



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE378

Site Name: Port Deposit North

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-19th to early 20th century townsite/streetscape

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.6188

Longitude -76.1228

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0

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

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Susquehanna River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 100 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

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

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
- 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 grist 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 | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Clovis | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Hardaway-Dalton | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Palmer | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Kirk (notch) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Kirk (stem) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Le Croy | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Morrow Mntn | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Guilford | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Brewerton | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Otter Creek | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Koens-Crispin | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Perkiomen | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Susquehana | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Vernon | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Piscataway | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Calvert | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Selby Bay | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Jacks Rf (notch) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Jacks Rf (pent) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Madison/Potomac | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Levanna | <input type="text" value="0"/> | |

Prehistoric Sherd Types

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Marcey Creek | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Popes Creek | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Shepard | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Keyser | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Dames Qtr | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Coulbourn | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Townsend | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Yeocomico | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Selden Island | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Watson | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Minguannan | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Monongahela | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Accokeek | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Mockley | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Sullivan Cove | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Susquehannock | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Wolfe Neck | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Clemson Island | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Shenks Ferry | <input type="text" value="0"/> | | |
| Vinette | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Page | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Moyaone | <input type="text" value="0"/> | | |
| | | | | Potomac Crk | <input type="text" value="0"/> | | |

Historic Sherd Types

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Earthenware | | Ironstone | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Staffordshire | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Stoneware | |
| Astbury | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Jackfield | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Tin Glazed | <input type="text" value="0"/> | English Brown | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Borderware | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Mn Mottled | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Whiteware | <input type="text" value="134"/> | Eng Dry-bodied | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Buckley | <input type="text" value="0"/> | North Devon | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Porcelain | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Nottingham | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Creamware | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Pearlware | <input type="text" value="0"/> | | | Rhenish | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| | | | | | | Wt Salt-glazed | <input type="text" value="0"/> |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

| Prehistoric Artifacts | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Flaked stone | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Other fired clay | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Ground stone | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stone bowls | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Modified faunal | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Fire-cracked rock | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Unmod faunal | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Other lithics (all) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Oyster shell | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics (all) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rimsherds | <input type="text" value="0"/> | Uncommon Obj. | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prehistoric Features

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mound(s) | <input type="text" value="0"/> | 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

| Historic Artifacts | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pottery (all) | <input type="text" value="179"/> | Tobacco related | <input type="text" value="16"/> |
| Glass (all) | <input type="text" value="2424"/> | Activity item(s) | <input type="text" value="120"/> |
| Architectural | <input type="text" value="1328"/> | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture | <input type="text" value="1"/> | Faunal material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arms | <input type="text" value="11"/> | Misc. kitchen | <input type="text" value="126"/> |
| Clothing | <input type="text" value="37"/> | Floral material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal items | <input type="text" value="10"/> | Misc. | <input type="text" value="5976"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Historic Features

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

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CE378 is located on a floodplain or first terrace of the eastern bank of the Susquehanna River approximately 86 m inland from the riverbank. This is an area of flat land with an average elevation of 22.6 feet [(ft) 6.9 meters (m) above mean sea level (AMSL)]. The landform is approximately 492-ft (150-m) wide and is bordered to the northeast and east by rapidly rising bluffs that reach an average of 262 ft (80 m) AMSL. Rock Run, a small creek, flows southwest from the uplands where it cuts a deep channel through the bluffs and bisects the floodplain terrace in the project area before emptying into the Susquehanna River. Site 18CE378 is situated within the Susquehanna Gorge District of the Piedmont Plateau Physiographic Province, and soils at the site are udorthents with a bedrock substratum. NRCS WSS (2013) describes soil strata in the project area as consisting of 0.23 ft (7 cm) of silt loam over two strata of gravelly silt loam reaching depths of 5.41 ft (165 cm), at which point bedrock is reached.

The site location and the immediately surrounding area have been subjected to light industrial, commercial, and domestic occupation since ca. 1730 exhibiting a semi-urban to urban character, with closely spaced buildings, since the mid-nineteenth century. The nearby intersection of MD 222 (Main Street) and MD 269 (Granite Avenue) is bound by properties containing either standing buildings or known to have contained standing buildings at some time over the past 150 or more years.

Port Deposit grew early in the eighteenth century as a ferry crossing and mill town. The Rock Run Mill was established in 1725 by John Steel and operated until 1913. In 1792, Thomas Cresap constructed what would come to be known as Creswell's Ferry at Smith's or Upper Ferry, south of the project area; the ferry would later be purchased by Colonel John Creswell. Ferry travelers came through town seeking food or lodging, which helped spur local development. The town that grew around the ferry crossing came to be informally known as Creswell's Ferry. Creswell's Ferry and the town of Lapidum across the river represented the northern most navigable point for deep water vessels on the Susquehanna during the early period. This fortunate location allowed Port Deposit to thrive as a center of trade as ships destined for other regions met river barges and wagons from inland loaded with goods, including tobacco, lumber, coal, and grain. The goods would arrive at this "port of deposit" and be shipped off to the far reaches of the countryside. This method of transporting goods to Port Deposit and loading them aboard larger vessels was preferable to floating them downstream as there remained a number of rapids or river hazards that could prove detrimental to goods not contained in a larger vessel. A road was authorized in 1731, running from the upper Susquehanna ferry to Philadelphia, past the mill at Rock Run. This also increased traffic to Port Deposit and further encouraged growth. Creswell's Ferry, while operating as a center of commerce prior, was not officially platted until 1812, at which time it was also renamed Port Deposit.

Philip Thomas owned much of the land in the region that now forms the core of Port Deposit during the early nineteenth century. Upon his death in 1811, his son purchased many of the surrounding parcels of land from the heirs and had an official plat drawn in 1812. This plat included the land of Creswell's Ferry and showed a 13-foot wide street with a few lots on the river bank side of the town. The original plat did not include lots north of the ferry launch.

During the American Revolutionary War, the land became seized British property given to William Smith Jarboe in 1780. More than 27 acres of the property around Rock Run, including the entirety of the Site 18CE387 area, was patented to Captain James G. Heron in 1786. The patent plat describes the property as being too rocky for tillage. Andreve (1976) writes that the Rock Run Mill, which still stands in the area, was built in 1725 by John Steel. However, the Heron's patent makes no mention of structures on the property, and a review of deed records neither confirms nor repudiates that the Steel family owned the mill at this early date.

The period of land transfer between 1786 and the turn of the century is convoluted. A review of period maps indicates that by the late 1790s, James G. Heron had subdivided his land into holdings owned by Hugh Lyon, Benjamin Sterret, Robert Carr (or Kerr), and an individual named Johnson. Haudeucoeur's 1799 map of Cecil County shows Sterret's name on properties located well east of the Susquehanna, most likely on the upland flats that overlook the project area. A clear property boundary is not illustrated, and Sterret's holdings may extend to the north bank of Rock Run, where it empties into the Susquehanna. Carr's property is illustrated to the north and east of Rock Run, and a road that corresponds roughly to the modern Granite Avenue. Johnson's property is south of Rock Run. Rock Run Mill and a three other structures are illustrated near the north bank.

The age of prosperity in Port Deposit was during the nineteenth century due to its geographic position as the northern most deep-water navigable point on the Susquehanna and its proximity to the railroad and other means of transportation to Pennsylvania cities. This allowed it to transition from a rural village to a more urban center. Raw materials such as flour, lumber, grain, coal, and potatoes were brought down the river on small rafts from points north and offloaded and reloaded aboard vessels bound for Baltimore or points throughout the Chesapeake region.

The Maryland Canal assisted in the growth of the Port Deposit. Prior to its construction, many vessels stopped at Lapidum on the other side of the Susquehanna. However, once the canal was completed barges could avoid Smith's Falls and travel directly to Port Deposit to transfer their goods.

In addition to becoming a key point of distribution, Port Deposit found itself a center of manufacture and processing. There was a significant lumber industry that developed in the region due to the large nearby forests. By 1840, it was estimated that 250,000,000 feet of lumber per year were floated downriver. The widespread availability of lumber also spawned lumber mills and associated support industries to process all the wood. Jacob Tome, one of Port Deposit's residents in the nineteenth century, began in the lumber industry and amassed millions during the boom years of 1830 to 1870. Tome was also active in the banking industry and soon was able to buy out other lumber companies as well as bringing a steamboat line to the Susquehanna. He was considered the foremost philanthropist in Port Deposit and had interests in banking, lumber, and grain shipping. Granite was one of the other key industries in Port Deposit. The local granite is a bluish gray stone with flecks of mica, which was initially used by early settlers of the region as a building material. By 1816, a small quarry had opened.

The neighborhood around the site area appeared to be largely empty during the first portion of the period of prosperity. It was not until the 1850s, that it began



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Unknown

to grow into a commercial area. An 1853 Plat map of the neighborhood around the LOD shows mostly empty lots around the Rock Run Mill. Existing buildings include the Mill itself, along with a dwelling shown on Lot 21, northwest of the mill. This dwelling does not appear to correspond to any existing buildings. Based on the plat map, it would have been located on the terrace overlooking the current Mayor Tome's home, which is located north of the mill. There are two buildings on what is now Granite Road (Rock Run Road) on the map. These include a two-story dwelling with wrap-around porches at the northeast corner of Granite Avenue and MD 222 and a horse stable approximately 95 ft (27 m) further east.

The map shows seven platted lots on the west side of MD 222 (Water Street), near the site area. From north to south, these are lots 19, 1, 17, 16, 2, 3, and 18. There is a blacksmith shop shown on Lot 19, and John Carson's store is shown on Lot 16. Both these lots are north of Rock Run. Lot 19 is located at the northeast edge of the project area, and much of it is beneath the current configuration of MD 222. Carson's Store and Lot 16 are within the portion of the project area north of Rock Run. The map shows Carson's Store to be a 60-x-34-ft (18.3-x-10.4-m) building with a street-facing porch.

John Carson first appeared as a Port Deposit area resident in the 1850 Federal Census, as a farmer with \$8,000 worth of property. Thirteen people are shown in the census records cohabitating with Carson, including farmhands named George Gillespie and William Mullen. The census is not clear with regard to where the family resided, and available land deed records are similarly unclear.

There are two buildings illustrated on the plat south of Rock Run. These include a dwelling at Lot 18 and a building labeled "ABD store", to its south. The two buildings share a street-facing porch. Their ownership could not be determined.

The neighborhood grew considerably between 1853 and 1858. Martenet's 1858 Atlas of Cecil County shows five structures nearby and about a dozen buildings along the north side of what is now Granite Avenue. There is also a line of buildings illustrated on the east side of what is now MD 222. Several of the buildings are identified as hotels and stores. The mill is identified as the J. Reynolds Grist Mill. Granite Avenue includes the Granite House Hotel operated by the Vandiver family and the Valley Hotel J' St. Clair. The Granite House Hotel building still stands and is currently a private dwelling. A building on the southeast corner of Granite Avenue and MD 222 is identified as Mrs. Hughes' Hotel, and to its south is depicted I. Jenkins' shoemaker shop.

Buildings nearby the site include the Rock Run Hotel illustrated approximately where Lots 1 and 17 are visible on the 1853 plat. Two more buildings are shown south of the Rock Run Hotel, but are not labeled. John Carson's store may have been converted to a dwelling by this time, since a new Carson (and Coulson) store appears on the 1858 map south of Rock Run, at the former ABD Store location. The dwelling that was once north of the ABD Store, became the Stone, Steel and Ruthe Store. The Carson family is likely to have continued owning, and perhaps living, in their former store location at Lot 16. Based on land deeds, Carson did not sell most of his Port Deposit properties, instead deeding them to his children between 1869 and 1878. Carson and Coulson would remain business partners throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century. On the 1860 census, Hugh Steel is listed as a butcher. The same census record shows Joseph Stone, the only Stone living in Cecil County, as a carpenter living nearby Elkton. There are no Ruthe or Ruth names listed in the census in Cecil County during this period.

Throughout the 1860s and 1870s, properties in the neighborhood changed hands, but it remained a thriving commercial area. Hotels, as well as taverns, inns, or restaurants, and stores, remained neighborhood fixtures. Port Deposit's early history was prosperous, but by 1880, the town began a precipitous economic decline. The lumber industry collapsed after the forests had been cut. Trains were no longer stopping there, as the spur line had been virtually eliminated by 1869. The shipping canal was also no longer being maintained. Construction of a dam upriver in 1910 ended navigation on the river and severely curtailed fishing activities. By 1920, the quarry was in financial trouble, and many other industries had closed. The Tome Institute closed in 1941, and its buildings became the Bainbridge Naval Training Center. The decline of the major industries in Port Deposit led its population of several thousand to plummet until it became what it is today, a small town of less than 700 people.

The 1943 Sanborn map is the first of the series to show MD 222 along its current configuration, curving west to go underneath the railroad tracks; all of the other maps depicted MD 222 continuing along its former northwest route, paralleling the railroad tracks. By this time, the Rock Run Mill is labeled as a sausage factory. None of the three buildings shown on the 1923 Sanborn map or the 1930 bridge plans on the west side of MD 222 north of Rock Run are shown on the 1943 map, suggesting that all had been demolished by this time. The remaining buildings on the east side of MD 222, and along Granite Avenue, all appear to be residential by this time.

In 2014, URS conducted a Phase I archeological survey for the proposed replacement of the MD 222 bridge over Rock Run in Port Deposit. The primary goal of the survey was to determine if any potentially significant archeological deposits within the project area will be affected by the proposed bridge replacement pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985.

Subsurface testing of within the limits of disturbance (LOD) boundaries was accomplished via the excavation of square shovel test pits (STPs) measuring 50-x-50 centimeters (cm) in size and excavated to a depth of 15 cm into sterile subsoil or to a maximum depth of 1 m if no subsoil was encountered. Excavations were also terminated if buried building floors or dense, impenetrable stone layers were encountered. Excavations in which wall foundations were found were continued in an effort to expose portions of the walls without removing portions of the walls themselves.

Fourteen initial STPs were excavated within the LOD at 10-m intervals. Nine additional 50-x-50 cm STPs were then judgmentally placed nearby or adjacent to STPs where architectural features had been partially exposed but required additional excavation to better characterize the nature of the feature and its relationship to other nearby architectural remains. Additionally, 16 round STPs with a 40-cm diameter were excavated in locations adjacent to the LOD in order to define site boundaries and to determine if subsurface deposits associated with the extant historic mill structure or lots near the LOD could be associated with the archeological resources recovered from within the LOD.

Artifacts recovered during the project were transported to the URS laboratory where they were subjected to analyses to provide a general descriptive profile of the assemblage. Following the conclusion of this project, the artifacts will be accessioned and formally curated at the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) lab.

The archeological survey resulted in the recovery of numerous eighteenth through twentieth century artifacts and the identification of the floors and foundations of at least three razed buildings within the LOD, on the west side of MD 222 and north of Rock Run. The survey also exposed foundation



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elements of additions to the eighteenth century Rock Run Mill located immediately east of the bridge replacement project's LOD. The survey also documented at least two demolished structures outside of the LOD in two adjacent empty lots off of the southeast corner of the intersection of MD 222 and Granite Avenue. The various floors and foundations appear to be largely contemporaneous and appear to be the remains of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and residential block of Port Deposit. The recovered artifacts represent a broader time span, and include objects contemporaneous with the late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural remains, but also many earlier and later artifacts. The general homogeneity of the discoveries has prompted the URS researchers and the MHT to treat the archeological resources as a single site, which has been assigned the site number 18CE378.

Numerous architectural features appearing to correspond to former building locations depicted on the 1923 Sanborn map were encountered in the Area Northwest portion of the LOD. Soil profiles observed in STPs that did not contain features contain evidence of historic and modern fill over strata likely representing construction and demolition episodes and/or apparently intact subsoil. This section of the LOD appeared to contain both intact historic features that correspond to structures depicted on historic mapping as well as apparently intact, buried historic soil profiles that contain evidence of pre-demolition historic occupation of area. Additional archeological work was recommended in this area to further expose foundation elements and identify historic ground surface as well as additional features and to tie such to the historic mapping of the area to assist in the NRHP eligibility status determination of the site.

Additional archeological investigations were recommended within the LOD on the west side of MD 222 both north and south of Rock Run. Additional research and archeological investigations have the potential to yield significant information on the economic rise and decline of this portion of Port Deposit, including changes in local demographics.

The Phase II excavations focused on an 0.37 acre (0.15 hectare) area of a portion of 18CE378 that represents a mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century commercial and residential streetscape spanning the north and south banks of Rock Run on the west side of MD 222. The excavated portion of the site is part of a larger complex of historic structures that includes the mid-eighteenth century Rock Run Mill property and the nineteenth century Tome property on the east side of MD 222, along with nineteenth century buildings on Granite Avenue, the street perpendicular to MD 222.

The evaluation of 18CE378 was completed via trench and test unit (TU) excavations in the portions of 18CE378 within the project LOD; that is, in the properties adjacent to Rock Run's north and south bank, between MD 222 and the railroad. Trench excavations were completed to reveal architectural elements such as walls, cellars, and floors and buried features (e.g., pits) and buried occupation surfaces, if present. Trenches were excavated mechanically by a small tracked excavator with a 0.9-m (3-ft) wide toothless bucket. Trench depths were variable depending on depths at which features were exposed, but generally did not exceed 1-m (3.3 ft). Excavated trench soil was not screened, but diagnostic artifacts encountered during excavation were recovered. Recovered artifacts were bagged in sealable plastic bags labeled with provenience data including project name, trench number, general trench location, excavator initials, and date.

Following excavation, one wall of each trench was trowel scraped and profiled to record stratigraphic information. TUs were excavated within the trenches to gather additional data on the nature of subsurface deposits and document cultural features. TUs were 3.3-x-3.3 ft (1-x-1 m) square or 3.3-x-1.65 ft (1-x-0.5 m) rectangular excavations. Each was hand-excavated in arbitrary 10-cm levels within distinct soil strata. Soil excavated from each level was screened through 0.25-inch (6.3-mm) wire mesh to ensure uniform artifact recovery.

Excavations at 18CE378 included 11 mechanically excavated trenches, 11 test units, and four shovel test pits. The foundations of at least four mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth century demolished buildings were identified as a result. Historic records illuminated at least portions of each building's occupational history. Excavations along the buildings' external margins produced only limited artifact and feature datasets. Recovered artifacts were limited largely to architectural remains, and a large percentage of artifacts were recovered from unsecured fill contexts.

Archaeological excavations at 18CE378 identified the eastern, southern, and northern foundation walls of at least three buildings and associated architectural features north of Rock Run. The east wall of one building was identified south of Rock Run. Portions of sidewalk streetscaping were also identified south of Rock Run. The identified buildings correspond to those described in historic documents spanning the 1850s to the 1930s.

Eleven trenches were excavated at site 18CE378. The primary goal of the trench excavations were to expose building foundations and provide a site-wide assessment of soil stratigraphy. Each trench was approximately 3.7-ft (1.15 m) wide except where otherwise noted. Trench depths varied considerably. Most of the recorded trench strata are fill deposits, and many of these post-date the demolishing of the last group of buildings on the east side of MD 222 for the expansion of the Norfolk Southern railroad in the 1930s. In Trench 1, these fills were represented by Strata I-X. Stratum X in Trench 1 was a fill deposit observed in all of the trenches excavated north of Rock Run. It corresponded to Stratum I in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, and 11.

Stratum XI in Trench 1 appeared to represent a buried A Horizon surface from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Comparable soils included Stratum II in Trench 3, strata IIIa, IIIb, and Vb in Trench 5, and Stratum II in Trench 6. Stratum IVe and Zone A of Feature 4 in Trench 5 also represent modified surface soils from that time period. Stratum XII, a subsoil in Trench 1, appears to correspond to subsoil strata IVb, IVc, and IVf in Trench 5 and Stratum III in Trench 6. Stratum XII compares closely to strata Vc and VIb in Trench 5.

Four sets of building foundations were identified as a result of the trench excavations. For the purpose of this discussion, the buildings will be described as the North Building, North-Central Building, Central Building, and South Building. The buildings are correlated with documented historic properties in the portion of this section discussing individual features, and in the interpretations at the section's end. The North Building appears to correspond to Lot 1 from the 1853 plat map described above. The North-Central Building corresponds to Lot 17, the Central Building to Lot 16, and the South Building corresponds to Lot 18.

The TU locations were typically selected near building foundations in order to recover artifacts that may have had accumulated around building margins. Exceptions to this were TUs 1 and 10, which were unknowingly placed within building foundations.

Four STPs were completed as part of this project. STPs 2014-01 and 2014-02 were excavated on



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE378

Site Name: Port Deposit North

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief

Description:

Mid-19th to early 20th century townsite/streetscape

either side of the Feature 14 foundation in Trench 9. STP 2014-03 was excavated in Trench 11, and STP 2014-04 was excavated in Trench 5, adjacent to Feature 11. The STP excavations were intended to supplement TU data. STPs 2014-01 and 2014-02 were excavated on either side of Feature 14 at locations where TU excavations would not be feasible on account of extensive and deep fill deposits. Artifacts collected from the STPs represent materials found in the fill of the South Building and the stairwell fill. These materials likely do not represent the South Building's occupations. STP 2014-03 represents the same deposits as those in TU 10. The artifacts from Stratum II may be those that found their way into the crawlspace beneath the floor of the North Building. Stratum I materials appear to be a mixture of primary deposits beneath the floor, comingled with debris pushed in during the building's demolition. Finally, STP 2014-04 represents soils around Feature 11. These soils may be from a living surface around the margin of Feature 11, but the recovered artifact assemblage does not appear to be related to Feature 11.

Twenty-one features were identified at the site, and nearly all were architectural remains. The features clustered geographically around the four buildings foundations identified at the site. For the purpose of this discussion, the buildings are identified as North Building, North-Central Building, Central Building, and South Building.

The 21 identified features are broadly grouped with four building foundations identified at the site. Features 5 and 8 comprise the North Building. Feature 5 is the southern foundation wall of the North Building. Feature 8 is a hollow cavity formed between missing bricks of the Feature 5 foundation, or perhaps a damaged portion of the Feature 4 midden, intruded upon by Feature 5.

The North-Central Building is comprised of Feature 1 (the north wall), Feature 9 (the south wall), and Feature 7, a hollow formed between missing stones in the north wall or a damaged portion of the Feature 4 midden disturbed by Feature 1. Feature 21, a historic clay pipe utility, may be connected to the North-Central Building. Feature 4 was a small midden located between the northern and North-Central Buildings, in the space between Feature 1 and Feature 5.

The Central Building is represented by Feature 2 (its filled cellar), Feature 6 (its south wall), Feature 10 (its east wall), Feature 18 (its north wall), and Feature 20, a short exterior stone footing structure, which may have been part of a porch or staircase. Associated features also include Features 3 and 22, which together form a driveway or pathway parallel to the north wall of the house that then turns south and crosses over the northern foundation and into/over the cellar. Feature 19 may be a historic utility or French drain associated with the building, or possibly sidewalk/road prism fill.

Feature 11 is located immediately south of the Central Building, but its association with the building is unclear. The small feature appears to be an external thermal unit, possibly a hearth or forge. It may also be a chimney foundation of an earlier building that did not have a stone wall foundation. Feature 12 is a concrete sidewalk or driveway pavement fronting the South Building. Feature 13 represents portions of the pavement curb. Feature 14 is the east wall of the South Building. Feature 15 is a small square of earth adjacent to the South Building. It is surrounded by sidewalk and curbing and appear to be the remains of a decorative tree or garden planter on the front of the building. Feature 16 is a sand-filled depression between the sidewalk and wall and may represent a filled stairway access to a subterranean entrance.

Two late nineteenth/early twentieth century neighborhood blocks were partially excavated as part of this undertaking. The remains of a single property on the block south of Rock Run and at least three buildings north of Rock Run were partially exposed. According to historic documents, the property south of Rock Run was a dry goods and grocery store from the late 1850 into the early years of the twentieth century. It was then turned into an automobile mechanic's shop before being demolished in the 1930s. The properties north of Rock Run included a large home and two adjacent buildings used as an office and a small dwelling. The large domestic property dates back at least to 1853, when it was a store run by John Carson. By the 1870s, this property became the home of granite quarry owner John W. Malone, who later died in debt. The smaller dwelling and office buildings located at the north end of the LOD appear to have been built in the early twentieth century upon the foundations of a former tavern or inn called the Lyon's Establishment. Before becoming the Lyon's Establishment sometime in the 1870s, the location was that of the Rock Run Hotel.

Occupational surfaces dated to the turn of the century were recorded in several locations, although recovered artifact assemblages from those contexts were generally not informative regarding period lifeways and behaviors. Many of the recovered artifacts were architectural debris such as nails, brick fragments, shingles, and especially window glass shards. General household debris was also recovered from the properties north of Rock Run. A midden deposit identified near the north end of the LOD appears to relate to the Lyon's Establishment and includes a large volume of liquor bottles, drinking glasses, smoking pipes, and possibly a communal serving bowl, secondary deposits in the midden also include later domestic materials.

The recovered materials do not lend themselves to a diachronic study of changing socioeconomic conditions in Port Deposit resulting from the de-industrialization of Northeastern cities. The artifact data alone do not indicate the economic decline that afflicted Port Deposit in the late nineteenth century. However, when coupled with historic documents, a general pattern emerges of a thriving commercial neighborhood that became a residential area before becoming largely abandoned. The large stone dwelling north of Rock Run began as a store before becoming the home of a businessman who went into debt as a result of the declining granite industry. The Rock Run Hotel/Lyon's Establishment became a smaller dwelling and office buildings.

Maps of the surrounding neighborhood indicate a similar pattern. The initially expansive Rock Run Mill property became increasingly subdivided in the late nineteenth century. The mill itself closed for a short time early in the twentieth century before it reopened as a sausage factory, ultimately falling into disuse by the mid-twentieth century. The Granite Town Hotel near the mill also closed and became a boarding house. A small number of new homes were built south of the neighborhood, but new construction remains sparse at the north end of Port Deposit to this day. Evidence of earlier occupations and their relationship to those from the turn of the twentieth century were not forthcoming. It is possible that evidence relating to older occupations, as well as additional materials from the time period studied, had been deposited in the "back-yards" of the excavated buildings. The back yard contexts would be located below the Norfolk-Southern rail berm, where they were either sealed or demolished when the berm was built. These deposits, if they do exist, will not be negatively impacted by SHA's proposed bridge replacement but are also inaccessible for archaeological study.

The parts of 18CE378 excavated for this project did not yield historically significant archaeological deposits. As such, it is recommended that the site is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and that the bridge replacement project be allowed to proceed as proposed within the confines of



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Historic

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Unknown

the Limits of Disturbance (LOD). Historic maps and the layout of the excavated building foundations suggest that occupational debris may be located in the portion of the site buried beneath a railroad berm forming the southwestern boundary of, and outside of, the LOD. Additional potentially intact and significant deposits are also located immediately to the northeast of the LOD, associated with Rock Run Mill.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002491, 95002277