



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC218

Site Name: Old Otterbein

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Old Otterbein United Methodist Church; B-11

Historic

Brief Description:

Late 18th century standing brick church and cemetery; Middle-to-Late Archaic lithic scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 44UC

Latitude 39.2889

Longitude -76.6139

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-15%

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) Patapsco River, Northwest

- | 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 430 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

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 prehistoric 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

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 N

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	0
Clovis	<input type="text"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>	Susquehana	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>	Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>	Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>	Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>	Levanna	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	0	Keyser	<input type="text"/>	0
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	0	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>	0
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	0	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>	0
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	0	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>	0
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>	0			
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>	0			
				Potomac Crk	<input type="text"/>	0			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	2	Staffordshire	0	Stoneware		
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text"/>	0	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text"/>	16	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	<input type="text"/>	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text"/>	2	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	<input type="text"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text"/>				Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
	29		73				Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	0	
Flaked stone	<input type="text"/>	52	Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>		Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>		Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/>	1	Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/>	0	Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>	0	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>	0	Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	0	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>		Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>		Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>		Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>		Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>			
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>			
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>			

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="text"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	0	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text"/>	211	Activity item(s)	<input type="text"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="text"/>	470	Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Architectural	<input type="text"/>	612	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="text"/>	0	Misc. kitchen	<input type="text"/>
Arms	<input type="text"/>	0	Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Clothing	<input type="text"/>	7	Misc.	<input type="text"/>
Personal items	<input type="text"/>	9	Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

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

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: 0 +/- 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 Lab (yet to be accessioned)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18BC218, also known as the Old Otterbein Site, is a multi-component site with a late 18th century standing brick church and cemetery, a middle-to-Late Archaic lithic scatter. It is located in Baltimore City, Maryland and contains several buildings, gardens, landscaped/mowed grass, and a courtyard. Soils on site are urban, 0-15% slope.

The land on which the church currently sits was first procured on August 7, 1771 by members of the German Evangelical Reformed Church in Baltimore City for the purposes of building a new church. Interestingly, the deed notes specific members of the congregation instead of trustees or the church itself. This is believed to have been purposely done so that the congregation would have control over the property, rather than the German Reformed Church as an entity.

Upon securing several lots of land on Conway Street at Howard's Hill, "a frame house sufficient for the immediate needs of the congregation was built soon after the purchase of the ground" (Berger 1897). Philip Wilhelm Otterbein, a German immigrant for whom the church was later named after, assumed leadership of the congregation on May 4, 1774 after leaving his post in York, Pennsylvania. During his tenure as leader of the church he was known as Father Otterbein or Mr. Otterbein; he was posthumously named a bishop to put him on equal footing with the Methodist Church Bishops.

The current standing sanctuary was designed and built by Jacob Small, Sr., a local carpenter, between 1785 -1786. According to church documents, the church was built partly on the foundation of the original church and extended into the graveyard, known as the "God's Acre". The Otterbein God's Acre was used for burials for the first 54 years of the church's use until it became crowded; two additional cemetery lots in the city were used by the Otterbein congregation after this.

Along with the church, a parsonage was built to house Bishop Otterbein. He was attended by Miss Elizabeth Schwope, and Miss Elizabeth Drucks, who according to his will, was "now living with my family"; this implies that Bishop Otterbein did not live alone, though who all lived within the parsonage is not apparent.

Although the exact location of this parsonage has never been determined, it is described in documentation as a four-room cottage, "close to the street, in front of where the present parsonage stands. Mr. Otterbein's study was on the side of the house next to the church". Additionally, a garden and a barn "where he kept his cow" were also on site (Drury 1884). Church oral history states that there was one instance when Bishop Otterbein fell ill, and he preached through the window of his cottage into the sanctuary. This would indicate that the cottage was located very close to the sanctuary.

Bishop Otterbein was known for living a simple life. The parsonage was described as "plainly furnished" but "scrupulously clean". In addition to tending to his garden, he was noted as having a large library and enjoyed smoking. Drury (1884) notes that he wrote very little, limited to letters and records of his work. He also noted that Reverend John Hildt claimed that Bishop Otterbein purposefully destroyed his own papers about one year before his death, resulting in few existing examples of his writings. More of his writings have recently been discovered at Drew University in New Jersey, though they have yet to be translated.

In 1811, a new parsonage was constructed. However, Bishop Otterbein purportedly continued staying in his cottage. He directed that the new parsonage should be rented out, with the money given to the poor. He stayed in the cottage until he died on November 7, 1813.

After his death, the cottage was torn down and the yard landscaped over. An 1882 map of Baltimore shows what appears to be the new parsonage behind the church, but with no other buildings in the area between it and the church. After his death in 1813, Bishop Otterbein was buried at the church's "God's acre", between the church and Conway Street. Bishop Otterbein's grave was later moved to the opposite side of the church, and is marked by a slab of concrete. A commemorative memorial was erected in 1911, 100 years after his passing.

In 1839, the church underwent major remodeling. Renovations included creating a projection on the east side of the church to house the pulpit and removal of the interior balconies. In 1872, the north building was built; it was used as a Sunday school building and eventually became the Nelker Fellowship Hall. Der Deutsche Correspondent recorded the inauguration celebration of the building, translated as "a flat building...it is 31 feet wide, 50 feet long, and 35 feet high. The building is tasteful and the interior is comfortable. Light and ventilation is taken into account. The construction was undertaken in April and cost \$3,000". The new building would take the place of the previous Sunday school building that existed near the west façade. The old schoolhouse would later be converted into a garage.

The parsonage built in 1811 had two floors with a slanted attic roof. In 1902, the attic was converted into a full third floor. Later, a house similar to the parsonage was added on the east side and the roof combs were connected. While ongoing changes occurred at the church in terms of construction, a similar amount of change was occurring within the congregation itself. In 1800, the congregation separated from the German Reformed Church and formally became the Church of the United Brethren in Christ under Bishop Otterbein and Bishop Martin Boehm's direction.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ split into two factions again in 1889. The New Constitution, the majority of the conference, had adopted a revised confession of faith and amended constitution. The Old Constitution voted against the amendments and revisions and organized as a separate body. The Old Otterbein congregation remained with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (New Constitution).

In 1946, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (New Constitution) merged with the Evangelical Association to become the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church (USA) to become the United Methodist Church. In 1969, Old Otterbein United Methodist Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and then later became a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Easement property in 1977.

According to the church, artifacts had been recovered during construction and landscaping projects throughout the years. In October 2022, parishioners working in the garden unearthed dozens of artifacts in one of the sloped gardens on the eastern side of the church. These artifacts included ceramics dating to the mid- to late-19th century, an olive green wine glass bottle sherd, and numerous pieces of brick and coal. Due to its status as an MHT Easement property, the current pastor of the church contacted MHT for assistance. It was decided that a remote sensing survey would be conducted to identify subsurface anomalies. Once the remote sensing data was processed, MHT, in consultation with the church, would identify anomalies for subsurface testing.



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Unknown

The ground-penetrating radar survey was carried out in three separate grid locations. The results from Grid 1 show a possible anthropogenic pit feature located immediately east of the church. The pit feature begins to appear at approximately 35 cmbs and is rectilinear in nature. The feature disappears at approximately 90 cmbs. The results also show large tree roots throughout the grid; as there are very large trees present in the area, there was a possibility that the feature may be natural disturbance caused by tree roots.

Grid 2 results show seven pit features located under the brick pavers in between the church and the Nelker Fellowship Hall. Due to size, shape, and near East-West orientation, six of the features have been identified as possible grave shafts. As Bishop Otterbein's grave is a known feature within Grid 2, it was used to compare to similar anomalies. The northernmost feature is likely a construction-related feature associated with Nelker Fellowship Hall, such as a builder's trench. The boundary where the brick courtyard ends and the meditation garden begins is apparent in the results. Within the meditation garden, two additional pit features were identified, both of which are suggestive of grave shafts.

Results for Grid 3 showed a possible anthropogenic pit feature spanning approximately half of the grid. Because of the grid's location in the garden, there was the likelihood that the anomaly was caused by intensive ground disturbance from plantings. There are also large trees surrounding Grid 3, and as such, there remained the possibility that the anomaly would be natural disturbance caused by tree roots.

Using the results from the GPR survey, MHT archaeologists identified two areas of interest for further study. The Grid 1 anomaly, consistent with a pit feature, was chosen for further study because of the possibility that it may be related to Bishop Otterbein's cottage. The Grid 3 anomaly was also chosen for further study. While the anomaly may have been related to gardening activities or tree roots, artifacts recovered by parishioners indicate that there is potential for a feature related to domestic activities of the church. Two 2x2 meter excavation units were placed to intercept the anomalies.

Unit 1 was placed to intersect the Grid 1 anomaly. The northeast quadrant of the unit contains a rectilinear soil feature that aligns with the GPR data; this was designated Feature 1. The visible part of Feature 1 measures approximately 108 cm x 130 cm and is comprised of 10 YR 3/1 very dark grey silty loam with large brick fragments throughout. The shape and position of Feature 1 indicate a high likelihood of it being a subfloor pit. At the interface of the A horizon and Feature 1, a large pearlware sherd and a stoneware jug handle were uncovered. The majority of the artifacts, with the exception of coal (n=576), are architectural in nature and include brick, mortar, window glass, and nails. The second most frequent artifacts fall under kitchen-associated artifacts, and include ceramics, glass, and faunal remains. Diagnostic ceramics include transfer-printed pearlware with Chinese motifs (n=12) and British/American view (n=1), and green shell rimmed Rococo-inspired creamware (n=1). The Chinese-motif is broadly dated from 1783 to 1834, and was a cost-effective alternative to Chinese porcelain. The likely British/American view piece includes field dots, the technique attributable to wares created between 1816 and 1841. The Rococo-inspired ceramic is dated broadly from 1775-1810. Despite their vibrant color and decoration, edged wares were the least expensive colored tableware between 1780 and 1860; Rococo-inspired wares would not have been out of place in a modest household.

The remaining ceramics were simple in design and consist of red earthenware (n=42), undecorated pearlware (n=13), whiteware (n=12), creamware (n=2), yellowware (n=2), and salt-glaze stoneware (n=3). Many of these are consistent with a late-18th to mid-19th century site, and may support the claims of the simple lifestyle of Bishop Otterbein while living in the cottage. The remaining historic artifacts fall into the activity, clothing, and personal categories and make up only 1.6% of the collection. Artifacts classified in the activity function include marbles (n=3), graphite pencils (n=3), a door key (n=1), and spring (n=1). Personal items include beads (n=2), a snake jewelry piece (n=1), and modern coins (n=2). Clothing consisted entirely of porcelain, wood, or plastic buttons (n=6). Interestingly, despite noting that Bishop Otterbein smoked habitually, there were no tobacco-related artifacts recovered from Unit 1.

In addition to the historic artifacts found in Unit 1, prehistoric artifacts were also recovered. These included several quartz flakes and a quartz preform base fragment. The amount of ceramics recovered from the site, as well as the presence of personal objects, suggests that this may be a domestic-related site within the church yard. The time periods to which the artifacts can be dated are consistent with a late 18th to mid-19th century occupation. Further excavation would be necessary to confirm whether the feature is in fact a subfloor pit from an early domicile related to the church clergy. However, given the diagnostic artifacts and church oral traditions regarding Bishop Otterbein's living quarters, it is possible that the feature is related to the cottage of Bishop Otterbein.

Unit 2 was placed to intersect the Grid 3 anomaly. Due to the sloped nature of the garden, the 2 x 2 m unit was placed on an incline. The southeastern quadrant of the unit contained several whole bricks that were not arranged in any distinct pattern. Due to their haphazard configuration, this was interpreted as deposited brick in what appeared to be a midden. The entire midden was designated Feature 2. A root cast or animal burrow ran through the middle of the unit, as well as what appeared to be a very shallow planting hole. Like Unit 1, the majority of artifacts in Unit 2 are architecture- and kitchen-related. The miscellaneous category is predominantly coal (n=147). Architecture related artifacts include brick, mortar, window glass, and nails. The kitchen related artifacts were mostly ceramic, glass, and faunal remains.

Diagnostic ceramics include blue transfer printed pearlware (n=32), negative blue printed ware (n=8), black transfer printed pearlware (n=6), mulberry printed earthenware (n=4), blue shell-edged pearlware (n=4), polychrome whiteware (n=2), chrome painted earthenware (n=1), black printed Chinoiserie (n=1), and alphabetware (n=1). Peak production for negative blue printed wares was between 1821-1840. The mulberry or purple printed earthenware was produced from 1829-1867. The blue shell-edged wares appear to be symmetrically scalloped with slightly curved lines, which was popular between 1800-1830s. The polychrome whiteware ceramic sherds incorporate cobalt blue in their design, common between 1815-1830. The chrome painted earthenware ceramic has a red rose design, dating to post-1830. The Chinoiserie shows elements of Chinese architecture but a figure in Western dress; this was common between 1816-1836.

Alphabetware was common in the mid- to late-19th century. Other ceramics include undecorated creamware (n=15), redware (n=9), saltglazed stoneware (n=4), possible yellowware (n=4), green edgware (n=3), decorated whiteware (n=2), and white granite ceramic (n=1). The remaining historic artifacts from Unit 2, representing less than 1% of the collection, include a bead (n=1), a plastic button (n=1), a 1978 penny (n=1), and a furniture tack (n=1).

In addition to the historic artifacts, several quartz flakes (n=21) and fire cracked rock (n=1) were also recovered from this unit. Most artifacts that could be dated were identified as early- to mid-19th century. However, the presence of a plastic button and the 1978 penny, as well as the haphazard nature of the bricks, point to the likelihood that Feature 2 represents a midden site with mixed contexts.

Overall, Site 18BC218 represents an intact site, likely relating to the domestic activities that occurred at Old Otterbein Church. Both excavation units produced prehistoric artifacts. Despite the limited number of artifacts overall and lack of diagnostic artifacts, their presence may indicate the potential for intact prehistoric sites on the church property. The rectilinear feature may be a subfloor pit and has potential for significance. Further work and excavation of the



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rectilinear feature would be necessary to draw further conclusions. As it is an MHT Easement, the features on site are fairly well protected. Continued work on the site may be helpful in not only adding to the known history of Old Otterbein, but to an important piece of early Baltimore City history.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95010486, 18BC218 SF