Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR224 **Site Name:** Buck House, Wardrop-Buck House

Other name(s) Darnall's Chance (PG:79-28)

Brief Description: late 17th-early 19th century plantation complex and burial vault

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.8258 Longitude -76.7521

Elevation 0 m Site slope 0-5%

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

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8 SCS soil & sediment code GaB

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

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) Schoolhouse Pond

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720	Y	ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	Y
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		
Unknown prehistoric context				Unknown historic 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**	☑	burial vault	
		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	Y
Flotation samples taken	Y	Other samples taken	Human remains analysis

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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

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend	1	Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			

Stoneware

English Brown	
Eng Dry-bodied	
Nottingham	
Rhenish	
Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	6	Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		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**

Numerous 18th and 19th century features identified at the site

Historic Artifacts

Pottery (all)	270	Tobacco related	4
Glass (all)	156	Activity item(s)	2
Architectural	118	Human remain(s)	☑
Furniture		Faunal material	☐
Arms		Misc. kitchen	98
Clothing	2	Floral material	☐
Personal items	1	Misc.	8
		Other ☐	

Historic Features

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

Site 18PR224 is the archeological deposits associated with the Buck-Wardrop House (or Buck House), one of the earliest mansion houses in 18th Century Maryland. The house dates back to ca. 1742 and was built on the site of an earlier plantation home for the property known as “Darnall’s Chance”, which was operated as a tobacco plantation from the late 17th through the 19th Century. The site is operated as the Darnall's Chance House Museum by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and is situated in the City of Upper Marlboro, the county seat of Prince George’s County, Maryland. The surrounding landscape consists of manicured lawns and stands of mature hardwoods. Schoolhouse Pond, an old mill pond formed by the damming of the Western Branch of the Patuxent, is located just to the west of the standing structure. Galestown soils dominate the site.

The original ca. 1742 standing house was a 1½ storey Flemish bond brick house. Architectural evidence suggests that the house had a gambrel roof, although this was altered in the mid 19th century when a full second storey was added in common bond brick. By the mid 19th century, the brick had been stuccoed (to cover the transition from Flemish to common bond) and the structure embellished with Greek Revival and primarily Italianate stylistic elements. In 1986, the entire second floor and roof were removed, and the house was reconstructed to a more 18th century appearance. The planned reconstructions and subsequent development as a historical park were key drivers for the archeological work conducted at 18PR224 around that time.

As it now stands, the Buck House is a 1½ storey brick house with a hip-on-gambrel roof. Walls are laid in Flemish bond with queen closers and quoins at corners, as well as masonry openings and tooled joints. Quoins are rare on 18th Century structures in Maryland, and are unique for a house that is less than two storeys. The foundation is English bond with a beveled water table surrounding the building, and is pierced by four elliptical arched cellar windows on the principal (south) façade. The center bay of this façade projects slightly (another rarity), and is surmounted by a pediment with a small round window filled with leaded diamond-pane glass. This center bay contains the principal entrance flanked by 24-light casement windows set in segmental-arched openings with splayed jack arches. The entrance door is set in an arched opening containing a transom of wooded panels above the 8-panel door. The remaining bays on this façade contain leaded four-part windows that include paired 18-light casements below paired 9-light transoms of rectangular panes.

The north façade is six bays long, with an entrance in the third bay from the east, consisting of a paneled door with a rectangular wood paneled transom. All six openings have the same tall brick arches as on the south windows, and the windows are the same four-part casements. Two flush chimneys rise from each end of the building. Between these, the wall is pierced by a single window on each floor. These casement windows with leaded diamond-shaped glass panes are surmounted by segmental brick arches. A three-brick string course divides the floors at the level of the gambrel eaves. Hip-roofed dormer windows are symmetrically arranged on the north and south elevations; these are fitted with pairs of leaded diamond-pane casement windows. Four pierce the south slope, on either side of the pediment, and five are evenly spaced on the north slope. Both the gambrel and hip slopes of the roof are covered with wood shingles. A small octagonal spire with an octagonal roof surmounted by a weathervane crests the center of the roof ridge.

The first known owner of the Buck House was James Wardrop, a prominent Upper Marlboro merchant (originally from Scotland) who purchased 4¾ acres of ground from Daniel Carroll of Upper Marlboro in 1741. The 1741 deed describes the acreage in terms which indicate that a dwelling was already on the property. This appears to have been an earlier dwelling that was demolished shortly thereafter. The extant structure is believed to have been built between 1741 and 1742. A 1760 inventory has been located describing the furnishings in each room of the house when James Wardrop died. The inventory even lists the contents of Wardrop’s brick vaulted wine cellar which can still be seen in the basement of the Buck House. The value of the total inventory, including slaves, goods in the store and materials in the outbuildings, came to about £1,000. This large an inventory was limited to less than 2% of the population through at least 1760. This placed Wardrop among the wealthiest men in the colony, well able to afford a dwelling as large and well-appointed as the 18th century Buck House.

Following the death of merchant Wardrop, the Buck House property changed hands numerous times. Included among its later owners were at least four other prominent Upper Marlboro merchants: John Hodges of Thomas (1799-1825), Horatio C. Scott (circa 1832-1857), Edward Grafton W. Hall (1857-1887) and Harry Buck (1907-1974). Such frequent ownership by merchants, usually the wealthiest in 18th and 19th century communities, is a testimony to the size and quality of the Buck House. The prominence of its owners may also explain why such drastic alterations were carried out in the 19th Century to make the house as up-to-date as possible with the Italianate stylistic elements popular at that time.

The alterations to the house were probably carried out under the ownership of Edward Grafton W. Hall who owned it between 1857 and 1887. Horatio C. Scott, the previous owner, was Hall’s father-in-law. He owned the building from 1832 to 1857. The alterations are thought to date from 1855 to 1870, suggesting Hall as the instigator.

The property on which the Buck House stands was determined to have strong potential as a very important archeological site. A 1761 inventory, a 1765 deed, and a 1787 newspaper advertisement describe many outbuildings on the property, none of which have survived. Among these were a wash house, milk house, brick office, wood stable and carriage house, meat house, hen house and rabbit house. Records of the same period indicate that the property once had a formal garden, and a 1788 deed mentions a family burial vault not far from the house.

Archeological work at 18PR224 has been conducted since the 1970s, but the first well-documented archeological investigations occurred in 1983 and 1984 in anticipation of the planned use of the property as a historic park by MNCPPC. The primary goal of the project was to recover information about certain subsurface structural features and artifactual deposits in order to facilitate and provide guidance to the restoration work on the building.

Two phases of archeological investigation were undertaken. The initial phase was designed to answer specific architectural questions set forth by the architectural firm doing the reconstruction work and to contribute other architectural, historical, and cultural information pertinent to the Buck House. The specific problems to be addressed were: 1) determining if an early (pre-1858 renovation) fireplace existed in the northeast cellar chamber, 2) determining if earlier cellar floors existed beneath the extant brick, stone, & wood floors, 3) assess if the different extant cellar flooring materials related to specific functions, 4) determine where the stone slabs in the cellar were obtained, 5) ascertain whether an external stairway discovered during archeological work in 1976 was original to the house or a modification, 6) what was the dimensions and layout of the rear (north) porch, 7) Locate the placement of the original front (south) door steps and determine if they were associated with a porch or break front, 8) assess whether any window wells or area ways were located around the original portion of the house, 9) determine if there is any archeological evidence of leaded windows at the house, and 10) determine if any outbuildings or features were located within 4.572 m (15 ft) of the house. During the second phase of the 1983-84 study, the primary purpose was to excavate a trench at the

rear of the original Buck house to relieve pressure on the foundation walls. The involvement of the archeological team in this work was to assure that no significant historical features or deposits would be disturbed by the trench excavation.

To address the research questions posed by the architect, two methods of subsurface investigation were used at the Buck House. First, excavation of measured units (of various dimensions) took place in the cellar and around the exterior of the structure. The placement of these units was based on the ability to address a majority of the aforementioned research questions. Each of the units was excavated by discernable natural or cultural strata rather than by arbitrary levels in order to separate cultural deposits of different ages and functions. Second, shovel test pits (STPs) were placed around the exterior of the house. The STPs were approximately 30.48 X 30.4 cm (1 X 1 ft) square and ranged in depth from 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) to 60.96 cm (2 ft). Most of these were placed within 4.572 m of the house and were dug to locate evidence of outbuildings, walks, driveways, or other features.

All units and shovel tests were excavated to sterile soil. Two of the units and the west trench were dug to depths of 1.22 m (4 ft) into the subsoil to relieve pressure on the cellar walls. Soil removed from cultural levels within all excavations was screened through mesh hardware cloth. Artifacts were recovered and bagged according to horizontal and vertical provenience. All plans and elevations were recorded and photographs were taken with black and white print film. Artifacts were collected, cleaned, inventoried and curated. Unfortunately, the catalog of artifacts recovered is not included with the full site report held by MHT. Thus, the artifacts recovered during the course of this excavation project are not included in the tables above.

Excavations in the northeast room of the cellar in search of an early fireplace included the removal of the 1858 brick cellar floor below an area where a flue penetrates the main floor room above. Beneath the brick cellar floor, no structural remains of a formal hearth or fireplace foundation were encountered. Researchers did, however, encountered heavily burned earth, indicative of a series of intense fires on the surface above the burned soil. This was interpreted to be evidence of a former fireplace (completely dismantled at the time of renovation) located in the northeast corner of the northeast cellar room.

Excavations in four of the six cellar rooms revealed a sequence of four floor surfaces. The northeast and north central rooms contained a hard packed surface level at the top of the natural gravel subsoil. This appears to have been due to heavy foot traffic. The southeast room contained a soft layer of soil, heavily disturbed, beneath the 1858 wood floor that may have contained elements of an earlier floor. The loose soil lay over a similar hard packed gravel layer to those found in the two northern rooms. In the south central room, not only was a hard-packed gravel surface present, but a thin concentration of burned and fragmented oyster shell was also present overlaying the gravel. The oyster shell lens was interpreted to be a layer placed deliberately to raise the floor level in preparation for laying the stone floor present in this room. In general, the cellar rooms seem to have originally had hard packed soil floor. Subsequently a wood floor was put into the southeast room, and then all but the northeast room was paved with stone. Based on the relationship of the bottom of the original exterior cellar stair landing and the interior floor levels, it appears that this stone floor was laid at the same time as the stairway was repaired. If the floor had been laid prior to the repair of the stairway it would have been difficult to move such heavy goods as hogsheads of wine up 7.62 cm (3 in) from the flagstone landing to the interior floor.

Specifically, a question was posed by the architect as to the relationship of the cellar floors to the functions of the rooms. The southeast room may have served as a “servant’s hall” at one period of time and also may have provided for the relatively dry storage of kitchen items. Based on documentary evidence and the presence of burned earth beneath the extant brick flooring of the northeast room of the cellar, it is likely that, prior to 1858, this served as a kitchen for the main house. No specific function could be determined for the south and north central rooms.

Excavations clearly revealed that the original construction of the Buck House included a stairway system with a retaining wall leading from the north directly down into the cellar through a now-closed door that entered the north central room. The bonding of the brick of the two retaining walls solidly established this feature as being original to the house. Due to evidence of heavy disturbance at the rear of the house, no clear subsurface evidence of stairs leading from the yard to the rear door could be found. Several postholes for wood support posts were, however, found at suitable distances from the door toward the west to have served as supports for a stairway. No similar evidence was found to the east of the door. Markings on the rear of the building foundation and exposed wall, however, are indicative of a stairway and porch. Thus, it appears that there was a stairway leading west down from the rear entry door.

Excavations along the front (south) façade revealed a considerable amount of information concerning the sequence of front entryways to the Buck House. It appears that the earliest of the three entryway configurations to the main door of the structure consisted of a wooden porch or stoop (perhaps as a temporary structure) at the front of the house. Evidence of the structure took the form of a small builder’s trench and a soil stain of rectangular form. The latter was determined to be the footprint of large beams that served as footers for the porch. These were allowed to decay in place when the porch was removed. This porch was accessed by a set of steps, only the bottommost of which was brick. The rest of the steps appear to have been wood. The porch itself was approximately the width of the door and its frame. Artifacts found within the small builders trench date to the period roughly contemporaneous with the date of house construction and features of other porches are intrusive, suggesting that a small temporary porch was initially present.

The first “permanent” porch is represented archeologically by a brick breakfront and a series of 4 brick piers that provided the support for the porch beams. These correspond in width with the breakfront brick. Since only a few courses of brick of each pier remain, it is possible that the upper support for the porch floor joists were wooden posts or blocks. The final stage of construction of a front entryway is represented by four granite piers which supported the 1858 porch floor. This is also represented by a large granite block step at the edge of the driveway to the front of the house. This porch was only recently removed and has been well-documented. Three sets of holes were also found within the front porch area by the 1983-84 excavation team. Two of the sets functions could not be determined, although they could be interpreted as scaffolding support postholes associated with the original construction of the house. The third set is situated too far from the building to have served this purpose, but it is thought that these were excavated for the setting of ornamental bushes at the front of the 1858 porch.

Excavation under the front windows of the Wardrop-Buck House revealed that they never contained window wells. Based on the extent of the excavations, it is unlikely that any areaways existed either. The data suggests that the original ground surface was at the bottom edge of the cellar windows and not below.

The excavations revealed no evidence of lead strips (cames) or small glass panes that may have compromised leaded glass windows. Excavations were conducted under all of the north and south side windows as well as in the area on the east side of the building that had been occupied by an 1858 bay window addition.

Shovel testing around the periphery of the house revealed no evidence of any outbuildings. A front gravel driveway was found, along with a brick walkway that appears to be original to the house. Above this brick walk was concrete paving, representing a 19th century landscaping effort.

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The next phase of archeological work at 18PR224 was carried out a few years later in 1987. The planned construction of a septic system for the restored structure would impact any archeological deposits present within the work zone. That portion of the property affected by the study included an approximately 76.2 m by 45.72 m (250 by 150 ft) area located in the rear or backyard area of the structure. The area which was investigated was to be the location of a planned septic tank and drainage tile field to support the building in its future role as a public facility. The purpose of the study was oriented towards determining the extent and character of in-ground cultural features within the planned construction area and to provide information that will allow the county to assess the effect of any future development.

Before starting fieldwork, a 100% walkover of the study area was completed in order to determine if there was any surficial evidence of any in ground remains. The primary method of subsurface investigation utilized was the total stripping of the proposed backyard septic tank and tile field area, using mechanized equipment (a Gradall). Prior to the removal of topsoil, however, the area was shovel tested at a 7.62 m (25 ft) interval on a systematic grid. Each shovel test pit (STP) measured approximately 45.72 cm (18 in) in diameter and was excavated to a depth in excess of the topsoil/subsoil interface. Soil from each STP was screened through hardware mesh and artifacts were retained for future study. A total of 47 STPs were excavated in the impact area. Some additional probing was also conducted prior to the mechanical stripping, which resulted in the exposure of Feature 1 (see below).

Following the removal of the topsoil, field personnel flat shoveled the stripped areas in order to clean the interface and locate historical features, such as building foundations, middens, pits, and other evidence of cultural activity. All identified features were mapped and photographed. When the character of a feature was undetermined, limited excavation was undertaken in order to make a preliminary interpretation of the function. A deep test cut was placed in the northwestern portion of the stripped area in order to determine if fill had been placed in this portion of the backyard area. The results were negative. Due to financial and time constraints, one are in the western portion of the backyard could not be entirely stripped. In order to sample this area, two trenches were placed across the area. No features were identified in either trench and it was anticipated that no major features would be present within this unexcavated area. All artifacts recovered in the course of the study were washed, inventoried, and identified to the extent possible.

Only one feature was recorded during the shovel testing of the backyard. This feature was the concrete footer for a known historic barn. The footer was not assigned a feature number since the barn had been deliberately razed as part of the restoration activities at the site. It was later determined that the barn had been built over the top of the original Carriage House (Feature 7).

All but five of the STPs contained cultural materials. The bulk of the items recovered in the shovel testing included ceramics, glass, nails and metal, oyster shell, brick, coal, and bone. The ceramics reflected the historic range of occupation of the site and included earthenware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelain, Westerwald, and white salt-glazed stoneware, and Rockingham.

Eight additional features and 4 posts/postholes were identified as a result of the other field procedures conducted in 1987 (probing, stripping, and trenching). Features 1, 2, and 6 were subsurface pit features, while Features 3, 4, 5, and 7 were structural features. Feature 1 appears to date to the late 19th or early 20th century. Feature 2's precise function is not known and no artifacts were recovered from the feature fill. Feature 3 may be the remnants of a brick pier or the indistinct fill of a posthole. Since no other structural features were identified in the immediate vicinity, the functional interpretation of this feature remains unknown. Feature 4 appeared to be the filled-in remains of a subsurface feature such as a shallow cellar to a temporary post structure. Artifacts recovered from the fill suggest a 19th or 20th century date. Feature 5 was an apparent mortar and brick burial vault, while Feature 7 was the foundation of the stable/carriage house. Both the burial vault and the stable are described in documentary sources associated with the Wardrop-Thompson occupation of the house. The Feature 5 burial vault was a 3.05 X 4.88 m (10 X 16 ft) subsurface mortar and brick vault with a brick stairwell. Feature 6 was an ash disposal pit. The ash lense consisted of grayish green ash mixed with a number of artifact, most notable blue shell-edged pearlware (c. 1780-1795), porcelain, creamware, Delftware, bottle shards, and nails. Feature 7, the carriage house and stable remains consisted of the brick footers for a 4.57 X 8.53 m (15 X 28 ft) structure, which apparently had an associated 6.1 X 4.57 m (20 X 15 ft) attached shed or open bay. Feature 8 was a kitchen midden with an 18th century artifact assemblage. It is also undoubtedly associated (although perhaps not exclusively) with the Wardrop and Thompson families. The northeast area of the yard was found to be devoid of major structural remains and was probably the traditional garden space for the mansion.

Four posts/postholes were identified in the backyard of the Buck House. No real pattern was identified, however, they may all be associated with a fenced off garden which was once located in the rear of the mansion house.

A scattering of prehistoric material was recovered during topsoil stripping. A Middle to Late Archaic Halifax projectile point and a quartz biface were recovered along with lithic flakes and shatter. And a shell –tempered pottery sherd, similar to the Late Woodland Rappahannock fabric impressed (Townsend series), was also found.

A number of interesting artifacts were recovered during the course of the 1987 study. The historic assemblage included 2 activity items (a horseshoe and an 18th century padlock), 118 architectural objects, 2 clothing items (both buttons), 484 kitchen-related artifacts, a personal item (an 1861 2-cent piece), 4 tobacco-related artifacts (a reed pipe bowl, and 3 kaolin pipestems), and 8 miscellaneous objects (6 unidentified metal fragments and 2 pieces of coal). The architectural objects include 6 pieces of brick, 1 mortar fragment, a piece of plaster, 40 window glass fragments, 2 pieces of wood, 64 nails (9 cut, 1 hinge-headed, 36 handmade, and 18 unidentified), a hand-wrought spike, 2 hinges, and an iron hook. The kitchen-related artifacts were 270 ceramic sherds (1 Buckley, 1 Staffordshire, 25 creamware, 65 pearlware, 7 unidentified earthenware, 26 porcelain, 6 whiteware, 1 yelloware, 1 Rockingham, 38 redware, 25 white salt-glazed stoneware, 17 Delftware, 52 Westerwald, and 5 miscellaneous stoneware), 116 pieces of glass (1 table glass, 4 free-blown bottle shards, and 111 other container fragments), a mason jar lid fragment, a fragment from a pewter porringer, 90 animal bones, and 6 pieces of oyster shell. In addition to the historic artifacts, 7 prehistoric artifacts were recovered including a quartz Halifax point, a quartz biface fragment, 1 quartz flake, 1 other flake, 2 quartz shatter fragments, and a probable Rappahannock sherd.

Based on the findings of the 1987 study, contractors for the septic installation project were contacted and made aware of the presence of the significant features encountered. The septic tank was to be situated in an area that appeared to be free of features. But the archeologists informed the contractors that if connector lines would adversely impact Features 5, 6, 7, or 8 (which lay in the general area between the septic tank and the house, then the placement of the sewage system in the backyard area would not be practical based on the site's listing on the National Register. Alternative areas on the property were then considered and must ultimately have been approved.

Additional work was evidently carried out in 1990. However, MHT does not have a copy of the full site report for these excavations in its possession. Evidently, the work involved the excavation of the burial crypt discovered during the 1987 study in an attempt to restore the feature and incorporate it into interpretive efforts at the park. The excavators encountered extensive deposits of 18th and 19th century domestic refuse and architectural debris in the fill of the crypt

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR224 **Site Name:** Buck House, Wardrop-Buck House

Other name(s) Darnall's Chance (PG:79-28)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: late 17th-early 19th century plantation complex and burial vault

atop the remains of 9 individuals. These individuals were exhumed for osteological study by the Smithsonian Institution.

The vault is believed to be the Wardrop family fault mentioned in a 1788 deed of the property. The crypt was ultimately restored and the human remains were re-interred during a ceremony by re-enactors in 2004. Each individual was interred in wooden coffins within the family crypt.

The archeological deposits at 18PR224 clearly have significant research potential. A majority of the feature encountered during studies in the 1980s remain un-examined. The features were exposed and documented, but left largely intact. As the site is a publically owned property, operated as a historic park, these features should be well-preserved and capable of answering ongoing research questions related to Maryland Colonial history.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006707, 00006653, NRHP Nomination, Site Files