



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR30-2

Site Name: Best Farm Short-Term Early War

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Civil War-era short-term early war encampment

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3705 Longitude -77.3842

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site  Underwater site

Elevation 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
High terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hilltop/bluff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior flat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hillslope	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upland flat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ridgetop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ownership	
Private	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State of MD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional/county/city	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nearest Surface Water	
Name (if any)	Monocacy River
<b>Saltwater</b>	
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Freshwater</b>	
Stream/river	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estuary/tidal river	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swamp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tidewater/marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake or pond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum distance to water is	92 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaic site	<input type="checkbox"/>
MD Adena	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid. woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown prehistoric context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact period site	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1820 - 1860	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1630 - 1675	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1860 - 1900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1675 - 1720	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1900 - 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1720 - 1780	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1780 - 1820	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown historic context	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unknown context	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Ethnic Associations (historic only)	
Native American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/>
African American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglo-American	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric	
Multi-component	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc. ceremonial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hamlet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Base camp	<input type="checkbox"/>
STU/lithic scatter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry/extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthen mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish weir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cairn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other context	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

<b>Prehistoric context samples</b>	Soil samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Historic context samples</b>	Soil samples taken	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>



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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	Staffordshire	English Brown
Astbury	Jackfield	Tin Glazed	Eng Dry-bodied
Borderware	Mn Mottled	Whiteware	Nottingham
Buckley	North Devon	<b>Porcelain</b>	Rhenish
Creamware	Pearlware		Wt Salt-glazed

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"/>

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 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 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)	30
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	182	Misc. kitchen	4
Clothing	8	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	5	Misc.	85
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Brief

Description:

Civil War-era short-term early war encampment

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Best Farm Short-Term Early War Encampment (18FR30-2) is a historic, Civil War era site defined by a relatively dense concentration of dropped .65 caliber roundballs and .31 caliber buckshot, melted lead, and fire-hardened machine-cut nails. It is situated on the Best Farm within the larger Monocacy National Battlefield in the vicinity of the current battlefield park visitor's center. The site and the surrounding landscape were the scene of fighting on July 9th, 1864 during the Valley Campaign of Major General Jubal Early. He and his 20,000 Confederate troops pushed north through the Shenandoah Valley in an attempt to attack Washington DC from the north and to divert Grant's pursuit of Lee in the South. In order to allow Grant sufficient time to send reinforcements to the weakly defended capital, and in defense of the strategic supply lines provided by the Georgetown Pike, the B & O Railroad, and the Monocacy River, General Lew Wallace and approximately 6,500 Union troops engaged General Early in the Battle of Monocacy. Although the Battle of Monocacy is considered a Southern victory, it delayed the Confederate advance on the capital by 24 hours, permitting Union forces sufficient time to muster an adequate defense of the city. For this reason the Battle of Monocacy is frequently referred to as the "battle that saved Washington".

A more detailed account of the battle can be found in the synopsis report for 18FR30; the broader Monocacy Battlefield site. This report deals only with a portion of the small section (about 5.2 acres) at the northern end of an area on the Best Farm designated "Field F" during the archeological identification and evaluation study of the Best Farm, which began in 2001. During this study, a pedestrian walkover survey was conducted throughout the entire Field F tract; some 44 acres. The survey did not indicate a high potential for subsurface domestic or prehistoric archeological features. Historic research, however, identified significant Civil War-period military activities in Field F. Jedediah Hotchkiss' map of the Battle of Monocacy depicts the location of a Confederate artillery battery, consisting of four 12-pounder Napoleans, in the vicinity of the visitor's center. In addition, previous archeological research in other portions of the Best Farm had isolated evidence of pre- and post-battle short-term encampments, particularly on the west side of the Georgetown Pike in the area historically known as the Best Grove (see the 18FR30 synopsis report). Thus, additional interest was focused on whether similar short-term encampments existed on the eastern side of the Georgetown Pike, outside the Best Grove.

As the site for the proposed visitor's center appeared to have some potential to provide information useful in the interpretation of the battle, a Phase II examination was warranted in preparation for the center's construction. The Phase II examination of the visitor's center area consisted of shovel testing followed by a systematic metal-detector survey. A total of 86 STPs were excavated across the entire 5.2 acre visitor's center site, laid out on a 15.24 meter (50 ft) grid. However, only two of these STPs were positive and neither appears to be related to the Civil War encampment at 18FR30-2. Upon completion of the STP survey, fifteen 15.24 meter collection units, the corners of which were defined by the STPs, were randomly selected for investigation using a systematic metal-detector survey. Five additional collection units were selected for investigation in order to explore two discrete sites on the property (30-1 and 30-2).

Site 18FR30-2 is composed of a total of 314 artifacts and is located near the southernmost portion of the 5.2 acre visitor's center tract. It consists of a dense concentration of dropped .65 caliber roundballs and .31 caliber buckshot, melted lead, and fire-hardened machine-cut nails. The munitions are indicative of "buck and ball" rounds which were used during the early part of the Civil War, while the other items are typical of Civil War military campsites (see below). The arms-related assemblage recovered during the systematic metal-detector survey includes seventy-six .65 caliber roundballs, seventy .31 caliber pieces of shot, 18 Minié balls, 2 Smith carbine rounds, 1 Merrill carbine round, 6 percussion caps, 1 rimfire cartridge, 3 artillery shell fragments, 1 artillery fuse, 3 pieces of case shot, and 1 other arms-related object. Activity-related objects include 27 fire-hardened nails, 1 metal ring, and 2 undescribed "military" objects. The fire-hardened nails are generally taken as evidence for the presence of campfires on battle-related sites. The nails become fire-hardened as lumber is scavenged from the architectural features of the surrounding countryside and burned as firewood. As such, they are categorized here as activity items rather than as architectural remains. Eight clothing objects were recovered including 2 metal buttons, 1 porcelain button, 4 buckles, and 1 undescribed metal clothing item. Four kitchen-related objects were identified; a knife, a fork, and 2 other utensils. Personal items from the site were 2 socket bayonets, and 3 other military accoutrements. And finally, miscellaneous artifacts from the site were 83 pieces of melted lead and 2 unidentified pieces of metal.

The site assemblage points towards the area's uses as a military encampment at some point early in the Civil War. The primary evidence for the dating of the site is the tremendous density of dropped or discarded smoothbore ammunition. Smoothbore weapons were primarily utilized during the early years of the Civil War, although they were used in a limited capacity by both Union and Confederate troops throughout the conflict. The most common round for a smoothbore musket was known as the buck and ball. Which consisted of one .65 caliber roundball and three .31 caliber buckshot. When fired, the .65 caliber ball exhibits three distinctive dimples where the smaller buckshot is forced into the large soft lead ball. The majority, some 84%, of the .65 caliber rounds at 18FR30-2 did not exhibit this dimpling, indicating that they were dropped or discarded. In addition, many of the .65 caliber rounds and .31 caliber pieces of shot exhibited well-defined seams and visible sprues, manufacturing flaws which often render these projectiles useless. It is likely that many of these flawed roundballs and buckshot were field-cast, and that the miscast projectiles were subsequently discarded. The presence of large amounts of melted lead lends support to this interpretation. In addition, concentrations of melted lead, combined with fire-hardened nails are considered to be indicative of campfires. The fire-hardened nails testify to the presence of campfires during the historic period, and campfires built when there was little time to cut and season wood. The miscellaneous militaria; bayonets, military accoutrements, the buttons, etc. are also consistent with the interpretation of the site as a military encampment.

The systematic metal-detector survey yielded undeniably valuable information for the interpretation of the Monocacy National Battlefield. However, due to the ephemeral nature of the site, its very brief period of occupation, and the results of the STP survey, it is not likely that significant subsurface features exist in association with 18FR30-2. As a result, it was determined to move forward with construction of the battlefield park visitor's center in this location and any remaining archeological deposits in the vicinity would be severely impacted at this point.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002326, 97002586