



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR572

Site Name: Tavern

Prehistoric

Other name(s) City Site # 3, "Washington's Headquarters"

Historic

Brief Description:

Mid-18th century frame tavern/Washington's Headquarters; 19th century African-American dwelling

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code LkA

Latitude 39.4162

Longitude -77.4153

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Carroll Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 3 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

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

Anglo-American

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

Urban/Rural? Urban

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

tavern, tenement

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

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware			21			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	169	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	16	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	1	Pearlware	82			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

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	409	Activity item(s)	120
Glass (all)	3033	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	530	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	534
Arms	4	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	15	Misc.	221
Personal items	6	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 type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at City of Frederick?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Tavern Site (18FR572) is situated on the right descending bank of Carroll Creek in Frederick, MD and includes that bank of the creek, a retaining wall, and a narrow strip of land directly behind a collapsed building that is thought to be in some way related to a historic tavern in the area. It is a small frame building that used to stand on a stone foundation at the top of the creek bank and is commonly known as the "Washington Tavern" or "Washington's Headquarters". According to local legend, General Edward Braddock, Colonel George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin met in Frederick at a local tavern on Carroll Creek to confer on matters related to Braddock's campaign against the French. Franklin and Washington are rumored to have quartered at the Tavern during the army's occupation. However, no archival evidence has ever been encountered to support this assertion. The site is also within the Frederick City Historic District.

Phase II archival work has thoroughly documented both the lack of evidence for the Braddock/Washington/Franklin connection and the chain of property-owners associated with the Tavern lot and the surrounding community. The documented occupation of the Tavern property can only be traced back to 1798. This documentation is not discussed in detail here, but can be found in the original report. What is known, is that Braddock sent his troops through Maryland because he had been assured of supplies by the governors of Maryland and Virginia. When his forces arrived in Frederick in April 1755, the promised supplies, wagons, and horses were not waiting, and he threatened to impress them from the local farmers. Franklin, ostensibly on post office business, happened on the scene with his son and mollified the angry general by promising to find the necessary supplies for him in Pennsylvania, hoping by this action to dissipate suspicions that Braddock entertained toward the Quaker colony. However, no mention is made in any of the first-hand sources concerning a meeting between Franklin and Washington or relating that meeting to the Tavern. Beyond the undocumented Washington connection, the Tavern is associated with the residency of free black slaves and their descendants in Frederick County. The community surrounding the tavern was historically an African American neighborhood.

Prior to the installation of a flood control conduit along a stretch of the Carroll Creek floodplain, a program of archeological testing was implemented in the impact area. A linear urban park was also planned for either side of the stream on top of the conduit.

Field investigations involved the implementation of 3 auger tests, and one 0.9144 X 1.8288 meter (3 X 6 foot) hand excavated unit. The three auger tests were placed in an area behind the stone retaining wall at the site in an attempt to locate trash features. Little was recovered and augering was suspended due to the presence of limestone slabs. The test unit was placed at the base of the retaining wall in an attempt to locate evidence of "tavern" refuse and the builder's trench for the wall. The test unit was shovel skimmed and all soil was screened. The unit was excavated in natural soils layers. The strata are composed of a series of fairly distinct sediments deposited over bedrock. Three strata can be distinguished; a gradually built strata with multiple soil layers that dates from 1836 to the 1850s (based on mean ceramic dates), a fill layer associated with the building of the retaining wall which dates to around 1897 (based on analysis of glass), and a modern upper strata of A-1 humus and modern glass bottle shards.

Artifacts recovered from the test unit included 120 activity items, 530 architectural objects, 15 clothing-related objects, 3681 kitchen-related objects (mostly glass, ceramics, and animal bones), 6 personal items, 8 tobacco-related objects, 4 arms-related items, and 221 miscellaneous artifacts. The activity objects were a glass marble, 106 fragments of lighting/lamp glass, a light bulb part, 11 metal washers, and a slate pencil. The architectural assemblage consisted of a piece of plaster, a fragments of marble, 25 floor tile fragments, 189 pieces of plate window glass, 306 nails (20 square, 14 wire, 272 unidentified), a metal spike, 2 electrical parts, and 5 pieces of sewer pipe. Most of the clothing objects were buttons (3 metal, 1 shell, 1 bone and 7 composite), but two zipper pulls and a metal buckle were also recovered. The kitchen assemblage by far accounts for the largest proportion of the site collection, with glass being the largest artifact class (2693 bottle glass fragments, 34 table glass shards, and 11 milk glass fragments). The kitchen ceramics included 82 pearlware sherds, 1 creamware sherd, 16 porcelain sherds, 17 cream-colored ware fragments, 21 ironstone sherds, 23 pieces of stoneware, 5 brownware, 169 whiteware, 7 yellowware, and 68 redware sherds. There were fifteen bottle/container closure pieces recovered (a pulltab, 6 crown caps, 4 screw caps, and 4 unidentified closures) and 519 fragments of animal bones. The six personal items were a glass bead, a metal bead, and embossed disk, 2 pieces of jewelry and a jack knife. Eight tobacco related items were recovered (ceramic pipe pieces) and 4 shell casings. The miscellaneous artifacts were 217 unidentifiable/corroded metal fragments, a floral object, and 3 pieces of slag.

The Phase II project recovered no evidence that a "tavern" ever occupied the premises of 18FR372 and if Washington stayed in a small house on this property (as some later historical records assert), it would have been an earlier structure than the one for which photographs exist (the one that is now collapsed). This leaves two remaining questions regarding the deposits at 18FR572. The first is whether any part of a structure linked to Washington has been incorporated into the current retaining wall and whether any archeological deposits near the wall can be linked to historically significant events. The answer to both questions, in regard to George Washington is no. The structure allegedly visited by Washington could not have been an earlier structure incorporated into the retaining wall and the artifacts recovered from the base of the existing wall date to a time approximately 80 years later than Washington's trip to Frederick. The project participants also considered whether the deposits might be related to the historically significant occupation of the site by 19th century freed blacks. Since the material was from one time period rather than throughout the 19th century as expected, it may have been dumped as fill when the retaining wall was built around 1900. This would seem to argue against strict association with the African American community there.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005992