



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU977

Site Name: Wye Hall

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # QA-124

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th-19th century plantation

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.8914

Longitude -76.1082

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Wye Narrows

- | 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 0 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

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

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

landscaped gardens

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken Faunal



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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"/>	Levana	<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

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

late 18th-early 19th century slave quarter, mid 19th-20th century tenant farm dwellings

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	5000
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plastic, rubber, other synthetics

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	midden	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<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 University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18QU977 consists of the archeological deposits associated with the 18th century Wye Hall plantation south of Queenstown in Queen Anne County. The site includes a 1930s-era reconstruction (MIHP# QA-124) of the original late 18th century home of William Paca, Maryland governor and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Also on the site are a reconstructed stable and attached terraced gardens. The original manor house is known to have been a 2½ storey stuccoed brick dwelling with a hipped roof and wide eaves. It was designed by James Hoban, the architect of the White House in Washington, DC. The original dwelling was destroyed by fire in the 1890s. The site is situated on the eastern end of Wye Island, partially on privately-owned land, and partially on publically held land that is part of the Wye Island Natural Resources Management Area. Soils at the site are primarily Ingleside sandy loams and Sassafras loams.

In 1695, there is a deed recording the sale, for £70, of a tract of land on the eastern end of Wye Island from Charles Hemsley (who was residing there) to a Henrietta Maria Lloyd, an ancestor of William Paca's first wife Ann Chew. Although this land on Wye Island is mentioned through wills and deeds between family members, no mention of how the property is being used is mentioned again until the will of Daniel Dulaney the Elder written in 1752. In it he, "...bequeaths unto my said wife all the Negroes & stock of every kind which shall be on the Island of Wye", making it clear that slaves were living and working there. His wife, Henrietta Maria Lloyd Chew Dulaney in turn left the entirety of the island to her son Philemon Lloyd Chew including, "crops of corn, grain, pulse tobacco, hemp, and flax to continue to be cultivated and harvested by Negroes on the Island. It was Philemon Chew, dying less than 5 years after his mother, who left the Wye Island property to his sisters Margaret Bordley and Mary Paca in 1770.

The island was divided down the middle along "Dividing Creek", with Margaret (married to John Beale Bordley) receiving the western half, and Mary (married to William Paca) receiving the eastern half. The property for each equaled approximately 1400 acres. Although tobacco was the main crop of Wye Island during the 17th century, by the 18th century the majority of the crops were wheat, maize, and hemp.

William Paca was born into a landed but socially humble family in Baltimore County and eventually rose to prominence as a wealthy, powerful, and well-known figure in state and national politics. He was educated at the College of Philadelphia and trained in law at the Inns of Court in London, and in 1761 was admitted as an attorney into the courts in Annapolis, along with John Brice and Samuel Chase. In 1763, he married the Aforementioned Mary Chew, who hailed from a powerful and wealthy colonial family. William and Mary had built a 5-part Georgian mansion and terraced garden in the heart of downtown Annapolis that was finished about 1765, and which can still be seen today on Prince George Street in the historic district.

By the mid 1770s, Paca had become a warden and vestryman of St. Anne's Church in Annapolis, as well as becoming an elected delegate from Annapolis to the Lower House of the General Assembly of Maryland. These positions led to his involvement in a series of written debates protesting colonial taxation using legal precedent and philosophical entreaty to argue for colonists' independence from English oppression. Paca was chosen as one of the delegates to represent Maryland at the First Continental Congress, as well as at all successive ones until he helped to construct and then sign the Declaration of Independence. He was an early supporter of independence from the British Crown, and supported the fledgling government through the Revolutionary War by continuing to serve in the Continental Congress as well as in the State Senate. Paca was also appointed as a judge on the General Court of Maryland, as well as being appointed as a judge on the Court of Appeals for admiralty and prize cases by Congress.

Paca spent the majority of his time in Philadelphia and Annapolis until the early 1780s, when, after the death of his second wife, Ann Harrison, he sold his house in Annapolis and sent his children to live at Wye Hall. In 1782, he began the first of three 1 year terms as Governor of Maryland and struggled to re-establish the economy of the state, which was greatly strained after the Revolutionary War. Paca was invited to join the Constitutional Convention as a delegate, but declined the offer and even tried to block the Constitution's ratification as a leader of Maryland's Anti-Federalists. He eventually agreed to support ratification with the promise that his concerns would be heard and weighed carefully as amendments introduced to committee. Many of his ideas would later find their way into the Bill of Rights. President George Washington appointed him to his last public office, as judge of the Federal District Court of Maryland, in 1789.

William Paca built the plantation landscape of Wye Hall including the gardens and main house in the early 1790s, but only survived to enjoy the finished estate for a short time. In the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment, he is listed as having one dwelling house and two dependencies on two acres that are subject to taxation, for a total value of \$3,000. That dwelling house is recorded to be part of 1,414 acres on Wye Island in Worrell Hundred. This acreage was worth \$11,105, which made Paca one of the wealthiest men in the county. For comparison, the dwelling house and its two outbuildings were valued for tax purposes as worth twice as much as the Bordley's dwelling house and 7 outbuildings on the other half of Wye Island.

Paca's wealth included 100 slaves, a large enough population to require substantial quarters. Many of these slaves would have been field hands, and in the Chesapeake that meant living in quarters closer to the fields and with at least one supervisor housed in the group as well. In the tax assessment, Paca is also noted as owning 21 dwelling houses not exceeding \$100 in value each. This does not include his personal home. These 21 dwellings, totaling \$500 in value, would have housed all of those who worked on Wye Hall, both enslaved African and African-Americans and free white overseers. After William Paca's death in 1799, the property passed to his son John Philemon Paca.

John P. Paca was born in 1771 as the third child of William and Mary, and after the death of his mother when he was 3, spent most of his childhood years at boarding schools. In 1800, a year after his father's death, John married Juliana Carroll Tilghman. Together they had four children, 3 sons and 1 daughter. Under John P. Paca's ownership, the plantation appears to have prospered based on the increase in the enslaved population (118 individuals by 1800 and 153 by 1840) and the fact that several of John's siblings were residing at Wye Hall and, presumably, being supported by him. Over the course of his ownership of the plantation, John manumitted several of his slaves, an uncharacteristic practice for an eastern shore planter.

John's wife, Julianna Tilghman Paca acquired the property after his death in 1840. Juliana permanently titled their firstborn son William Bennett Paca with the land in 1858. William B. Paca married Jane Martha Phillips in 1829 and they had 10 children (8 of whom lived to adulthood). The 1850 federal census with its attendant agricultural census provides a great deal of information about Wye Hall. In that year, William is listed as 48 years old, and his wife Jane Martha was 35, and their children were between the ages of 16 and 1 year of age. Their household also included a 19 year old white girl named Sarah Draper, who may have been a ladies maid or just a visiting friend of the family. The household also included a John C. McKinney, described as the 38 year old male teacher for the children, and a free black man: the 95 year-old Jonas Paul. The census also lists 116 slaves, as well as the valuation of agricultural lands and products for



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18th-19th century plantation

Unknown

taxation purposes. The evidence suggests that the plantation was still thriving.

By 1860, the Federal census for Queen Anne's County shows Paca's real estate as valued at \$133,140 and his personal estate at \$10,000 on a total of 2,043 acres, suggesting that he had consolidated and grown his wealth incredibly. Through buying the inherited property of Bordley descendants, he came into ownership of the majority of Wye Island, and he continued to build his farming operations to huge effect. William was by far the richest landowner in Queen Anne's County, with the next richest man being James T. Earle, who owned a farm worth \$40,000. He owned 137 slaves by that time as well.

The Paca family's fortunes appear to have turned during the Civil War era. William B. Paca was actually a Union supporter during the Civil War, despite his ownership of slaves. The planters on the Eastern Shore of Maryland were generally southern sympathizers. William B., on the other-hand actually freed 36 of his male slaves to allow them to fight in the Union army in 1864. Such actions were not supported by the wealthy planters of the region and the family was generally viewed with suspicion in the years that followed. In addition, at least four of Paca's children suffered from some form of mental illness and two were involved in a violent altercation in March of 1865. A dispute on the plantation between William and some of his relatives resulted in the shooting deaths of William's nephew, Edward Paca and Edward's maternal uncle, Alfred, likely by James Paca (William's son). Both James and his brother, Tilghman (who was also involved in the fight), were declared incompetent to stand trial.

After the death of two of his daughters in 1869 and 1870, William B. Paca died in 1870 at the age of 69. His son and executor John committed suicide a year later. William B.'s wife, Martha, and 3 of his children lived out the remainder of their lives in mental institutions, while James Paca died in the Wye River in an attempt to drown a dog. By 1870, there were no white Pacas listed in Queen Anne's County, although there were a handful of black Paca's listed.

After a devastating fire in 1879 that resulted in the loss of all of the family papers, the Paca heirs rebuilt their family home. Perhaps the home was rebuilt with the thought of sale in mind. Oral histories from former tenants of Wye Island, as well as their descendants, tell us that during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the main house was primarily inhabited by farmers and groundskeepers. In other words, it appears that the house and land were rented out to tenants. Wye Hall passed out of the family in 1921 and was sold to John Kinnamon, who continued to manage the property from afar by means of tenants. The house was again razed and rebuilt by the new owner, Wellesley H. Stillwell in the late 1930s, who constructed the dwelling that graces the site today.

The first documented archeological work at Wye Hall occurred in April of 1989 and was carried out by the Historic Annapolis Foundation. The testing was done in order to ascertain the integrity of archeological remains around the main house and its terraced gardens. A total of 12 test units were dug. Coring was also conducted within the garden to test for the existence of early garden features. One unit was excavated to the south of the main house near the road, where the remains of a gate post were found. The rest of the units were dug on the east side of the main house.

Some of the features encountered in 1989 were post holes, a wall associated with the garden, and a small midden. The midden contained late 18th to early 19th century materials including food remains and household trash. Historic Annapolis Foundation recommended further investigation, as findings suggested high potential for a great deal of intact cultural remains, including extant stratigraphy in the garden.

In the fall of 2000, ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic surveys were carried out on the grounds of Wye Hall. The site was sub-divided into three survey areas. Three of the areas were investigated in order to ascertain the original location of the front road to Wye Hall, south of the main house. The majority of the original 18th and 19th century road was determined to be in the same place as the modern road, in many cases directly on top of it. The fourth and fifth survey areas were, respectively, the bowling green and a possible former garden area directly north of the main house. Both of these areas were determined to have buried metal, possibly pipes, and therefore contain features of archeological interest.

During fieldwork conducted by Archaeology in Annapolis (AIA) between 2000 and 2002, which is summarized below, a LiDAR survey was conducted on the eastern half of Wye Island. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a form of topographic mapping done by equipment in aircraft that shoot infrared pulse lasers at the ground. The reflection of the lasers is measured and turned into distance data, which is then used to create a topographic map. Topographic changes in the landscape that that are invisible to the naked eye can be discovered using this technology. LiDAR of the eastern half of the island produced evidence of a north-south and east-west road axis, meeting east of the main house. The east-west axis road begins east of the outbuildings of the mansion house, and includes the raised roadbed that continues to the Carriage House. The LiDAR indicates this road may continue to the eastern tip of the island, where the Dulaney and Paca farm may have stood before the Wye Hall mansion was built.

Between the summer of 2000 and the spring of 2002, archeological investigations were conducted on the property at the behest of the property owners, in advance of planned construction and landscape modification. Archival research and fieldwork were conducted by AIA, including the University of Maryland summer fieldschool in historical archeology. The archeological work was intended to explore the 18th century layout of the terraced garden lying immediately north of the main house, as well as the immediate landscape surrounding the house.

The gardens were found to be largely undisturbed, and were protected as much as possible during the reconstruction of the main house. Ruins from the previous home fires were discovered at the site, and evidence of the house's relatively recent reconstruction on the original footprint was found. A significant archeological deposit relating to the landscape organization was also discovered in the form of a road between the main house and the carriage house. This road was determined to have been extant from the late 18th century, although it originally included a fence parallel to the road bed. Evidence was also found for work areas along the road bed that helped to mark an important landscape feature of the plantation: the east-west and north-south axis that likely divided many of the work buildings and slave quarters from the daily living areas for the Paca family. Also, an area for further potential work was identified along the eastern edge of the property along Maryland Department of Natural Resources property (MdDNR). The late 18th and early 20th century artifacts found during a shovel test survey led the archeologists to believe that this area (located among the remains of a tenant farmhouse and its outbuildings) was a possible location for slave quarters. This was referred to as the tenant farm area (named after the only visible buildings) and after gaining permission from the MdDNR, was the focus of 2004-2005 Phase I, II, and III fieldwork.

During the 2004 season, while the fields east of the Tenant Farm area of the site were in transition between winter wheat and soybeans, Archaeology in Annapolis conducted a pedestrian survey over most of the eastern end of Wye Island, as well as in the southeastern portions of the agricultural fields. Workers walked along transects 4.572 m (15 feet) apart along the length of the field to find artifacts that were brought to the surface through plow activity. Although artifacts were found during this process, they were left in situ and the areas were marked for later shovel testing.

A number of above ground features were identified during the Phase I stage and were mapped. In the tenant farm area a number of buildings were still standing in various states of ruin, as well as a number of exposed foundations. Hand-drawn maps of all of the standing structures, significant brick scatters,



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and exposed foundations in this area were made. These building locations were then recorded using a laser transit and tied to the existing grid system. For larger buildings, all walls were measured and the corners were recorded using the laser transit as well.

AIA excavated 154 shovel test pits (STPs) on a 91.44 X 54.86 meter (300 X 180 ft) grid extended across the tenant farm area and continuing east towards the end of the island, through MdDNR's Wye Island land. STPs were placed at 6.1 m (20 ft) intervals and were excavated up to 6.1 m from the shoreline. STPs were 35.6-45.7 cm (14-18 in) in diameter (or just wider than a shovel blade) and were dug in one level until the excavator reached culturally sterile subsoil. All of the removed soils were screened through hardware cloth to systematically collect any artifact material they could contain. Another 30 STPs were placed in a 30.5 by 33.5 m (100 by 110 ft) area on the northeast end of the island where a depression in the soil was noted, and which was thought to possibly represent a collapsed cellar hole. In 2004, judgmental STPs were also excavated areas of high artifact density identified during the aforementioned pedestrian survey.

In December of 2005, another 82 STPs were excavated directly south of the extant carriage house, going down to the water in a corridor of 70.1 by 12.2 m (230 by 40 ft). All of these STPs were also dug using the same methods as described above.

The pedestrian survey, mapping, and STP work ultimately led to the decision to progress to a Phase II level of research in the so-called tenant farm area and adjoining locales. Phase II work entailed the excavation of nine 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) hand-excavated test units and five mechanically-excavated trenches. The nine test units were situated directly within the tenant farm area, while the five trenches were between an extant garage and the south edge of the tenant farm area.

The 5 trenches were used to test for a potential roadbed running east from the main house outbuildings, which was seen during the airborne LiDAR survey (previously mentioned). A bobcat backhoe was used to excavate the five trenches.

The 1.524 X 1.524 m test units were excavated using shovels, masonry trowels, and other hand tools in natural or cultural stratigraphy. All soil was screened through hardware cloth and every fourth bucket of soil from each unit was passed through 1/16" mesh screens to collect any potential small finds. At the opening of each level or feature within a unit, a soil sample was retained for pollen analysis. These samples were recovered with a dedicated trowel, sterilized in distilled water and the sample was stored in 1 gallon plastic bags. None of these soil samples have been analyzed.

The results of this work resulted in progression to a Phase III level of effort in 2005. A total of 13 1.524 X 1.524 m test units were excavated during Phase III. These units were placed in large "blocks" in the tenant farm area over locations previously identified as "high potential" areas. Excavations proceeded in the same manner as described above, except that all feature soils were screened through the 1/16" mesh screens to recover any small finds, such as straight pins, fish scales, and fish bones. Recorded data for each excavated level and feature included photographs, both plan view and profile maps, soil descriptions, and elevations taken with a line level from a unit datum with a known elevation. All elevations could then be tied into the site datum. In most cases units were excavated to sterile subsoil. However, in some cases, units were not excavated to subsoil due to time constraints or because depths would have required shoring to meet OSHA standards. Each level had pollen and flotation samples taken (as described above), but these have not been analyzed.

Excavations in the tenant farm area resulted in the discovery of a dwelling, a fence line, and two small trash pits, all dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The continuous use of the area for household and farm life into the 20th century meant that there was some stratigraphic disturbance of these deposits. The building materials and spaces were reused continuously through the 19th and 20th centuries. This was a rich, thriving site that supported many generations of people laboring on the farmlands of Wye Island. Ultimately, evidence of three occupational phases was identified.

Occupational Phase I in this area extended from the 1770s to 1865. Features 15 and 16 were representative of this period and consisted of a cellar hole in the northern part of the tenant farm area and an extension of the same. Some fairly large brick fragments were found in the feature, suggesting that an outbuilding with a brick foundation was once situated over the cellar, but most of the bricks were later put to other purposes. The building, of which the cellar was once a part, has an as-yet-unknown function. No yard scatter was found surrounding the cellar features and very few domestic artifacts were recovered.

The date of this structure is somewhat ambiguous. The fill in both Features 15 and 16 suggest a demolition date around the early part of the 20th century, due to the recovery of pieces of machine-made glass. Judging from the soil surrounding the cellar, it looks like when the cellar was initially dug, the fill was removed and placed next to the structure. When the building was later demolished, fill from elsewhere on the site was then used to backfill the cellar. This would suggest the deepest layer of soil surrounding the structure was first removed, and soil in the highest layers around the cellar were the last soils removed during excavation/creation of the cellar. Pieces of ironstone and the predominance of cut nails in these soils suggest a mid-19th century date for the construction of this cellar feature.

A complex of postholes and small middens or trash pits identified in the tenant farm area is thought to represent an enclosed yard space with fences surrounding it. Evidence suggests that these fences were periodically replaced or enlarged and the yard areas were frequently wept clean. The 2 small midden/trash pit features that were identified served as repositories for these sweepings. The stratigraphy and diagnostic artifacts recovered within this complex of features suggest use of the area in the late 18th and early 19th century period (i.e. Occupational Phase I). As a whole, this complex of features is thought to represent the work yard associated with the nearby slave quarters (see below).

In the last few weeks of the 2005 field season, a dwelling was exposed in an area where the floor of a 20th century brick work building had to be removed to establish excavation units. Beneath the floor, roughly 15.24 cm (6 in) of a sandy loam, sand, and clay fill was found. The evidence suggested that this was laid down in the late 19th or early 20th century in preparation for the construction of the aforementioned work building. As researchers dug through this fill, they found another, older brick surface in two distinct levels running into the western wall of the unit. Some of this brick was rubble, while some was relatively intact.

This brick feature (Feature 21) was interpreted to be the remains of a hearth with adjacent scatter from the destruction of the same. The feature was surrounded by lenses of packed clay, coal, and coal ash. A series of postholes, and fragments of plaster, mortar, nails, and flat glass in close association with this hearth were interpreted to be the remains of a slave quarter. Together, these finds suggest a post-in-ground structure with a brick hearth inside. The posts would have been the major structural supports for the building and would have had boards nailed across the posts to make up the walls and mortar or plaster chinking between the boards to block the interior of the building from wind and rain. Researchers discovered at least 4.57 m (15 ft) of one wall of the building along the north side of the hearth, and the building continued south more than 3.05 m (10 ft), though the final dimension could not be determined. In the 18th and 19th century Chesapeake, a 15 X 20 ft quarter would not have been unusual, nor would post-in-ground or earthen floor architecture. Such a structure



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU977

Site Name: Wye Hall

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # QA-124

Historic Brief
Description:

18th-19th century plantation

Unknown

could have housed 10 to 15 people.

Occupation Phase II in the tenant farm area extended from 1865-1930, and deposits were spread throughout the tenant farm area and into the area around a modern garage. Most of the features dating to this period were associated with the tenant farming of the Paca property after the Civil War, up until new ownership of the former plantation lands in the beginning of the 20th century. Features associated with this period included a 20th century cinderblock farm outbuilding off the southeastern corner of the modern garage, a number of postholes east of the modern garage, the foundation remains of an ephemeral structure thought to be related to the reconstruction of the main house in the 1930s, a refuse pile from the main house fire (mostly fire-cracked brick and stone), a series of fairly disturbed 19th and 20th century features representing overlapping tenant dwellings/occupations, an above-ground brick outbuilding foundation south of an extant 20th century pheasant house, the brick floor of this structure, brick piers and brick chimney remnants for other 19th and 20th century outbuildings, and a number of soil stains suggesting livestock, yard, or garden fences.

Occupational Phase III stretched from the mid 20th century to modern times. Most of the features associated with this period were extant above-ground. These were construction trenches associated with the building of the modern garage, postholes associated with a former lean-to for the garage, a number of standing farm structures, a modern pipe trench, postholes and buried cement post supports for livestock fencing, and an isolated posthole and mold.

The interpretive report for the Archeology in Annapolis work does not include a description of the artifact assemblage from the site in the body of the report. While a catalog of artifacts is provided, there is not a tally of artifact types, major artifact groups, or even the total number of artifacts from the site. Thus, the assemblage has been estimated at a minimum of 5,000 miscellaneous objects in the table above.

Excavations at 18QU977 revealed evidence of 19th and 20th century tenant farming as well as a likely late 18th-early 19th century slave quarter. This represents the first recognized Phase III investigation of a slave quarter in Queen Anne's County. Therefore, the site and interpretations are important for augmenting Maryland's Eastern shore narratives of the past, particularly in relation to the voice and space given to African-American histories. It is likely that additional intact remains are present at the site. It should be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001236