



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST1-22

Site Name: John Hicks

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid-18th century (2nd quarter) plantation; Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Woodland Camps

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 10

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.1926

Longitude -76.4171

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
- 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) Mill Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" 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
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- 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

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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

| Projectile Point Types | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Clovis | <input type="checkbox"/> | Koens-Crispin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hardaway-Dalton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Perkiomen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Palmer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Susquehana | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kirk (notch) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vernon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kirk (stem) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Piscataway | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Le Croy | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calvert | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Morrow Mntn | <input type="checkbox"/> | Selby Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Guilford | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jacks Rf (notch) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brewerton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jacks Rf (pent) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Otter Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Madison/Potomac | <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

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Earthenware | Ironstone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffordshire | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Stoneware | | |
| Astbury | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jackfield | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tin Glazed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | English Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mn Mottled | <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiteware | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Eng Dry-bodied | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buckley | <input type="checkbox"/> | North Devon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Porcelain | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 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 | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Flaked stone | 33 | Other fired clay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ground stone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stone bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> | Modified faunal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire-cracked rock | 19 | Unmod faunal | 366 |
| Other lithics (all) | 15 | Oyster shell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rimsherds | <input type="checkbox"/> | Uncommon Obj. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prehistoric Features

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mound(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Storage/trash pit | <input checked="" 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

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

Dated features present at site

| Historic Artifacts | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pottery (all) | 15 | Tobacco related | 12 |
| Glass (all) | 173 | Activity item(s) | 24 |
| Architectural | 398 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Faunal material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arms | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. kitchen | 588 |
| Clothing | 1 | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal items | 5 | Misc. | 276 |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Historic Features

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

Description:

Mid-18th century (2nd quarter) plantation; Late Archaic/Early Woodland and Woodland Camps

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Historic St. Mary's City Research Facility

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The John Hicks site (18ST1-22) is an early- to mid-18th century plantation site with small Late Archaic/Early Woodland prehistoric component. 18ST1-22 consists of the original Hicks dwelling (ca. 1723-1745) and associated land, encompassing a rectangular-shaped area of about 80 m long by 30 m wide. It is located on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland, within the bounds of St. Mary's City, a National Historic Landmark and Historic District in Southern Maryland. The site is bordered by Caroline Hall to the southeast and by campus roads to the northeast and southwest (E. Fisher Road), and a foot path to the northwest. The closest water source is Mill Creek, a tributary of the St. Mary's River. A small pond (St. John's Pond) is located west of the site. The pond was at one time the mouth of Mill Creek, but modern construction activities have obstructed the original flow, nearly cutting the mouth of the creek off from St. Mary's River. A mixture of coniferous cedar trees and deciduous sweet gum trees occupy portions of the area, along with a very minor amount of underbrush. The cedars are all advanced in age. About half of the gum trees have achieved full growth; the remaining are younger examples, three of which were taken down during the mechanized removal of plowzone in 2005. The soil matrix across the site was fairly uniform.

John Hicks had proprietary leasehold of a roughly 378-acre farm. A sea captain from Whitehaven, in Cumbria, England, Hicks settled on the St. Mary's town lands sometime around 1723. He sailed ships in the Virginia trade, and even owned a ship for a time. Hicks also apparently conducted a tobacco factorage business with his brother, a merchant of Whitehaven, and planted tobacco on his Maryland property. Like many of his contemporaries, Hicks was a slaveholder, and at his death in 1753 he owned 19 slaves. He became a county justice by 1730, and in 1732 Hicks began a three-year term as sheriff. From 1738 to 1742, he served as judge of the provincial court. Hicks married sometime prior to 1726, and with his wife Ann raised four children. When Hicks died, he left his oldest son William (who moved away from the plantation for a while) the bulk of the farm but left the house to his second son George. At the time of his death in 1753, Hicks was living in the second dwelling constructed on his property several hundred yards away on the opposite side of Mattapan Road (this area is not part of 18ST1-22). His first house, which he had occupied since his arrival in St. Mary's, had been dismantled sometime between 1741 and 1745. Archaeology revealed that Hicks' original dwelling measured 4.87 m by 12.19 m (16' x 40') with a brick chimney at either end. The house was a post-supported frame structure with a dirt cellar hole beneath one end; there may also have been an addition to the rear. Except for the dimensions of the first house, very little is known about the spatial organization of the plantation. The core of the plantation would likely have included a number of outbuildings, activity areas, trash middens, gardens, animal pens, and possibly slave quarters.

When Hicks died his estate was valued at 383 pounds, placing him in the upper wealth tier of planters in St. Mary's County, and if his land investments are included, his economic standing was even higher. However, the inventory studies by Aubrey Land indicate that Hicks' estate would have been small for a merchant planter, suggesting that he had given up his commercial enterprises, perhaps in 1742 when he purchased around 800 acres in plantations in Prince Georges County, which he leased to other planters. William Hicks returned to live at St. Mary's in 1751 and remained there until about 1759. He apparently carried on a factorage business much as his father had done, and was a delegate to the Assembly. However, William finally gave up his Maryland enterprises, moving to Whitehaven where, using capital provided by his uncle, he continued to run the business. William's younger brother George, in contrast, evidently lived out his life in obscurity on the Hicks property.

In 1969, the John Hicks site was excavated by Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) archeologists, ahead of construction of the Caroline Hall dormitory. At that time, Hicks' original dwelling was identified. The cellar feature was left as a depression, and interpretive brick chimney bases were constructed above ground to represent the building. A number of artifact types were collected including fragments from more than 300 bottles, thimbles, boat parts, pins, buttons, and thousands of ceramic sherds. Among the ceramic sherds were portions of 277 identifiable forms: 155 earthenware items including mugs, pots, pans, cups, and other types, 48 stoneware items including jugs, pans, plates, cups, jugs, bowls, and tea service ware, 55 Delftware items including plates, jugs, bowls, and tea service ware, and 21 porcelain vessels including bowls and tea service ware. The manuscript (dated 1971) is on file at HSMC. This information was acquired during archival and background research conducted prior to the 2005 field excavations.

In 1977, while checking the excavations for the Fine Arts Building at St. Mary's College (Montgomery Hall) for 18th century trash dumps along the spring ravine banks (none have been observed), HSMC archeologists became intrigued with the remaining portion of the south slope of the ravine (about half was destroyed c. 1968). The bank alignment was relatively straight, and while there are no springs on that side, the bank was heavily eroded from the bottom. It was suggested that in the 18th century (as now), the nose of land above the landing was too steep to permit direct access by cart. To get from the level of the field to the side of the pond, the Hicks family cleared a path along the spring run. Access was easy at this point because of a wide area in the south side of the ravine. With use, the cartway cut a notch into the ravine edge and eroded and straightened the south bank. At the west end of the ravine, an entrenchment deeper than the stream bed was formed. Subsequently, due to agricultural erosion (and possibly a rise in sea level), silt choked the lower part of the ravine and forced the spring to run over into the former cartway. A possible secondary path shows in the face of the bank 30.48 m (100') east of the landing.

In the early 1990's, HSMC conducted a Phase I/II investigation of the area to the north, northwest, and northeast of Caroline Hall, consisting of shovel testing and a single 1.524 m² test unit. Artifacts recovered from the Phase I/II included a scatter of 18th century ceramics, pipe fragments, bottle glass, nails, and brick, along with a few prehistoric items. No report is apparently available. This information was acquired during archival and background research conducted prior to the 2005 excavations.

In August of 2005, a Phase III excavation was conducted in the area of a proposed Student Center to the immediate northwest of Caroline Hall, within a 715 m² (7,700 square feet) area. Based on the results of the 1990's testing, it appeared that the proposed student center would be located on the periphery of the Hicks Site, at least as far as the horizontal distribution of artifacts is concerned. This 2005 project area came to be called the Hicks Site Outlier (but still identified by the site number 18ST1-22) as it was located on the periphery of the Hicks Site. Goals of the investigation were to locate any previously unidentified cultural resources in the study area, to evaluate the nature, extent, and integrity of the resources, and to mitigate adverse effects to significant cultural resources. The small project area was divided into a 3 m² grid that was tied into the Maryland State Grid System. Then it was tested for soil chemicals, test units were excavated, and the remaining plowzone was removed mechanically. Features were then excavated.

Soil chemical samples were taken at 6 m intervals across the 2005 project area from the southeast quadrant of every other 3 m square. The spatial distribution of artifacts within this project area was for the most part reflected in the results of the soil chemistry analysis. The southern end of the project area produced high levels of calcium, magnesium, and soil pH, in an area which produced a relatively large quantity of oyster shell recovered from plowzone test units. Elevated levels of potassium can be an indicator of dumping wood ash from cooking fires, as well as surface burning. At Hicks Outlier, potassium concentrations occur in three different locations: the largest occurs at the southern end of the project area, while two smaller concentrations were present



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12.19 to 15.24 m to the north. The northeastern of the two smaller concentrations roughly corresponds to the location of a feature filled with thermally altered soil and iron concretions, leading to the conclusion that it was a fire pit or a forge. However, surficial charcoal, carbon, coal ash, and slag were not present.

Eight 3 m² test units were demarcated, and within each of those units a single 1.524 m² quadrant was excavated. Seven of the units were placed in areas of high artifact concentrations identified during the 1990's Phase II survey. The 8th test unit (Test Unit 1205) was placed near a "bump" in the northwest corner of the project area, an area not previously tested. Test unit 1205 was anomalous. The soil horizons were highly disturbed from the construction of the nearby parking lot and from the excavation of an adjacent buried water pipeline.

Following the test unit excavations, the remaining plowzone was mechanically stripped from the test units, excluding the "bump". After the stripping, the units were troweled and shovel scraped in order to locate features. A total of 11 potential historical features and 1 potential prehistoric feature were identified. The features were given designation numbers starting with 200. Flotation samples were collected from all cultural features. While a number of artifacts were recovered during the plowzone sampling, most of this material is 19th and 20th century in date, and the bulk of these items probably date to the last half of the 20th century. The relative handful of 18th century items was, for the most part, scattered across the southern and central portions of the project area, and probably represents the periphery of a denser sheet refuse deposit (or deposits) surrounding the Hicks dwelling, composed of domestic trash and construction/demolition debris. This notion is reinforced by the overall small size of most of the ceramic sherds, bottle glass, and tobacco pipe fragments that were recovered, indicating that following their discard, these artifacts were probably scattered, trampled, and further broken by plowing.

No features that could be associated with the John Hicks occupation were uncovered during the Phase III study. Feature 204 likely represents the temporary placement of sign post affiliated with activities at St. Mary's College. Features 201 and 206 are probably remnant plow scars. The only intact pre-20th century feature identified was a small prehistoric shell midden or refuse pit, Feature 207. It was located near the southeastern boundary of the project area. The ovoid-shaped pit measures approximately 51.8 cm along its north-south axis and 41.15 cm along its east-west axis. The shell pit contained lithic debitage and fire-cracked rock. Another feature (211) may represent a small prehistoric pit; however, no artifacts were recovered from the pit making a final determination of the feature's nature difficult. It was located in the same part of the lawn in front of Caroline Hall as, and only 7.6 m away from, Feature 207.

The table above includes only those artifacts that were recovered during the 2005 Phase III study. Artifact types collected during previous investigations have been noted where appropriate but, with the exception of some ceramics collected in 1969, no artifact counts were made available and not enough information was provided for minimum estimates.

A total of 1,468 historic artifacts were collected during the Phase III study. There were 24 activity items (7 miscellaneous toy/game pieces, 5 skeet fragments, 2 pieces of lamp glass, and 1 horseshoe nail). There were 398 architectural items (304 brick fragments – 1 with "Calvert" stamped in it, 1 wrought nail, 2 cut nails, 6 wire nails, 7 unidentified nails, 2 window glass fragments, 12 unidentified flat glass fragments, 36 pieces of mortar, 4 bits of plaster, 2 bolts, 2 pieces of linoleum, 9 fragments of electrical wire, 9 pieces of masonry rubble/concrete, 1 piece of tat paper, and 1 miscellaneous hardware object). The only clothing item was a metal button. There were 752 kitchen-related items (6 colonial bottle glass fragments, 18 unidentified bottle glass fragments, 82 (19th-20th c.) bottle glass fragments, 5 free blown bottle glass fragments, 29 machine-made bottle glass fragments, 9 table glass pieces, 1 Staffordshire slipware, two 19th c. earthenware, 1 early refined earthenware, 2 other earthenware, 1 early porcelain, 2 later porcelain, 2 domestic brown stoneware, 1 industrial stoneware, 2 whiteware, 1 metal jar screw lid, 1 utensil, 13 pull tabs, 8 bottle caps, 3 aluminum can fragments, 1 animal tooth, and 561 oyster shells and shell fragments). This shell was found predominately in association with historic period artifacts. There were 276 miscellaneous objects (10 unidentified glass fragments, 21 unidentified metal objects, 1 unidentified copper object, 14 wood fragments, 28 pieces of plastic, 3 pieces of Styrofoam, 1 piece of non-architectural slate, 30 fragments of metal springs, 5 pieces of coal, 16 pieces of slag, 138 pieces of iron ore, and 9 C14 samples). No report is currently available at MHT that details the results of C14 dating. There were 5 personal items (2 comb fragments, 2 pennies -1983, 1987, and 1 mechanical pencil fragment). There were 12 tobacco items (7 white clay pipe stem fragments, 3 white clay pipe bowl fragments, and 2 plastic cigarillo tips).

A total of 433 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase III study. There were 32 pieces of debitage including 5 chert flakes and 14 quartz flakes. There was 1 tool, a Bare Island or Savannah River point dated to the Late Archaic/Early Woodland period. There were 19 fire-cracked rocks. There were 366 unmodified faunal fragments of oyster shell. This represents the shell collected from Feature 207 shell pit/midden. Other lithics include 15 unidentified rocks, 1 of which may have been battered.

The John Hicks site (18ST1-22) is an early- to mid-18th century plantation site with small Late Archaic/Early Woodland prehistoric component. It consists of the original John Hicks dwelling but to date, no associated outbuildings or activity areas have been identified. The segment of his property identified as 18ST1-22 was, in all likelihood, agricultural fields or pasture, or possibly a peripheral yard area. Features and deposits relating to the Hicks occupation have probably been severely impacted or destroyed by subsequent development of St. Mary's College.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006493, 00006498, 97002600