



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO327

Site Name: MD-124-1

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Warfield

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: early 20th century house site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.2921

Longitude -77.2122

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 244 m

Site slope 0

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 Patux

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 300 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## 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

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

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

Urban/Rural? Urban

#### 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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

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

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	91	Activity item(s)	278
Glass (all)	2191	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	855	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	6	Misc. kitchen	72
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	20	Misc.	1
Personal items	9	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<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) Warfield

Historic

Brief Description: early 20th century house site

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18MO327, the MD 124-1 or Warfield site, is an early 20th century house site in Montgomery County, Maryland. The site was once interpreted to be a potentially significant 19th century deposit of farmstead remains. However, historic and archeological research have proven that this is not the case. The Warfield Site is situated at a major crossroads east of the small central business district in Damascus, Maryland. It occupies an open, grassed field on flat ground; part of a fairly broad drainage divide. No standing structures or obtrusive evidence of the site's presence are visible above ground. Soils at the site are from the Urbana series.

Site 18MO327 was discovered as a result of a Phase Ib archeological survey of the right-of-way for road improvements on MD Routes 124 and 108. Extension and improvement of the roads necessitated intensive survey to identify and document any potentially significant archeological resources within the project area. A site area of 50 m (N-S) by 30 m (E-W), was identified on the basis of ten positive shovel tests pits (STPs). These were placed on 10 m centers along two irregular transects placed 20 m apart. Two sterile shovel tests were also excavated to the south of the site. The eastern boundary of the site was artificial because the survey was limited to examination of areas within 20 m of the proposed highway right-of-way. Soil matrices from the shovel test units were screened through hardware cloth to ensure uniform recovery of cultural materials.

Artifacts recovered from the site suggested to the Phase Ib researchers a late 19th to early 20th century occupation. Diagnostic artifacts include whiteware, ironstone, porcelain, common creamware, cut nails, and a variety of bottle glass fragments, including amethyst (ca. 1875-1914) and machine made bottles (post-1910). All artifacts were recovered from the plowzone (ca. 20-25 cm thick), and no subsurface features were encountered. A narrow utility pipeline bisected the site in a north-to-south direction in what would have been the backyard. Despite the presence of the pipeline and the limitation of artifact bearing soils to the plowzone, the Phase Ib researchers reported that, "no major disturbances were observed in the site area". In addition to the archeological survey, archival research on the site area unearthed an 1865 map which depicts a blacksmith shop (Black Sh.) in the vicinity of the site. An 1879 map was interpreted to depict the construction of the William Merson house at the same location by that later date. Phase II testing was recommended, since impacts to the site could not be avoided during the road improvement project. The artifacts encountered during Phase Ib work include 10 activity items (3 pieces of a toy teaset, a plastic toy car part, a ceramic marble, a piece of non-electric wire, a grommet, a staple, and 2 sherds of a terra cotta flower pot), 83 architectural artifacts (2 brick pieces, 40 glass window shards, 31 cut nails, 6 wire nails, 3 unidentified nails, and a bolt), 110 kitchen-related artifacts (2 creamware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 5 ironstone sherds, 7 whiteware sherds, 3 redware fragments, 2 pieces of table glass, 71 bottle glass fragments, 1 blown-in-mold bottle, 3 machine-made bottle glass pieces, 6 tin can fragments, a bottle screw cap, 6 animal bones, and 2 pieces of oyster shell) and 1 miscellaneous item (a piece of plastic).

Phase II work at the site began with archival research. The most important finding was that interpretations made during the Phase Ib survey regarding the site location in relation to historic maps were erroneous. Site 18MO327 appears to have been open ground as late as 1879. MD 124 appears to have been moved east to its present configuration between 1879 and 1895, which led to the misinterpretation of the maps. The ruins of the Merson House appear to be beneath MD 124 or a church property located to the west of that road. Study of the archival record does reflect that a William Merson owned the property in 1879. There was a \$500, or nearly 39% decline, in the value of the property from when Merson bought it in 1870 to when he sold it in 1879. The decline in the value of the property may reflect loss or damage to the house, and the house shown on the 1879 map may not have survived that year. Local oral tradition links a house that was still standing in the mid 1970s to a William Warfield, and it is logical that the house would have been constructed during his ownership. The value of the property remained fairly constant from the time of the 1879 Merson sale to when Warfield purchased it in 1895. As previously mentioned, the 1879 sale price was significantly lower than the sale price in 1870. A structure is shown at 18MO327 on a 1909 map, and that is likely the same structure that local informants remember being demolished in the mid-1970s and locally called the William Warfield House. If that reconstruction is correct, the construction date of the William Warfield House was thus between 1895 and 1909. The earlier Merson house (and blacksmith shop that preceded it) was not located at 18MO327, but now lies beneath the road. Merson owned and probably farmed 18MO327, but that is all.

Site 18MO327 consisted of an open, grassed field at the time the Phase II investigations began. The site surface was nearly level, although a depression in the surface marked the site of a partial cellar that had existed beneath a portion of the primary site structure. The Phase II field strategy involved the initial placement of shovel tests at 4.57 meter (15 ft) intervals across the site. All shovel tests were square and measured approximately 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) on a side. The shovel tests were laid out on a grid, and the grid was tied into the highway project maps and natural features. Each shovel test, with the exception of two that were located within a cellar and one located in a cistern or well, was excavated to subsoil, and all excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth. Each shovel test was excavated as a single level since it was quickly recognized that the entire site had been bulldozed and was capped with a single stratum of heavily mixed soils. A total of 64 shovel tests were excavated.

Six 91.44 cm (3 ft) test squares were excavated following the completion of the shovel testing. These were placed in areas of denser artifact concentration as revealed through the STP examination. One artifact concentration was tested and a second unit was placed in the same area to check what appeared to be an intact feature. Two units were placed to check potential features. One unit was excavated in an area of low artifact yield in order to explicate the soil stratigraphy in that area. A single unit was placed in an area protected from bulldozing by two standing trees in an attempt to view an undisturbed soil profile. The test squares were excavated in single levels in most cases, as the site proved to contain a fairly homogenous cap of heavily disturbed soils. All soils were screened through hardware cloth. Only one feature was identified, but that feature proved to be a tree stump. A second feature, a potential well or cistern, was identified, but was filled with bulldozer mixed soils to the point that the excavation was terminated. No soil samples were recovered due to their extremely disturbed nature.

The artifact collection from 18MO327 included an array of domestic artifacts that primarily dated to the 20th century. A few 19th century artifacts were noted in the collection, but all could be accounted for as either heirloom items or non-intensive scatter. Site 18MO327 does not appear to have been occupied during the 19th century, although an 1890s construction date for the primary structure cannot be totally discounted. It appears most likely that William Warfield, who purchased the property in 1895, was the original occupant of the site. That property remained in the Warfield family until it was donated to Montgomery County in 1970, and was apparently occupied by a Warfield until that time.

Artifacts encountered during the Phase II investigations at the site include 268 activity items, 772 architectural objects, 20 clothing objects, 6 furniture items, 1,880 kitchen-related artifacts, 9 personal items, 4 tobacco-related artifacts, and 1 arms object. Miscellaneous objects that could not be placed into one of these categories were either discarded in the field or are not recorded in the full report. Activity items included 5 tools and machine parts, 135 pieces of miscellaneous hardware, 15 toys (a ceramic marble and 14 twentieth century toys), 18 transportation-related objects (car parts), 12 pieces of lighting glass,



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO327

Site Name: MD-124-1

Prehistoric 

Other name(s) Warfield

Historic Brief  
Description:

early 20th century house site

Unknown 

70 fragments of redware flower pot, and 13 miscellaneous other objects. The architectural assemblage consisted of 358 nails (222 wire, 116 cut, 1 T-head, 1 L-head, and 18 unidentified), 394 fragments of window glass, and 20 pieces of construction hardware. The clothing remains were 5 buttons (3 plastic, 1 iron, 1 rubber), and 15 other clothing pieces. The six furniture items were a metal bedspring, an iron furniture key, a metal knob, a metal turn lock, a "Sony" tag, and an iron radio dial. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 73 ceramic sherds (5 creamware, 37 ironstone, 11 ivory-colored ware sherds, 1 Fiesta ware, 5 burned earthenware, 6 porcelain, 3 redware, 5 salt-glazed stoneware, 1 Bristol-glazed stoneware, and 5 other stoneware sherds), 1,666 pieces of bottle glass, 14 table glass fragments, 1 piece of flatware, 7 pieces of kitchen metal, 28 pieces of kitchen plastic, 18 metal cans, and 3 pieces of Styrofoam cup. The nine personal items were two 20th century coins, a metal watch part, a toothpaste tube, part of a crutch, a pencil sharpener, a pocket knife, a jewelry box key, and a plastic seahorse charm. Tobacco-related artifacts consisted of a redware elbow pipe fragment, a cigarette filter, and 2 plastic tips from cigars. The arms object was a 20th century 20 gauge shotgun shell.

Analyses of the artifact collections recovered from 18MO327 indicate that the assemblage, with few exceptions, dates to the 20th century. The overall site assemblage exhibits the artifact patterns of a rural, domestic occupation, which is consistent with the available historical data. The Phase II investigations clearly indicated that all of the site soils at 18MO327 were bulldozed at the time the primary site structure was demolished, and that earthmoving has destroyed any integrity that the site may have once possessed. All of the profiles derived from the shovel tests and test squares, with the exception of one STP and one unit located between two trees, reflected the heavy disturbances that have taken place. Thus, the site is not considered to retain any significant research value.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006209, 00006213