



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR334

Site Name: Catocin Retaining Wall

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th century iron furnace retaining wall and engine house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code Ma

Latitude 39.5813

Longitude -77.4276

Physiographic province Blue Ridge

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
- 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) Little Hunting Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 240 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

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown Y

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

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

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other
- Transportation
- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford
- Educational
- Commercial
- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

retaining wall, engine house site

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/>
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"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Numerous features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	11
Glass (all)	20	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	50	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Description:

19th century iron furnace retaining wall and engine house site

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18FR334 is the immediate vicinity surrounding a large stone retaining wall at the main furnace area at Catoctin Furnace. The site is situated in the Catoctin Furnace Historic District along US Route 15 in Frederick County, Maryland and falls within Cunningham Falls State Park. It is also subsumed within the broader Catoctin Furnace site or 18FR29. Historical background on the site is provided in the 18FR29 synopsis report. This report deals solely with the details of archeological excavations conducted at 18FR334.

The first documented archeological fieldwork done in the area was conducted under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of depression-era relief work in 1936. The fieldwork involved excavation of a trench east of the nearby Isabella stack (see the synopsis report for 18FR333). No report of the excavation findings was ever published and the whereabouts of any collection is unknown. It wasn't until the early 1970s that archeological attention would turn towards the massive stone retaining wall (18FR334) that extended west and south from the Isabella stack. It is thought to have flanked much of the complex associated with "Deborah" (a.k.a. Stack 3), the late 19th and early 20th century anthracite coke and steam powered iron furnace at Catoctin.

In 1971 an archeological salvage program was put into practice due to the impending dualization of US Route 15, which would impact significant portions of the landscape. A thorough archeological survey was conducted throughout the broader Catoctin Furnace area. An archeological team conducting Phase I work did some exploratory trenching in the area in order to locate evidence of the "charcoal house" structure shown on top of the retaining wall system in late 19th-early 20th century photographs, the "Old Charcoal Road", and any other archeological features. A total of 7 backhoe trenches located west and northwest of the old stone retaining wall system were excavated. Unfortunately, the researchers did not report their methods or results. They did however perform extensive background research and some discussion of the archeological work was reported. It is clear from the context of this discussion that they did not expose any archeological features suggestive of a roadbed or of structures.

Researchers returned to the site in 1976 to conduct additional test excavations around the base of the retaining wall system, preparatory to the installation of shoring cleats to support buttresses for the wall. Their excavations revealed details of the engine house associated with the Deborah Stack. The researchers also encountered what they interpreted to be the remains of a bellows house and waterwheel pit outside the area of the site, closer to the Isabella stack. Excavation in the area north of the Isabella stack also suggested that the buried remains of the 1787 Stack may be located there (see synopsis report for 18FR333). A total of seven test squares were excavated in the footprint areas of the future shoring cleats at 18FR334. An additional six were excavated near Isabella. Unit sizes were typically between 1.2192 and 1.524 meters (4 and 5 ft) wide, and were excavated to a depth of 61-91 cm (2-3 ft). Each was approximately 2.9 meters (9½ ft) out from the wall where the cleats were to be installed. Six of the test units were placed in close proximity to one another along the southern end of the retaining wall. This was in an area where the steam engine house for the Deborah Stack was located. One test unit was placed in an area near the center of the wall where there was spring seepage.

The area surrounding the engine house revealed a series of stone-faced pits surmounted by rotted timbers secured on numerous upright iron stakes. It is believed that the engines for producing and compressing hot air were situated here. This hot air would be piped into the bosh of the Deborah Stack. The hot air was to raise the temperature of anthracite fuel which melted the iron ore to be made into pig iron ingots in the casting house. A four course brick "buffer" floor underlay one of the engines (Feature 1). This feature was intersected by the cleat position and that portion so affected was removed, with bricks labeled as to position, in case of future restoration. The engines themselves had been removed to an iron furnace in Pennsylvania in the early 20th century. A section of the north wall of the engine house was also intersected by a cleat. The section of the feature so affected was similarly removed after photographs and sketches were made. A large pig iron plate with an abundance of iron tools, nails, and window glass were affected by this cleat. Removing this midden material led to the discovery of another brick, stone-faced wall (Feature 2), which probably was the south wall of the engine house. A wall trench for a pit wall was also discovered and explored. Material from the Engine House site came from the floor area above a mixed clay fill subsoil. The floor contained brick debris, window glass, and roof timbers resulting from the subsequent collapse of the roofs and walls of the site. The brick and glass types, as well as the nails were of the type associated with the latter part of the 19th century, agreeing with the postulated date of 1872-1907 for use of the Deborah Stack. The one test unit outside of the engine area (near the center of the retaining wall) revealed iron ore and slag on top of clay fill. The bed of a stream, which proceeded from a spring under the wall to a horse-water pond some 15.24 meters (50 ft) to the east, was adjacent to the cleat position but not involved. No features were encountered (other than the slag heap) in this area. Artifact tallies in the table above are approximate.

Additional Phase I work and archeological monitoring of the site have taken place since the late 1970s, however, interpretations of the site have changed little in that time. The site's most significant component is the engine house remains, which could someday aid in interpretive features or even reconstruction at the site. As little work was conducted at the site outside the actual footprints of the retaining wall cleats, the additional research potential of Site 18FR334 is unknown.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006001, 00006002