



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU217

Site Name: Bittorf Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Benton Farmstead, QA-298

Historic

Brief Description:

18th century house site, 19th century to early 21st century frame house and farm; Prehistoric lithic scatter

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code MqB

Latitude 39.0022

Longitude -76.2792

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

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) Chester 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 34 m        |   |                                       |                                 |

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

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

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

## 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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU217

Site Name: Bittorf Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Benton Farmstead, QA-298

Historic

Brief Description:

18th century house site, 19th century to early 21st century frame house and farm; Prehistoric lithic scatter

Unknown

## 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	68	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	2	English Brown	1
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	347	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	2	<b>Porcelain</b>	50	Nottingham	2
Creamware	7	Pearlware	56			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	10

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	8	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	2	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	668	Activity item(s)	43
Glass (all)	1262	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	2164	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	3	Misc. kitchen	1586
Arms	14	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	23	Misc.	291
Personal items	7	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU217

Site Name: Bittorf Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Benton Farmstead, QA-298

Historic

Brief Description:

18th century house site, 19th century to early 21st century frame house and farm; Prehistoric lithic scatter

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Bittorf Farm (Benton Farmstead) Site (18QU217) is a late 18th to early 20th century artifact scatter and extant 19th century farmhouse. The site consists of the Benton Farmhouse (MIHP# QA-298) and the area immediately surrounding the house. It is located on the Chester River, on the northeast portion of Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. The site is bounded on the north and south by dredge spoil deposits and on the east by the Chester River. An agricultural field lies to the west of the site. The soil present at the site does not conform to the Mattapex series mapped for the area; the soil profiles are variable. The site boundary measures approximately 100 m east-west by 100 m north-south.

The Benton farmstead has been postulated to be a 19th century farmhouse which appears to rest on the same footprint as its colonial predecessor. It was suggested that most of the original form of the foundation was still visible within the dwelling's full basement and that sections of foundation had been added to support the present two-story frame wing. However, contradictory opinion is that the extant structure represented the original 18th century dwelling which has undergone extensive renovations to the interior. Unfortunately, archeological investigations have not been able to prove the date of the extant structure either way. The site was situated on a tract of land historically known as "Cloverfields", which was originally comprised of two 17th century land patents. The property owner at the time it was initially surveyed in 1987 was William H. Bittorf. Bittorf had purchased the property in 1983 from John C. Benton. John C. appears to have been a descendant of John R. Benton who acquired the land in 1917.

The site was originally recorded in 1987 following a site visit by Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) staff members. The site was then recorded as a brick scatter over approximately 2 acres in a plowed field to the south of the present frame Victorian farmhouse. Found at the time were a glazed brick, 2 fragments of wine bottle bases and 2 sherds of stoneware, and 1 kaolin pipe stem fragment. Subsurface testing was recommended if the site was slated for development. The site was re-identified in 1992 during a Phase I reconnaissance survey of Kent Island which included approximately 562 acres of the Four Seasons at Kent Island Development Project area. More recent work (1996) in the site area by the Army Corp of Engineers resulted in the creation of two dredge spoil areas north and south of the extant house. Presumably the area between the house and the river was not disturbed by dredging activities and was thought likely to contain cultural resources related to the historic occupation of the farmstead. Accordingly, a Phase II evaluation was undertaken for the site. Phase II archeological investigations were conducted at the site in 2000 ahead of the proposed Four Seasons at Kent Island Development Project. The evaluation was designed to determine the nature, age, and function of the cultural resource, to determine the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the resource, and to determine the integrity of the resource. During Phase II testing of the Bittorf Farm (Benton Farmstead), a total of 135 shovel tests were excavated at 5 m and 10 m intervals. Based on the results, two trenches and three test units were excavated. Trench 1 measured 1 x 4 m, and Trench 2 measured 1 x 3 m. All visible features were sampled sufficiently to define their nature and, if possible, their cultural affiliation.

Three historic features were identified at the site. All of the features were located north of the existing farmhouse in the vicinity of an old well. The majority of the artifacts recovered north of the house were architectural and domestic, which is consistent with historic records that note an outbuilding north of the farmhouse. Feature 1-01 was a depression in the subsoil that had been subsequently filled. Trench 1 crosscut the central portion of the feature which extended beyond the boundaries of the trench. The central portion of the feature was located in TUs 1 and 2. Each of the stratum within the feature contained artifacts having a date range of about 200 years. Fill episodes within each strata incorporated earlier deposits, which suggested that much of the material had been secondarily deposited. Feature 3-01 was a dense concentration of oyster shell located in Trench 2. The concentration was in a relatively well-defined 50 cm by 35 cm area. A total of 120 oyster shell fragments were recovered, which comprised a 25% sample of the total oyster present in the feature. In addition, a number of historic artifacts were collected. These represented a large date range suggesting that the integrity of the feature was compromised. Feature 3-02 was also located within Trench 2. It was interpreted to be a shell sheet midden. The feature measured approximately 90 x 125 cm and was oriented east-west. The fill contained historic artifacts and organic material. The date range of the assemblage indicated that the feature was a relatively recent deposit.

A total of 5,703 historic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II testing. There were 43 activity-related items (1 ceramic doll part, 1 clay marble, 1 glass marble, 1 wagon part, 1 piece of fishing gear, 6 fragments of barbed wire, 2 fragments of non-electrical wire, 1 plow part, 10 staples, 1 plastic toy, 1 ceramic flower pot fragment, 2 skeet fragments, 10 battery carbons, and 5 fragments of a record). There were 2,163 architectural items (116 brick fragments, 366 window glass fragments, 2 wrought L-head nails, 41 wrought rosehead nails, 266 cut nails, 261 wire nails, 794 unidentified nails, 91 pieces of mortar, 164 pieces of plaster, 2 fragments of concrete, 8 bolts/brackets, 4 brads, 1 piece of electrical wire, 1 plumbing fixture, 6 hinges, 1 hook, 4 screws, 14 spikes, 3 tacks, 1 hook, 3 asbestos shingles/tiles, 1 building stone, 2 pieces of tar paper, 7 miscellaneous hardware items, 1 ceramic insulator, 1 ceramic drainage pipe, 1 ceramic tile, 1 washer). There were 23 clothing items including 13 buttons (1 bone, 1 shell, 3 glass, 3 brass, 4 porcelain, and 1 plastic), 1 wood needle holder, 2 hook & eyes, 2 snaps, 1 zipper piece, and 4 straight pins. A total of 3 furniture items were recovered including 2 ceramic door knobs and 1 drawer/door pull. There were 3,144 kitchen-related items including 769 bottle glass and jar fragments, 104 table glass fragments, 6 glass lid liners – 4 are milk glass, 1 crown cap bottle and 4 panel bottle fragments, 8 milk glass bottle fragments, 666 ceramic sherds (2 North Devon Gravel Tempered, 7 creamware, 1 Whieldon, 8 Albany slip stoneware, 7 brown salt-glazed domestic brown stoneware, 46 domestic gray salt-glazed stoneware, 1 early Chinese porcelain, 49 late porcelain, 10 white salt-glazed stoneware, 1 British Brown, 2 Nottingham, 1 Westerwald, 68 ironstone, 56 pearlware, 33 redware, 1 Delft, 1 Majolica, 1 Blue & White tin enameled, 347 white ware – mostly plain, 9 yellow ware, 15 unidentified ceramics), 5 can fragments, 1 table fork, 1 metal jar lid, and 1 crown cap, 46 bird bones, 6 fish scales, 570 animal bone fragments, 2 worked animal bones, 24 animal teeth, 2 turtle shell fragments, and 928 oyster and clam shell fragments. There were 291 miscellaneous items (2 unidentified glass items, 177 unidentified metal objects, 67 pieces of wood-most burnt, 2 pieces of metal slag, 3 pieces of cinder, 20 pieces of coal, 5 bits of coal slag, 2 stones, 9 plastic objects, 1 piece of fabric, and 3 unidentified miscellaneous items). The 7 personal items found included 1 opaque white glass tube bead, 1 glass perfume or cosmetic bottle, 1 jewelry part, 2 keys, 1 watch part, and 1 Bakelite comb/brush fragment. There were 15 tobacco-related items at the site including 4 clay bowl pipe fragments, 10 clay pipe stem fragments, and 1 plastic pipe stem fragment. A total of 14 arms-related items included 1 centerfire cartridge, 3 pieces of lead shot, 1 rimfire cartridge, 6 shotgun shells, 1 shotgun shell cap, 1 English gun flint, 1 French gunflint.

A total of 12 prehistoric artifacts were also recovered from the site. There were 8 pieces of debitage, 1 biface tool, 1 use-modified tool, and 2 fire-cracked rocks. All but 1 of the items was collected in association with historic materials. No prehistoric features were identified at the site. It was hypothesized that any prehistoric component that may have been present at the site was destroyed by historic activities.

The Bittorf Farm (Benton Farmstead) Site (18QU217) is comprised of a late 18th to early 20th century artifact scatter and extant 19th century farmhouse. Much of the site's integrity has been compromised by late historic and modern filling and land moving episodes. The house lot changed significantly during the 20th century including substantial modifications to the house. Furthermore, the limited quantity of prehistoric materials severely limits the questions that can



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU217

Site Name: Bittorf Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Benton Farmstead, QA-298

Historic

**Brief  
Description:**

18th century house site, 19th century to early 21st century frame house and farm; Prehistoric lithic scatter

Unknown

be answered about the earliest periods of land use. Therefore, the prehistoric and the historic components of the site do not possess the quality of significance necessary for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further archeological work was recommended for the site.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000726, Site Files