



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO734

Site Name: Neelsville Blacksmith Shop

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop

Historic

Brief Description: 19th-Early 20th century blacksmith shop

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code 17B

Latitude 39.2138 Longitude -77.2488

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 3-8%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Little

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 70 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

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  blacksmith s

### 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	1739	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	33	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

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1775	Activity item(s)	336
Glass (all)	2889	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1876	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	1689
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	15	Misc.	705
Personal items	49	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 MAC Lab

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18MO734, the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop site in Germantown, Montgomery County, MD is a 19th- early 20th century blacksmith residence site. The site is located within the area of the federally-funded "MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road" Project. The SHA project involves the widening of MD 355 (Frederick Road) and improvements at the intersections of MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road and MD 355 at Brink Road. 18MO734 includes the stone foundation to a dwelling, visible on the surface, as well as a sheet midden and artifact scatter.

The 18MO734 study area is located within the Council for Maryland Archeology Research Unit 12, the Potomac Drainage between Boyds and Germantown in Montgomery County. The 18MO734 site falls within the Washington Metro Drainage, and is within the watershed of a small unnamed tributary of Little Seneca Creek. The project area is also located within the Mt. Airy Upland District of the Piedmont Plateau Physiographic Province. The topography of the archaeological survey area is gently to steeply sloping, with elevations ranging between 460 and 540 feet (140.2 to 164.6 meters) above sea level. According to the General Soil Map of Montgomery County, Maryland, the soils overlying the subject property are classified as the Brinklow-Baile-Occoquan association. Over 80 percent of the study area consisted of Occoquan loam, a well-drained loam found typically in mixed hardwood forests.

The first archaeological investigations at 18MO734 were conducted in November of 2014 as part of the Phase I investigation for the federally-funded "MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road" Project. The Phase I archeological fieldwork involved pedestrian survey and a shovel test pit (STP) survey at 20-meter (65-foot) intervals in three non-continuous areas encompassing the Limits of Disturbance for the project. All excavated soil was screened through a ¼ inch hardware cloth mesh and all artifacts found were retained for identification. Measured descriptions were made of the profiles of all STPs. Soils were described using standard terminology for colors (Munsell Soil Color Charts) and textures. In total, 91 STPs plus 11 radials were excavated out of 126 STPs that were planned. Radial STPs were excavated at ten-meter intervals adjacent to positive STPs with intact stratigraphy.

During the Phase I survey, the property owners for Parcel 333 (a 6.75 acre property) indicated to the field crew that their property was the historic location of a blacksmith shop, and that the visible foundations were still present on the property. This information was verified based on historic maps, deed research, and tax assessment records.

Indeed, a stone foundation on the property was observed and recorded during the Phase I survey. Eight STPs along two transects were excavated on the property. Historic artifacts were found in five of the eight STPs. Seven radials were excavated on the property within the survey area as topography would allow, and four of these radials were positive for historic materials. The visible foundations and the intact historic deposits on the property were designated Site 18MO734, the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop.

The limits of the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) were found to closely follow the east and west boundaries of the modern property based on shovel testing. However, shovel testing did not commence beyond the survey area boundaries, and thus the northern limits of the site were not fully established during Phase I testing.

Based on the Phase I observations of the stratigraphy and artifacts (described with the Phase II artifacts), the site appeared to preserve intact nineteenth-century deposits. Importance was immediately attached to the site for three reasons: its association with the prominent Waters family; its representation of the historic village of Neelsville, which no longer exists; and its association with nineteenth-century rural blacksmithing in Maryland.

More detailed (Phase II) investigation was needed to confirm or refute the integrity and research potential of this site. While the excavation of an STP within the building footprint did not encounter stratigraphic separation of temporal contexts, it did demonstrate that a high density of artifacts remain within the site. However, if, the site represented the remains of a workshop and/or residence that was utilized over an approximately 80-year period, stratigraphic separation of temporal contexts would not be necessary for the site to possess good research potential. Therefore, the focus of Phase II investigations was on understanding the form and function of the structure and associated features.

As the structure was initially attributed to a blacksmith shop, research foci included those outlined for other blacksmith shops in Maryland including 1) the size and configuration of the blacksmith shop, based on spatial patterning of features and artifacts; 2) the materials and methods used to construct the blacksmith shop; 3) the location and type of forge; 4) the raw materials used in the blacksmith shop; 5) the types of finished products and markets for which the blacksmith produced; 6) the adaptations of the blacksmith to changing conditions (in this case, from pre- to post-Civil War rural Maryland); and 7) the arrangement of domestic living space and working space for the blacksmith.

It was hoped that many of these research questions could be adequately explored for the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) during a Phase II assessment. Immediately following the completion of Phase I archaeological survey fieldwork, Phase II testing was recommended for the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734). SHA agreed with this recommendation and Phase II testing at the site was undertaken.

Phase II archaeological fieldwork commenced on December 8, 2014 and ended on December 15, 2014. The Phase II field investigation of The Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) involved mapping of surface features, fourteen additional STPs, and the excavation of six one-meter square test units. All archaeological investigations followed the Maryland Historical Trust's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Maryland.

The site surfaces were generally not suitable for surface inspection due to underbrush and grass lawns; some clearing of underbrush and leaf debris was necessary to allow mapping of surface features. The test units (TUs) were one-meter squares. The TUs were excavated with shovel and trowel by natural and/or cultural stratigraphic units, with each discrete layer or feature assigned a unique stratigraphic number. Excavation of TUs continued to at least ten centimeters below the lowest level containing artifacts. Photographs were taken and plan views drawn as new stratigraphic contexts were exposed that contained features. After completion of each test unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled clean and photographed. Measured drawings with soil descriptions were made of at least one wall in each TU and soils in these profiles were described using standard terminology for textures and colors. All excavated soil was screened through 1/4inch mesh hardware cloth and any artifacts found were retained for identification. All excavations were backfilled.

Prior to the Phase II fieldwork, more extensive, site-specific background research was undertaken to better contextualize the site within regional, state, and local contexts. The property in question originally was part of a land grant known as Addition to Brook Grove, surveyed for James Brooke on September 29,



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19th-Early 20th century blacksmith shop

Unknown

1762, containing seven thousand nine hundred and six acres. In the eighteenth century, the Griffith family owned the tract of land upon which the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) would eventually sit. Hezekiah Griffith is listed as owning one 100-acre tract of the Addition to Brooke Grove in 1793 and 1795. Samuel Barber had obtained the 100 acre tract at some point in the early nineteenth century. He sold off 93 acres to Alexander C. Hanson in 1814, and the remaining seven acres to the prominent Waters family in 1817. The Waters family also acquired the other 193 acres of the tract from Hanson in 1814.

In 1755, William Waters moved his family to Neelsville and began buying up the land of what would later become his estate. He named this land Conclusion. He did not reside at Conclusion, however, preferring to live in his estate to the northeast at Belmont. His son, Basil Waters, was behind the family's drive for further land acquisition. Upon the death of his father, Basil inherited Conclusion along with other tracts of land called Maiden's Bower and Panther's Range. Basil resurveyed Conclusion and renamed it Pleasant Fields. He built a brick home there which still stands, and which is eligible for the National Register.

Basil Waters was listed as the owner of two parcels in the Addition to Brooke Grove in 1817, one encompassing 142 acres and another seven acres, the latter having been acquired from Samuel Barber that same year. The blacksmith shop appears for the first and only time in tax assessment records for 1820 on the seven-acre lot of Addition to Brooke Grove. By 1831, Basil Waters owned 490 acres of Pleasant Fields, 300 acres of Brooke Grove, and the 150-acre Addition to Brooke Grove, as well as other lots in Clarksburg.

Upon Basil's death in 1844, the plantation (656 acres), all household goods, and all stock and farming implements were inherited by Basil's youngest son, Zachariah. Upon Zachariah's death in 1871, Zachariah left to his wife Eliza the home with 200 acres attached; a one-acre lot on the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and the remainder of the land attached to the home place for her lifetime. In her will, Eliza left to her brother Dr. Will Alexander Waters, the blacksmith shop, house and seven acres at Neelsville. Dr. William Waters died in 1907 from a heart attack after being lost in the woods near the house, and his son Charles inherited the farm. In 1932, the Waters' house and 988 acres were sold at public auction to pay the family's debts. The seven-acre plot on which the blacksmith shop is situated was sold at a sheriff's sale to Joseph G. Howes, a local farmer. Joseph G. Howes passed away on July 4, 1967, leaving his property to his children. The blacksmith property was left to Joseph Dorsey Howes and his wife Jane in 1974. Joseph Howes and his family sold the property to the current property owners in 1982.

The Martenet and Bond 1865 Map of Montgomery County, Maryland shows the blacksmith shop and an adjacent structure belonging to Zachariah Waters, though these are separated by a stream. The Hopkins 1878 Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington shows the structure and the adjacent blacksmith shop on the same side of the stream with both belonging to Eliza Waters. Thus, it is understood that the blacksmith probably resided with his family on the same lot where he worked.

Benjamin Read was located as the nearest blacksmith to the property when the 1850 census was enumerated, and thus is interpreted as the active blacksmith in the shop during this time. Based on the 1860 census, the property appears to have been subsequently occupied by Lawrence Rheinhardt. No blacksmiths were located operating on or near to the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) in the 1870 census. In the 1880 census, the property appears to be occupied by a blacksmith named William T. Bolton. As no apprentices are known, and there are no further mentions of the blacksmith shop in wills, tax records, or deeds, it is likely that blacksmith shop ceased to be operational toward the end of William Bolton's life.

The Phase II field investigations of the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) consisted of the excavation of 13 additional STPs and six one-by-one-meter TUs. All six TUs revealed intact stratigraphy, although some recent deposits were noted in one TU. The principal cultural features identified within the site were the stone foundation and the sheet midden located to the east of the foundation. The investigations were primarily focused on defining the function, size, and layout of the structure and its associated features. Test units excavated within and adjacent to the stone foundations provided some of these answers.

One of the excavation units exposed a portion of the foundation walls, which were sitting directly upon bedrock. Another test unit within the foundations in the northeast corner also located bedrock at a similar depth. It appears that prior to the construction of the building, the natural topography of the building site was initially leveled, with the northeast portion being cut more deeply into the natural hill.

The 46.5-square-meter (500.3-square-foot) building that was partially excavated is assumed to have been a two-story building, based on the presence of natural hills on the north and east sides facilitating bi-level entrances. A mortar surface and adjacent mortared stone located in two TUs may have served as a possible entrance for the second story of the dwelling, since these were situated directly on top of the subsoil. The difference between the mortar surface and the floor of the structure is 1.2 meters, and provides a reasonable difference in elevation for a storage area or root cellar.

The test unit excavations within and around the structure provided no clear evidence for blacksmithing, but rather yielded an artifact assemblage more indicative of domestic activities. Based on the artifact assemblage, the building cannot be interpreted as a blacksmith shop, but instead as a residence.

Historic maps indicate that the blacksmith shop should be to the east of the residence. While there is a very small possibility that the archaeological remains of the blacksmith shop were missed during Phase I and II excavations, it is far more likely that the blacksmith shop was destroyed, and no archaeological evidence remains. Road widening and the construction of a septic field at the east of the property may have eliminated any traces of the shop.

Three additional TUs excavated to the east of the structure revealed a series of cultural deposits overlying natural subsoil. Two TUs exposed a thin wall of an unidentified structure. Only domestic artifacts were located there, and a substantial number of bricks in the vicinity indicated a possible chimney. It is also possible that this feature may have served as a porch or entryway for the second story of the building to the west.

Very high densities of artifacts were found within a TU located ten meters to the east of the structure. The assemblage was primarily domestic, but a number of artifacts associated with farriering and schooling were also recovered from the same deposits, indicating a sheet midden serving the blacksmith shop and the residence on the property, as well as the adjacent schoolhouse to the east.

Overall, the excavations conducted within the core area of the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) revealed cultural features and deposits related to the residence of a nineteenth-century blacksmith and his family. These cultural features and deposits displayed good integrity and thus the potential to yield additional useful information about the domestic sphere of the blacksmith.

A total of 8,090 artifacts were recovered during the Phase I and II archaeological excavations at the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734). The artifact assemblage was overwhelmingly domestic in character, comprising almost 70 percent of the assemblage; and for this reason the building that was



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partially excavated was interpreted as a residence for the blacksmith and his family rather than the blacksmith shop. Structural artifacts comprise almost 20 percent of the assemblage, followed by artifacts of indefinite use.

A total of 554 ceramic fragments were found during Phase I and Phase II excavations at the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734). The diagnostic ware types represented in this assemblage included underglaze painted earthenware, shell-edged ware, white felspathic stoneware, dipped (banded or annular) refined earthenware, luster ware, sponge-decorated ware, transfer-printed ware, Rockingham ware, salt-glazed whiteware, porcelain, and undecorated whiteware.

The presence of such a wide variety of decorated ware can be attributable to several factors. The changes of tenancy, different families moving in and out in relatively short succession, meant that a diverse array of ceramics were likely to have been used by the people making their home at the Neelsville Blacksmith Site. Also, and perhaps more importantly, before the 1880s it was common for household to purchase separately unmatched vessels of different ware types on an as needed basis rather than purchasing complete matching sets.

A total of 6102 fragments of glass were recovered from 18MO734. Preliminary analysis during cleaning revealed that glass recovered from a majority of contexts dated to the late nineteenth century, with the exception of glass from Feature 4-1 (F4-1), which was largely modern. It was also noted that, relative to the other contexts excavated at this site, an exceptionally large amount of glass was collected from F4-1. For these reasons, the glass assemblage from F4-1 was examined separately. Contexts other than F4-1 are likely associated with occupational phases of the site. The presence of tableware, including fragments of pressed glass vessels such as drinking cups and serving dishes, as well as lamp glass, suggests that these contexts are associated with a domestic dwelling.

Much of the bottle glass from these occupational contexts was too fragmentary to offer reliable dates, but remains of multiple mouth blown bottles were recovered. Useful diagnostic items in particular were medicine bottle fragments. Several rims were recovered with flared or "wide prescription" style finishes, which were common in the United States between 1800 and 1870. A small base of a vial with an open pontil scar was found, which is typical of vessels manufactured prior to the Civil War, as well as a somewhat unusual flat base likely manufactured in a flat cup-style mold around the same time period. The most common diagnostic feature identified on bottle fragments from the occupational contexts were bases with post-bottom mold scars, which date to the latter half of the nineteenth century.

In contrast to occupational contexts, F4-1 was completely lacking in tableware and lamp glass. Much of the glass in this feature was from household utilitarian vessels, such as canning jars and milk bottles, both of which were notably lacking or present in much smaller quantities in the occupational contexts. Additionally, most of the diagnostic glass in this context was dateable to the 1920s and 1930s. Accordingly, this feature was interpreted as a recent dumping context, not associated with any occupational phase of the domestic dwelling on the site. Window glass also accounted for a relatively low portion of the glass assemblage from F4-1, suggesting that the dumping may have occurred after the structure on the site was mostly destroyed, and that the source of the dumping may have been occupants of other sites in the area rather than occupants of this particular site.

A small quantity of materials directly related to the blacksmithing process were recovered from the site including two fragments of coke fuel that was used in the furnace and seven small, glassy iron slag fragments. The type of slag recovered could only have been produced within a blacksmith hearth and would not be the result of domestic charcoal or coal burning.

Thirty-seven artifacts related to horseshoeing were recovered, with one horseshoe fragment, seven whole unused nails, seven whole used nails, 18 bent and used nails, and five blade/tips.

Seven fragments of slate writing boards were recovered at the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734). The location of the slate boards corresponds with their use at the schoolhouse near the eastern edge of the site. Three slate pencils and one soapstone pencil were also recovered during excavation. The presence of these pencils throughout the site provides further evidence for disposal of schoolhouse items on the lot.

Based on the Phase II investigations, the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) was determined to possess good integrity, and have the potential to yield new information about two important historic themes: the historic crossroads villages in nineteenth-century Maryland and the history of nineteenth-century blacksmiths and their families in North America. Therefore, the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) concurred with the assessment and the Maryland SHA re-designed the project to avoid impacts to the site.

On April 23, 2015, archaeologists returned to the site with permission from the property owners to perform a geophysical survey using an EM38 in order to locate significant archaeological features that were not detected during the Phase I or Phase II investigations. The EM38 measures electromagnetic susceptibility. In the vertical dipole mode, as set up for this survey, the EM38-MK2 provided depth of exploration at approximately 1.5 meters, and conducted readings in both, quad and in-phase data. One reading per second was recorded, allowing a steady walking speed. The survey was conducted in a grid of approximately 0.5 meter spacing, crisscrossing the area to identify any potential anomalies. The resulting data was processed and visualized using the software Surfer 10.

The geophysical survey provided clear indications of a number of anomalies that were associated with archaeological potential. In particular, the conductivity reading at one meter and the in-phase reading at 0.5 meters indicated a large, strong anomaly in the southeast corner of the grid. The operator, Till Sonnemann, predicted with higher probability that the blacksmith workshop was associated with this anomaly. A smaller, but very strong anomaly was also detected throughout all phases further to the southeast, potentially from a point source (e.g., a larger piece of metal). Throughout the conductivity readings, there were also lesser, more widespread disturbances visible in the northwest part of the grid that may be associated with the building that was partially excavated in the initial Phase II Evaluation.

In 2017, EAC/A along with several high school interns, went back out to the site with permission from the landowners to excavate a single one-by-one-meter test unit in an attempt to catch the corner of the subsurface feature represented by the anomaly. The anomaly was revealed to be a large concentration of twentieth century debris, including several car battery parts. No materials or features were recorded in this area, which could be associated with the nineteenth-century occupation of the site, and thus no further work was recommended here. The site form was updated to reflect the absence of historic layers in this area.



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Unknown

Should any future changes to the design plan result in impacts to the site, mitigation is recommended in the form of data-recovery excavations embedded within a research design incorporating additional historical research, geophysical survey, and further recovery and analysis of artifacts from all three phases of archaeological investigations.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002480, 95002945