



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CR239

Site Name: Sykesville LEDTF Cemetery

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 18th - early 19th century cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 14

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3758

Longitude -76.9512

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 165 m

Site slope

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) Unnamed tributary of Piney

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 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
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

early-mid 20th century dump

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 botanical



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

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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

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			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"/> 1	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

Burials dating between 1790-1825 based on diagnostic coffin hardware.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> 699	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 69
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

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

Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18CR239 is an apparent late 18th to early 19th century cemetery near Sykesville in Carroll County, Maryland. The site is situated on a level hilltop located within a gently to strongly rolling and hilly upland dissected by small, deeply entrenched streams and drainage ravines. Piney Run flows north of the site. There are no standing structures on the site and soils consist of the Manor Series loams, characterized as deep, nearly level to very steep somewhat excessively drained soil found on the uplands.

Despite a Phase I survey in the project area, and Phase II testing at a site (18CR235) located a short distance to the north, Site 18CR239 was only discovered when construction activities disturbed the site. The site was encountered by contractors working for the Department of General Services to build the Law Enforcement Driver Training Facility (LEDTF). As a result, archeologists were called in to conduct salvage and Phase III data recovery work at 18CR239. Prior to the excavation of the cemetery, the southern face of the hill and the southernmost portion of the hilltop had been removed by construction workers. An area comprised of approximately 450 square meters had been excavated (in many areas into bedrock), resulting in a relatively level "shelf" bordered on the north by the only intact portion of the hilltop. The hill had essentially been removed to the south, west, and east, resulting in severe drop-offs on these sides. Construction activities on the hilltop had severely damaged the integrity of at least two burials. The exposed human remains were then disturbed by animals or trespassers between their discovery and the start of Phase III investigations. While elements of these burials were still in place, a significant amount of the crushed and fragmented skeletal remains and wood was scattered across the central portion of the site.

Phase III work began in the archives, where extensive research was performed to try and identify the individuals interred there. Historical research revealed that the major landholding families in the area were buried away from the project area in cemeteries located elsewhere. This suggests the inception and use of the cemetery by tenant farmers, as they were the only other people (excluding slaves), to occupy this land. The cemetery, which contained the remains of Caucasian individuals, was most likely used by members of the Demitt and/or Dorsey families (all tenant farmers). The cemetery is situated on property known historically as "Brown's Inheritance". For more historical details regarding the tract itself, see the synopsis report for 18CR235. In 1762, an Edward Dorsey purchased a 348-acre tract adjacent to and southwest of the tract that would become "Brown's Inheritance", which he called "Dorsey's Dilemma". The 1837 Carroll County Tax List indicates that Edward H. Dorsey and Jonathan Dorsey were part owners of additional tracts nearby. Henry C. (G) Dorsey is listed as an occupant on a portion of the Brown (of "Brown's Inheritance") family's holdings in the 1798 Assessment, and was probably the same "Henry Dorsey" recorded to have married a Mary MacCubbin. Mary MacCubbin was related to Zachariah MacCubbin, owner of the land occupied by the cemetery during the last quarter of the 18th century. It officially became property of the Brown family in 1795. Henry Dorsey, who was not listed as a landowner in the tax records, nor identified in the grantor-grantee books circa 1760-1820, was apparently a tenant farmer on the tract that would become "Brown's Inheritance" (then Zachariah MacCubbin's property). Andrew Demitt is also listed as a tenant farmer on the "Brown's Inheritance" tract in the 1798 Assessment. His tenancy may have been short-lived, as there is no other mention of Andrew or other Demitts in late 18th or early 19th century tax records or censuses.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, tenant farming was quite common in the region, and by the end of the 18th century, the majority of agricultural property was in the hands of a minority of landowners. Many hard-working farmers viewed their tenancy as a temporary situation endured to gather the capital to purchase property. Life for non-landowning tenants was, in general, quite difficult. Tenants were often on the move in search of better land or cheaper rent. While many individuals were relatively prosperous, as a group tenant farmers did not enjoy a particularly high level of social status. County records often categorized non-landowning farmers along with indentured or apprenticed individuals. The lives of tenants revolved around farm and house work, all of which contributed to the survival of the household. The men and boys spent their days in backbreaking labor, performing the heavy tasks common on a farm (plowing, cutting wood, clearing land, etc.). Women also performed heavy physical labor, and, in addition to working in the fields (especially during harvest time), they were responsible for washing, cooking, churning butter, spinning, and tending livestock. Despite the rigorous demands made on rural farmers, they were able to lead fairly healthy and productive lives. The ready availability of food resulted in the farmers' relatively good nourishment, often not the case for urban dwellers. Good social relationships among neighboring rural families was also important, as it resulted in an increased labor pool and provided opportunities for marriage. Extended family groups commonly occupied adjacent and nearby land holdings. Death was a common visitor to the rural family. Diseases such as consumption, typhus, and pneumonia were commonplace and could cause the decimation of entire families. People also died from infections resulting from everyday accidents and infant mortality was quite high. Young children were generally the most at risk within the family. One in six children did not live to the age of one, and at least one out of five children would not reach adulthood. Yet our understanding of the physical condition of early 19th century farmers in Maryland is still quite poor. Herein lies the significance of the data recovered from 18CR239. The cemetery provides a window on the past health and well-being of tenant farmers.

Excavation began with careful plotting of bone and coffin fragments using a laser transit, and collection as isolated finds in the anticipation that osteological analysis would identify their relationship to each other, or to specific burials encountered later. In an effort to identify cemetery site boundaries and locate additional burials, excavation (under the close supervision of archeologists) was undertaken with a Gradall and a front-end loader. These machines removed 90 square meters of plow zone and subsoil from the remainder of the hilltop, resulting in a total stripped area of approximately 540 square meters. While the depth of excavation varied because of the uneven nature of the underlying bedrock, an average of .90 m of soil was removed. No burials were identified in that portion of the hilltop that was mechanically stripped under the supervision of archeologists. So, researchers turned back to the areas that had been previously exposed by construction workers. First, the loose soil remaining on-site from the construction workers' excavations was screened and trowel sorted. Next, the compact and rocky surface exposed by mechanical stripping was probed and carefully scraped by hand. Shovels, hoes, trowels, and brooms were used in the effort to locate and fully define the outlines of grave shafts and coffin staining. Continuous spraying of the soil with water was necessary, so that the brown wood staining and differential soil colors, which typified many of the grave shafts, could be identified.

A total of 13 burials (including Burials 1 and 5, exposed by the construction workers) were identified on the hilltop during the field effort. The 14th individual was identified while sorting displaced bone during laboratory analysis. These burials, oriented east to west, were arranged in a series of at least three rows, oriented north to south. The majority of these graves were located in the central portion of the exposed area where soils were the deepest. Excavation of the burials was conducted in an expedient manner to maintain the integrity of diagnostic skeletal features from which the maximum amount of data could be obtained for analysis. When possible, human remains were fully recorded and removed on the same day they were exposed. Prior to the excavation of a burial, each shaft stain was divided into provenience units representing the upper and lower sections of the burial. These proveniences, corresponding to the superior and inferior sections of the remains, were assigned based on the assumption that the bodies were interred in the Christian manner, with the head situated at the western end of the grave. All fill recovered from grave shafts to the top of the burials proper was screened through hardware cloth. All soils recovered from the top of the lids to the bottom of the skeletons were collected according to the upper and lower provenience units. These soils were water



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Unknown

Description:

screened off-site through fine (1/8 in) mesh screen. The expectation was that smaller artifacts, such as pins and buttons, as well as small pieces of bone, could be recovered in this manner. The locations of individual coffin nails, buttons, pins, etc. were plotted when possible.

After the removal of all the burials, the exposed area of the hilltop was subjected to a series of shovel cuts judgmentally placed along close transects at intervals of approximately .80 meters. These cuts were excavated in an effort to identify any burial features that may have been missed during initial attempt at identification. No additional remains or features were located. Because the burial features were faint and difficult to identify, post-excavation monitoring of construction contractors' earth moving activities at the site was conducted. No additional remains or burial features were identified in this final stage of the field effort.

During the field effort, a total of 13 burials were excavated at 18CR239. The presence of a 14th burial was identified during skeletal analysis. This individual was sorted out from Burials 1 and 5, which were highly disturbed, and from displaced and isolated bone recovered from backdirt piles deposited along the southern perimeter of the cemetery. The extant cemetery population included 7 adult females, 4 adult males, and 3 subadults; one male and two of indeterminate sex. All individuals were classified as "Caucasian". The mortality analysis shows that two of the subadults died in infancy, while one male died before his twentieth year. Seven adults died aged 20 to 50 years, and four adults lived a relatively long life, dying after the age of 50. Most of the individuals exhibited skeletal characteristics that showed that they were a population accustomed to physical stress. In addition, congenital skeletal characteristics suggest that several of these individuals were related. All individuals were interred in hexagonal coffins that lacked any formal hardware. A dearth of clothing artifacts suggests that the majority were buried in simple shrouds or wrapped in winding sheets.

While few artifacts were encountered in association with the burials, significant archeological information was retrieved concerning the health and well-being of the population represented by the burial ground. Although the burials as a whole exhibited only fair preservation, the osteological data showed that at least 7 individuals had undergone biomechanical skeletal changes resulting from repetitive motion and intense physical activity. These anomalies, occurring over a long period of time, were caused by constant bending and squatting and from performing tasks requiring tensile strength and endurance. Both males and females exhibited these characteristics, showing that both sexes led strenuous lives. Wear marks caused by pipe-smoking were found on the teeth of as many as four of the individuals buried at the cemetery. The elderly female from Burial 9 exhibited this type of dental wear. In the early 19th century, the smoking of tobacco or the taking of snuff was common among rural women. Skeletal pathologies, typically found in cases of infection and trauma, were encountered in four individuals. None of these conditions were seriously debilitating or life threatening. Most of the pathologies are related to non-traumatic or infectious factors. Poor dental hygiene, common during this period, was identified in most of the individuals, with a higher incidence among the adult women. Most of the pathologies seen in the population, associated with aging and strenuous lifestyle, resulted in degenerative changes including arthritis in shoulder, hip joints, and the vertebral column. The population at this cemetery appears to have been well fed. Little evidence of nutritional stress was identified, though a defect in the enamel of the teeth related to poor nutrition or disease was encountered in two males. Overall, the individuals were robust and of good stature when compared to contemporaneous cemetery populations.

A total of 6 burials contained archeobotanical remains (67 seeds) that could be associated with funerary offerings, suggestive of regional burial practices and folk beliefs. Sassafras seeds were identified in Burials 2 (an elderly female), 7 (an adult female aged 45-49), and 13 (a subadult aged 1.5-2). Pokeweed seeds were recovered from Burials 3 (an adult female aged 50-59), 6 (an adult male aged around 35), and 12 (an adult female aged 30-40). A single blackberry or raspberry seed was also found with Burial 3. The presence of sassafras, pokeweed, and rubeus seeds (blackberry/raspberry) in direct association with the burials at 18CR239 is similar to findings at a contemporaneous African-American cemetery (18FR323) at Catoctin Furnace located near Frederick, Maryland. See the synopsis report and ethnobotanical profile for 18FR323 for details regarding the seeds encountered at that site. The inclusion of the seeds in the Catoctin burials were interpreted as African burial customs or folk practices, but their presence in the Caucasian burials at 18CR323 may indicate that this is a regional tradition that crosses ethnic boundaries.

Historic artifacts encountered in the burials at the site or during water screening through fine mesh in the lab include 1 activity item, 36 burial clothing objects, 699 funerary furniture objects, and 69 miscellaneous objects (many of which may be floral burial accompaniments). The activity item is an iron wedge which was found atop one of the coffins. It may have been used during excavation of the burial pit to bust up limestone and other rocks that are prevalent in the area. The burial clothing includes 20 copper shroud pins, 5 bone buttons, 8 white metal buttons, 2 pieces of fabric from around buttons, and a piece of wood from around a button. Funerary furniture includes 650 cut nails/nail fragments, 4 wrought nails, 7 unidentified nail fragments, 7 pieces of screws, fragments of a feather pillow from within a coffin, and 30 samples of wood taken from coffin components. Miscellaneous objects include an undetermined organic object, a piece of burned wood, and 67 seeds recovered from burials (59 sassafras, 1 blackberry/raspberry, and 7 pokeweed). One prehistoric artifact was encountered, a rhyolite flake.

Analysis of the artifacts recovered from the burials indicates that these individuals were interred between the years 1790-1825. The results of documentary research, and artifact and osteological analyses suggest that the cemetery had been used by a family or several families who were tenant farmers. The physical rigor of their daily lives was evident in the human remains and the simple nature of the burial furniture and clothing testify to their socio-economic standing. Osteological information revealed that several of the individuals were related. The strong family ties forged through work and leisure activities during life were expressed through closeness in death.

Human remains were reinterred in a protected area at the Sykesville LEDTF and subsequent construction activities at the site would have largely destroyed or disturbed any remains that were not detected by Phase III researchers. Thus, the site has no remaining research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005390, 00005548