



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC46

Site Name: Old School 6

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th-late 20th century residential sites

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2913

Longitude -76.6007

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

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 252 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

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

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

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial 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

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		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

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 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 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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input 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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18BC46, the Old School 6 site, consists of the possible archeological remains of a series of late 18th-late 20th century residential sites in the Fells Point area of Baltimore, Maryland. The site is situated within the block bounded by Fleet Street to the north, Durham Street to the east, Aliceanna Street to the south, and Ann Street to the west. 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.

Fells Point is a harborside community that began as one of the three original settlements of Baltimore. It was laid out independent of neighboring Baltimore Town, into which it was incorporated in 1773. Prior to 1763, William Fell settled and built a storehouse on what was to become Fells Point. In 1763, the town was laid out by his son, Edward Fell. The harbor settlement had been firmly established by 1770 when the shipbuilding industry began to move from Annapolis to the growing port. In 1775, the first Frigate of the Continental Army, the Virginia, was built at the Fells Point shipyards. In 1797, the Constellation was built, to be followed by the Baltimore Clipper prominent in the War of 1812.

The area's maritime character is retained in the large number of late 18th and early 19th century residential and commercial structures that characterize Fells Point. The small houses are usually 2½ storeys and are built of brick or frame with wide clapboards. Larger 3½ storey houses were occupied by prosperous merchants, shipyard owners, and ship captains. At the foot of Broadway is an open market square dating to the late 18th century and retaining an original series of stall numbers in the stone curbing.

The Fells Point Historic District was included in the National Register of Historic Places in March of 1969. The district contains approximately 475 houses and is bounded by Aliceanna Street to the north, Wolfe Street to the east, the Patapsco River to the south, and Dallas Street to the west. The area's axis may be considered Broadway.

A 1792 map of the area reveals two structures in the part of Fells Point where the site is located, with adjoining blocks showing more development. One of these structures was situated near the center of the southern portion of the lot, or near the southwest corner of the Old School 6 site. The second structure is located at the southwest corner of the block. It would appear to front to Aliceanna Street with its western side extending along the alley now known as Durham Street. The functions of these structures are unknown. A small inlet is shown on the map extending from the Patapsco west and north between Wolf Street and Durham. Sometime in the 19th century the inlet was filled. Its presence earlier may have affected the nature of development in the area.

An 1801 Map shows the site area shaded red to indicate that it was a developed block. In addition, two structures are shown in the same position as on the 1792 map. The inlet mentioned above is still shown. A large structure of irregular shape is indicated on the block east of the inlet. Its size would indicate a non-residential function. An 1804 map does not specifically indicate individual structures but has the entire block shaded to represent its development. The inlet is still indicated although the large building to the east shown on the 1802 map, is not depicted.

An 1819 survey map of the Patapsco River depicts the inlet as having been greatly altered and expanded through filling and the construction of wharves. An 1822 map shows the block as being fully developed with buildings appearing on all sides of the block. Larger buildings of residential dimensions are located along Ann and Fleet Streets. Aliceanna Street has smaller structures which also appear to be residences. Durham Street appears to be lined with small structures of a size appropriate to stables and other outbuildings. They could also be alley dwellings of very small size. The block is developed to the extent that it has a court plan, with contiguous structures on all side. All surrounding blocks are shown as fully developed as well.

An 1869 bird's eye view of the city, though not drawn to scale, presents a very detailed view of the neighborhood surrounding the site. The block appears extensively developed, with structures lining each of the street faces. Durham Street appears to have small buildings, probably outbuildings. Canton Avenue (now Fleet Street) is lined with rowhouses. Aliceanna Street has a similar arrangement of two and three story houses with two buildings showing porches that might indicate a combined residential and commercial function. Ann Street is lined with houses also, although there appear to be two non-residential structures. One of these, shown with a gable roof, occupies the same position as the site and a school building shown on an 1890 map of the area. The size and shape of the gable roofed building would suggest that it could well represent the school. A large, low or flat-roofed structure on Ann Street also suggests a non-residential function by its size and form. Just below the northwest corner of the block, on Ann Street, is a building with a highly pitched shed roof. The flat side of the building fronts on Ann Street with the roof sloping toward the rear property line. This "flounder" form, when situated as such, often indicates that the building functioned as a warehouse or similar facility.

The 1890 Sanborn Insurance Map shows the block fully developed with very little yard space remaining on the block. Eleven 2½ and 3 storey brick houses line Canton Avenue. Ten houses of brick construction, ranging from 2 to 3 storeys were spaced along Durham Street. Durham Street also contains some small frame buildings that were probably outbuildings. Aliceanna Street is lined with 8 structures, 7 of which were store/residences. These were 2 and 2½ storeys and of brick construction. In-between these buildings is a one storey brick structure that does not appear on the 1869 bird's eye view. Ann Street has 10 houses, 2 of which have stores in them. They range from 2 to 3 storeys and are of brick or frame construction. Near the center of the block face is Public School Number 6, the predecessor of a later School Number 6 building built in 1913. An elaborate network of outbuildings, particularly at the southern center of the block is indicated. These are of frame construction.

The only documented archeological work conducted at 18BC46 occurred in 1982. The work was prompted by the planned redevelopment of Baltimore City School Number 6 (built in 1913) by the City's Department of Housing and Community Development. There were plans to tear down the school and build another structure on the same spot which would be narrower by extend 50 feet further to the south towards a playground. The new structure, except for its south end, would be wholly within the footprint of the existing structure. The southeast corner of the playground would be converted to a parking lot and the northern part of the playground would become a park area. The work was requested by the City of Baltimore, since public monies would be used for the demolition and subsequent construction. Phase II testing was carried out to determine if there were any cultural resources that might be impacted by the planned development.

The archeological testing in 1982 involved investigations in the basement of the school and the excavation of one test trench in the playground area.



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The basement was checked to determine if any soil was accessible for testing. Except for one location in the southwest corner of the basement, the entire wooden floor was underlain by a concrete slab. In the center of the building, under the gym floor, the concrete was covered by a layer of asphalt. In the southwest corner was a pipe well which exposed the native soil. The sediments were a yellow-white sandy loam typical of a subsoil deposited by alluvial action. In conjunction with the fact that the basement floor is approximately 1.83 m (6 ft) below grade, it is very unlikely that any historic or prehistoric deposits would have survived the construction of the school building.

The test pit in the school yard was also located at the southwest corner of the building. Some previous excavation had removed the asphalt over an area approximately 1.22 X 2.13 m (4 X 7 ft) in extent. A 76.2 X 45.7 cm (2.5 X 1.5 ft) test trench was placed in the southeast corner of this cleared area. It was placed as far away from the corner of the building as possible in an attempt to avoid the foundation trench. The fill in the cleared area was very loose and exhibited some evidence of disturbance extending to a depth of 30.5 cm (1 ft). A depth of 61 cm (2 ft) was reached before the trench became too small to continue. The wall profiles were cleaned and the four strata drawn and studied. The profile showed that the asphalt was on a foundation of yellow brown sandy gravel. The asphalt/gravel stratum was on top of a thin layer of cinders, ash, and clinkers. This, in turn, was on top of a very loose layer of building debris. Many fragments of bricks and whole bricks were in the sandy matrix. In the south wall of the pit there was a wall fragment: a series of bricks still connected by their mortar. It is possible, but not likely that this was actually a wall foundation in its original location. Underneath this layer of building debris was a mottled yellow clayey loam stratum with pockets of ash and flecks and fragments of brick. The stratum was barely penetrated as the unit was terminated shortly after encountered the new stratum. A piece of thin asphalt was also found in this layer but it was much too thin to have come from the upper layer of asphalt. In general, other artifacts were very rare in this and in all strata.

It is difficult to draw conclusions about the state of the archeological deposits from such a limited study. However, it seems that some of the debris from the leveling of the prior structures on the block was used as fill to support the playground surfaces regardless of whether it was originally paved. In short, it can be noted that the original excavation of the basement for the school almost certainly destroyed all remains of previous occupations in that area. The area under the playground probably contains the remnants of structural foundations in various states of preservation. It is also likely that backyard trash deposits and deep features such as privies are present in certain areas of the playground. However, a variety of utility lines appear to have been installed in the eastern sector of the playground, where linear asphalt patches reveal that disturbance has taken place. Avoidance of the playground area was recommended following the completion of the 1982 field studies.

The impact of the school construction in the 1980s is not known. It appears that a new school was constructed, but how the potential intact deposits in the playground area were handled is not documented. It should be noted that the work conducted was very preliminary in nature, an evaluation of its archaeological potential only and did not actually ascertain that anything in the area was intact. The cultural affiliation and site types listed herein reflect the site types and time periods which may possibly be present at this site, not recovered evidence from the investigation. The site is best described as a potentially significant resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005597