



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO732

Site Name: Seneca Store

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Poole's Store, Allnutt's Store, MIHP # M: 17-62

Historic

Brief Description:

19th-century domestic site, Early 20th century standing frame commercial building

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code 22B

Latitude 39.0797

Longitude -77.3390

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-3%

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) Seneca Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 23 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

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? 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		0	
Clovis	0	Perkiomen	0		
Hardaway-Dalton	0	Susquehana	0		
Palmer	0	Vernon	0		
Kirk (notch)	0	Piscataway	0		
Kirk (stem)	0	Calvert	0		
Le Croy	0	Selby Bay	0		
Morrow Mntn	0	Jacks Rf (notch)	0		
Guilford	0	Jacks Rf (pent)	0		
Brewerton	0	Madison/Potomac	0		
Otter Creek	0	Levanna	0		

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	0	Popes Creek	0	Shepard	0	Keyser	0
Dames Qtr	0	Coulbourn	0	Townsend	0	Yeocomico	0
Selden Island	0	Watson	0	Minguannan	0	Monongahela	0
Accokeek	0	Mockley	0	Sullivan Cove	0	Susquehannock	0
Wolfe Neck	0	Clemson Island	0	Shenks Ferry	0		
Vinette	0	Page	0	Moyaone	0		
				Potomac Crk	0		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	4	Staffordshire	0	Stoneware	
Astbury	0	Jackfield	0	Tin Glazed	0	English Brown	1
Borderware	0	Mn Mottled	0	Whiteware	335	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	Porcelain	18	Nottingham	0
Creamware	34	Pearlware	114			Rhenish	0
						Wt Salt-glazed	0

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay		0	
Flaked stone	0	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ground stone	0	Modified faunal	0		
Stone bowls	0	Unmod faunal	0		
Fire-cracked rock	0	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other lithics (all)	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	0	Uncommon Obj.	0		
Rimsherds	0	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	0	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"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		31	
Pottery (all)	602	Activity item(s)	60		
Glass (all)	118	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	1096	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	426		
Arms	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	4	Misc.	109		
Personal items	2	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	coal, plastic	

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 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: 0 +/- 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 18MO732, the Seneca Store site in Poolesville, Montgomery County, MD contains a 19th century domestic site and the Seneca Store, which is a two story frame building on a stone foundation that was constructed in 1901. The store was acquired by Montgomery Parks in 1976 after the building was flooded during a hurricane and the owners were unable to make repairs. The MHT holds a 71-x-80 foot historic preservation easement which includes the approximately 50.5-x-21.5 foot building.

The Seneca Store site is located within a 3.53-acre tract owned by the M-NCPPC and is part of Seneca Landing Special Park. Seneca Store is situated on the floodplain of Seneca Creek within Maryland Archeological Research Unit 12, the Potomac Drainage. The project area is situated within the Upland Section of the Piedmont Plateau physiographic province. Soils within the project area are mapped as Readington silt loam, 3-8% slopes.

The first archaeological investigations at 18MO732 were conducted in 2014 as part of Phase I testing within the MHT historic preservation easement to determine whether archeological testing could add to the significance of Seneca Store, potentially by the identification of deposits associated with the construction and use of the property. The testing consisted of seven shovel test pits (STP) placed along the northeast side (rear) of the building and the eastern (back) half of the northwest side of the building. Testing encountered a range of late 19th-20th century artifacts that were associated with the store building but also encountered a few that appeared to predate the store's construction. The results of that survey prompted the Phase II survey.

Before Phase II archaeological fieldwork was conducted, a detailed land use history was developed for the site. The failed community of Seneca was laid out by John Garrett in 1787. By 1800, there were eight mills situated along Seneca Creek. The completion of the C&O Canal through Seneca Creek in 1820 spurred development of the vicinity of the project area. The Seneca Store, built in 1901, was the focal point of the community of Seneca. It served as the general store and post office for the community for over 100 years. It was one of the first locations in the vicinity to have a phone. Although the property was purchased by Montgomery Parks in 1976, the store continued to be privately operated until 2010.

The Phase II excavation was conducted in March 2016 and followed generally accepted archeological methods. As a historic period site, excavation was conducted in feet. Broad soil horizons were delineated as strata and were designated with Roman numerals. Within strata, artificially designated 0.3-foot levels were excavated in order to identify variation in the vertical presence of materials within strata. Excavation was continued until two sterile 0.3-foot levels of subsoil had been reached. Upon completion of excavation profile drawings and photographs were prepared for two contiguous walls. Plan view photographs and drawings were completed to document the presence of cultural features or anomalous conditions. Information regarding the opening and closing elevations, soil color and texture, presence of artifacts, interpretations, and other observations were recorded on standardized forms completed at the closing of every level. Excavated soil was sifted through 1/4 inch mesh screen and all artifacts were retained for analysis.

The Phase II investigation of the Seneca Store site (18MO732) consisted of the excavation of three 5-x-5-foot test units placed within areas that were scheduled to be directly impacted by the proposed alterations to the Seneca Store building. Test Unit 1 was placed off of the northeast corner of the Seneca Store, Test Unit 2 was placed to the back of Seneca Store, and Test Unit 3 was placed along the northwest facade of Seneca Store. A total of 2,660 artifacts were recovered from the test units.

Historic artifacts included architectural (n=1005), clothing (n=4), personal (n=2), tobacco (n=30), activity (n=60), kitchen (n=1471), and miscellaneous (n=87). One prehistoric artifact, a quartzite projectile point tip, was also recovered. The historic artifacts have a date range of 1790-2016. Diagnostic architectural artifacts included cut nails (n=139) and wire nails (n=20). Diagnostic ceramics included sherds of creamware (n=34), pearlware (n=100), whiteware (n=316), porcelain (n=17), ironstone (n=4), and English brown stoneware (n=1). One three-cent piece yielding an 1861 date was also recovered.

The strata were divided into three classificatory periods due to the presence or absence of historic diagnostic artifacts. The Park Ownership Phase (1976-2016) is the most recent, and dates from the closing of the store and the subsequent opening of the adjacent feed store. The presence of general trash (cigarette packaging, food wrappers) also is indicative of a vacant location. The gravel parking lot was also laid down during this period.

The Seneca Store Phase (1901-1975) contained a homogenous mix of mid 19th-20th century materials. No plastics or aluminum were recovered in this layer. The recovered artifacts are domestic in nature, and date from after the introduction of whiteware, which became omnipresent by the late 19th century. The artifacts have a broader date range for use than the dates for the store but include the presence of some artifact types that are limited to 20th century production and thus were attributed to the Seneca Store. The context of materials, mixed with spent coal and bone indicated a refuse deposit. No definable mercantile artifacts were recovered.

The Seneca Mill Phase (1790-1900) stratum was identified by the presence of artifacts that predated the existence of Seneca Store. The primary domestic artifacts from this phase consisted of creamwares, pearlwares, and table glass. Many of the artifacts found within the Seneca Mill Phase horizons have an end date of use prior to 1850. This occupation phase is consistent with the first quarter of the 19th century artifacts recovered during the 2014 Phase I survey. These dates would be consistent with the original Seneca Mill. The presence of relatively large quantities of brick and mortar from this horizon also suggest a permanent structure. The cellar of the Seneca Store has different levels of mortaring and appears to use rougher stone towards the back of the foundation, which does not extend as far below ground as the front part. It is possible that the Seneca Store was built on the foundation of an earlier structure, and that the earliest phase of the site is attributable to that original structure.

The Phase II excavations failed to identify any deposits or features that would add to the body of knowledge regarding day to day processes of a rural, early-20th century mercantile establishment. While additional archeological testing of the Seneca Store would undoubtedly yield additional artifacts, the level of prior disturbance encountered during the Phase II survey within the portion of the MHT easement where construction activities are planned makes it unlikely that potentially significant archeological contexts remain intact. Accordingly, no additional archeological testing was recommended for the proposed disturbances within the MHT preservation easement.

The Phase II excavations do suggest that the archaeological site extends beyond the preservation easement boundaries, so a systematic survey and/or testing conducted across the 3.5-acre parcel would help to determine the spatial context of the early occupation. Should construction plans be modified to encompass areas within the MHT preservation easement that are outside of the areas already investigated archaeologically, additional testing may be

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External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

SF, 95002744