Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR177 **Site Name:** Addison Mausoleum

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: historic mausoleum

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code BlB2

Latitude 38.7936 Longitude -77.0182

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation 52 m Site slope 0-5%

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	☐	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	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Potomac River

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☐
Estuary/tidal river	☑	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 1097 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			

Unknown historic context Y

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	☐	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	☐	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☑
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☑	**Artifact scatter**	☐
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☑	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☑
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☐	mausoleum	
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

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

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware		Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**		Nottingham	
Creamware		Pearlware				Rhenish	
						Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Ground stone		Modified faunal	
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Oyster shell	☐
Other lithics (all)		Floral material	☐
Ceramics (all)		Uncommon Obj.	
Rimsherds		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

		Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☐	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☐	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☐	Sandstone	☐		

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural		Faunal material	☐
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other ☑	granite blocks,granite slabs

Historic Features

		Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Const feature	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Foundation	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐				

Unknown	☐	
Other	☐	

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 Addison Mausoleum (18PR177) at Oxon Hill Manor is a historic mausoleum 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).

Details of the archeology at the Addison Mausoleum are scarce. In 1980 the ruins of the old Oxon Hill Manor house were re-discovered and the nearby mausoleum was identified and recorded as 18PR177 during a Phase I survey for a planned Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 Interchange. Also recorded at that time was the Addison family cemetery (18PR176), 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 18PR177 was set into a west-facing slope above the Potomac, about 92 meters south southwest of the mansion ruins (18PR175). The structure, as it appeared in 1980, had been vandalized and partially destroyed. The mausoleum was constructed of granite slabs and mortar-laid block walls.

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 somewhere on the Oxon Hill property and perhaps in or near the mausoleum. There is no known historical documentation to support this. However, in 1971, a group of John Hanson promoters excavated in and around the mausoleum with a backhoe and hand tools in a futile attempt to locate Hanson's corpse. The group recovered a few unidentifiable bones (some clearly from animals), a crockery sherd, and decayed wood.

There is no evidence that Hanson or anyone else was ever buried in, near, or under the mausoleum. Nonetheless, examination of the mausoleum area was included as part of a survey and testing program (associated with the PortAmerica commercial development project) conducted in 1984/1985. There is no copy of the full investigation report available at MHT, but the fieldwork revealed nothing except extensive recent disturbance and no evidence of burials.

The site has no research potential.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006587, 00006667