



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18FR817

Site Name: South Alley Bricks

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early 19th century brick clamp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 17

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.3867 Longitude -77.2698

Physiographic province Lancaster/Frederick Lowl

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-3%

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

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

Nearest Surface Water	
Name (if any)	Davis Creek
Saltwater	
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estuary/tidal river	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tidewater/marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freshwater	
Stream/river	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swamp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake or pond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum distance to water is	300 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

Contact period site	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1820 - 1860	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1630 - 1675	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1675 - 1720	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1720 - 1780	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1780 - 1820	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1860 - 1900	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1900 - 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown historic context	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ethnic Associations (historic only)	
Native American	<input type="checkbox"/>
African American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglo-American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

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

Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urban/Rural?	Rural <input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Homestead	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmstead	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mansion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Row/townhome	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mining-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black/metalsmith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furnace/forge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trading post	<input type="checkbox"/>
Store	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tavern/inn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military	<input type="checkbox"/>
Battlefield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fortification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encampment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Townsite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church/mtg house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ch support bldg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sepulchre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated burial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bldg or foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possible Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-in-ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frame-built	<input type="checkbox"/>
Masonry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slave related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-domestic agri	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artifact scatter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring or well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples	Soil samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic context samples	Soil samples taken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>



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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"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			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"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

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"/>	mixing pit, brick clamp, heat signature	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input 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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Prehistoric

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Historic

Brief

Description: Early 19th century brick clamp

Unknown

Description:

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18FR817 is the archeological remains of an early 19th century brick clamp in New Market, Frederick County. The site is situated on the floodplain of Davis Branch, bottomland surrounded by gently rolling hills. It is situated within the New Market Historic District and is surrounded by a mix of 19th century homes and newer residences. The site sits along South Alley east of its intersection with 9th Alley. Soils at the site are primarily Manner channery and gravelly loams.

The first step in the process of brickmaking was to prepare the clay. The clay was generally dug in the fall and then left exposed to weather through repeated freeze-thaw cycles over winter. Pits were prepared for the mixing (or tempering) of the clay. Thomas Jefferson, known for his detailed instructions regarding construction, directed the bricklayer at Monticello to begin preparing clay in the month of September for the construction of Poplar Forest.

There are several different methods documented for shaping the clay into bricks. The handmade method was the process generally used during the 18th century and early 19th centuries, and therefore the procedure used in brickmaking at the New Market site. The wet clay would be placed in wooden or metal molds and exposed surfaces were smoother out with a scraper. The molds were then removed and the bricks were left to dry. The bricks were stacked and then dried further. A tent-like covering, held in place with posts that were driven into the ground, was often placed over the bricks to protect them from the rain. The bricks were thoroughly dried before being placed in a formation known as a "clamp" for firing.

The objective of the firing process was to remove all traces of moisture from the bricks. This process, also referred to as burning or baking, required the skill of an experienced brickmaker. The bricks had to be arranged in such a way that the heat of the firing was diffused evenly throughout the stacked brick. It also had to be designed to pull in a sufficient draft of air to supply even heat while conserving fuel. This organized stacking of green bricks into a "clamp for firing" was something of an artform.

As with the quality of brick produced, the design and construction of the brick clamp largely depended upon the skill and experience of the brickmaker, but most used a similar design for the base of the clamp. Archeological investigations have shown the remnant bases of brick clamps to be quite similar in form, with the primary differences being in size. Some clamps were laid in "benches", while others were set directly on a prepared clay floor. Benches consisted of rows of dried, unfired bricks alternating with arched channels that accommodated the fuel (usually wood). Above the arched channels were stacked the majority of the green brick. These bricks were arranged with spaces between them to facilitate the distribution of heat. A small clamp may have been 10 to 12 ft. high and held approximately 35,000 to 41,000 bricks. Wood, and other fuel, was placed inside the channels. In the "breezing" technique, coal or other combustible fuel (animal waste, brush and plant matter, straw, etc.) was placed on and around the stacked bricks. The fuel was set afire and the gaps in the exterior layer of the clamp were enclosed to seal in the heat. It was thought that breezing used less fuel and reduced the time needed to fire the bricks.

The firing process lasted several days. The color of the smoke exiting the clamp was used to help determine how much time was needed. The clamp was fired for approximately 24 more hours after the smoke change color from black to white. Even with a successful firing, brick makers often employed a secondary burn-over clamp. This clamp was constructed after the first firing in order to re-fire the partially fired brick. Work at Colonial Williamsburg has shown that up to 60% of bricks from a first firing were still soft brick. Secondary burn-over clamps were smaller than the original clamp. In addition, the burn-over clamp was more efficient: since the brick was already partially fired, it took less time and fuel to reach firing temperatures.

The brick clamp at 18FR817 was part of Nicholas Hall's "New Market Plains" tract, part of which he platted in 1793 as the town of New Market. The site area was not included within the initial plat of New Market, but it adjoins the southern street of the town. During the mid 19th century, this site was included in a parcel that extended west to the road from New Market to Monrovia (today's Prospect Alley). This road, formerly MD 75, was rerouted to the east of New Market as part of the construction of I-70 in the 1970s. A house, owned by Dr. E.W. Moberly is shown along South Alley on an 1873 map of the town, but there are no other buildings shown within the larger parcel that includes the site on this map, or on maps from 1858 and 1909.

Nicholas Hall sold a 2.5 acre parcel that included Site 18FR817 to Hugh Anderson on December 6th, 1804 for \$100. The price indicates that there were no improvements to the property at that time. Five years later, Hugh Anderson sold the same parcel for \$350 to Jesse Wright. There is no indication of what improvements were made to the property to increase the purchase price. Jesse Wright then sold this parcel, along with four other adjoining parcels, totaling 7.25 acres, to John H.M. Smith for \$750 on March 15th, 1830. The 1820 Census of Manufacturers for Frederick County, MD has no entries for brickmakers or for the property owner (Jesse Wright) at the time. However, it is not known if brick making was an included category in this census or if the brick clamp was not in operation that year.

The 1830 Census lists the Jesse Wright household as comprised of one free white male 30-40 years old, two free white females between 5 and 10, and one free white female 30-40. Jesse Wright owned three slaves in 1830 according to census records: one male under 10 years of age, one male between 10 and 24, and one female between 10 and 24. According to the 1830 Census, John H.M. Smith's household was made up of two free whites: a male 30-40 years old and a female 30-40 years old, as well as five slaves: two males under 10, one male between 10 and 24, one male 24-36, and a female aged 10-24. In the 1840 Census, the John H.M. Smith household has remained largely the same, with four additional slaves. His household included two free whites: a male aged 40-50 and a female between 40 and 50 years old. John H. Smith also owned 9 slaves in 1840: 2 males under 10, 3 males between 10 and 24, one male 36-55, 2 females under 10, and one female slave between 24 and 36 years old. The census also states that 2 members of the John H.M. Smith household were employed in agriculture, 2 were employed in manufacturing and trade, and 1 member was engaged in a learned profession or engineering.

On June 30th, 1854, the estate of John H.M. Smith sold the parcel that included Site 18FR817 and another 5 acre parcel to Charles Wood for \$1,040. The following day, July 1, 1854, Mr. Wood sold the 7.25 acre parcel to Dr. Eldred W. Moberly for \$777.23. Dr. Eldred Moberly was a physician practicing in New Market and it appears that he also owned much property in the area. His residence appears to have been located roughly 1 block to the west of the site.

The 1860 Census lists Dr. Eldred W. Moberly as a 54 year old physician with \$25,000 in real estate and \$15,000 in personal estate. His household is made up of his 49 year old wife, Louisa, and three children, Louisa, Helen, and Bradley. The Slave Schedules for the 1860 Census indicate that Dr. Moberly owned 7 slaves: a 55 year old black male, a 54 year old black female, a 28 year old black female, a 22 year old black female, a 21 year old black male, a 6 year old black female, and a 2 year old mulatto male. In 1870, the Moberly household consisted of the 67 year old physician, whose real estate is valued at \$27,220, and his personal estate at \$8,000, his wife Louisa, 59, and their son Bradley, 23. Four African-American domestic servants rounded out the Moberly



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Brief

Description:

Early 19th century brick clamp

household in 1870: Julia and Sallie Johnson, 46 and 14 years old respectively, Samuel Bowman, 14, and Nancy Sorogins, aged 12. At the time of the 1880 Census, Dr. Moberly and his wife Louisa, lived by themselves with three African-American servants: Alfred Dorsey, aged 50, Rachel Spriggs, 24, and Carrie Hall, 15.

The 1850 and 1860 Manufacturers Censuses for Frederick County do not list any brick makers in the New Market District and do not list any of the owners of Site 18FR817 as a brick maker. These manufacturing censuses do provide a view of brick making in the mid 19th century. The 1850 Manufacturers Census lists 5 brick makers in Frederick County. Three were located within the city of Frederick. Each of these three employed 10-12 male hands, with average monthly wages of \$120-\$169. These operations all functioned using draft and hand power. Their brick production ranged from 600,000 bricks valued at \$3,000 to 800,000 bricks valued at \$3,600. There were two brick makers listed in the 1850 Census that operated outside of Frederick City, one in the Emmitsburg District (north of 18FR817), and the other in the Middletown District (west of 18FR817). These two operations are much smaller than those in Frederick City, having only 4 and 5 hands and producing only 275,000 and 195,000 bricks valued at \$1,200 and \$975 respectively. In the 1860 Manufacturers Census, there are three brick makers listed within Frederick County, and all three are located in Frederick City. All three were in operation for 6 months of the year, a statistic not given in the 1850 Manufacturers Census. Production at these brick makers had increased since the 1850 Census, with these three facilities employing 10, 18, and 25 hands, with monthly total wages of \$200, \$320, and \$500 respectively. These establishments produced 260,000, 900,000, and 1,000,000 bricks worth \$2,800, \$3,400, and \$6,000 respectively. All three operated using draft and hand power.

Before his death, Dr. Moberly appears to have divided his property among his children. On December 12th, 1885, his daughter Anna M. Johnson, wife of James T. Johnson, received her father's residence in New Market, the 7.25 acre parcel that included Site 18FR817, and three other parcels within or adjoining the town of New Market. One of these parcels is described as a 2.5 acre lot "commonly known as the brickyard lot". This 2.5 acre parcel was located north of Site 18FR817 and is the block bounded on the west by 9th Alley, on the north by Main Street (MD 144), on the east by 10th Alley, and on the south by South Alley. Anna and James Johnson then sold the 7.25 acre parcel to John W. Wood for \$875 on February 10th, 1888. John W. Wood died in 1892. On April 1st, 1902, trustees for John W. Wood's estate sold the 7.25 acre parcel that included 18FR817 to Melvin P. Wood for \$850. On April 1st, 1908, Melvin Wood sold the same parcel to McClelland Mealey for \$1,000. In this deed, the parcel is described as a "lot with buildings", but there are no further details as to what type of buildings and their locations. This phrase could refer to a dwelling on this parcel shown on an 1873 map of New Market.

In the 1910 Census, 40 year old Mack C. Mealey, a truck farmer, and his 30 year old wife, Nettie B., shared a house with their children Helen, Richard, and Louise. An African-American farm laborer, Walter Butler, and Charles Bitler, a farm laborer and brother of Nettie Mealey, completed the household. In the 1920 Census, 49 year old Mack Mealey is shown as living with his wife, 39 year old Nettie B., his 18 year old daughter Helen, a schoolteacher, and his 17 year old son, Carl. Also living at the Mealey house were four boarders: George L. Davis, a mail carrier, and his son Russell, Nellie Hunter, a switch board operator, and Katherine Norwood, a telephone operator. Mack Mealey's occupation was listed as a truck farmer.

On March 31st, 1921, McClelland and Nettie Mealey sold their parcel, by this time reduced to six acres, to George W. Burgess for \$750. George W. Burgess had died in 1929. In the 1930 Census, his 73 year old widow, Mary L. Burgess, is listed as head of household. Her son Louis, a 32 year old mail carrier, and her 42 year old daughter Anna lived with Mary Burgess. Mary L. Burgess sold the six-acre parcel that included Site 18FR817 along with three other parcels in or near the town of New Market to William and Clyde Smith. On February 13th, 1954, Clyde Smith sold these parcels to Arthur Peach. On March 13th, 1971, as part of land acquisition for construction of I-70 south of New Market, Virginia Peach, sold the land that included 18FR817 to the Maryland State Roads Commission.

Site 18FR817 was first identified during a Phase I investigation in July of 2004. The Phase I survey was carried out as part of a Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) construction project to install a new drainage system from an inlet along the south edge of MD 144. The undertaking would include grading and installation of new inlets, riprap, pipes, and manhole covers, which might disturb archeological resources. State funding would be utilized for this project and the survey was designed to assist SHA in complying with the provisions of state laws, including Article 83B, §§ 5-607, 5-617, and 5-618, of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of shovel test pit (STPs) throughout the drainage line project corridor. A shovel test on the south side of South Alley exposed a burned area underlaid by low-fired bricks. The burnt soil and low-fired brick feature was 43cm below surface level. Two additional radial STP revealed that the burnt soil layer was about 25cm thick. The feature was identified as a probable brick clamp and recommended for Phase II evaluation prior to construction of the drainage facilities. Phase II testing was carried out in 2005.

Phase II work entailed 2 additional STPs, the mechanical excavation of three trenches at right angles to one another, and the hand excavation of four test units and a small trench. The STPs from the previous year were relocated, and their positions were used to guide Phase II testing. The mechanically excavated trenches were positioned to determine if the burned feature encountered in the Phase I STPs was a brick clamp, and then to define the long and short axis of it. Mechanical trenching was used to remove the roughly 40 cm plowzone overlying the brick clamp and then the trench floor was hand scraped to expose any additional features related to brick making. Trench 1 extended east to west and was 21.34 m (70 ft) long. Trench 2 extended north-south and was 20.73 m (68 ft) long. Trench 2 bisected the clamp in a north-south direction. The south 6.1 m (20 ft) of the trench curved slightly eastward to avoid the presence of several large trees. Trench 3 was 5 m (16.4 ft) long running north-south and examined an area initially interpreted as the west edge of the brick clamp.

Four test units, a small hand-excavated trench, and 2 STPs were then excavated across the lamp to gain a better understanding of the clamp stratigraphy. These were excavated 10 cm into sterile subsoil or to the practical limits of hand excavation. Excavated soil was passed through hardware cloth to ensure uniform artifact recovery. Recovered artifacts were placed in bags marked with provenience information, and locations were recorded on the field map. Tested areas were documented using black-and-white film, color slides and digital images. Features, including posts and a mixing pit, were bisected, photographed, and drawn.

The Phase II excavations exposed the remains of the clamp's channels and benches, the associated thermal signature, and debris deposits associated with the dismantling of the clamp. Firing the clamp resulted in thermal alteration of the surrounding soil matrices. This thermal signature provided useful information on how the clamp was fired, the firing process, and how the clamp was constructed.

The clamp itself measured 12.2 m (40 ft) wide and approximately 5.03 m (16.5 ft) long. The clamp was wider than it was long because the width of a clamp is normally measured along the face that contains the channel openings, while the length of the benches is used to determine a clamp's length. The clamp contained 11 benches and 10 firing channels. It appears that the firing of the clamp was a success and few bricks were left in place when it was dismantled.



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Unknown

Although plowing has truncated some of the clamp strata, the overall configuration, the dimensions of the clamp, and the number of benches and channels can be interpreted from the surviving thermal signature. The clamp feature was oriented in an east-west direction, taking advantage of the prevailing westward wind to increase oxygen flow into the fire channels, which in turn increased the firing temperature within the clamp.

West of the clamp, a deposit of brick waster fragments, raw brick material, re-deposited burnt earth, and charcoal was identified. This debris extended west of the clamp for approximately 4.42 m (14.5 ft), and was approximately 6 cm thick. These debris deposits suggest that when the clamp was disassembled, bricks were stored in this area. Well-fired brick was carted away for construction, and waster bricks, too fragmented or under-fired to be used as fill, were left on the site.

In addition to the brick clamp, a mixing-pit, and two postholes were also encountered. The postholes were excavated through the brick clamp deposits, and are interpreted as later activity at the site. The only datable artifact came from one of these postholes. This pearlware sherd may indicate that the posthole was dug in the early 19th century, but the sherd may also have been intrusive. Thus, the date for the brick clamp is not really known. The field team visually compared brick samples recovered from the clamp with local buildings to see if bricks from the clamp were associated with specific buildings in the New Market Historic District. Based on a comparison of the bricks from the clamp to these extant buildings, it is likely that the clamp dates to the early 19th century because the bricks match several buildings dating to this period but do not match any of the later buildings. The possible clay mixing pit is situated just 2-3 m to the west of the clamp.

As is often the case with brick clamp sites, aside from the bricks, very few artifacts were recovered. The only materials reported were the aforementioned pearlware sherd, 2 ball clay pipe stems, and a sample of 29 low-fired bricks (recorded as activity items).

In general, the southern portion of the site appeared to have been heavily impacted by plowing and contained only the heat signature from the firing of the clamp. The northern edge of the clamp was more intact, however, only redundant information concerning the structure of the clamp could be obtained from additional excavation here. Because the clamp was dismantled after use and has since been damaged by plowing, the integrity of the site is poor. Site 18FR817 is not a strong example of a brick clamp in the sense that it does not contain intact examples of the important characteristics of a brick clamp (benches, channels), but consists primarily of the heat signature from firing the clamp. The Phase II excavation was able to obtain valuable information from the heat signature about the layout and functioning of the clamp, but further excavation would provide little additional data.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97002259, Site Files