



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO474

Site Name: Lockhouse 18

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th century C & O Canal lockhouse, domestic/transportation masonry structure

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9993

Longitude -77.2364

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 67 m

Site slope

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) Potomac River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## 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

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
- 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

## 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

<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			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

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	23	Activity item(s)	8
Glass (all)	63	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	158	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	23
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	32
Personal items	2	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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" 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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Brief

Description:

19th century C & O Canal lockhouse, domestic/transportation masonry structure

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MARS

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18MO474, Lockhouse 18 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is located in the Great Falls area of Montgomery County. The site consists of the ruins of a lockhouse and remaining lock gates: interpretive components within the larger C & O Canal National Historical Park. Lockhouse 18 lies on the berm side of the canal, directly beside Lock 18 and the remnants are a series of jagged and crumbling stone walls protruding from the base of a steep slope which rises to the cliffs above. Portions of all four exterior walls remain, as well as an interior dividing wall, but it is the high arch-like section of the south elevation that contributes much to a certain picturesque quality that the site has. Lying between the house and the lock chamber is a narrow stone-lined by-pass flume, and narrow trails lead north and south along the base of the slope to connect the house with locks 17 and 19. The entire site is rather heavily overgrown, with trees growing even within the ruins of the house. Photographic evidence reveals the earlier presence of small outbuildings adjacent to the south elevation of the house, but no physical evidence of these structures exists today. An examination of these photographs and the extant ruins indicates a general conformity to early lockhouse specifications for the C&O Canal: dimensions of 18 X 30 feet, division into 2 rooms on the first floor, the use of clay mortar on the interior walls with exterior lime mortar pointing, etc.

Site 18MO474 was first examined archeologically in 1975 and consisted of Phase II-level research. Research was undertaken at the site as part of a broader inventory of archeological sites and historic properties within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The sites were inventoried in order to develop mitigation plans in case of unavoidable site impacts and to aide in the interpretive mission of the park. As part of this research, extensive archival study was conducted. The archival work reveals that the earliest available documentation of Lockhouse 18 is a letter of the acceptance (by the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company) of a proposal for its construction on December 11, 1828, by J.W. Maynard (a contractor). Like so much of the work on the canal, however, apparent financial difficulties resulted in the abandonment and subsequent reletting of the contract in December of 1829 to "Swimley and Darlington" at \$700.

Although not the first lock keeper's house to be completed on the C&O Canal, Lockhouse 18 was situated on the first stretch of canal to be opened to navigation. The house was apparently ready for occupancy in the late summer of 1830 when it was assigned to a Mr. Roberts as keeper of locks 17 and 18. Navigation was begun in November of that year from Little Falls to Seneca, and extended to Georgetown in July of 1831. Construction of this lower section of canal had begun in 1828, following the transfer of rights to canal construction on the Potomac from the earlier Potomac Company (chartered in 1785 by George Washington and his associates) to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. It was originally anticipated that, as reflected in the name Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the waterway would stretch from Georgetown to the Ohio River at Pittsburg and would require 12 years for its completion. After more than 20 years of canal construction, the facility was terminated at Cumberland, Maryland.

The first occupants of Lockhouse 18, a Mr. Roberts and family, were given not only the use of the house in return for their care of locks 17 and 18, but were paid an annual compensation of \$200 as well. Also set aside for the use of each locktender was one acre of land to be used as a garden, but local physiographic conditions, such as those at lock 18, sometimes made this an impossibility. From this point onward, historical documentation of relevance to the occupational and physical history of Lockhouse 18 is extremely sparse. It is known, however, that on May 7, 1853, the annual salary for the lock keeper at locks 17 and 18 was set at \$300. In the late 1860s, a series of letters to stockholders reported that many of the lock keeper's houses and other canal facilities required substantial repairs, possibly a result of damage and neglect during the years of the Civil War. Mention is also found in the historical record of repairs made to lockhouses in 1885, but no specific reference to Lockhouse 18 is made. A major flood in the late spring of 1889 caused many lockhouses to be washed away or damaged, but, again, Lockhouse 18 is not listed among those damaged.

The only remaining evidence relating to Lockhouse 18 prior to its destruction by fire about 1930 is photographic. The photos show the exterior of the structure with a high wooden front stoop, wood plank bridging the by-pass flume, a small peak-roofed shanty on the berm edge of the lock chamber, a possible storage shed, a possible privy, and a tiny shed-roofed wood structure. The photographs indicate that not all of the structures were contemporaneous and some were torn down as new structures were built. They also indicate changes to the configuration of the south entrance stoop and stair. Nothing more is known of the history of Lockhouse 18, except that the canal ceased operation in 1924 after disastrous flooding, and the house was subsequently destroyed by fire sometime around 1930. A major restoration of the canal from Georgetown to Seneca was undertaken in 1938, following the acquisition of the canal by the Federal Government from the B&O Railroad, but restoration was for the stated purpose of establishing a scenic natural recreation area.

Prior to the start of actual excavation, a decision was made to divide the site into units of equal size, units which would facilitate the horizontal and vertical recording of recovered information. The site was initially divided into 7.62 meter (25 foot) squares, within each of which are contained four 3.05 X 3.05 meter (10 X 10 ft) units separated by 61 cm (2 ft) wide balks. A distance of 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) is left between any 3.05 meter square and the border of the 7.62 meter unit within which it is contained, however, giving an overall pattern of 3.05 meter squares separated by alternating 61 cm and 91 cm (3 ft) wide balks. It was found useful at Lockhouse 18 to further subdivide the 3.05 meter units into 1.524 meter (5 ft) square quadrants. By thus excavating a series of 1.524 meter squares, a trench-like extension can be opened whenever necessary. The datum was the northwest corner of the Lockhouse 18 ruin itself. Excavation was conducted at all times within natural stratigraphic layers and artifacts were bagged by 1.524 meter quadrant and layer. Although the grid system described above was used as a system for recording provenience, excavation units were of irregular size within the individual quadrants and extensions of irregular size were opened up as needed. Excavation units were situated both along the interior and exterior walls of the lockhouse ruins, in the center of the lockhouse interior, and in three places across a footpath that passes between the house and the canal by-pass flume.

The unit-by-unit descriptions take a narrative form in the full site report and therefore provide little quantitative data for incorporation into this synopsis report. What follows herein is a very general descriptions of the artifacts recovered and the general results of the artifact/feature analysis. Since tallies of artifacts are not provided in the full report, the data presented in the tables above are minimal estimates and cannot be used as absolute quantities. Artifacts specifically mentioned in the full site report include activity items (iron rings, a pony shoe, and clay marbles), architectural artifacts (brick, burned brick, mortar, architectural stone, plaster, window glass, wooden flooring, square cut nails, cut nails, wire nails, unidentified nails, hinges, box locks, a door knob base plate, other construction hardware, and ceramic pipe fragments), clothing items (5 buttons), kitchen remains (transfer-printed refined earthenware, hand-painted earthenware, porcelain, stoneware, other pottery, a Mason jar lid with a glass liner, 4 pre-1933 whiskey flasks, a hand-blown bottle, machine made bottles, other bottle fragments, tin cans, animal bones and oyster shell), personal items (an 1865 2-penny piece, an 1859 penny), a tobacco-related artifact (clay pipe bowl), an arms item (Civil War era Minié Ball) and miscellaneous objects (modern items, glass, tin sheeting, and coal cinders).

Excavation of several units in the interior of the stone ruins revealed a central chimney support to be four feet in thickness, including the remains of a thick



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Unknown

dividing wall, and further revealed a stepped foundation for both the wall and the chimney support. A sand and ash layer was encountered in the units which represented the burning that destroyed the building. Immediately beneath this layer of ash and sand lay a thin gray clay-like lens which "capped" a rather thick brownish gray soil and stone accumulation containing a large number of late 19th century artifacts (including the 1865 2-penny coin, a small hand-blown bottle, and the Minie Ball). The discovery of this 19th century level led to expansion in the north/central portion of the lockhouse interior. The discoveries in this area were quite similar; a deposit of soil, stone rubble, and more recent materials atop a burnt layer, with 19th century material preserved beneath. A cellar was present on one side of the dividing wall and it was thought that a cellar might be located in this portion of the structure as well. However, after excavation it appeared that the area instead served as only a crawl space. Additional units were opened up along the foundation and dividing walls to determine if this crawl space had openings to permit access. A very small opening was encountered, but was probably not large enough to permit access through the dividing wall from the extant cellar on the other side. A steep east to west slope of all pre-1930 strata was noted throughout and the foundation was built in a step-like fashion directly mortared to sloping bedrock. Several test units also focused on the exterior of the house. These units were geared towards better understanding the construction features of the house and to look for porch and landing supports as well as outbuildings. Little information was gained from these exterior excavation units, other than evidence that the historic grade of the landscape had changed little over time between the lockhouse and bypass flume. Postholes, outbuilding foundations, and other features that would aide in interpretation were decidedly lacking.

The 1975 archeological excavations and archival research centering upon Lockhouse 18 has provided a much more comprehensive and complete interpretation of the initial appearance of the house and its subsequent alterations than would otherwise have been possible. While presumably built in accordance with documented 1828 specifications for the construction of lockhouses, the archeological and photographic data reveal that some alterations were necessary to accommodate the narrowly prescribed area between slope and canal. A detailed description of these variations is available in the full site report. Artifact analysis revealed that the crawl space contains a layer of 19th century fill just above sterile subsoil which was deposited after the Civil War and probably during the 1870s or 1880s. A detailed examination of nails from this layer indicated that its deposition was associated with repair or replacement of flooring and floor joists. A thin occupational accumulation on the floor of the cellar yielded artifacts suggestive of storage. In the absence of architectural features outside the walls of the lockhouse, artifacts were more useful for stratigraphic determination and for comparison with artifact collections reported from other 19th century sites.

Due to the presence of intact features and preserved late 19th century deposits relating to life on the canal, Site 18MO474 is considered to have significant future archeological potential.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006242