



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18TA314

Site Name: Wye House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

mid-17th-late 18th century house site; 18th-19th century plantation and slave village; prehistoric burial

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.8525

Longitude -76.1602

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

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

Topography

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

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Lloyd Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" 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 0 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 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American Y
- Anglo-American Y
- 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

burial

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

slave quarters



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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"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<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"/> 3	Human remain(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 466	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4589	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/> 6673	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> 703
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 151
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at N/A

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18TA314, also known as the Wye House or Wye Greenhouse, is a multicomponent site that includes a mid-17th to mid-19th century plantation; mid-19th to 20th century farm; late 18th to mid-19th century slave quarter; mid-to-late 19th century gardening outbuilding – greenhouse; Early and Late Woodland shell midden; and Early to Middle Woodland burial. The site spreads across the property known as the Wye House in Talbot County, near Easton, Maryland. The property has several structures on it, including the plantation house, and is a mix of open yard and wooded land. Soils on site are mostly Mattapex silt loam 0-5 % slope and Woodstown loam 0-2%.

Wye House, believed to have been built in 1781-84 and achieving its final form by 1799, is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Originally owned by the Lloyd family and possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition and it illustrates the transition in style from late Georgian to Early Federal architecture. The orangery still contains a rare example of an original 18th century heating system (hot air duct system). The additional buildings that accompany Wye House include rare and important examples of domestic and farm-related structures that contribute significantly to the historic and architectural qualities of the property as well. As a group they form one of the rarest collections of 18th, 19th, and 20th century buildings in the state.

One unknown day in February, 1817, Fredrick Douglass was born on one of the surrounding Lloyd farms at Tuckahoe. In the time Douglass would spend at Wye, he would come to understand what it meant to be a slave and develop the ideas that would sustain his cause for the duration of his life. Fredrick Douglass went on to write a series of autobiographical works, from which we gain some of the most detailed accounts of what slave life involved and the descriptions of the living and working areas on Wye Plantation. It is very probable, based on the review of tax inventories and other family documents that have survived over the years that Douglass was at Wye during its most successful years as a plantation. That is, of course, from the business perspective. From his position it would have been a hard and cruel existence. After the end of the Civil War and with emancipation in full effect, there were new issues for plantation owners. Wye was one of the largest slave holding enterprises in the state of Maryland and it would take its toll on the family's assets.

With the conversion from slave, human labor to machines and the operation and maintenance associated with them, there was a significant decrease in the profit for the family business. At the end of the 19th century, the family finances were greatly depleted. Edward Lloyd VII, the last Edward Lloyd to own the property, was even faced the reality that they might have to sell the family's estate. Luckily his second son, Charles Howard Lloyd and his wife, Mary Donnell Lloyd, were able to assist with the retention of the family home and surrounding land.

Wye would eventually regain its stability and continue to sustain itself for the short remainder of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century, but it would never again attain the level of opulence that it had embodied. Charles Howard Lloyd was the last of the male line in the Lloyd family to own Wye. When he passed away in 1929, Wye House passed down to his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd Schiller and then to her niece and current owner, Mrs. Mary Tilghman.

Much of the archaeological fieldwork completed on the property has been confined to the eastern side of the property and the greenhouse. Phase II/III excavations were conducted by the University of Maryland and occurred between 2005 and 2008. All of the excavations were carried out through Archaeology in Annapolis and, in particular, the University of Maryland's archaeological field school which is run through the Department of Anthropology.

The first work consisted of the Long Green, a stretch of land east of the main house on Wye Farm, and east of the main north-south farm lane on the property. Fieldwork consisted of shovel test pits in 2005, 2006, and 2008, test units around a standing Tulip Poplar tree which turned out to be in the center of a foundation (Locus 1), a "Middle Building" (Locus 2), and a "North Building" (Locus 3).

Locus 1 or the Tulip Poplar was located east of the Captain's Cottage and the Greenhouse, between the main Wye House and Lloyd Creek: The Long Green is a stretch of land that is located to the East of the Main House on Wye Farm. Once occupied by over 150 slaves, the area has been reorganized several times over the last 150 years and is currently a wooded area leading up to a cove just off Lloyd Creek. A Tulip Poplar tree currently occupies the area that was under investigation and is today roughly 100 feet tall. Even though this tree could reach its maturity in 30 to 40 years, we know this particular tree has been in place for at approximately 100 years from aerial photographs taken in the 1930s showing it fully grown. Fredrick Douglass first coined the term "Long Green" in his second biography *My Bondage My Freedom* in 1855. He uses this term to describe an open area about 20 acres long near the bottom of the creek (Douglass 1855; 66). He then describes the buildings on this area: "...there were numerous other slave houses and huts, scattered around in the neighborhood, every nook and corner of which was completely occupied" (Douglass 1855; 67). It was in the hope of finding evidence of the presence these individuals that brought the University of Maryland Field School to Wye House in 2005.

Fourteen test units were placed around the Tulip Poplar, which is also known as Locus 1. Most test units measured five feet by five feet but some were asymmetrical due to the irregular shape of the tree. Although two of these units began in the summer of 2005, all of the units were excavated fully in the summer of 2006. The test units were placed in such a way as to expose all of the brick foundation and chimney fall associated with the building that was believed to be described by Fredrick Douglass in his autobiography. Fieldwork identified a prehistoric occupation, an early Lloyd period occupation from around 1658 to 1820, and an occupation period during which the slave quarter with the brick foundation stood on the locus, between about 1820 to 1870 when it was torn down. Due to the extensive deposits from the 1658-1820 period, it is possible another structure existed in this area during that time.

To the north of Locus 1, Locus 2 consists of a "Middle Building", identified through shovel testing in 2006. A Phase II investigation of this locus was recommended, however, the work was not included in the site report completed for the 2005-2008 fieldwork.

Locus 3 was yet to the north of this, in an area dubbed the "North Building", or the "warehouse". The "North Building" at Wye House plantation is composed of a partially exposed brick foundation located on the northernmost edge of a grove of trees that hugs the bank of Lloyd Creek. It was first discovered during a walk-over survey in the field season of 2005. At that time, the area was over-grown with vegetation and all that could be seen was brick-scatter through the brush. After some effort to clear a portion in the affected area, it became evident that the brick was somewhat articulated and appeared across a substantial area.

The following field season, in the summer of 2006, two test units were placed in an area that was the most easily accessible on the western portion of the area containing the visible brick remains. There were the remains of a substantial brick foundation. Field work for the third field season (2007) focused on the new



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discovery of what appeared to be a foundation to a multiple story brick building measuring approximately 30 feet by 40 feet. After analyzing the descriptions of the Long Green provided by Fredrick Douglass in his 1855 autobiographical work, *My Bondage and My Freedom*, it was realized that there was a good chance that this was one of the structures Douglass described in the following passage: "Then here were a great many houses; human habitations, full of the mysteries of life at every stage of it. There was the little red house, up the road, occupied by Mr. Sevier, the overseer. A little nearer to my old master's, stood a very long, rough, low building, literally alive with slaves, of all ages, conditions and sizes. This was called 'the Longe Quarter.'

Perched upon a hill, across the Long Green, was a very tall, dilapidated, old brick building -- the architectural dimensions of which proclaimed its erection for a different purpose -- now occupied by slaves, in a similar manner to the Long Quarter. Besides these, there were numerous other slave houses and huts, scattered around in the neighborhood, every nook and corner of which was completely occupied. Old master's house, a long, brick building, plain, but substantial, stood in the center of the plantation life, and constituted one independent establishment on the premises of Col. Lloyd." (Douglass, 1855)

A prehistoric occupation was identified at Locus 3, containing some badly burned prehistoric pottery and fire-cracked rock. The historic occupation of Locus 3 was between the early 19th century and the turn of the 20th. The building contained a hearth and cellar, and was therefore likely domestic in nature at some point. But there were two different phases of construction. It is possible that an earlier structure was located on the site which was incorporated into the large brick structure later, since the western two piers are at an odd angle in relation to the others. It is also likely that it was originally constructed as a warehouse, which was later transformed into the "Longe Quarter" slave house of Douglass's day.

A fourth locus, the Red Overseer's House, was mentioned by Frederick Douglass in his autobiography as the home of a particularly cruel overseer, Mr. Sevier. The 1 1/2-story frame building on a brick foundation has chimneys at either end of the gable roof. Most of the nails in the house date to the late 18th through early 19th century. Dendrochronology conducted in 2007 dated the house to around 1815. During the summer of 2006, the Tilghman family initiated an extensive rehabilitation of the famous structure. The soil surrounding the foundation was excavated to a depth of about three feet, and the house was lifted and held off its foundations by a series of wooden supports while a new, more structurally sound foundation was constructed.

Unfortunately, the excavation around the foundation destroyed most of the archaeological evidence that would have provided clues about the building, such as its age, how it was built, and whether any pre-existing structures might have occupied the same spot. The area directly beneath the house, exposed for the first time in almost 200 years, was completely untouched by the modern construction project, and so a brief archaeological investigation was begun within the footprint of the building.

From October 27, 2008 to November 24, 2008 staff from the Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), Archaeology in Annapolis Project, conducted archaeological testing on the Wye House Greenhouse. This Phase II investigation had been conducted at the request of the Greenhouse's current owner, Mrs. Mary Tilghman, prior to planned Greenhouse foundation stabilization efforts.

Seven archaeological test units were excavated through the entire Greenhouse project. Test Unit 1 was excavated to a depth of 2.22' below current yard surface grade, and contained seven stratigraphic layers and four features. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included late Woodland Period prehistoric materials; 18th century Greenhouse construction-related materials; 19th century African-American slave quarter occupation-related materials; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation-related materials. Test Unit 2 was excavated to a depth of 2.02' below current yard surface grade, and contained eight stratigraphic layers and four features. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included 18th century Greenhouse construction-related materials; 19th century African-American slave quarter occupation-related materials; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation related materials.

Test Unit 3 was excavated to a depth of 2.0' below the current interior room floor surface, and contained four stratigraphic layers and one feature. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included pre-1784 Greenhouse construction-related materials; late 18th century and early 19th century domestic materials associated with enslaved African-American occupation of the Greenhouse shed/slave quarter; materials associated with the 20th century use of the shed as a storage area; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation-related materials.

Test Unit 4 was excavated to a depth of 1.95' below current yard surface grade and contained six stratigraphic layers and nine features. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included pre-1784 Greenhouse construction-related materials; 1784 Greenhouse west wing construction related materials; late 18th century and early 19th century domestic materials associated with Lloyd family use of the Greenhouse; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation related materials. Test Unit 5 was excavated to a depth of .45' below the current interior room floor surface, and contained one stratigraphic layer, excavated in 0.10' arbitrary layers. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included late 18th century and early 19th century domestic materials associated with enslaved African-American occupation of the Greenhouse shed/slave quarter; materials associated with the 20th century use of the shed as a storage area; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation-related materials.

Test Unit 6 was excavated to a depth of 2.0' below current yard surface grade, and contained six stratigraphic layers and three features. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included pre-1784 Greenhouse use/occupation related materials; 1784 Greenhouse west wing construction-related materials; late 18th century and early 19th century domestic materials associated with Lloyd family use of the Greenhouse; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation-related materials. Test Unit 7 was excavated to a depth of 1.9' below current yard surface grade, and contained six stratigraphic layers and three features. Archaeological resources recovered from this unit included pre-1784 Greenhouse construction-related materials; 1784 Greenhouse west wing construction related materials; late 18th century yard/garden surfaces; 19th century yard/garden surfaces; and 20th century Greenhouse preservation related materials.

The intact archaeological resources recovered in the course of this project and outlined in this summary can be separated into five strata, which are the archaeological stratigraphy related to distinct temporal episodes. These strata can be separated into: 1) Prehistoric Era; 2) 1st Phase of Greenhouse Construction; 3) 1784 – Greenhouse Redesign; 4) 18th and 19th Century Greenhouse Occupation; and 5) 20th Century Greenhouse Use and Preservation.

Background historical research and oral histories differ concerning the Greenhouse's initial date of construction. Historical research suggests a construction date of the c. 1770s, while oral histories suggest an initial date of construction of c. 1740s. Archaeological testing has shown that the Greenhouse underwent two major developmental phases—with the main block of the Greenhouse having been constructed in the 1770s and the East and West Wings and hypocaust system added in the mid-1780s. In addition to providing evidence of the Greenhouse's structural change, levels and features excavated in the course of this project have shed light on the social use of the Wye Greenhouse throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Artifact deposits analyzed in this report detail the Lloyd family's use of the Greenhouse as both a social space and as a symbol of 18th century opulence. Artifact analyses also shed light on the use of the Greenhouse's north shed as a slave quarter from the 1790s through the 1840s. Testing in the course of this project has concluded that there is a high degree



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of archaeological integrity within the project's area of potential effect. In addition, testing has determined that intact archaeological resources have the distinct potential to add a considerable depth of historical knowledge concerning the Greenhouse's structural change and social use throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Further archaeological work has been completed around the property, including the building at Locus two and units that included the extensive yards between the buildings. However, there is currently no documentation in state records.

In summary, much of the area included in site 18TA314 is likely intact and archaeologically significant to Indigenous, African-American, and European-American history along the Eastern Shore. Further work could be completed around the Wye House and the north, west, and south sides of the property, as these have not been archaeologically investigated. They may hold more information on the activities and lives of those who lived on site, including Indigenous before the house was built.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):