



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR353

Site Name: Fort Washington

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Old Ft. Washington, PG:80-16

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description: Early 19th century military fortification

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code CuB

Latitude 38.7067 Longitude -77.0448

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site  Underwater site

Elevation 24 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
- 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) Potomac River

- | Saltwater                                |   | Freshwater                            |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/>           | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/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 152 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Paleoindian site <input type="checkbox"/>            | Woodland site <input type="checkbox"/>  | Contact period site <input type="checkbox"/>        | ca. 1820 - 1860 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaic site <input type="checkbox"/>                | MD Adena <input type="checkbox"/>       | ca. 1630 - 1675 <input type="checkbox"/>            | ca. 1860 - 1900 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Early archaic <input type="checkbox"/>               | Early woodland <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1675 - 1720 <input type="checkbox"/>            | ca. 1900 - 1930 <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Middle archaic <input type="checkbox"/>              | Mid. woodland <input type="checkbox"/>  | ca. 1720 - 1780 <input type="checkbox"/>            | Post 1930 <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| Late archaic <input type="checkbox"/>                | Late woodland <input type="checkbox"/>  | ca. 1780 - 1820 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Unknown prehistoric context <input 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"/>    |   |

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

## 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   
 Cursory analysis of faunal remains for cut marks and type of meat cut.



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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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	16	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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	21	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	10			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

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

Dated features present at site

18th Century Blockhouse and numerous 19th century features related to the fortification.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	52	Activity item(s)	57
Glass (all)	225	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	284	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	96
Arms	7	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	83	Misc.	98
Personal items	7	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	drain,ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS - National Capital Region Museum & Archeologica

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Fort Washington Park is a 341-acre NRHP listed historical and recreational area located in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. The park is the site of a massive and imposing 19th century fortification (PG: 80-16) overlooking Digges' Point to protect Washington DC from naval attack via the Potomac. The fortification is considered an archeological site (18PR353) and has been the subject of several field projects. The site is situated on the high terrace of Digges' Point, overlooking the Potomac with Swan Creek and Piscataway Creek located just to the north and south of the fortification respectively. The current landscape of Fort Washington is that of a typical recreation area, with large, well manicured open spaces interspersed with lightly-wooded picnic areas and mature woodlands accessible by an extensive modern paved road system, as well as a number of service roads and foot trails. Soils at the site are of the Sassafras-Keyport-Elkton Association.

Originally the site of Warburton Manor, a large plantation established by the Digges family in the early 18th century, Fort Washington was the site of a significant military occupation spanning the 19th and early 20th centuries. Built on the site of the earlier Fort Warburton (destroyed by its own garrison during the War of 1812) this masonry fortification was completed in 1824, becoming the sole permanent defensive work guarding Washington DC from seaborne attack. Major features of the fort include 2 bastions, 2 demibastions with a sally port between, a caponier, batteries, gun emplacements, barracks, and associated structures and features.

In September of 1814, acting Secretary of War James Monroe order Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant to inspect Fort Warburton and repair or rebuild the works as necessary. The French-born engineering officer had served admirably under Washington in the Revolutionary War, and won fame for his design for the new capital city. By the spring of 1815 he was underway with the construction of a ravelin, a V-shaped earthwork near the river, and was rebuilding the former wharf. Frustrated by criticism from the federal authorities, however, L'Enfant refused to submit progress reports or provide a comprehensive plan for the project. As a result of this impasse, work was suspended in July, and L'Enfant was dismissed in September.

Even before L'Enfant was removed from his post, the War Department had ordered Lieutenant Colonel Walker K. Armistead to inspect the progress of the fort and to make recommendations concerning its status. A West Point graduate, Armistead had served as chief engineer on the Niagara frontier during the War of 1812 and most recently had superintended the defenses of Norfolk and the Chesapeake. His report, submitted at the end of July 1815, was not favorable. "Fort Washington as it now stands," he noted, "exhibits no regular plan of work, except, the unequal faces of an unfinished Ravelin, and if finished on the plan of its present projection will be expensive". Convinced that a new approach was necessary, in August the War Department ordered Armistead to return to Fort Washington and devise a workable strategy for completing the project.

In October 1815, Armistead presented his new plan for Fort Washington, which had been drawn up with the assistance of Lieutenant Theodore Maurice. A new masonry fort would be constructed 35 meters (115 ft) above the high water mark, while L'Enfant's ravelin would be completed as a major outerwork nearer the waterline. The main fort would include two demibastions facing the river, with its landside defenses consisting of two bastions and a caponier overlooking a deep natural ravine to its east. Two blocks of barracks and two magazines near the curtains (the main fort walls) would be located between the bastions and the caponier, with a hot-shot furnace in each of the two demibastions. Designed to set wooden ships ablaze, "hot shot" was regular solid shot heated red-hot before firing. The War Department approved the overall plan in February 1816, with the addition of a 20-gun water battery, and work on the new Fort Washington commenced shortly after.

The initial construction of Fort Washington was completed by 1824 at a total cost of \$446,467.37. In February 1825, Chief of Engineers Major General Alexander Macomb noted that, "...the position of Fort Washington is exceedingly strong and the work is built of the most durable materials and executed in the best manner. Its batteries command completely the channel of the River Potomac and cover the District of Columbia, including the National Capital, from an attack by water. Fort Washington, on the land side, is very strong, being defended by high walls and a deep ravine. It is so well situated that it cannot be taken unless invested and regularly besieged, and even then it may be considered competent to hold out until relieved by the forces of the country."

Yet Fort Washington was more than the sum of its defenses. In this era, it was expected that fortifications would be relatively self-contained and self-sufficient communities, and much of early post life was centered within, and in close proximity, to the fort. Living quarters inside the fort walls included a large two-storey brick enlisted men's barracks with a slate roof and piazza across the front that was designed to house 60 men, roughly the size of an artillery company. Another building of similar size and construction served as officer's quarters. Other rooms within the main fort included and office and guardroom with cells for holding prisoners in the gatehouse. Maintaining a garrison of men also required a considerable number of outbuildings that, for reasons of space and function, were more conveniently located beyond the walls of the fort. As well as emplacements for guns, the ravelin enclosed a stable, blacksmith's forge, storehouse, magazine, shot furnace, and two guard houses. Only three other structures were initially located beyond the fort. The most significant of these was the two-storey brick commanding officer's quarters, built opposite the main gate on a hillside so that the lower floor opened on ground level to the west. A nearby frame dwelling to house a junior officer survived only until the 1830s, while a small one-storey brick house downslope from the commanding officer's house served as non-commissioned officer's quarters.

Significant alterations and additions were made in the 1840s, yet the fort was largely unmanned until the months just prior to the Civil War, when it was re-garrisoned by Union troops. Although Fort Washington never saw military action, the troops remained until the early 1870s. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland established a military and civilian review board, headed by (then) Secretary of War William C. Endicott, to review the coastal defenses of the United States. The Endicott Board, as it came to be known, recommended that Fort Washington's defenses be expanded and modernized beginning in 1891 as an important component of the nation's new coastal fortification system. Over the next several years, eight state-of-the-art concrete artillery batteries were built across the enlarged post, in addition to numerous additional support facilities. Stripped of its guns during World War I, Fort Washington remained occupied by Coast Artillery and Army troops until the War Department transferred the property to the National Park Service in 1939. Briefly home to Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NP-4-MD, the reservation was drafted into use as an Adjutant General's School and associated officer's candidate school during World War II. Fort Washington was returned to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1946. Since that time, the park has been managed as an historic site and popular recreation area.

The first professional archeological investigations at Fort Washington were conducted in May 1958 by the NPS. These excavations focused solely on the 19th century fort and were undertaken in conjunction with Mission '66: a park restoration plan for several NPS facilities undertaken at the time of the NPS' 50th anniversary. By this time the structure was in an advanced state of decay, being unsafe for visitation and threatening to collapse in some areas. Brush was cleared from the walls, gate, and bastions. Trees were removed from the parades, esplanades, and scarp slopes. Brick and stone work were repointed and



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repaired. And the rooms in the Main Gate and the Officers' Quarters were reconstructed.

While the physical restoration of the fort was proceeding, archeological investigations were carried out at the old fort over a two week period. The project had 5 objectives: 1) locate a hot-shot furnace installed in 1842, 2) locate a blockhouse built in 1808, 3) locate the 1823 and 1848 flagpole sites, 4) investigate a stratified paving in the southeast bastion's flank caponier, and 5) determine the original level of the parade grounds. The NPS succeeded in identifying the remains of part of the hot shot furnace, most likely a platform or "porch" feature located at the rear of the furnace. The masonry foundation of the 1808 blockhouse was found just below the ground surface, and had an outside diameter of approximately 7.62 m (25 ft). The 1.1 square meter (12 square foot) mortar foundation of the 1848 flagpole base was uncovered near the entrance to the caponier and a soil stain representing the original pole was noted in the center hole. The investigation of the two floors in the caponier revealed that the original floor had slumped, and was covered with a second dry-laid brick surface, while the presence of faunal remains suggested its use as a kitchen. The investigation of the stratigraphic character of the parade grounds proved inconclusive, and researchers proposed that the modern grade was actually at or below historic levels. Finally, a test trench excavated across a terreplein east of the main sally port uncovered three cedar logs probably associated with a retaining wall. No details are known regarding the archeological assemblage recovered during the 1958 excavations.

No additional archeological work was conducted until 1977. In that year, NPS initiated a five-year plan to restore the fort to its historical appearance ca. 1848-60, and architectural restoration work commenced on the southeast bastion. In support of these efforts and in light of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS archeologists excavated at the site from 1977 through 1979, focusing primarily on the fort itself, but also investigating the Commandant's House. The investigations associated with the fortifications included an analysis of 1) historic parade grades in the fort and the ravelin, 2) the stability of the slope on the east curtain and salient of the southwest demibastion, 3) the mortar battery at the southwest demibastion, and 4) a round building at the east end of the counterscarp wall. At the Commandant's House researchers investigated 5) the patio on the south side of the dwelling, 6) the locations of the latrine, cistern, and well, 7) a ruined structure west of the house, 8) a fence/gate complex, 9) the condition of the foundation, and 10) the bearings of the north porch.

The 1977 excavations at the fort began with the establishment of a grid system. The basic excavation unit measured 1.524 m (5 ft) square. However, many locations at the fort were irregularly shaped (due to the earthworks or other factors) and could not accommodate a 1.524 m square. Situations also occurred where a 1.524 m square unit was inappropriate and a smaller or large unit was necessary. Researchers reported that the large distances involved and radical topography of the site made surveying within an acceptable margin of error difficult. Excavation was done with pick, shovel, and trowel. Depending on the circumstances, unit fill was screened in toto, on a sample basis, or not at all. Those units not screened were excavated carefully, the soils turned, and only diagnostic artifacts recovered. The excavation methods were varied to deal with circumstances such as previous disturbance and the nature or overlying deposits: areas appearing as sterile fill or in previously disturbed areas were sampled and areas having alluvial overburden were shovel turned to recover diagnostic artifacts.

No detailed description of the artifact assemblage is provided in the full site report for the 1977 excavations. However, the report does describe the numerous features encountered and explored during the excavation work. The various reports consulted in the creation of this synopsis report differ in their use of terminology such as bastion, demibastion, caponier, demicaponier, etc. This synopsis uses the same terminology throughout (including in the general descriptions of the fort above) with reference to the cardinal directions. The description of the aforementioned features that follows begins at the caponier and proceeds clockwise around the fort and surrounding grounds utilizing this uniform terminology.

In the area of the caponier and east curtain wall, five features were identified. Feature 3 is the apparent remnants of a wooden parapet. Archival evidence reveals that a wooden parapet was installed in this area in 1840 by a Captain Fred Smith. Feature 21 is a portion of the ramp used to access the caponier. Feature 13 is a footing for a circular ramp leading to the terreplein of the curtain wall. Features 10 and 26 are both down-spouts along the east curtain wall.

In the area of the southeast bastion, a total of 4 features were located. Feature 1 is really a number of features that made up a water storage system and cistern. Feature 4 is a drop inlet in the drainage system and Feature 11 is a former cistern. Outside the fort walls (but still near the southeast bastion) a small round building or blockhouse was identified as Feature 20.

A mortar battery is located along the fort walls near the southeast bastion and southwest demibastion. In this general area a total of 4 features were excavated. Feature 30 is the remains of a wall separating the middle from the upper section of the battery (and an associated step and drain inlet). Likewise, Feature 31 is the remains of a wall separating the middle from the lower section of the battery. Feature 32 is a builder's trench for a sub-terranean drain, while Feature 33 is a drain inlet.

Five features were encountered along the west curtain wall and the associated sally port that leads to the Ravelin. Feature 17 consisted of stone blocks for a gun mount along the wall, not far from the southwest demibastion. The sally port is situated nearer the center of the curtain wall and the four features identified there consist of two drop inlets for the drainage system (Features 9 and 12), a gutter for erosion control (Feature 15), and the footings of a former wall segment (Feature 18). Feature 18 may have been torn down during the Civil War era, when the area had to be altered and excavated to improve drainage according to archival records.

The west end of the sally port ramp was excavated and designated Feature 25. Six additional features were excavated in the Ravelin or along its edges. Features 24 and 28 were drainage related. Feature 24 was a large complex of inter-related features that were related to drainage of both the Ravelin and the main fort. Feature 28 is a drainage pipe that drained the Ravelin parade grounds. Feature 27 and 47 are the remains of two masonry and concrete magazines near the center of the Ravelin. Feature 43 is an extensive burnt area nearby that may be related to the razing of the magazine prior to the construction of the new battery (known as Battery White) in 1898. Feature 42 appears to be the remains of a brick wall running southwest to northeast through the center of the Ravelin. Archival evidence suggests that this is the remains of a late 19th century saddlery.

Excavations were conducted to the north of the Ravelin and revealed features in the area of the Commanding Officer's house. Feature 22 is the remains of a former brick patio on the south side of the house. Feature 23 is the remains of a cistern complex at the southwest corner of the house.

Five features were located in the area of the northwest demibastion. Three of these features (Features 7, 34, and 35) were located outside the demibastion walls. Feature 7 is the terminal end of a storm water drainage system leading out from a drain in the northwest corner of the demibastion. Feature 34 is a portion of a cobblestone-lined surface gutter that carries water from the northeast bastion to a drop inlet (Feature 35) that drains water into the same system as Feature 7. Feature 36 and 37 were located within the demibastion. Feature 36 is the footing of a downspout from the terreplein of the bastion to the esplanade. Feature 37 is a recently (based on the presence of modern .30 caliber shells) burned area.



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Description:

One feature was identified near the main gate of the fort. Feature 6 is a large cistern and its ancillary structures.

And finally, eleven features were identified in the area of the northeast bastion. Feature 2 is the remains of a latrine building foundation. Feature 5 was situated near the latrine and was a stone and brick box, a part of the drainage system for the area. This structure was likely built after 1850 based on the presence of machine-made nails in the remains of an apparent wood cover or cap for the drainage box. Feature 8 is a brick paved walk near the latrine, which leads to the nearby officer's quarters. Two layers of brick are present: an early/lower hexagonal brick walk and a later/upper herringbone-pattern walk. The former is believed to date to ca. 1821 based on when hexagonal brick was used elsewhere at Fort Washington, while the herringbone upper levels likely date to the 1840s. Feature 29 was also near the latrine and is a modern feature. It is a concrete utility terminal for a 48 inch sewage line installed in 1959. Feature 14 is a drain from the officer's barracks to the cesspool for the latrine. Feature 16 is a drain box, part of a larger cistern system in the northeast bastion area and Feature 38 is the cistern itself. Feature 19 is a cobblestone-lined surface gutter outside the bastion wall, the same gutter that was identified as Feature 34 in the northwest demibastion area. The final three features are all part of a larger drainage system carrying water from the bastion out of the fort wall and to the ravine below. They are each located outside the wall and include a salt-glazed water pipe (Feature 40), a drain box (Feature 44), and a spillway (Feature 45).

Additional feature numbers were assigned during the course of excavation, but details are not provided in the full site report. They may be features ultimately determined to have been natural in origin.

A less extensive program of archeological research was undertaken in the spring of 1987 as a joint effort of the Regional Archeological Program of the NPS and the University of Maryland, College Park. This testing was performed prior to anticipated repair work in various locations in and around the fort. One of the first tasks undertaken by the field crew on this project was to re-locate the 1808 blockhouse identified during the 1958 study, so that a waterline could be rerouted around the feature. These remains, also known as the Martello (or Octagon) Tower, were associated with old Fort Warburton which was burned down during the War of 1812 (see above). Excavation was conducted in the northwest quadrant of the main parade grounds near the west curtain of the fort based on visual inspection of the grounds and the information from the original NPS report of the 1957 work.

A 61 cm (2 ft) by 1.524 m (5 ft) test trench was laid out in such a manner as to intersect the presumed western perimeter of the blockhouse foundation. The previously disturbed soils above the foundation were by shovel and no effort was made to retrieve cultural material. An edge of the foundation was exposed and mapped after removal of this overburden. Then using the blockhouse diameter reported in 1957 and the exposed edge as a reference point, the circumference of the base was outlined using surveyor's flagging so it could be avoided. The test trench was then backfilled. Artifacts recovered from the area of the blockhouse include 17 architectural items (7 pieces of brick, 4 wood fragments, 6 copper wire/cable pieces), 17 kitchen-related artifacts (5 whiteware sherds, 1 miscellaneous stoneware sherds, 2 unidentified bottle fragments, and 9 pieces of oyster shell), and 7 miscellaneous objects (1 piece of unidentified glass, a piece of unidentified synthetic material, 2 pieces of coal, and 3 chunks of discolored soil).

A number of units were also excavated within the Northwest Demibastion. Eight 61 cm square (2 ft square) excavation units were laid out within or near the confines of the planned construction in this area. Placement of the units was determined by the results of random test corings for possible subsurface features. The test units were excavated by natural stratigraphic levels using hand trowels and shovels.

One feature was encountered during the excavations in the Northwest Demibastion: a shallow trench containing soil and artifacts that had been burned (19th and 20th Century items). Researchers were puzzled as to the nature of the pit until it was discovered that a reenactment of army camp life had taken place in the demibastion during the summer of 1982 or 1983. The feature was determined to be the remains of a campfire pit. Artifacts recovered from the Northwest Demibastion include 54 activity items, 146 architectural artifacts, 1 clothing item (a plastic button), 208 kitchen-related artifacts, 5 personal items (4 Lincoln-head pennies and a Band-aid fragment), 4 arms objects (2 canisters of grape shot, a lead Minié Ball, and a centerfire rifle cartridge), and 56 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a Bakelite gaming piece, 3 pieces of lamp glass, a lightbulb part, 2 electrical tape fragments, 2 washers, 37 burned wood fragments, a piece of fire-cracked rock from a modern campfire, a burned quartz fragment, a metal tube, a whetstone, a ballpoint pen, and 3 camera flashbulb fragments. The architectural artifacts were 36 pieces of brick, 11 Portland cement fragments, a cement fragment, 3 mortar fragments, 3 terra-cotta tile pieces, 15 pieces of window glass, 6 wood fragments, 2 painted wood fragments, 64 nails (3 cut, 35 wire, 6 masonry/finishing, and 20 unidentified), 2 brads, a hinge, and 2 copper wire fragments. The kitchen-related artifacts include 15 ceramic sherds (1 pearlware, 13 whiteware, 1 miscellaneous stoneware), 168 pieces of container glass (103 machine made and 65 unidentified), 3 can fragments, 4 aluminum foil fragments, 2 plastic 6-pack ring fragments, a pull tab, 14 pieces of oyster shell, and a piece of animal bone. The miscellaneous objects were 3 unidentified pieces of metal, 13 unidentified glass fragments, 14 slate fragments, a piece of micaceous schist, 21 fragments of modern plastic/foil, 2 pieces of Styrofoam, and 2 pieces of coal.

The researchers also monitored the back-hoe excavation of drainage lines and drain inlets, as well as construction trenches in the parade ground. The primary finding was of a disused electrical cable from the period of improvements recommended by the Endicott Board. Artifacts encountered during the monitoring of the work in the parade grounds include 7 architectural objects (2 bricks, an asphalt paving fragment, and 4 terra-cotta tile pieces), and 9 kitchen-related artifacts (4 pearlware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 2 whiteware sherds, and 2 unidentified bottle fragments).

The 1987 team also excavated test units near the revetment/retaining wall on the parade ground south of the caponiere entrance. This inner retaining wall, which holds back the earth forming the terreplein on the east front, is slowly buckling due to water collecting in the soils of the terreplein. One 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) excavation unit and three 61 cm X 61 cm (2 X 2 ft) test units were laid out within the confines of planned wall repair work. Placement of the units was determined by the results of random test corings for possible subsurface features and by examination of period maps to predict the location of possible features. These units were excavated by natural stratigraphic levels using hand trowels and shovels.

The only features identified during the excavation in this area were a previously identified pre-cursor to the extant terreplein ramp (semicircular in form) and a track for a gun placement. Artifacts encountered in these units included 2 activity items (a plastic arrow/spear head and a burned wood fragment), 98 architectural artifacts, 6 pieces of clothing (a cupric infantry button and 5 mother of pearl fragments), 33 kitchen-related artifacts, a possible personal item (a fossilized shark's tooth), 2 arms artifacts (friction primer wires), and 30 miscellaneous objects. The architectural assemblage from this area included 41 brick fragments, 6 pieces of Portland cement, 14 cement fragments, 18 architectural stone fragments, 3 pieces of mortar, 3 masonry flooring fragments, a piece of window glass, 11 nails (2 cut, 1 wire, 1 masonry/flooring, 7 unidentified), and a brad. The kitchen remains were 4 pearlware sherds, 1 Chinese export porcelain sherd, 1 miscellaneous stoneware sherd, 1 whiteware sherd, 4 unidentified bottle fragments, 12 pieces of oyster shell, and 10 animal bones. The miscellaneous items include 2 metal objects, a piece of unidentified glass, a slate fragment, 5 pieces of a metallic foil, 2 snail shells, 18 pieces of coal, and a quartz fragment.



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18PR353

Site Name: Fort Washington

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Old Ft. Washington, PG:80-16

Historic

Brief Description: Early 19th century military fortification

Unknown

The final component in the 1987 research project was excavation in the Ravelin area. The improvements in this area were to consist of repairing portions of the existing 19th century circular brick sewer conduit along the south half of the Ravelin, lining the conduit with plastic pipe, and creating manholes at critical junctures. Monitoring of construction excavation was determined to be the most efficient investigative technique for this area so extensive archeological excavations were not undertaken. Only one 61 X 61 cm (2 X 2 ft) test unit and one shovel test pit were excavated in the southeast corner of the Ravelin at the sites of the proposed manholes. A soil corer was used in this area to probe for subsurface features. The 61 cm square unit was excavated by natural stratigraphic levels using shovels and hand trowels.

No features were encountered in the portions of the Ravelin excavated. However, 3 architectural artifacts and 8 kitchen items were recovered. These were a brick, a piece of window glass, and a wire nail for the architectural items and a pearlware sherd, and 2 machine made and 5 other bottle glass fragments for the kitchen-related items.

Subsurface testing was conducted again at 18PR353 in 2000 in the form of a geophysical survey. A ground-penetrating radar (GPR) study and soil test borings were conducted by a private consulting firm. GPR equipment was deployed along the Northwest and Southwest Demibastion walls and along the terreplein walkways in an effort to determine what, if any, structural elements were below grade in these areas. The results of the GPR testing suggested that pilasters began approximately 1.524 m below grade in the Northwest Demibastion terreplein, and also that masonry was present below the extant reconstructed gun mounts. Evidence of welded-wire mesh reinforcing materials was found beneath the terreplein of the Southwest Demibastion. The soil borings, excavated east of the Gatehouse and in both Demibastions, revealed fill depth ranging between 1.62 and 5.5 meters (5.3 and 18 ft).

Archaeological monitoring was conducted in selected areas of the site, again, in April and June of 2005 during construction activities for the NPS. Because intact archeological deposits from the time period of the Fort's construction and active use could be encountered, archeological monitoring of ground disturbing activity was required. The objective of the archeological monitoring project was to identify and document archeological features and artifacts exposed during the project and to collect historical artifacts for future study and museum exhibits at Fort Washington Park.

Ten areas in and around the fort were monitored during the rehabilitation activities in 2005. These areas included the Esplanades of the Northwest and Southwest Demibastions, the Enlisted Men's Barracks (located within the Southeast Bastion), the cistern previously excavated near the main gate (Feature 6), the previously excavated drain inlet outside the Northwest Salient (Feature 35), the Northwest Demibastion Terreplein, the Mortar Battery and Reverse Fire Casemate, the north yard of the Officer's Quarters (located within the Northeast Bastion), and the Northwest Demibastion revetment wall. New and existing features associated with architectural aspects and early occupations of Fort Washington were identified and recorded including the original brick drain and cobble lined inlet collar in the Northwest Demibastion Esplanade, the brick drain and wall/probable filter box associated with the Gatehouse Filter, intact cobble-lined drains and drop inlet at the Dry Moat outside the Northwest Salient and intact subfloor soil and archeological deposits in the fireplace foundations in the Enlisted Men's Barracks.

Historical artifacts were identified and recovered during archeological monitoring (164 total) and included 1 activity item (a metal file), 13 architectural artifacts (9 cut nails, 1 wire nail, 1 cut spike, a tie rod wedge, and an electrical insulator), 76 clothing artifacts (a copper Navy button, a modern reproduction of a copper Army button, and 74 leather shoe parts), 65 kitchen-related artifacts (16 ironstone sherds, 9 blown bottle fragments, 3 oyster shell pieces, 36 mammal bones, and 1 rabbit bone), 1 personal item (a 1956 Lincoln Penny), 2 tobacco-related artifacts (ball clay pipestems), and arms object (a friction primer), and 5 miscellaneous objects (1 unidentified metal, 1 other glass, and 3 pieces of coal). With the exception of the deposits from the Enlisted Men's Barracks, most artifacts represent incidental loss or discard (e.g., a Navy button). The primary deposits from the Enlisted Men's Barracks provide insight into food consumption patterns (the presence of bowls and meat cuts for stews and soups) and selective discard patterns (disposal of leather shoes).

Although a comprehensive archeological survey of Fort Washington Park has never been conducted, and the subsurface integrity of the area beyond the immediate vicinity of the historic fort is not known, it is clear that an array of subsurface cultural features could be expected across the property. Resources associated with the 18th and 19th century occupation of the land may remain, as well as the more recent manifestations of the more than 200 military buildings erected and subsequently dismantled between the 1890s and 1940s, and the subsurface utilities that served them. Additional research is particularly warranted to the east of the modern Visitor's Center parking lot, where an area of terracing suggests what is believed to be the former location of the 18th century Warburton Manor. This location would be in agreement with 19th century maps of the fort and surrounding area that show the "ruins" of the former plantation house in this same location. Thus, Site 18PR353 should be considered a significant archeological resource capable of answering ongoing research questions related to the history of Maryland.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006619, 00006716, 97002539, 97002791