



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV357

Site Name: Ashcomb

Prehistoric

Other name(s) B-2, Ashcom

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 17th to Mid 18th century domestic site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code PcB,WpD,MfA

Latitude 38.3283

Longitude -76.4675

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-15%

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
- Knoll

### Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Inlet to Patuxent River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 20 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

Y

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

Y

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric 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

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 N

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"/>	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"/>	Levana	<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	4	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	1
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	7	Whiteware	1	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	1	North Devon	2	<b>Porcelain</b>		Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	6	Pearlware	1		1	Rhenish	5
						Wt Salt-glazed	2

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

cellar hole, kitchen midden, and trash mit - late 17th to early 18th century

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	86	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	103	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	829	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	970
Arms	62	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	10
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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<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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Historic

Brief

Description:

Late 17th to Mid 18th century domestic site

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18CV357, also known as the Ashcom Site, is a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century domestic site associated with one of the earliest historic-period occupations of the Point Patience tract. The site occupies a wooded area and some adjacent grass fields, overlooking a small cove. The site straddles a small drainage that runs into the cove; the early historic finds were concentrated north of the drainage. The majority of the soil types at the site consists of Mattapeke, Matapeake, and Othello silt loams. All three soils consist of a fine sand and silty material over coarser, older sandy sediments.

The site lies near the southwestern tip of a 360-acre parcel called Point Patience. It was originally patented by John Ashcom in 1651. John Ashcom came to Maryland with his family in 1651. By 1661 Ashcom had built a house on Point Patience, which was thought to be located near the Quarters A structure. Ashcom died before July 16, 1684, the date on which his will was probated. The will stipulated that the property containing Point Patience be allotted to his second oldest son, Nathaniel, and that other adjoining properties be given to his other sons, Charles and Samuel. The tenure of his ownership was fairly short as Nathaniel died only three years after his father, in 1687.

Nathaniel's widow, Mary, took ownership after her husband's death. Mary held the property until 1701, when ownership of the 360-acre tract was given to Nathaniel's nephew, Charles Ashcom. During Charles's tenure at Point Patience, the property was occupied by Nathaniel Ashcom's daughter, Mary Ashcom Parran, and her husband, Alexander Parran. In 1726 Charles Ashcom died, and his will, probated March 4, 1726, left Point Patience to his son, Samuel. Like his father before him, Samuel Ashcom allowed Alexander Parran and his family to remain at Point Patience. The rest of the Parran family left Point Patience for a time after the death of Alexander Parran in 1729. A resident of St. Mary's County, Samuel Ashcom likely leased Point Patience to tenants after the Parrans vacated the property.

John Parran owned Point Patience for nearly 20 years after his grandfather's death. It is unclear whether he leased the property to tenants during any point of his tenure; however, by the Revolutionary War John Parran was clearly a resident of Point Patience. On November 5, 1780, three British schooners arrived on the Patuxent to raid plantations along the river. After the burning of Point Patience, John Parran likely relocated to a house on one of the other properties he inherited from his grandfather. The house at Point Patience was eventually rebuilt but it is unclear whether John Parran was responsible for its construction. By 1783 John Parran had died without heirs, and Point Patience and the other lands formerly owned by Alexander Parran became the property of Mary Ashcom Parran. The chain of ownership after Mary Ashcom Parran and John Chesley acquired the property is difficult to ascertain as no land records or tax assessments survive for that period. The confusion is further complicated by the fact that the Parran and Somerville (Somervell) families were closely related by marriage and both families apparently occupied the land at different times during this period.

A map, published in 1837, shows a "Dr. Somerville" located in the vicinity of Point Patience in 1814. This "Dr. Somerville" was Dr. William Somervell. William Somervell was also the most likely person responsible for the construction of the current house that stands on the property. The house (Quarters A) that Somervell likely built was extensively remodeled by the property owners in the early twentieth century and likely bears little resemblance to its original early nineteenth-century appearance.

Dr. William Somervell died in 1816, at which time the estate was transferred to his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth Somervell does not appear in the 1820 census, but in 1830 she is listed as a resident of Calvert County. In addition to herself, her household included 28 other individuals of whom 19 were enslaved. After Elizabeth's death in 1835, ownership of the 360-acre Point Patience property was transferred to her son, Alexander Somervell.

Alexander Somervell had more substantial holdings besides the 360-acre Point Patience. He cultivated a diversified crop on his farm, including wheat, tobacco, corn, oats, and potatoes. The farm also produced wool from 35 sheep and butter from seven cows. Alexander Somervell's workforce included 57 enslaved men and women. Thirty-two of these individuals were men and 25 were women. More than half of Somervell's enslaved population was either below the age of 15 or over the age of 50; however, he did have 20 men and women between the ages of 15 and 35 enslaved on his plantation. With such a great number of enslaved laborers, Alexander Somervell was one of the largest slave owners in Calvert County during the nineteenth century. The composition of Somervell's Point Patience plantation remained relatively unchanged during the Agricultural Census of 1860 with one great exception: by 1860 Somervell began dividing his enslaved population among his two sons. Alexander retained 32 members of his enslaved workforce in 1860. His son, Alexander Somervell, Jr., received 22 and his other son, Charles, was listed as owning 16 enslaved men and women.

After Alexander Somervell's death in 1865, management of Point Patience was left to his wife, Cornelia Olivia Sewall Somervell. By the early 1870s Cornelia Olivia had begun to divide the property among her children, likely as a result of increased economic strain from maintaining such a large plantation. In 1873 she gave the western half of Point Patience, totaling 116 acres, to her son, Alexander Somervell, Jr. This site is located on the southern end of this 116-acre property. At the time of his death in 1891, Alexander was indebted to the Southern Maryland Commission Agency as well as to several other private parties. His debts were finally settled in 1892 with the public auction of his 116-acre Point Patience property.

The Marburger family inhabited the property from 1893 until 1916. During that time they operated a hotel out of the former Somervell house and made several improvements to the house and constructed numerous outbuildings around the structure. In 1899 John Marburger was killed in a hurricane that also destroyed a steamship wharf located near the tip of Point Patience. The family continued to operate the hotel at Point Patience for 17 more years after the death of Mr. Marburger.

In 1916 the family sold the hotel and surrounding property to Thomas Parran. Thomas and his son, Benjamin, were proprietors of Point Patience, Inc., a land holding and development company, under which title they acquired several adjacent parcels of the original 360-acre Point Patience patent. A 52.5-acre portion of the property that contains the three investigated sites was sold by Parran's Point Patience, Inc., to Frederick and Beulah Tomlinson in September 1941.

The couple held the property, which included the former Somervell house (Quarters A), until it was acquired by the Navy in 1943.

Soon after the property was acquired by the Navy in 1943, the entire Point Patience parcel was designated the Naval Mine Warfare Test Station. Following the acquisition an intensive program of construction was initiated on the property, which included substantial landform modification in the area immediately northeast of Third Cove, in the vicinity of Site 18CV357. The drainage that once flowed into Third Cove, just east of Site 18CV357, was filled, burying any archaeological resources in this area. Additional cutting and filling was also undertaken between Second and Third Coves. Following the extensive program of land modification on the property, numerous buildings were constructed in those areas to house the facilities associated with building, storing, and testing the Navy's mines.

During World War II the facilities at Point Patience were involved in development of more efficient mines as well as other naval weaponry, including torpedoes. After the end of World War II, the Naval Mine Warfare Test Station was decommissioned and the facility at Point Patience became the Naval Ordnance Laboratory Test Facility (NOLTF). The Point Patience parcel remained part of NOLTF until 1968, when it became the Naval Recreation Center.

The site was originally identified during the 1995 Phase I archaeological survey of NRC Solomons by Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. The site was located on the northeast corner of their Survey Area B, northwest of and adjacent to Third Cove. The majority of the site was originally identified in a fenced-in field and thicket located on the southeast side of Point Patience Road. An additional smaller portion of the site was also identified outside the fence line, approximately 22 meters (75 feet) east of the main concentration. A road constructed by the Navy in the late 1940s bisects the northeast portion of the site.

During the Phase I survey at Site 18CV357, the area southwest of the road cut was shovel tested at 7.5-meter (25-foot) intervals and the area northeast of the cut was tested at 15-meter (49-foot) intervals. In general, soils within Site 18CV357 consisted of a truncated B-horizon overlying a yellowish brown silty clay



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subsoil. Approximately 50 of the 85 excavated shovel tests at the site contained a B-horizon consisting of dark brown to light yellowish brown silt loam varying in depth from 6 centimeters (0.2 foot) to 30 centimeters (1.0 foot) below ground surface (bgs). In several locations within the site, particularly northeast of the old road cut, a layer of overburden was present above the B-horizon. This layer was likely related to the filling of a drainage north of Third Cove by the Navy during the 1940s and 1950s. Soils in the northern portion of the site apparently were less eroded, leaving various strata of topsoil or plowzone overlying the B horizon.

Along with the abundance of modern building materials recovered from the fill layers, 13 prehistoric artifacts and 224 historic artifacts were recovered from Site 18CV357 during the 1995 Phase I survey. These included hand-wrought and cut nails, white clay tobacco pipe fragments, English gun flints, and several glass and ceramic sherds dating from the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries. In particular, three tin-glazed earthenware sherds and one Rhenish brown stoneware sherd suggested a possible seventeenth-century date for the site, and two sherds of black lead-glazed earthenware suggest the possibility of an occupation extending into the eighteenth century. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century material, such as transfer-printed whiteware and machine-made bottle glass, were also among the collection. Small amounts of nineteenth- and twentieth-century material were found across the site, while the concentration seventeenth and early eighteenth-century artifacts were isolated to the northeastern portion of the site, on either side of the 1940s road cut. Large quantities of brick and oyster shell were also recovered from shovel tests excavated in that portion of Site 18CV357.

One possible feature was discovered in the northeast portion of the site. A single shovel test excavated just southwest of the circa 1940s road cut encountered what appeared to be a brick and mortar feature approximately 24 centimeters (0.8 foot) bgs. A total of 111 grams of brick and 31 grams of oyster shell were recovered from the shovel test. No attempt was made to penetrate the deposit. As a result the full extent and nature of the feature was not determined.

Site 18CV357 was named the Ashcom Site, given the presence of seventeenth-century artifacts at this location. The archaeological evidence from the 1995 Phase I excavation points to a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century domestic occupation. The proximity of the site to fresh water from Third Cove is a typical seventeenth-century settlement pattern, suggesting that Site 18CV357 could be the Ashcom home site. In addition, the presence of early eighteenth-century material further suggests the continued occupation of the site through the period of Ashcom ownership (1651-1684) to the first years of the Parran family occupation (1684-1729) of the property.

Phase II testing began with a shovel test survey to re-identify and locate precisely the deposits from the original 1995 Phase I investigation. Seventy-four shovel tests were excavated across the site. Some locations within the site were not tested because visible signs of severe ground disturbance were present. The findings from the Phase II shovel test survey were very similar to those from the original Phase I investigation. Significant ground disturbance was present in the southwest portion of the site, as a truncated B-horizon overlying subsoil was identified across the area. Nineteenth through twentieth-century artifacts and modern building material were encountered across much of the site, with high concentrations of the material concentrated in disturbed fill deposits in the southwest and far northeast portions of Site 18CV357. Concentrations of seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century domestic artifacts and architectural material were centralized in the northeastern portion of the site, on either side of the circa 1940s road cut.

Two sub-plowzone, seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century features were also identified during the shovel test survey. Both features were located on the far northeast end of the site, just north of the circa 1940s road cut. Feature 1, a late seventeenth-century midden deposit, was identified during the excavation of Shovel Test B-16. Overlying the midden deposit was a thick layer of modern fill containing demolition debris. The midden soils consisted of a dark brown silt loam with a large quantity of oyster shell and brick and charcoal flecking. Only a small quantity of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century material was recovered from the shovel test. The artifacts include a wrought nail, an English gun flint, a piece of case bottle glass, mortar, and some brick. TUs 1, 3, and 13 produced 242 pieces of brick (1.6 kilograms) and 470 pieces of oyster shell (3.3 kilograms) from Feature 1. In addition, 245 artifacts were recovered, all of which date from the late seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries. Forty-seven pieces of faunal material were also recovered from the midden. The majority of the bone recovered was too small to identify the species accurately. Four pieces were large enough to determine that they were from a medium or large mammal. Only small fragments of the yellow brick were recovered from Feature 1 as well as from other test units and features at the site. Although the fragments were too small to identify the use of the brick, their presence alone was important as both a diagnostic tool and an indicator the site's connection with colonial trade networks.

Fifteen meters (49 feet) northeast of Shovel Test B-16, a deep historic fill deposit was encountered during the excavation of Shovel Test B-17. Designated Feature 4, the historic fill deposit likely represents a cellar hole. It was encountered underneath the same thick layer modern demolition debris overlying the nearby historic midden (Feature 1). Artifacts recovered from Shovel Test B-17 suggest a late seventeenth to early eighteenth-century date for the cellar hole. They include English Brown stoneware (1690-1775), hand-wrought nails, brick, and mortar, as well as some animal bone and oyster shell. The excavation of TU 12 resulted in one hundred pieces of brick and 157 pieces of oyster shell being recovered from the cellar fill deposits. In addition, 66 historic artifacts are among the assemblage. Twenty-eight pieces of animal bone were recovered; however, all of the specimens were too small to accurately identify beyond classification as mammal bone. Ten pieces of glass were recovered as well as seven historic ceramics. They include six pieces of case bottle glass, four sherds of table glass, part of a Buckley milk pan (1720-1775), and two pieces each of Staffordshire Slipware (1680-1720), Rhenish Gray stoneware (1675-1775), and white salt-glazed stoneware (1720-1805). Other artifacts from the cellar deposit include four pieces of white clay tobacco pipe (4/64 inch and 5/64 inch), two pieces of English flint, and 14 hand-wrought nails.

Based on the artifact assemblage, Feature 4 appears to be a cellar hole for a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century dwelling. The fill contained in the feature post-dates the construction and use of the structure. The presence of the Buckley milk pan and white salt-glazed stoneware suggests that the dwelling was occupied into the early eighteenth century since importation of such goods into Maryland did not begin until after 1720. The absence of later eighteenth-century items, such as creamware and pearlware, suggests that this house was likely abandoned and demolished prior to the 1760s. Given the time frame and history of land ownership of the property, Feature 4 likely represents the remains of the second Ashcom house at Point Patience, which was occupied from 1684 until 1729.

A circular stain measuring 20 centimeters (0.65 foot) in diameter was identified in TU 9. Designated Feature 2, the stain was originally thought to be the remains of a historic-period posthole. Following bisection, Feature 2 was determined to represent the remains of a decayed root.

A test unit (TU 13) was placed 5 meters (16 feet) east of TU 1 to explore the remains of a possible brick and mortar foundation (Feature 6). Quickly after excavation began, Feature 6 proved to be more modern demolition debris.

During excavation of TUs 14 and 15, a historic-period pit feature (Feature 7) was identified extending into the north wall of the unit. TU 15 was placed north of TU 14 to better investigate Feature 7. One hundred fifty-three historic artifacts were recovered from plowzone overlying Feature 7. It was roughly rectangular, measuring about 1x1.36 meters (3.28x4.46 feet). It was 16 centimeters (0.5 foot) deep and had straight sides and a nearly flat bottom. Soils in the feature consisted of light yellowish brown silt loam mixed with brown silt loam. Numerous pieces of oyster shell, brick and charcoal flecking were also visible in the feature. It is likely that Feature 7 was originally deeper than at present, and that part of the feature was disturbed by plowing. Only 12 artifacts were recovered from the intact portion of the historic-period pit, including one piece of lead-glazed redware, four sherds of case bottle glass, and two white clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, of which one had a measurable bore hole diameter of 6/64 inch (1680-1720). Faunal material in Feature 7 included a cow rib, a long bone of a large mammal (possibly a cow), a pig molar, a turtle shell fragment, and a fish bone. Over 30 pieces of oyster shell were also present but not retained as part of the collection. Given the assemblage as a whole, it appears Feature 7 was a storage pit that was abandoned and used as a trash pit sometime in the early eighteenth century.

Based on the results of the Phase I and Phase II shovel testing surveys, 17 test units were excavated across the northeast portion of the site. Units were



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placed where high quantities of seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century were encountered as well as in the vicinity of Features 1 and 4 to determine the extent and nature of the historic deposits. Six features were identified during the Phase II evaluation. Features 3 and 6 were associated with the layer of modern fill and demolition debris that covers much of the site. The fill and debris were dumped and graded across the site as part of the land modification and construction program undertaken by the Navy around Third Cove after 1943. Feature 2 was originally thought to be a historic posthole that was later determined to be a root stain. The remaining features were associated with the late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century occupation of Point Patience by the Ashcom family: a historic-period trash midden, a shallow pit feature, and a possible cellar hole that was abandoned and filled in during the eighteenth century.

Site 18CV357 is a late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century domestic site associated with the Ashcom family occupation of Point Patience. The Phase II investigation resulted in the identification of several cultural features, including a cellar hole, a large kitchen midden, and small trash pit. All three features date to the late seventeenth to early eighteenth century and are associated with the occupation of Point Patience by the families of Nathaniel Ashcom and Alexander Parran.

Much of the site is disturbed, but for the most part the historic-period deposits were found to be preserved underneath a layer of twentieth-century fill. Site 18CV357 is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. The presence of well-preserved archeological deposits and the association of this site with broad historical events, such as the colonization of Maryland and the development of the plantation economy, highlights the information potential of Site 18CV357.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002434