



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR30

Site Name: Monocacy Battlefield

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-19th century Civil War military battlefield

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code WrB,WrC,LSA,

Latitude 39.3596

Longitude -77.3993

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-45%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

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

Ownership

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

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Monocacy River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

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

Polish-Irish-German-Americans

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

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

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	Staffordshire	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tin Glazed 20
Whiteware 20
Porcelain 10
Pearlware 1

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

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	60	Activity item(s)	369
Glass (all)	338	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1176	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	742
Arms	45	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	56	Misc.	106
Personal items	36	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Unidentified metal	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC, NPS

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Monocacy National Battlefield (18FR30) is a 1,650-acre national park situated a few miles south of Frederick, Maryland. It was created by congressional legislation in 1934 to commemorate the Battle of Monocacy, which occurred on July 9th, 1864. However, at the time of its creation, no provisions were made for property purchase. Beginning in the 1970s, local politicians and community leaders began lobbying for the National Park Service to initiate land acquisition. Land acquisition finally began in the 1980s and the battlefield was opened to the public in 1991. The park currently (as of 2008) consists of some 1,647 acres, and is defined primarily by the extent of the Civil War battle, and also by the historic boundaries of the farms and mill properties that were in existence at the time of the battle. It is located in the Monocacy River Valley, part of the Piedmont lowlands of western Maryland. The soils in this valley are generally medium to heavy in texture, slightly acidic, and well-drained, and are underlain primarily by limestone, sandstone, shale, and siltstone.

The multiple historic properties which make up the battlefield park 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".

The Monocacy National Battlefield and its environs have been subject to numerous Phase I and II archeological examinations. This synopsis report will deal only with those results that relate to historic structures or battlefield-related deposits. Prehistoric sites within the physical boundaries of the battlefield, which have been subjected to Phase II or more intensive work, are the subjects of their own individual synopsis reports. This synopsis report also does not provide full details (although they are discussed generally) on the archeological work conducted in two sub-areas of the historic Best Farm property north of the Monocacy River, and in three sub-areas of the historic Thomas Farm complex south of the river. Extensive Phase I and II work was carried out in the yard and fields immediately surrounding the Best Farmhouse, and at the northern end of the property, prior to the construction of the current visitor's center. These areas have been assigned their own site numbers, and thus, are discussed in separate synopsis reports (18FR30-1, 18FR30-2, and 18FR792). The Thomas Farm property was acquired in 2001, and from 2003-2008 and extensive program of Phase I and II testing was carried out on the farm prior to interpretive development. Three sub-areas of the Thomas Farm were assigned their own site numbers and are, thus, discussed in separate synopsis report. These sub-areas include the Thomas House and Farm Complex itself (18FR820), the Thomas' blacksmith's shop (18FR871), and the Middle Ford Ferry Tavern (18FR819). Aside from these data, all other significant historic and/or battle related sites within the battlefield (18FR30) are discussed here, after the brief overview of the battle which follows.

In late June of 1864, Lieutenant General Jubal Early and his Second Corps marched through the Shenandoah Valley towards Harpers Ferry, Virginia, with elements crossing into Maryland during the opening days of July. Early's raiding force, preceded by a large contingent of cavalry and partisan rangers, moved north into Hagerstown, MD and several surrounding towns, where they collected ransoms and captured supplies. At approximately the same time, Union generals in Washington finally realized that the invading force was not a small group of guerillas or rangers, but a significant portion of the Confederate Army. Union Major General Lew Wallace was dispatched from Baltimore for the strategic Monocacy Railroad Junction southeast of Frederick in the early morning hours of July 5th in an attempt to organize and rally the scattered Union forces. Most of the troops at Wallace's disposal were either new recruits or "100-days men" who had only enlisted for a short time. The Confederate troops, by contrast, were seasoned fighters and had reached the outskirts of Frederick by July 7th. Brisk skirmishing ensued on the fringes of town, and the outnumbered Union defenders were forced to withdraw from the town on the evening of July 8th. That same night, Wallace attempted to place a handful of veteran regiments that had arrived from Petersburg. This gave the Union commander approximately 6,500 men with which to halt the advance of the entire Confederate Second Corps, which numbered around 20,000 men.

Cannonading began on the morning of July 9th at approximately 7:30 AM, followed by skirmishing between Confederate General Stephen Ramseur's division and the Union watches under First Lt. George E. Davis on the Georgetown Pike. These activities took place on or near the Best Farm, north of the strategic Monocacy junction of the B&O railroad and the Union military blockhouses situated there. The Union defenders were attempting to delay or halt the Confederate advance towards the railroad junction, the railroad bridge over the Monocacy River towards Baltimore, and the covered highway bridge over the Monocacy leading to Washington. As they delayed the advance of Ramseur's men from the north, Confederate cavalry units under General John McCausland approached from the west, attempting to take the covered highway bridge from its south approach. By 10:00 AM they had advanced to a knee-deep ford near the confluence of Ballenger Creek with the Monocacy, not far from the Worthington Farm. As the Confederate cavalymen began to cross, they came under fire from the Union 8th Illinois cavalry. However, the Union troops were sorely outnumbered, unable to halt the Confederate advance, and made a hasty retreat. Nevertheless, they had delayed the Confederate advance enough to allow Union Brigadier General James Ricketts to establish a battle line behind a pasture fence on the Thomas Farm to the east. These Union defenders (who happened to be among the few veterans on the Union side) waited for McCausland's men to finish crossing the ford and then allowed them to advance to within easy range of the fenceline. The Union troops suddenly rose and fired volley after volley at the Confederates, inflicting heavy damages while remaining substantially protected. The Confederate cavalry was pushed back to the east, all the way to the Worthington Farm. Meanwhile, Ramseur's Confederates attempted to attack Davis' right flank near the Monocacy railroad bridge and to take the Union blockhouse near the railroad junction. Davis, managed to repel the Confederate attack. Early in the afternoon, General Wallace gave the command for the covered bridge on the Georgetown pike to be burned, leaving the railroad bridge over the Monocacy as the only means of escape for Davis' men.

By 2:30 PM that afternoon, McCausland's cavalymen had regrouped on the Worthington's Farm and determined to skirt the entrenched Union skirmishers who had inflicted such heavy casualties from the fenceline by maneuvering further to the south. They attacked the Union line where it was weaker near the Thomas House. They initially met with success, forcing Federal troops back to the Georgetown Pike. However, Union soldiers quickly counterattacked and drove the Confederates back, again, to the Worthington Farm. Additional Confederate troops under General John Gordon were now on the scene and began to attack the Union lines at the Thomas Farm. Though they met significant resistance and experienced heavy casualties (including some officers), they were eventually able to draw enough Union attention to weaken the center of the Union line, leaving it vulnerable to attack by a brigade from Louisiana. The center and left flanks of the Union line faltered and fell back to the Georgetown Pike. Meanwhile, the Union skirmishers near Monocacy junction under Lieutenant Davis were beginning to lose the battle with Ramseur's men. When Confederate troops attacked his left flank, he realized that the line would not hold and gave the orders to burn the Union blockhouse and retreat from the junction across the nearby railroad bridge. The Confederates destroyed what remained of



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Mid-19th century Civil War military battlefield

Unknown

the junction, setting fire to the remaining structures and inflicting damage in whatever way they could. Davis' men retreated east towards Baltimore with the remaining Union battery units that had been positioned at a second Union blockhouse east of the river. This was subsequently burned by the Confederates as well. Southeast of the (now burned) covered highway bridge, the Union right flank (Rickett's veterans) had been subjected to constant attack from artillery units positioned across the river. A fresh Confederate brigade under General William Terry, utilized the terrace along the eastern bank of the Monocacy to conceal their advance to within striking distance of the Union right flank. At 4:00 PM, they attacked driving the Union defenders to the Georgetown Pike with the other remnants of their force. Heavily outnumbered and running out of ammunition, General Wallace had no choice but to order the retreat. The Union soldiers retreated east from the Georgetown Pike, across the Gambrell Mill and off in the general direction of the Baltimore Pike. By 5:00 PM The Battle of Monocacy had ended. Wallace's command had been beaten and chased from the field, but not until they had inflicted significant losses upon the attacking Confederates and delayed Jubal Early's attack on Washington by a full day. Grant used the bought time to his advantage and fortified the city with veteran troops. Federal casualties during the battle were somewhere between 1,292 and 1,968 men, while Confederate losses were between 1,050 and 1,150, killed, wounded, or missing.

Such an intense battle undoubtedly left its mark on the landscape in the form of material culture left behind by the combatants. Local relic collectors and Civil War enthusiasts collected at the site, and the extent of their activities is not well known. One of these collectors, J.J. Snyder recorded in his field notes the purported location of the 8th Georgia Battery during the battle. This location was situated on the north bank of the Monocacy near the location where McCausland's men forded the river. This location was the site of some of the earliest professional work conducted within the battlefield. In 1975, a reconnaissance survey was conducted by researchers at the University of Maryland, prior to the construction of a new Sewage Treatment facility on Ballenger Creek. This Phase I work began with the controlled burning of the fallow agricultural field where the treatment plant was to be located. The burned field was then plowed and surface collected on a grid of 3.048 meter (ten foot) squares. Following surface collection, twelve 1.524 meter (five foot) squares were randomly chosen for hand excavation and two additional units were placed in areas of high artifact (prehistoric) density. In addition, two 3.048 m X 3.048 m (10 ft X 10 ft) excavation units were placed in the western portion of the site. Although a prehistoric lithic scatter (assigned site number 18FR22) was identified, only 12 historic artifacts were recovered; glass and brick fragments. None of these items can be definitively assigned to the Civil War period and no evidence was recovered regarding the 8th Georgia Battery. In fact, recent archival research suggests that no such unit was ever present.

The next major archeological project within the Monocacy National Battlefield, was a Phase I and II survey conducted in 1990 prior to the construction of the Monocacy Interceptor Sewer Line. The sewer line corridor was 10.19 km long and extended along the west bank of the Monocacy River from the Ballenger Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant (see above) in the south to the City of Frederick Waste Water Treatment Plant in the north. In Area A, the principal portion of the survey which was within the battlefield, Phase I survey work consisted of the excavation of 243 shovel test units (STUs) at 20 meter intervals along the corridor centerline. An additional 29 shovel tests were placed at close 10 or 5 meter intervals around STUs that yielded prehistoric or historic remains. Phase II testing was conducted within three identified prehistoric sites (QF7, 18FR110, and 18FR21). The latter two have had individual synopsis reports completed for them. Historic and modern artifacts recovered in Area A include 1 architectural object (a wire nail), 1 kitchen-related item (a piece of bottle glass), 1 arms-related object (a Minié Ball), and 4 miscellaneous objects (3 pieces of coal and 1 synthetic object). The only object that could be associated with the Battle of Monocacy is the Minié Ball. It is an unfired .54 caliber bullet, which was made for the Austrian "Lorenz" rifle musket. Its location corresponds to the location of Davis' line of Union skirmishers that defended the Confederate approach to the railroad junction from the north.

Archeologists returned to the Monocacy National Battlefield the following spring (1991), to conduct additional testing prior to the construction of a septic field and new parking lot for the park's interpretive center. Due to the adjacent historic Gambrell Mill and house site, as well as the Civil War period fighting that took place nearby, this archeological clearance work was geared towards locating any historic domestic or industrial artifacts from the Gambrell family occupation, as well as artifacts related to the Civil War skirmishes that took place near their mill. This area was principally utilized as a staging area for Union troops, moving towards the front lines just west of the Georgetown Pike, and as the site where these same troops regrouped following the retreat from the Pike at the close of battle. A White 900 Series metal detector was used to completely "sweep" the septic field and parking lot areas. Metal detector "hits" were flagged and numbered sequentially to provide proveniences for any artifacts recovered, and shovel test pits were excavated. While non-metallic artifacts were collected when encountered, upon completion of each shovel test pit, both the pit and the excavated soil were again checked with the metal detector to ensure complete recovery of metallic objects. A total of 9 shovel tests were opened up in the parking lot area (immediately west of the historic mill), and 39 were excavated in the septic field area (about 46 meters southeast of the mill). An additional 27 shovel tests were excavated along the proposed path of the septic pipeline. None of these shovel test identified any historic or prehistoric features, however, some 195 artifacts were encountered. Seventeen activity items were recovered; 6 pieces of wire, a bracket, a spring, 1 carriage bolt, 1 bastard file, 2 fence staples, and 5 fragments of barbed wire. Seventy-two architectural objects were encountered including 23 pieces of brick, 1 fragment of plaster, 2 window glass fragments, 45 unidentified nails, and 1 spike. The kitchen assemblage contained 1 unidentified ceramic fragment, 14 pieces of hollowware, 4 bottle fragments, a pull tab, 1 aluminum can, 6 pieces of flatware, 2 animal bones, 2 pieces of oyster shell, and a peach pit. The only arms-related item was a dropped 3 ringed .58 caliber Minié ball. Miscellaneous objects include 1 piece of unidentified glass, 25 fragments of metal, a piece of slate, a snail shell, 1 piece of Styrofoam, 2 fragments of plastic, 15 pieces of coal, 6 pieces of slag, and 1 unidentified object. The remaining 20 artifacts in the collection were prehistoric in nature. The only artifact recovered that is attributable to the Civil War period was the single unfired three ring Union .58 caliber Minié bullet. It was recovered in the septic field area. Its design indicates that it was dropped sometime between 1856 and 1865. Other artifacts may be related to the historic domestic occupation of the Gambrell Mill and are more heavily represented than are the brief conflicts that took place onsite during the Civil War.

In 1992, additional construction related to sewer treatment resulted in a Phase I archeological analysis and visual impact study in an area south of the Ballenger Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. This area was proposed for a planned fill area for the existing treatment plant. Site files at MHT indicated that prehistoric deposits were likely present in this area. The Phase I work consisted of surface collection in those few areas where surface exposures were present, and shovel test pits elsewhere. A total of 107 shovel tests were placed at 10 and 20 meter intervals in areas having at least moderate potential for containing resources, and at 50 meter intervals in low potential areas. A single 1 X 1 meter test unit was excavated in the floodplain portion of the project area, designed to evaluate the potential for deeply buried cultural deposits. The vast majority of artifacts recovered were, as expected, prehistoric in nature, evidence of a typical prehistoric lithic scatter (18FR62). Historic artifacts were encountered, but none seem to be related to the Civil War battle. These consist of four kitchen-related objects (a piece of bottle glass, 1 pearlware sherd, and 2 aluminum pull tabs) and 3 miscellaneous objects (slag fragments). The visual impact study focused on the impact to the battlefield that would result from the expansion of the waste-water treatment facility. That study indicated that only minor alterations in the viewshed from the battlefield would occur due to the expansion.

In 1992, the National Park Service conducted a cultural landscape and archeological evaluation on a 143 acre tract within the Monocacy Battlefield known as the Bush Creek tract. The goal of the evaluation was to inventory standing structures of a historic nature on the tract and to identify areas with high potential to yield significant prehistoric and historic archeological deposits. The full results will not be discussed here, but the full report provides maps identifying areas of potential for future research regarding the Civil War battle.



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Another Phase I survey examined portions of the Monocacy National Battlefield in 1995 within the proposed corridor of another water and sewer connector. This connector corridor is 18.3 m wide and extends for 4.18 km from the confluence of Bush Creek and the Monocacy, along Bush Creek to Peter Pan Run, which it then follows towards Urbana. The initial 1.3 km of the corridor falls within the battlefield park. Within this area, a combination of shovel tests and deep mechanized testing was utilized. A total of 11 shovel tests were dug at 20 m intervals across the floodplain area, along with four 1.5 X 5 m mechanically excavated test trenches. The latter were placed to test the presence and depth of alluvial deposits in the floodplain, and to determine the potential for deeply buried cultural resources. The only artifacts recovered from the STUs were coal slag, plastic, and a metal animal tag. No evidence of cultural features were encountered in either the shovel tests or the deep trenches. Only one of the trenches yielded any artifacts; a prehistoric rhyolite flake and a fragment of machine-made bottle glass. An additional 34 of 49 planned shovel tests were excavated in non-floodplain areas of the corridor. The 15 unexcavated shovel tests were not dug due to their locations on slopes or other factors. The only historic artifact encountered is a sherd of whiteware from the plowzone. The most intriguing cultural remains encountered was a stone foundation ruin near the edge of the right-of-way. The ruin lies adjacent to Bush Creek in a location that early 19th century archival sources indicate was the site of an unnamed mill that functioned during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Whether or not these remnants were those of the mill (or not) remains unverified and their precise nature is unknown. The remnant was measured and mapped. Project planners indicated that the alignment would not impact the site (which was assigned site number 18FR698), and therefore no excavation took place.

The next major stage of examination within the Monocacy National Battlefield (18FR30) began in 2001 in advance of proposed ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of the historic Best Farm. This locale would become the site of the new primary park visitor's center and significant alterations to the property were warranted (utility burial, roadwork, parking lot construction, etc). However, no basic inventory and archeological evaluation of this portion of the battlefield had ever been conducted. This was a major program of archeological research that entailed the use of shovel test pits, surface collection, metal detector survey, backhoe trenching, remote sensing survey, and hand-excavated units. As mentioned previously, the work performed on some portions of the Best Farm revealed discrete deposits that could be assigned individual site numbers (18FR30-1, 18FR30-2, and 18FR792), and accordingly, individual synopsis reports are warranted for the areas surrounding the Best Farmhouse yard and the closest fields, and in the vicinity of the new Visitor's Center. However, significant portions of the Best Farm tract, outside of these two areas were included in the Phase I portion of this larger inventory and evaluation project. These portions of Best Farm, those without their own site number but within 18FR30, are discussed below.

The archeological inventory and assessment at Best Farm began in 2001 and was conducted in several stages. The various agricultural fields were divided into 8 lettered regions (A-H). Field H, a small 8 acre field located in the southeast corner of the Best Farm on the east side of the old B&O Railroad tracks (now CSX) and northeast of the Monocacy junction, was excluded from study because it is in a low probability area that has been impacted extensively by modern utility installation and other improvements.

Field G was just south of the junction, near a bend in the Monocacy River and east of MD Route 355. This area was examined through the use of pedestrian survey in 2001. Despite plowing in preparation for the survey, ground visibility was 50% or less in many areas due to an extended drought that year. Multiple surveyors walked the fields in informal transects spaced approximately 1.524 meters (5 feet) from one another, using visual markers to maintain proper orientation. Artifacts were flagged and mapped. In general, Field G appears to be heavily disturbed due to the installation of modern utilities. An artifact scatter containing primarily 20th century domestic materials (e.g. machine-made glass, auto parts, wire nails, cement or concrete block fragments, and coal) was encountered just south of the railroad bed. These artifacts are most likely associated with CSX railroad activities or with the common practice of illegal rubbish disposal on public lands and due to their nature, were not collected. No historic or prehistoric features were identified in Field G, despite the fact that historic maps clearly show this to be the location of one of the Union blockhouses. No traces of it were encountered and it is believed to be highly disturbed due to the installation of both the Monocacy and Urbana sewer connectors in the 1990s. Two Phase I surveys (see above) through the area (both of which used 20 m intervals for shovel testing) failed to identify any blockhouse remains.

Field F was also subjected to pedestrian survey. Field F was located northwest of the Monocacy railroad junction, between the railroad track heading north and MD Route 355. The same survey methods were utilized, but because the work was conducted in 2002, visibility was much better and field conditions were near ideal (as compared to working during the 2001 drought). A sparse scatter of artifacts was encountered, totaling 137 objects ranging from the mid-19th through 20th century. The historic collection from this area includes 3 activity items (horseshoes), 8 architectural remains (brick fragments), 123 kitchen-related items (17 pieces of oyster shell, 6 sherds of lead-glazed and undecorated redware, 6 sherds of buff and gray-paste stoneware, 17 pieces of whiteware and porcelain, 56 machine-made vessel glass fragments, 21 other pieces of bottle glass). Two prehistoric artifacts were encountered as well. These artifacts were scattered over the field relatively evenly, and probably reflect long-term land use in the area as well as rubbish associated with the Georgetown Pike (now MD Route 355). It is not likely that this sparse scatter is indicative of any unrecorded historic (or prehistoric) resources in this field. In addition to this pedestrian survey, a shovel test pit survey and systematic metal-detector survey was conducted at the northern end of the field, where the new battlefield park visitor's center was to be located. A total of 86 STPs spaced at 15.24 meter (50 foot) intervals were excavated in this area; however, only two if these were positive. One STP produced a Minié ball (likely associated with 18FR30-1) and another produced a fragment of brick (part of the generalized field scatter). The metal-detector survey produced more substantial results. Ultimately it led to the identification of two Civil War era sites, 18FR30-1 and 18FR30-2. These sites and the associated artifacts are discussed in their own synopsis reports, however, a significant quantity of historic artifacts were uncovered during the metal-detector survey which are not related to the Battle of Monocacy or other Civil War era encampments. These artifacts are principally hand-wrought and machine cut nails (approx. 677), and other metal objects (approx. 339) such as agricultural hardware. These 1,016 objects did not represent discrete, bounded artifact clusters (like 18FR30-1 or 18FR30-2) and as such are interpreted as generalized field scatter associated with long-term agricultural land use.

Fields E and D are located between MD Route 355 and the Best Farmhouse. These fields, in combination with the farmhouse and yard make up Site 18FR792 (the Best Farm Complex). As such, their examination is discussed in a separate synopsis report.

Field C is a 39 acre alfalfa field located directly north of Fields D and E (18FR792), and west of MD Route 355. At the time of the historic battle, much of this field was known as the "Best Grove", a managed wood lot. This portion of the Best Farm was subjected to both a shovel test survey and a systematic metal-detector survey during the Best Farm inventory and examination project. Metal-detector surveys were conducted in Field C in 2001 and 2002 primarily in order to locate militaria (usually metallic). A sampling strategy was employed in which five transects were established crossing Field C in an approximate north-south orientation, but set out in a fan shape to accommodate the irregular shape of the field. Each transect was 7.62 meters (25 feet) wide and approximately 335.28 to 396.24 meters (1,100 to 1,300 feet) long. This approach yielded an 8.4% sample of the 39 acre field. A total of 1,438 artifacts were collected from Field C. Fired bullets during the systematic metal-detector survey consisted primarily of fired Minié balls. Few fired Gardner bullets were encountered in Field C. As Gardner rifles are associated with the Confederacy, large numbers of the fired bullets should show up in areas towards which Confederate soldiers were firing. These results seem to indicate that this portion of the Best Farm was occupied primarily by Confederate forces during the skirmishing north of the



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR30

Site Name: Monocacy Battlefield

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Mid-19th century Civil War military battlefield

Unknown

railroad junction and that Union forces had already retreated to the fields between the railroad and the river. A total of 53 fired bullets were encountered in Field C. In addition to fired bullets, 124 bullets dropped during the heat of battle or during short-term encampments were encountered in Field C. Both dropped and fired bullets were fairly evenly distributed across the field. Fourteen gun parts were also detected by the metal detectors. At least 2 are butt plates, 1 is a hammer, and 1 is a trigger, but other pieces may be mainsprings, escutcheons, barrel bands, and sling keepers. Artillery shells were also recovered in the field. The artillery shell components found in Field C include 10 pieces of lead case shot, 5 pieces of conical artillery shell, and 2 pieces of iron case shot. Confederate batteries engaged during the Battle of Monocacy fired 12-pounder spherical rounds, whereas most Union guns fired 3 inch conical projectiles. As, only conical shell fragments were encountered in Field C, this may be an indication that it was a target for Union artillery (i.e. Confederate troops were positioned there). In some cases, iron and lead case shot were found in association with shell fragments. It appears that the lead case shot is associated with the conical shells, whereas the 2 iron case shot pieces at the extreme southern end of the field may be associated with an exploded conical shell in Field E. Other militaria artifacts include melted lead, military accoutrements (knapsack hooks, bayonet parts, finials, rivets, shoulder scales, etc.), and military buttons. These types of objects are interpreted as evidence of short-term encampments. One explanation for the use of this field for encampment might be the presence of the Best Grove, which stood at the time of the battle and would have provided shelter and cover for troops prior to and immediately following the battle. Twenty-five fragments of melted lead (considered miscellaneous items), 25 military accoutrements (considered personal items), and 11 military buttons (considered clothing items) were recovered from Field C. Metal personal objects in Field C, which could not be tied specifically to a military function include at least 5 coins and 6 pocketknives. Metal clothing objects from Field C which could not be tied specifically to a military function include 7 buttons, 1 belt buckle, 5 other buckles (suspender?), and 2 other clothing objects. Additional non-military artifacts may have been encountered during the systematic metal-detector survey of Field C, however, they are not discussed in detail in the full site report. One exception to this, is a dense concentration of 391 cut and wrought nails and nail fragments located near the northwest corner of the field. This dense concentration suggests the presence of an unrecorded historic structure in this area. In order to explore this area more completely, 94 shovel test units were placed at 6.096 meter (20 ft) intervals in the area of densest concentration to locate a foundation and uncover non-metallic artifacts that might be used to date the potential structure or identify its purpose. Although the nail concentration was relatively dense, it did not result in the recovery of a large number of additional artifacts; in fact, 63 of the 94 STPs were sterile. Only one additional wrought nail and two fragments identified as either machine cut or hand wrought were recovered in the same general location. Other historic domestic artifacts recovered during the Field C STP survey include 4 other architectural objects (1 brick fragment, 2 flat glass pieces, 1 wire nail), 13 kitchen-related items (3 red earthenware sherds, 2 whiteware sherds, 2 porcelain sherds, 1 yellowware sherd, and 5 probable glass vessel fragments), and 15 miscellaneous objects (12 pieces of coal, 3 pieces of slag). Two of the STPs were interpreted as "high potential" units due to the density of artifacts encountered in them. Four STPs were offset 1.524 meters (5 ft) from each "high potential" STP in each cardinal direction; however these only yielded 2 additional artifacts (not described in the full report).

Field B was subjected to pedestrian survey.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005950, 00006016, 00006022, 00006027, 00006058, 00006063, 97002326, 97002586, 95001413