



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA321

Site Name: Piper Farm House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th-20th century standing farm house, farmstead

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code DmC2

Latitude 39.4689

Longitude -77.7344

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 134 m

Site slope 11-20%

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) unnamed tributary

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### 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

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken



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

### Historic Sherd Types

|                    |                          |             |                          |                  |                          |                  |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Earthenware</b> |                          | Ironstone   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffordshire    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Stoneware</b> |                          |
| 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"/> | <b>Porcelain</b> | <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 type="checkbox"/> | Chalcedony     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chert         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ironstone      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rhyolite      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Argilite       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartz        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steatite       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quartzite     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sandstone      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | European flint | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Basalt         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Unknown        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | Other          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dated features present at site

| Historic Artifacts |     | Tobacco related  |                                     |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pottery (all)      | 63  | Activity item(s) | 16                                  |
| Glass (all)        | 79  | Human remain(s)  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Architectural      | 118 | Faunal material  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture          |     | Misc. kitchen    | 66                                  |
| Arms               | 2   | Floral material  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Clothing           | 5   | Misc.            | 58                                  |
| Personal items     | 3   | Other            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Historic Features

|                    |                          |                  |                          |              |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Privy/outhouse     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Depression/mound | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Const feature      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s)        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foundation         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trash pit/dump   | <input 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 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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Unknown

Brief

Description:

19th-20th century standing farm house, farmstead

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS (MARS accession #178)

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Piper Farm House (18WA321) is situated at the southern end of Antietam National Battlefield (a National Parks Service Property) near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. The farm site is one of several properties which became a field of battle on September 17th, 1862 during the American Civil War. The battle between George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia resulted in a tactical draw and over 23,000 killed or wounded Confederate and Union soldiers; the bloodiest day in American history.

In 1763 Jacob Piper came to the Sharpsburg area from Germany. In 1845 his son, Daniel Piper, bought (what is now known as) the Piper farmstead from John Miller for \$55 an acre. The Piper farm was made up of properties originally known as "Ellick's Dwelling", and "Mount Pleasant". Daniel Piper sold the farm to his son Henry in 1854. At the time of the battle, Henry Piper owned a thriving farm, worth over \$10,000. On his 234 acres, he planted primarily wheat and Indian corn, and cultivated lesser amounts of rye, Irish potatoes, hay, and clover. The farm produced butter products, wool, and fruit, primarily apples were harvested from the orchard. The farmstead, dominated by a large barn, which housed horses, cows, sheep, and swine, and also included numerous small outbuildings, a farmhouse, and slave cabin. Henry lived on the farm with his wife and children, and at least one male slave. On the day of the battle, the Piper farmhouse was the established headquarters of Major General James Longstreet. The Piper Orchard was situated within the Confederate center with Union forces to the north and northeast, and the town of Sharpsburg to the south. During the battle, the orchard, which was under the sole control of the Confederates, acted as a staging area for the brutal fighting along a nearby sunken road.

In the winter of 1984-1985, an archeological testing program was undertaken in the north and east yards of the Piper Farm House. The testing program was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 1150, in an effort to determine if cultural resources would be adversely impacted by proposed restoration of the Piper Farm House. The restoration plans are part of the National Park Service Historic Leasing Program. The tested area consisted of a sod covered, gently sloping area adjacent to the north façade where a septic tank and drain field would be installed, and a level sod covered area adjacent to the southeast façade of the house where a restroom addition would be incorporated. The house is situated on and surrounded by outcroppings of native limestone, with the cellar of the main structure incorporating that natural outcroppings as part of the east end wall foundation.

In preparation for the construction, seven 0.6096 X 0.6096 meter (2 X 2 foot) test squares were excavated within the limits of the proposed area of disturbance to determine the nature, distribution and density of cultural resources to interpret their potential significance. Three were excavated in the vicinity of the planned restroom facilities and four were excavated in the vicinity of the septic tank and drain field. In addition, three shovel test pits were excavated adjacent to the northernmost unit where a low spot in the yard was thought to be a possible buried soil horizon. The shovel tests revealed that the deposit was extremely thin outside of this northernmost unit and unlikely to yield additional information.

The excavations yielded a total of 387 artifacts, most of which date to the very late 19th or early 20th century. Sixteen activity-related items were recovered from the site. Seven of these are miscellaneous hardware objects such as a machine bolt, a screw and several miscellaneous copper or iron/steel hardware pieces. Five toys are part of the activity assemblage as well; 2 porcelain doll parts, a "cleary" marble, a "cats eye" marble, and a plastic toy boat. Other activity items include an iron/steel garden spade, a plastic stake, a rubber gasket, and a piece of antenna wire. Numerous architectural remains were excavated including 20 pieces of plate window glass, a piece of insulated (presumably) electric wire, 2 fabric wire insulation fragments, a piece of painted plaster, 6 pieces of brick, 4 mortar fragments, 41 cut nails/pieces, 30 wire nails/pieces, a wire staple, a wire spike, an ornamental fence fragment, 6 pieces of asphalt shingle, and 4 wood fragments. Five clothing objects were encountered, all buttons. One is a plastic button and 1 is a copper child's button. There is also an iron/steel button, a shell button, and a Bakelite button. A total of 184 kitchen-related objects were recovered. The ceramic portion of that assemblage included 63 items. Thirty eight of these ceramics are unidentified earthenware sherds, 2 are pearlware, 19 are redware, 1 is yellowware, and 3 are stoneware. Fifty five glass objects were part of the kitchen assemblage. Four of these are milk glass, 4 are blown-in-mold bottle fragments, 40 are machine-finished bottles, 6 are miscellaneous bottle fragments, and 1 is a piece of table glass. Animal bones were recovered from the site, including a cut bone, 5 sawed bones, 2 charred bones, and 29 apparently unmodified animal bones. A piece of shell was the only other faunal object encountered. The remaining items from the kitchen assemblage are 2 fruit pits (1 is peach), 2 walnut hulls, a metal can key, 7 tin can parts, 3 aluminum bottle seals, a steel spoon, a piece of Styrofoam cup, 10 crown cap pieces, and a plastic screw cap. Three personal items, all comb tooth fragments were recovered from the site; one of bone, one of Bakelite, and one of plastic. The only tobacco-related item from the site is a plastic pipe stem. Two arms-related objects were encountered; a .22 caliber shell casing and a Civil-War era minie ball. And finally, 58 miscellaneous items were uncovered during the testing at the Piper Farm House. These items were 24 pieces of plastic, 4 miscellaneous pieces of glass (mostly melted), 4 pieces of metal wire, 7 unidentified metal pieces, 9 rubber fragments, 6 pieces of charcoal, and 4 concrete fragments.

In addition to the research outlined above, a metal detector survey was conducted in the Piper orchard to locate isolated artifacts associated with the battle, but this is discussed in the synopsis report on the broader Antietam Battlefield (18WA456).

The archeological investigations indicate that no archeological resources predating the very late 19th century were destroyed by the rehabilitation of the Piper Farm House. Furthermore, due to the proximity of the local bedrock to the ground surface, the potential for significant intact features and artifact deposits is quite limited.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006321, 97000504, 97000505