



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO202

Site Name: Black Settlement

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Jackson City, Blue Marsh

Historic

Brief Description: mid-19th to early 20th century African-American community

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code 2B,5A,5B,6A,

Latitude 39.1865

Longitude -77.0957

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-8%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

### Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

### Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Hawli

- | Saltwater                                |  | Freshwater                                       |                                |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/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 0 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  Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American  Y

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

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

community, settlement

## 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  N

Other samples taken



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## 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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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	48	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	18	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	2			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	1	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)	220	Tobacco related	1
Glass (all)	272	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	76	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	17
Clothing	6	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	343
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" 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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Brief

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mid-19th to early 20th century African-American community

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18MO202, the Black Settlement Site, is located between Laytonsville and Brookeville in Montgomery County, Maryland. The site consists of a cluster of abandoned stone house foundations and scattered historic artifacts. It was an African-American community founded sometime after the Civil War, presumably by freed slaves. It is interesting to note that it was also called Blue Marsh, for these settlements were often located on poor land and developed into agricultural farmsteads only by hard work. Even today, the area is surrounded by a swamp. That Montgomery County free blacks had the where-with-all to establish themselves as landowners, stands in sharp contrast with other such communities in the South (where most became landless sharecroppers or tenant farmers). However, since most African-Americans had little capital, the settling of Jackson City (as it was also sometimes called) or Blue Marsh, with its poorly drained lands was consistent with the established pattern.

The site was first examined as part of the Oaks II study conducted by the Potomac River Archeology Survey, which was surveying the area in preparation for the construction of a new county landfill. Phase III data recovery was conducted at nearby Site 18MO169 (Oaks II) in 1980 so that the standing structure there could be moved to an area outside the landfill impact area. The site chosen for relocation of the house was 18MO202, which necessitated the implementation of a Phase II testing strategy to determine the nature of the visible foundations and other resources which would be impacted by the house relocation. As part of the Phase II work, extensive archival research was conducted.

Originally, the land was part of "Addition to Brooke Grove" patented in 1763 by James Brooke. It was also included in the land sold to Samuel Riggs in 1797, which became the Oaks II property (see the synopsis report for 18MO169). The Jackson City/Blue Marsh settlement does not appear on an 1865 map, for the Civil War was still raging and slaves were yet to be freed. However, 2 houses do appear to have been established by 1879. An atlas published in that year shows that a Mrs. Simpson was residing at one of the house sites and a Mr. Bond was residing at the other. This is consistent with information provided by a local informant regarding who had lived in the area. A third house was built sometime between 1879 and 1908, when it appears on a USGS map of that year. The map also clearly shows a dirt road that runs from a church, past the house sites to join the highway near Claysville. This third house was owned by Jack Johnson, for whom local people say the town was named. It was remembered as a two-story house built of clapboards and possessing a cellar to which some of the local people would retire to sit around and drink from the large casks stored there.

The first settlers of Jackson City/Blue Marsh were in all probability the former Riggs family slaves, who became mostly small farmers or laborers, with some of the women employed in several of the neighboring houses or as mid-wives. Their descendants occupied the various sites until most of the land was bought up in the early 1930s by John Letts, who purchased Oaks II (see the synopsis report for 18MO169). Shortly afterward, most of the houses were abandoned. However, descendants of the early settlers tended not to move far. Several of them were still located in the area in 1980 when the Phase II work was being conducted. There are possibly other houses in the area connected with Jackson City/Blue Marsh. This is known both from oral interviews and a survey of the peripheral areas around the site. One of these was abandoned as late as the latter 1960s. This was the "Booze House", a two-story structure with a fieldstone foundation, hand hewn logs, plaster walls (with horsehair mixed in), wooden shutters, and a tin roof. However, it and the approximate location of at least 2 other foundations, were not investigated as part of the Phase II testing in 1980. It was felt that examination of the older site foundations (the three appearing on historic maps) should be the primary focus of the work given limited funds, etc. Consequently, the boundaries of the site, as currently recorded, do not include these later, possibly related, resources.

The methods employed in the study of 18MO202 consisted of three parts: detailed mapping of house foundations, excavation of a series of shovel test pits along transects radiating outward from house structures, and a controlled surface collection of artifacts from each site. The excavation component entailed the recovery of data from a series of shovel test pits (STPs) at increasing distances from each of the three foundation structures with the primary objective of delineating site boundaries. Subsidiary considerations were the collection of an artifact sample from subsurface context at each of the sites and an assessment of the depth of cultural deposition around the structures. STPs were excavated at 3.048 meter (10 ft) intervals along transects radiating outward from the house foundations. Transects were oriented to the cardinal points with the exception of the north transect of House 2 (later designated as a separate site - 18MO421) where the alignment was rotated 4° East of North to avoid a large tree. STPs were excavated with shovel and trowel and all soil was screened through hardware cloth. Average STP dimensions were 0.4572 X 0.4572 meters (1.5 X 1.5 ft), with depth determined by artifactual content. Maximum depth of individual test pits rarely exceeded 30.48 cm (12 in) and artifacts were primarily confined to the upper 15.24 cm (6 in.) of soil with a major concentration occurring at the interface between the recent humic soil and a clay subsoil which may have been at or very near ground surface during the occupation. Levels were not maintained within the restricted confines of the shovel test pits and all materials from each unit were bagged together for curation. A total of 45 test pits was excavated for the Jackson City study, with 14 located at the house of Mrs. Simpson (House 1), 16 at the house of Mr. Bond (House 2), and 15 at the house of Jack Johnson (House 3). A controlled collection of artifacts was undertaken at each of the three structures and exact proveniences were recorded for all collected artifacts, but both criteria for and intensity of collection varied from site to site (primarily due to surface vegetation and visibility). Identifiable features were also mapped at each house location.

Identifiable structures at the House 1 locale include the slightly trapezoidal fieldstone house foundation itself, a stone-lined spring, and the remains of a partially robbed stone-faced catchment basin. Equivocal features in this locale include 2 depressed areas, a low mound, an elevated area of uncertain configuration, and a patch of lilies which may represent the volunteer offspring of a domestic planting. The rock lined catchment basin associated with the spring held water and was probably used for refrigeration of foods by allowing the water to flow around ceramic crocs. House 2 is represented by an irregular rectangular fieldstone foundation. The only other feature noted near the house foundation is an associated well which served the property. House 3 was the most regular-appearing of the foundations, although substantial wall fall and fallen trees had obliterated a good portion of it. It was rectangular in form and in its eastern half, the structure possessed a cellar entered by a stairway in the southwest corner of the house. A well was also present near House 3.

Artifacts encountered in the STPs and surface collection surrounding House 1 include at least 37 architectural artifacts (32 nails and 5 pieces of plaster), 1 clothing item (a button), 102 probable kitchen items (7 whiteware sherds, 5 porcelain, 2 redware, 72 stoneware sherds, 14 pieces of bone, and shell), 1 tobacco-related object (a kaolin pipe fragment), and 109 miscellaneous objects (76 pieces of glass and 33 pieces of metal). One prehistoric quartz flake was also encountered. Artifacts encountered surrounding House 2 include 17 architectural items (15 nails and brick), 3 clothing items (all buttons), 100 kitchen-related artifacts (35 whiteware sherds, 2 pearlware, 9 porcelain, 5 redware, 44 stoneware, 4 other earthenware sherds, and 1 piece of bone), and 161 miscellaneous objects (142 glass pieces, 18 pieces of metal, and a fragment of plastic). And finally, the area around House 3 yielded 22 architectural objects (20 nails and some brick), 2 clothing artifacts (buttons), 35 kitchen remains (6 whiteware sherds, 4 porcelain, and 25 stoneware sherds), and 73 miscellaneous items (54 pieces of glass and 19 of metal).



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Brief  
Description:

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Unknown

The age of the recovered artifacts ranges from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century. There is a general tendency for the dates to cluster around a late 19th century to early 20th century timespan. These dates are consistent with the historical documentation of the site and reflect what is known from oral history about the duration of its habitation. It should be noted that, although Jackson City was a black settlement, this is in no way reflected in the artifact inventory. This is consistent with findings in other studies of freed black tenant farms. Lower, middle, and sometimes even upper class status was not solely reflected in the artifacts. The artifacts recovered at Jackson City are apparently reflective of those in general use by everyone at the time, and are not necessarily restricted to a specific class or ethnic group.

Based on the Phase II work, researchers agreed that Jackson City/Blue Marsh possesses potential for adding to our knowledge of black culture in Montgomery County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Steps have been taken to preserve the site and in 1995 the location of House 2 was subjected to further archeological work and determined to constitute a site in its own right: 18MO421.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006157, 00006276