



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO346

Site Name: Beall Dawson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

early 19th century standing brick house

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0820

Longitude -77.1646

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Cabin John Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 1000 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

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Y

Hispanic

Scottish American

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

pollen?



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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		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	1	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	165	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	62	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	106	Pearlware	81			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1	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"/>	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		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	629	Activity item(s)	92
Glass (all)	1125	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4490	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	337
Arms	3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	17	Misc.	4277
Personal items	3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Beall Dawson Site (18MO346) consists of the remains of an early 19th century Federal-style brick mansion and surrounding grounds. It was built by the second Clerk of Montgomery County. The mansion is located in downtown Rockville, Maryland and is currently used as a museum by the Montgomery County Historical Society. The house is situated on approximately 1.4 acres of land which were part of the original Beall estate. In front of the main façade, south of the house, are three terraces which were part of a formal garden. A small out-building stands north of the house. A 20th century garage, which now serves as the Historical Society's library, stands west of the house. Also west of the house is a second museum dedicated to 19th century medicine and medical devices. This structure is a 19th century doctor's office (Dr. Stonestreet's Office) which was moved onto the Historical Society's property in the 1970s. The grounds are maintained by the City of Rockville and brick walkways have been installed along with some flower beds. In general, however, the grounds have not been substantially altered since renovations to the main house in 1946.

Archeological work was first conducted in 1990 at Beall Dawson to provide information about archeological deposits which might be impacted by future property development as part of the expansion of Historical Society facilities. As part of this research, archival work was conducted to document the history of the property. Frederick, Maryland was an important frontier town in the early 18th century. However, no large towns existed between Georgetown and Frederick at this early period. Population in the area grew during the eighteenth century resulting in the formation of Montgomery County in 1776. The county seat was established at a small settlement first known as Williamsburg, then Montgomery Courthouse, and Rockville after 1803. The surrounding area was agricultural land with few settlements. Georgetown was the major port and economic focus for the region.

In 1784 town lots were created from a 200 acre tract by William Williams. In 1794 Upton Beall purchased lots 28, 59, and 60. In 1800 and 1803, lots 57 and 58 were purchased. The four lots on which the Beall Dawson house was constructed were lots 57, 58, 59, and 60. Upton Beall was appointed the second County Clerk of Montgomery County in 1795 upon the death of the first clerk Brooke Beall, Upton's father. Upton had moved to Rockville in 1794. The 1798 tax roles state that Upton Beall owned 5 lots with one house. Two of the lots were to become the location of his mansion, presently known as the Beall Dawson House, which was constructed around 1815. The 1808 tax roles name Beall as owning four lots with some improvements. The 1820 roles state that Upton owned 12 lots. The Beall mansion, on 4 lots, was the most valuable property in town worth 1,500 dollars. Upton Beall died in 1827. The house stayed in the family and Margaret Beall, Upton's daughter lived in the house until her death in 1901. In 1870 Margaret asked her cousin Amelia Somerville to move in with her. Amelia married John Dawson and he moved into the house. John Dawson died in 1922. In 1940 Margaret Dawson, John and Amelia's daughter and heir of the house, died. Edwin L. Davis purchased the house and grounds in 1946. Extensive renovations were conducted at this time, including interior repairs, exterior masonry repairs, and the addition of a frame kitchen wing. Construction plans for the wing indicate a slab concrete foundation which would have destroyed all but the deepest features in this area. The Montgomery County Historical Society and the City of Rockville purchased the property in the 1960s.

During the springs of 1990 and 1991, the Montgomery County Historical Society conducted archeological investigations on the north side of the Beall Dawson mansion with assistance from the Archeological Society of Maryland. The focus of these studies was to determine if any portion of the builder's trench remained and to locate a late 19th century windmill purported to have been there. No report for this work has ever been completed, but it is known that a coal cinder road was identified along with numerous recent features along the house and a large disturbed area believed to be associated with the windmill. Numerous artifacts, mostly architectural, were recovered from these excavations. Any builder's trench appears to have been obliterated by utility trenches and foundation repairs.

This brief investigation was enough to indicate that the Beall Dawson property might contain significant archeological deposits. Because the historical society hoped to construct a new administrative building and conduct other renovation work on the property, a thorough Phase I archeological survey was conducted in 1992. Research was divided into 2 stages. The first stage involved the use of ground penetrating radar to locate buried soil anomalies. Stage 2 was subsurface archeological testing with standardized shovel test pits (STPs). Subsurface testing consisted of STPs placed 6.1 m (20 ft) apart on a grid pattern. Shovel test locations were placed using a tape and compass. Each STP was about 30.5 cm (1 ft) in diameter and was dug to sterile subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware cloth and soil samples were retained for palynological analysis (no analytical report is provided). A total of 113 shovel tests were excavated resulting in the discovery of one feature of unknown function (west of the house). A total of 9,881 historic artifacts were recovered. A single prehistoric quartz flake was recovered from the west end of the property. The lack of associated prehistoric artifacts indicates that no significant prehistoric site exists on the property. Investigations of the east lawn indicate modern areas of disturbance and the potential for outbuilding remains. There was also a discrete concentration of 19th century remains. Ground penetrating radar identified a subsurface anomaly in the northwest corner of this area. It is thought to be due to natural stratigraphic variations and not cultural disturbances. A large number of artifacts were found on the second and first terraces of the south lawn. Much of this material dates to the earliest occupation of the house, but appears to be redeposition from elsewhere on the property (the fill used to create the terraces contained significant kitchen-refuse). Construction of the terraces appears to have taken place in the mid to late 19th century. An anomaly on one of the garden terraces is likely the result of a cultural disturbance. The highest concentration of kitchen related and architectural objects was located on the west end of the house. The radar survey detected an anomaly and one of the shovel tests located a feature, both of which may be associated with a possible outbuilding. This location was determined to have the most potential to contain significant archeological resources associated with the 19th century occupation at 18MO346. Few artifacts were recovered at the far west end of the property.

Historic artifacts encountered during the Phase I survey include 18 activity items, 4,326 architectural objects, 13 clothing items, 1 furniture object, 1,332 kitchen-related artifacts, 3 personal items, 8 tobacco-related artifacts, 3 arms items, and 4,204 miscellaneous objects. Activity items recovered at the site included 4 toys (3 glass marbles & a porcelain doll part), 3 non-electrical pieces of wire, a hex nut, a machine bolt, 2 chain links, a tin bell, 3 slate pencil fragments, a pencil, and 2 pieces of lighting glass. Architectural items consisted of 596 pieces of roofing slate, 125 fragments of shingle, 2,645 fragments of brick, 284 pieces of mortar, 46 fragments of plaster, 249 pieces of window glass, 1 piece of asphalt/bitumen, 307 nails (44 cut, 168 wire, and 95 unidentified), 2 iron tacks, 1 spike, 2 screws, 3 miscellaneous hardware pieces, 5 pieces of lumber, an electrical outlet cover, 2 pieces of tin gutter, 32 chips of housepaint, 14 pieces of wallpaper, 9 vinyl wallcovering fragments, a lead pipe, and a drainage pipe. Clothing material culture consisted of 7 buttons (2 bone, 2 glass, 2 brass/copper, 1 iron), a brass snap, a boot lace, a nylon stocking, a piece of cotton textile, and 2 safety pins. The only furniture item was a brass tack, probably for upholstery. Kitchen-related artifacts consisted of 466 ceramic sherds (1 Jackfield, 105 creamware, 67 pearlware, 4 semi-porcelain, 50 porcelain, 12 ironstone, 5 gray stoneware, 20 miscellaneous stoneware, 4 Rockingham, 96 whiteware, 6 yellowware, 76 redware, and 20 miscellaneous ceramics), 5 table glass fragments, 582 container glass fragments, 4 pieces of Styrofoam, 3 bottle caps, 3 metal lids, 11 pieces of aluminum foil, 3 tin plate fragments, 1 plastic spoon, and aluminum can, 154 animal bones, 58 oyster shell fragments, 6 seeds, and 35 pieces of walnut shell. Personal items consisted of an 1891 Indian-



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Unknown

head penny, an enamel bead, and a penknife. Tobacco-related artifacts included 2 kaolin pipe stems, 5 kaolin pipe bowls, and 1 complete kaolin pipe. The arms object were a .22 shell and a single shotgun shell. And finally, the miscellaneous objects encountered during Phase I work were 5 unidentified pieces of glass, 400 unidentified pieces of iron, a piece of lead, 7 unidentified wood fragments, a rodent bone, a snail shell, 16 pieces of plastic, a piece of vinyl, 1,868 pieces of coal, 1,404 clinkers, 195 pieces of charcoal, and 305 fragments of slag.

In 1993 a Phase II archeological study was conducted at the site, in the location of a proposed new wing for the Historical Society library. Phase II work was deemed necessary because of significant artifact counts recovered in the area of impact during the preceding Phase I shovel testing. This area was on the very edge of the high concentration area noted at the west end of the house. Four excavation units 1.524 m (5 ft) long and 76.2 cm (2.5 ft) wide were dug. The units were arranged along the grid (from Phase I) to form a trench running east/west. Excavation proceeded in natural stratigraphic levels. The two units on the west end of the trench dug first and all soil was screened through hardware mesh. The stratigraphic sequence was defined during the excavation of the first two units. It was determined that the upper two levels were modern, dating to the time of the construction of the garage (now the library) and later. For this reason, these levels were not screened during the excavation of the second two units. A few artifacts were collected from these levels, however. The top of each newly encountered stratigraphic level was trowelled clean in order to search for cultural features. Any feature identified was mapped and photographed and profiles were drawn after excavation.

Stratigraphic analysis indicated that undisturbed layers existed within the project area on the south side of the existing library. This condition likely exists elsewhere on the Beall Dawson grounds and it is possible that 19th century features exist on the grounds. No 19th century features were found during this work. The one feature identified during this project likely dates to the mid 20th century and is not considered significant for interpreting the Beall Dawson House. Also, all of the artifacts encountered (mostly kitchen-related and architectural) appear to have been deposited as scattered material. In fact, no quantitative artifact descriptions are provided in this report and, thus, artifact counts for this project are not included in the tallies above. It was determined that no significant archeological deposits would be impacted by construction of the new library wing.

The most recent stage of archeological work at 18MO346, was additional Phase II testing conducted in 1995. This work was necessitated by significant leaning in one of the buildings on the grounds; the small office of Dr. Stonestreet which was moved to the site in the 1970s and serves as the "Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine". The leaning of the building had reached a critical stage and it was decided that the foundation needed repair in order to correct the problem. Contractors were called to the site to expose the foundation that had been built in 1970. This excavation identified the root of the sinking building; it had been set partially on top of an abandoned ice house filled with unstable refuse. Since the Historical Society wished to preserve the ice house feature for future archeological examination, the decision was made to relocate the building about 12 meters to the south where the Phase I survey of 1992 indicated artifact concentrations were low. Phase II testing was conducted in the area where the Stonestreet Museum was to be relocated.

Initial plans called for the archeological excavation of the new footer locations. All artifacts would be recovered and all features mapped and excavated. Once work began, it became clear that the soils in this area had been disturbed. Late 20th century artifacts were found in the lowest artifact bearing soil. After excavating about 20% of the proposed footers (six 76.2 X 76.2 cm units) excavation was halted, as the amount of work conducted was believed sufficient to determine that no significant archeological deposits would be destroyed by moving the building to this location. Nineteenth century artifacts were not common and there is no indication that any building ever existed in this area. The presence of late 20th century artifacts in the lowest artifact bearing layers, and all other layers, indicates the soils have been disturbed. No features were encountered.

Artifacts encountered during the 1995 Phase II testing included 74 activity items, 164 architectural objects, 4 pieces of clothing, 432 kitchen-related artifacts, and 73 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a kaolin marble, 16 pieces of lamp glass, a piece of graphite pencil lead, a wire clip, and 55 fragments of terracotta flower pot. Architectural items were 47 pieces of roofing slate, a linoleum fragment, 20 pieces of brick, 11 fragments of mortar, 69 pieces of window glass, 3 cut nails, 3 wire nails, 9 unidentified nails, and a construction staple. The four clothing objects were a tin button, 2 metal buckles, and a piece of nylon stocking. The kitchen-related artifacts consisted of 163 ceramic sherds (1 Whieldonware, 1 creamware, 14 pearlware, 12 porcelain, 10 ironstone, 3 Rockingham, 7 miscellaneous stoneware, 69 whiteware, 1 yellowware, 14 redware, and 31 miscellaneous ceramics), 3 table glass fragments, 208 container glass fragments, 9 pieces of aluminum foil, 47 animal bones, a piece of oyster shell, and a peach pit. And finally, the miscellaneous objects were 4 unidentified glass fragments, 31 unidentified iron fragments, a piece of lead, and unidentified terracotta fragment, 15 pieces of plastic, 1 wood piece, 19 fragments of coal, and an unidentified object.

All of the archeological research conducted at 18MO346 indicates that there are likely pockets of intact stratified deposits preserved in certain areas of the site (such as near the west end of the main house). In addition, the unexcavated ice house awaits archeological examination. All indications would seem to be that 18MO346 possesses integrity and is likely to provide information relating to life amongst the upper classes in 19th century Montgomery County.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006255, 00006256, 00006265