



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR732

Site Name: 7-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Fat Oxen

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: late 18th-20th century standing brick house

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code EgA2

Latitude 39.3335 Longitude -77.3556

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation 135 m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Peter

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>	Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/>	Swamp <input type="checkbox"/>
Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/>	Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/>	Spring <input type="checkbox"/>	

Minimum distance to water is 245 m

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

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

Topography

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

Ownership

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

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

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

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian American <input type="checkbox"/>
African American <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Anglo-American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	other Euroamerican <input type="checkbox"/>

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

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

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Farmstead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mansion <input type="checkbox"/>
Plantation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar <input type="checkbox"/>
Privy <input type="checkbox"/>

Industrial

Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/>
Mill <input type="checkbox"/>
Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/>

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/>
Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/>
Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/>
Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/>
Bridge <input type="checkbox"/>
Ford <input type="checkbox"/>

Educational

Commercial

Trading post <input type="checkbox"/>
Store <input type="checkbox"/>
Tavern/inn <input type="checkbox"/>

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/>
Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/>

Burial area

Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>
Sepulchre <input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/>

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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late 18th-20th century standing brick house

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	41	Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/> 275	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/> 143			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

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

All dated features are from the 20th century.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 989	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 100
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1022	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 2162	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 2289
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 295
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

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

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Historic

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The 7-1, or Fat Oxen Site (18FR732) is situated on an approximately 5-acre tract located in the vicinity of Urbana, in eastern Frederick County, Maryland. The surrounding topography is defined by moderately sloping terrain with a mix of agricultural, residential, and commercial uses. The property is a farmhouse constructed ca. 1783 and a number of outbuildings of apparent 20th century origin. These structures are probably associated with the use of the property as a dairy farm in the early to mid 20th century. Fat Oxen was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The house was nominated for its architectural details and early time period. The structure is a 1 ½ story, five-bay masonry building constructed approximately 1783. The house rests on a rough stone foundation. Both Flemish and Common bond are used in the construction of the buildings brick walls. The gabled roof incorporates interior, gable-end chimneys and includes two dormers, which mark the primary façade. Soils at the site are Elioak silt loams.

Planned housing development and infrastructure installations (the Urbana New Town project) in the Urbana area necessitated Phase I survey work at the site and surrounding areas. This was carried out in 1998 and approximately 5 acres around the farmhouse were subjected to intensive shovel testing. The area within 20 meters of the dwelling was shovel tested at 5 m intervals; the remainder of the area was shovel tested at 10 m intervals. A total of 218 shovel tests were excavated to delineate the site. That investigation resulted in a collection of 480 historic period artifacts. Most of the artifacts came from tests within 20-25 m of the house. Few artifacts originated in other tests.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase I study include 21 activity related objects. Two are ceramic doll parts, 1 is a glass dome, 1 is a metal transportation-related object, 3 are pieces of lightbulb glass, 13 are metal fragments or metal hardware, and 1 is synthetic. A total of 139 architectural items were encountered including a piece of ceramic sewerage/drain pipe, 38 window glass fragments, 4 brick fragments, 2 pieces of mortar, 10 pieces of metal construction hardware, 16 handwrought Rosehead nails, 19 machine cut nails, 35 wire nails, 11 unidentified nails, 1 piece of marble, and 2 roofing shingles. Three clothing items were encountered, 1 is glass and the other 2 are metal. Five ceramic furniture items were excavated. A total of 287 kitchen-related items were recovered from the site including 156 ceramic sherds, 85 kitchen glass fragments, one cast iron pot fragment, one iron fragment, 31 animal bone pieces and 13 oyster shell fragments. The kitchen ceramics were 4 pieces of Chinese Export porcelain, 7 creamware sherds, 22 pearlware sherds, 51 whiteware sherds, 1 yellowware sherd, 2 later porcelain sherds, 15 ironstone sherds, 5 domestic gray stoneware, and 49 unidentified sherds. The glass items were a milk glass lid liner, 37 machine-made bottle/container fragments, and 47 other kitchen glass shards. Two personal items (1 ceramic and 1 metal) were recovered from the site. And finally, 23 miscellaneous objects (9 metal, 3 stone, and 11 synthetic) were excavated.

Phase II testing was recommended at the site as a result of the Phase I work. A metal chain-link fence was erected around the Fat Oxen house and immediate yard area in the late 1990s. The portions of the site that were determined, as a result of Phase I survey, to contain potentially intact archeological deposits were located both inside and outside of the fence. Development plans for the house itself were for adaptive reuse of the property preserved by the fence. Phase II testing was recommended to verify the size of the archeological deposits, their integrity, and their potential to yield useful information regarding the structure (which could impact management decisions regarding how it is reused) and the culture history of Urbana. Research included both archival and archeological work.

The Phase II archival research revealed that Fat Oxen had a series of distinguished owners including Charles Beall, a member of one of the earliest English families to settle the area. He is credited with having the house built. One of the earliest references to the property is a deed from February 1754, in which William Beall, Sr., leased the 262 acre "Fatt Oxen" property to Nathan Beall for five shillings. He left this property to his son Richard, who had been leasing an adjacent property from his father for some time. It eventually was transferred to Charles in August of 1779. Charles Beall bequeathed the "Plantation whereupon I now live" to his wife, Tabitha upon his death sometime before March 5th, 1790. This is the first known indication of a dwelling on the Fat Oxen tract. It was leased to Captain Thomas Sprigg, another early settler, in 1797, with the stipulation that, "the plantation and building is to be left in the same repair it is at present". The Beall family sold the property to Captain Sprigg in November 1800 for 2,125 pounds. John McPherson, Sr. purchased the property after Sprigg's death. He was an officer in the Revolutionary Army and an iron manufacturer. The property stayed in the McPherson family well into the 19th century; in 1879 Ann Grahame Ross, granddaughter of John Mcpherson Sr. came into possession of the property, although she apparently did not live there. A much more detailed description of land transactions and improvements is available in the full site report.

Twelve 1 X 1 m test units in areas expected to contain buried intact archeological deposits relating to the late 18th and early 19th century establishment and occupation of the farmstead. The location of these units was predicated on the results of Phase I work which indicated that scattered areas around the main dwelling appeared to contain primary and undisturbed deposits dating from that period. The test units were planned to define more clearly the horizontal and vertical integrity of the yard deposits, and on clarifying the cultural and temporal associations of materials within these yard deposits. The resulting data were analyzed in conjunction with archival data to evaluate the integrity and research potential of the site. In addition, seven 30 cm diameter shovel tests were excavated near the east and west walls of the house to investigate the immediate yard areas and a surface collection was undertaken during the widening of the main drive in front of the house. All of the test units were excavated manually, in 10 cm levels within natural strata, to sterile subsoil. These excavations verified that archeological deposits exist that reflect domestic activities dating from the late 18th century through the 20th century. The deposits comprise a generalized sheet midden that reflects long-term domestic occupation of the dwelling. However, this sheet midden was disturbed, and no substantial deposits or features were present. In addition, cultural materials typically were weighted toward the late 19th and 20th centuries. Several modern features were documented, including probable postmolds and construction/repair trenches for additions to the main house. The postmolds appear to be 20th century in origin, and probably represent a former outbuilding and a possible fenceline.

Artifacts recovered during Phase II work include 79 activity-related historic objects. The activity-related assemblage consisted of 15 toys (11 plastic/rubber toys, a plastic easter egg fragment, a ceramic marble, a glass marble, and 1 "Hot Wheel" part), a piece of light bulb glass, 24 non-electrical wire fragments, 2 springs, 4 washers, a piece of battery carbon, 4 tin can fragments, a tent stake, 3 chain pieces, a fragment of rope, 4 metal strap pieces, 2 tools, 8 writing implement objects (2 slate pencil pieces, a copper pen ferrule, and 5 plastic pen parts), 4 ceramic flower pot sherds, 2 possible gaming pieces, part of a clay pigeon, a plastic golfball marker, and a horseshoe nail. The 2023 item architectural assemblage includes 669 brick fragments, 88 pieces of mortar, 28 plaster fragments, 4 pieces of roofing slate, 481 plate window shards, 711 nails (197 machine cut, 339 wire, 16 Rosehead, 1 T-headed, 158 unidentified nails), 5 screws, 5 spikes, 22 staples, 9 pieces of construction hardware (mostly bolts/brackets), and 1 electrical part. There were 38 clothing items recovered during Phase II. These were 8 buttons (3 porcelain, 2 metal, 1 bakelite, 1 shell, 1 plastic), 3 shoe parts (a metal shoe buckle, and 2 pieces of shoe leather), 3 metal buckles, 6 metal snaps, 11 eyelets, 1 zipper, and 6 other miscellaneous metal clothing parts. The only furniture-related items encountered were a linoleum furniture part and a plastic furniture part. The kitchen assemblage was quite large and included 2243 artifacts; 833 of which were ceramics and 399 of which



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Unknown

were glass. The kitchen ceramics were an Astbury sherd, a tin glazed (Delftware) sherd, 37 creamware sherds, 121 pearlware sherds, 20 porcelain pieces (6 early, 14 later), 26 ironstone sherds, 14 domestic brown stoneware sherds, 8 domestic gray stoneware sherds, 1 miscellaneous stoneware sherd, 224 whiteware, 38 yellowware, 314 redware, 11 miscellaneous sherds, and 17 unidentified ceramics. The kitchen glass assemblage included 10 glass jar lid liners (mostly milk glass), 36 table glass fragments, 16 dip molded shards, 2 embossed panel bottle fragments, a blown-in-mold bottle fragment, 2 glass pontils, 309 machine-made bottle fragments, and 23 miscellaneous bottle pieces. Other kitchen objects were 7 pieces of foil, 5 crown caps, 3 metal screw cap fragments, 4 plastic lid/screw cap fragments, a metal pull tab, 7 canning jar lid pieces, a metal juice concentrate lid, a medicine safety cap, a metal can, 4 utensils, 512 animal bones, 463 oyster shell pieces, a brazil nut shell, and a piece of coconut shell. Twenty-seven personal objects were encountered during Phase II at the site. Among these are a pair of wire frame glasses, a copper medallion, a metal key, a jewelry part, 5 ceramic figurine fragments, a bone toothbrush, 7 plastic toothbrush fragments, 5 modern coins, a half-dime, a penny (date unspecified), and 3 metal personal items. Nine tobacco related objects were found at the site; a ball clay bowl, 3 ball clay stems, and 5 cigarette filters. The Arms assemblage includes 32 items (4 shotgun shells, twenty-two .22 rimfire cartridges, a 9 mm Luger cartridge, an unidentified centerfire cartridge, two .25 centerfire cartridges, a .3030 centerfire cartridge, and an English gunflint. The rest of the Phase II assemblage is made up of 272 miscellaneous objects such as 48 unidentified metal objects, 7 pieces of rubber, 52 plastic objects, 54 pieces of coal, 2 pieces of slag, 4 cinders, 79 pieces of charcoal, 18 melted glass pieces, an unidentified piece of glass, 5 pieces of stone, and 2 land snails.

The results of field investigations at Fat Oxen have shown that the archeological deposits do not retain integrity. Although materials were present that reflected 18th to 20th century occupation, some disturbance and mixing of deposits was noted. Due to the disturbed nature of the deposits, and the lack of intact pre-20th century features, the research potential of the site should be considered quite low.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006864, 97000169