MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CA89 **Site Name:** Councell Farm Cemetery

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: 19th century brick burial vaults/cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.0296 Longitude -75.7901

Elevation 15 m Site slope

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 4 SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Topography

Floodplain	☐	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☐	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☑	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Oldtown Branch

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 100 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	
Anglo-American	Y	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? Rural

Domestic	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☑	**Artifact scatter**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☑	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☑	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☑
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐	burial vaults	
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken U

Flotation samples taken U Other samples taken skeletal remains, cloth

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

				Shepard		Keyser	
Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Selden Island		Watson		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Accokeek		Mockley		Shenks Ferry			
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Moyaone			
Vinette		Page		Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)		Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

		Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☐	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☐	Sandstone	☐		

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☑
Architectural		Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing	4	Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

		Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Const feature	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☑
Foundation	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐				

Unknown	☐
Other	☑
brick vaults	

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 Smithsonian

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Councell Farm Cemetery site (18CA89) consisted of three 19th century domed brick burial vaults and associated human remains. This site lies west of a tributary of the Choptank River, near Goldsboro, Caroline County. The graves are located about 250 m east of an extant house. The vaults were discovered by the landowner during mechanical excavation/grading for large fish ponds. Vault #1 was the most southerly of the burials. Vault #2 was located approximately 0.5 m north of Vault #1, and Vault #3 was located approximately 1.1 m north and 0.75 m west of Vault #2. Salvage excavations of the site were conducted in September 1994 by staff from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Smithsonian Institute. This constituted a Phase III data recovery project. No final report was written on the excavations but all photos, field notes, and the osteological analysis were located in the site files.

Vault #1, was oriented east to west, with the head at the west end of the coffin. The interior dimensions of the vault were 2.1 m long (east-west) by 0.8 m wide (north-south); the exterior measured 2.86 m x 1.02 m. The uppermost portion of the brick arch of the vault was collapsed. Hand cleaning of the structure revealed the corners of the vault. Unlike the other two vaults, Vault #1 was constructed with courses of stretchers topped with 1 course of headers and the arch spanned from outside edge to outside edge of the vault; there was a <3 cm ledge on the outside of the north and south vault walls. This required more brick spanning a larger area and may be why this arch collapsed. The ledges on the east and west sides of the vault both measured about 7 cm. The extant remains of the arch included the lower 3 brick courses on either side and 3 courses of stretchers. Excavation of the fill revealed a distinct tree root mold above the uppermost coffin wood indicating that the arch may have collapsed in the past rather than as a result of the mechanical excavation.

Vault #2 was oriented east to west, with the head at the west end of the coffin. The interior dimensions of the vault were 2 m long (east-west) by 0.62 m wide (north-south); the exterior measured 2.5 m x 1.06 m. The east end of the vault was broken through during the mechanical excavation. However, the interior of the vault was well preserved and coffin wood was evident. The vault was constructed with a course of headers at the base, topped with 5 courses of stretchers, and capped with 1 course of headers, totaling 50 cm in height. The interior brick was white washed up to the top course of the wall bricks but the vault arch had no evidence of white washing. At about midway down the arch, a metal hook or brace was noted. The east end arch measured 31 cm to its highest point. The height of the arch at the west end of the vault was 35 cm. The ledges on the north and south sides of the vault measured 10 cm and 7 cm respectively. The ledges on the east and west sides of the vault both measured about 9 cm. A builder's trench was identified on the north, south, and west sides of the vault. Impressions on the interior of the arch appeared to be mortar with saw marks from pieces of wood, indicating that some type of wood support was used in the arch construction. Some of the wood from the supporting structure still adhered to the mortar at the time of the excavation. Removal of the arch revealed fallen remains of the supporting wood structure lying on top of the coffin. This suggested that the box was constructed first, the coffin was placed inside, and then the arch was built to seal the structure. This would also explain why white washing was only on the interior of the vault walls and not the arch. Once the fallen support wood was removed, the coffin with fabric still inside was identified. Some clothing, a bow tie and a coat, were also visible.

Vault #3 was oriented east to west, with the head at the west end of the coffin. The interior dimensions of the vault were 2.07 m long (east-west) by 0.54 m wide (north-south); the exterior measured 2.26 m x 0.96 m. The east end of the vault was partially broken through by the machinery. Coffin wood and bone were visible. The vault was constructed with a base of headers topped by 5 courses of stretchers totaling 46 cm in height; there was no upper header course as in Vaults #1 and #2. No wooden support structure for the arch was evident. A line of brick was laid north-south under the approximate location of the neck. It was likely a support used to keep the coffin off the floor. The east end arch measured 31 cm in height. At the east end of the walls 2 bricks from each side were missing. One possibility is that the bricks were removed for supports, perhaps indicating that coffins were stacked. The ledges on the north and south sides of the vault measured 8 cm and 11 cm respectively. There were no ledges on the east and west ends; the arch was seated in line with the walls. Remnants of fabric were associated with this burial. The clothing recovered from this burial is recorded as a minimum estimate of 2 fragments in the table above.

The bricks that comprised Vaults #1 and #2 measured 21 x 10 x 5 cm. They were also similar in color (red) and mortaring (about ½" thick and sandy). The bricks in Vault #3 measured 21 x 9 x 6 cm and the brick color was pink and whitish-pink with mortaring less than ½" thick and less friable than the mortar of Vaults #1 and #2.

The skeletal remains and clothing were taken to the Smithsonian for analyses. Burial Vault #1 contained the remains of a white male aged 45-55, about 5' 8 1/2" tall. Slight arthritic changes were evident on some of the joint surfaces. The moderately developed muscle attachment sites suggested continued activity but not heavy labor. Burial Vault #2 contained the remains of a white male aged 50-59, about 5' 7" tall. In general, the bones were in poor condition, although desiccated soft tissue and some clothing were preserved. The presence of brushite suggested that the remains had been in contact with water. Bone pathology consisted mainly of beginning arthritis in the spine and long bone joints, and slight disc herniation in three vertebrae. Burial Vault #3 contained the remains of a white female aged 25-30, about 5' 1" tall. All cranial bones had been replaced by brushite. Remnants of fabric and some hair were associated with this burial. The hair appeared to be dark blond to light brown. She probably suffered minor lower back problems and carious lesions affected 11 of her 12 molars. Gold fillings were present in six molars.

The clothing recovered from burials #2 and #3 are recorded as a minimum estimate of 4 fragments in the table above. It is unclear if any fragments of coffin wood or brick were retained. Therefore, they are not included in the table above.

The Councell Farm Cemetery site (18CA89) consisted of three 19th century domed brick burial vaults and associated human remains. Two of the vaults were in remarkably good condition, the third having a collapsed arch. Of the human remains, two males and one female were identified. The remains of one of the males (Vault #2) were badly deteriorated, possibly as result of prolonged contact with water. The vaults and human remains were fully excavated and currently two large fish ponds are located in the site area.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

Site Files (18CA89 SF)