



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18HO249

Site Name: Griffith Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 18th-Late 20th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1251

Longitude -76.8495

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 84 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) Unnamed tributary of Patux

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 30 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Y

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

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial 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

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	
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"/>	1	Tin Glazed	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Whiteware	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>		93	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	83	North Devon		Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Pearlware	11	Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	95	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	1	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	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"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input 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		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1036	Activity item(s)	6
Glass (all)	328	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	923	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	322
Arms	2	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	5	Misc.	1384
Personal items	1	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Griffith Farm (18HO249) is the archeological remains of a Late 18th-Late 20th century farmstead north of Laurel in Howard County. The site is situated on a wooded upland flat overlooking an unnamed, spring-fed tributary of the Patuxent River. The site, and much of the surrounding landscape was plowed during the historic period and historic maps indicated 18th and 19th century occupation of the property. Soils at the site are Woodstown sandy loams and Sassafras loams.

A tract known as "Hopewell" was patented on November 10th, 1707 by William Lacey of Talbot County. Lacey sold the rights to this land to Thomas Davis in 1727. Also in 1727, a Richard Nelson patented the "Rainbow" tract, which he soon sold to Nicholas Ridgeway. Ridgeway sold the Rainbow tract to Thomas Davis in 1729. Thomas Sappington patented "Sappington's Sweep" in 1765 and Davis' Hill in 1732. The historic farmstead known as the Griffith farm was pieced together from portions of these tracts.

At the death of Thomas Davis, Amos Davis, Thomas' son inherited his father's land.

Amos' wife Mary owned 200 acres of Sappington's Sweep, to which Amos added an additional 57.5 acres of that tract purchased from Thomas Sappington. Amos Davis would eventually sell over 500 acres to Henry Griffith of Montgomery County. A deed recorded in November 1811 between Mary Davis, widow of Amos Davis and Thomas Griffith (heir of Henry Griffith) specifies the Griffith family tract as being: Lacey's Hopewell (200 acres), Nelson's Rainbow (100 acres), Davis Hills (50 acres), and Sappington's Sweep (290 acres). This deed resulted from a Chancery case where Henry Griffith sued Amos Davis claiming Davis sold all of this land to him in 1783.

The earliest direct evidence of anyone living on the property that includes the site comes from the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment. At that time, Henry Griffith owned the land. In the assessment, a tenant named Thomas Jeffries is named. The tract was improved by a one storey wooden house measuring 20 feet by 16 feet. There was also a 24 by 12 foot outbuilding. In the 1809 will of Henry Griffith, the land was given to Thomas Griffith. In the will it was stated that Thomas was already living on the tract. It is likely that Thomas Griffith moved into the same house that Thomas Jeffries had rented sometime between 1798 and 1809. Jeffries would have been on the land as a tenant farmer. Thomas Griffith undoubtedly farmed the land once he moved onto the property.

Thomas Griffith divided the land in his will of 1839. The portion that includes Site 18HO249 was inherited by Thomas D. Griffith. The land that Thomas D. Griffith owned at his death in 1863 was surveyed as 3 lots. Lot 1 contained 127 acres, Lot 2 had 120 acres, and Lot 3 had 132 acres for a total of 379 acres. Thomas D. Griffith died in 1863 leaving a widow, Charlotte, and 9 children. Because of unpaid mortgages, the land of Thomas D. Griffith was sold at public auction. The farm was purchased by a Christopher Rappanier and was then sold to Chauncey and Mary Weston. The location of the Weston property is depicted on an 1878 Atlas.

Irma Heller purchased the land of Chauncey and Mary Weston in 1909. Heller sold the land in two pieces, a total of 250 acres, to Siegfried Kofler. A William and Blanche Dobbins bought this land from Siegfried Kofler. The Williams sold the land to Vincent Dawson in 1926. In 1951 the Dawsons sold the land that included the site to Walter Green and his wife. Four years later, John and Mary Roberts bought 110.74 acres from the Greens. In 1986, George Revitz and others purchased 91.946 acres from Roberts. The Revitz tract was acquired by Howard Research and Development Corporation (or their predecessors) in two parts known as the "House Lot" and the "Church Lot". It appears that the property was farmed from its first occupation (around the time of the 1798 Direct Tax) until it was abandoned in the 1970s.

Phase I work in March of 2002 first identified 18HO249. The Phase I work was carried out as part of the process of complying with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The process was initiated when Howard Research and Development Corporation applied for a federal wetland permit to develop the area into an industrial park.

Phase I work entailed the excavation of 191 shovel test pits (STPs) at 15.24 m (50 ft) intervals across the site area. Seven foundation remnants were identified, ranging from the 19th to the late 20th centuries. These included a stone house foundation, indicating a farmhouse which was in place by at least the mid 19th century, a stone bank barn foundation, and another barn likely constructed of log and dating to the 19th century. Other foundations included a concrete block outbuildings and a possible subterranean fallout shelter.

Artifacts recovered during Phase I work included activity items like vinyl record fragments, plastic toys, and automobile parts, architectural remains such as 73 nails (6 cut, 10 wire), 52 window glass fragments, 30 brick fragments, clothing remains (buttons), kitchen-related artifacts (8 pearlware sherds, 2 creamware, 1 porcelain, 1 ironstone, 16 whiteware sherds, 9 redware, 3 stoneware), bullet cases, and pipe stems. The site was found to have been subject to disturbances through earth moving and continued occupation. Most of the materials found were late 20th century. However, in the northern portion of the site, late 18th and early 19th century artifacts were found. The relative quantity of artifacts and the fact that this distribution was more or less discrete from other, later materials on the property suggested that this area might retain some integrity below the plowzone. Phase II testing of the site was recommended before issuance of the wetlands permit.

In addition to Site 18HO249, the All Saints Church site (18HO250) was also identified. It was determined to have two few remains associated with it to warrant additional research. These sites correspond to some degree with the "House Lot" and "Church Lot" properties purchased by Howard Research and Development.

Phase II work at 18HO249 later in 2002 and entailed the excavation of sixteen 76.2 X 152.4 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) test units across the site. Placement of the units was decided initially by the findings of the Phase I study. Testing was targeted where late 18th century artifact had been found. Also, a metal detector was used to determine where ferrous metal was concentrated on the assumption that most of these pieces would be nails. Fortunately, the iron concentration anomalies and the results of the Phase I study overlapped and a transect of units (each spaced 1.524 m or 5 ft apart) was placed through this area. Additional units were then dug on either side of the transect to gain additional understanding of the site.

Excavation proceeded in natural stratigraphic layers. All soil was removed in layers and screened through hardware cloth. All recovered artifacts were placed in bags marked with appropriate provenience data. All potential features were numbered, mapped, and photographed. Soil profile drawings were made for each test unit. Soil descriptions used standard nomenclature and methods to record texture, color, and artifact content. Not all features were excavated. With



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the goals of the Phase II being to determine if intact significant deposits existed at the site, total feature excavation was beyond the research design of the study. Of the 14 numbered features identified (natural and cultural), 11 were excavated. Two of 5 cultural features were excavated. The remaining cultural features were similar in appearance and, hence, were attributed to similar functions as already excavated features.

Moisture content differences in the soil resulted in the excavation of the plowzone as two layers, but these were combined for analysis. Below the plowzone, a total of 14 features were mapped. Besides plow scars, three features identified as post holes and one other probable cultural feature (of unknown function) were present. The other stains were interpreted as root stains. The 4 historic cultural features were all adjacent to the areas of greatest artifact concentration.

The Phase II historic assemblage consisted of 768 architectural artifacts (329 brick fragments, 276 pieces of window glass, 1 wrought nail, 5 cut nails, 157 unidentified nails), 3 clothing items (buttons), 996 ceramic sherds, 322 miscellaneous kitchen and domestic artifacts (mostly container glass, 8 oyster shell fragments, a cow tooth, and 8 large mammal bones), 1 personal object (a white ceramic bead), 26 tobacco pipe fragments (22 stems and 4 bowls), and 1384 miscellaneous objects (21 ecofacts, 2 pieces of coal, 1305 cinders, and 56 indeterminable items). The ceramic assemblage consisted of 6 Jackfield, 1 Chelsea, 81 creamware, 261 pearlware, 77 whiteware, 31 yellowware, 107 miscellaneous earthenware, 377 redware, 10 porcelain, 1 semi-porcelain, 1 slip-covered stoneware, 11 gray salt-glazed stoneware, 2 brown slat-glazed stoneware, and 11 buff salt-glazed stoneware sherds.

A small component of prehistoric materials was also identified during the Phase II study. This component consisted of 97 artifacts and all of the material was recovered from the plowzone. The prehistoric assemblage consisted of a quartzite biface, 1 chert flake, 16 quartz flakes, 77 other pieces of debitage, a steatite bowl fragment and 2 other unidentifiable piece of steatite. The nature of the debitage suggests a short-term camp where lithic reduction occurred. The steatite bowl fragment suggests occupation at the ne of the Late Archaic when such bowls were in common use. No other temporal diagnostic items were found. The recovery exclusively from the plowzone and the lack of prehistoric features suggest that the prehistoric deposit has little research potential.

The artifacts recovered from the historic portion of 18HO249 date the occupation between ca. 1780 and 1850. The lack of scratch blue, white salt-glazed stoneware, and Buckley strongly indicate no occupation prior to the Revolutionary War. The lack of ironstone and semi-porcelains indicate abandonment prior to the Civil War.

Architectural items indicate that buildings once stood on the site. The types of materials, nails, window glass, and limited brick suggest a frame building. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment identified the site as having a frame house and outbuilding. Features from at least one of these buildings were found during excavation. Three features (the postholes) were believed to be associated with these buildings.

It is clear that the site was a residence. This is evident from both archival records and the artifacts. Besides the architectural items, a number of domestic objects were also found. Ceramics and glass of various types include food preparation and storage containers, table wares, and other household items.

In spite of the findings of features and artifacts, no midden deposits or other sources of artifacts with good context were identified at 18HO249. In fact, Phase II testing revealed extensive disturbance throughout most of the site from past agricultural, demolition, and grading activities. Based on these findings, it was determined that the site had little potential to yield information beyond what had already been learned during Phase II work. The wetland permit was issued and the site is likely no longer extant.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001483, Site Files