



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE60

Site Name: Elk Landing

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Fort Hollingsworth, John Hanson Steelman House

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic - Late Woodland camps, War of 1812 earthwork, Late 18th-mid 19th cen. town site, 19th farm

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code DaA, ErB, NM

Latitude 39.6004 Longitude -75.8448

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-8%

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 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) Little Elk Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal 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 12 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Paleoindian site <input type="checkbox"/> | Woodland site <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact period site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1820 - 1860 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaic site <input type="checkbox"/> | MD Adena <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1630 - 1675 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1860 - 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Early archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Early woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1675 - 1720 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1900 - 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Middle archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mid. woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1720 - 1780 <input type="checkbox"/> | Post 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Late archaic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Late woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1780 - 1820 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Unknown prehistoric context <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown historic context <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anglo-American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> | Swedish <input type="checkbox"/> |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- | | |
|---|---|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/> | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> | Shell midden <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Base camp <input type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/> | Production area <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- Other context

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken N
 Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N
 Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	1	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	1	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	2	Tin Glazed	8	English Brown	4
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	6	Whiteware	502	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	165	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	447	Pearlware	385			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	11

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1107	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	1	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	1	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	333	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	41	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	4	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	2572	Activity item(s)	220
Glass (all)	4284	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4290	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	3	Misc. kitchen	1297
Arms	659	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	87	Misc.	1250
Personal items	45	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fuel, plastic

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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 Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc.

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Elk Landing Site (18CE60) is a multicomponent site comprising a late 18th century stone house (referred to variously as the Stone House, John Hanson Steelman House and Steelman Trading Post), the late 18th century Hollingsworth House, 19th and 20th century outbuildings, and the possible 19th century remains of Fort Hollingsworth. There is also a prehistoric component to the site with artifacts dating from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland period that is in all likelihood associated with adjacent site 18CE29. The Elk Landing Site is located on the east side of the Little Elk Creek, above the fork of the Elk River, in Cecil County, Maryland. It lies just south of the modern Town of Elkton in Historic Elk Landing. The Stone House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and is located within the National Register boundary of Elk Landing. The Stone House has also been listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP #CE-132). As of 2002, the Maryland Historical Trust maintains an easement at the property; both houses (both now with the same MIHP #:CE-132), the remains of the fort, and the outbuildings are located within the easement parcel. Soils at the site are primarily of the Elsinboro-Delanco-Urban land complex (0-8% slope) and Delanco silt loam (0-3% slope). The site area measures approximately 148 m x 170 m.

Archival research indicated a rich history in the site area. During his trip in the area ca. 1608, John Smith gave the Elk River its name when he supposedly saw a herd of elk along the river's edge. At that time, the Massawomekes, Susquehannocks, and Tockwoghs occupied what would become Cecil County. The Susquehannocks (or Susquehanna) lived in the area at the fork of the Elk River. In the mid-1600s, a Swedish and Finnish community developed in the fork of the Elk River. Recorded history of the site dates back to 1655 when the local Indian tribe, the Susquehanna, presented the Governor of New Sweden (now Wilmington, DE) with land they called "Chakakituqe" on the Elk River in exchange for the promise that the Swedes would establish a trading post there. The place name became "Sahakitko" (meaning "squeaky saw" in Finnish) among the Scandinavians and later "Successor" among the English. Trade between the Scandinavian settlers and local Susquehanna Indians was carried out from 1655 until the local aboriginal population disappeared around 1720. A Swedish or Finnish settlement never appeared to develop on the land, nor did the Dutch, who conquered the Swedes later that year, appear to lay claim to the land.

In 1672, a patent was issued to an Englishman named William Price for "Price's Venture" on a 250 acre parcel located somewhere on the north side of Elk River. In 1678/9, a patent was granted to J. Browning and R. Nash for a 500 acre tract called "Successor" in the fork of the Elk River. In 1681, Nicholas Painter patented a 1400 acre tract called "Friendship" that was located on the west side of the northeast branch of Elk River (Big Elk Creek) adjoining Successor. Painter gave 3 Finns 50 acres each in exchange for building a mill on his other land. Sometime around 1693, a Swedish Indian trader named John Hanson Steelman acquired the south 200 acres of the Successor tract facing Little Elk Creek where he remained until ca. 1710. History indicates that Steelman established a trading post called Transtown on the parcel. It has been postulated that a log structure (demolished in 1917) that abutted the extant Stone House may have been his original trading post. However, a late 17th century construction date for the log building has been debated. An early 19th century date of construction seems more likely and it has been suggested that the trading post is to be found farther south on the property, possibly in the wooded area. However, ground disturbances around the house in the second half of the 19th century may have removed any archeological evidence associated with the earlier occupation. In any case, by the early 18th century Steelman had moved his trading post west following the migrating Indian population.

In 1711, most of the settlement called "Sahakitko" was absorbed into a farm that was started by Henry Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth purchased one of the 50 acre tracts from a Finn who had originally acquired the land from Nicholas Painter. During 2 separate purchases, one in 1715 and one in 1721, H. Hollingsworth acquired a 100 acre parcel of the Successor tract. The parcel was described as being bounded on the southeast by the Steelman plantation. The farm was expanded by his son Zebulon. Zebulon Hollingsworth purchased 100 acres of the Friendship tract in 1727 and 75 acres of the Price's Venture tract in 1732. In 1742, he purchased a 200 acre tract that was located at the head of the Elk River and in the deed Zebulon was listed as "Innholder". In 1752, he purchased another 50 acre tract of the Friendship parcel. Zebulon died in 1763 and the Hollingsworth farm and lands were taken over by his son, Zebulon Jr.

During the 18th century, the area of Elk Landing was an important transportation hub for shipping food and other materials. A wharf was located on the east bank of Little Elk Creek, just southwest of the stone house (Elk Landing Wharf is recorded as site 18CE328). An advertisement from 1767 indicated that Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr. was involved in the shipping trade. "Good stores" for the reception of materials in transit and "houses of entertainment" were available at the Head of Elk, which was incorporated into the town of Elkton in 1787. These facilities may have been established on the 200 acres Zebulon Sr. purchased in 1742. It was postulated that the log structure was Zebulon Jr.'s upper storehouse. A stone addition was believed to have been built onto the log structure in 1775. However, the results of testing wood samples from the Stone House indicated that the stone addition could not have been built onto the log structure until after ca. 1783. Even so, very few late 18th century artifacts have been recovered from excavations in and around the stone house that would support a late 18th century date of construction; therefore, an early 19th century date of construction of the stone house is thought to be more likely. It was postulated that the log structure was converted to use as a kitchen when the stone addition was built. It is presumed that the brick Hollingsworth House was also built in the early 1780s. A map from 1857 shows the Stone House and the Hollingsworth House and two other structures that are labeled "wharf" (probably the wharf and associated warehouse). William Hollingsworth took over the land at the time of his father's death in 1812. During the War of 1812, a small earthwork and a few cannons (some say only 1 cannon), known as Fort Hollingsworth, was located just southeast of the Stone House on the Hollingsworth Farm. William died in 1844 leaving the house to his wife. In 1848, the Hollingsworth House was gutted by fire and subsequently rebuilt in its present Gothic-Revival style.

In 1887, the Diebert & Brothers Barge Building Company established boat yards on Little Elk Creek (Site 18CE326), north of the Hollingsworth's wharf. Some sources indicate that the Lower yard was located on the Hollingsworth farm property and other source indicate the boat yard was actually located on the property of the adjoining farm called the Elk Landing Farm, which was established sometime in the 18th century from combining the 2 early land patents of Successor and Price's Venture. Some researchers have indicated that Zebulon Sr. purchased that parcel of land in his 1732 acquisition of 75 acres of Price's Venture. Landing Lane (then Landing Road) served as the boundary of the 2 properties with Hollingsworth farm occupying the land east of the road and south to the fork of the Elk River inclusive of the stone house and wharf, and with the Elk Landing farm situated on the west side of the road. A detailed plat analysis would help in clarifying this issue of land ownership. Descendants of the Hollingsworth family continued to occupy Elk Landing until January 2000 when the Town of Elkton and the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc. signed a 99-year lease for the restoration, management, and operation of the site as a living history museum.

In 1984, archeological investigations were undertaken around the Stone House commonly believed to be the dwelling associated with John Steelman. The purpose of the survey was to determine if the existing structure was part of the Steelman residence/trading post and/or if the vicinity of the stone house



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Unknown

contains the remains of Steelman's original trading post which was active before the stone house was built. Field methods included the excavation of six test units (TUs A, B, D-G). All excavated soil was screened. All artifacts were retained with the exception of coal and oyster shell. Such large quantities of those 2 materials were encountered that only a sample was collected from each unit. Twenty auger holes (possibly referring to shovel test pits) were also dug in various parts of the site, primarily north and east to southeast of the structure.

Test units A and B were excavated to the north and east of the house respectively in an attempt to locate the remains of the log building demolished in 1917 that was thought to be the original trading post. Test unit D was excavated along the interior of the south basement wall while TUs E and F were dug along the exterior of the wall. Test Unit G was excavated along the west wall of the building. The site plan contained in the report did not have an accurate scale so the relationships between structures and test units should be considered with that in mind.

No evidence of any subsurface features or disturbances were noted in the area of TU A. Results of excavation at TU B indicated that the immediate area east of the Stone House had been extensively disturbed in the historic period and it was postulated that that portion of the yard may have been formed by a large-scale fill event. A faint linear earthen mound roughly rectangular in shape was identified. According to the site map, this earthen feature was longer but slightly less wide than the Stone House. TU B was excavated across a portion of the northwestern segment of the feature. Other than identifying the disturbed area in TU B and the builder's trench around the Stone House in TUs D, E and G, no cultural features or structural foundations were encountered during the investigations, particularly those relating to Steelman's occupation. All of the historic artifacts recovered from the testing indicated an occupation beginning in the late 18th century at the earliest, although 19th and early 20th century artifacts were more common.

A total of 2,799 historic artifacts were recovered during the 1984 excavations. There were 58 activity items: 1 marble, 2 metal toy pieces, 1 pencil lead fragment, 1 piece of unidentified railroad metal, 5 miscellaneous metal tools, 45 sherds of flower pots, and 2 fence staples. There were 822 architectural items: 24 brick fragments, 1 handwrought nail, 32 cut nails, 127 wire nails, 126 unidentified nails, 238 fragments of window glass, 74 pieces of mortar, 1 piece of plaster, 7 slate shingles, 2 pieces of asbestos, 2 insulator fragments, 119 pieces of sheet metal used in construction, and 69 unidentified miscellaneous metal architectural objects. In all, 15 clothing items were retained including 11 unidentified buttons and 4 unidentified metal clothing objects. A total of 1,661 kitchen-related artifacts were recovered: 712 bottle and container glass fragments, 109 pieces of table glass, 31 shards of milk glass, 670 ceramic sherds (1 creamware, 88 porcelain, 338 ironstone, 19 stoneware, 119 whiteware, 3 yellowware, 102 redware), 27 miscellaneous metal household items, 65 animal bone fragments, and 47 shell fragments. There were 226 miscellaneous items: 1 unidentifiable melted glass piece, 84 pieces of unidentified metal, 80 pieces of plastic, 2 pieces of rubber, 38 coal and 15 clinker fragments, and 2 pieces of aluminum foil. Nine personal items were found including 6 coins, 2 fragments of optical glass, and 1 possible perfume bottle. Only a single tobacco item (a pipe fragment) and 7 unidentified arms objects were retrieved. In addition to the historic artifacts, 83 prehistoric objects were recorded, probably all flakes and debitage.

In 2000, the Historic Elk Landing Foundation signed a 99-year lease for the restoration, management, and operation of the site as a living history museum. Archeological survey and testing at Historic Elk Landing was commissioned in order to provide data that would aid in interpreting the historic and prehistoric past in a living history format. Historic Elk Landing is a ca. 44 acre area starting at the foot of Landing Lane and encompassing the land between the forks of the Elk River. The historic structures located on that property include two 18th century dwellings and several 19th to 20th century outbuildings. The total area inclusive of those structures (approximately 6 acres within the 44 acre property) has been designated as site 18CE60. Prehistoric site 18CE29 (called the Hollingsworth Farm Site) is located on the east side of Elk Landing along the bank of the Big Elk Creek.

In mid-2000, archeologists with the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) conducted excavations at Elk Landing. The work was part of research designed to assess Maryland's War of 1812 battlefield sites. During the study, a metal detector survey was conducted in an area southeast of the Stone House where Fort Hollingsworth was supposedly located. In addition to the metal detecting, 78 shovel test pits (STPs) were dug. A 3-lb cannonball was the only war-related artifact recovered (recorded as an arms item in the table above). In addition to the cannonball, artifacts dating from the 18th to the 20th century were also observed and a thin band of oyster shells was noted in STPs dug close to the Stone House. Only artifacts that could be related to the War of 1812 were retained. All others were noted then reburied. The report from that work is not located in the Maryland Historical Trust library but is on file at JPPM. Without accurate site maps, it is impossible to determine if the cannonball and artifacts were recovered from the same area as the earthen feature identified in 1984.

In December of 2000, excavations were done underneath the porch of the Hollingsworth House ahead of proposed restoration activities. Those investigations revealed a Late Woodland period layer that was sealed beneath a clay layer. The clay layer may have been deposited on top of the prehistoric materials when the original cellar for the house was dug. Above the clay layer, a stratum of brick and mortar rubble was encountered, which may have represented construction debris associated with the building of the house. Late 18th and early 19th century ceramics were recovered from the debris layer. Above that layer was another stratum of brick and mortar rubble. This layer contained early 19th century materials and was likely associated with renovations to the house following the 1848 fire. The complete report on the 2000 excavations at the Hollingsworth House is on file with the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, Inc.

Work at Historic Elk Landing was continued in the early spring of 2002 as part of the work commissioned in order to provide data that would aid in interpreting the historic and prehistoric past in a living history format. Archeological testing at that time consisted of the excavation of 392 shovel test pits and 7 test units (each measuring 1 m²) in an approximately 22 acre area on the terrace above the floodplains of the Little Elk and Big Elk Creeks. The entirety of site 18CE60 as currently delineated by the Maryland Historical Trust was located in the western half of the survey area. An estimated 175 STPs and all 7 test units were excavated inside 18CE60's site boundaries. The original report on the 2002 testing did not differentiate between site and non-site STPs; the estimated number of STPs was derived from determining the site boundaries on the project map located in the text. Certainly, artifacts collected from outside of the site boundaries would be associated with the periods of occupation at 18CE60 and the prehistoric site 18CE29; however, only those objects recovered from within the site boundaries were included in the table above. During the 2002 study, STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals in the western and southern portions of the project area and at 20 m intervals in a corn field located in the northeastern corner of the project area where artifact densities were noticeably low. This meant that at 18CE60, the majority of the site was subjected to 10 m interval testing but the northwestern corner was subjected to 20 m interval testing. Fire-cracked rock, oyster shell, coal, slag, brick, plaster, and unidentified metal objects were not collected; however, they were counted before being discarded and are therefore included in the site artifact totals.

Most of the historic materials tended to concentrate around the Hollingsworth House and the Stone House except for a small concentration located in an open grassy field approximately 91.5 m southeast of the Stone House. The concentration around the Stone House was located east and north of the house and contained artifacts dating from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. The stone foundation for the non-extant log structure that was at one time attached to the north side of the Stone House was located; no associated builder's trench was identified. Data from the foundation along with information located on a 1917 map indicated that the log building measured 6 m x 9.5 m and that it was built at least by 1775. However, artifacts recovered from the lowest layer



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Unknown

associated with the structure, and which were deposited outside the building when it was in use, suggested 1) that the building was constructed sometime in the second half of the 19th century and 2) that the building was used as a kitchen. The land around the Stone House has been referred to as "Made Land" implying that no natural soil exists in the area. Hence, the archeological evidence for the 18th century occupation, and possibly use of the site as the late 17th century Steelman Trading Post, may have been later removed. The small concentration of artifacts located southeast of the Stone House was interpreted to possibly represent the location of a slave or freeman dwelling or, if this is the same area referenced during the metal detector survey noted above, then perhaps the materials are remains from activities associated with Fort Hollingsworth.

The concentration behind the Hollingsworth House was determined to represent 2 clusters. The first cluster contained artifacts dated from the late 18th to the early 19th century. The second cluster was located east of the first cluster and contained materials from the mid-19th century. The artifacts showed evidence of burning suggesting that this cluster was associated debris from the 1848 burning of the Hollingsworth House. Changing patterns of refuse throughout the occupation of the house were also revealed through artifact analysis. Archeological testing also revealed the possible remnants of a foundation for an earlier structure that was replaced when the east wing was constructed ca. 1850. The test unit (TU 11) dug at the northeast corner of the house revealed a robbers trench from which foundation stones were possibly recovered for use elsewhere. The amount of slag recorded at the site indicated that metal working activities were taking place around Hollingsworth House during the construction of the east wing.

In all, 2,309 historic artifacts were recorded during the spring 2002 investigations. There were 58 activity items (38 chimney lamp glass shards, 1 clay marble, 1 metal toy part, 1 ceramic doll fragment, 1 tiller blade, 1 spring mechanism, 4 miscellaneous hardware items, 2 pieces of fencing chain, 1 metal tool, 6 terra cotta flower pot sherds, and 2 staples). A plaster sample on unstated size was collected from TU 11. There were 827 architectural items (170 brick fragments, 194 cut nails, 73 wire nails, 7 roofing nails, 1 masonry nail, 30 unidentified nails, 308 shards of window glass, 1 piece of window came, 1 piece of mortar, 8 spikes, 1 screw, 6 bolts, 6 pieces of cement, 3 lengths of electrical wire, 1 lock part, 1 L-bracket, 13 pieces of plaster, 1 stamped copper tile, 1 slate tile, and 1 pipe length). There were 14 clothing items (13 buttons – 1 bone, 1 milk glass, 1 Bakelite, 8 shell, 1 porcelain, 1 Prosser, and 1 collar button stud). Kitchen-related items (n=1,042) included 448 pieces of bottle and vessel glass, 20 pieces of table glass, 12 pieces of milk glass, 281 ceramic sherds (1 Jackfield, 1 refined earthenware, 4 ironstone, 17 creamware and 11 cream-colored ware recorded as creamware in the table above, 23 pearlware, 23 porcelain, 1 American Blue & Gray stoneware, 2 gray salt-glazed stoneware – 1 with Albany slip, 1 unidentified stoneware, 151 whiteware, 1 yellowware, and 45 redware), 3 milk glass lid liner fragments, 1 rubber gasket for bottle top, 4 crown bottle caps, 17 can fragments, 1 silver plated spoon handle, 119 pieces of animal bone – 11 burnt, 87 fish scales, and 49 oyster shell fragments. There were 359 miscellaneous items (1 piece of melted glass, 38 pieces of unidentified metal, 21 pieces of metal of unknown function (sheet, rod, decorative, strap), 4 pieces of plastic, 1 piece of Bakelite, 1 paint chip, 3 pieces of putty, 121 pieces of coal, 1 piece of charcoal, 167 pieces of slag, and 1 unidentified miscellaneous object). A slag sample on unstated size was collected from STP 343. Only 4 personal items were recovered (1 mirror fragment, 1 bell dome, 1 thimble, and 1 glass eye). There were 3 tobacco item (kaolin pipe fragments) and 2 arms-related items (.22 caliber casings). Concentrations of brick, mortar, and architectural stone were also recovered from Test Units 5 and 11 but the artifacts were not quantified.

A total of 246 prehistoric artifacts were also recovered from within the boundaries of site 18CE60 during the spring 2002 investigations. It is most probable that these artifacts are associated with the adjacent prehistoric site, 18CE29. There were 197 pieces of debitage (29 quartz, 61 jasper, 5 rhyolite, 59 chert, 16 quartzite, 27 chalcedony). There were 3 biface tools (jasper, chert, and quartz), and 2 unidentifiable point fragments (jasper and rhyolite). There was 1 other lithic item (a tested cobble). The 11 ceramic sherds included 6 with sand and grit temper, 3 with sand and quartz temper, 1 grit tempered, and 3 unidentifiable sherds. A total of 32 fire-cracked rock fragments were counted.

Archeological testing was renewed in the fall of 2002 that focused on the non-extant log structure that was attached to the Stone House until 1917. The purpose of the excavations was to determine whether the area inside the previously identified foundation was disturbed and to find out if there was any evidence to support the theory that Steelman used the log building as a trading post in the 1690's. Fieldwork consisted of the excavation of five 1 m² test units (TUs 5 and 12-16) within the foundation of the log building. Due to the sheer quantity of artifacts present, items including window glass, unidentifiable nails, brick, coal, slag, and 20th century materials were catalogued in the field and redeposited in their respective units. As these artifacts were listed in the artifact inventory in the original report, they are included in the table above to provide a complete accounting of the assemblage. All other artifacts were retained.

Five strata were identified in TU 12 which was excavated in the southeast corner of the structure: 1) a clay loam layer containing artifacts from the 1950s and 1960s; 2) a level of brick and stone rubble with artifacts from the late 18th (a few) to the 20th centuries; 3) another rubble layer with more mortar and plaster, coal and slag, and mostly late 19th century artifacts; 4) silty layer with a few late 18th-early 19th century artifacts; 5) a hard-packed clay layer, containing a few late 18th century ceramics, representing the cellar floor above sterile glacial gravels on which the foundation rested. Strata in the other test units showed a similar sequence. Excavation revealed that the absence of a builder's trench is due to the fact that the stone foundation was laid up against the sides of the cellar walls once the hole was dug. A pipe trench was identified in TUs 13 and 14 in the northwest section of the structure which damaged the foundation in that area. Two rectangular cement slabs were located in the southwest section of the building. TU 15 was excavated at the juncture of the two slabs in order to determine if they capped a well or cistern in that area. However, 3 strata including the floor were identified above sterile soil. Almost 68% of all the cut nails recovered from the site derived from Level 3, TU 16, which was placed in the north central portion of the cellar foundation.

The excavations within and around the log and stone structure uncovered intact stratigraphic layers but produced artifacts that date primarily to the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Soil maps indicate that the band of soil along the Little Elk Creek has been classified as Made Land Gently Sloping which shows the no natural soil exists in that area. This may be due to the alteration of the shoreline in the second half of the 19th century when dredging and shoring of Big Elk Creek was taking place or when the Diebert & Brothers Boatyard was built in 1887 (although this may have been located too far north to impact the stone and log house). Again, it was postulated that these disturbances may have removed any archeological evidence associated with the 17th and early 18th century use of the site. The limited number of late 18th century artifacts is probably due to the fact that the log structure was used as a storehouse before the stone addition was built in ca. 1783 and the building was converted for domestic use. If the log building was remodeled at the time the Stone House was built, then all traces of the earlier Steelman occupation may have been removed. Conversely, the log building may have only been built by Zebulon Jr. in the late 18th century specifically for use as a storehouse and Steelman's trading post is located elsewhere on the property. Based on the fall 2002 excavations, it was recommended that in order to find evidence for the Steelman occupation if it exists and to determine the full layout of the cellar, the entire cellar of the log structure should be excavated.

A total of 2,237 historic artifacts were identified during the fall 2002 excavations of the log building. There were 50 activity items (4 marbles, 6 parts of children's toys, 3 pencil parts, 11 chimney lamp glass fragments, 1 nautical lamp part, 1 jingle bell, 1 fishing weight, 16 miscellaneous hardware items, 2 battery parts, 3 flower pot fragments, 1 fence staple, and 1 bale seal). The lead bale seal, which read "WIL....TON" on one side and "...W.&B.R...." on the other, was thought to represent either a merchant in Wilmington, Delaware or it was used by the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad in shipping



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CE60

Site Name: Elk Landing

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Fort Hollingsworth, John Hanson Steelman House

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic - Late Woodland camps, War of 1812 earthwork, Late 18th-mid 19th cen. town site, 19th farm

Unknown

goods. There were 793 architectural items (81 brick fragments, 4 curved "well" bricks, 2 pieces of chinking, 368 cut nails, 47 wire nails, 12 unidentified nails, 234 shards of window glass and 6 shards of other flat glass, 6 spikes, 2 screws, 1 tack, 1 piece of heavy-gauge wire, 4 washers, 1 piece of asbestos tile, 2 pieces of plaster, 6 fragments of linoleum, 2 pieces of slate tile, 1 rivet, 7 fragments of window screen, 1 pipe length, 1 metal hook, 2 washers, and 2 fragments of architectural stone). In all 41 clothing items were recorded (29 buttons – 5 bone, 5 plastic, 5 metal, 6 shell, 7 Prosser, and 1 glass, 4 shoe fragments, 2 collar studs, 1 scissors handle, 1 garter buckle, 1 sock clip, and 3 buckles). Only 2 furniture items were identified (1 caster and 1 decorative finial). A total of 894 kitchen-related items were recorded (506 bottle/vessel glass fragments, 22 pieces of table glass, 1 fragment of milk glass, 98 ceramic sherds (1 Jackfield, 1 creamware, 13 pearlware, 11 porcelain, 3 stoneware, 52 whiteware, 6 yellowware, 8 redware, 2 Manganese mottled, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware), 5 wire bag ties, 5 pieces of rubber jar gaskets, 2 metal lids, 1 with a plastic liner, 1 measuring spoon, 3 pull tabs, 6 crown caps, 1 other bottle cap, 43 can fragments, 5 utensils, 135 animal bone fragments, 55 oyster shell fragments, 5 other shells, and 1 peach pit. There were 434 miscellaneous items, mostly comprised of 222 pieces of coal and 169 pieces of slag. Other miscellaneous items included 2 pieces of unidentifiable melted glass, 7 unidentified metal objects, 4 pieces of strap metal, 2 pieces of lead edging, 11 fragments of sheet metal, 1 rodent skull, 15 pieces of plastic and plastic objects, and 1 piece of newspaper. There were 15 personal items in the assemblage (2 fragments of a tortoise shell comb, 1 pendant, 1 bell dome, 3 coins, 1 clay bead, 2 pocket knife fragments, 1 eyeglass lens, 1 plastic bead, 1 rosary with plastic beads, 1 decorative pin with beads, and 1 brooch). The tobacco group of artifacts was comprised of just 2 kaolin pipe stem pieces. There were 6 arms-related items (1 rubber bullet, 2 pieces of gunflint, and 3 bullet shell casings). In addition to the historic items, 6 pieces of prehistoric debitage were also recorded (2 quartz, 2 jasper, 1 chert, and 1 chalcedony).

In the summer of 2003, Phase II archeological excavations were conducted along the north façade of the Hollingsworth House. The work was initiated ahead of proposed construction of an access ramp and the installation of an air-conditioning unit, both on the north side of the house. The work was part of the ongoing restoration efforts undertaken by the Historic Elk Landing Foundation. The test excavations were not intended to answer specific questions about the Hollingsworth House or Elk Landing in general but to evaluate if cultural deposits would be adversely impacted by the proposed improvements. Prior to subsurface testing, a site-wide grid was established with its origin 1.524 m (5 ft) north of the northwest corner of the Hollingsworth House and in line with its west wall. It was intended that this grid be used for all future work conducted at the site as no permanent grid had been established during any of the earlier work. The area north of the Hollingsworth House was surface surveyed. Fieldwork consisted of the excavation of 13 STPs (STPs 2003-1 to 2003-13) dug at 10 m intervals and 5 test units (TUs 17-21, continuing the previous unit numbering system) each measuring 1.524 m² located north of the house. All excavated soils were screened and all artifacts were retained except brick and coal which were counted and discarded. These items are included in the counts in the table above. In addition to the surface survey and the subsurface testing, 2 trench excavations that were being dug for utility line installation adjacent to the house were monitored. Only a handful of artifacts (a whiteware sherd, a handwrought nail, some bottle glass fragments, and 2 sherds of early drain tile) were recovered. Those artifacts are included in the table above.

During surface reconnaissance, a nearly 6.096 m² (20x20 ft) feature was located just east/northeast of the Hollingsworth House. It was identified as a raised ridge encompassing a depression and was thought to represent a structure, although no structure in that location was noted on any of the available maps.

Several cultural features were noted during the subsurface testing. Adjoining TUs 17 and 20 were placed near the northwest corner of the house. The strata in the units indicated that the top 2 layers and a third layer, which likely resulted from material deposited during the construction of the house cellar, sat above a sealed plowzone layer (Stratum 4). This plowzone layer sat atop the subsoil, or B1 horizon (Stratum 5). However, it appeared to the excavator that the upper 5-7 cm of subsoil represented a buried A-horizon that was disturbed by later plowing. Several prehistoric artifacts and a few historic artifacts were recovered from the disturbed upper portion of Stratum 5. This stratig

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