



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CR166

Site Name: Union Mills Homestead Complex

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th - 20th century farmstead, mill complex, and tannery

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code BrC,CdA

Latitude 39.6735

Longitude -77.0167

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

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
- 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) Big Pipe Creek

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 145 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## 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  grist

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other  tannery

#### 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

homestead

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

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

### Historic Sherd Types

|                    |                          |             |                          |                  |                          |                  |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Earthenware</b> |                          | Ironstone   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffordshire    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Stoneware</b> |                          |
| Astbury            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jackfield   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tin Glazed       | <input type="checkbox"/> | English Brown    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mn Mottled  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiteware        | 49                       | Eng Dry-bodied   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buckley            | <input type="checkbox"/> | North Devon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Porcelain</b> | 17                       | Nottingham       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Creamware          | 14                       | Pearlware   | 31                       |                  |                          | Rhenish          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    |                          |             |                          |                  |                          | Wt Salt-glazed   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

### Prehistoric Features

|                   |                          |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mound(s)          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Storage/trash pit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Midden            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s)         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shell midden      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ossuary           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Postholes/molds   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| House pattern(s)  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Palisade(s)       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |                          |
| Hearth(s)         | <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |                          |
| Lithic reduc area | <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |                          |

### Lithic Material

|               |                          |                |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Fer quartzite | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sil sandstone  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jasper        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chalcedony     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chert         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ironstone      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rhyolite      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Argilite       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartz        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steatite       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartzite     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sandstone      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | European flint | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Basalt         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Unknown        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Other          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dated features present at site

| Historic Artifacts |     | Tobacco related  |                                     |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pottery (all)      | 288 | Activity item(s) | 55                                  |
| Glass (all)        | 177 | Human remain(s)  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Architectural      | 600 | Faunal material  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture          | 2   | Misc. kitchen    | 582                                 |
| Arms               | 6   | Floral material  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Clothing           | 13  | Misc.            | 122                                 |
| Personal items     | 55  | 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar hole/cellar | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Trash pit/dump   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Railroad bed     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunken vats | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Hearth/chimney     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sheet midden     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Earthworks       | <input type="checkbox"/> |             |                                     |
| Postholes/molds    | <input 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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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th - 20th century farmstead, mill complex, and tannery

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Union Mills Homestead Foundation

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Union Mills Homestead Complex (18CR166) is a late 18th - 20th century farmstead and mill complex north of Westminster in Carroll County, Maryland. The site is situated amid the prosperous farms in the rolling hills of the Mid-Atlantic Piedmont region. The main house, known as the Homestead, a rambling 23-room house, was begun in 1797 by Andrew and David Shriver as a simple 4-room dog-trot log house. In that same year they built a large brick grist mill, four stories in height, powered with water diverted from a nearby creek. The Shriver family industrial complex at Union Mills grew to include a saw mill, cooper shop, blacksmith shop, tannery, and in the late 19th century, a canning factory, as well as a large farm. This crossroads community was complete with a post office and inn. Union Mills was a thriving settlement in the first half of the 19th century. Following the Civil War, with expansion of the railroad and competition from larger highly mechanized mills, Union Mills suffered a gradual decline. Over the years some of the buildings of the complex have been lost. Today only the Homestead, the Homestead's privy, the Grist Mill, the tannery's bark shed, another tannery building, and the Miller's House survive.

Archeological research conducted at Site 18CR166 has focused on the Miller's House, which is thought to have been built in the early 19th century. Additions were added over time. The house may have initially been used by members of the Shriver family, but by the mid-19th century it is known that the entire mill operation was being leased out. The archival evidence points to this structure as serving as the home for the mill operator and his family. In 1985, a data recovery project was undertaken at the Miller's House to obtain and preserve archeological data that would be destroyed during rehabilitation work and to aid in interpretation and reconstruction efforts at the site. The site complex, by that time, had passed out of family ownership into that of the Union Mills Homestead Foundation, which was seeking to rehabilitate the property as a museum. As repairs to the Miller's House involved the construction of a trench and drain system around three sides of the house and reconstruction of a previously demolished pantry and porch addition on the front of the building, data recovery was warranted and was funded by the Union Mills Homestead Foundation and the Maryland Historical Trust. Much of the labor was provided by local volunteers.

Excavation units were placed to provide as much information as possible with a minimum of digging. Unit 1 was a 61 cm test square (2 X 2 ft) placed in the center of the front yard to obtain a representative sample of yard scatter. It was extended to the north by an additional 91 X 61 cm (3 X 2 ft) cut, designated as Unit 2. Unit 3 was laid out as a trench 91 cm wide and 1.83 meters (6 ft) long running east-west across the supposed location of the east wall of the demolished porch and pantry addition. The remaining units at the site were all established as 91 cm (3 ft) test squares. Units 4 and 5 were located partially across the two front doors of the Miller's House to obtain evidence of now missing steps and walkways as well as material from any builder's trench and yard scatter. These areas were to be destroyed by the construction of the drainage system. Unit 6 was intended to recover yard scatter and expose the builder's trench of a south addition from the side of the house, an area which would also be destroyed by the drainage system. Units 7 and 8 were laid out near the southwest and northwest corners of the house respectively. However, neither was ever excavated as adjacent areas likely to produce similar information would not be disturbed. Units 9, 10, and 11 were opened up alongside Unit 4, adjacent to the east wall of the house. They were established to obtain additional information on the porch and pantry and to recover data which otherwise would have been lost.

The project obtained an adequate representative sample of all archeological deposits to be destroyed by the rehabilitation project, thus avoiding an adverse effect on archeological data. A stone entrance step was recovered, a section of a 20th century concrete walk was revealed, and a section of the builder's trench on the south side of the building was excavated. The few datable artifacts recovered from the builder's trench were not sufficient to date the south addition. Information was obtained on the porch and pantry addition, a structure which proved to be of greater significance than initially thought. Based on comparison with similar features at contemporaneous site, it may be a little-known, architectural feature from the late 19th century found in the Pennsylvania German cultural region.

Artifacts encountered during the excavations at 18CR166 include roughly 55 activity items, 600 architectural objects, 13 clothing items, 2 furniture items, 935 kitchen-related artifacts, 55 personal items, a tobacco-related article, 6 arms objects, and 122 miscellaneous artifacts. Exact quantities are not provided for some artifact types (principally some architectural items and oyster shell), but their presence is noted in the full site report each time they were encountered in new stratigraphic contexts. The quantities provided here and in the tables above rely on minimal estimates when such descriptions are encountered. Activity items include 16 toys (a rubber ball and jack, 2 natural stone dice, 2 bisque marbles, 2 other ceramic marbles, 3 glass marbles, 3 rubber balloon necks, a porcelain doll fragment, and part of a child's tea set), 13 pieces of lamp glass, 3 light bulb parts, 13 pieces of hardware (4 screws, 2 pieces of wire, 1 nut/bolt, a wingnut, a spring, an aluminum grommet, a chrome plug, and 2 washers), 1 metal strap, 1 garden stake, a sherd from a redware flowerpot, 4 pencil fragments, a probable piece of farm machinery, 1 plastic clothespin, and an iron barrel hoop. Architectural artifacts consisted of roughly 12 asphalt roofing fragments, a piece of tar paper, 20 sheet metal roofing fragments, 4 pieces of asbestos siding, 6 pieces of linoleum, 60 brick fragments, 4 pieces of concrete, 2 asphalt fragments, 12 cement chunks, 14 pieces of plaster, 112 fragments of window glass, 334 nails (120 square, 165 wire, 49 unidentified), 6 staples, a door latch handle, 4 pieces of metal pipe, and 8 electrical parts (ceramic insulators). The clothing assemblage included 10 buttons (1 bone, 1 porcelain, 3 glass, 2 Mother of Pearl, and 3 ceramic), a leather shoe heel, 1 buckle, and a safety pin. Furniture remains were an upholstery tack and a porcelain castor. The kitchen-related assemblage was, by far, the largest and included some 288 ceramic sherds, 65 kitchen container glass fragments, and roughly 582 other kitchen items. The ceramic assemblage consisted of 14 creamware sherds, 31 pearlware sherds, 41 miscellaneous earthenware sherds, 17 porcelain fragments, 6 gray salt-glazed stonewares, 3 miscellaneous stonewares, 49 whiteware, 7 yellowware, and 120 redware sherds. The remaining kitchen artifacts were 10 fragments of table glass, 55 bottle/container glass shards, 4 fruit jar lid parts, 272 crown caps, 123 crown cap fragments, an iron utensil handle, 3 pieces of foil, a disposable cup fragment, 6 pieces of metal can, two candy wrappers (foil and plastic), 119 animal bones, and roughly 51 pieces of oyster shell. Personal objects were a lead bird whistle, 2 safety razor blades, 51 safety razor blade fragments, and a plastic comb. The only tobacco-related artifact recovered was a kaolin pipe stem. Arms-related objects were encountered; 2 brass rifle cartridges, and 4 brass shot shell caps. Miscellaneous objects encountered during the investigations include 16 unidentified metal objects, 17 unidentified iron objects, 2 blue pigment fragments, 4 pieces of stone (including mica), 3 wood fragments, 10 pieces of plastic, a plastic bandage cover, 26 rodent-buried nuts, 8 rodent bones, roughly 31 pieces of coal, 2 fragments of charcoal, and 2 pieces of slag. Additional artifacts were encountered by the construction crews who completed installation of the drainage features at 18CR166. As these materials are un-provenienced, they are not included in the tallies here or above. They can be found in the appendices of the full site report.

These archeological investigations dispelled the hypothesized Germanic tidiness of the building's occupants, revealing the much more "messy" yard scatter typical of 19th century Anglo-American sites. The artifact pattern also strongly suggests the house was occupied by families, not single men, and that it served at least a quasi-public function at the heart of the community of Union Mills. The investigations provided additional evidence of the conservative Pennsylvania German cultural region's preference for lead-glazed redware over other utility wares despite the known hazards (by the Late 18th century the



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Unknown

hazards of lead poisoning from the glaze had been established). The conservatism in domestic life, from the late 18th century dog-trot house to the late 19th century front porch and pantry wing and the continuing use of redware, contrasts with the technological innovation shown in the mill (which incorporated the latest in technology).

Only a small portion of the Union Mills Complex was excavated; principally that area that would be immediately impacted by the installation of drainage features around the Miller's House. Despite the small footprint of the excavations, the work demonstrated that the site has integrity and can answer interesting questions regarding the late 18th and early 19th century German immigrants who populated this area. Additional work could also focus on the mill itself, where no excavation work has been done. Thus, Site 18CR166 has significant ongoing research potential.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

00005364