



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO211

Site Name: Johnson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th century farmstead & prehistoric lithic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code MIA

Latitude 39.1893

Longitude -76.9032

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 109 m

Site slope 3-8%

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) Middle Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 152 m

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

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

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken U

U

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken



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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		Staffordshire		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

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" 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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Johnson Site (18HO211) is the remains of a 19th century rural farmstead associated with the nearby Simpsonville mill. 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 30 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. This work took place in late 1988 and early 1989 and was related to the construction of a new bridge over the Middle Patuxent River and associated road improvements. At that time, the site was described as a concentration of multiple structural foundations. Due to its distance from the mill seat, and its nature as a small, rural farmstead, the area was designated a separate site (18HO211) related to the Simpsonville mill seat. Soils at the site are Manor very stony loam and Comus silt loam.

Because much of the site was within the right of way for the road expansion project (see above and the synopsis report for 18HO80), a determination was made to conduct additional Phase II evaluation at the Johnson Site. Eighty shovel tests and six 1 X 1 m test units were excavated, recovering material dating largely from the late 19th to the later 20th century. Evaluative testing indicated that the Johnson Site represents the remains of a historic homestead or small farmstead dating from the late 19th or early 20th century to the later 20th century.

Chain-of-title research undertaken as part of the mitigation investigations revealed that the site had been part of a property owned by Major Henry H. Owings. At his death in 1869, he left a portion of his property (which included the site) to his son, Richard B. Owings. In 1916, Richard Owings conveyed 175.75 acres of land to Samuel and Ellen Z. Scott. Entries for Samuel Scott's account appear in the ledgers of the nearby Iglehart general store during this period. Eighty-five of the acres the Scotts acquired were conveyed to Rudolph Maurer in 1929, who, in turn, sold the same parcel to C. Lawrence and Genevieve O'Donnell in 1934. The next conveyance of property involving the site that research was able to locate occurred in 1947, when Irene H. Johnson and Martha Groomes Johnson acquired the property from Eunice Johnson. And from that point on, the property remained in the ownership of members of the Johnson family and their descendants. While chain-of-title research documents the succession of owners of the property on which the Johnson Site is situated, it did not reveal when buildings were first erected on the site, or who may have actually lived there (It may have served as a tenant property much of the time).

Prior to the start of testing, the site was cleared of a dense cover of shrubs, brambles, and trees so that surface features could be defined and mapped. The site was found to encompass four stone foundations, including a stone-lined cellar, as well as several other structural and topographic features, all of which were outside the right-of-way for the bridge/highway project. Features 4 and 6, stone foundations measuring 5 ½ X 4 ½ m and 4 ½ X 3 ½ m, respectively, located north and northwest of the main house foundation, are interpreted as outbuildings, although artifactual material recovered did not indicate what their exact function may have been. Feature 5 situated between Features 4 and 6, was a square topographic depression with large cobbles marking its four corners and an upright stone pier standing along the southern edge of the impression. Fallen brick, and remnants of wooden planks were strewn on the ground within the bounds of the feature. Auto parts lying on the surface in this area indicate that Feature 5 may have been used as a garage. Feature 3 was a concrete covered cistern/well with an adjoining concrete trough. Because of the weight of the cover over the cistern, it could not be lifted for examination. To the east of, and downslope from, the main house foundation, Feature 7 was a collapsed, metal-roofed shed. This feature was interpreted as an animal pen of some sort because wire similar to that often used on chicken coops was found attached to some of the structural members. Feature 8 was a topographic depression located east of the main house. Shovel test 10.6, excavated within the eastern extent of this feature, encountered a gravelly deposit of dark yellowish brown sandy clay, which produced two pieces of ceramic drain pipe, along with several other historic artifacts. The precise function of this feature could not be determined. Feature 9 was a rubble terrace surrounded by upright stone and concrete piers. It is likely that this feature served as the base for a small shed built on the slope here.

Shovel testing was undertaken to determine the limits of the site, as well as to identify any subsurface features or deposits which might merit further investigation. STPs were excavated along transects until there was a significant decrease in the number of artifacts found or no artifacts recovered. Supplemental systematic shovel tests were dug at 5 m intervals around some transects to the east and north of the site where the artifact count in the last test along the systematic transect dropped markedly, but was not sufficiently low to end testing. Transect 10 consisted of six judgmental shovel tests excavated in and around areas and features where systematic testing had not been conducted or where more information than was yielded by systematic testing was desired.

Shovel testing indicated that potentially significant site deposits are largely confined to the area between the main house (Features 1 and 2) and what are interpreted as the remains of outbuildings (Features 4, 5, and 6). From east to west, deposits are confined to the area between the cistern/well (Feature 3) and the remnants of a collapsed, metal-roofed shed (Feature 7). The majority of artifacts were recovered from areas adjacent to site features. No potentially significant resources were identified within the right-of-way. Positive shovel tests within the right-of-way recovered a small number of unidentifiable nails, or bottle glass fragments, with no more than 2 to 3 artifacts per test, with the exception of shovel test 2.5, which produced over 80 artifacts. Most of the artifacts (63) were glass bottle fragments. Surrounding shovel tests which produced relatively few artifacts suggest that some if not all of the material from shovel test 2.5 may be present as the result of slope wash. Four 1 X 1 m test units were established in and adjacent to the main house foundation and two more were excavated in the vicinity of Feature 4, based on the distributions seen in shovel testing.

Artifacts mentioned in the full site report (exhaustive descriptions and site-level summary tables are not available) include approximately 11 activity items (a glass marble, auto parts, and 8 stable items), 204 architectural objects (brick, wooden planks, window glass, cut nails, wire nails, unidentified nails, 1 hinge, at least 2 pieces of poultry wire, a door knob, a door lock, an electrical box, and 2 ceramic drain pipe fragments), 101 kitchen-related artifacts (4 pieces of ironstone, 1 pearlware sherd, glass fragments, and 4 crown caps), 13 miscellaneous objects (melted glass, quartzite fragments, and charcoal), and 7 prehistoric objects (1 flake and 6 unidentified items).

Archeological testing and cartographic evidence indicate that the main house foundation was constructed in the late 19th or very early 20th century. Shovel test 7.3, excavated just southwest of the well/cistern, encountered backdirt from the excavation for a well. Two coins, a 1935 and a 1936 penny, were recovered from this backdirt, indicating that the excavation for the well occurred after 1936; however, no data were recovered that would indicate when the site was abandoned. This determination is hampered by post-abandonment activities at the site. A concentration of household trash in plastic garbage bags was found in the overgrown drive leading up to the site. The area around the foundations is littered with objects, including auto parts, a partially dismantled washing machine, and metal bedsprings, which may have been deposited after abandonment. In addition, dozens of aluminum beer cans and beer bottles were strewn across the site, indicating it has been used recently for drinking activities. Post-abandonment artifacts have become mixed with the humic topsoil



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**Brief
Description:**

Unknown

horizon, making it difficult to determine the date of abandonment.

Test Unit 1 and Shovel Test 4.7 exposed a layer of plaster beneath a layer of ash deposited from the burning of the main house. This points to a post-abandonment fire, as this deposit would appear to be the result of deterioration of the wall before the structure burned.

Evaluative testing at the Johnson Site (18HO211) has demonstrated the presence of undisturbed historic archeological deposits outside the right-of-way. Artifacts indicate that these deposits date from the late 19th to at least the mid 20th century. This span of occupation coincides with the later years of operation of the Simpsonville mill and general store. The name of at least one individual, Samuel Scott, who owned the property from 1916 to 1929, appears in the Iglehart store ledgers from this period. The archeological resources of the Johnson Site have the potential to contribute significant information concerning the Simpsonville district during its period of decline.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):