



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO169

Site Name: Oaks II

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Riggs Farm

Historic

Brief Description: late 18th-20th century standing house and cemetery

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2029

Longitude -77.1065

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 175 m

Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Tributary of Hawlings River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 305 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

### 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  High terrace

Hilltop/bluff  Rockshelter/cave

Interior flat  Hillslope

Upland flat  Unknown

Ridgetop  Other

Terrace

Low terrace

### Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

## 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  Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American  Y

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

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  Y

Flotation samples taken  N

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	17	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	1299	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	223	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	360	Pearlware	267			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	4	
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	3451	
Glass (all)	7099	
Architectural	3748	
Furniture	2704	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	94	
Personal items	4	
Tobacco related	90	
Activity item(s)	35	
Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	3495	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	8600	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" 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 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:

The Oaks II Site (18MO169) is located near Laytonsville in Montgomery County, Maryland. The region surrounding the site is characterized by gently undulating uplands which are dissected by sometimes swampy stream and creek valleys. The site itself is a rural farm property that has been continuously occupied since the beginning of the 19th century and offers unique opportunities to examine the development of agricultural farms in the Piedmont province of Maryland over a 200 year period. The standing farmhouse on the site was dated to 1805. It was a log cabin covered with clapboard and had apparently undergone other alterations and additions. Soils at the site were moderately eroded Chester and Glenelg silt loams.

Archeological investigations at the site were first prompted by the impending construction of a sanitary landfill on the property by the government of Montgomery County, Maryland. A 1978 Phase I survey of the proposed landfill property identified the site. The Phase I survey consisted of a walkover survey in areas where surface visibility was sufficient and shovel testing in areas where visibility was poor. While 10 shovel tests and careful on-surface reconnaissance failed to turn up any historic artifacts, because of the presence of the nearby farmhouse it was determined that there was a high likelihood of intact historic deposits and the site warranted further examination. Artifacts pointing to a prehistoric occupation of the site included a biface perform, a Vernon-like point, and a weathered argillite flake. Since the site lay within the area proposed for excavation of the landfill, plans were made to move the structure approximately 0.8 miles to the west of the site (outside the landfill impact area). Excavators recommended that data recovery be carried out to mitigate the impacts of moving the structure and excavating the underlying soils for the landfill. Extensive archival research was conducted on the history of the property as part of this Phase III data recovery work.

The 8,430 acres of land surrounding the site was originally patented by James Brooke in 1762 as "Addition to Brooke Grove". While Brooke was a land speculator and although he lived nearby, he did not reside on the tract and there is no historical evidence of any occupation at Oaks II at this early period. The land remained in the Brooke family until March of 1798 when a 222½ acre tract out of "Addition to Brooke Grove" was sold to Samuel Riggs. By 1804, his son, Reuben, was paying the taxes on the property. Reuben inherited the tract when his father died in 1814. Since Samuel's will specifically stated that Reuben was then living on the plantation, Oaks II was apparently established sometime between 1798 and 1814. Most probably the house was built about 1805, the year that Reuben married Mary Willson Thomas. The use of rose-head nails in the house construction with their 1810 terminal date supports this hypothesis. Standing only 10.97 m (36 ft) across, the house was built of logs chinked with mortar. It has two rooms downstairs and three up. However, a remnant of the original beaded clapboard siding between the house and the kitchen addition indicates that the top floor and roof have been altered, so that the original house was probably only 1½ stories high. The main block of the house seems to have attained its present shape by 1831 as shown in an inventory list recorded that year. The records indicate three upstairs bedrooms, which would have been impossible if the house still retained its original pitched roof. This same inventory also mentions the presence of a "corn house", a "meat house", and a barn.

The sons of southern Maryland planters tried to establish the lifestyle and economy in which they had been raised. Ultimately they failed because the soils of the Maryland Piedmont were not the same as the soils on the Chesapeake coast. They wore out more quickly and produced inferior tobacco (the major cash crop of the time). Reuben Riggs, however, was more successful than most farmers. It's clear from tax lists that Reuben was a tobacco farmer, that he had inherited plentiful capital, and had plentiful slave labor. It is also clear from Reuben's 1831 inventory that he also grew grains, corn, and flax, worked a kitchen garden, planted an orchard for cider, and raised livestock (30 sheep, 8 cattle, 7 horses, and swine). Some hint of the family's standing can be arrived at from the inventory list. The family possessed six beds, two with "high posts", a desk, a "pair" of dining tables, a side board complete with "tureens", four carpets, one a "stair carpet", one dozen tea cups, saucers, a coffee pot and dish, nine dining plates "for breakfast", four "china" plates; and, in the barn, a number of wagons and a sleigh. The 1820 tax list also puts the number of pounds of "Mary Rigg's silver plate" at 14. Such an accounting places them well above the average family financially.

Upon Reuben's death in 1820, his land was equally divided between his two sons, Hezekiah and Samuel. Hezekiah eventually received the Oaks II plantation on which he had been raised, while Samuel received an adjoining plantation (Oaks I) that Reuben had purchased from his father (Samuel's grandfather). The state of the economy when Hezekiah and Samuel inherited their plantations was not healthy, due to a steady drop in tobacco prices. Tobacco never did well in Montgomery County, even in the early days, because of the poorer soils and lack of navigable rivers. Based on the number of slaves listed in the tax lists, it seems probable that Hezekiah and Samuel continued to grow tobacco during the 1830s and 40s. Hezekiah, at least, appears to have continued farming primarily tobacco into the 1850s as an 1851 inventory listed him as owning 3 tobacco houses of "unstrapped tobacco" but only 120 bushels of wheat. Hezekiah's success with tobacco, compared to his peers, likely was due to his extensive land holdings (which allowed him to practice crop rotation) and enough capital to experiment with "scientific" soil improvement techniques. He and his brother both belonged to agricultural societies which kept up on the latest farming technologies.

Hezekiah died suddenly in 1851 and his estate passed to his nephew Reuben (Samuel's son). Over the course of the 1850s and 1860s, more and more of the property would be transferred into tenancy. Reuben rented the Oaks II land out to several tenants over the latter part of the 19th century, while he himself lived at Oaks I. Upon Reuben's death in August of 1910, his sons, Samuel III, William Canby, and Benjamin ran the farm. More substantial structures were built at the farm as it transitioned into a livestock farm. In 1930, John Letts bought the farm from Samuel II and it passed out of the Riggs family. Letts was the owner of a substantial farm in Bethesda and used the old Riggs place as a subsidiary to it. Soon after he took over, many of the buildings (all except those near the house) burned down and most of the structures present at the site date from Lett's ownership. Besides the house and the older Oaks II structure, the farm complex contained: a blacksmith shop, windmill, out-house, 19th century woodshed, a small covered storage shed, 19th century meat house, 19th century chicken house, water tower, pump house, 19th century bank barn, hay barracks, dairy barn, 2 double corn cribs, 19th century machine shed, another chicken house, and 3 hog sheds. The property continued serving as a support farm until modern times.

The Phase III data recovery fieldwork conducted in 1980 was divided into several tasks. Task 1 involved a survey of a 697 square meter (75,000 sq. ft.) area just to the west of Oaks II where the old farmhouse was to be relocated. This relocation area was outside the landfill impact area, but work was required to ensure that archeological resources would not be disturbed by removal and relocation of the house. It turned out that an extensive site was encountered in this area called the "Black Settlement" and is discussed in its own synopsis report (see 18MO202 and 18MO421).

The goal of Task 2 was to delineate various activity areas in and around the house and outbuildings during the different periods of their occupation by excavating test units. Identification of architectural and structural changes was also sought through the excavation of these units. First, a 23.23 square meter (250 sq. ft.) grid was laid out in the yard area and shovel test pits were excavated every 6.1 meters (20 ft). A total of 137 STPs were dug. Soil samples were



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also taken from each STP and analyzed for pH, texture, percentage of sand, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium. These were then mapped to identify potential activity areas. The grid area was then plowed to give maximum ground exposure, the grid points were reestablished and the area was surface collected after a hard weekend rain. Task 2 also involved the excavation of test squares in and around the old house and selected outbuildings. Ten 76.2 cm X 1.52 m (2½ X 5 ft) units were placed under doors, windows, and adjacent to the two end chimneys outside the house. The excavations proceeded to the bottom of the base of any features encountered and were dug in arbitrary 7.62 cm (3 in) levels. These units were increased to 12.7 cm (5 in) levels if artifact densities were low. All soils were screened through hardware mesh and diagnostic features were photographed, mapped, and drawn in profile. Four 1.52 meter test squares were established in the cellar of the house, and 4 more were placed in each of the 4 outbuildings within the gridded area. These were excavated in the same manner as the smaller units.

In general, the mapping exercise (for artifacts recovered from the surface, STPs, and soil samples) was helpful in interpretation of disposal areas around the house and outbuildings and architectural and structural patterning in the yard area. However, the potential to discern chronological differences between test pit and surface collected data was not fully realized. The architectural patterning was more widespread over the grid and included areas of concentration around outbuildings as well as residences, while the ceramic patterning, not unexpectedly, was more confined to the areas adjacent to residences. Ceramic sherds are especially concentrated around the kitchen addition. The most revealing pattern from the soil analyses was the distribution of calcium (Ca) to phosphorus (P), both indicators of human/animal activity. The back yard showed heavier concentrations of both Ca and P than the front yard. A phosphorus concentration to the west of the main house reveals the presence of a garden area, while those to the northeast were probably part of the farmyard. An area of lower phosphorus (and, in some cases, calcium) concentration around outbuildings to the north of Oaks II may reflect the presence of earlier structures where accumulations of these chemical from animal waste or fertilizer were not as great. Very high phosphorus concentrations were encountered near the residence entrances and off the porch of the tenant house, as well as at trees (urine introduces significant phosphorus into the soil).

The test squares around the outside of the old house revealed builders trenches and yielded large numbers of architectural artifacts (particularly nails), but in general gave little new information about the house construction date or any major structural changes over time. Except for a padlock which may date to the late 18th century, the recovery of early (rosehead) nails provide the only archeological corroborative clue to an early 19th century construction date. These nails appear in concentrations in both the shovel test pits and formal test units. Ceramics from the test squares were most numerous in squares adjacent to the kitchen, but even in these there were only a few examples of early wares such as decorated creamwares, pearlwares, and early whitewares. The only tentative link to the ice house (see Task 4 below) was one piece of Chinese design pearlware (found in various levels throughout the icehouse feature). The data from the test units placed in the house cellar tended to be more indicative of the early date of Oaks II. This was especially true in the deeper levels, where creamwares, pearlwares, yellow slipware, Piercely-like ware (a local redware), and kaolin pipe fragments were found. For the most part, artifacts recovered from the cellar squares were those expected from an area in the house used over the years for storage. Large quantities of stonewares and redwares are reflective of the cellar's more utilitarian purpose. In comparison with the test squares around the house and in the cellar, the outbuilding test squares yielded less information both chronological and functional. The vast majority of remains in this area are of 20th century origin and most were architectural debris.

Artifacts encountered in these test units include 29 activity items, 1,577 architectural objects, 30 clothing artifacts, 1 furniture item, 1,346 kitchen items, 2 personal objects, 34 tobacco-related artifacts, 4,272 miscellaneous objects, and 1 prehistoric item. Detailed descriptions of the artifacts are not available in many cases because many items are classified solely based on the raw material. For example, the glass assemblage is not divided up into container glass, window glass, and other categories and is simply listed as "glass". Thus, the miscellaneous glass assemblage is comparatively large and likely includes a large number of both kitchen-related items and architectural debris. Activity items from the site include 1 piece of lamp glass, part of a phonograph record, a squirrel skin, a blue (prize) ribbon, an axe head, a slate pencil, and 23 redware flower pot sherds. Architectural remains are at least 2 pieces of stone, 6 pieces of brick, 2 fragments of plaster, 2 fragments of concrete, 4 pieces of cement/mortar, 3 window glass shards, 1 early machine-made nail, and 1,557 other nails. The clothing objects include 17 buttons, 11 fragments of leather, and 2 tennis shoes. The only furniture item recovered was a late 18th century padlock. Kitchen related artifact include 704 ceramic sherds (47 creamware, 34 pearlware, 135 porcelain, 1 Piercelyware, 355 whiteware, 5 other earthenware, 31 miscellaneous stoneware, 92 redware, 4 unidentified sherds), 14 glass pieces (3 table glass fragments, 4 containers, 7 whole bottles labeled "blackberries"), 4 rubber jar seals, 271 animal bones, 185 shell fragments, 4 oyster shells, 163 seeds, and a knife handle. The two personal items were both beads. Tobacco-related artifacts were 31 kaolin pipe fragments, a ribbed pipe bowl dating from 1800 to 1830, and a ribbed pipe bowl dating from 1790 to 1820. Miscellaneous objects consisted of 3,108 fragments of glass, 78 pieces of paper, 551 unidentified metal objects, 147 pieces of plastic, 3 pieces of rubber, 12 rubber or plastic fragments, and 373 pieces of wood or charcoal. The lone prehistoric item was an unidentified quartz point fragment.

Task 3 involved locating the Riggs family graveyard, purported to be on the property north of Oaks II. Although the graves had been disinterred in 1921 and the remains moved to St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery, there was still a possibility that several children's graves might yet remain and also perhaps some unmarked slave graves adjacent to the family cemetery. A Gradall was employed to strip off the top 91.44 cm of soil in the area and several stains and depressions were examined with negative results. One depression, however, revealed a rectangular stain at a depth of 1.22 meters (4 ft) below the surface. When the trench was extended to the east, a stone wall was encountered just below the sod which marked the boundary of the cemetery. When soil was stripped off of the first 1.22 meters within this stone wall, 12 graves were encountered. These were tied into the existing site grid and mapped. Each grave was excavated as an individual feature and all soils were screened through hardware cloth. Artifacts were retained, but all human remains were analyzed at the Smithsonian Institution and returned to the county for reburial.

The graveyard at Oaks II presented special problems in analysis. Of the 12 identified graves, eight included human skeletal remains exclusively, 3 contained both human and non-human skeletal remains, and 1 had only non-human skeletal material. All of the material was fragmentary (due to moisture and soil acidity) and much of the upper portions were missing or damaged when some of the graves were removed in the 1920s. The attempt to remove all of the graves at that time was, obviously, unsuccessful. The graveyard included 12 graves containing the remains of at least 14 individuals. Burial 1 contained the remains of a female aged 28-40 with gold-filled dental caries. Burial 2 contained a male individual aged 30-40 years. Burials 3 and 4 were both juveniles; the former about 3-5 years of age and recovered along with peach pits in the burial shaft, the latter between 1 and 2 years old. Burial 5 was also a juvenile, but of uncertain age. No bones were actually encountered in this grave, but the small size of the coffin outline suggests a child. Burial 6 and 7 were probably female, the former between 20 and 40 and the latter between 30 and 40. Only 1 human bone was encountered in Burial 8 so age and sex could not be determined. The next grave, Burial 9, was of an adult female found with an infant's rib bone. Chicken and turkey bones were also found in this grave, the probable remains of a grave digger's meal. Burial 10 was a coffin-shaped grave shaft containing 16 domestic bird bones, but no human remains. Burial 11 contained the remains of a 30-45 year old female along with 3 small animal skull fragments. The final grave appeared to contain 2 burials. The first contained no human remains, but a clear coffin outline and about 27 animal bones, and the second below it contained an infant aged 6 months to a year. Artifacts encountered within the excavated graves include 2,703 fragments of coffin furniture; 796 wood fragments, 1,199 nail fragments, 40 screws, 299 coffin ornaments, 25 coffin hardware pieces, and 344 flat pieces of glass (probably coffin viewing plates). Architectural objects include 3 pieces of cement/mortar, 9 pieces of concrete,



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and a piece of brick. Probable burial clothing remains include 15 cloth fragments, 4 pieces of fabric, 1 thread, 18 porcelain buttons (2 covered in cloth), 8 fabric buttons, and 2 buckles. Kitchen-related artifacts are 1 whiteware sherd, 1 redware sherd, 1 earthenware sherd, 2 pieces of container glass, approximately 17 peach pits, 11 cherry seeds, a fragment of a fern, 26 domestic bird bones, 1 burned animal bone, and 29 other animal bones. And finally, miscellaneous objects in the grave shafts include 23 fragments of charcoal.

Task 4 was initiated to investigate three features which appeared significant, based on findings from Task 2 and their potential for yielding high artifact density. The first of these features (F-1) was a pig sty in an area behind an extant privy. Artifact counts were low and the feature revealed very little interpretable data. Artifacts from this test unit include 1 activity item (a porcelain fragment from a child's tea set), 62 architectural objects (all nails), 275 kitchen-related artifacts (11 creamware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 1 Pierceware sherd, 35 whiteware sherds, 1 miscellaneous stoneware sherd, 1 redware sherd, 2 pieces of table glass, 132 container glass pieces, at least 2 fragments of shell, and 89 seeds), and 189 miscellaneous objects (156 unidentified glass shards, 19 unidentified pieces of paper, 1 piece of metal, 9 plastic fragments, and 4 pieces of wood or charcoal). The second (F-2) was an area over what was reported (by local informants) to be a former privy. Excavation was terminated here, however, because immediately below the surface the privy was discovered to be entirely cemented over. Artifacts encountered in the "privy" unit included 5 kitchen-related items (a piece of stoneware and 4 bread wrappers) and 6 miscellaneous objects (1 unidentified glass fragment, 1 unidentified piece of metal, 1 piece of plastic, and 3 pieces of charcoal or wood).

The third feature examined (F-3) was a depression centered in a test pit in the yard between the old house and a tenant house. Two test squares behind and over the privies were excavated using the same methods described previously. As the test square for the third feature was enlarged, a circular dark stain was encountered. At first thought to be a well, it was later determined to be the filled-in foundation of an ice house. The upper portion of the fill was excavated in arbitrary 15.24 cm (6 in) levels within natural strata. Below this, excavation was by natural levels with smaller features designated separately. At a depth of more than 1.22 meters a backhoe was employed to terrace back the walls so that the lower levels could be safely excavated. The ice house excavation proved to be both time-consuming and difficult because of jumbled stratigraphy and the large numbers of artifacts recovered. In the process of analyzing the artifacts from the ice house (F-3), it became apparent that a large number of ceramics and glass cross-mended between levels, often at some distance from each other. Another noticeable match was by design motif, suggesting that certain ceramic types came from the same set. The combination of these two analyses seems to indicate that the ice house was filled in within a short time span. A mean date for the ice house is 1805, but the median dates of the various pottery types span the time period from 1798 to 1830. Such a wide variety of dates, coupled with an especially early median date for the feature, the amount of cross-mending, and fragmentary nature of the artifacts all seem to indicate that not only was the ice house filled within a short time span, but also that it was in all probability a secondary deposition. That is, the fill was taken from an already extant trash deposit. Further, an analysis by functional categories shows no distinct patterning, adding weight to the hypothesis that the ice house is secondary depositional fill. It would seem that the fill can be given a general date around the beginning of the 19th century, but the time of its second deposition (and the period when the ice house was taken out of use) and the fill's former location, is unknown. Feature 3 seems to be a rather self-contained unit with little relation, if any, to the rest of the excavation.

Artifacts encountered during the excavation of the ice house include 5 activity items, 2,096 architectural objects, 16 clothing items, 5,387 kitchen-related artifacts, 2 personal items, 56 tobacco-related objects, and 4,110 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a child's porcelain teacup, a drill, and axe head, and 2 stable items (a stirrup and a horseshoe). The architectural remains consisted of a piece of stone, at least 43 brick fragments, at least 24 concrete fragments, 2 pieces of cement/mortar, and 2,026 unidentified nails. Clothing objects include 15 buttons and a thimble. The kitchen assemblage includes 2,693 ceramic sherds, 6 pieces of container glass, 2,589 animal bones, at least 84 pieces of shell, 12 seeds, and 3 utensils with bone handles. The ceramic sherds included 17 tin-glazed earthenware (16 are Delftware), 302 creamware, 233 pearlware, 2 Chinese export porcelain, 85 other porcelain, 908 whiteware, 182 earthenware, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, 155 miscellaneous stoneware, 2 Pierceware, 722 redware, and 84 unidentified ceramic sherds. The personal items were 2 pennies dated 1900. All 56 tobacco-related artifacts are fragments of kaolin pipe. And finally, miscellaneous objects are 3,331 unidentified glass fragments, 2 pieces of paper, 729 unidentified metal fragments, 2 pieces of plastic, 3 pieces of rubber, and 43 fragments of charcoal or wood.

Oaks II was constructed during a post-frontier, but pre-industrial era and as it grew continued to reflect in its artifact assemblages the various changes in the manufacturing processes down to present times. Analyses of the Oaks II artifacts also reflect not only the socio-economic standing of its occupants but also the trade networks in which a rural farmstead participated. The presence of Pierceware (a redware local to the northern Virginia/DC area) demonstrates historically documented social/familial ties that the Riggs family had to merchants and tradesmen in Alexandria and Georgetown. Other redware sherds look Baltimorian, and given the site's location near the Old Baltimore Road, that city was another likely venue for trade. As time moves on, these local wares are replaced first by the products of regional markets and later by mass-produced industrial wares. Similar patterns are seen with glass. Evidence from the earliest deposits at Oaks II are reflective of very prosperous landowners, able to afford good quality wares. Artifacts from the later periods of occupation at the site include large quantities of utilitarian wares more typical of a tenant farm economy (exactly the shift seen in the historical record).

Excavations at Oaks II revealed intact features and significant archeological deposits. It even provided Montgomery County with a substantial type collection of local wares and architectural data, useful for display and further interpretation as the need arises. The site today has no additional research value as it was largely destroyed by construction of the new landfill.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006123, 00006157