



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC21

Site Name: John Feast Botanical Garden

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Feast

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early-late 19th century botanical garden/florist commercial building and hothouse

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2867

Longitude -76.6324

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 20 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

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 1402 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

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

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
- 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  other industr
- 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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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			
Pottery (all)	703	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	176	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	47	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	60
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	75
		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input 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

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The John Feast Botanical Garden is an early-late 19th century botanical garden, hot house, and florist's shop in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. The site is situated near the intersection of West Lexington Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. 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.

In 1830, John Feast (a horticulturalist of English origin who had been in partnership with his brother Samuel at an establishment on Frederick Road) moved to 295 West Lexington. There he sublet from Joseph Turner Jr. and boarded for 9 months with Mauldine Perine. The garden Feast established on the site was one of the largest and most varied then extant in the United States. Besides collecting plants, Feast bred new plants and imported plants and trees from abroad. In 1878 the American Farmer called him, "the sole remaining representative of the early days of floriculture, the father, indeed, of the plant trade".

Feast eventually bought the 70 X 125 foot lot which he had sublet on Lexington adjacent to the Perine/Linton Pottery. In the 1866 tax roll, Feast's complex consisted of storehouses and a stable in addition to the three storey brick building fronting on Lexington. An 1876 atlas of the area shows a hothouse on the property. In December of 1876, he deeded the property to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. In 1882 he moved his horticultural establishment to German Road. By the time of the first archeological investigation of Feast's Botanical Garden in 1977, all of the buildings had been demolished and the site had been paved with asphalt for a parking lot.

The site was examined archeologically in 1977 prior to construction of City Boulevard (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) in Baltimore. On the basis of documentary evidence that suggested three locations in the impact area might contain cultural resources of significance to the archeology of Baltimore City, the staff of the Interstate Division for Baltimore City Corridor Survey conducted preliminary examinations of each locale. Site 18BC21 was one of the locations investigated. The sites were evaluated for their potential significance and inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Initial testing of the easternmost portion of the site, where the asphalt was somewhat broken up, revealed fill in the basement of the easternmost portion of what was once #291 West Lexington. The remainder of the excavation was conducted in backhoe trenches, where asphalt could be removed by machine. A backhoe cut into the front basement revealed that much of the foundation of Feast's brick building had been destroyed when the buildings were demolished. The original soil, an orange-tan sand, was encountered 125 cm below the modern surface. The basement flooring proved to have been completely removed during demolition of the structure. Thus, no further testing was done in the front basements. A portion of the rear basement was exposed in another trench, where there was a series of basement floors without significant cultural remains.

The most productive areas of the site were situated to the north. One trench penetrated the front and rear basements of a house fronting on Pin Alley. The lowest basement level in the north end of this trench contained a thin dark layer in which fragments of redware were visible in the wall of the backhoe cut. A corresponding level was not located in the southern portion of the trench, however, a series of floors were also found there.

The northwestern-most trench was located in a portion of the site where historic maps showed no structures. Below a trench for a narrow pipe leading toward Pin Alley were several layers representing old soil surfaces. These soil surfaces appear to represent sealed layers which might be expected to contain remains of Feast's horticultural activities. Fragments of redware flowerpots were found in these layers.

Artifacts recovered during the 1977 excavations included 47 architectural items, 176 glass container fragments, 122 refined ceramic sherds, 203 stoneware and other utilitarian pottery sherds, 378 redware sherds, 60 food remains, 32 unidentified metal fragments, and 43 other objects.

It appears that demolition of the brick dwellings along Lexington destroyed any chance of finding in situ remains of Feast's florist business or domestic activities in that part of the site. The lack of refuse in the basement layers at the rear of #291 West Lexington suggests that trash may not have been disposed of in the building. This is in contrast to rather abundant refuse in the trenches to the north. The Pin Alley buildings and the open area between them and the Lexington Street buildings seem to offer the only possibility of recovering remains attributable to Feast's garden. The relatively high percentage of unglazed redware (i.e. flowerpot sherds), in fact the most frequent category of artifact recovered, is suggestive. However, nothing marked with Feast's name was found, nor was anything datable precisely to the period of his occupancy recovered.

Because material culture was encountered at 18BC21 that might be tied to Feast's occupation, the original excavators recommended additional work at the site. It appears that the plans for the construction of City Boulevard (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard), as designed in 1977, were ultimately determined to have an insignificant impact on the sensitive areas of the site, and construction was allowed to proceed without further work. Much of the site is now paved as the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, however, intact deposits may be preserved in unpaved parts of the site. Its current research potential is unknown.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005594