



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR755

Site Name: Lockhouse 29, C&O Canal

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

mid-19th century-early 20th century brick canal lockhouse

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 18

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3009

Longitude -77.5578

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 26 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) Potomac River

- | 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 200 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

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

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American Y
- 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 N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken Faunal



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR755

Site Name: Lockhouse 29, C&O Canal

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

mid-19th century-early 20th century brick canal lockhouse

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

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone	62	Staffordshire	Stoneware
Earthenware		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	English Brown
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	Eng Dry-bodied
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	Nottingham
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Rhenish
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>				Wt Salt-glazed

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	19
Pottery (all)	189	Activity item(s)	162
Glass (all)	835	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2242	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	284
Arms	12	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	38	Misc.	247
Personal items	14	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" 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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR755

Site Name: Lockhouse 29, C&O Canal

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

mid-19th century-early 20th century brick canal lockhouse

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18FR755, Lockhouse 29 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is located in the Point of Rocks area of Frederick County, Maryland. The site is a historical standing structure (the lockhouse) and an interpretive component within the larger C & O Canal National Historical Park. The lockhouse itself is a 1 ½ story brick structure over a full basement constructed of shaped limestone. It is situated on Huntington series soils, approximately 60 meters east of the canal and 5.4 meters east of a canal bypass flume/ditch. A raised wooden porch extends along the entire length of the western wall of the house. This porch is of modern construction, but it is believed to have replaced an earlier porch, the precise structure of which is uncertain.

The site was subject to Phase III data recovery excavations as part of Project 77, a multi-site stabilization project within the park. The project called for various restoration activities around the lockhouse, which could possibly impact the cultural resources. Data recovery was undertaken to locate and assess cultural resources and to gather data that could be utilized in future restoration and interpretive activities. Site specific goals included locating and studying the original lockhouse porch foundations and investigating two ancillary building foundations in hopes of determining their functions and dates of occupation.

Archival research was undertaken prior to excavation. Construction of the C & O Canal started on July 4th, 1828. By 1834, the financial situation of the Canal Company had deteriorated to the point where it was decided to construct temporary lockhouses at a number of locks in an attempt to channel more money into constructing the canal itself. On October 2, 1834, a contract to construct support buildings for Locks 28, 29, 34, and 37 was let to one Isaac Williams. Two years later, the Maryland Legislature passed an act authorizing a loan for construction of permanent brick or stone lockhouses to replace the temporary wood structures built by Williams (among others). A contract to build permanent lockhouses at Locks 28, 29, and 34 was let to one Michael Foley, and by May of 1837 work was completed. Total cost of the building was \$947.98. The first lock-tender at Lock 29 received his house, an acre of land for a garden, and \$150 a year in compensation for duties which demanded that he, or some member of his family, be prepared to quickly tend the lock at any hour of the day or night.

On March 24th, 1864, M.E. Alexander was granted permission to build a structure on the berm side of the canal near the lock at an annual rent of \$12. Although first limited to selling feed and a few provisions to the canal boatmen, beginning May 15, 1865, Mr. Alexander was allowed to sell groceries and general merchandise at his store. On December 10th, 1869, John H. Rench was authorized to build a feed store at Lock 29 by the Canal Company at an annual rent of \$36. Aside from these brief historical snippets, little additional information regarding this specific lockhouse and related facilities can be gleaned from the historical record.

Excavation commenced with the establishment of a datum and gridding off of the site into 1.524 m (5 ft) squares. To simplify matters, the grid baseline was oriented to the west face of the lockhouse rather than to the cardinal directions. Fifteen of these squares were excavated stratigraphically; 7 in the immediate environs of the lockhouse, 3 to the north of the house in the vicinity of one of the ancillary foundations, 1 to the southwest in the vicinity of another ancillary foundation, and 4 on the strip of land between the canal and the bypass flume. Arbitrary levels within the discrete strata were set at 7.62 cm (.25 ft). All soil above the water table was either screened through hardware mesh or thoroughly examined and removed with trowel and dustpan. When working below the water table, a submersible electric pump was used to keep the unit free of water while the earth was removed by bucket and shovel.

Numerous features and activity areas were encountered during the excavations. A lockhouse foundation footing was discovered, consisting of two elements: 1) a rough stone, dry-laid bed for the foundation, and 2) a "footing feature" that was constructed of a stone pedestal resting against the stone bed. A French drain feature is located along the west exterior wall of the lockhouse. This drainage system is made of two parallel rows of dry laid stones with an approximately 18 cm trench between them, and covered by stone slabs. The drain appears to lead towards the nearby canal bypass flume. A post mold was found directly below one of the modern concrete footings for the porch support posts. This is believed to be the remnants of a much earlier porch, visible in a 1930s photograph and possibly original to the house. A concentration of architectural artifacts in the area between the bypass flume and the canal seems to indicate that a structure once stood in this location. This may have been the location of one of the historically documented canal stores. Interviews with a lifetime resident of the area revealed that a shack once stood here. Other architectural features were a retaining wall, a concrete foundation near the lock, and a concrete walkway constructed during the 20th century. Non-architectural features consisted of kitchen refuse piles, pits, and postmolds for a garden trellis.

A total of 3,430 artifacts were recovered during the excavations at 18FR755. The activity-related assemblage includes 162 items such as 36 fragments of lighting-related glass, 1 construction tool, 21 toys and/or recreational items, 84 miscellaneous hardware objects, 4 unidentified ethnobotanical items, and 16 other activity items. A total of 2,242 architectural items were recovered, including 590 fragments of pane glass, 965 nails, 36 spikes, 8 pieces of construction hardware, and 643 other architectural objects. Clothing objects from the site were 2 buckles, 15 buttons, 1 pin, 20 leather fragments, and a piece of cloth. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 717 items, including 189 ceramic sherds (2 Bennington ware, 61 pearlware, 39 redware, 62 ironstone, 21 porcelain, 1 gray salt-glazed stoneware, and 1 unidentifiable earthenware), 244 bottle/container glass fragments, 135 kitchenware pieces, 1 tableware piece, and 148 fragments of bone. Identified species within the bone assemblage were cow (8), pig (20), gray squirrel (5), cottontail (2), muskrat (9), and chicken (4). Twenty-three other bones were recovered, including dog (2), Norway rat (2), mouse (2), and songbird (17), but these remains are counted among the miscellaneous items as they are presumably not kitchen/food-related species. Fourteen personal objects came from the test units; 3 beads, 1 coin, and 10 unidentified personal items. The 19 tobacco-related items from the site were 13 pipe fragments and 6 other unidentified items. The 12 arms-related items consisted of musket balls, shot, sprue, and/or cartridge casings. And finally 247 miscellaneous objects were recovered from the site. This assemblage included the aforementioned animal bones, 1 piece of melted glass, 52 pieces of coal, 4 clinkers, 8 pieces of rubber, 10 fragments of plastic, and 148 unidentified metal objects.

Ultimately, the excavations revealed very little concerning the precise nature of the ancillary foundation and what types of support structures they may once have supported. The historical/archival record appears to be much more useful in this regard. However, several details relating to the lockhouse construction were revealed (the French drain, foundation structure, and evidence of an earlier porch). Thus, the greatest potential for additional research at Site 18FR755 is in the areas immediately surrounding the lockhouse itself. The research potential in the areas of ancillary buildings and the island are largely exhausted. At a minimum, archeologists should closely monitor planned alterations to the park that will impact deposits surrounding the lockhouse.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006045