



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR221

Site Name: Mt. Airy Mansion

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th-20th century mansion

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code MIB2

Latitude 38.7814 Longitude -76.8213

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation 64 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
High terrace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hilltop/bluff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior flat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hillslope	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upland flat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ridgetop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low terrace	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ownership	
Private	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>
State of MD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regional/county/city	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nearest Surface Water	
Name (if any)	Intermittent stream
Saltwater	
Ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freshwater	
Stream/river	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estuary/tidal river	<input 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	366 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaic site	<input type="checkbox"/>
MD Adena	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid. woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late archaic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Late woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown prehistoric context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact period site	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1820 - 1860	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1860 - 1900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ca. 1900 - 1930	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Post 1930	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Unknown historic context	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unknown context	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Ethnic Associations (historic only)	
Native American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian American	<input type="checkbox"/>
African American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglo-American	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/>

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric	
Multi-component	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc. ceremonial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hamlet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Base camp	<input type="checkbox"/>
STU/lithic scatter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockshelter/cave	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry/extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthen mound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish weir	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cairn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urban/Rural?	Rural <input type="checkbox"/>
Furnace/forge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Battlefield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homestead	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canal-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmstead	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road/railroad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mansion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wharf/landing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maritime-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Row/townhome	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ford	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trading post	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarry-related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Store	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tavern/inn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Black/metalsmith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possible Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post-in-ground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frame-built	<input type="checkbox"/>
Masonry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other structure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slave related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-domestic agri	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church/mtg house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ch support bldg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artifact scatter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cemetery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring or well	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sepulchre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated burial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bldg or foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other context	<input type="checkbox"/>

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples	Soil samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic context samples	Soil samples taken	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation samples taken	Other samples taken	<input type="checkbox"/>



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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		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

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

A builders trench dating to the 1930s.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	20	Activity item(s)	1
Glass (all)	13	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	25	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	6
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	1	Misc.	
Personal items		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input 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 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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Mt. Airy Mansion (18PR221) is a restored 18th-20th century mansion within Rosaryville State Park in Prince George's County Maryland. The site is situated in a somewhat remote upland location, not far from a tributary stream to Charles Branch. Soils at the site are of the Marr-Dodon complex.

Mt. Airy is a three part domestic structure, on a J-shaped plan. The property on which the current structure stands was originally owned by the Calvert family. Charles Calvert, the Third Lord Baltimore, built a small hunting lodge at the site shortly after his arrival from England in 1660. Benedict Calvert, acquired the property by inheritance in 1751. Shortly thereafter, in 1752, it appears that the previous hunting lodge structure burned to the ground. Construction of what would come to be known as the Mt. Airy mansion occurred under Benedict's ownership. George Washington visited Mt. Airy on February 4, 1774 to attend the marriage of his step son, John Parke Custis, to Eleanor "Nellie" Calvert. Their son would later be named "George Washington Parke Custis". A west wing was added to the mansion in the mid-19th century. The house was owned by the Calvert family right up until 1902, when it was sold to Matilda "Tilly" Duvall, who operated a country inn and restaurant out of the mansion called "Dower House". The mansion was devastated by fire a second time in 1931, which left only the masonry walls intact. Shortly thereafter Cissy Patterson, a rather infamous early 20th century socialite and owner of the Washington Times-Herald newspaper purchased and restored the property to its present condition. President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and various members of their family, were frequent visitors to Mt. Airy during this era.

The property was eventually purchased by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and through a joint partnership with a private firm, it was developed into event space and lodging for event guests. It was the re-development of the property that led to the first archeological work being conducted at the site in June and July of 1984. Since the primary research value of the property lies not in the architectural remains (because of the 1931 fire), but in any archeological deposits that might be present, limited Phase II testing and archeological monitoring were conducted by two different archeologists to mitigate the impacts of proposed improvements.

The Phase II testing at 18PR221 was conducted in June of 1984 to mitigate the impact of the construction of a solarium dining room addition, construction of a lounge area, and the construction of a graveled parking lot for approximately 250 cars. The parking lot area was deemed to have little potential for containing archeological remains and was subject only to a walkover survey and biased random sampling with shovel test pits (STPs). These revealed no archeological remains.

The areas for the new solarium dining room and lounge area were located much closer to the mansion and, as such, were considered to have greater archeological potential. A 1 X 2 meter unit was excavated in the proposed solarium area until sterile subsoil was reached, approximately 1 meter below surface. A buried A horizon was located 42 cm below the surface. Artifacts associated with the Ap horizon likely date to the 20th century and are not enumerated here or in the tables above. Artifacts recovered from the buried A horizon include a wire nail, glass (mostly window), 1 glazed brick fragments, 1 white salt-glazed earthenware sherd, 3 sherds of refined earthenware, and several animal bones. On the basis of the range of artifacts, the buried A horizon was interpreted as an exposed land surface from the mid 18th century until the middle to latter part of the 19th century. The rubble fill capping the "buried A" presumably represents either the construction of the west wing of the mansion in the mid 19th century or its reconstruction following the 1931 fire.

The area proposed for the lounge was tested by excavating 6 shovel test pits (40 cm on a side) by natural levels to a depth of approximately 50 cm below surface. The shovel test pits were laid out east of the central section of the east wing in two rows of three at 3 meters and 5 meters out from the house. The shovel test pits in each of the two rows were spaced 5 meters apart. Artifacts were recovered in the Ap and the underlying layer, a mottled light brown fine sandy loam. Artifacts recovered from the Ap are brick, nails (of undetermined type), window glass, 1 pearlware sherd, a few sherds of buff colored earthenware. Artifacts recovered from the next layer are brick fragments and crumbs, window glass, 1 white salt-glazed scratch blue sherd, 1 clear lead-glazed redware sherd, and 1 possible tin-glazed earthenware sherd. Many of the objects can be temporally linked to the 18th century.

Archeological monitoring was conducted at 18PR221 in July of 1984 during the mechanical excavation of trenches alongside the Mt. Airy structure for the installation of drainage pipes and waterproofing materials. The trenches were excavated along the north and south facades of the west wing addition, and along the south foundation of the east wing.

The trenching along the north façade of the west wing revealed that the area had been excavated once before for the same purpose: waterproofing with tar. It is most likely that this work had occurred ca. 1931, when a lot of reconstruction was occurring at the site. In order to trench the south foundation of the west wing, a portion of the sloping hillside along the façade had to be dug into, so the trench would not harm some 200 year old boxwoods. The bushes are rumored to have been gifts presented to the Calverts by George Washington, who visited the mansion in the 1770s (see above). The only artifact recovered from these diggings was a brass tag from a pair of "genuine" horse hide gloves. Trenching along the south wall of the foundation revealed that the above ground portions of the west wing were much later (probably ca. 1931) than the original 19th century west wing foundation which was exposed below grade. No intact deposits or features were encountered since the area was disturbed by the installation of a 4 in drain pipe for the rainspout sometime prior to 1984.

In fact, the only area to reveal any artifacts or even a feature (a builder's trench) was the south foundation of the reconstructed east wing. Unfortunately, much of this area had already been mechanically or hand excavated by construction workers prior to the archeologist's arrival on the scene to monitor work. The builder's trench that was exposed appears to be the one created in 1931 when the wing was being rebuilt/restored following the aforementioned fire. Several artifacts dating to the first quarter of the 19th century were encountered in the builder's trench, possibly inadvertent inclusions with fill excavated elsewhere at the site during rebuilding in the 1930s. The waterproofing contractors also had to expand their trenches to the south for safety reasons, so the archeologist excavated a total of 8 STPs across the front 5 meters south of the south entryway. No artifacts or features were noted in any of those tests.

Artifacts collected during the July 1984 monitoring work include the aforementioned brass tag (counted as a clothing item above), a piece of lamp glass, a piece of fire brick, 2 burned brick fragments, a burned piece of plaster, burned fragments of wood, a machine cut nail, an unidentified nail, 5 pieces of pearlware, a porcelain teapot fragment, a whiteware sherd, a piece of table glass, 3 pieces of bottle glass, a metal jar lid, and a kaolin pipe bowl fragment.

No significant archeological deposits were found adjacent to the structure during the July 1984 monitoring work. The apparent intact 18th century deposits in the solarium and lounge areas at 18PR221 are, however, an important archeological resource. These deposits may be capable of answering substantive research questions on Maryland colonial history as well as later periods of occupation at Mt. Airy. The solarium dining room and lounge at Mt. Airy were

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Other name(s)

Historic

Brief
Description:

Unknown

constructed in such a way that minimal excavation/soil cutting was required and in some areas fill had to be brought in. Thus, the deposits were preserved in place and could potentially be re-examined should an opportunity present itself at a later date.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):