered. The artifacts were marked according to the square and layer in which they were found. No field records were located in the Preservations Society's files or at MHT.

The deep fill discovered in the Robert Long House is evidence of the long history of adding fill to basements in Fells Point. In the late 18th century and all through the 19th century, the residents of Fells Point were advised to fill their basements. Most of the basements and cellars in Fells Point had water leakage problems and were very damp, conditions thought to cause yellow fever. Doctors of the period did not know what actually caused the fever, but had noticed that residents of higher, dryer parts of Baltimore did not catch yellow fever as often as the people of Fells Point did. Some of the basements had deposits added several times, raising the floor level in some cases to within 3 or 4 ft. of the ceiling.

The fill recovered in the basements in Fells Point are secondary deposits. This fill may have been re-deposited sheet midden from the yards around the houses or from vacant lots nearby. It may have been carted in from out of town, although this is unlikely. Because one cannot be sure where the fill came from, one cannot attribute the artifacts recovered to the families that lived in the house. Nevertheless, the artifacts are a good representation of the material culture of Fells Point in the 18th and 19th centuries.

An ASM newsletter stated that in 1976 the ASM excavated 2.13 m (7 ft) down into the fill and had encountered two layers of brick floor in the basement. The upper level of brick floor may have been put in during the Laake Family's ownership in the third quarter of the 19th century. This brick floor was dated by an 1869 penny found in the bedding sand for the bricks. Most of the artifacts were found between the second level of brick floor and the original basement floor surface.

The artifacts found inside the basement of the Robert Long House are typical of 18th and early 19th century sites and represent a number of different activities. Artifacts relating to kitchen activities and food consumption included ceramics (Chinese porcelain, salt-glazed stoneware, shell-edged and transfer-printed earthenwares), a tea caddy lid, a porcelain baby feeder, tea and coffee cup fragments, and table and bottle glass. Clay pipe fragments and gun flints relate to adult activities, such as smoking and hunting, while marbles, slate pencils, and a domino suggest the presence of children.

Women's and girl's activities, such as sewing, are represented by the buttons, thimbles and scissors that were found. A number of coins were found including a 1787 Connecticut penny, a 1793 federal penny, an 1869 penny, and several foreign coins. A bone toothbrush, a fossilized shark's tooth, and a cannon ball were also found.

Excavations by the ASM were also conducted in the yard behind the Robert Long House in an attempt to uncover evidence of outbuildings. This excavation took place in November of 1981. Two trenches were excavated, one east to west, and one north to south. The trenches were approximately 1.22 m (4 ft) wide by 1.83 m (6 ft) deep and totaled over 21.3 linear meters (70 ft). The soil from the excavation was not screened, although artifacts were collected. The purpose of the excavation was to reveal the original yard surface and uncover soil stains that might indicate the location of outbuildings. One of the features found was a barrel privy that dated to ca. 1900. There is no evidence the remains of any other outbuildings were found.

The construction and renovation proposed by the Preservation Society included relocating air conditioning units and possibly running underground lines to the Robert Long House and to 1732 Thames Street. The extant concrete pad for the air conditioning units was to be removed. This work would have an impact on the rear yard of the house, in areas that had not been previously examined by ASM. A concerted effort to locate someone with ASM who knew precisely where trenches were situated in 1981 was undertaken. An informant was located who was able to provide guidance so that the 1981 trenches could be re-excavated and used to run the utility lines for the air conditioning apparatus to avoid disturbing any remaining archeological deposits.

This property and the yard to the north (810 S. Ann Street) have been used for domestic and commercial purposes since the late 18th century. The kinds of archeological resources that may exist include evidence of outbuildings associated with the occupation of the Robert Long House, such as an additional privy, a well, or a shed for keeping animals. The yard to the north had been the location of a blacksmith shop and a brass working facility. There may be archeological evidence of these occupations or of later businesses on the site. Site 18BC17 and the adjoining property at 810 S. Ann warrants testing before any future ground disturbing activities take place and should be monitored during construction or renovation activities that might disturb buried resources.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001185