



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18DO485

Site Name: J. Coulson Farmstead

Prehistoric

Other name(s) USFWS BLK-008

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Prehistoric lithic scatter, Late 18th-early 20th century farm, 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code 7

Latitude 38.4523 Longitude -76.1116

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0%

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
- High terrace
- Hilltop/bluff
- Rockshelter/cave
- Interior flat
- Hillslope
- Upland flat
- Unknown
- Ridgetop
- Other
- Terrace
- Low terrace

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Dieffenbach Pond

- | Saltwater                                |  | Freshwater  |                                |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/>            | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/>                         |                                |

Minimum distance to water is 76 m

## 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  Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1860 - 1900  Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1900 - 1930  Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780  Y
- Post 1930  Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820  Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- Asian American
- African American
- Unknown  Y
- Anglo-American  Y
- 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
- Furnace/forge
  - Military
  - Post-in-ground
  - Urban/Rural? Rural
  - Other
  - Battlefield
  - Frame-built
  - Domestic
  - Transportation
  - Fortification
  - Masonry
  - Homestead
  - Canal-related
  - Encampment
  - Other structure
  - Farmstead
  - Road/railroad
  - Townsite
  - Slave related
  - Mansion
  - Wharf/landing
  - Religious
  - Non-domestic agri
  - Plantation
  - Maritime-related
  - Church/mtg house
  - Recreational
  - Row/townhome
  - Bridge
  - Ch support bldg
  - Midden/dump
  - Cellar
  - Ford
  - Burial area
  - Artifact scatter
  - Privy
  - Educational
  - Cemetery
  - Spring or well
  - Industrial
  - Commercial
  - Sepulchre
  - Unknown
  - Mining-related
  - Trading post
  - Isolated burial
  - Other context
  - Quarry-related
  - Store
  - Bldg or foundation
  - Other context
  - Mill
  - Tavern/inn
  - Possible Structure
  - 1930s CCC camp
  - Black/metalsmith

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken Geoarcheological - D. Wagner

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

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

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

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<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			
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

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

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

1 shallow basin, 1 small depression

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:  0 +/-  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

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The J. Coulson Farmstead Site (18DO485) consists of the archeological deposits associated with a Late 18th-early 20th century farmstead and remains of a 1930s-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work camp in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County. The site is situated in a level area, amidst agricultural fields and woods to the north. The surrounding landscape is very flat, very featureless terrain in an interfluvium between tidal portions of the Little Blackwater River and Hudson Creek. The ground surface has been altered by historic grading and filling activities altering the natural topography at the site. Soils at the site are Elkton silt loams.

Historically, the site area fell within two separately patented properties that were consolidated in the early 1770s by members of the Colston (Colsten) family. The Colstons were of English descent and immigrated to the Dorchester County area during the late 17th century or early 18th century. The northern portion of the site area fell within an 88 acre tract of land originally patented to Henry Fisher in 1742 (resurveyed in 1756) and known as "Addition to Small Profit". The southern portion of the site area was located in a 16 acre tract known as "Good Intent" and patented to James Stoakes in 1765.

In 1756, the 88 acre "Addition to Small Profit" along with the southwestern half of a nearby tract known as "Small Profit" containing 50 acres was acquired by William Murray, who in the following year sold these two properties to James Stoakes and Thomas Colston. Stoakes and Colston may have been partners in a shipbuilding business located within Church Creek. Stoakes is known to have been a shipwright or ship carpenter. They are likely to have acquired these lands for their timber reserves.

Shipbuilding began at nearby Church Creek during the 18th century. The region at this time contained vast forests of large white oak and pine timber. The industry was on the decline by the second half of the 19th century as convenient ship timber had become scarce. Residents became farmers and sailors as a substitute for employment, while others engaged in the oyster industry. Fruit and vegetable canning businesses were also established at Church Creek during the middle of the 19th century.

Thomas Colston passed away during the 1760s, survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and at least one son, Thomas Colston, Jr. In 1767, James Stoakes conveyed his half interest in the land which he and Thomas Colston, Sr. had previously acquired, to the widow, Elizabeth Colston, for £20. The deed of conveyance contains a clause that if Elizabeth Colston should remarry, two-thirds interest in the property would transfer to her son, Thomas Colston, Jr. Four years later, in 1771, Stoakes also sold his 16 acre tract known as "Good Intent" to Thomas Colston, Jr. for £8. Colston at this time was described as a "planter" or farmer.

In 1773, the Colstons increased their land holdings with the acquisition of an additional 36 acres, which included 27 acres known as "Walls Endeavor First Part" and 9 acres known as "Walls Endeavor Third Part", which Thomas and his mother purchased from Levin Wall. Over this 6 year period (1767-1773) the Colstons had amassed a total of 190 contiguous acres of land. Portions of the land fronted on present-day Key Wallace Road, a mid 18th century roadway described at this time as the "Road from Cambridge to Blackwater" or "the main road from the old Blackwater Bridge to the new Blackwater Bridge". The property's proximity to the road and the Blackwater River made it an ideal location for a farmstead. It is speculated that the Colstons improved the property with the construction of a farmhouse around this time.

By the early 1770s, Thomas Colston, Jr. had married. He and his wife Sarah, raised two children: Levin Colston (b. 1772), and Nancy Colston (b. 1775) on their Dorchester farmstead. Thomas' mother, Elizabeth Colston, likely lived on the property with them. Over the next decade, the Colstons continued to increase their landholdings with the acquisition of over 200 acres on the north side of Key Wallace Road and slightly more than 100 acres located to the south of their farmstead near the Blackwater River. By the mid 1780s, Thomas Colston, Jr. owned around 460 acres.

By 1786, Colston apparently had overextended himself financially. In what appears to have been an effort to raise funds to pay his debts, on April 13, 1787, he mortgaged his property of 460 acres, which is believed to have included his homestead, for 500 pounds to a Thomas Colston, a carpenter. On that same day, he also sold to Colston 5 slaves (1 adult male, 2 adult females, and 2 male juveniles), several livestock (9 horses, 25 cattle, 40 sheep, 75 hogs), and 6 bedroom sets for a total of £349. The relationship between Thomas Colston, Jr. the planter, and Thomas Colston, the carpenter, was not determined.

In 1789, having not obtained sufficient funds to cover his debts, Thomas Colston, Jr. was forced to sell his real estate by sheriff sale. Around the end of July 1789, the majority of the mortgaged lands of 395 acres, including his homestead, were auctioned at a public sale. To protect his investment, the property was purchased by Thomas Colston, the carpenter, who was the highest bidder of £300. Thomas the carpenter retained ownership of the Colston Farmstead for 11 years. In 1801, he sold the place and 320 acres to Levin Colston, son of Thomas Colston, Jr., who was 19 years old at the time. Over the next 17 years, Levin Colston sold off about half of his outlying lands, while retaining the core of the property surrounding the family homestead. During this period, he also purchased a few adjoining parcels and in 1818 had his property resurveyed at 156 acres and named "The Pilgrim". The majority of the property was situated on the south side of Key Wallace Road.

In 1818, Levin Colston was married to Ann McFall. This appears to have been his second marriage. By 1823, Colston purchased 70 acres known as "Browns Folley Second Part" and located on the north side of Key Wallace Road. In that year he had his property again resurveyed, this time at 226 acres, which he renamed as "Good Intent Improved". Colston continued to claim the property as his home, while farming the lands until his death, which occurred in 1832. As per the terms of his last will and testament, he bequeathed unto his wife Ann, "my plantation where I now dwell, lying and being in Blackwater". His will further provided that if she should remarry or upon her death, the property would be inherited by his son, Richard Colston. Levin Colston had at least 6 slaves at the time of the drafting of his will in 1825. His will provided to his son, Gladson, "two negro boys", named Draper and Dennis; to his daughter, Rose Ann (wife of Laddock Cropper) his "negroes", Sylva and Milly, and Milly's youngest child Alexander; and to his daughter, Caroline, he bequeathed his "negro girl", Mary. Dorchester County tax assessment records suggest that Ann Colston and her children, Richard, Gladson, and Caroline continued to reside on the family farm into the late 1830s. Ann Colston passed away by 1841, at which time the property was inherited by her son, Richard Colston, who by this time had taken over management of the farm.

Richard Colston was married to Ann W. Mace in 1843. Together they had five children, two daughters, Ann C. (b. 1847) and Mary (b. 1856) and three sons, James Levin (aka Levin James, b. 1848), John M. (b. 1850), and Richard Colston, Jr. (b. 1858). Richard Colston died intestate in 1859 at 51 years of age. An inventory of his personal estate (valued at approximately \$3,097) was undertaken on May 3, 1859. The inventory suggests that the Colston Farmstead at this time included a 1½ to 2 storey house with detached kitchen. The first floor of the house contained at least two bedrooms and a parlor, while the second floor



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Brief

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Unknown

appears to have been partitioned into two bedrooms. Outbuildings on the property included a milkhouse, a meat house, a smokehouse, a granary, and a barn. The inventory also indicates that the Colstons had two slaves, a "negro woman", Ann (age 25), and her son, Francis Henry (age 18 months).

Since Richard Colston died leaving no will and his oldest son, James Levin was only 11 years old at the time, the farmstead remained as part of the estate of Richard Colston into the early 1870s. During this period, Richard's brother-in-law, William W. Mace served as administrator for the estate. On November 1, 1864, Maryland enacted a new Constitution that abolished slavery. Estate files of Richard Colston indicate that as a result both of the Colston's slaves, Ann and her son, Francis Henry, were emancipated at this time.

By 1870, Richard's second oldest son, John M. Colston, now 20 years of age, had taken over the management of the family farm with assistance from his brother, James Levin Colston. Agricultural census records produced in that year list John M. Colston with 180 acres, 80 acres of which were improved. In that year, the farm yielded 200 bushels of Indian corn, 30 bushels of oats, 6 bushels of Irish potatoes, 12 bushels of sweet potatoes, and one ton of hay. In addition to having 2 horses, 7 swine, and 3 sheep, the farm contained 3 milk cows, 1 working oxen, and 6 other cattle. The cash value of the farm was assessed at \$3,000.

Dorchester County tax assessment records indicate that in 1873 about 70 acres of the estate of Richard Colston had been conveyed to the Linthicum family. Other land records show that this property was located on the north side of Key Wallace Road. In the following year, the remainder of the farmstead property, now containing approximately 175 acres (including the family home) was conveyed by the estate to James Levin Colston. Two years later, in 1876, he sold the property to his brother, John M. Colston.

In 1876, John M. Colston acquired a drugstore property in Church Creek formerly owned by Dr. William J. Bowdle. In that same year, his mother, Annie W. Colston, also bought property in Church Creek. By 1880, the Colstons had removed from the family farm to reside in Church Creek, where John M. Colston operated his drugstore until at least 1898. In 1882, he was married to Adela Graham. Together, they had two children, Elizabeth L. and Mary Anna. In addition to being a druggist and overseeing the operations of the family farm, John M. Colston was also involved in matters of local government. During the 1890s, Colston served as County Commissioner as well as School Commissioner.

Around 1900, John M. Colston moved to Kent County, Delaware, where he employed as a retail merchant. He continued to own the Dorchester County family farm into the first decade of the 20th century. During this period, he is likely to have leased the property to various tenants. In 1909, he sold the farm to Clarence Lee Seward, who owned a general store in the village of Seward located about 3.2 kilometers to the east. Seward purchased the property as a real estate investment. The former Colston (now Coulson) Farmstead operated as a tenant farm while remaining under the ownership of the Seward family into the mid 1920s.

In 1926, Charles H. Seward, son of Clarence Lee Seward, entered into an agreement of sale with Earnest H. Burns, Chester C. Housh, and Wilbert Rawley, agents for the Eastern Shore Fur Company, to a large tract of land of approximately 8,242 acres. The property was made up of several farms, including the Coulson Farmstead, was to be used in connection with the Eastern Shore Fur Company's muskrat fur and meat business. Further negotiations in 1927 led to the ultimate sale of the property to Walter Rawley, who in-turn conveyed it to the Delmarva Fur Farms, Inc. Rawley and Seward appear to have been affiliated with Delmarva Fur Farms. Delmarva Fur Farms hoped to profit by leasing these lands to muskrat trappers and farmers. The company, however, suffered extensive losses on its venture as a result of the Great Depression and the accompanying collapse of the fur market.

Under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, the Federal Government through condemnation acquired the Delmarva Fur Farms property in 1932-33. The property was surveyed at this time and it was found to contain 7 farmsteads, all but one in poor condition, and 4 trapper's cabins. A topographic map of the property was produced in 1932 and each of the farmsteads was surveyed in more detail in 1934. The former Coulson Farmstead at this time contained an L-shaped farmhouse and 3 outbuildings. The farmhouse was located approximately 245 meters to the south of Key Wallace Road in the vicinity of the extant Blackwater Refuge Visitor's Center. The outbuildings were located further to the south within 76 meters of the house. A handwritten note on a version of the 1932 map on file at the National Archives indicates that the Coulson farmhouse contained 7 rooms and was being considered as a "possible quarters - if a well could be located".

The Blackwater Migratory Wildlife Refuge was created in 1933 and initial improvements were performed by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers under the supervision of Army officers. Additional roads, drainage ditches and dikes were built. The former Staplefort House, located 2.4 kilometers to the east of the Coulson Farmstead, was chosen as the Refuge headquarters and renovated. It continued to serve as the headquarters building until 1988.

The first CCC Camp, Company 1318, was established 800 meters to the west of the Refuge headquarters. It was opened in June of 1933 and abandoned in the following November. A second camp was established in October of 1934 and operated for one year. The third and final CCC Camp was established in May 1936 on the site of the former Coulson farmstead (i.e. 18DO485). It was known as Blackwater Camp BF-1 and housed Company 5447. One of its tasks included the demolition of old tenant residences across the Refuge. It is unclear if the former Coulson Farmhouse and its associated outbuildings were razed at this time. Company 5447 also erected a number of storage sheds, a boathouse, and a new office near the Refuge headquarters on the former Staplefort property. In December 1936, Company 5447 was transferred to the Jefferson National Forest, in Pembroke, Virginia and Blackwater Camp BF-1 was closed.

The buildings of Blackwater Camp BF-1 stood until the 1940s. By 1957, the buildings associated with the CCC Camp were razed. However, the cement slab foundation of one of the buildings remained. In 1962, the Department of the Interior announced the inclusion of the Refuge in the Accelerated Public Works Program, a President John F. Kennedy administration initiative that provided significant monies for recreational improvements on federal government lands. This funding marked a significant turning point for the Refuge, toward recreational opportunities for the first time. As a result, the extant visitor center building was proposed in 1963 on the site of the former Blackwater Camp BF-1. The proposed 1963 construction plan depicts the location of a cement slab possibly from one of the CCC Camp buildings at the southwest corner of the (then) proposed visitor center building. The 1963 construction plans also depict a proposed contour line indicating that grading associated with the project may have been conducted within the site area. The visitor center project was completed in the following year. A 1972 aerial photograph depicted two linear non-vegetated anomalies on either side of the parking lot at the visitor's center. It was not known what these anomalies represent. In 2002, an east wing addition and associated parking lot were constructed at the visitor's center facility.

The site was first assigned an archeological site number in 1989 when the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cataloged the site and reported it to the MHT, primarily based on archival evidence. In 1993, a surface inspection was conducted by USFWS archeologists in the vicinity of the visitor's center facility and J. Coulson Farmstead site, however, no artifacts or features were observed. The USFWS archeologists stated that portions of the J. Coulson Farmstead site in the direct vicinity of the existing visitor was highly disturbed by previous construction of the CCC Camp and the visitor's center itself. This finding was



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used for Section 106 compliance related to the construction of the east wing addition in 2002, and resulted in a finding of no effect for that undertaking.

In 2006, a Phase I survey was conducted over a 2.47 acre parcel within the Blackwater Refuge that included portions of the historic J. Coulson Farmstead. The survey area was the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for a proposed west wing addition to the visitor's center, expansion of the center's parking lot, and installation of a geothermal system.

Phase I work in 2006 entailed a visual examination of the APE, a geomorphological investigation, and the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs). Shovel tests were excavated on an 8 meter staggered grid across the entire APE. Several of the STPs were offset from the grid to avoid obstructions such as trees, underground utilities, and a shallow drainage ditch. A total of 16 STPs were not excavated east of the extant parking lot because of underground utilities. STPs containing pre-contact artifacts, gunflints, or large brick fragments were bracketed in alignment with the grid at 4 meter intervals with additional STPs to further delineate the extent of the archeological resources. In addition, STPs were excavated to sample a soil anomaly, in an area with a high density of historic artifacts, and a portion of the proposed sewer alignment for the new addition.

The STPs measured 50 cm square and were hand-excavated with shovels and other hand tools. Excavated soil from the STPs was screened through hardware cloth to facilitate artifact recovery. Due to large volumes of certain cultural materials in several STPs, oyster shell, brick, plastic, miscellaneous metal, asphalt, wood, and cement were sampled, but discarded in the field. Each soil stratum was excavated and screened separately. Soil profile information was recorded on standardized forms and entered into a spreadsheet. Photographs were also taken to show existing conditions, vegetation, and fieldwork. A total of 124 STPs were excavated across the APE.

Aside from a single prehistoric flake, the only archeological resources identified within the APE were likely associated with the J. Coulson Farmstead. The distribution of these historic artifacts was used to establish the horizontal site boundary of 18DO485. The Phase I assemblage consisted of 547 architectural artifacts, 212 domestic items (mostly kitchen-related), 798 faunal remains, and 138 miscellaneous objects. No historic structural features were found, however, a cinder and slag layer was identified in the APE for the proposed parking lot expansion project. The cinder/slag layer may be associated with a short-lived CCC camp building from the 1930s. Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended and was carried out in December of 2010.

Phase II work at 18DO485 consisted of the excavation of five 1 X 1 m test units. The results of the Phase I STPs were used to determine test unit locations. Three were placed within the footprint for the (then \_ proposed west wing addition, while the other two units were placed near two highly productive Phase I STPs. Test units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural stratigraphic boundaries. One 10 cm sterile level was excavated into the subsoil in each unit. All soil was screened through hardware cloth and, again, certain historic artifacts were sampled and then discarded in the field. Wall profiles and any features were documented through scaled drawings and digital photography. Feature fill soils were excavated in natural levels and screened through hardware cloth, and soil samples were retained from one historic feature for flotation.

Within the APE for the west wing addition, testing revealed mixed historic deposits associated with fill layers and plowzones. Below these deposits, three tree/plant disturbances (Features 1, 3, and 5) were identified. Subsurface testing also encountered 20th century utilities. Landscaping activities, visitor center construction, and utilities installation resulted in an extensive amount of previous earthmoving activities at the site. However, Features 2 and 4 contained 18th century artifacts and were identified below the mixed deposits. Feature 2 also contained late 18th through 19th century artifacts. Both features were likely truncated by plowing or grading activities. Feature 2 was a small, shallow circular stain containing a low density of artifacts and possibly represents a post. Feature 4 was partially exposed in two test units and represents a shallow basin-shaped pit of undetermined origin and function.

Since previous disturbance was widespread and most of the archeological deposits contained a mixture of 18th, 19th, and 20th century, and deposits with a greater degree of integrity (Features 2 and 4) were of limited research value, the archeological resources associated with the J. Coulson Farmstead were determined ineligible for listing on the NRHP. It was recommended that a utility line for the proposed geothermal unit be moved further north to avoid additional impact to Feature 4.

Concentrations of historic artifacts were also found in the parking lot expansion area, but no structural remains or intact features were identified.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase II testing included 479 architectural artifacts, 331 domestic items (mostly kitchen-related), 342 faunal remains, and 112 miscellaneous objects.

Only the portions of Site 18DO485 within the APE for the west wing addition to the Blackwater Refuge visitor's center and parking lot have been extensively examined. These were largely disturbed. The disposition of other portions of the site is less well known, though extensive grading and landform changes have taken place.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001465