



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC33

Site Name: Block 1370

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Baltimore Federal

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th and 19th century commercial buildings

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2840

Longitude -76.6087

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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 300 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. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other
- Irish, German

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
- Transportation
- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford
- Educational
- Commercial
- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

- Battlefield
- Fortification
- Encampment

Townsite

- 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
- commercial buildings, warehouses

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 geologic study



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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 foundations, privies, wells

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	20000
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	midden	<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:

Site 18BC33, or Block 1370, consists of the archeological deposits associated with a series of late 18th and 19th century commercial buildings that make up an entire city block in downtown Baltimore. Block 1370 is situated just north of the Inner Harbor, in the block bounded by South, Water, Commerce, and Lombard Streets. Most of the area surrounding the site is heavily developed today. 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.

Block 1370 was originally part of the 17th century land grant known as Todd's Range. The only known resident of the area at that time was John Fleming, but his residence was likely not near Block 1370. The first probable historic structure on the site is a home shown in a view of Baltimore from 1752. This was the residence of Thomas Harrison and was constructed about 1742. It is shown setting on a small knoll with the land sloping gently down to the shoreline in front of the house. By 1752 there were 25 houses in the city. Not long thereafter, the town's growth ratcheted up and the first commercial developments got started.

The next structural information dates between 1780 and 1792. This is a plat showing the block separated into lots. The shape and size of these lots can provide indications of what structures may have been there. The three lots 24 feet wide and a little over 100 feet long have the long narrow lot shapes of residential use, possibly row houses. An 1823 map shows 40 foot long structures along the west side of these lots with the remainder of the lot length open, possibly serving as backyards. A large lot on the south block end, 60 feet wide and 100 feet long might have served as the location of a single home or commercial structure. The 1823 map shows this lot with one or more structures covering all of the lot except for an open rectangular area, approximately 40 X 60 feet, along the northern side. This odd shape suggests a number of different structures on the lot. If this is true, there are probably individual structures on the southeast and southwest corners and one or more structures in-between. If these structures were present in the 1780-1792 period, then they would have been owned by the same group or individual since the area is included as a single lot.

The rectangular lot on the northwest corner of the block might well have contained a structure. The two lots to the east (Lot #1 and Lot #2) may or may not have structures. In the original source, these lots were to be sold at auction and there is no mention of structures. Additionally, the 1823 map shows most of this area open. A 30 foot wide strip of land owned by Thorowgood Smith is shown along the entire eastern block edge. Thorowgood Smith may be a member of the Presbyterian Smith family, who along with three other families of Presbyterians moved to Baltimore in 1759. The Smiths invested in waterfront property and built wharfs, a bakery, a brewery, dwellings, and counting houses in the vicinity of modern-day Gay and Water Streets. The northern portion of this area would be taken by street widening between 1792 and 1823.

From the evidence of the 1780-1792 map and the 1823 map of Block 1370, it appears that commercial development of the block may have occurred as early as 1792 since it is possible that non-residential structures may have been located on the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners of the lot. Row housing may have also been constructed by this early date as evidenced by the three narrow lots facing on South Street. Whether these structures had basements is not known.

The next available map showing structural features dates from 1851. This map shows the block's perimeter with solid structures and a 70 X 70 foot courtyard in the block center.

The next available picture of the block is a bird's eye view of the city from 1869. The block is much the same as shown in 1851. Seven or eight buildings surround the block perimeter. The courtyard is still in the block center, but has been greatly decreased in size by the construction of a building in the southeast corner. An open space, probably an alley, is shown south of the building on the northeast corner. The name and function of two of the buildings are identified.

A five storey structure on the southeast corner is the business of W.T. Walters, importer and dealer in wines and liquors. The business is first listed at this address in 1852. William T. Walters acquired this lot, possibly with structure(s), from William Donnell on 17 March, 1856. The lot was approximately 36 feet wide, facing on Exchange Place, and 120 feet long. William Walters sold the property to Charles Haney in 1865 though the business continued in operation as witnessed in the 1869 bird's eye view. A structure on the southwest block corner was the business concern of Charles Meyer. What the business entailed is not known. Myers acquired this property, measuring 24 feet square, on the 18th of November, 1859.

A unique structure on the block, on the northwest corner, is a long narrow building, 24 feet wide and 106 feet long, with at least 7 chimneys. This configuration suggests that the structure may have been a block of row houses. If it was a row block, the rows were not individually owned or the lot owner rented the land to the owners. John S. Gittings received this lot in 1852 and would have been owner in 1869.

On 20 November, 1883 the Third National Bank of Baltimore, established in 1863, purchased a lot, 106 X 24 feet, 50 feet south of the southeast corner of modern-day South Street and Water Street. The bank had a 24 foot front facing on South Street. The structure was two stories high and had a stone front.

The Merchant's National Bank purchased the building on the northwest block corner in 1891. Six months later in 1892 they acquired the building on the northeast corner. These purchases provided the bank with a lot covering the total street frontage of the block along Water Street. After this a new bank building was constructed. It was an impressive building: seven stories high with a granite and marble façade.

All of this is testimony to the intense commercial growth of Block 1370 in the second half of the 19th century. However, this does not preclude residential occupation in this time period. The upper floors of buildings often contained rental units. Evidence of this practice as late as 1902 is provided by a deed of surrender for a room in 302 Exchange Place (within Block 1370).

By 1896 there were eight structures on the block. The buildings that held W.T. Walters' Store, the Third National Bank building, and the Merchant's National Bank are shown at this time. Whether the remaining buildings are the same as those seen in 1869 cannot be discerned. Two open areas are shown. One is a walkway between two buildings and the other a service way south of the eastern end of the Merchant's National Bank.

Block 1370 was burned in the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. This represented a great loss to the residents of the city. In fact, several employees of the Merchant's National Bank waited on the steps as the flames approached. They reportedly kissed the granite walls of the building before the intense heat of the



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conflagration drove them away. The fire left most of the buildings in a pile of rubble, except for the Merchant's National Bank which still had part of the façade standing.

Rebuilding on the block was slow after the fire. By 1911, only three structures were rebuilt. When the Merchant's National Bank was refurbished, the top five floors were removed though the lower original façade was retained. By 1929 the block had been completely rebuilt. The new configuration would last up until 1982, when the first archeological work was conducted at Site 18BC33.

The first documented archeological work at the site was part of a 1982 preliminary document survey and cursory examination of footer excavations prior to construction of the (then) new Baltimore Federal Building. The planned building would occupy the majority of Block 1370, and the remainder would be taken up by landscaping and paving. The work was mandated by several pieces of federal legislation. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, and the Archeological Preservation Act, actions which are funded, approved or licensed by Federal or State agencies must take measures to identify and protect significant cultural resources.

In an effort to investigate the soils' capability to support footings for the new Baltimore Federal Building, the contracted engineers excavated one of these area in the what would become the northeast portion of the building. This was in the basement of the old Merchant's National Bank building. Professional archeologists inspected this excavation in order to determine what the soils beneath the basement were like. During this inspection a bowl-shaped trash pit was observed in the wall profile.

Artifacts observed in the pit included bottle glass, window glass, cattle bones exhibiting butchering evidence, and pearlware. The presence of pearlware suggests that the feature contexts were deposited between 1780 and 1830. The top of the feature does not appear to have been truncated. Instead, the thin layer of gravel and orange tan sand over the feature suggests that it was capped after filling.

Based on the results of archival research on Block 1370, coupled with the discovery of the apparently intact trash pit in the excavated footer location, Phase III data recovery was recommended for the block. A recovery plan was developed and immediately implemented at the site involving the monitoring of mechanized soil removal and subsequent excavation of any identified archeological features.

Construction plans for the block called for the preservation of the 301 Water Street façade (the granite and marble Merchant's National Bank). To ensure the stability of the façade, a series of pits were opened by the construction crew in the basement of the building prior to demolition, to examine existing structural footings. In addition, a series of pits were excavated for the placement of deadman which would serve as footings for structural elements to be installed to support the façade. The pits exposed the first ten features to be excavated. Concurrent to the installation of the steel supports for the 301 Water Street façade, all standing structures on the block, except 39 South Street (which was not part of the construction area) were demolished.

When all the demolition debris had been moved off site, the removal of basement walls and floors began. This work was accomplished through the use of a bulldozer and a power shovel. Only those walls interior to the block were removed. Basement walls along the block's perimeter were not removed. The removal of the basement floor areas was monitored closely. This work was not conducted uniformly across the site, but proceeded in sections. When features were located or suspected, the area was cleaned and cultural features delineated. The location of all features was plotted on the site base map.

Once located, features were excavated immediately. Excavation was conducted in natural levels and as warranted by arbitrary levels within stratum. All soils removed were passed through hardware mesh. Soil samples were taken from cultural bearing levels within a feature for later analysis. In addition to cultural items designated as features, a number of structural elements were noted that were not assigned feature numbers.

Twenty-four features were located during the course of the data recovery at 18BC33. These contained remains from the late 19th through early 20th centuries. Features included a variety of early foundations, brick and wood lined privies (shaft features), and several unlined features of unknown function. Over 20,000 artifacts were recovered, including glass and ceramic vessels, and architectural items such as window glass and nails. The largest percentage of material was Chinese export porcelain (both in blue and gold gilt).

Pit excavations in 301 Water Street revealed that the 19th century stone and masonry structure was supported by a steel superstructure resting on massive concrete pads. 301 Water Street also contained a vaulted tunnel which stretched the length of the façade, extending under the sidewalk. The tunnel, approximately 2.13 m (7 ft) high and 1.524 m (5 ft) wide contains a series of utility conduits. This tunnel was not substantially disturbed by the construction activities.

The basement walls of the Standard Distillers Products building at 306-310 Lombard revealed information concerning the structural history of the block. While preparing the slope of the construction site along Commerce Street, the construction crew exposed the remains of a stone wall directly behind the existing brick basement wall of the structure. Behind this wall was a strip of brown clay, and further out toward the street, a disturbed shaft feature or possible former cellar/basement was located. This sequence of cultural elements is evidence of development on the block prior to the opening of Commerce Street. The feature, created prior to the construction of Commerce Street, was walled off by a layer of brown clay, allowing the stone foundation and basement of the pre 1904 fire building to be constructed. Subsequent to the fire, 310 Lombard was probably required to put its façade in line with the new streetscape, focused on 301 Water Street (the only building left standing). This necessitated the construction of a new load-bearing brick wall located just inside the foundation of the earlier structure. Whether the new basement was deeper than the old is unknown. At the front of the structure (i.e. facing E. Lombard Street) earlier basement remains had been removed by apparent basement expansion in 310 Lombard, while the stone walling remained unchanged in 306 Lombard, a later addition to the 310 structure.

Between 310 Lombard and 301 Water Street was an area thought to have been vacant throughout the block's history (as suggested by archival research). The removal of the soils from this area revealed massive infilling with late 19th century structural debris, including decorative cut stone which would appear to have been from the previously extant upper stories of 301 Water Street. This material would suggest that the area was excavated shortly after the 1904 fire and filled in with stone and concrete debris available in the immediate vicinity. It thereby formed a solid support for a parking garage facility constructed on the site.

A second alley, located between 304 East Lombard and 39 South Street, had likewise not been developed since being established in the late 18th century. Examination of this alley revealed that it had been disturbed by the construction trenches of both 304 Lombard and 39 South Street.



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Although over 20,000 artifacts were recovered during the excavations at 18BC33, no table of artifact types and quantities is available in the full site report. Discussion typically describes numbers of vessels, minimum number of individuals, etc. rather than counting individual recovered objects such as sherds or shards of glass. Thus, the artifacts have simply been cataloged in the table above as 20,000 miscellaneous objects.

The site was destroyed by construction activities, except in the southwest corner, under the 39 South Street building, where a cellar filled with 18th century remains is preserved. In addition, some intact site components may be preserved beneath the streets surrounding the block, preserving earlier roadways and features that may predate the formal construction of roads. The site still has some degree of archeological research potential related to the development of Baltimore's urban core.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005562, 00005563