



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC54

Site Name: Orchard Street Church

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

2 mid-19th century African-American church sites, late 19th century African-American church

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2999

Longitude -76.6174

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 34 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 1610 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 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American Y
- 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? 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

church

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken Faunal



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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		Staffordshire		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	8	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

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

19th century AME church and associated well

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	19	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	84	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	3	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	88
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Misc.	114
Personal items		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Maryland Historical Society?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Orchard Street Church (18BC54) is the site of an early African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. The Orchard Street Church (MIHP# B-1401) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its local significance. It is especially important because of its association with the African-American community of Baltimore. The site is situated at 516 Orchard Street, near its intersection with Druid Hill Avenue. 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.

The Orchard Street Church building itself possesses a mixture of late 19th and early 20th century revival styles. The pressed brick main church is Romanesque Revival, but the rear Sunday School building is Romanesque with a large Gothic window in its northeastern facade. This rear structure forms an overall T-shaped plan for the entire complex. All ornament is of a simple Roman style. A two-storey link about four feet wide connects the two large buildings. Built of the same type of red brick as the classroom portion, this link is bonded into the rear building but not the church which extends to Orchard Street. Orchard Street United Methodist Church, formerly known as Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, is located on Orchard Street and Druid Hill Avenue. Metropolitan began back in the days of slavery, when the section of town where the buildings are now located was known as "Scrabbletown" and Druid Hill Avenue was Ross Street. In 1825 a West Indian black man named Truman Le Pratt held prayer meetings in his house on Orchard Street. As time went on, the group outgrew the house, and Le Pratt donated the first sum of money toward construction of a church. The church was constructed in 1837, and additions/alterations were then made in 1853, 1865, and 1882 to meet increasing demands for space.

The land occupied by the Orchard Street Church was owned by a David Moore prior to his death in 1807. Moore was a flour inspector and a merchant. David's sons, George and Henry, inherited the land. Henry was declared insane and his inheritance was administered by George. Henry somehow managed to marry and father a daughter, Malvinia, but the wedding was eventually declared invalid. Upon Henry's death, Malvinia and her mother sued for their share of Henry's estate. The legal proceedings were long and involved, but Malvinia received the land on Orchard Street. She then leased and later sold the land to the founders of the Orchard Street Church.

The first Orchard Street Church and Sunday School was built in about 1840. All the evidence indicates that this early church was most likely a small, unimposing structure, probably similar to a large house. The Sunday School was a roughly 40 X 41 foot structure built behind the church. A second church was built for the growing congregation on the same spot between 1853 and 1859. It was a two-storey brick structure, measuring 53 X 80 feet and was in the same location as the original church meeting house. The third and currently standing church was erected in 1882 by the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, under which name the Orchard Street Church was incorporated in that year. The second Sunday School building was built in 1903 on land acquired in 1900.

The first archeological work conducted at Site 18BC54 occurred in April of 1984. Professional archeologists monitored renovation excavations in the basements of the church buildings at the request of the Maryland Historical Trust. The building was undergoing significant renovations and the Trust became concerned that any intact remains of the earlier structures might be impacted. This concern ultimately led to the establishment of a Historic Preservation Easement to MHT on the property on behalf of the Church.

Five areas that would be impacted by the underpinning of existing walls, stabilizing of brick piers, and other activities were monitored by archeologists. Aside from some upper layers containing modern trash, brick rubble, coals and coal ash, clinkers, and concrete, not cultural deposits were encountered in the areas being excavated. The only artifacts retained from these upper levels were 3 animal bones and a glass "Oyster Cocktail Catsup" bottle. The bottle was manufactured sometime between 1890 and 1903. The soil profile suggested that the area was graded or prepared for the 1882 Church construction and earlier remains were probably removed at that time. Thus, it was concluded in 1984 that no significant archeological resources were preserved at 18BC54.

The site again received archeological attention in 1992. In February of that year restoration workers at the Orchard Street Church in Baltimore found a well during the course of excavation for the underpinning of a foundation for the Sunday School addition. The Maryland Historical Trust was notified of the find in accordance with the historical easement held by MHT since 1982. The architects and owners of the property were instructed that an archeologist was needed to document the find and, if the well was to be destroyed during underpinning, to excavate the fill. Ultimately, as the archeologist worked to document the site, the architects were able to alter the foundation support plan so that construction was able to continue while avoiding further disturbance to the well.

The well and surrounding area was cleaned to expose the well and any other features which might exist. The well was mapped in plan and profile using Engineers scale. Photographic equipment was set up and large format black and white prints were taken. Artifacts were collected from the exposed well matrix in order to gain an understanding of the nature of the fill. Items which had been previously collected by construction workers were also examined. A soil sample was collected from within the well for fine screening (1.81 mm) so that a better understanding of the feature fill could be obtained. Soil color and texture were noted.

The well was encountered under the south wall of the 1903 Sunday School addition, just east of the building's southwest corner. The sides of the well were constructed of dry-laid brick in circular stretcher courses. The well was estimated to be 1.524 m (5 feet) in diameter. Water was not encountered at the 2.4 m (8 ft) depth of the underpinning excavations. The well likely extended below that depth in order to have been functional. The well was only visible from the inside of the Sunday School addition where sub-basement excavation had taken place. Part of the well was clearly outside of the building but the well was not visible on the outside. Scaffolding stood on the ground over the location of the well. The wall of the 1903 Sunday School was built across the well. To accomplish this, an arch was built in the base of the wall, the architectural details of which were being preserved.

From inside the building, it was possible to stoop under the arch in the wall. Fill materials containing brick, ceramics, glass, and other artifacts were seen to extend at least 1.22 m (4 ft) above the level of the arch. This suggested that when the well was encountered during construction of the Sunday School, part of the well was removed to a depth sufficient for the foundations. The footer was then arched over the well and the wall was constructed. Part of the well likely remains above the footer on the outside of the wall, but excavation of the well would be complicated by the arch spanning it.

Soil outside of the well consisted of a brownish yellow sand. The sand was bedded and contained iron stains. A hard surface was noted on which a few artifacts were seen. This surface was interpreted as the work surface during the construction of the Sunday School addition. Within the well, the soil was loose



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with many voids. The general matrix was a very dark grey fill. The texture was course due to the presence of cinder and ash. Pockets of clay material existed as did bricks and other artifacts.

Two pockets of dark soil were seen outside of the well during the cleaning of the area (see above). These were recorded as Features 2 and 3, with the well being Feature 1. The dark areas were treated as features and were excavated. Neither stain had any depth and they were ultimately interpreted as displaced well fill material.

Artifacts recovered during the 1992 work at 18BC54 included 1 lamp base, 1 window glass fragment, an architectural bracket, a cut nail, 1 ceramic wall hanging (counted as a furniture item), 19 ceramic sherds (3 ironstone, 8 whiteware, and other ceramic fragments), 2 table glass fragments, 13 container glass fragments, 85 animal bones, 47 iron fragments, and 67 unidentified glass fragments (mostly bottle glass and window glass, but neither type is enumerated).

The well found at Orchard Street may predate church use of the property. Prior to church use, the land was owned by a Baltimore merchant (and flour inspector) and his heirs. The 1840 lease of the property from Kirkpatrick and Malvinia Ewing to the Church founders states "Together with all improvements thereon made lands alleys ways waters privileges easements and advantages...". From this phrasing, it can be assumed that the well already existed at this time, probably to serve the Moore residence (Malvinia's kin). It is possible that early 19th century, and perhaps late 18th century, materials may be found at the bottom of the well.

The fill in the upper portion of the Orchard Street well appeared to contain a mix of domestic refuse and architectural debris. Clearly, the artifacts and the construction date of the building indicate a date of 1903 for the filling of the well. The recovery of sea trout bones indicates that the fill most likely was deposited during the summer, when sea trout are present in the ocean and bays of the Middle Atlantic. Possibly, the domestic material comes from surrounding residences whose occupants supported the construction of the new Sunday School by helping to fill the old well. Water had been installed in this part of the city by 1900, so the well was no longer necessary. The neighborhood around the church in 1903 contained a home for the aged and orphans of African-American descent, as well as residences. The fill may be regarded as representative of a turn of the 20th century African-American community.

As mentioned previously, the architects renovating the Sunday School building were able to alter the foundation support plan so that construction could continue without impacting the well further. The decision was made to preserve the well in place and it should retain its archeological integrity. The well fill could potentially date back to the late 18th or early 19th century and is preserved by easement until such a time as excavation becomes unavoidable.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005603, 00005650