MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR259 **Site Name:** MacAlpine

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Mid 19th-20th century farmstead and Mid 20th century school site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.9657 Longitude -76.9356

Elevation 35 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. 11 SCS soil & sediment code SwB; CdD,CzD

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) Unnamed tributary Northea

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

Minimum distance to water is 165 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	Y
Early archaic		Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	Y
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			
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? Urban

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**	☑	school	
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR259 **Site Name:** MacAlpine

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Mid 19th-20th century farmstead and Mid 20th century school site

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		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		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	1	Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	3	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)	2	Activity item(s)	85
Glass (all)	425	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	176	Faunal material	☑
Furniture	10	Misc. kitchen	2
Arms	1	Floral material	☐
Clothing		Misc.	99
Personal items		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	☑
ice house	

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**

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR259 **Site Name:** MacAlpine

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Mid 19th-20th century farmstead and Mid 20th century school site

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at JPPM MAC Lab - 2014.005.001, 2021.069.001

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR259, the MacAlpine site in Prince George's County, MD is a mid 19th-20th century farmstead and mid 20th century school site. The site is situated on the 36-acre Calvert tract in Riverdale Park in the Hyattsville area (Maryland Archeological Research Unit 11), which is in the Riverine Potomac drainage of the Western Coastal Plain. Elevations for the parcel range between approximately 55 ft (feet) and 123 ft above mean sea level. The site was subject to Phase I, II, and III investigations in anticipation of commercial redevelopment of the property.

At the time of the Phase II and III investigations, the parcel was forested and covered by a moderately dense to very dense understory. The parcel slopes to the west and south, draining into the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River, a tributary of the Potomac River. All of the soils are Urban complex, those surrounding the MacAlpine house being of the Christiana-Downer-Urban complex (CdD) with slopes of 5% to 15% and those surrounding the barn location being of the Croom-Urban land complex (CzD), also with slopes ranging between 5% and 15%.
The surfaces of the site are moderately eroded, but are severely graded in some areas. The grading was initially done in the early 1940s with the construction of worker housing and roads for the ERCO aviation plant to the east. Those buildings and roads were razed in the mid- to late 1950s, much if not all of the debris having been left on site. The parcel has been used in more recent years as an illicit trash dump.

The MacAlpine Site (18PR259) was initially recorded by Applied Archaeology and History Associates (AAHA) during a 2008 Phase I archaeological survey. The Phase I included historic research, surface reconnaissance, and excavation of 179 shovel test pits (STPs) distributed across the western and eastern portions of the parcel. The historic research indicated that parcel containing 18PR259 was a 200+ acre part of the Calvert family's Riversdale tract and became a working farm under Charles Baltimore Calvert between 1864 and 1868 and remained so until his death in 1906. The farm, called MacAlpine, left the Calvert family in 1934. It briefly housed the Longfellow School for Boys (1934-ca. 1940) before being redeveloped as housing (Calvert Homes) for a wartime aircraft factory (ERCO) and, later, for students entering the nearby University of Maryland under the GI Bill. A school operated near the main house for the community's children from 1948 until at least 1957. The wartime housing purportedly was demolished in 1954.

Four of the Phase I STPs produced temporally non-diagnostic aboriginal artifacts and 60 STPs produced historic period materials dating to the 20th century. During the Phase I survey AAHA identified several structures attributed to the Calvert Occupation (i.e. 1868-1934). Based on the discovery of extant structures and the historic materials recovered during the Phase I survey, AAHA recommended a Phase II site examination for these features.

The Phase II investigation of 18PR259 was conducted by Jim Gibb and Associates. The Phase II archaeological site examination consisted of the excavation of shovel test pits, 3 ft by 3 ft excavation units and probing and trenching feature depressions. Fieldwork was conducted between March 8 and March 24, 2012. Shovel testing, excavation of two 3 ft by 3 ft units, and mapping suggested that the structure identified as a bank barn in the Phase I survey is probably a carriage barn. Four 3 ft by 3 ft units, several trenches, and ten shovel tests clearly established the footprint of the MacAlpine house. Three narrow trenches were excavated to better document the ice house.

The Phase II investigation determined that all of the deposits represent demolition debris formed c. 1930 (the carriage barn), c. 1960 (cannibalized ice house), or after 1965 (the house). All non-demolition deposits were screened for artifacts through 1⁄4-inch hardware mesh, the finds collected by unit and stratum. The crew inventoried in the field, but did not retain the demolition material. The vast majority was brick, mortar, roofing slate, nails, and 20th century beverage bottle glass.

Based on the Phase II survey, the MacAlpine site was determined to be heavily damaged, first by Calvert Homes construction, then by Calvert Homes demolition, and most recently by clearing for geotechnical survey. The research and public education potentials of the site were said to be uncertain because of these disturbances and the rapid succession of substantively different occupations between 1934 and 1957, and the loss of context, particularly of the MacAlpine house.

A consensus and plan for preservation in place of the icehouse for future research and public interpretation was reached with the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, the County's staff archaeologist, and the applicant. The carriage barn could not be avoided during construction; therefore a Phase III data recovery was conducted on the carriage barn in May 2013.

Work began with a machine operator clearing smaller trees and bushes with the frontend bucket and backhoe, and pushing debris away from the excavation area. Then the backhoe was used for the removal of the Ao and upper portion of the C (demolition rubble) horizons. The backhoe turned up a few Domestic artifacts, but most of the machine-recovered artifacts were iron and related to the construction of the building, its furnishing, or its domestic and non-domestic functions

At the request of the principal investigator, the machine operator excavated a trench approximately 3.5 ft by 16 ft in the center of the west half of the foundation. The trench clearly demonstrated that there are no cultural deposits deeply buried beneath the demolition debris, but it did expose two wooden posts and postholes that originated at the surface of a scorched surface. After completion of the machine excavation of the interior and cleaning of the walls and significant portions of the scorched surface, the field crew mapped the foundation and features with a total station, and then prepared scaled drawings of features. Stratigraphy within the foundation was documented as up to 3.5 ft of brick and mortar rubble with some artifact inclusions (mostly machine-cut and headed nails) resting directly on up to 0.1 ft of ash, scorched Bt horizon, or compacted, but thermally unaltered, Bt horizon.

Overall, the exposed foundation consisted of four exterior brick walls, each three brick-widths wide, every sixth course a header bond, supported by a 2.3-ft-wide fieldstone footer. Structural features within the foundation consisted of builders' trenches, concrete forms, postholes, foundation walls, an earthen ramp, two wooden posts, and tile drains. Post-construction features in the structure included demolition debris that fills the entire foundation; discontinuous, thin deposits of ash from the ca. 1930 fire, filled trenches in which the tile drains had been installed, and depressions above the builders' trenches in which occupational debris accumulated.

Historic artifacts (n=752) recovered from the barn Phase III excavations included Architectural (n=273), Furnishing (n=10), Equestrian (n=32), Vehicular (n=1), Agricultural (n=5), Arms (n=1), Domestic (n=387), fuel (n=84), and miscellaneous/indeterminate materials (n=15).

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR259 **Site Name:** MacAlpine

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☐ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Mid 19th-20th century farmstead and Mid 20th century school site

Architectural artifacts included fieldstone, bricks, mortar, window glass (n=97), drain tile, masonry artifacts, machine-cut nails (n=76), spikes, door hinges, and pintles, and a kind of anchor that appears to have functioned architecturally. Only one artifact clearly assignable to the Vehicular class was recovered from the site: an iron tire from a carriage wheel.

Large agricultural artifacts included a plow seat, a clevis, cultivator parts, two moldboards, harness snaps, harness rings, center clips from a wagon singletree, a plow u-bolt, two chain links, two parts of a bit, and a threaded eyebolt. Agricultural hand tools included a 24-inch spike made from one-inch square barstock and drawn to an irregular point, a wedge-shaped millpick, a cast-steel splitter's wedge, a pitchfork, two garden rake heads, and two wrenches.

Equestrian artifacts included 12 horseshoes, three fragments representing two eight-bar curry combs, two brass spurs, and a horse-bit bearing the US insignia indicative of military issue.
Objects identified as furnishings included a parlor stove and a brass bedstead.

Vessels include a perfume bottle, liquor and beer bottles and flasks, soda bottles, a milk bottle, mineral water bottles, canning jars, three porcelain plates, an American Gray Stoneware pan, vases, two pharmaceutical vials, a white granite basin, a white earthenware cup, a white earthenware chamber pot, an enameled metal chamber pot and two galvanized buckets.

One artifact in the toy category, a glass marble, was recovered. The one Arms related artifact recovered was a shotgun shell. Artifacts included in the miscellaneous category primarily consisted of a large number of unidentifiable iron objects.

The Phase III data did not permit categorical identification of the investigated foundation as that of a carriage barn, but the investigators felt that the preponderance of evidence better supported the identification of a carriage barn rather than a livestock barn. Based on the phase III data recovery, the research value of the barn foundation and its interior appear to have been exhausted.

Overall, the archaeological studies at 18PR259 identified one resource to be preserved in the place (the ice house). The Phase III data recovery of the barn feature served to mitigate the feature and exhausted its future research potential. Additionally, the MacAlpine house was determined to have been heavily damaged, first by Calvert Homes construction, then by Calvert Homes demolition, and most recently by clearing for geotechnical survey. No additional archaeological research was recommended at 18PR259.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002318