



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO421

Site Name: Blue Marsh Site A

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Jackson City House 2, 18MO202 House 2

Historic

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

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 13

SCS soil & sediment code 2B

Latitude 39.1922

Longitude -77.1124

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 3-8%

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 183 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930
- Y
- Y

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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
 - 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"/>	Susquehanna	<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	103	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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	178	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	36	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	5			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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

19th century foundation and late 19th-early 20th century bottle midden

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	380	Activity item(s)	29
Glass (all)	1839	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	926	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	108
Arms	3	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	50	Misc.	218
Personal items	18	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18MO421, or Blue Marsh Site A, was originally recorded as part of 18MO202, the Black Settlement Site (see synopsis report). It is located between Laytonsville and Brookeville in Montgomery County, Maryland. The site consists of the remains of a mid-19th-early 20th century African-American farmstead; part of an African American community founded sometimes after the Civil War, presumably by freed slaves. The community was known at various times as "Blue Marsh", "Jackson City", or simply "the Black Settlement". It is surrounded by swamp and would have been considered marginal agricultural land, but land that would have been attainable to newly freed slaves.

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. See the synopsis report for 18MO169 and 18MO202 for an overview of the archival findings. During the Phase II fieldwork in 1980, several foundations which made up the historic settlement were encountered, among them what was believed to be the house of one "Mr. Bond", which would eventually be assigned site number 18MO421. This house was represented by an irregular rectangular fieldstone foundation. The only other feature noted near the house foundation was an associated well which served the property. Later documentary research conducted in the mid 1990s would determine that this identification was in error. Chain-of-title research appears to contradict the placement of the Bond house and that owned by a member of the Simpson family on an 1879 map that was used as supporting evidence in the 1980 study. The houses are positioned correctly relative to one another on the map, but are now believed to be depicted too far to the north when compared to deeds and titles. The list of owners and slaves as of 1864 for the district was available and examined in the 1990s, and none of the names associated with known Blue Marsh residents were found under the local plantation/farm owners. However, a Joseph Simpson was in the district by the time of the 1850 census so the family may have been in the area long enough to acquire property by the 1870s as the Bonds were revealed (through archival evidence) to have done. A Margaret Simpson is depicted on the aforementioned 1979 map and a second Simpson household (that of a Susan Simpson) consisted of a 2 acre site that was in existence until at least 1940 according to county tax records. The various excavations at 18MO421 suggest that it was occupied well into the first quarter of the 20th century. Based on the location of sites relative to one another and their geographic relationship on the 1879 map, sites that MHT has assigned the numbers 18MO421 and 18MO422 were determined to be Simpson households and sites assigned numbers 18MO423 and 18MO424 were very likely Bond households.

During the Oaks II study in the 1980s, the observable above-ground foundation and well remnants at this particular house locale were carefully mapped and documented and then a total of 16 shovel test pits (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 which had to be aligned 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. Artifacts encountered during the 1980 Phase II study at 18MO421 are not catalogued here nor are they included in the tables above since at the time they were collected, the site was still considered a component of 18MO202. See the synopsis report for 18MO202 and the discussion of "House 2" for a description of the 1980 Phase II assemblage at 18MO421.

The next time archeological work was conducted at 18MO421 was in 1995. A 120 acre tract including the site was slated for development into a new golf course. A thorough archeological survey was conducted of the entire area using a combination of surface reconnaissance in areas where visibility was good and shovel test pits throughout. Site 18MO421 was located near the northeastern property limits of the proposed golf course and at the time was engulfed in thick woods. It was subsequently cleared, remapped, photographed and examined as part of the 1995 Phase I survey. Again, the undressed fieldstone foundation was mapped and a brick scatter was noted in the central portion of the structure. Several artifacts were collected from among the ruins of the house. The same large ovoid depression, interpreted in 1980 as the remains of a well, was located and mapped. A large tree protruded from the depression indicating its considerable age. No other features were noted. A series of 13 STPs were excavated at 9.14 meter (30 ft) intervals in two transects (north-south and east-west). STPs measured 46 cm (1.5 ft) in diameter and were excavated at least 15-25 cm (6-10 in) into sterile subsoil and all soils were screened through hardware cloth. Each soil stratum was excavated and screened separately. The transects intersected approximately 91 cm (3 ft) north of the north foundation wall of the structure. Ten of the 13 shovel tests produced positive results, and all artifacts were recovered from the A-horizon. The greatest concentration of artifacts was recovered from the house foundation and the area immediately to the south, with decreasing quantities of artifacts inversely proportional to the increasing distance from the foundation. Although artifacts were recovered from the northern and southernmost STPs, they were in very small numbers. Based on the data recovered, this house location and a 30.5 meter (100 ft) area surrounding it (which had previously been considered a part of 18MO202) was redefined as 18MO421 and recommended for further study if the golf course could not be redesigned to avoid the site.

The artifacts encountered during the 1995 Phase I survey at 18MO421 were all clearly from a domestic context. They included 30 architectural artifacts (a piece of architectural stone, 22 fragments of window glass, and 7 unidentified nails), 131 kitchen-related objects (1 porcelain sherd, 5 ironstone sherds, 1 gray stoneware sherd, 1 miscellaneous stoneware sherd, 22 whiteware sherds, 3 yellowware sherds, 2 redware sherds, 92 container glass fragments, 1 table glass fragment, a fork fragment, and a spoon fragment), 2 kaolin pipe stem fragments, and 4 miscellaneous objects (3 unidentified metal objects and a piece of coal).

Development plans for the golf course were redesigned after the 1995 Phase I survey was completed to avoid 3 of the 4 historic sites that made up 18MO202. However, it was determined that some development impacts could not be avoided at Site 18MO421 according to the golf course construction plan in place at that time. Thus, researchers returned to the site in 1996 to conduct a second Phase II study. Prior to subsurface testing, a preliminary reconnaissance of the site was performed. The area had been partially cleared in 1995 during Phase I operations, but had since grown back into a dense thicket of brush, vines, and fallen trees within a stand of mature timber. All low-standing growth was removed from the site core area (i.e. the house foundation, possible well, and immediately surrounding area) and sufficiently cleared from the project area to facilitate shovel test pit and test unit excavations.

A Cartesian grid coordinate system was established for plotting the location of all STP and test units on the site. Site datum was established in the southwest corner of the project area and grid points were plotted at 4.57 meter (15 ft) intervals to the north and east of datum. The Phase II grid was oriented to



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Unknown

magnetic north, and was aligned with the Phase I grid. A total of 146 STPs were excavated at grid intersections. Each STP measured approximately 0.4572 X 0.4572 meters in diameter. Where present, the sod cap was removed and the rootmat was searched by hand for artifacts. All sediments were screened through hardware cloth. The primary function of the STP operation was to accurately define site boundaries. To expedite this procedure, shovel test pit excavations began at the center of the site (the house foundation) and proceeded outward towards the periphery. STP excavations on any single gridline were halted after a culturally sterile test was encountered, or one in which fewer than 5 artifacts per test was encountered. With the lack of any visible features beyond this point, the paucity of artifacts was taken to delimit the boundary of the site.

Areas of densest artifact concentration were found adjacent to the house foundation and to the south and west of the structure. Several additional areas of moderate artifact concentration were located to the southeast of the foundation. This artifact distribution pattern was interpreted to indicate that the back door was located along the southern wall of the structure with a corresponding front door at the center of the opposite wall facing a roadway just north of the building. An anomalous concentration of artifacts (an apparent midden of glass bottles) was found in shovel test pits at the northern perimeter of the site. Artifacts encountered during the 1996 Phase II shovel testing include 6 activity items, 220 architectural artifacts, 6 clothing objects, 793 kitchen-related items, 2 personal items, 3 tobacco-related artifacts, and 29 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were 5 metal lamp parts and a length of barbed wire. The architectural artifacts were 15 pieces of brick, 1 fragment of mortar, 2 pieces of architectural stone, 97 window glass fragments, 102 nails (1 cut, 101 unidentified), a wire fragment, a metal fencepost, and a drainage pipe fragment. The six clothing artifacts were 4 buttons (2 porcelain, a shell button, a metal button) and 2 eyelets. The kitchen-related artifacts consisted of 203 ceramics sherds (2 pearlware, 1 porcelain, 36 ironstone, 1 miscellaneous earthenware, 5 gray stoneware, 11 other stoneware, 127 whiteware, 7 yellowware, and 13 redware), 577 glass fragments (10 table ware, 567 container glass), 6 pieces of aluminum foil, and 7 animal bones. The 2 personal items were a plastic comb fragment and an iron souvenir figurine. The three tobacco-related items were a redware pipe stem and 2 kaolin pipe bowls. And finally, the miscellaneous artifacts from these shovel test pits were 10 unidentified metal pieces (mostly iron), 14 unidentified tin scraps, 3 pieces of plastic, and 2 pieces of coal.

The second stage of Phase II testing consisted of the excavation of test units in order to investigate both the interior and the exterior of the house foundation and the nearby midden feature. Two excavation units measured 91 cm X 91 cm, and a fourth measured 91 cm X 1.83 meters (3 ft X 6 ft) and were all situated in and around the house foundations. A fourth unit (91 cm X 91 cm) was excavated within the artifact concentration noted at the northeastern periphery of the site. All units except one were excavated and screened by naturally occurring soil horizons. The one exception was excavated in 7.62 cm (3 in) levels within natural strata. Any soil features encountered were excavated in arbitrary 7.62 cm levels separately from the surrounding matrix and documented by the appropriate photographs and scale drawings in both plan and profile views. All test units were terminated at the base of historic artifact-bearing soils, and were backfilled upon completion.

Unit excavation revealed that the remaining house foundation wall measured approximately 30.5 cm (1 ft) in depth. Mortar was not observed in exposed sections of the foundation wall, but was found among the foundation stones below the ground surface. This mortar possessed a very high sand content. No evidence of a builder's trench was found, however, an iron bar was found against the exterior of the foundation in one unit. This bar may have been used during the initial construction of the foundation to lend stability to the wall. It is also possible that the bar may have been placed along the wall at a later time as a repair device. A large, natural disturbance was found in the first excavation level of a unit adjacent to the southern foundation wall. The disturbance was interpreted as a tree stain. Large quantities of charcoal were present within this unit, but it is uncertain whether this material was related to the destruction of the house through possible burning or resulted from wood fires used for cooking and heating. Excavations in the unit at the northeastern periphery of the site revealed a bottle dump/midden of probable Late 19th – early 20th century origins. The deposit was shallow and no pit feature was found in soils below the plowzone. Hence, the midden was created exclusively by dumping on the ground surface.

Artifacts encountered during the 1996 Phase II test unit excavations included 23 activity items, 676 architectural artifacts, 44 clothing artifacts, 1,051 kitchen-related artifacts, 16 personal items, 3 tobacco-related artifacts, 3 arms artifacts, and 185 miscellaneous objects. The activity items included 20 toys (18 clay marbles, a toy wheel, and a toy pearlware plate), a chain fragment, a copper cap, and a copper ring. The architectural artifacts consisted of 38 bricks, 8 pieces of mortar, 15 architectural stones, 5 synthetic board fragments, 233 window glass fragments, 375 nails (1 wire nails, 374 unidentified nails), and 2 pipe fragments. The clothing remains were 41 buttons (4 bone, 26 porcelain, 3 glass, 3 metal, and 5 shell), 1 thimble, and 2 safety pin fragments. The kitchen-related assemblage consisted of 141 ceramic sherds (2 buff-bodied earthenware, 2 pearlware, 34 porcelain, 62 ironstone, 3 miscellaneous stoneware, 29 whiteware, 7 yellowware, 1 redware, and 1 unidentified), 29 glass jar lid liner pieces, 785 container glass fragments, a glass salt shaker, 2 glass bottle stoppers, a cork stopper, 2 crown caps, 89 animal bones, and a piece of oyster shell. The sixteen personal items were a plastic watch face, 4 plastic comb fragments, a glass bead, a plastic bead, 6 Indian Head pennies, a plastic piece from a cuff link, 1 finger ring, and a copper ornament. Tobacco-related items were 3 kaolin pipe bowls. Arms recovered include 2 shotgun shell casings and a rifle bullet casing. And finally, the 185 miscellaneous objects encountered were 40 unidentified pieces of metal (mostly iron), 115 fragments of tin, 22 unidentified copper/bronze pieces, 7 pieces of plastic, and a piece of coal.

The final operation conducted during the Phase II investigation of 18MO421 was clearing and probing the possible well feature located west of the house foundation. The feature was cleared of all undergrowth, leaving a large tree growing out of the wet wall of the feature. It was found to have dirt walls with no discernable stone or brick present; the dirt walls gradually sloping inwards to a depth of 82 cm. A bucket auger was used to conduct three tests of the soils at the base of the feature, but no buried organic soils or artifact deposits indicative of refuse deposition were observed in these tests. If this feature had once been a well, it has not demonstrated any potential for providing significant information on the site. Wells observed at other sites within the Blue Marsh community were stone-lined, and the precise nature of the feature remains in question.

Documentary and archeological investigations at 18MO421 have verified that it is an African-American household site and part of the African-American community of Blue Marsh. The site was in all likelihood occupied by the Simpson family from the 1860s through the 1940s. Datable artifacts recovered from the 1996 Phase II excavations support a late 19th century through mid 20th century occupation of the site. Little is currently known about this family, but according to census information a Joseph Simpson was in the "1st or Cracklin District" by 1850, and Margaret Simpson had migrated to Montgomery County from Washington DC at least by the late 1870s. The 1880 census lists that she was "keeping house", which likely means that she did not work outside the household. Her house is depicted on a 1979 map, but a second Simpson household (that of Susan Simpson) is known to have existed in the area from tax records. Because this household was maintained well into the 20th century, 18MO421 is thought to be the Susan Simpson homestead.

Archeological site 18MO421 is characterized by relatively intact architectural features and well-defined subsurface artifact deposits. The artifacts found in the three foundation units and the bottle dump unit reveal much about the occupation and the occupants of 18MO421. The sheer quantity of artifacts displays a rich material culture spanning the transition from hand-made manufacturing to machine-made, mass produced consumer goods of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The site exhibited a significantly large number of higher quality ceramics. Numerous researchers on freed African-American sites have encountered similar patterns, where such households exhibit greater percentages of higher quality ceramics than other communities of low-income individuals (such as



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Irish immigrants). Others have noted that these may have been used primarily for status display rather than utilitarian purposes. Sufficiently dense and intact artifacts survive at 18MO421 to explore this and other issues of African-American material cultural definition. The site is considered to have significant research potential and subsequent to the Phase II studies here, plans for the golf course development were altered so that Site 18MO421 (and other Blue Marsh sites) would be preserved as "protected areas" within the club property.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006271, 00006276