



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HA328

Site Name: Stone Chimney House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Mildred Bern House (MIHP # HA-866)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th to 19th century standing frame house with stone chimney

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 6

SCS soil & sediment code EsB2

Latitude

Longitude

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation

m

Site slope 2-5%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

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

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Bynum Run

- | 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 151 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
- 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

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples: Soil samples taken
 Flotation samples taken Other samples taken

Historic context samples: Soil samples taken
 Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin		0	
Clovis	0	Perkiomen	0		
Hardaway-Dalton	0	Susquehana	0		
Palmer	0	Vernon	0		
Kirk (notch)	0	Piscataway	0		
Kirk (stem)	0	Calvert	0		
Le Croy	0	Selby Bay	0		
Morrow Mntn	0	Jacks Rf (notch)	0		
Guilford	0	Jacks Rf (pent)	0		
Brewerton	0	Madison/Potomac	0		
Otter Creek	0	Levanna	0		

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	0	Popes Creek	0	Shepard	0	Keyser	0
Dames Qtr	0	Coulbourn	0	Townsend	0	Yeocomico	0
Selden Island	0	Watson	0	Minguannan	0	Monongahela	0
Accokeek	0	Mockley	0	Sullivan Cove	0	Susquehannock	0
Wolfe Neck	0	Clemson Island	0	Shenks Ferry	0		
Vinette	0	Page	0	Moyaone	0		
				Potomac Crk	0		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	0	Staffordshire	0	Stoneware	
Astbury	0	Jackfield	0	Tin Glazed	0	English Brown	0
Borderware	0	Mn Mottled	0	Whiteware	17	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	Porcelain	0	Nottingham	0
Creamware	3	Pearlware	6			Rhenish	0
						Wt Salt-glazed	0

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay		0	
Flaked stone	1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ground stone	0	Modified faunal	0		
Stone bowls	0	Unmod faunal	0		
Fire-cracked rock	0	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other lithics (all)	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	0	Uncommon Obj.	0		
Rimsherds	0	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	0	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

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		0	
Pottery (all)	39	Activity item(s)	2		
Glass (all)	22	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	140	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	1		
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	23	Misc.	0		
Personal items	0	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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

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

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

Sample 7: 0 +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18HA328, also known as the Stone Chimney House, is located along MD 7 near Bush, Maryland. The site is also the location of the standing structure known as the Mildred Bem House, for which the construction date is unknown but likely was standing by the early 19th century, though may date back to the 18th century. A large garage is situated northwest of the house, while the remainder of the property consists of a manicured yard containing several gardens in the center of the yard and along the peripheries. A buried septic system lies in the center of the yard, behind the house. The parcel is .77 acres. The soils mapped for Stone Chimney House are the Elsinboro series and bounded by the Delanco series. Both series are a well-drained silt loam typically associated with the borders of flood plains of major streams.

The house has a full-width front porch with a concrete block foundation and a corrugated metal roof; the porch wraps around to the east elevation. The first floor has a center bay entrance flanked by replacement windows. A small concrete masonry chimney abuts the facade between the entrance and a side window. The facade's second floor has two windows. The west elevation features a large exterior chimney that is stone on the first floor, then brick on the upper levels. A shed-roofed addition projects to the north side of the house and its west elevation has a small window; the main block's west elevation also has two attic level windows. The main block's east elevation has a side entrance and sash window on the first floor; two windows on the second floor; and two small windows on the attic level. A small brick chimney projects from the east end of the gable roof. The shed-roofed rear addition extends the full width of the house. The large rubble-stone chimney at the west elevation, extending one story before being topped with brick, suggests a possibility of 18th century construction, but its overall, the two-story side-gabled configuration is typical of mid-19th century construction.

When Lieutenant General Rochambeau camped in Bush in 1782, he sketched a map of the town with about twenty buildings, showing the mill race diverting from Bynum's Run. The Stone Chimney House is located approximately at one of the house locations, but is not possible to confirm it was the same house. In 1813, Benjamin Henry Latrobe drew a streetscape of the village, which included a tannery, a road, and several gable-roofed dwellings, primarily one-story or one-and-a-half-story tall with the exception of one two-story, four-bay side gabled dwelling which Latrobe labeled as Nolans. It is unclear if Latrobe's sketch included the Stone Chimney house.

Land records trace the development of the property to the 19th century. In 1812, John Skinner Webster, one of the partners in the Bush River Iron Works, sold eight acres to Joshua Day. In 1817, Joshua Day, who was a tanner in the town of Bush, conveyed a portion of the tract, situated on the west side of the mill race, to James Cochran. In 1843, James and Pleasant Cochran conveyed a house and other appurtenances on the parcel to Joseph Simonds. Joseph and Elizabeth Simonds then sold the property to Samuel and Susan Whiteford in 1848. Samuel Whiteford died in 1849 and was buried at Cokesbury United Methodist Church Cemetery in Abingdon. The 1860 Census records Susan Whiteford, age 56, as a real-estate-owning head of household in the Abingdon area near Captain Gibson's home. Her household includes sons Thomas, a miller, and Joseph, a laborer, as well as five minors, and a female servant. Susan's occupation appears to read "Nailer". The property appears to have then been rented because census records do not show the Whitefords occupying the property after 1860.

In 1908, Thomas Hall and William Preston were made Trustees in the case of Miranda Simonds et al. vs. Josephine Sills et al. At a public sale in 1909, Harriet Bargar purchased the parcel for \$180. It is possible that the current two-story configuration was constructed as this time, utilizing an earlier stone chimney and placing a small brick flue on top. In 1935, William C. Bargar conveyed the parcel to his niece Katherine E. Magness. In 1953, the Magness family conveyed several properties to William and Mary Mitchell. Mildred Bem acquired the property from the Mitchells in April 1970, and owned the property during its initial historic survey, selling it to Dixie Lee Sullivan and others in 1973. Sullivan conveyed it to David and Denise Ballinger in 1974, who conveyed to Peggy Clements and Larry Bank in 1996. Peggy Clements retains ownership of the 0.77-acre property.

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), assisted by Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K), completed a Phase I/II archaeological survey along MD 7 as part of a public outreach project located in the town of Bush, Harford County, Maryland. The goal of this project was to conduct an archaeological and historic landscape study of the MD 7 and MD 136 intersection in the town of Bush. The data produced from the investigation resulted in a better understanding of the history of the area, the identification of important archaeological sites, and a fuller appreciation of this historic transportation route.

Two locations within the small town of Bush were selected for this survey: Bush Tavern (Site 18HA329) and the Stone Chimney House (Site 18HA328). The Bush Tavern is located at 4014 Philadelphia Road and is mistakenly known as the George Washington Inn. The building was standing during the late 18th century when Rochambeau encamped here the 10th and 11th of September 1781 and from 24th to 29th, August 1782 during their march to and from Yorktown. The Stone Chimney House (4008 Philadelphia Road) is a contemporary of the Bush Tavern and dates from the late- 18th to early-19th century.

Testing at the Stone Chimney House (Site 18HA328) consisted of a geophysical study as well as shovel test survey. The geophysical survey included the use of GPR and magnetometry across the property. While several anomalies were identified, none were determined to represent significant buried archaeological features. The presence of chain link fence along the parcel boundary interfered with the magnetometer and there was a possibility that the interference may have obscured the presence of some features that would have otherwise been apparent. Given the geophysical study did not identify any potential archaeological deposits, a shovel test survey was conducted along the periphery of the yard in order to ascertain whether intact cultural deposits or structural features were once situated along the boundaries of the lot. The shovel test survey included the excavation of 23 shovel test pits (STPs) along the west, north, and south lot line as well as six addition STPs within the interior yard.

A total of 206 historic artifacts were recovered from STPs 1 – 23 as well as one piece of quartz debitage found in STP 22. All the artifacts recovered from these 23 STP were found within plowzone. The majority of material recovered from the shovel tests were architectural consisting of 133 heavily corroded nails, three iron tacks, and seven pieces of window glass. Fifty-four domestic artifacts were also recovered including 15 fragments of vessel glass and 39 ceramics. The ceramic assemblage consisted primarily (n=17) of whiteware with varying decorative attributes. Six pieces of pearlware were also recovered including undecorated, shell edge and hand painted varieties. Three pieces of undecorated creamware were also recovered. Additional notable artifacts recovered from these 23 STPs included a copper alloy button, two fragments of a slate pencil, a .32 caliber Smith & Wesson casing and a can & bottle opener. In addition, a variety of modern materials were also recovered including beer bottle glass and plastic. These materials were noted and discarded in the field as well as a variety of brick fragments, coal, and slag. The artifacts recovered from the 23 STPs excavated along the periphery of the lot are typical of a domestic assemblage associated with a residence that was extant since the first half of the 19th century.

A total of 129 artifacts were recovered from the STPs excavated in the southwestern yard, 101 of which were identified in either plowzone or surface fill deposits. In addition, a variety of modern materials were observed and discarded from these deposits including modern beer bottle glass, plastic, pull tabs, and modern wire nails. During the excavation of STP 501 a possible post hole was observed. No artifacts were recovered from the possible post hole. In addition to the possible post hole, a series of articulated brick pavers were also identified nearby in STP 504. Located approximately 0.5-ft. below ground surface the series of pavers corresponds with a series of two parallel linear trends Dr. Horsley identified during the GPR survey. The pavers likely represent the remains of a former garden walkway built sometime in the 20th century. The pavers may have been covered by fill associated with the excavation of the septic system located west and adjacent to the paver walkway.

The approximately 300 artifacts that were recovered from the periphery of the yard were within plowzone or modern fill contexts. As such, there were no



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discrete cultural deposits found along the periphery of the yard. In the interior yard, the majority of STPs produced 19th century cultural material, but it was largely isolated to modern fill deposits. The remains of an intact buried 19th century ground surface were observed in a small portion of the side yard (STP 501); however, additional testing in the area showed the limits of that intact surface are confined to that one location. Given the results of geophysical and shovel test survey, it was determined that a more intensive study would not result in the recovery of archaeological deposits that would contribute to the eligibility of the Stone Chimney House site.

Based on the exterior chimney, basement construction, and Rochambeau map, the Stone Chimney House was built during the last half the 18th century. In addition, artifacts dating to the 18th century are also present in the yard surrounding the house. During the 18th century, Bush was a modest but prosperous community due in large part to its location along the Philadelphia-Baltimore Post Road (MD 7) and the presence of several industries located within or in proximity to the town.

Prior to the American Revolution much of Bush, including the parcel on which the Stone Chimney House stands, was part of the holdings of the Bush River Iron Works Company and may have been associated with worker housing. The company likely built several residences within the town for workers, and those parcels not owned by the industry were developed by private individuals who established stores, taverns, and other commercial services for the inhabitants as well as those traveling along the Post Road.

The Bush River Iron Works Company dissolved in 1773, and in 1791 Bel Air replaced Bush as the seat of Harford County, further reducing the community's significance. Even by 1777 the community was described as a "very small shabby place" by the first Post Master General of the United States. When James and Pleasant Cochran moved into the Stone Chimney House it was one of 14 buildings in the small community.

The prominent 18th-century tavern of Joseph Stiles (later- Nowland's/Nolan's Tavern) was still operating during the early-19th century, and a new tavern (the Bush Tavern) had opened just to the south and was operated by James Kelley. During that time, the town also maintained at least a couple of industries, including a grist mill located opposite the Stone Chimney House on the Post Road as well as a tan yard. The mill race for the nearby grist mill extended along the north boundary of the Cochran property before crossing the Post Road to the mill; it can still be seen along the northern property boundary today.

As the 19th century progressed, Bush's prosperity continued to diminish. By 1838, the railroad between Baltimore and Philadelphia was completed, reducing the quantity of travelers utilizing the Post Road. By the late- 19th century, Harford County atlases identified just six buildings in the town, surrounded by acres of agricultural land and the 1878 Maryland Directory wholly omitted the Town of Bush from its publication. Today, the Stone Chimney House is one of only two buildings that remain from a post road community that was largely gone by the turn of the 20th century.

The assemblage recovered from the Stone Chimney Site is typical of a diffuse artifact scatter from a residence that has been continuously occupied since the late 1700s. While over 300 historic artifacts were recovered during testing, the vast majority of the material collected was identified in plowed or fill contexts.

The geophysical survey and subsequent shovel test survey around the periphery of the property did not produce any results that would indicate buried, intact structural, or other cultural deposits in the rear yard. Close interval testing in the vicinity of the house did produce some interesting results. The remains of an intact buried 19th century ground surface was observed in a small portion of the yard, however additional testing in the area showed the limits of that intact surface are confined.

A possible post hole of unknown historic temporal affiliation was also identified as well as a series of intact brick pavers associated with a walkway. Both the walkway and post hole are likely associated with garden improvements made to the property over the last 100 years. At the same time, it is possible they represent features associated with former dependencies or other improvements made to the property during the 19th century. Since no diagnostic artifacts were recovered in context with these features, it is difficult to attribute a temporal affiliation.

Given the results of geophysical and shovel test survey, it was determined that a more intensive study would be unlikely to identify any discrete artifact deposits which would provide valuable information about lives of those residents who occupied the property during the 19th century. As such, no additional archaeological testing was recommended at the Stone Chimney House (Site 18HA328) and has not been completed.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95003197, 18HA328 SF