



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH331

Site Name: Habre-de-Venture

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Thomas Stone NHS; Habredeventure; CH-5

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Late Archaic and possibly Middle Woodland short-term camp, late 18th - 19th century plantation house

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code BaB

Latitude 38.5248 Longitude -77.0420

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Hogh

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 157 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- 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

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Post-in-ground

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken Y

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"/> 1	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/> 129	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/> 55	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/> 159	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/> 83			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/> 24

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 628	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	slate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Numerous features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1305	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 143
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6877	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 5769	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 896
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 6763
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slag

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	piers, brick patios	
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Habre de Venture (18CH331) is the 18th century plantation of Thomas Stone, one of Maryland's signers of the Declaration of Independence. The site is located north of Port Tobacco in Charles County, Maryland on what is today known as the Thomas Stone National Historic Site. The site consists of the remains of an 18th century dwelling built by Stone as well as several outbuildings, including a garage located just west of the main house and an abandoned tenant house to the southwest. Other outbuildings, including a second residence, barns, stables, and cribs, lay to the northwest. The surrounding landscape is characterized by a slightly sloping topography and mixed hardwoods such as scrub oak and Virginia pines. Soils on the property are primarily Beltsville series silt loam, except for the immediate vicinity of the main dwelling on the site where Exum series silt loams are present.

Archival research reveals that Thomas Stone was born in 1743 at Poynton Manor a few miles west of Port Tobacco. After an informal education, Stone began to practice law at age 21. The plantation property was purchased by Stone in 1770, using the dowry from his marriage to Margaret Brown two years earlier. The 1½ storey main house on the property is believed to have been constructed under Stone's direction by 1773. It is of unique construction with Georgian influences, a gambrel roof, and a central walkway. The dwelling was surrounded by large terraced formal gardens. Hyphens and east and west wing additions to the main house were apparently added and modified in the 19th and 20th centuries. Very little else is known of Stone's rural plantation life, the buildings, and improvements to his land. The successful law practice of Thomas Stone in Frederick Town and Annapolis may have been his major concern, as his plantation life is not well recorded.

Active in politics as a strong conservative that vied against war with Britain, Stone was respected among his peers and was elected to the Continental Congress shortly before the Revolutionary War. In 1776, Stone and a few of America's founding fathers thought war with Britain was a drastic action, although it was unanimously agreed that independence was best for the people. Stone signed the Declaration of Independence at 33, the youngest member of the Maryland delegation. During the early years of the Revolutionary War, Stone was instrumental in the development and formation of the new central government. He also served three terms in the Maryland Senate beginning in 1776, but declined due to his law practice and his wife's ill health. Thomas Stone and his wife died only a few months apart in 1787 and are buried on-site in the family cemetery.

Following Stone's death in 1787, descendants and relatives continued to own the property into the 20th century. The last Stone to own the property, Michael Robertson Stone, died in 1931, and his heirs subsequently sold the property to Charles Stephenson Smith. Early 20th century photographs indicate that the house's porches were modified and that new plantings were made in the early 1930s. Smith sold the property to Peter and Ruth Vischer in 1945. During the Vischer occupation "restoration" work was undertaken to the house in 1945 and 1972. On New Year's Day, 1977, a fire gutted the main block of the house and extensively damaged the west hyphen and wing and the property lay in disrepair until its eventual sale to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1981. Temporary roofs and chimney caps were installed to protect the gutted interior of the main house and preserve the brick walls. The desire by NPS to develop the site as an interpretive historic park led to a succession of archeological projects to mitigate the impact of restoration work and aide in accurate reconstruction and interpretation.

The first serious archeological work conducted at the site occurred in April of 1986 when a Phase III-level analysis was conducted by NPS personnel on a structure known as the "Office Building" which required foundation stabilization and on a large depression located near the kitchen addition. This structure was connected to the main house by a breezeway and was in very poor condition and in threat of collapse. The structure was thought, at the time, to have served as the law office of Thomas Stone, but was most recently used by the Vischer family as an office for a thoroughbred horse newspaper and for their horse farm operations. The work began with a thorough architectural documentation of the existing "Office Building" structure, which can be found in the full site report. Two arbitrary horizontal grids were laid out prior to the excavations to reference the resulting information three dimensionally. The "Area A" grid was mapped as a 7.77 meter (25.5 ft) square encompassing the office building footprint and soils immediately surrounding it and "Area B" was mapped as a 2.44 meter (8 ft) square to explore the large depression located next to the kitchen addition.

In Area A, a total of 4 roughly 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 ft) test units was excavated along the exterior of the structure's foundation (dimensions are not exact due to the irregularity of the foundation). Six smaller, irregular, sized units were also excavated against the foundation along the structure's exterior, and 4 additional irregular units were excavated on the interior of the office. Area B was excavated as a single 2.44 X 2.44 meter unit. Excavations were carried out with shovels and trowels, which were used to scrape the soil and delineate zones, features, and levels. Soil excavated by this method was screened through hardware cloth and collected artifacts were marked according to provenience. Zone 1, a culturally and naturally disturbed soil layer was discovered at the surface in all of the test units (both Areas A and B). Several historic cultural features (detailed below) were encountered at the base of this zone. Fill levels within features were collected as one provenience unit within each test unit. Pit features were excavated by cross-sectioning the plan view into 2 provenience units to document the profile view and identify any stratigraphic levels. Structural or linear features were excavated as one provenience unit, with the exception of actual known structures such as the foundations, steps, and sidewalk.

The research strategy in Area A focused on the identification of archeological remains immediately encircling the office building. The excavation of this area revealed primarily architectural building materials and secondary kitchen debris. This artifact pattern is most likely a result of 19th and 20th century open refuse deposits overlying and mixed in the fill of architectural and pit features. Eighteen features were identified in this area including a drain system with two gutter boots (Features 1 and 2), a foundation and subsequent modifications (Feature 3), a stone walk (Feature 16), a brick step (Feature 18), and 13 pits (Features 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17). The two cast iron drain boots and drain system were put into place between 1907 and 1936. This drain system was found to be in fine working order and continued to drain rain water from the "Office Building" roof, basement entry flanker, and main house to an unknown location west of the structure.

The building foundation was found to exhibit 3 major building episodes. The primary foundation was constructed for a building of unknown function, possibly as early as the 18th century. This unidentified building was removed before 1864. Between 1864 and 1901, a secondary foundation was built on the primary foundation. Between 1907 and 1936 portions of the north and east walls of the secondary foundation were modified in an attempt to correct lateral movement of both foundations. This movement resulted from the poor construction techniques of the secondary foundation and the relative age of the primary foundation.

The brick step and associated stone walk leads to the building entry. These features were not explored in depth, archeologically, although the brick step was documented to date between 1901 and 1936. The step may have been contemporaneous with the secondary foundation modification due to similarities in



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construction and therefore, date after 1907. A lightning rod ground cable enters into a pit feature located near the southeast corner of the office building. Although partially excavated, it is not dated. This lightning rod ground was left in working condition. The remaining 12 pit features were determined to be potting holes of various ages. Many of these potting holes still contained active root systems and 6 were excavated. The information obtained from these excavations is primarily locational. These pit features and associated root systems resulted in the disturbance of much of Zone 1 (see above).

The research goals for Area B focused on the identification of a rather large depression north of the kitchen addition and, thus, a single large unit was placed to encompass this entire area. This unit contained primarily building materials, but evidence for an open refuse deposit of secondary kitchen refuse is also present. In Area B a brick sidewalk (Feature 19) and brick cistern or well (Feature 20) were identified. The brick sidewalk and an associated gravel bed dates from the 19th or 20th century. This sidewalk was not investigated intensively as dictated by the research goals. The brick cistern or well was a half circle of decomposed brick with interior fill levels. The few artifacts obtained from the first interior level of this feature indicate a very early 19th century primary de facto deposit.

Soil samples were collected from Features 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, and 20 and were subjected to flotation, however, no results of this analysis are provided in the full site report.

Artifacts encountered during the 1986 excavations include 81 activity items, 4,296 architectural artifacts, 18 clothing remains, 16 furniture objects, 1,792 kitchen-related artifacts, 8 personal objects, 4 tobacco-related artifacts, 6 arms objects, and 1,438 miscellaneous artifacts. Among the activity items are a toy marble, 8 pieces of lamp glass, a steel paper clip, a steel cap nut, an iron washer, a wrench, and 68 sherds from a redware flower pot. The architectural artifacts include 2,907 pieces of window glass, 2 fragments of window caulking, 1,372 nails (194 cut, 38 cut and clinched, 52 wire, 4 wire and clinched, 1,002 unidentified, 82 unidentified and clinched), 2 wire fence staples, a wood screw, a wrought iron strap hinge, 2 iron door lock plates, 1 rim fitting door lock, 3 pieces of telephone wire, 3 pieces of electrical wire, a copper finial, and a piece of stoneware drain tile. The clothing remains consisted of two 1-hole bone buttons, a 5-hole bone button, two 4-hole porcelain buttons, 3 brass/copper buttons, a 4-hole shell button, 3 steel buttons, a brass snap, 2 pieces of cotton cloth, a rubber shoe heel with wire tacks, a brass thimble, and a single-pronged steel belt buckle. The 16 furniture items were a wrought tack with a soldered head, and 13 pieces of furniture plate glass. The kitchen assemblage included 380 ceramic sherds (25 Jackfield, 145 creamware, 41 pearlware, 40 porcelain, 81 whiteware, 1 yellowware sherd with Rockingham glaze, 7 redware, 20 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 20 miscellaneous stoneware), 12 pieces of table glass, 1,043 container/bottle glass fragments, 354 animal bones (16 cow, 15 pig, 30 chicken, and 293 unidentified), 1 walnut hull, 1 unidentified seed, and a pewter tablespoon. The 8 personal items were 2 human molars (one with a gold cap), a hollow copper bead, an amber mandrel-wound bead, a George II copper 1/2 penny, a 1918 Mercury-head dime, a Buffalo nickel, and brass skeleton key. Artifacts related to tobacco smoking include a brass lighter, a ball clay pipe bowl and 2 ball clay pipe stems. Arms objects were a lever action trigger guard, a piece of lead sprue, and four .22 caliber brass casings. And finally, the miscellaneous objects encountered in 1986 were 4 copper objects, 5 lead objects, 2 brass objects, 827 fragments of iron or steel, 2 pieces of wood, 3 pieces of plastic, 68 fragments of shell, a cat skeleton, 2 other cat bones, 18 rodent bones, 1 unidentified cardboard and copper object, a piece of leather, 31 coal cinders, and 473 pieces of charcoal.

Several research projects were conducted simultaneously at 18CH331 during the 1987 field season. The first of these was a geophysical survey conducted in the spring involving ground penetrating radar, magnetometry, and a soil conductivity survey. The survey mapped several earthen features and a number of buried deposits of metal which may be historic in origin. Several utility lines were also delineated. However, the historic features identified were rather fewer than had been anticipated and none of those encountered include privies, wells, paths, and outbuildings. One of the research projects conducted later in the season was geared towards ground-truthing some of the identified anomalies to determine what they actually represented.

During the summer of 1987 a Phase III-level fieldwork project was undertaken focusing on the basement (both interior and exterior) of the main residence's kitchen (west) wing where NPS was planning reconstruction efforts to repair damage from the 1977 fire. Initially, work was also planned for other exterior areas surrounding the structure, but unanticipatedly complex work inside the kitchen led to the elimination of planned units near a walkway. However, a contract modification between NPS and the firm conducting the research provided for testing in ground exposed by removal of a recent porch. A total of 6 irregular shaped test units and trenches were excavated. Unit 1 was dug inside the hyphen connecting the main building and west wing kitchen. Unit 2 was dug on the south, outside and next to the exterior foundation and next to steps leading out of the connector between the main building and the west wing. Units 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 were dug along the west, north, and east walls of the west wing. Unit 6 was dug next to 5.1 in the area uncovered by removal of a recent porch-type step. In addition, digging by repair/reconstruction crews in the main building basement and in the connecting passage between the main building and the east wing were monitored. Excavation proceeded stratigraphically where possible, following individual cultural or natural levels. Soils encountered were extremely hard, and screening often was assisted by use of small pieces of 2 X 4, used to break the soil apart and push it through hardware mesh.

Researchers found lithic evidence of a prehistoric occupation here. Most lithics recovered, were quartz and quartzite flakes. Some tools were recovered, including one apparent Archaic projectile point. A few flakes of slate are the most improbable finds, and a few of the quartz flakes may be natural, given that quartz debitage sometimes is especially hard to identify. The large number of finds and the clearly artifactual nature of most suggest a fairly significant occupation. Similarly, prehistoric finds are reported for every test unit, so the occupation does not seem to have been confined to a small area. No prehistoric features were identified, however, researchers concluded that if the prehistoric occupants ever dug anything into the clayey subsoil, those features should still be present. Unfortunately, no adequate description of the artifacts from the summer 1987 excavations has ever been produced. A preliminary examination of the prehistoric assemblage included 1 quartz point (described as Archaic but not typed), 1 core, 145 quartz flakes, 305 other flakes (quartz, quartzite, chert, slate, other), and 3 pieces of quartzite shatter.

During monitoring in the basement, researchers were able to disprove the notion that an interior brick wall was part of the original wing construction. It was also discovered that the original basement construction was excavated into sterile clay. Brick and mortar rubble was then placed over the clay, and capped by clay and sand, possibly as a drainfield to keep puddles from forming on the basement floor. This rubble was uninterrupted at any point, indicating that no brick wall could have been present. An interesting large Rhenish stoneware sherd (not manufactured after the early 18th century) was encountered in the rubble fill, and is thought to have been part of the fill brought in from elsewhere rather than evidence of occupational admixture or an earlier occupation at this same site. Monitoring in the east wing connecting passage revealed evidence of the raising of the basement's floor level subsequent to original construction. The excavation in Unit 1 (beneath the floorboards of the hyphen connecting the main house and west wing kitchen) revealed the presence of numerous meat and fowl bones. In addition, a layer of red brick dust and a layer of tan sand were interpreted as relating to the construction of the main building. Excavation near the west wall revealed an earlier brick and mortar foundation running more northwest-southeast than does the standing wall. This foundation was placed in a trench that went below any historic levels, and a thin discontinuous layer of sand seems to have been scattered in the trench before the wall was laid. It is thought that the original overall construction plan for the house and original support structures was bilaterally symmetrical (typically Georgian). Over time, the



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aesthetic of symmetry in the overall layout was sacrificed to more utilitarian considerations.

In exterior Units 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 severe disturbance from shrub plantings was found. A buried level of gravel was identified in Units 5.1 and 5.2 suggesting a former pathway around the building's northwest corner. One single layer, dating to the period of original construction was encountered, but was heavily disturbed by the shrubs except in areas right next to the foundation. A pit, possibly dug to hold scaffolding in place during construction was encountered in 5.2. And in 5.1 an iron plate with wood inside it may have served as a structural wooden upright for a porch/door covering. In Unit 2, much of the early stratigraphy was destroyed by a waste pipe trench, with shrub plantings adding to the disturbance. The unit (exterior to the main building and west wing connection) revealed a fieldstone foundation (different from the rest of the structures), but no single level associated with the early period identified in 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3. Unit 6 was excavated in the area made accessible by the removal of the recent porch. Large quantities of rubble from the porch removal were removed from the surface, then pieces of concrete and brick/mortar chunks were encountered in a second level, along with plastic sheeting and tinfoil. The mortar appeared to be 20th century Portland cement. It was concluded that this material was the remains of the predecessor of the most recent set of steps. Nothing of historical note was encountered.

Again, no adequate documentation of the artifacts collected during this excavation project has been produced and the description that does exist is rather vague. The historic assemblage included at least 4 activity items, 1,050 architectural objects, 21 clothing items, 1,255 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item, and 3 tobacco-related artifacts. In addition, 5,297 miscellaneous objects were recovered, but because of the way they are catalogued they cannot be assigned to any function category with certainty. The known activity items were a metal band, a chisel, a flower pot, and an iron horseshoe. The architectural assemblage included 135 glazed brick fragments and 34 other brick and mortar pieces, 3 pieces of blacktop, 874 nails, 3 ceramic pipe fragments, and a paint chip. Clothing remains were 16 plastic or rubber buttons, a ceramic button, 2 metal buttons, and 2 pieces of leather. The 1,255 kitchen-related artifacts were 754 ceramic sherds, 4 stoneware sherds, 494 faunal remains (animal bones or shell), a Mason jar lid, and 2 pieces of foil. The personal item is an 1876 dime and the 3 tobacco-related objects are pipe fragments. The miscellaneous assemblage consisted of 2,712 unidentified glass pieces, 866 unidentified metal objects, 1,322 items identified as organic (some of which aren't clearly not organic), a piece of shale, 162 wood fragments, 3 pieces of paper, 2 pieces of cardboard, 1 animal claw, 23 pieces of coal, and 203 pieces of slag.

Later, in November of 1987, yet another Phase III-level project was conducted, this time focusing on work in 5 areas identified through the aforementioned geophysical survey, additional historical research, and data from the previous excavations. The November 1987 research program focused on 1) exploration of subsurface anomalies north of the house and detected by remote sensing the previous spring, 2) the excavation of the surface buried beneath the circa 1930s patio and associated porch support footings along the north side of the house, 3) unearthing a section of the flooring connected to the kitchen wing area in advance of reconstructive work, 4) explorations related to finding a wall return on the south side of the building, 5) discovering possible structural remains associated with the original approach to the house, 6) exploration of a historic outbuilding location, 7) explorations to locate a privy reported by an informant to be in the southeastern yard area of the house, and 8) investigation to find physical remains associated with reported "slave cabins" in a field to the west of the tenant house.

A new grid system was established for use during the November 1987 project (none of the projects at 18CH331 utilized the same datums or grid systems). The site was divided up into six major areas and a total of thirty 1.524 X 1.524 meter (5 X 5 ft) units was excavated within the established grid system. The excavation of these units proceeded by natural stratigraphy with trowels, shovels, and/or picks. Strata were kept separate and screened through hardware cloth. All artifacts were retained, except brick which was only weighed and then discarded. The profiles of all units were drawn and plan views were recorded if they contained features. All units were photographed.

Area 1 was located just to the north of the Thomas Stone House. Five units were placed over two subsurface anomalies detected during the 1987 geophysical survey in this area. The excavation of these units revealed a naturally undulating subsurface horizon with high iron content, which may have been responsible for the irregular readings of the remote sensing survey. It is believed to be natural in origin.

Area 2 was designated as the area of testing conducted adjacent to the Thomas Stone House. Four units were excavated in this area. One of these straddled the northeast corner of the brick patio which extended across the northern façade of the main house. A portion of an earlier pier support footing was unearthed in this unit, but little else of note was encountered. Another unit in Area 2 was excavated through a section of flooring in the kitchen wing area in order to assess the possible impact to archeological remains in advance of proposed reconstruction of the east wall. This unit revealed the foundation of the kitchen's east wall and two post features in a line perpendicular to the wall. These were considered likely to have supported scaffolding at the time of kitchen wing construction. Two other features in the unit were remnants of builder's trenches, one disturbing the other. It is thought that one is associated with the original construction, while the other was created during facing of the foundation with cement in the later 19th century. Unfortunately no artifacts were encountered in this feature which would assist in dating it. The final feature found in this unit was a square-sided pit on its eastern edge; the remains of an earlier archeological test unit. The other 2 test units excavated in Area 2 were dug in an attempt to find the difference between the existing southern wall of the kitchen wing and what appeared to be a misaligned, earlier foundation wall found inside the building during the summer 1987 excavations. The return of the misaligned wall was expected to be found outside the existing building. Excavation revealed that the wall return corresponded with the existing south wall of the kitchen. The remains of at least one, possibly two, brick walkways were encountered in a fragmentary condition. Planting wells from shrubs, a utility trench, and groundings for a lightning rod were also encountered in this area.

Area 3 was located approximately 15 meters south of the house in an area thought to contain possible outbuildings. A single unit was excavated here, but no features were encountered. Artifacts consisted predominantly of mid to late 19th century kitchen and architectural debris.

Area 4 was excavated on what was thought to be the original approach to the house, an area where an earthen ramp was present connecting the house terrace with lower garden terraces. A single unit was placed on this ramp to reveal any structural remains (walkway, steps, etc.), but no features were encountered. A few objects dating to the late 19th century were encountered. On the basis of the test unit excavated and probing performed along the earthen ramp, it seems unlikely that the original approach was ever located in this area.

Area 5 was excavated in the attempt to locate the aforementioned privy described by a local informant. Four test units were excavated in this area, but the privy was not found. The only feature encountered was a tree stump that had been burned to a certain level, the remaining section rotting away. The artifacts consisted primarily of 20th century material (Styrofoam, plastic, asbestos, etc.) and were found in a disturbed/mixed context.

Area 6 is a field situated some 140 meters or so west of the Thomas Stone House. Local legend claims that here, close to the abandoned tenant house, stood the old slave cabins purported to have been part of the Stone's plantation. Archeological investigations in this area were directed at finding the physical remains of the slave community. The findings in this area are discussed in a separate synopsis report as the locale was ultimately assigned the unique site



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH331

Site Name: Habre-de-Venture

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Thomas Stone NHS; Habredeventure; CH-5

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Late Archaic and possibly Middle Woodland short-term camp, late 18th - 19th century plantation house

Unknown

number 18CH332.

Historic artifacts encountered during the November 1987 excavations at 18CH331 included 58 activity items, 423 architectural objects, 1 clothing item, 1 furniture item, 290 kitchen-related artifacts, 3 personal objects, 1 arms item, and 28 miscellaneous artifacts. The activity items were a toy porcelain cup, a piece of non-electrical wire, 3 metal fittings, a solderless wiring terminal, 3 metal bands, 1 staple, a metal clip, and 47 garden-related objects (a hose fixture, a metal rake fragment, 43 redware flower pots, and 2 plastic gardening tools). The architectural artifacts were an asbestos shingle, 122 fragments of window glass, 295 nails (239 cut, 53 wire, and 3 unidentified), a tack, 3 spikes, and a pipe fitting. The only clothing artifact was a milk glass button. The only possible furniture object was a metal pull (drawer pull). Kitchen-related artifacts included 167 ceramic sherds (1 buff-bodied, 25 cream-colored ware, 14 creamware, 42 pearlware, 2 Chinese export porcelain, 13 porcelain, 48 whiteware, 10 redware, 1 Rockingham, 4 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 7 miscellaneous stoneware), 3 fragments of table glass, 78 bottle/container glass fragments, 36 animal bones, a kettle leg, a metal measuring spoon, a tea tag, and 3 pieces of plastic measuring spoon. The personal artifacts were a key, a glass lens fragment, and a glass locket with hair in it. The only arms item was a shotgun shell base. And finally, the miscellaneous objects encountered were a piece of unidentified metal, a piece of plastic, a piece of Styrofoam, 2 fragments of coal, a piece of slag, and 22 fragments of oyster shell (classified as miscellaneous by the excavators).

Prehistoric artifacts were also encountered in deposits throughout the site during the November 1987 excavations. No features are described in the full site report, but the artifacts included a quartz biface, 3 quartz cores, 2 quartz scrapers, 73 quartz flakes, 3 quartzite flakes, 1 chert flake, 1 jasper flake, 81 pieces of quartz shatter, 2 pieces of quartzite shatter, a fragment of rhyolite shatter, a piece of jasper shatter, 2 quartz cobbles, 2 jasper cobbles, a hammerstone, and 7 pieces of fire-cracked rock.

In 1990, additional testing was conducted in the kitchen wing as well as monitoring work in the basement of the main structure involving 6 test units/trenches dug around and within the foundations. Unfortunately, no final report has ever apparently been written. A preliminary report was provided to NPS, but MHT has no copy of this draft available.

The most recent phase of archeological work at 18CH331 for which MHT has a final report, was conducted in the spring of 1992. Staff archeologists from NPS conducted test excavations to investigate the characteristics of the pier footings for porches that formerly existed on the north and south sides of the main building or original house structure. The information gained from the excavations was expected to contribute to design of the planned reconstruction of the porches, an element of the site re-development plan, and towards mitigation of the potential adverse effects of reconstruction on the footings and their associated archeological context.

A total of 9 excavation units were placed around the porch pier footings and associated porch features on the north and south sides of the main house structure. With one exception (a 91.44 cm or 3 ft square unit) the excavations measured either 76.2 cm square or 76.2 cm X 1.524 m (2.5 ft square or 2.5 X 5 ft), depending on the nature of the feature being investigated. Four of the units were placed on the north side of the house and five on the south side. A tenth, informal excavation was made at a corner pier footing on the north side, within an excavation unit of a previous archeological project, to address inconsistencies between that project's findings and those of the current project. All units were hand excavated using trowels or shovels as appropriate to remove soils down to the natural subsoil or to a level where an adequate description and explanation of the feature being investigated could be made. Soils were excavated according to natural or cultural stratigraphic levels and were generally screened through hardware cloth and visually inspected for the presence of artifacts (the layer of ash and debris from the 1977 fire was treated as overburden in most units).

The pier footings were found to have been constructed of brick with lime mortar, although the mortar has apparently decayed in many joints, especially on the south pier footings. They are of similar construction and the stratigraphy associated with the pier footings suggests that they were constructed at the same time as, or very soon after, construction of the house itself. Later reconstruction of the piers on both sides of the house was also evident. On the south, the reconstruction was relatively recent, employing as it did a Portland cement mortar, and having occurred with grade at its modern elevation. The reconstructed south porch piers were otherwise probably very similar to the original piers. On the north the reconstructed piers were offset slightly to the north, and out from the central axis of the house, relative to the original pier locations. The period of reconstruction of the north porch piers, while prior to 1936, is otherwise unclear. Although not evident archeologically, it is possible that more than one reconstruction occurred. A brick-paved terrace was also uncovered in the north porch area and, though older, was subject to some modifications over the 20th century. A possible prehistoric pit was found beneath the north terrace and a Palmer point was encountered in fill from that same unit. Many of the pits contained historic fill from elsewhere at the site, some of which contained prehistoric objects as well. At the south margin of the south porch a likely planting bed and an odd stretch of pavement were also uncovered. No description of the artifacts encountered during the 1992 excavations is provided in the full site report, and these are not included in the tallies above.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005772, 00005762, 00005774, 00005775, 00005786