



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST71

Site Name: Ocean Hall

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP# SM-111

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Archaic & Woodland camps & shell midden, Late Woodland village, mid-late 17th c. occupation, early 18th c. house

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.2801 Longitude -76.7989

Elevation 2 m Site slope 0

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 10

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Wico

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 50 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

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

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
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

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

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

- 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

Bldg or foundation

- Isolated burial
- 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



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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	60	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	142	English Brown	16
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	12	Whiteware	435	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	67	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	169	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	130	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	33
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	1758	Tobacco related	87
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	9
Architectural	2	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	1	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	1	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 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"/>	cella	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at 1982 collections at HSMC. Humphries collections at St

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Ocean Hall site (18ST71) consists of a large masonry structure with construction phases in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. The overall occupation at the site in the historic periods (and more recently) spans nearly 280 years starting in the 17th century. It is located at Bushwood, in St. Mary's County. The structure is situated along the Wicomico River on Bushwood Cove. Soils at the site are Othello silt loam. The site area encompasses approximately 109 m X 46 m.

The first historical reference to the area of Ocean Hall was John Smith's map of 1607 that showed a large prehistoric village at the location. In 1639, Dr. Gerrard received a grant to a large parcel of land that included the Ocean Hall tract. Dr. Gerrard sold the portion of the land on which Ocean Hall now stands to his son-in-law, Robert Slye, in 1654/55. Slye was a wealthy tobacco merchant and planter in the 17th century. At his death in 1670, Slye's estate reverted to his widow and son, Gerrard Slye. A description of the estate included several structures: 2 major dwellings, 4 quarters, a kitchen, a boat house, a stable, a carpenter's shop, a dairy, a store and a 'pott house'. The potter Morgan Jones was indentured in 1661 to Slye. It has been suggested that Gerrard Slye, Jr. built Ocean Hall ca. 1703. Ocean Hall is a 1 1/2-story brick structure, which has undergone numerous structural changes since being built. The south and eastern walls were laid in Flemish bond, while the others were laid in English and haphazard bond. The "cruck" roof construction is a Late Medieval English architectural technique used to achieve greater building height without sacrificing head room to crossing beams. A plat dated 1711 shows that Gerrard Slye, Jr. owned the parcel where Ocean Hall now stands. When Slye, Jr. died in 1733, the property converted to his widow and to his son George who owned Ocean Hall until his death in 1773. The property passed to Slye's nephew, Edmund Plowden, in 1780 and remained in the hands of his son (Edmund Jr.) until he sold the property to James Gardiner in 1813. The Plowden's apparently treated Ocean Hall as a tenant property. Gardiner owned the tract until his death in 1831 and his son-in-law, John Blakistone, had gained control of the property by 1836. In 1853, Blakistone sold the property, then known as "Lower Bushwood", to Richard Miles who in turn sold it to Catherine Burch.

The subdivision of the estate in 1870 is the first written reference to the name Ocean Hall. A report to county commissioners in 1870 described the main structure and indicated that a kitchen was attached by a hyphen to the south gable end. Catherine Burch's son sold the land to his brother-in-law, William Blakistone, in 1883. Early 20th century references to the main dwelling refer to it as "Old Blakistone House". When Blakistone died in 1890, his widow inherited the house and lands known as "part of Ocean Hall". Alice Blakistone lived in the house until her death in 1972. Her sons then sold the property in 1973. In 1977, the Boyd's purchased the property including the house and approximately 11-acres of land.

In 1934, architectural historian Dr. Chandlee Forman surveyed the structure and described Ocean Hall as 'built about 1684 by the Gardiners and as the home of Nehemiah Blakistone when he was President of the Council in 1690'. However, the Gardiners came into possession of the property well after the original construction of the main dwelling as did Blakistone. More intensive study of the architecture of Ocean Hall started in 1971 and continued through 1976 when a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) study was completed. Investigations at the site were resumed in 1979 at the request of the building's owner, Dr. Boyd. That research phase included the removal of late alterations to the structure that facilitated documentation of previously unexposed features. Also at that time, samples of the wood taken from the structure were subjected to dendochronological analysis. The samples yielded a date of 1703 for construction of Ocean Hall.

Archeological research was conducted in 1973 by a St. Mary's County archeologist. Artifactual evidence was collected from the plowed fields around the structure. Prehistoric artifacts dating from the Early Archaic period through the Late Woodland period were recorded. Historic material included 17th-, 18th-, and 19th century remains. It was at that time that the site number was obtained for the area. Concentrations of artifacts were identified to the north and west of the main structure. A plow-disturbed prehistoric shell midden extended from near the main house to the river shoreline. Excavations in the northern portion of the site revealed a refuse-filled pit feature that measured from 3.35 m to 4.57 m (11' to 15') in diameter. The fill contained architectural debris dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. It was determined that the assemblage represented domestic debris that was the result of the demolition of a structure off the north end of the main house, possibly the original kitchen of Ocean Hall. The artifact inventory was not available for inclusion in the synthesis.

Additional research was conducted in 1980 and 1981 to clear the way for the construction of a proposed new addition to the main house. The research goals of the mitigation were to address the patterning of activity areas, to retrieve architectural information that can be used in house renovation, and to explore methods of investigating a standing structure. Although the main house and the surrounding grounds encompass the site area, in 1980/81 the archeology was to take place within the gutted shell of the 20th century kitchen addition. The proposed area of impact was about 83.61 square meters (900 square feet). It became apparent that the addition was not structurally sound; therefore, the structure was disassembled with minimal impact to subsurface features. The field methods employed was not detailed in the original report. It appears that large areas were excavated, the equivalent to a Phase III undertaking. The construction sequences were designated by Phase, with Phase I denoting the earliest period of occupation and Phase III the latest, and sub-phases were designated with letters (e.g. Phase Ia).

Results of the 1980/81 exposed several superimposed architectural features and cultural deposits. Feature 1 (Phase III) consisted of a chimney base laid of brickbats on fieldstone and cement filled foundations. Feature 2 (Phase II) was a clay cap around a stone footing. This probably represents an intentional filling to level the area – possibly as a floor for the stone-footed structure, which preceded the extant frame structure. The feature dates to the first 30 years of the 19th century and the materials appeared to be a mixed-in yard midden. Feature 3 (Phase II) consisted of the fill beneath the stone footing. Feature 4 (Phase Ib) was identified as a burned level beneath a clay level (Feature 2) described above. Most of the material from this stratum dated to 1720-1780. The feature was tentatively interpreted to be a mixed demolition level. Feature 5 (Phase Ib) was the occupational level. It had a similar distribution to Feature 4 immediately above it. The stratum goes into subsoil with no clear break and probably represents yard midden and occupation debris mixed together and leached down during the first structure's life span. Feature 6 (Phase Ib) was defined as the fill beneath the cobble-bedded walkway. Since no ceramics post-dating 1760 were identified, it was postulated that this deposition probably dates to before that time. Feature 8 (Phase Ib) was comprised of block holes adjacent to the brick chimney footing. Only secondary and re-cut piling holes contained any artifacts, the date of which suggested that the enlargement and repair of the frame structure was tentatively associated with the cobble walkway. The other piling holes probably relate to the original structure (Phase Ia) ca. 1703.

The Phase Ia structure was of undetermined size, with the gable end 8.229 m (27') from the south gable end of the main house. It was parallel to the main house, but inset 0.609 m (2') from the eastern façade. It was a box-framed timber structure, probably a single story, and heated by one chimney. In Phase Ib, the Phase Ia structure was modified and enlarged in 1750. A second cell was added to the chimney-gable end. The structure measured roughly 5.48 m X 4.26



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Unknown

m (18X14'). The area between it and the main house was covered with the cobbled pathway and it was suggested that the southeastern gable door was cut into the main house at this time. The dating and spatial modifications indicate this may have been a kitchen. In Phase IIa, the detached Phase I structure was attached to the main house by a hyphen. This structure was apparently built after the Phase Ib kitchen was demolished or burned ca. 1820-1830. It was 4.26 m X 4.87 m (14'X16') in size. It appeared that the dairy was also built during this time. Siding was added to the structure in Phase IIb. The Phase II kitchen was used until ca. 1880-1890 when it was demolished and replaced by the Phase IIIa structure. The Phase IIIa kitchen wing was said to be a relocated smaller dwelling characterized as a 'slave quarter'. The relocated dwelling abutted the dairy. The structure measured 4.87 m X 3.65 m (16'X12') and was of frame construction, probably one story with an attic. A chimney was centrally located on the southern wall. The eastern south-gable door of the main house continued to provide access to the kitchen. Phase IIIb was an L-shaped enlargement that wrapped around the Phase IIIa kitchen and abutted the main house. This created a wing 9.44 m X 7.31 m (31'X24') and was a story and a half. Access was gained through doors in the southern end of the main house, a door facing the driveway, and a door in the western end of the south wall. The final modification of the outside of the structure occurred some time after 1923 when the small porch over the east entrance of the house was built. By 1934, it was replaced by a full wrap-around porch.

A total of 1,858 historic artifacts were reported from the 1980/81 archeological investigations. There were 9 activity items (5 terra cotta flower pot fragments, 1 glass bottle seal, 1 lead bale seal, 1 fragment of a possible kiln prop used for separating earthenware during firing, and a brass leather harness decoration). There were 2 architectural items (ceramic tiles). There was 1 furniture item (a brass escutcheon fragment from a furniture pull). There were 1,758 kitchen-related items (142 tin glazed earthenware, 42 porcelain, 113 white salt-glazed stoneware, 130 creamware, 1 Whieldon-type earthenware, 33 Rhenish blue and gray, 16 English brown salt-glazed stoneware, 16 thin brown stoneware, 12 Manganese mottled earthenware, 60 Staffordshire slipware, 6 red pasted slipware, 67 Buckley ware, 11 Buckley-like ware, 4 Morgan Jones type, 10 Baker type, 118 redware, 44 buff-bodied earthenware, 5 other earthenware, 277 pearlware, 435 whiteware, 14 Rockingham/Bennington, 127 late porcelain, 7 semi-porcelain, 2 yellowware, 15 Bristol stoneware, 39 gray salt-glazed stoneware, 1 brown salt-glazed stoneware, 2 red pasted salt-glazed stoneware, 9 other stoneware). There were 87 tobacco items (white clay pipe fragments). There was 1 personal item (a brass book clasp).

Middle Archaic through Late Woodland artifacts have been retrieved from the site area and are in the possession of private collectors. No prehistoric materials were noted in the original report from the 1980/81 investigations.

The Ocean Hall site (18ST71) is a good example of 17th-20th century vernacular architecture in Southern Maryland. With its four heated chambers, formal symmetrical eastern façade, and solid construction of brick and oak, Ocean Hall was an exceptionally high quality structure when constructed in 1703. Further systematic surface collection and excavation would help to identify loci of activities around the main house. Mitigation is recommended whenever earth moving activities occur at the site. The site offers unique opportunities for research due to the long-term, continual occupation of the area.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006416