



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR164

Site Name: Slingluff House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Melford; PG:71B-16; Howerton's Range

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: 19th century plantation

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code CmB2

Latitude 38.9609 Longitude -76.7190

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site  Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-10%

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 Patux

- | 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 275 m       |  |  |                                |

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

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

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American  Y
- Anglo-American  Y
- 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
  - terraced gardens

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken   
 Flotation samples taken  Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken  N  
 Flotation samples taken  N 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

Earthenware		Ironstone	281	Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	5	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	177	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	84	Nottingham	1
Creamware	18	Pearlware	49			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	4

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

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

Dated features present at site

Numerous features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	855	Activity item(s)	126
Glass (all)	2273	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	9205	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Misc. kitchen	730
Arms	5	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	17	Misc.	2120
Personal items	5	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 2:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 3:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 4:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 5:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 6:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 7:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 8:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 9:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Slingluff House (PG:71B-16) is a standing 18th-20th century house and surrounding gardens and yard west of Bowie in Prince George's County, Maryland. Site 18PR164 (also referred to as the Slingluff House, Melford, or Howard's Range) consists of the archeological deposits associated with this National Register listed property. The property is characterized by gently rolling topography forming several upland knolls overlooking the floodplain of the Patuxent River. Most of the land was, until recently, either in cultivation or was pasture and in modern times has been vegetated with shallow grass, pine and dense/thorny undergrowth. The Patuxent River is located approximately 610 m to the east of the property. Two unnamed drainages, perennial streams that feed the Patuxent run near the site. Soils at the site are primarily Collington fine sandy loams.

The Slingluff House is part of a larger property known as the Melford Tract, which also includes adjacent outbuildings (a possible 18th century slave quarter, a pyramidal-roofed meat house, & a pyramidal-roofed pump house), a terraced garden, a modern barn north of the main house, the foundations of a barn northeast of the house, and a tobacco barn and shed located southeast of the house. In addition, a cemetery (Site 18PR165) is located on the property and was subject to a remote sensing study in 2008. The brick and stone main house is an outstanding example of a mid 19th century brick Greek Revival-style plantation house. Built in the mid-to-late 1840s for Dr. Richard Duckett, it is distinguished by an unusual semicircular projecting bay and chimney treatment at the south gable. The 2 1/2-storey main block was built of five-course common bond brick. Two gable-roofed dormer windows (with curved upper sashes) pierce either side of the shallow standing-seam metal roof. Attached to the north gable end is a lower 2 1/2-storey kitchen wing. A shed-roofed screened porch stands in the L created by the corner of the main block and kitchen wing. On the interior, the main block of the house was built on a side-hall-and-double-parlor plan, and interior details reflect the Greek Revival style.

The site was first reported in 1977 during a preliminary reconnaissance survey of the (then) proposed Maryland Route 3 transportation corridor realignment. No archeological work was conducted, but the presence of the standing structures was noted and the site was defined to include the historic core of the plantation, including the main house, existing outbuildings, and terraced gardens. In 2004, prior to the construction of a new mixed-use development on portions of the Melford Property, an archeological assessment was conducted to identify areas of high and moderate potential for the presence of archeological resources and present recommendations for further testing. Site 18PR164 was one of the previously documented sites recommended for further examination.

In 2005, a Phase I survey over 63 acres of the Melford Property was conducted at the request of the aforementioned developer. As a component of the subdivision review process, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) Historic Preservation Office reviews subdivision applications for potential adverse effects to historic resources (e.g., archeological sites and historic architecture) and provides recommendations to the Prince George's County Planning Board. This archeological survey was requested by the developer to address a new directive of the Planning Board regarding the identification and management of archeological resources associated with Native Americans and enslaved African-Americans. Phase I fieldwork in Survey Area A (the 20 acre portion of the Melford Property consisting of Site 18PR164) entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at a 10 meter grid interval within the immediate yard and garden area and at a 20 meter grid interval in more peripheral areas. Each of the STPs measured approximately 30 cm in diameter and was excavated in levels that approximated the existing soil horizons. All soil was screened through hardware mesh and STPs were excavated 10 cm into culturally sterile subsoil unless physical obstructions or thick fill deposits halted progress. A total of 198 STPs were excavated in Survey Area A.

A total of 301 historic artifacts along with 4 potential historic features were encountered during the 2005 Phase I study. A typical soil profile observed during STP excavation consists of 35 cm-thick, dark brown sandy loam A horizon overlaying a dark yellowish brown, sandy clay loam subsoil. Soils observed within the terraced garden presented a deeper A horizon, up to 70 cm below ground surface in some areas, due to historic cultural modification of the landscape.

Four anomalous soil profiles were observed and these represent potential cultural features identified during STP excavation in Survey Area A. Feature 1 was observed adjacent to the northern foundation of the possible 18th century slave quarter. It consisted of friable brick, observed at 5 cm below ground surface and terminating at 53 cm below ground surface, abutting the sandstone foundation of the outbuilding. The brick material was consistent throughout the profile and articulated brick may be present. This feature was thought to possibly represent a hearth or other feature associated with the possible slave quarter or possibly the remnants of a previous foundation. Feature 2, in the north yard of the house, consists of a layer of sandstone cobble mixed with brick and mortar flecks at a depth of 15 cm below ground surface. The sandstone material is consistent with that used in the construction of the foundation of the main house and the feature was thought to possibly represent a construction episode. The feature is also in the vicinity of an existing well and may be associated with this. Feature 3 consists of a 10 m long depression located approximately 15 m north of the main house. Brick flecks and shards of opaque white glass were recovered to a depth of 70 cm below ground surface. This feature was interpreted as marking the location of a former outbuilding, possibly a privy. Feature 4 consists of a lens of brick fragments at 25 cm below ground surface at the edge of the northwest yard area. No articulated brick was observed and the function of the feature is uncertain.

Artifacts recovered during the course of the 1995 Phase I survey include 105 architectural artifacts, 166 kitchen-related artifacts, and 12 miscellaneous objects. The architectural assemblage consisted of 40 pieces of brick, 15 fragments of window glass, 4 pieces of mortar, 3 pieces of sandstone, and 43 nails (2 machine cut, 2 machine cut w/ hand wrought heads, 22 wire, and 17 unidentified). The kitchen-related artifacts were 106 ceramic sherds (9 porcelain, 1 black basalt stoneware, 7 creamware, 5 transitional pearlware/whiteware, 54 whiteware, 8 ironstone, 3 Rockingham, 2 yellowware, 13 utilitarian stoneware, and 2 coarse earthenware), 53 glass fragments (10 mold blown, 1 machine made, 3 press molded, and 39 unidentified), 4 pieces of bone, and 5 oyster shell fragments. All of the miscellaneous objects were unidentified ferrous metal pieces. Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered during the Phase I survey present a date range spanning from the late 18th century to the present, consistent with the recorded history of the property.

Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended at 18PR164. The Phase II evaluation of the site included testing of a fallow agricultural field in the northern portion of the site (just outside a board fence defining the formal yard area) in an area where a diffuse scatter of historic materials (a possible sheet midden) was identified during Phase I work, the re-location and excavation of the four cultural features identified during the Phase I survey, examination of areas selected for landscape or building improvements, and examination of the terraced gardens east of the main house. In addition to the Phase II fieldwork, extensive archival research was conducted.

Archival research indicates that Robert Tyler, a merchant from Prince George's County, acquired land now associated with Melford Plantation during the early 1700s. The area was known as Howerton's Range, named after Thomas Howerton who obtained the land through a patent in September 1670. Research did



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Unknown

not indicate if Robert Tyler resided on the land after purchasing it. Tyler died in Prince George's County in 1738. Upon his death, he willed 200 acres of Howerton's Range to his two daughters Susannah Lamar and Elizabeth Pottinger. On November 24th, 1773, a Thomas Duckett acquired 100 acres of land now associated with Melford and 18PR164. The indenture between the Pottinger brothers and Duckett notes that the land was, "given by our grandfather Robert Tyler to our mother Elizabeth Pottinger".

Thomas Duckett was a prominent Prince George's County resident. He served as county sheriff from 1777 to 1779. Between 1786 and 1806 he served as judge of the First District Court. He was also a member of the Lower House of the Maryland legislature from 1780 to 1781. In 1783, Thomas Duckett acquired the remaining 100 acres that had been willed to Tyler's daughters. Two years later, he acquired an additional piece of property containing 232 acres and located next to Howerton's Range. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax for Prince George's County states that a 30 foot square dwelling house with a porch on each side (valued at \$600), a 35 X 16 ft kitchen, a 12 square foot meat house, a 10 square foot milk house, a 24 X 16 foot lumber house, a 26 X 12 foot poultry house, 30 X 12 foot and 20 X 16 foot slave houses, and a 30 X 10 foot corn house with an 8 foot shed on each side. It's not known where on Dickett's property these structures were located. The assessor noted that the buildings were "all in very good repair". Another complex owned by Duckett comprised one 24 X 18 foot house and an 18 X 14 foot kitchen valued at \$150. The Federal Direct Tax also noted that Duckett held 48 slaves, including 31 between 12 and 50 years old.

Thomas Duckett died in 1806 and the combined acreage was passed to his three children. An 1811 indenture explains that the land was eventually transferred to Allen Bowie Duckett, son of Thomas. Allen was appointed a Circuit Court Judge for the District of Columbia by President Thomas Jefferson in February of 1806. The Senate approved his appointment the following month and he officially obtained his commission a few days later. Prior to that he had attended Princeton University and had operated a private legal practice in Prince George's County. He served as assistant clerk of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1793 to 1795, served as a delegate from 1796 to 1800, and served as executive council for the State of Maryland from 1801 to 1806. Only three years after his commission as a Circuit Court Judge for DC, Allen died at the age of 35. He left his land in Prince George's County to his son Thomas, Jr.

In 1811 Allen's widow Margaret, who served as guardian for Thomas, Jr., transferred the land to Richard Duckett, a local physician, and the son of Thomas Sr. He retained ownership of the property until his death in 1854. Dr. Duckett is credited with the construction of the current residence and with naming the farm "Melford". The construction date is estimated based on an increase in the value of the property reflected in tax assessments. The estimated date of ca. 1840 is also supported by the architectural style and overall form of the house. In the 1850 Federal Census, Richard Duckett is listed as 70 years old, living with his wife E. Duckett and with A. Duckett, his grand-nephew. His profession was listed as physician, and the value of his real estate was \$28,800. He had 19 female slaves and 20 male slaves between the ages of 2 months and 85 years old. He owned 400 acres of improved land and 220 acres of unimproved land. He had 12 horses, 4 mules, 10 milk cows, 12 working oxen, 40 sheep, and 12 swine. His livestock was valued at \$1,105. His farm produced 350 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of Indian corn, 75 bushels of oats, and 20,000 pounds of tobacco. In addition, he reported 150 pounds of wool, 400 bushels of Irish Potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, and 4 tons of hay.

Richard Duckett died in 1854. His will bequeathed the property to his wife Elizabeth and his grandnephew, also Richard Duckett. Elizabeth would die shortly after her husband and the property passed to the younger Richard. Information in later census records indicates that he continued to raise most of the crops and livestock his great uncle had raised, but in some cases in larger quantities. He was also listed in the US Slave Schedule as having 19 female slaves, 28 male slaves, and 3 fugitive slaves that had left the state. The age of his slaves ranged from 1 year to 100 years old and they lived in 4 slave houses owned by Duckett. An 1861 map of Prince George's County depicts the Richard Duckett property with the main dwelling set back from a main road and surrounded by substantial amounts of land. Richard remained on the farm until his death in November of 1864.

The property next passed to the cousin of Richard Duckett (the younger), Thomas Duckett. In February 1869, Thomas was forced to sell the family property to Richard Hardisty to pay debts. Richard Hardisty lived on the property with his wife Margaret and five children and continued to operate it as a farmstead. Two newspaper articles at the Prince George's Historical society indicate that Richard may have focused on breeding Black Angus cattle and racehorses, and also sold fertilizer. A 1905 USGS map of the area depicts 3 buildings at the Melford property, indicating that tenant houses had been constructed by this period.

Richard Hardisty died in 1908. At that time, a 141 acre dower lot was created, which included the house. This lot was passed to Richard's widow Margaret. Other lots were transferred to sons Talbot and Richard and daughters Emma Florence Slingluff and Lena Weems. After Margaret's death in 1922, her daughter Emma Slingluff acquired the property through several transactions between her and her siblings. Emma transferred the house and property to her son Richard in 1932. Following the death of Richard's wife during the 1930s, Richard's sister Margaret moved to Melford to share the large house.

In 1968, Richard H. transferred most of the property to Stanley Spiwak, but he and his sister retained ownership of the 8.8 acres that included the main dwelling, yard, garage, vegetable garden, site for gardening and two paddock areas. They also retained ownership of five half-acre lots. The deed specifies that three of the lots are set aside for "Byrd", "Onley", and "Oliver". Archival research indicates that these lots were for African-American tenants: Robert Byrd, who served as a chauffeur and gardener; Rosie Wilson Oliver, who was a cook and maid; and William Onley, who served as a general repairman. Richard Slingluff died in 1969. In his will, Richard left the house and surrounding land to his sister. He also stated in his will that the African-American tenants shall be allowed to retain residency at Melford. Many had served the Slingluffs and the Hardistys for decades. Rosie Oliver, for example, came to Melford when she was only 8 years old. She came to help her mother who began cooking at Melford in 1913. Rosie's mother, Emma, died at Melford in 1970. Margaret Slingluff remained at Melford until her death in 1984 and the property was sold out of the family 2 years later.

Phase II investigations of the northern portion of the site (see above) entailed the excavation of eight 1 X 1 m test units. Test Units 1-5 were placed at the southern edge of the fallow field along the aforementioned wooden board fence. These test units were spaced a maximum of 10 m apart in areas that yielded low to moderate artifact densities during Phase I work. Test Unit 6 was placed 18 m north of the fence within an area of comparatively high artifact density from earlier testing, that included at least two pieces of probable creamware and a fragment of Rockingham ceramic. Test Units 7 and 8 were placed adjacent to the brick stairs near shovel tests that yielded bone, pearlware/whiteware, and a piece of Rockingham ceramic. Test unit excavation proceeded in 10 cm arbitrary levels within the natural stratigraphy. In areas where a historic plowzone or disturbance horizon was present, the stratum was removed in a single natural level. Test units were excavated to a minimum depth of 10 cm into sterile subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware mesh. Standard recordation during unit excavation included excavation level forms, unit summary forms, stratigraphic profiles, photographs, and plan drawings when warranted by the presence of features.

Phase II evaluation of the northern fallow field revealed sub-surface disturbances related to soil erosion and past agricultural use. Soil erosion was most pronounced on the crest and upper slope of a knoll, where surface and sub-surface strata rarely exceeded 10 cm in thickness and typically included at least one redeposited soil. The redeposited material overlay a deflated historic plowzone. The only features identified in the field were 2 shallow plow scars and a



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20th century utility trench.

Artifacts recovered during the excavation of the northern field include 224 architectural artifacts, 1 clothing item (a brass button), 441 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 ball clay tobacco pipe fragment, and 100 miscellaneous objects. The architectural items were 172 pieces of brick, 3 ceramic drain pipe fragments, 37 pieces of window glass, 28 nails (14 cut and 14 wire), 3 staples, and a tack. The kitchen-related artifacts were 165 ceramic sherds (6 pearlware, 8 ironstone, 13 refined white-bodied earthenware sherds, 78 whiteware, 18 redware, 2 Rockingham, 2 other earthenware, 21 hard-paste porcelain, 17 miscellaneous stoneware), 195 glass fragments (3 tableware, 1 machine-made bottle glass, 191 other bottle glass), and 81 pieces of oyster shell. The miscellaneous objects were an unidentified flat glass fragment, 2 unidentified brass objects, 36 unidentified metal objects, and 61 pieces of coal. Diagnostic artifacts in this area suggest the artifact scatter in that area dates primarily from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century. This range spans that latter period of ownership of the property by the Hardesty family. This range also includes the period during which the current standing brick residence was constructed.

The Phase II work at 18PR164 also entailed the relocation of the four features identified during Phase I work in the northern side yard, between the dwelling house and the board fence. A total of seventeen 1 X 1 m test units, a 0.5 X 1 m test unit, and four shovel tests were excavated to examine each feature and the surrounding matrices. Excavation methods were identical to those described above.

Feature 1 was ultimately determined to be a pit last used for the disposal of architectural materials. It was investigated via the excavation of three 1 X 1 m test unit and eleven shovel tests. It may have originally functioned as a cellar. Brick and fieldstone comprised the primary fill materials within the feature, which contained at least four distinct discard episodes. A lack of fine stratigraphic layers between primary depositional episodes suggested the pit was filled during a relatively short period while the homogeneity of the fill materials suggests they may have originated from the same source. All of the brick was decayed, hand-made brick and most was soft salmon-colored brick that was used historically for interior spaces where it would not be exposed to the elements. In a frame building, salmon brick was commonly used as noggin or insulation between wall studs and framing members. In a brick building, salmon brick might be used on the interior surface of walls.

The original function of Feature 1 is unknown. Artifacts encountered in the feature were 236 brick fragments, 1 nail of indeterminate form, 1 cut or wrought nail, and a piece of oyster shell. The feature yielded no temporally diagnostic artifacts and the base of the feature was not reached during the Phase II investigation. The feature exceeds 1 m in depth and may yet contain deeper cultural deposits that pre-date the deposit of architectural materials that currently characterize the feature. Although Feature 1 yielded no temporally diagnostic artifacts, the feature underlies topsoil that was deposited after 1875. The feature also extends beneath the current office building (rumored to have been one of the original slave dwellings), which was constructed on a stone foundation originally set on the ground surface. As such, the feature pre-dates both the topsoil layer and the construction of the office building. This feature exhibits the subsurface integrity and the potential to yield additional information regarding the early occupation of the Melford property, especially the use and function of support areas.

Feature 2 was determined to be a dry-laid brick walkway of gutter bordered on the eastern side by a layer of sandstone rubble. The feature was examined by excavating three 1 X 1 m test units placed in the approximate location of the Phase I STP that first encountered the feature. Artifacts encountered include 18 activity items, 1,296 architectural artifacts, 9 clothing objects, 895 kitchen-related artifacts, 1 personal item (an 1899 Indian Head penny), 3 arms artifacts (brass cartridges), and 1,216 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were an iron handle, an unidentified iron hardware item, 4 pieces of iron wire, and 12 tin container lids. The architectural remains were 730 brick fragments, 108 pieces of window glass, 1 hinge, 456 nails (21 handwrought, 393 cut, 11 wire, and 31 unidentified nails), and a wood screw. Clothing remains include a brass/iron/textile button, a porcelain button, a brass buckle, 5 eyelets w/ leather, and a copper eyelet. Kitchen-related artifacts were 311 ceramic sherds (2 tin enameled earthenware, 10 pearlware, 182 ironstone, 5 refined white-bodied earthenware, 18 whiteware, 12 redware, 7 yellowware, 23 hard-paste porcelain, 1 white salt-glazed stoneware, and 51 miscellaneous stoneware), 348 pieces of glass (40 tableware and 308 bottle shards), a steel spoon, 3 bird bones, 87 mammal bones, and 145 pieces of oyster shell. The miscellaneous objects were 4 unidentified glass, 1 unidentified brass, 1 unidentified copper, 35 unidentified iron, and 1,175 pieces of coal.

Covered by up to 37 cm of fill soil, the feature is of unknown dimension and function. The sandstone rubble could represent a shallow building foundation or sill constructed on the ground surface (as is evident in standing structures nearby). Equally likely, the sandstone rubble layer could represent discarded building material, foundation stone from a demolished building, or simply edging along the brick walkway or gutter. The sandstone and brick walkway both predate the construction of the current ca. 1840 residence and, as such, are related to the pre 1840 landscape. The sandstone layer in each of the units was overlain by thick cultural deposits that appeared to have been deposited during the late 19th or early 20th centuries. An 1899 Indian Head penny recovered from the lower portion of the second fill layer suggests the filling occurred during the early 20th century. Additional evidence of large scale landscaping efforts undertaken between the last decade of the 19th century and the 2nd quarter of the 20th century was uncovered throughout the site.

Feature 3, the large depression, was investigated by excavating three 1 X 1 m test units, two of which were adjacent to form a 1 X 2 m block. The relative thickness of the cultural deposits in these units suggested that the northern portion of the yard historically was used for refuse discard. Although over 20 distinct soil strata were present, these strata appear to reflect three primary periods of activity related to the past development of the Melford property. These events span the 18th to the 20th centuries and include at least two building renovation efforts, as well as efforts to re-landscape the residential yard north of the main house. No significant alterations are believed (based on photographic evidence) to have taken place since 1942 in this area. The lack of distinctly modern artifacts such as plastics and synthetic materials and the presence of a thick topsoil layer also indicate that the northern residential yard has not recently been disturbed.

The artifact assemblage from the three test units in the Feature 3 area include 67 activity items, 5,773 architectural artifacts, 5 clothing remains (4 brass buttons and a shell/bone button), 1 furniture item (a brass tack), 940 kitchen-related artifacts, and 159 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were 6 pieces of iron wire, 44 pieces of lamp glass, 14 metal can fragments, a metal cap, an iron hook, and a piece of iron hardware. The architectural remains were 2,394 pieces of brick, 2,759 pieces of mortar, 147 fragments of window glass, 196 fragments of sandstone, 276 nails, and a ceramic drain pipe fragment. The kitchen-related artifacts were 125 ceramic sherds (3 tin-enameled earthenware, 9 creamware, 25 pearlware, 2 ironstone, 8 whiteware, 1 redware, 39 unidentified earthenware, 20 porcelain, 1 Nottingham-like stoneware, 2 white salt-glazed stoneware, 15 unidentified stoneware), 215 glass fragments (41 tableware and 174 bottle glass), a knife, a strainer, 18 bird bones, 209 mammal bones, and 371 shell fragments.

The lowest cultural deposits in the Feature 3 area date from the late 18th to early 19th centuries. A cultural living surface was recognized as well as two shallow pits that had been intentionally filled. Diagnostic artifacts from these strata included tin-enameled earthenware, creamware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and hand-wrought nails. These deposits pre-date the construction of the current standing dwelling and may also pre-date the occupation of the Melford property by Thomas Duckett (d. 1806), who acquired the first portion of the property in 1773. Later ceramic artifacts that were common in overlying



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR164

Site Name: Slingluff House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Melford; PG:71B-16; Howerton's Range

Historic

Brief Description: 19th century plantation

Unknown

strata were absent in these strata and suggested the deposits may overlap the earliest period of occupation of the Melford property by the Pottinger family.

Cut into the possible cultural "surface" was a distinct but functionally indeterminate feature that had been filled with discarded mortar. Initially thought to be a posthole, this feature resembled a paling trench of the type used during the construction of the 18th century buildings. However, only a small portion of the feature was exposed during Phase II work and its dimensions and association with other cultural features is largely unknown. One of the shallow pits encountered yielded cultural materials suggesting it had been filled after 1780 but most likely before 1815. This period corresponds to the occupation of Melford by Thomas Duckett and his immediate heirs. Cultural deposits overlying the possible paling trench were deposited during the late 18th to mid 19th century and also pre-date the construction of the ca. 1840 residence. Over 40 cm thick in some places, the stratified deposits contained discrete layers of ash and charcoal from fireplace or hearth cleaning, as well as a possible continuation of Feature 2. Additional deposits appear to reflect the gradual accumulation of sediments combined with discarded cultural material and resemble a historic "A" or topsoil horizon. While ceramic and metal artifacts manufactured after 1815 were recovered from these strata, no later artifacts were recovered such as whiteware.

The most recent deposits were laid down during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and post-date the ownership of the property by the Duckett family. Well defined and relatively thick, these deposits suggest large scale modifications to the house and landscape that included the installation of utilities. Several upper strata yielded artifacts manufactured after 1890, with the uppermost soil layers containing artifacts manufactured after 1903. This was consistent with cultural materials recovered from disturbed and re-deposited soils within other portions of Site 18PR164, which also suggested large scale landscape renovation had occurred most likely during the early 20th century.

Feature 4 is an indeterminate deposit of highly decayed brick. Its function remains unknown. Based on soil probe data, one 1 X 1 m test unit was placed along the suspected eastern edge on Feature 4. Artifacts recovered during excavation near Feature 1 include 51 architectural artifacts, 15 kitchen-related items, and 2 miscellaneous objects. The architectural artifacts were 40 pieces of brick and 11 pieces of window glass. Kitchen-related objects include a sherd of pearlware, 2 sherds of whiteware, 3 refined white-bodied earthenware sherds, 1 pieces of porcelain, and 8 pieces of bottle glass. The miscellaneous objects include a piece of lead and a piece of iron.

The feature may represent the location of a no longer extant building or simply an area in which brick was stored prior to use. The portion of the feature examined during Phase II investigation showed no evidence of broad-scale exposure to fire or heat as would have been expected for the location of a brick clamp or kiln. Archival research did not provide an indication of the origin of the brick used in construction of the standing dwelling, so it is unclear whether any brick would have been made on site for current or previous buildings. Artifacts recovered from the plowzone overlying the feature suggest that the northwestern corner of Site 18PR164 was cultivated through the late 19th century. This is consistent with information gained during investigation of the northern portion of Site 18PR164, where cultural materials suggest cultivation of that area continued until at least the early 20th century. Truncated by historic plowing, Feature 4 was formed and abandoned prior to the late 19th century.

Phase II archeological investigations related to areas of planned construction on the Melford property sampled areas in which drainage tile would be installed along the main house foundation and where outflow conduit pipe would be located within the eastern part of the residential yard. These areas would be subject to grading during drainage installation. In addition, the MNCPPC recommended archeological testing along the foundation of the office/slave quarter building where replacement of a rotted wooden sill board was proposed and in two locations within the formal terraced gardens. Ultimately, no archeological excavation was carried out in association with replacement of the office building sill. Replacement of the wooden sill board was accomplished from the building interior with no excavation or disturbance necessitated.

Six 1 X 1 m test units were placed to sample areas proposed for building and landscape improvements related to the installation of drainage tile and conduit around the main house. These units revealed extensive subsurface disturbances related to previous landscape and drainage improvement projects. Diagnostic artifacts suggest that the majority of the landscape improvements occurred during the first half of the 20th century. During that period, the stone foundation on the southern and southeastern corners of the house was exposed and a concrete parge coat added to the exterior of the foundation. This improvement resulted in the creation of an associated builder's trench and deep deposits of fill soil that in some areas extended horizontally over 1 m from the house foundation and vertically exceeded 1 m in depth. Diagnostic materials within the fill soils support a post-1890 date for the improvements, while historic photographs suggest the improvements were completed before 1942.

Around that same period, additional improvements to the overall landscape appear to have been undertaken. Test units excavated between the main house and the upper terrace of the formal garden showed deep deposits of disturbed topsoil and fill material overlying natural subsoil. These deposits extended between 34-37 cm below surface and yielded diagnostic artifacts that indicated the disturbances occurred after at least 1890 and most likely after 1903. Although earlier artifacts were present within the disturbed so

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000928, 95001193