Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR427 **Site Name:** Head Aick

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Prehistoric lithic scatter; mid-19th to early-20th century domestic site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

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

Latitude 38.8380 Longitude -76.9280 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

Floodplain	☐	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☑	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☐	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☐
Federal	☑
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Oxon

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

Minimum distance to water is 92 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		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780		Post 1930	
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820			
Unknown prehistoric context	Y			Unknown historic context			
				Unknown context			

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	
Anglo-American		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**	☑		
		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			

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	4	Staffordshire		**Stoneware**	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed		English Brown	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	126	Eng Dry-bodied	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	35	Nottingham	
Creamware	2	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**

Numerous features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts

		Tobacco related	1
Pottery (all)	193	Activity item(s)	294
Glass (all)	1727	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	2301	Faunal material	☑
Furniture	6	Misc. kitchen	75
Arms	3	Floral material	☑
Clothing	7	Misc.	277
Personal items	4	Other ☐	

Historic Features

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

Unknown ☐

Other ☑

Landscape features, terraces, hedges

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 2:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 3:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 5:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 6:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 8:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 9:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability

☐ **Additional radiocarbon results available**

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Head Aick site, 18PR427, located on the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution's Suitland Collections Center in Prince George's County, is a mid 19th through 20th century farmstead. A minor prehistoric lithic scatter of uncertain age is also present at the site. The site is situated on an upland flat flanked to the east and west by deeply dissected intermittent drainages that flow into an unnamed tributary of Oxon Run to the north. The landscape of the area is characterized by gentle as well as short, steep slopes and is a mix of mostly urban neighborhoods and smaller wooded areas. Soils at the site consist mainly of Beltsville silt loam, but Rumford loamy sand and Sassafras gravelly loam are also present along the eastern and western slopes respectively.

Head Aick was first identified in 1992 during a Phase I survey prior to planned expansions for the Smithsonian Institution's Suitland Collections Center. The site was located primarily through visual examination of the extant historical landscape of abundant domestic vegetation. That component was indicated on the surface to a large extent by the virtually total ground cover of English Ivy, which also grew up trees and covered shrubs. The site was also indicated by domestic shrubs, periwinkle, daffodil and other spring flowering plants. Extensive landscaping in the form of possible formal garden terraces and roadways was also evident. Foundation remnants were observed beneath the thick cover of ivy along with depressions, trash piles on the surface, and open well/privy holes. An extant brick cellar of 3, 4, and 5 course American Bond containing copious remnants of glass storage "Mason" jars, plain whitewares, tin can pieces, and other domestic debris was also encountered in the area. While the site was documented at that time, very little collection was attempted due to an abundance of poison ivy, which at the time of the survey was beginning to leaf out.

More substantial archeological work was conducted in 2007 during a Phase II evaluation of 18PR427. The Phase II investigation was conducted prior to the construction of a proposed greenhouse complex for the Smithsonian. The goal of the Phase II investigation was to evaluate whether or not the site was eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Work consisted of background archival research, shovel testing (STPs), and test unit excavation.

The archival research revealed some details about the site's ownership history. On 13 December, 1850, brothers John and Silvester King sold a tract of approximately 100 acres to Warren Waugh of Prince George's County for $50. This tract was comprised of two tracts, "Silver Hill" and "Mary's Delight" and included Site 18PR427. John and Silvester King had inherited the property from their mother Sarah King. The low purchase price for the acreage indicates that it was unimproved at the time Warren Waugh purchased the property.

The 1850 Census for Prince George's County shows that Warren Waugh, then 49, lived in Spaulding District (which included Site 18PR427). His occupation is listed as planter, and he reports owning $4,800 in real estate. Waugh's household included his 35 year-old wife Susan, two young daughters, and a 60 year-old female, E. Waugh, of unknown relationship to him. The Warren Waugh household as depicted in the 1860 Census is very similar to that from 1850. An 1861 map of the county shows "Warren War" (sic) living in the vicinity of the site. A more detailed map from 1863 does not show property ownership, but does show a cluster of 6 buildings at Site 18PR427.

Warren Waugh and his two daughters, Susan Evenline and Mary Josephine, sold the parcel, still noted as "Silver Hill" and "Mary's Delight" to Henry Dane, an attorney, and Rev. Joseph Parker, both of Washington, DC on 11 July 1867 for $9,000. A survey prior to the sale found the property to be 152.5 acres in size. The purchase price, as well as map evidence, indicates that the property was improved at the time of sale. In January 1870, Henry Dane conveyed to Joseph Parker his half interest in the 152.5-acre property, leaving Joseph Parker the sole owner. The 1870 Census shows the Rev. Joseph Parker family living in the Spaulding District of Prince George's County, near the Silver Hill Post Office. The household included 64 year-old Joseph W. Parker, a doctor of divinity, with $14,000 in real estate and $20,000 in personal property; his wife, adult daughter, and two servants (a domestic and a farm laborer).

Rev. Parker sold the 152.5 acre property to Charles Davis, a gentleman living in the District of Columbia, on 21 June 1876 for $12,000. Davis sold the property 3 months later to William Shidy of St. Louis, Missouri, for $22,000. William Shidy is shown as living at 18PR427 on the 1878 map of Prince George's County. The 1880 Census shows the William Shidy household living in Spaulding District. The household is comprised of 65 year-old William, a farmer, his wife Mary, seven of their children ranging in age from 16 to 28, and their 8 year-old grandson William C. William Shidy defaulted on the deed of trust he had executed and so the property was sold at public auction to Joseph Parker, the previous owner, for $6,500 in June 1881.

Rev. Parker did not sell "Silver Hill" and "Mary's Delight" until 11 April 1884, when he sold it to Charles T. Phillips of Prince George's County for $4,500. Some time prior to August 1906, Charles Phillips or his estate, conveyed the property to his son John B. Phillips. The 1900 Census shows John Phillips residing at Spaulding District in Prince George's County. John Phillips is listed as a 45-year-old dairyman. His household included his 31 year-old wife Lilly, and their four children (all under age 5). Two servants are also listed with the household, both with the occupation of "dairy laborer": William Green, a 21 year-old black man, and William Caywood, a 30 year-old white man. In August 1906, John Phillips conveyed the 152.5-acre property, where he then resided, to his wife Lilly for a token price of $10. No census records were found for the Phillips family in 1910. In 1920, Lilly Phillips, a 50 year-old widow, is shown living in the Spaulding District of Prince George's County on Silver Hill Road. John Phillips' date of death is unknown. Lilly Phillips died on 2 December 1928 at Silver Hill. After her death, her property passed to her children. A Margarette Phillips appears to have lived on the Silver Hill property after Lilly's death. In July 1941, as part of the acquisition of property by the Federal Works Agency, the United States acquired the (by then) 128.5 acre property from Lilly Phillips' heirs for $75,000. A 1945 topographic map shows a building at 18PR427, but a 1951 topographic map shows no buildings at this location, just the entrance drive to the property.

The field methods included shovel testing and test unit excavation. The field team recovered artifacts, recorded stratigraphic and provenience information, and mapped the locations of test units and features using a total station and data collector. The excavations were tied into permanent landmarks on the Smithsonian property.

The field team excavated shovel tests (STPs) at 12.19 meter (40 ft) intervals across the site. In addition, radial STPs were excavated at 6.1 meter (20 ft) intervals to more thoroughly define the horizontal limits around the periphery of the site. Shovel tests were 45.7 cm (1.5 ft) in diameter and were excavated at least 9.1 cm (.3 ft) into subsoil. Basic data from each STP was recorded on a standardized form. Based on the location of structural features and distributional data developed from the STPs, the team then excavated 91.44 X 91.44 cm (3 X 3 ft) test units in selected locations within the site. Test units were excavated by natural soil horizon, and interfaces were scraped to detect stains or other subsurface features. At least one soil profile was drawn and photographed for each test unit to record stratigraphy. All soils, both from STPs and formal test units, were screened through hardware cloth, and recovered artifacts were placed in labeled plastic bags for delivery to the laboratory.

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Phase II fieldwork included the excavation of 111 initial STPs, 32 radial STPs, and 12 formal test units. Artifacts were recovered from 60 of the STPs. Artifacts were not spread evenly across the site. The majority of artifacts found by shovel testing were recovered from adjacent to foundations and on the east side of the site. In general, artifact recovery was not large except in shovel test adjacent to or in features. Features consisted of foundations for a residence and bank barn, a cellar hole associated with the residence, a well, a brick walkway remnant, and 3 road traces. In general, the site's stratigraphic sequence has been disturbed. Post-abandonment activities included extensive earthmoving, evident by numerous push-piles, the presence of mixed fill strata over remnants of the original A horizon, and disturbed profiles exposed within test units. A prehistoric lithic scatter was also identified on the site. The prehistoric artifacts were 1 quartz core, 7 quartz flakes, and 4 quartz shatter fragments.

The historic artifact assemblage included 294 activity items, 2,301 architectural artifacts, 7 clothing items, 6 furniture objects, 1,264 kitchen-related objects, 4 personal artifacts, 1 tobacco-related item, 3 arms objects, and 277 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were 104 pieces of lamp glass, 5 lamp parts, 6 light bulb fragments, a metal washer, 1 rivet, 2 hardware items, 132 metal storage container pieces, 1 metal hoe, a tire valve cover, 2 horseshoe pieces, 2 horseshoe nails, 4 wagon parts, 24 clay pigeon fragments, 8 terra –cotta flower pot pieces, and a pencil part. Architectural artifacts include 58 brick fragments, 72 asphalt shingles, 2 ceramic tiles, 24 flue liner fragments, 43 pieces of plaster, 6 pieces of sand mortar, 701 fragments of window glass, an asphalt fragment, 43 pieces of tin roofing, 1,343 nails (325 cut, 70 wire, 948 unidentified), 1 spike, 1 hinge, 1 screw, 2 nut/bolt pieces, 1 electrical part, and 2 sewer pipe fragments. Clothing artifacts were 4 buttons (1 porcelain, 1 glass, 2 metal), 2 pieces of leather (1 from a shoe), and a safety pin. The six furniture items were a ceramic caster and 5 tacks. The kitchen assemblage included 193 ceramic sherds (1 coarse earthenware, 2 buff-bodied earthenware, 2 creamware, 1 Chinese Export porcelain, 34 other porcelain, 1 ironstone, 126 whiteware, 7 yelloware, 2 redware, 2 domestic brown stoneware, 11 domestic gray stoneware, and 1 unidentified), 996 pieces of kitchen glass (1 glass stopper, 75 jar/lid pieces, 49 decorated/embossed fragments, 21 pieces of table glass, 1 turn-molded bottle fragment, 15 blown-in-mold bottle pieces, 49 machine-made bottle pieces, and 784 other bottle fragments), 72 faunal remains (30 animal bones, 41 pieces of oyster shell, and 1 clam shell), a crown cap, a tablespoon, and a sardine key. Personal items were an 1838 half-dime, and 1849 cent, a metal barrette, and a glass bead. The tobacco item was a ball clay pipe stem. Arms objects were 2 shotgun shells and a center-fire rifle cartridge. And finally, the miscellaneous objects include 227 unidentified metal objects, 6 plastic pieces, 30 unidentified glass objects, 5 pieces of snail shell, 2 lumps of charcoal, 5 lumps of coal, 1 coal cinder, and a piece of slag.

Site 18PR427 is a mid 19th through 20th century farmstead. The diagnostic artifacts recovered largely support the results of archival study. However, Head Aick lacks research potential. The site is not stratified and clear indications of post-abandonment disturbance are present. Structures at the site were more than likely demolished when the property was acquired by the Federal Government during the early 1950s. Evidence of soils and other material from the eastern portion of the site having been pushed by heavy machinery to the eastern side slope was present. The absence of stratified deposits and significant features and the presence of large-scale disturbance does not allow for the development of research questions that could address rural lifeways in the 19th through 20th centuries. Therefore, Site 18PR427 should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006710, 95000640