



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR685

Site Name: Wide Pastures

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th-Late 20th century mansion house site and landscaped gardens

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4349

Longitude -77.4309

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 111 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) Unnamed tributary of Carro

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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 250 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR685

Site Name: Wide Pastures

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th-Late 20th century mansion house site and landscaped gardens

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"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	32	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	15	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	3			Rhenish	<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"/>	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

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

Dated features present at site

late 19th-early 20th century landscape features

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	132	Activity item(s)	52
Glass (all)	700	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	261	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	18
Arms	2	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	4	Misc.	316
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	artificial terrace, stone steps, retaining wall	
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" 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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR685

Site Name: Wide Pastures

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

late 19th-Late 20th century mansion house site and landscaped gardens

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Wide Pastures (18FR685) is the archeological remains of a late 19th-early 20th century mansion house and gardens at Fort Detrick in Frederick County. The site is situated on a low wooded knoll and on a portion of a surrounding open grassy (non-agricultural) field located north of the knoll. With the exception of the knoll, a gentle slope to the north characterizes the site area. Historically, the Frederick area was a hardwood forest consisting primarily of chestnut and oak. Tree species represented at Wide Pastures today include Norway maple, silver maple, White Oak, black cherry, Northern Catalpa, Black walnut, and American Basswood. Soils at the site are primarily Hagerstown loams.

The shift in Frederick County from an agriculture-based economy to one characterized by industrial and urban development (from about 1870 to 1930) provided the setting for the development of Wide Pastures. The changing uses of the Wide Pastures land during this period reflect these changes occurring in the Frederick County economy. In 1870, the property encompassing 18FR685 was part of a farm owned by the Lakin family. Francis T. Lakin obtained the farm in two parcels during the late 1870s. He operated the land as a farm.

From 1895 to 1903 Lakin leased 7 acres adjacent to Rocky Springs Road (now Yellow Springs Road) to the Jesuits of Frederick. The Jesuits used the land as the site of a retreat center for aspiring priests and their teachers associated with the Frederick Novitiate Academy. The two-storey, 80 by 60 ft villa they built included a small chapel, recreation room, kitchen, and dormitories. It was known as St. Joseph's Villa. A porch extended around 3 sides, and occupants could sit on chairs and enjoy the cool mountain breezes. The Jesuits stopped using the villa in January 1903, when the Novitiate Academy moved to New York. St. Joseph's Villa was torn down sometime afterwards.

In 1911, Lakin sold 99 acres to retired surgeon Rudolph M. Rau. Rau built a 3 storey, Greek Revival-style mansion and carriage house, and also extensively landscaped the property. The imposing mansion had two storey columns and a ballroom on the third floor. The garden and estate fit with the early 20th century gardening trend away from ornate Victorian designs. According to his obituary, Rau was interested in farming and owned several large farms in Frederick County. Dr. Rau and his family sold the property to Robert S. Bright on January 31st, 1929. Bright used the house as a summer residence until his death in 1943. The 4.5 acre site of the mansion eventually was sold to Macie S. King, and Bright sold the surrounding property to Harry M. Free. The United States government obtained both properties in 1946. The Rau mansion housed post commanders until it was demolished for safety reasons in 1977. The carriage house was demolished in 1993.

The site was identified in the winter of 1992 during a Phase I archeological survey of the 24.2 acre area surrounding wide pastures. The work was carried out in support of the development of the Fort Detrick Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. During the Phase I work a total of 68 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated on transects 20 m apart with STPs every 20 m within transects. In addition, a single 1 X 1 m test unit was placed in an area of high artifact concentration. No features were identified through subsurface testing during the Phase I project. Diagnostic artifacts (4 whiteware sherds, 2 pearlware sherds, 1 ironstone sherd, and 15 cut nails) recovered during the Phase I work dated from the late 19th and 20th centuries. The age of this assemblage corresponds with the documentary evidence.

Although subsurface testing failed to define any cultural features or intact artifact-bearing strata, unsystematic pedestrian survey of the site area revealed a number of potentially significant surface and subsurface features. Much of the early 20th century landscaping appeared to remain, including garden walls, a driveway, and ornamental trees. Based on the potential to reveal significant information related to 20th century landscape design and gardening, a Phase II evaluation was recommended in the CRMP.

The Phase II work at 18FR685 was carried out in 2002. Phase II evaluation included pedestrian survey, systematic shovel testing, and test unit excavation. The pedestrian survey was designed to examine extant landscape features, including the relationship between extant architectural features, landscape plantings, and topographic features. Auger tests were performed in selected locations to define the extent of sub-surface cultural features.

The intensive pedestrian reconnaissance focused on the accurate recordation of surface landscape features. Tape and compass measurements were made to place the features on the site map. Potentially significant features were numbered, measured, and photographed. Following a visual assessment, trees that appeared to have been present by about 1940 or earlier were drawn on the site map. The trees were then measured and the tree species identified. Leaves were taken from trees that were difficult to identify, to be studied in more detail later. All trees which had a calculated diameter of 60 cm or larger were considered to possibly be associated with the period of occupation for the house at Wide Pastures (based on average diameter to years of age ratios).

Shovel tests were then excavated at 10 m intervals along transects extending grid north-south from a central baseline. Shovel tests measured a minimum of 35 cm in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 40 cm, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever occurred first. A total of 70 STPs were excavated.

Six formal test units of varying size were excavated in order to examine four landscape features and two sub-surface features identified during shovel testing. Test Units 1 and 5 were excavated on the artificial terrace that once contained Rau's estate house. They were placed to investigate the construction and integrity of the terrace walls. Test Unit 1 measured 50 X 200 cm, while Test Unit 5 measured 100 X 109 cm. Test Unit 6 was located on the north side of an unidentified landscape feature, a circular platform of stone, to determine the method of construction and possible temporal association of that feature. Test Unit 6 was 50 X 250 cm in size. Test Unit 16 was placed east of the knoll, to determine the function of a landscape terrace north of the extant driveway, and measured 50 X 100 cm. Test Units 2 and 3 were placed to investigate two concentrations of high artifact densities identified during shovel testing. Both of these units measured 1 X 1 m in extent. Test Unit 4 was placed in the center of the artificial terrace, but was not excavated.

The test units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural/cultural stratigraphy. Test Units were excavated to a minimum depth of 10 cm into culturally sterile soil horizons. Suspected cultural features extending beyond the limit of shovel tests or test units were sampled only within the area of excavation. Each suspected cultural feature was bisected and one half removed to obtain a stratigraphic profile and assist in the characterization of the feature. Feature documentation included scale plan and profile drawings, photographic recordation, and a detailed written description of the feature characteristics, including dimension, soil color and texture, and inclusive cultural materials.

All soil was screened through hardware mesh and recovered cultural material was placed in paper bags labeled with the appropriate provenience information.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR685

Site Name: Wide Pastures

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

late 19th-Late 20th century mansion house site and landscaped gardens

Unknown

All shovel tests, test units and auger tests were documented using standard soil nomenclature and color designation methods. The locations of all shovel tests, test units, auger tests and extant landscape features were recorded on a scale site map. Standard field data such as soil composition, stratigraphic sequences, and the presence or absence of cultural material was recorded on standardized forms applicable to each level of survey. All test units and sub-surface features were also documented with color and black and white photographs. All excavated areas were re-filled upon completion of the fieldwork.

Eighteen landscape features associated with the original (Jesuit) occupation of Wide Pastures were documented during the Phase II investigation. Visible on the surface, the features included 3 walled terraces, 2 stone retaining walls, 5 stone stairs, and a pathway with a cobble retaining wall. Two borrow pits or quarries, an elliptical driveway, and a historic road trace were associated with the early 20th century occupation. A brick grill and 2 cement slabs were constructed after the early 20th century, and indicate use of the site area into the middle to late 20th century.

Six sub-surface cultural features were identified during the Phase II work. These included a crushed drainage pipe and associated trench, an unidentified trench, a refuse-filled rodent burrow, an old shovel test from the Phase I survey, a large refuse-filled pit, and a builder's trench associated with one of the terrace walls. With the exception of the refuse filled rodent burrow and the large pit feature, the subsurface features contained few artifacts. The rodent burrow contained material with a terminus post quem of 1934. Some of the material appeared to relate to the military occupation. The latest refuse may have been buried in the 1980s, when the Fort Detrick Boy Scout troop was utilizing the former carriage house for their weekly meetings.

The large refuse-filled pit feature contains material probably deposited in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The original hole, possibly stone-lined, may have functioned as a storage/basement for the Jesuit's villa. Documentary evidence indicates that the rear of St. Joseph's Villa may have been adjacent to or on top of this location. Further excavation of the pit feature is unlikely to add significant information to the history of the site. The modification of the ground surface in the general location of the former villa was evident in numerous shovel tests. No other evidence of the villa footprint, or of any associated outbuildings or structures was identified. Disturbance associated with the demolition of the main house and the carriage house included the removal of portions of the terrace walls, landfilling, and some grading.

The archeological component of Site 18FR685 was found to be typical of a late 19th/early 20th century domestic site and does not add materially to our knowledge of the rural upper class either locally or regionally. More than 20% of the artifacts (253 objects) consisted of metal fragments of indeterminate function. Bottle glass of a variety of types comprises 29% (366) of the total assemblage. The archeological material was recovered from refuse contexts and does not relate to specific activity areas. In addition, the artifact assemblage provided no differentiation between the occupation of the site by the Jesuit community and Dr. Rau or his successors.

The full Phase II assemblage consisted of 52 activity items (lighting glass and metal), 246 architectural artifacts (including 127 window glass fragments, 111 pieces of hardware, and an electrical insulator), 4 clothing items (a porcelain button, 2 bone buttons, and a zipper), 1 furniture item (a metal drawer pull), 125 ceramic sherds (including 1 pearlware, 28 whiteware, 63 redware, 15 hard-paste porcelain, 3 ironstone, 1 miscellaneous stoneware), 535 glass vessel fragments, 2 arms objects (cartridges), 18 miscellaneous kitchen items (mostly metal container fragments), 1 tobacco-related object (pipe fragment), and 316 miscellaneous objects (38 other glass fragments, 2 pieces of slag, 253 indeterminate metal objects, 14 other metal objects, 3 stones, 6 synthetic objects).

Despite the lackluster archeological evidence (see above), the Phase II researchers recommended that site 18FR685 was eligible for the National Register under Criteria C and D, stating that the site was a significant example of a designed historic landscape and that future archeological investigations might contribute substantive new data on the design and construction of the landscape features. MHT did not concur with this recommendation. Due to the fact that the Wide Pastures estate's mansion and carriage house had been demolished and were no longer associated with the designed landscape, the Trust's position was that the site lacks the required level of integrity. Similar properties survive in central Maryland that have retained their integrity and better illustrate the early twentieth-century formal landscape design trends. Therefore, it is MHT's opinion that 18FR685 does not meet the criteria for eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places. Further investigation of this site is not warranted.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006041, 97001619, Site Files