



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR176

Site Name: Addison Cemetery

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Addison Family Cemetery; MIHP # PG:80-50

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-18th to Late 19th century family cemetery

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code UbdE

Latitude 38.7982

Longitude -76.9941

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-2%

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) Oxon Creek

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 1189 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860 Y

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900 Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820 Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American Y

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

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 Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Forensic analysis of human skeletal remains by Smithsonian Institution (Owsley, Brewelheide, Barca).



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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"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware			3				
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"/>	Porcelain	1	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	1			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"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Dated gravestones and burial slabs

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	5	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	3	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	4
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		gravestones, coffin hardware	

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown pit	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input checked="" 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:

Mid-18th to Late 19th century family cemetery

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Addison Cemetery (18PR176) at Oxon Hill Manor is the remains of an 18th-19th century cemetery associated with the Addison family plantation along the Potomac River in rural Prince George's County. The site is situated on a high, steep bluff approx. 1 mile east of the Potomac. The river channel facing the site is tidal & deep enough to allow ocean-going ships. In prehistoric & early historic times the uplands behind the bluff were probably dominated by an oak-hickory forest, while the lowlands between the bluff & river may have had more water resistant species. The river shore is somewhat closer than it was during the period when the site was inhabited, due to modern sand dredging.

The combination of lowlands & uplands along a tidal river supported a diverse fauna. Among other species that inhabited the river & may have been important to the inhabitant of the site were oyster & sturgeon as well as a wide variety of other fish. Waterfowl must also have been plentiful. Land animals, including bison, elk, wolf, bear, & deer, are known to have been relatively abundant during the early years of historic settlement. However, since about the mid 18th century, most of these large mammals have been forced out, & unlike migratory fowl, have not been able to reestablish themselves. Coupled with this rather typical tidewater setting is a humid, temperate climate with mild winters & uncomfortably hot summers. Soils at the site are primarily Beltsville & Chillum silt loams, as well as loams of the Aura series.

Throughout most of its history, Oxon Hill Manor appears to have been one of Maryland's most impressive & valuable agricultural estates. Originating in the 17th century, by the time of the American Revolution it featured an enormous mansion, dozens of slaves, a carriage & horses with liveried outriders, & a level of wealth & prominence which placed its owners among the area's most powerful families. Details of the history and archeology at Oxon Hill can be found in the synopsis report for 18PR175 (Addison House).

Archeology at the Addison Cemetery dates back to 1980, when the ruins of the old Oxon Hill Manor house were re-discovered in 1980 & the nearby Addison family cemetery was recorded as archeological site 18PR176 during a Phase I survey for a planned Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 Interchange. Also recorded at that time was the presumed Addison mausoleum (18PR177), which has an associated synopsis report.

The 1980 Phase I work entailed an initial pedestrian survey of the entire tract purchased by SHA, examining all tree falls, hilltops, & erosional cuts. This was followed by selective shovel testing (STPs) within the actual highway ramp corridor. STPs were excavated approx. every 30 m along the corridor. Soils were not screened. No prehistoric artifacts were recorded, but the three historic sites (18PR175, 18PR176, and 18PR177) were identified. Site 18PR176 was situated 45 meters east of the manor house ruins and appeared to have been vandalized and in a general state of neglect by 1980. Five gravestones and 1 slab grave covering were visible in the cemetery: William Meade Addison 1817-1871, Eliza Gerault (wife of William) 1825-1858, Willie 2 years and 5 weeks old, Francis Key Addison 1847-184?, John Addison 1769-1835, and Elizabeth D. Addison, wife of Rev. Walter D. Addison died July 31, 1808, age 33 (the slab grave covering). No other graves were visible and no other field investigations were undertaken. However, vegetation clearing at the site in subsequent years made several depressions in the soil more visible, suggesting the presence of more than 6 graves.

On November 15th, 1783, John Hanson, who served as president of the US Congress under the Articles of Confederation, died at Oxon Hill Manor. At the time of his death, he was visiting his nephew, Thomas Hanson, who was married to the widow of one of the Addisons. Some modern-day promoters of John Hanson believed that he was buried in an unmarked grave in this cemetery, however, there is no known historical documentation to support this.

In 1984 or early 1985, a second study was undertaken as part of the PortAmerica commercial development project, focusing on the Addison Family Cemetery and on delineating the grave shafts present. The study was also undertaken to gather planning data in the event that the cemetery needed to be moved prior to construction of the planned commercial/office space and port facility. That study involved clearing the vegetation from the cemetery area; mapping all depressions, headstones, and artificial landforms; systematic probing to locate individual graves; and excavation of narrow, shallow hand dug trenches to attempt to isolate grave shafts. No grave shafts were identified as the soil proved to be too dry for probing, and what appeared to be a thick fill layer precluded identification of soil stains in the shallow shovel trenches.

In light of the failure to identify individual graves, a second study focusing on 18PR176 was undertaken in October of 1985 to determine whether the cemetery indeed contained interments, the approximate number of graves, and whether the cemetery was indeed capped by a layer of thick fill. The field investigations consisted of the excavation of five backhoe trenches, oriented roughly north-south and placed to provide good coverage of the entire cemetery. Based on the layout of the headstones and the common practice of interring Christian burials east-west, a north-south orientation was chosen for the trenches so as to intersect any pits. The trenches were 91.44 cm (3 ft) wide and great care was taken to insure that human remains were not disturbed during the excavation. No trench or trench section was excavated deeper than 1 meter, and the backhoe operation was carefully monitored.

Excavation proceeded in shallow cuts, and was halted in each case when a definite grave stain could be outlined in a section of trench. Once the grave shafts were evident or sterile subsoil was encountered, the backhoe operation was ceased and hand excavation of the trench began. In this case, hand excavation was simply used to dress the floors and profiles of the trenches so that the grave shafts could be clearly defined both in plan and section. The few artifacts encountered were bagged by trench if they had been disturbed by the backhoe, and by specific grave shaft if encountered during the hand cleaning operation. Excavation procedures were fully photodocumented.

A total of ten grave shafts were positively identified during the backhoe excavations. All but three of those graves were associated with surface depressions or headstones, which should indicate that the density of graves is relatively low. There are at least five additional graves in the cemetery (as marked by depressions or headstones) that were not investigated during the backhoe excavations, which brings the total of known graves in the cemetery to 15. One of the identified burials appears to be within a brick crypt feature based on the presence of brick debris in the trench. This burial is situated about 2 meters north of the aforementioned slab grave of Elizabeth Artifacts recovered during machine excavations included a twisted rosehead nail, 2 square nails, a piece of flat green glass (possible coffin window), 1 pearlware sherd, a Chinese Export porcelain sherd, 3 ironstone sherds, 1 clear fragment of lead table glass, a thick fragment of dark olive green bottle glass, 4 oyster shells, and a ball clay pipe stem.

Based on the artifacts recovered from the cemetery it is evident that the cemetery was active throughout most of the Addison ownership of the property (1687-1810), and beyond into the Late 19th century (to at least 1871). If that is indeed the case, it is likely that the cemetery contains the remains of the adult Addisons who resided at Oxon Hill Manor, as well as the remains of their children who died before reaching adulthood. Walter Dulaney Addison, who buried



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Mid-18th to Late 19th century family cemetery

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his wife Elizabeth in the cemetery in 1808, is probably interred in the brick lined crypt adjacent to the grave of his wife (see above). Again, the location of John Hanson's burial (if it is indeed at Oxon Hill) is not known based on current information.

The backhoe investigations yielded information that rather clearly revealed the sequence of development and use of the cemetery. It appears that the earliest interments were placed in the eastern section of the cemetery, while the latest were placed to the west. Further, the landscaping evident in the cemetery appears to have been done after the cemetery was in use for a period of time. It is likely that the landscaping dated to around 1810, when Walter Dulaney Addison sold the Oxon Hill property to the Berry family, and yet retained the right to use the cemetery as a family cemetery. It appears that the fill detected throughout was placed at that time, and its purpose may have been to formalize the appearance of the cemetery, and thus solidify the family's claim to the plot where his wife and many relatives were buried. It may be significant that the majority (probably 9 of the 15 identified graves) of the graves were placed after 1800, and 8 of those 9 were placed after the Addison family no longer owned Oxon Hill Manor. If that interpretation is correct, the cemetery became an extended family cemetery after 1810, and had been used as a cemetery for the nuclear families actually in residence on the property prior to that time.

Additional work was recommended at 18PR176 following the 1985 testing. Specifically, stripping of the entire topsoil and fill to more accurately demarcate burial shafts and get an accurate count of burials was recommended. Additional archeological work was carried out at Oxon Hill as part of the PortAmerica project, eventually progressing to the Phase III stage. However, it is not known whether any of this work focused on 18PR176. Unfortunately, shortly after the completion of data recovery operations in 1987-1988, the developer of the PortAmerica project went bankrupt. While the artifacts had been excavated & features properly documented, no money was available for analysis of the collection/notes & writing up a final report on the work. Details of the excavation are sketchy, but the entire collection was turned over to the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) lab & is available for research by qualified investigators.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006587, 00006628, 95002951