



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV169

Site Name: Roscoe Brown House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Melon Field

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-Late 17th century post-in-ground house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.4071 Longitude -76.5123
Elevation 16 m Site slope 0

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province: Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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): springhead

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
- Minimum distance to water is 200 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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

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

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	7	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	67	English Brown	4
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	13	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	57	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	30
						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

17th century structure, refuse pits, and ash heaps

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	259	Activity item(s)	4
Glass (all)	85	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	16	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	2	Misc. kitchen	17
Arms	29	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	5	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	3	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	refuse deposits	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Roscoe Brown Farmstead (18CV169), or Melon Field Site, is a mid-late 17th century plantation in Calvert County, Maryland. The site is located on the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) property near St. Leonard in rural Calvert County, Maryland. The site is situated in a former agricultural field along a farm maintenance road on the park property. An intermittent stream head is located to the west. The stream flows into the Patuxent River, not far from its confluence with St. Leonard's Creek. Soils at the site are Ingleside loamy sands.

The site was first identified in 1982. The site had been plowed and placed in young rye. A shell concentration was spotted by archeologists working elsewhere on the property while driving down the farm lane to the west. The soil was darkly stained in the area of the shell. This was the only shell concentration noted in the field, but the field was not walked other than in the area of site 18CV169. Brick was also noted (only in the area of shell) along with one fieldstone. No subsurface testing was conducted at the time, but the presence of some rather large bone fragments, suggested that undisturbed deposits might exist in the area, despite years of deep plowing. A small, random surface collection was made which included 2 samples of red brick, 1 North Devon gravel-tempered sherd, 2 unidentified earthenwares, a green case bottle glass fragment, a brass book latch, 2 white clay pipestems, and a white clay rouletted pipe bowl. Large quantities of burnt bone and shell, brick and the aforementioned piece of fieldstone were also observed but not collected or quantified. Based on these findings, the site seemed a likely candidate for a 17th century dwelling.

Additional surface collections and site visits were conducted between 1982 and 1987, but no details were evidently documented.

The first substantive, systematic excavation work conducted at 18CV169 occurred in the spring and summer of 1987. The work was carried out by the Southern Maryland Regional Archeologist, permanent and seasonal staff at JPPM, and members of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). The work was conducted due to concern that deep plowing of the agricultural field within which the site was located, might be compromising site integrity. At the time of the study, the site was planted with melons, hence the name the "Melon Field Site".

Site testing began with controlled surface collection in 4 x 4 m blocks to determine the site extent and location of the "core" area. A total of 108 4 X 4 meter collection units were examined over a 44 X 48 meter artifact scatter area (exclusive of the farm lane that passed through the center of the expanded survey area). Mapping of the surface collection results revealed a rather broad scatter of brick and mortar rubble as well as oyster shell across the area, but with a dense 12 square meter concentration of artifacts and shell near the center of the survey area. This concentration also contained the majority of the larger artifact specimens. Some distinct clustering was observed in domestic artifacts vs. oyster shell vs. architectural artifacts, but all three overlapped to form what was likely the "core" activity area of the site.

The surface collection was followed up with a soil chemistry study of soil samples collected from locations systematically spaced across 28 m² in the site mid-section. In addition, seven contiguous 2 x 2 m test squares were placed in the area thought to be the site core. Soil samples were tested for the presence of potassium, phosphorus, calcium, and magnesium. These chemical are good indicators of wood ash deposits (K), animal and human body tissues and waste (P), shell and bone concentrations (Ca), and intensive burning episodes (Mg). The P and Ca data revealed concentrations that map perfectly onto the identified site "core" area, while a concentration of K was identified both in the core area and an area to the west. The potassium concentration likely represents instances of ash dumping, both near the main hearth and at a distance. Mg is concentrated in the core, in an area to the south, and in an area to the north of the core. Its distribution is difficult to interpret.

Subsurface investigations in the 2 X 2 m test units proceeded by hand removal (shovels and trowels) of the 20-33 cm deep plowzone to expose features and assess site integrity. A substantial oblong post-hole (>111 cm in one dimension) and mold (20.32 cm in diameter) were revealed, along with one other possible postmold, refuse pits, several small circular structural features, and an ash pit. The post features, combined with the substantial quantities of brick seem to suggest that a structure was present. Each feature was carefully mapped and artifacts on the surface of each feature were piece-plotted and collected. A decision was then made to back-fill the units and preserve the area for future research. The site core was marked, surveyed, and withdrawn from further cultivation.

Artifacts recovered during the 1987 project at 18CV169 included 4 activity items, approximately 14 architectural items, 5 clothing artifacts, 2 furniture objects, 353 kitchen-related objects, 2 personal items, 421 tobacco-related artifacts, and 29 arms objects. The activity items were a brass harness ornament, an iron snaffle bit, an iron hoe blade, and an iron chain link. The architectural artifacts were brick (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), nails (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), and 4 pieces of window glass. Clothing-related artifacts were a brass button, 3 brass buckles, and a pair of iron scissors. The two furniture items were brass tacks. The kitchen-related assemblage consisted of 256 ceramic sherds (7 Staffordshire slipware, 27 North Devon Sgraffito slipware, 12 North Devon Gravel-Free earthenware, 17 North Devon Gravel-Tempered earthenware, a black-glazed earthenware sherd, 74 lead-glazed earthenware, 4 North Italian slipware, 13 Manganese-mottled earthenware, 67 tin-glazed earthenware, 4 Rhenish Brown stoneware, 26 Rhenish Gray stoneware, and 4 English Brown stoneware sherds), 80 pieces of glass (12 pieces of table glass, 65 fragments of wine bottle glass, and 3 other bottle glass fragments), a latten spoon handle, 3 pewter spoon handles, 2 iron knives, an iron/bone knife handle, bone (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), and shell (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces). The 2 personal items were an iron key and a brass jaw harp. The tobacco-related artifacts were 421 white tobacco pipe fragments. And finally, arms objects included 4 gun flints, 22 pieces of flint debitage, a lead shot fragment, a 2 pieces of lead sprue.

Diagnostic artifacts recovered during excavation of the site in 1987 suggest a date of occupation from ca. 1665 to 1695. Archival research reveals very little about the inhabitants of 18CV169. The site may have been located on a tract that was originally patented in 1658 as "Taylor's Disposal" by a Robert Taylor. The location of Taylor's dwelling is unknown, and his son (who inherited the property) is believed to have died by 1682, a decade or so before the probable end of occupation. The "St. Leonard" tract abutting the Taylor parcels on their south side was owned by Richard Smith, Sr, who appears to have acquired the Taylor parcels at some point. Smith purchased the St. Leonard's parcel in 1663, but is believed to have lived elsewhere on the JPPM property (see synopsis report for 18CV92) and not at 18CV169. If Smith acquired Taylor's Disposal in 1663 when he acquired St. Leonard, or if he acquired it sometime later, the occupants of 18CV169 during his period of ownership would likely have been tenants.

Site 18CV169 appears to be the remains of a dwelling from the latter half of the 17th century. There is some question as to who the occupants of the site were, whether tenants or landowners. Although the site was impacted by deep plowing, the correlation between soil testing data and plotted artifact distributions suggests that horizontal integrity of the plowzone was not that bad. The concentration of artifacts indicating probably activity areas was sufficient



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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief
Description:**

Unknown

to lead to the discovery of intact features below the plowzone. These features were mapped, but not excavated, and the field was subsequently taken out of cultivation. Thus, it may be possible to ascertain who the inhabitants of 18CV169 were through further excavation work, as well as address ongoing research questions related to 17th century Maryland Colonial history. The site should be considered a significant research asset.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):