



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number:
Site Name:
 Prehistoric
 Other name(s)
 Historic
 Unknown
Brief Description:

Site Location and Environmental Data:
 Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No.
 SCS soil & sediment code
 Latitude Longitude
 Physiographic province
 Terrestrial site Underwater site
 Elevation 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		Ownership	
Floodplain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High terrace <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hilltop/bluff <input type="checkbox"/>	Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/>	Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	
Interior flat <input type="checkbox"/>	Hillslope <input type="checkbox"/>	State of MD <input type="checkbox"/>	
Upland flat <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Regional/county/city <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ridgetop <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
Terrace <input type="checkbox"/>			
Low terrace <input type="checkbox"/>			

Nearest Surface Water
 Name (if any)

Saltwater	Freshwater
Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>	Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/>
Estuary/tidal 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 m

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples	Soil samples taken	Historic context samples	Soil samples taken
Flotation samples taken <input type="checkbox"/>	Other samples taken <input type="text"/>	Flotation samples taken <input type="text" value="N"/>	Other samples taken <input type="text"/>



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Brief Description:

18th century house

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"/>	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"/>
	15					Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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			
Pottery (all)	47	Tobacco related	1
Glass (all)	29	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	28	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	15
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	30
		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 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 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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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief

Description:

18th century house

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Historical Society of Kent County

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Geddes-Piper House (18KE233) is a standing late 18th century dwelling. The site is located in Chestertown, Kent County. The house lot was originally purchase by William Geddes sometime just after 1755. Geddes was the King's Customs Inspector for the region and he was also a merchant, possibly the owner of the brigantine 'Geddes' that docked at Chestertown Harbor. Archival research indicated that a freestanding building stood on the property by ca. 1730. Geddes sold the lot to James Moor who in turn sold it to a merchant named James Piper. It was Piper who built the extant Philadelphia-style 3 1/2 story brick house in ca. 1784. The house changed hands several times, until it was purchased by George Burgin Westcott during the early 1830's. In 1834, Prescott added a rear extension to the back portion of the house containing the dining room. The Westcotts lived in the house until 1910. After that, it was a kindergarten for a time, and later an apartment building.

After several decades of neglect, the Historical Society of Kent County (HSKC) purchased the house ca. 1965 and it is currently the location of their headquarters. Over a 7 or 8 year period, the HSKC undertook the restoration of the building. It was then allocated a Federal "matching" grant for further restoration through the Maryland Historic Preservation Office, from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Archeological evaluation of the property was required under Federal grant rules prior to the continued restoration activities. Excavations were conducted in the fall and winter of 1975. The main goal of the archeological investigations was to determine the change through time in the function of the cellar. It was thought that at one time the main room of the cellar served as the kitchen (between about 1770 and 1830). The Historical Society wanted to restore the cellar to its earlier configuration and set it up for visitors to view. Other aims of the archeological study were to date the construction of the house and addition, to discover evidence of changes in function of room space through time, and to test the hypothesis that the floor level in the kitchen was originally lower, permitting more head room than is currently available.

In order to accomplish these goals, 4 test units (Squares 1-4) were excavated in the house cellar. Three rooms were identified in the space: adjacent Rooms 1 and 3 at the north end of the building and Room 2 in the southern half of the building. Room 2 contained a kitchen fireplace along the east wall and a large furnace pit in the center of the room. Square 1 measured about 2.59 x 1.219 m (8.5x4 ft) and was located in Room 1. Square 2 measured about 1.219 x 1.37 m (4x4.5 ft) and was located in Room 2. Square 3 measured about 1.524 x 1.066 m (5x3.5 ft) and was located in Room 2. Square 4 measured about 1.219 m² (4x4 ft) and was located in Room 3. Prior to the square excavations, the basement floor was cleared of all debris. It was discovered that the entire basement floor was laid with hydraulic concrete. The concrete varied in thickness from 3.81 cm to 10.16 cm (1.5 to 4 in) and in several areas was easily removed with pick axe and trowel. It was estimated that the concrete floor was laid ca. 1860.

Excavations in Room 1, Square 1 revealed a herringbone-patterned brick floor beneath the concrete floor. The bricks appeared to have been laid well with only millimeters between them. They varied in length, thickness, and width. No artifacts were encountered between the overlying concrete floor and the brick floor. Bricks were removed from the northern half of the square revealing a layer of sand beneath. Below that layer, bricks that formed an L-shape were encountered (referred to as the "L" feature). Further excavation showed that the bricks did not form a floor surface but rather, they were confined to a small area and were 4 courses deep. The bricks were interpreted to be the remains of a floor drain built during the early phases of occupation. The outside building wall and an interior brick partition wall formed the other sides of the square structure. Inside the "L" feature, the fill was excavated about 20.32 cm (8 in). The fill consisted of sandy silt and numerous artifacts were recovered. Based on the artifact types, it was determined that the feature was filled in sometime between 1820 and 1830, or just prior to the laying of the brick floor. The timeline appeared to coincide with construction of the rear addition to the house. Outside the "L" feature, sand was found underlying the brick floor; no artifacts were encountered. Excavation only went down a few centimeters outside the "L" feature and the fill of the feature was not excavated down to undisturbed deposits.

Plans for the renovation included the construction of a sump pump in the cellar. The cellar has a history of retaining water and it was decided that a pump would be useful for water removal and humidity control. At the time that the archeological investigations were being conducted, a 0.762 m (2.5 ft) diameter by 1.524 m (5 ft) deep hole was dug for the sump pump. Below the brick floor, several cm of sand were encountered above a heavy clay layer. No artifacts were found. According to the text in the original site report, the sump pit was placed in Room 2. However, the planview drawing of the archeological excavations places the sump pit in Room 1. Based on further information gleaned from the text, it appears more likely that the sump pit was located in Room 1.

Excavations in Room 2, Square 2 revealed a series of two brick floors. The test square encompassed a portion of the concrete floor and a portion of the furnace pit. The furnace pit was cut into the concrete floor and appeared to contain a drain or old sump pit. It was known to the archeologists that the furnace pit had in the recent past been filled in and bricked over. The bricks were dry laid in an alternating pair pattern. Although fairly recent, a portion of the fill from the furnace pit was sampled. Several brick fragments were encounter, many of which were glazed on one surface or were carbon blackened and/or had adhering mortar. Ash was also a noted component of the fill along with more recent and older materials. It was suggested that the fill may have come from the enlargement of the crawl space under the addition during earlier renovations. The fully exposed furnace pit measured 2.99 x 2.46 m and was 0.736 m deep (118x97x29 in). When the furnace pit wall was knocked out to aid in excavation of the second half of Square 2, a second and earlier brick floor was uncovered. This sat approximately 15.24 cm (6 in) below the later brick floor. The second floor was laid with irregular half bricks roughly aligned in rows, with spaces of up to 1.27 cm (0.5 in) between the bricks. Fragments from what appeared to be a cast iron pot were lying on the surface of the brick floor. A section of the second brick floor was removed. Below it, a manmade clay layer was encountered from which several artifacts were recovered. Underlying the clay layer was a layer of sand with small bivalve shell inclusions. A few artifacts were found in the sand layer. The sand layer came down on top of undisturbed subsoil into which the builder's trench for the partition wall was identified. The trench was filled with stone creating a footing for the wall. The total depth of the footing could not be determined due to water seepage into the test square, but it appeared to extend down for at least 0.3048 m (1 ft). The artifacts indicated a construction date of sometime after 1760. Soil samples were taken from all excavated levels within Square 2.

Square 3 was placed so as to test the opposite side of Room 2 from Square 2. The brick floor that was encountered in Squares 1 and 2 was also encountered in Square 3 thereby indicating that the herringbone-patterned floor was laid down at one time. No artifacts were found in the sand layer below the brick floor. Underlying the sand level was a manmade layer of clay containing charcoal flecks. Three bricks were found set into the clay that possibly served as a footing for the landing or other structural feature. These bricks were reached at the same level as the second floor found in Square 2. Below the clay layer, a layer of sand was encountered that contained brick fragments and creamware sherds. The excavation of Square 3 could not be completed to undisturbed soils because of water intrusion.

A small test hole measuring about 25.4 x 20.32 cm (10x8 in) was placed in the area of the stair landing located in Room 2. A hard concrete layer, possibly laid



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18th century house

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from left over material used to build the furnace pit, sat atop the earlier concrete layer. Once the more recent concrete layer was removed, and the underlying earlier concrete layer, the uppermost brick floor found in the rest of the room was encountered.

Excavations of Square 4 in Room 3 exposed a section of a brick floor that was characteristically dissimilar to the upper floor level encountered in the other test squares. It was laid in a staggered parallel pattern, and the sand underlying it was inconsistent with that underlying the floor in the other two rooms. The manmade clay layer was identified below the sand layer and contained a few artifacts. There was no evidence of a second brick floor in this square. It was hypothesized that, since the third room could be closed off by a door, it was used as a cold storage room, and had a sand floor during the early occupation of the house. Then, in the mid-19th century the floor was surfaced with brick. Square 4 was located on the opposite side of the partition wall from Square 2. However, unlike what was encountered in Square 2, a builder's trench and stone footing were not found in Square 4. Instead, the bricks in the partition wall were stepped out. The first step projected out about 4.4 cm (1.75 in). The second step was located by probing into the water-filled unit but anything beyond that could not be investigated.

No artifact inventory for the site was provided in the original report. Types of artifacts were inconsistently noted throughout the text. Therefore, the artifact totals listed here and in the table above should be considered minimum estimates and an incomplete accounting of the artifact types likely encountered during the archeological investigations. An estimated 145 historic artifacts were recovered from the site. Architectural items (n=28) consisted of 20 brick fragments, one with a "UNIVERS..." stamping, 5 window glass shards, 1 roof shingle, and 2 samples of concrete. There were 86 kitchen-related items (22 bottle and table glass fragments, 2 milk bottles, 10 unidentified ceramics, 10 Mocha ware, 15 creamware, 11 glazed red earthenware, 1 white earthenware (possibly creamware), 3 pieces of a cast iron pot, 10 animal bone fragments, and 2 oyster shell fragments). There were 30 miscellaneous items (10 modern materials, 4 pieces of coal, 2 pieces of charcoal, 4 pebbles, 10 unidentified miscellaneous items). A single pipe stem fragment was retrieved.

The Geddes Piper House (18KE233) is a standing late 18th century dwelling that is currently the headquarters of the Historical Society of Kent County. In order to achieve their goal of restoring the original ca. 1770-1830 kitchen located in the cellar of the building, the Historical Society needed to remove a 19th century concrete floor, an underlying brick floor, a sand layer, and a final clay layer. The extent of a lower, earlier brick floor identified in Room 2 was not fully determined by the investigations. It was recommended that the brick floor be removed archeologically and that evidence for lower floors be examined at that time. It is not known what other archeological studies, if any, occurred at the site following the initial testing. Currently, the basement has three display areas including the kitchen, as well as a laundry and keeping room, and a hall with cases of Native American artifacts, early iron implements, hanging hay rakes, tools and early lamps. It is unclear if the brick floor was removed and if the earlier floor was uncovered throughout the basement. Artifacts, field notes, and photographs from the 1975 excavation remain in the possession of the Historical Society.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00005916