



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO210

Site Name: Owings-Myerly House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th & 20th century house & prehistoric scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code MgB2

Latitude 39.1805

Longitude -76.9064

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 116 m

Site slope 3-15%

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed trib. of Middle Pa

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 366 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American Asian American

African American Unknown

Anglo-American Other

Hispanic

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO210

Site Name: Owings-Myerly House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th & 20th century house & prehistoric scatter

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<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"/> 1	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			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" 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

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input 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



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO210

Site Name: Owings-Myerly House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

19th & 20th century house & prehistoric scatter

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Owings-Myerly House Site (18HO210) is the remains of a 19th century rural farmstead associated with the Owings family and the nearby Simpsonville mill seat which prominent members of the family owned and managed. The site is situated on a hill just south of the Middle Patuxent River and southwest of Columbia in Howard County, Maryland. The site was initially identified as Feature 33 of the Simpsonville Archeological District (aka Simpsonville Stone ruins, 18HO80) during Phase II investigations, but was not tested at the time. See the Synopsis report for 18HO80 for a description of the Phase II work that lead to the identification of the site. The house itself, along with several outbuildings, had been demolished prior to archeological testing. Heavy equipment used in the demolition process had churned up soil near demolished structures and in some areas along a driveway. Soils at the site are Manor very stony loam and Comus silt loam.

The Owings-Myerly House was constructed of dressed granite, similar to the material used in the construction of the nearby Simpsonville mill. The structure was altered in 1917 by the addition of a substantial east wing built of rock-faced cement block, which replaced an earlier east wing. It is not clear from documentary sources who built the Owings-Myerly House or whether it was the only dwelling ever constructed on the property. William Vogel, the last owner of the property, stated that there had been an 18th century brick structure which the dressed-stone house supplanted around 1849. The property was referred to as the "Brick House Lot" in Major Henry Owings 1829 will, a possible reference to the existence of an early brick dwelling. Workmen installing a new water line in the backyard of the house uncovered quantities of buried brick in the 1970s; however, it has been speculated that this brick may have come from the east wing replaced in 1917.

Henry H. Owings inherited the property from his father Richard Owings in 1928, but it is not clear whether a dwelling existed at that time. The earliest cartographic evidence which depicts a building matching the location of the Owings-Myerly House is the Martenet Map of 1860. The map shows the residence of "Maj. H.H. Owings" at the location of the Owings-Myerly House. Major Henry H. Owings left the property to his daughter Harriet Owings Myerly upon his death in 1868. The 1878 Hopkins Map, identifies the site as the residence of John J. Myerly, husband of Harriet Owings Myerly. The property remained in the Myerly family until the mid 20th century.

Forty-five shovel tests and four 1 X 1 m test units were excavated to evaluate the site's potential as a contributing resource to the NRHP. Shovel testing of what appeared to be undisturbed areas as well as recently disturbed areas was conducted to determine the extent of disturbance. Test units were placed in yard areas as close to the site of the main house as ground disturbance and debris resulting from demolition allowed. See the synopsis report for 18HO80 for general field parameters of how the excavations were conducted. The majority of shovel test were excavated at 10 meter intervals, along north-south transects spaced 10 m apart in the yard areas. Shovel tests along east-west transect 32 were excavated at 5 m intervals in an area west of the garage site that produced some ironstone and redware ceramics. Plow scars were found in several of these shovel tests, indicating that fields had once been much closer to the house than at present and that any deposits here had been disturbed. Transect 34 consisted of four judgmental shovel tests excavated at the rear of the back yard area where some prehistoric materials were recovered. Transects 36 and 37 were judgmental tests excavated around barn ruins and in the front yard area, respectively.

Sonia Vogel, wife of the last owner of the house, indicated in an interview that a tenant house had once stood somewhere on the property. Three judgmental shovel tests, transect 35, were placed across a road from the demolished building, where it was thought the tenant house may have been located because of the presence of an isolated stand of large shade trees. No structural remains were found in this area, and the only artifact recovered was a piece of barbed wire which was discarded in the field. The last owner of the property, William Vogel, later informed the field crew that a well and a tenant house had been situated east of the main house site where two modern roads now intersect. Both buildings had been demolished during the reconfiguration of the intersection in 1984.

A shovel test excavated near the site datum encountered a deposit of bricks and cobbles in a yellowish brown sandy loam layer immediately below humic topsoil. Test unit 1 was placed in the backyard just west of the shovel test to determine whether the bricks came from an intact feature. Excavation in unit 1 exposed a small portion of a poured cement floor feature; test unit 4 was placed contiguous to unit 1 to expose more of this feature. Other artifacts encountered in the test units and STPs at 18HO210 include 2 fragments of sewer pipe, numerous brick fragments, several pieces of window glass, 4 cut nails, 5 unidentifiable nail fragments, 1 sherd of blue and white Delftware, 1 piece of bottle glass, 2 pieces of oyster shell, three prehistoric secondary quartz flakes, and 2 prehistoric early stage rhyolite bifaces.

Test excavations at the Owings-Myerly Site (18HO210) revealed no significant contributing resources. The construction of an addition to the house around 1917 probably disturbed intact deposits which may have existed adjacent to the structure. Also, excavation for water and/or sewer pipes occurred in the backyard area on at least two occasions according to local informants. Installation of these pipes undoubtedly disturbed any intact deposits around the house. Further disturbance of any remaining intact deposits around the house was caused by the demolition of the structure just prior to road extension work in the 1990s. Consequently, the site has no remaining research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005856, 00005879