



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18KE370

Site Name: Charles Sumner Post No. 25

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Chestertown Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Lodge

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th century artifact scatter, Late 19th to 20th century community hall

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.2098 Longitude -76.0584
Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site Underwater site

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hilltop/bluff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior flat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upland flat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ridgetop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low terrace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hillslope	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ownership	
Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>
State of MD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional/county/city	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nearest Surface Water	
Name (if any)	Chester River
Saltwater	
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freshwater	
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	178 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaic site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland site	<input type="checkbox"/>
MD Adena	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid. woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown prehistoric context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact period site	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1820 - 1860	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1860 - 1900	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1900 - 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post 1930	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1720 - 1780	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1630 - 1675	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1675 - 1720	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1780 - 1820	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown historic context	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unknown context	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Ethnic Associations (historic only)	
Native American	<input type="checkbox"/>
African American	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Anglo-American	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric	
Multi-component	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hamlet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Base camp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthen mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cairn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc. ceremonial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
STU/lithic scatter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry/extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish weir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other context	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples	Soil samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



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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	1	Staffordshire	6	Stoneware		
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	2	Tin Glazed	17	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	32	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	1	Porcelain		29	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	33	Pearlware	50				Rhenish	1
							Wt Salt-glazed	22

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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	296	Activity item(s)	19
Glass (all)	1111	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1494	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	8	Misc. kitchen	506
Arms	10	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	17	Misc.	741
Personal items	8	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 type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Charles Sumner Post #25 (18KE370) is a standing early 20th century structure with an early 18th and 19th century artifact scatter. It is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century African-American Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) lodge (the site is also known as the GAR Hall). The site is located on Queen Street, in Chestertown, Kent County. It is located in the Scotts Point area, a historically black area within the Chestertown Historic District. The Charles Sumner Post #25 is significant for its association with the GAR, the principal fraternal organization for Civil War veterans and the only integrated social organization in 19th century America. It was named after C. Sumner, US Senator, who was active in the anti-slavery cause in the 1800s. Some 8,600 GAR posts were established in the country after 1866 to provide support and fellowship for Union veterans regardless of race. The GAR maintained a strict policy of accepting posts made up wholly or in part of African-American members; the Charles Sumner Post, established in 1882 by 21 veterans who had served in the U.S. Colored Troops, was one of 22 African-American GAR posts in Maryland. The Charles Sumner Post is one of only two GAR halls known to survive in the Nation.

The history of the land tract that the lodge sits on begins in the 18th century when it was sold as Lot 70 to Mr. B. Hands. It may have been the location of a mid-18th century ropewalk that was owned by Mr. Hands but this could not be verified. Hands also owned a portion of the lot across the street on which he built a house ca. 1750. The land remained in the extended Hands family until ca. 1868 when it was sold and evenly subdivided. In 1889, a dentist named J. Twilley purchased the lot. At that time it was noted that 2 old stables, one possibly built ca. 1841, were removed from the property. Twilley sold a 22.86 m deep by 9.144 m wide (75x30 ft) lot to the Charles Sumner Post #25 in 1908. The following month, the GAR purchased the adjoining parcel of land (to the west) increasing their property width to 16.76 m (55 ft). A month later, a small portion of the property was sold by the Post to Mr. J. Hanson, thereby decreasing the lodge lot to 10.36 m (34 ft) wide. The 1903 Sanborn map listed a single-story building as "Hall" in roughly the same footprint as the current two-story structure. There is some indication that members of the Post had already been leasing the property from Twilley perhaps as early as 1889. Evidence from historical maps suggested that the original one-story hall was built sometime between 1891 and 1903. The two-story structure that exists there today must then have been constructed between 1903 and 1908.

Although the last of the original GAR members died in 1928, female relatives and descendants of the veterans continued to carry on the work of the Post until 1950, holding meetings, participating in Memorial Day observances, and making the hall available to Chestertown's black community as a venue for social events. The "Army Hall," as it became known, was often rented out for meetings, weddings, graduations, and concerts. Many jazz notables performed at the hall, including Ella Fitzgerald and Chuck Webb, who traveled by steamboat from Baltimore in 1937 to perform on the small second-floor stage. Sometime prior to 1950, a portion of the hall had been rented out to a furniture repair business. In 1950, the five remaining women sold the property to the Centennial Beneficial Association, a group that had been meeting there and who performed a similar function in the black community. The property changed hands several more times until 1985, when it was purchased by a real estate developer. The meeting hall has been abandoned since 1985. Between 1985 and when the building was purchased by Preservation Incorporated in 2002, several panels of the corrugated metal roof blew off, leading to extensive interior and exterior damage beneath those areas. The building also became completely overgrown with vegetation and trees. Since the purchase of the property the overgrowth has been removed, the roof has been closed in, and the building has been stabilized in preparation for restoration.

The C. Sumner Post #25 is a two-story gable-front frame building with a rectangular floor plan. It was built on brick piers, with asphalt-covered wood clapboard siding and a low-pitched corrugated metal roof pierced by two small brick chimneys. Seventeen sash windows adorn the building. Its upper and lower floors are open to facilitate its use as a meeting and entertaining space. A stage 2.438 m deep and 0.254 m high (8' x 10") runs across the rear of the second floor. Access to the upper floor was via two stairways flanking the main entrance. The left stairway space was later partially removed to accommodate a restroom. A narrow room at the rear of the first floor was used for food preparation. All wood details in the building, including windows, doors, casings, wainscoting, and floors have their original finishes intact. The doors at the top of the stairs leading to the second floor have 7.62 cm (3") peepholes cut into the center stile, with a screw hole above that once likely held a piece of tin that would be pushed to the side in order to identify visitors. The first floor walls feature a highly distinctive 25.4 cm wide blue stripe painted along the ceiling, which, with white plaster walls and red painted wainscoting, represent the colors of the American flag.

Archeological excavations conducted at 18KE370 were designed to assess subsurface resources prior to an extensive rehabilitation of the structure. The renovation required excavation for new footings and some additional site disturbance on the lot. The archeological field investigations, monitoring during construction, and lab analysis and report writing were funded by the Maryland Historical Trust's Non-Capital Grant Fund. Subsurface testing was undertaken from June-July in 2005 by archeology staff and students from Washington College. Four 1 m² test units (TUs 1-4) were excavated in the front yard of the building; TU 1 was closest to the street in the low ground adjacent to the sidewalk, TU 2 was located in the north on higher ground, TU 3 was placed abutting the southeast corner of the building, and TU 4 was placed in the central eastern portion of the yard. Soils were screened and all artifacts were retained except for shell, brick, plaster, coal, and slag which were weighed and discarded. Samples from some loci were retained and those counts are included in the table above. Subsequent to the test unit excavations, monitoring was carried out during the ground disturbance phase of construction at the site. Observed features were mapped, and in some cases sectioned. Soils were not screened but diagnostic artifacts were retrieved. Those artifacts were not included in the artifact inventory in the final site report. An additional 0.40 m x 2.5 m trench (TU 5) was excavated in the interior of the building after the structure had been raised onto cribbing. Soils were not screened but were visually inspected. The only artifacts noted (but not collected) were a few fragments of brick.

Only 2 cultural features were identified during the archeological testing. A posthole and postmold feature was encountered in TU 1. The post, which was part of a fence line, was thought to date after 1935. A second posthole was identified in TU 2 (with no further description provided).

A total of 3,960 artifacts were recovered from the site. There were 19 activity items: 1 clay marble and 2 stone marbles (1 of which was broken), 2 lead bale seals, 3 lamp glass fragments, 1 slate pencil fragment, 4 lengths of yarn, 1 antennae wire, 1 metal gear part, 1 industrial glass tube, 1 piece of electrical tape, 1 rubber hose segment, and 2 pencil parts. There were 1,494 architectural items: 323 brick fragments and 15 identified handmade brick fragments, 280 pieces of flat glass, 2 wrought nails, 24 cut nails, 38 wire nails, 28 roofing and 8 flooring nails, 44 aluminum nails, 541 unidentified nails, 15 pieces of plaster, 34 fragments of mortar, 1 doorknob, 3 latches or hooks, 7 screws, 3 spikes, 1 nut/bolt, 3 pieces of electrical wire, 2 tacks, 1 rivet, 1 washer, 111 asphalt shingles, 1 piece of ceramic utility pipe, 2 fragments of concrete/cement, 2 pieces of fiberglass insulation, 1 piece of roofing paper, and 2 unidentified hardware objects. Seventeen clothing items were retrieved including 6 buttons (1 glass, 2 metal, 2 plastic, 1 unidentified), 3 pieces of nylon stocking material, 1 metal clothes fastener, 1 eyelet, 1 milk glass shirt stud, 2 straight pins, and 2 faux pearl pin heads and 1 glass pin head. The 8 furniture items were 4 brass tacks, 1 curtain rod holder, 1 piece of roller blind hardware, 1 furniture castor wheel, and 1 rubber door stop fragment. There were 1,624 kitchen-related items:



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Unknown

215 bottle glass fragments, 190 hand blown bottle glass fragments, 34 pieces of table glass, 383 fragments of unidentified curved glass, 296 ceramic sherds (17 tin-glazed earthenware, 10 buff-bodied earthenware, 7 unidentified earthenware, 33 creamware, 50 pearlware, 13 porcelain, 2 Batavian porcelain, 14 Chinese export porcelain, 2 Jackfield, 7 Blue and Gray, 1 ironstone, 1 North Devon Sgraffito, 6 Staffordshire, 1 Rockingham, 12 gray and 3 brown salt-glazed stoneware, 5 Scratch Blue and 17 white salt-glazed stoneware, 7 unidentified stoneware, 32 whiteware, 3 yellow ware, 50 redware, 1 Rhenish, and 2 Westerwald), 1 milk glass lid liner and 3 milk glass jar fragments, 22 crown caps, 4 pull tabs, 1 threaded cap, 1 tin can fragment, 6 pieces of cellophane, 31 pieces of aluminum foil, 179 animal bone fragments (6 butchered) and teeth, 186 oyster shells and shell fragments, 4 clam and mussel shells, 33 turtle shells, 10 peanut and 18 walnut shells, 2 unidentified nut shells and 5 seeds. A total of 741 miscellaneous items were recorded: 9 pieces of burnt glass, 199 fragments of unidentified metal, 17 wood fragments, 1 piece of wool fiber, 1 unidentified grommet, 63 pieces of plastic and modern plastic objects, 15 pieces of Styrofoam, 2 fragments of granite, 107 of limestone, and 4 of slate, 47 unidentified lithic objects of chert, chalcedony, basalt, and sandstone, 13 non-cultural lithic objects, 207 pieces of coal and burnet coal (52 of which were discarded), 45 pieces of slag, 1 piece of pumice, 1 unidentified fragment of white resin, 2 pieces of chewed gum, and 5 unidentified miscellaneous items. There were 8 personal items: 1 copper brooch, 2 glass beads, a 1906 Indian Head penny, and 4 modern coins. A total of 39 tobacco-related items were found including 32 kaolin pipe stem fragments and 4 bowl fragments, 1 unidentified pipe fragment, 1 cigarette filter, and 1 plastic cigarette filter. In all, 10 arms-related items were recovered including 1 shotgun cartridge, 4 shell casings, 1 lead bullet, and 4 pieces of lead shot.

The Charles Sumner Post #25 (18KE370) is a standing early 20th century structure. The site, although extensively disturbed, contained evidence for earlier 18th and 19th century utilization of the land. The site stratigraphy showed evidence of various phases of cutting, filling, and excavation of intrusive features such as utility trenches. No evidence of plowing was present, and the A horizon was discontinuous. The excavations revealed evidence of 18th century activity on the site, but no intact features or deposits from that period were encountered. Similarly, it appeared to the excavators that the early to mid-19th century deposits on the property have been disturbed and perhaps removed. It was concluded that, while the C. Sumner Post site was badly disturbed, additional archeological investigations in conjunction with archival research conducted on adjacent lots may provide more information about this part of Chestertown's history. Restoration of the structure was completed.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000888