



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC75

Site Name: Bernstein Building

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Burk Building, Burk-Fried & Co.

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: late 18th century trash midden

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2902 Longitude -76.6094

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Jones Falls

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 25 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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 High terrace

Hilltop/bluff Rockshelter/cave

Interior flat Hillslope

Upland flat Unknown

Ridgetop Other

Terrace Fill, Made land?

Low terrace

Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

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

stone foundation, midden

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 flotation, pollen, bacteria



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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	4	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	20	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	70	Pearlware	23			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

18th century trash pit

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1422	Activity item(s)	12
Glass (all)	1043	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	222	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	49	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18BC75, or the Bernstein Building, consists principally of a late 18th century trash midden encountered in a highly-developed mixed use area of downtown Baltimore, Maryland. The site is situated beneath a retail and entertainment building complex known as "The Brokerage" at 34 Market Place (the Bernstein Building), identified in Baltimore City Land Records as City Block #1352. The surrounding landscape is heavily developed as part of Baltimore's urban core and the soils are intensely modified from their native state.

City Block #1352 was originally a part of what was known as "Harrison's Marsh". This extensive wetland covered the lowlands on both sides of the Jones Falls. Historic references indicate that the area was occasionally used for hunting and trapping. However, formal development of the land did not occur until Thomas Harrison reclaimed it in the mid 18th century. Harrison purchased a 28 acre area of the marsh from the Carroll family in approximately 1745. The marsh was reclaimed by constructing stone or wooden bulkheads to contain fill materials and to control the flooding of the area by the Jones Falls. Then the marsh was drained and the area was covered with fill to create a stable land surface.

The reclamation process was slow. Two extensions were granted, one in 1768 and another in 1770. However, in 1779, the reclaimed land was ready to be surveyed into lots. When it was offered by the executors of Thomas Harrison, the city purchased a central portion of the property for development as a public market. Located on an avenue that ran from Baltimore Street south to the harbor, Center Market Space, sometimes called "Marsh Market", consisted of a retail market, a fish market, and a produce market. The block containing site 18BC75 (on the west side of Center Market Space at Baltimore Street) was laid out in small lots that were 25 feet wide. The land-use pattern was of combined commercial and residential utilization. Early in their history, many of these lots held a variety of retail markets for groceries, dry and wet goods. Research on the site location indicates that, toward the middle of the 19th century, there was a shift towards predominantly clothing manufacturing and retailing in the area.

Because of the small size of the lots, most of the commercial properties eventually incorporated more than one structure. The Bernstein Building, constructed in 1907 for Burk, Fried, and Company, was at one time known as the "Burk Building". The approximately 26.5 m (87 ft) by 22.9 m (75 ft) area that it occupies was originally several individual lots. Since it is a corner lot, some of the original buildings on the property would have fronted on Center Market Space, while others fronted on Baltimore Street.

Commercial establishments on the lot at various times included James Stirling's dry goods store and grocery, facilities for the Weisenfeld & Company wholesale clothing firm, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (and precursor tea and coffee stores), Mary Marvel's Pub, Catherine Miller's dry goods store, Hartsburg and Brothers, Philip Herzberg and Company (manufacturers of wholesale and retail clothing), the Rosenberg and Siegel dry goods company, the Lewis Goldman clothing store, the dry goods stores of Lambsen Farrow and Mr. S. Frank, George Raut's tavern, Julia Windesheim's notions store, and several other clothing-related businesses. In addition to these functions, many of the original buildings also served residential purposes, with various tenants and shop-owners living on-site. Stables and support structures are also mentioned in some of the land records.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the entire block began to show the effects of the general economic decline that affected many areas in the city. Retailers moved out and were replaced by larger manufacturers and increasing residential tenants, including boarding houses and hotels. But, in 1904, the entire block would be destroyed by the Great Baltimore Fire. A group of previous tenants on the block would then go on to purchase the southwest corner of the block. By the middle of 1906, Charles Burk, Joseph Fensterwald, Julius Fensterwald, and Jacob Fried (Burk, Fried, and Company) owned 615 to 621 Baltimore Street and 203 Centre Market Space. They quickly employed one of Baltimore's best known architects, Louis Levi, to design the new building to occupy the southwest corner of the two streets. The structure was designed to be the largest on Baltimore Street in the Burnt District area east of South Street. It was six stories high and heavy piles were driven and used as foundations. In 1907, construction of the new Burk Building was completed. Space in the building was leased out to a number of tenants, while ownership passed through several transactions to eventually be owned by Bernard Fensterwald, Jr. and his sister An Fensterwald Eisenstein.

From 1916 to 1928, Henry S. Hartogensis had a very popular sporting goods store (Hartogensis Sport Bazaar) on the block. The store was eventually acquired by its former advertising manager, Simon Bernstein, and would expand into firearms, musical instruments, luggage, tools, and other goods under the name "Bernstein's Sporting Goods". This store, though it relocated within the building, would remain open until 1964. The last city directory (1964), listed Bernstein Inc. as a hardware store. Vaughn's Barber School and Nathan Rosenstein Shoes were present by 1936. Vaughn's Barber School changed to Bersen's Army and Navy Goods in 1942 and to Bernard Levin's Furnished Rooms by 1961. Another shoe store, Brockton Shoes, moved onto the premises in 1940. In 1940 the Biltmore Merchandising Company moved into the building, but its tenure was short-lived as its location was vacant again sometime before 1961. However, by 1964, the former Biltmore location was the home of a new business: The Official Nudist Publications.

All of the above mentioned businesses were found at street level in the six storey building. Located on the various floors above was a variety of clothing-related businesses including tailors, coat makers, clothing wholesalers and retailers. A complete list of the firms is available in the full site report for 18BC75.

On April 30th, 1975, the Board of Estimates approved Baltimore City's purchase of the properties. In the following month, a deed was recorded in which Ann Fensterwald Eisenstein and Bernard Fensterwald, Jr. sold all of the properties once owned by Burk, Fried and Company to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. In June of 1982, Ordinance 727 was approved by the Mayor and City Council to condemn and close Market Place and certain other streets and alleys. By September of that year, they sold the property to Market Place Holdings, Inc. (a non-profit corporation) and recorded a Deed of Easement for the properties on Block #1352 with Market Place Associates (a limited partnership) that granted certain easements, reservations, and permissions.

The Burk Building, now referred to as the Bernstein Building, was included in the restoration of Block #1352. The buildings were refurbished and became The Brokerage, at 34 Market Place. This complex, which blends the old with the new, houses a combination of retail stores, restaurants, and offices.

In 1991, stabilization work done to several buildings in The Brokerage was responsible for the discovery of a midden of late 18th century artifacts. The buildings in the Brokerage that fronted on Baltimore Street were in the process of being stabilized and renovated in preparation for the opening of new clubs and restaurants and changes to the northeast extensions of the METRO system (public transit). This work included the removal of a section of the concrete floor in order to inspect the support pilings of the building. The work was being coordinated by the Baltimore Mass Transit Authority and construction activities were funded in part by a grant from the US Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Thus, the regulations of both Section 106 of the NHPA and the



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Maryland Historic Preservation Law (Article 83 B Sections 5-617 and 5-618) were adhered to. The Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology (BCUA) was under contract to the Mass Transit Authority to preserve and maintain any artifacts of Baltimore's history uncovered during the construction work. A construction supervisor discovered a heavy concentration of artifacts and immediately contacted BCUA who then undertook a 3 day salvage operation at the site.

Feature 1, the exposed midden encountered during construction work, was systematically excavated by hand. During the course of Feature 1 excavations, another concentration of artifacts was uncovered while a conduit trench was being channeled. This time a portion of a stone wall with associated artifacts (Feature 2) was visible and this deposit was excavated as well. The two features were excavated by hand, collecting all visible artifacts. Due to the wet nature of the soil, screening was not possible, so several buckets of soil were taken to a lab setting where they could be processed for the retrieval of small artifacts. Soil and pollen samples were also taken. In addition to the controlled hand excavations, artifacts that were disturbed during mechanical excavation or recovered by members of the construction crew were collected and general areas of recovery were noted (when known).

The excavations led to the exposure of four cultural features. Feature 1 was the large artifact concentration initially exposed during construction work and leading to the formal excavation of the site. This 76.2 cm thick midden of wet, silty organic soil was disturbed by two reinforcement pilings and a concrete footer added in 1989 to underpin the extant foundation wall. Several ceramic and glass sherds were embedded into the footer. A third piling was situated approximately 91 cm to the north. This beam was cut level with the footer, presumably when the modern concrete floor was constructed. Feature 2 was a rectangular fieldstone structure containing artifact-dense organic soil on its interior. Excavation of the fill within the structure revealed the presence 5 wooden planks that formed a one-time floor. These sat atop a culturally sterile layer of wet peat and wood chips. Wooden beams were encountered under one section of the stone wall which had been removed. Features 3 and 4 were the remains of rounded wooden beams.

Thousands of artifacts were recovered during the course of the excavation. The full site assemblage consisted of 12 activity items, 222 architectural artifacts, 49 clothing items, 1,422 ceramic sherds, 833 pieces of kitchen glass, 1 personal item (a handheld ivory fan), and 7 tobacco pipe stems. The activity items were 2 clay marbles, a possible wooden top, a glass lamp, at least 3 writing lead fragments, at least 3 quills, a wooden pulley, and a metal hammer head. The architectural artifacts were at least 12 pieces of brick/plaster/mortar and 210 window glass fragments. Clothing-related objects were 44 shoe fragments, 2 pieces of fabric, a copper button, a porcelain button, and a brass straight pin. The ceramic sherds were 4 tin-enameled earthenware sherds, 70 creamware sherds, 23 pearlware sherds, 20 porcelain sherds, 48 coarse earthenware sherds, 17 stoneware sherds, and 1,240 miscellaneous ceramics sherds. Kitchen glass included 107 pieces of table glass and 726 bottle glass fragments.

Based on the location of Feature 2, and the dates of manufacture associated with diagnostic ceramic sherds and other artifacts recovered from this feature, the site was determined to consist of a structure and midden associated with the Marvel family, who resided on-site and (at one point) operated a public house in the vicinity. This trash pit appears to have been used between 1786 and 1789 and provides some evidence relating to the socioeconomic status of the Marvels. The structural remains of this trash pit, however, had been severely compromised in 1907 then the construction plans for the Burk Building called for heavy piles to be driven and used as foundations.

Due to the disturbances associated with early 20th century construction at the site, coupled with the fact that it is located beneath the cement floor of a standing building, and no other construction was planned at the locale, the site was determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005643