



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC25

Site Name: Hill Street

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early to late 19th century outhouses/prives and well

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2821

Longitude -76.6199

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 9 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 488 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. 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? Rural

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

privies/outhouses,well

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

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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 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

19th century well and privies

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Floral material	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input 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



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18BC25, the Hill Street Site, consists of the southern portion of a larger three block site (18BC27) near Camden Yards in downtown Baltimore. The site is bounded by Conway Street on the north, Hill Street on the south, Sharpe Street on the east, and the B & O Railroad tracks to the west. It is the location of several early to late 19th century privies and a well. The site is encompassed by the larger Federal Reserve Building Site (see synopsis report for 18BC27), which is today largely destroyed. 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.

Development in the three blocks on which 18BC25 is situated began at the end of the 18th century. The area was known as "Otterbein" because of the local Otterbein Church completed in 1786. The church stands at the corner of Conway and Sharp Streets and was named for one of its first pastors, Philip William Otterbein.

Houses on the block were few in number in the early 1800s. Those houses that were standing all faced on Sharp Street. A diverse number of occupational types were in evidence. Merchants and shopkeepers such as Robert Miller and John Webster predominate, but bricklayers, carpenters and laborers also existed on the Sharp Street block. The area even included a mariner, several cordwainers, and a ropemaker. The area was generally considered fashionable and was occupied by such distinguished individuals as the Swedish ambassador.

By mid-century, the number of houses in the area had increased dramatically. The blocks on which the bank building stands, however, were still relatively undeveloped. Houses and shops occupied a solid block facing Sharp Street but were less frequent on Barre and Lee Streets. Of importance, however, was the appearance of numerous houses on Welcome and Reese Alleys and on York Street. The inhabitants of the area included numerous tradesmen, clerks, a glass cutter, and even a lumber inspector. Several grocery stores, a bar, and small craft industries began to show up on the block. St. Joseph's Church, which in the late 19th century became, "a sanctuary for seamen from nations throughout the world and for Baltimore waterfront workers", was built in this period.

The entire area was nearly completely built up by the end of the 19th century. Store fronts and saloons intermixed with dwellings made up the Sharp Street skyline. A fire company (Engine No. 2) had located across from St. Joseph's on Barre Street and the Baltimore Fruit Exchange covered most of the block south of Lee Street. A sash weight warehouse, several stables, and even a pickling factory could be found on the block. The inhabitants were workers in the surrounding businesses or general laborers.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began buying the western edge of the blocks in the early 20th century for expansion of their rail yard. By the 1920s, the B & O Railroad had purchased and demolished the entire block for use by the railway. During 1979, the portion of the rail yard made up by the site was obtained by the Federal Reserve Bank for construction of new facilities.

The only documented archeological work to ever be conducted at 18BC25 occurred in the spring of 1980, prior to construction of the Baltimore Branch building for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The Bank funded limited archeological salvage at the site after staff from the Maryland Historical Trust alerted the Bank to the discoveries made their by Peter Middleton, an avocational archeologist. Middleton had located a number of artifact-filled privies and wells which were exposed during the early phases of foundation excavation at the site. By the time professional archeologists arrived on-site, most of the building remains had been removed and snow covered the ground. Land stripping machinery was used to further clear the site and features were excavated as construction work continued to get underway. In many cases, pothunters/bottle collectors located and dug features before they were investigated by archeologists.

The location of subsurface features was usually a hap-hazard procedure characterized by incidents of machine operators reporting the near destruction of a feature, by hasty surveying of newly pothunted features from the site and by the necessary recording of partial feature or structural remains. All exposed features were mapped using transits tied to a permanent datum. The project was further hampered by cold, wet, and snowy/icy conditions, combined with a tight construction timeline. It was not possible to excavate all exposed and identified features and within the boundaries of 18BC25 (the southern portion of the larger Federal Reserve Building site), no features were ultimately excavated.

The excavations within the larger site (18BC27) encountered a total of 54 cultural features dating from the early 19th century to the late 20th century. Those at 18BC25 were among the earliest features encountered, some of those exposed during the initial footprint excavations for the building. Due to their early exposure, these were heavily pothunted by bottle collectors and looters who visited the site multiple times. Thus, the decision was made to merely document these features rather than attempt any excavation.

The features at 18BC25 were interpreted to be 3 privies (one a barrel privy) and a capped brick-lined well. Artifacts found in the three privies included early 19th to 3rd quarter of the 19th century ceramics (banded whitewares, blue transfer-printed pearlware, and luster decorated ceramics), bottle, window, and table glass, bones, and nails. These are not included in the table above, but are included in the "rough" artifact tally for 18BC27.

Site 18BC25 was largely destroyed by construction of the Federal Reserve Building in Baltimore, but, due to extensive pothunting and construction impacts, the site likely had very little integrity by the time it came to the attention of archeologists anyway.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005571, 00005572