



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18KE180

Site Name: Molloy House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th century frame house

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MtB

Latitude 39.2027

Longitude -76.0547

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation <20 m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Chester River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 122 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric 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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

N

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

N



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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"/>	14	Tin Glazed	4	English Brown
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	Porcelain	77	Nottingham
Creamware	151	North Devon			Rhenish
		Pearlware			Wt Salt-glazed
					6

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"/>	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)	569	Activity item(s)	92
Glass (all)	484	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	822	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	123
Arms	14	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	8	Misc.	122
Personal items	2	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"/>	porch footings	
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 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:

Molloy House (18KE180) is an 18th century dwelling located in Chestertown, Kent County. The house sits at a northwest-southeast orientation along the bank of the Chester River on High Street. One of Chestertown's most attractive and least altered 18th century frame houses, the Molloy House is notable chiefly for its brick gable ends (only the southeast end is exposed), beaded siding, and the unusual arrangement of the facade. The first story has five bays and is symmetrical, but the second has four unevenly spaced windows. William Harris purchased this lot, No. 7, for 500 pounds from the estate of William Sluby, a founder of Washington College. Harris owned the lot between 1801 and 1821 and is responsible for erecting and probably enlarging the house which remains today. It is an example of an artisan's or tradesman's house. It was estimated that there had been two separate additions, toward the river, to a very small original structure. The house had several owners between 1821 and 1958. Dorothy D. Molloy purchased the house in 1958. The late Mrs. Molloy transferred her house to the Maryland Historical Trust in 1971 and bequeathed funds for restoration work, upon her death.

Restorations at the Molloy House were scheduled by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), under whose jurisdiction the state owned property falls, when it was determined that the proposed restoration activities might have an adverse impact on cultural resources. Therefore, archeological investigations of the potential areas of effect were undertaken during a 3 day period in 1977. Work started in the area of the non-extant front porch. This included cleaning up recent debris and exposing the original porch surface features. Also, the location of the original porch floor joist support holes was documented on a profile drawing of the Molloy House lower elevation. A test unit measuring 4.145 x 2.13 m (13'6"x7') was excavated. Features contained within the unit included portions of an earlier brick sidewalk, the infilled porch area, and visible post supports of brick and concrete. Excavation of the fill revealed children's toys and other domestic refuse the dates of which suggested that the fill episode occurred no earlier than the first decade of the 20th century. Visual inspection of the Molloy House cellar front wall indicated that a former cellar entranceway once existed in the area covered by the brick sidewalk on the east side of the front of the house.

Excavations were continued at the location of a brick patio at the rear and east side of the house. Subsequent to the removal of the brick patio, a test unit was excavated in the area outlined by the bricks. No dimensions were stated in the site report but it appears from the planview of the area that the unit measured roughly 3.96 x 1.98 m (13x6.5 ft). A depth of 30.48 cm (1 ft) was reached before a fill level was encountered. The top of the fill was a gray ash and cinder layer apparently added to level the ground surface prior to laying the brick for the modern patio. The fill contained numerous early 20th century artifacts and possibly a few late 19th items. The second fill level, which consisted of brown soil, contained numerous earlier artifacts. The excavations halted at the base of the second fill level.

Excavations were also conducted on the west side of the house in an alleyway leading from the main street to the backyard. The area has had prior disturbance as a result of various utility line installations. The surface was shovel skimmed to a depth of 30.48 cm below grade. Five adjacent units exposed an area measuring roughly 10.21 x 2.895 m (33.5x9.5 ft) in total size. Two trenches were excavated across the unit. Trench 1 measured approximately 1.98 x 0.3048 m (6.5x1 ft) and was located in the southern portion of the alleyway. It exposed water and sewer lines. Trench 2 measured approximately 1.524 x 0.3048 m (5x1 ft) and was located in the northern half of the alleyway. A brick-paved area was located in the southern half of the alleyway and was thought to be the only intact historic remains in that area. The unit and trench dimensions were obtained from planview drawings located in the original site report because they were not noted in the text.

Test pits were dug along the rear of the house in order to verify the nature of the fill. The excavators wanted to verify that the brown fill level identified during the excavations of the brick patio area at the rear and east side of the house did represent an early occupation. Soils from those tests were not screened nor were artifacts collected.

A total of 1,895 artifacts were recovered from 3 areas of the site during the investigations at the Molloy House. The front porch area contained 379 artifacts, the patio area contained 1,070 artifacts, and the west alleyway contained 446 artifacts. Analysis of the material indicated that all artifact types appeared in all 3 areas. There were, however, 2 unusually skewed distributions. First, only 2.6% of the ceramic sherds were found in the front porch area. Second, the southern half of the east patio (what would be the southeast corner of the house) contained 48.7% of the bone and shell recovered from the site. Ceramics associated with the house ranged in date from the mid-late 18th century (ca. 1785) to the present. There were 13 sherds in the collection that dated to before 1785 although these types (early creamware, tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware and scratch blue, and black basalt ware) have generally accepted production dates into the third quarter of the 18th century.

Given the few exceptions noted above, it was determined that the artifacts recovered from the site could be listed together since all artifact types appeared in all investigated areas. The assemblage included 92 activity items (24 glass marbles, 1 red clay marble, 1 cast metal toy railroad engine, 1 miniature clay pipe presumed to be a toy, 1 ceramic game counter, 1 piece of blackboard chalk, 15 flower pot sherds, 43 chimney glass fragments, 1 piece of light bulb glass, 1 modern insulator, 2 garden trowels, 1 garden hose nozzle piece). There were 822 architectural items (6 brick fragments, 274 pieces of window glass, 81 cut nails, 115 wire nails, 8 roofing nails, 274 unidentified nails, 4 possible carpet tacks, 5 fragments of mortar and 5 pieces of plaster with adhering paint, 2 chunks of cement with adhering paint, 3 screws, 1 screen door fastener, 3 pieces of tin flashing with attached wire nails, 2 floor board fragments, 1 piece of painted wood trim, 1 iron door latch, 2 metal washers, 1 hook, 1 metal pipe length, 1 porcelain door knob, 32 ceramic pipe fragments). Eight clothing items were recovered (1 bone button, 3 milk glass buttons, 1 brass button, 2 shell buttons, 1 sleeve garter buckle). A single furniture item was found (a curtain rod bracket). In all, 834 kitchen-related items were retrieved from the site (138 bottle glass and 4 table glass fragments, 569 ceramic sherds (1 Rockingham, 2 buff-bodied earthenware, 111 red-bodied earthenware, 151 creamware, 186 pearlware, 53 porcelain, 24 Chinese export porcelain, 1 semi-porcelain, 2 Black Basalt ware, 14 ironstone, 1 tin-glazed earthenware, 3 Scratch Blue, 6 white salt-glazed stoneware, 11 gray stoneware, 3 unidentified stoneware), 1 milk glass lid liner fragment, 1 modern bottle cap, 115 animal bone fragments, 6 oyster shells and shell fragments). There were 122 miscellaneous items (68 unidentified glass shards, 27 unidentified fragments of metal or metal objects, 1 unidentified worked wood item with paint remnant, 1 piece of isinglass (possibly mica), 7 wood fragments, 3 pieces of slate, 4 pieces of charcoal and 3 pieces of coal, 8 unidentified pieces of flint). Only 2 personal items were recorded (a rubber comb and an 1898 Indian Head penny). The 14 tobacco-related items that were recovered included 10 ceramic pipe stem fragments and 4 bowl fragments.

Molloy House (18KE180) is an 18th century dwelling representing an artisan's or tradesman's house. Information gained during the archeological investigations at the front of the house was used to guide restoration activities of the porch area. The patio area located to the east and rear of the house was not to be impacted by the proposed restoration activities but it was recommended that it should be recorded for future reference. The area of the alleyway on the west side of the house was determined to be highly disturbed and therefore unlikely to contain intact remains. A single section of brick walkway was all that remained of the original surface of the alleyway but it may be used to guide restoration activities in that area. It was suggested by the archeologists that

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Historic

Brief
Description:

Unknown

should restoration of the original cellar entranceway be undertaken, archeological investigations should be conducted to assure the recovery of significant data. Recent photos of the property show the exterior restored to its early appearance by the Trust.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):