



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA466

Site Name: D.R. Miller Tenant House

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

19th century possible post-in-ground structure

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4810

Longitude -77.7619

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 147 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) unnamed tributary

- | 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 900 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. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

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		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

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	50	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	1	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	88	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	29	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	57	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	1
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<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 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 NPS (MARS)

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The D.R. Miller Tenant House (18WA466) is situated at the northern end of the Antietam National Battlefield (a National Parks Service Property) near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. It is located on a small knoll that is bound by and interspersed with bedrock outcrops, and which lies above the previous location of a small spring, no longer visible from the ground surface. The site appears to be, primarily, the remains of a short-lived structure associated with the nearby D.R. Miller farm (18WA505). Historic artifacts as well as the associated prehistoric scatter are located within the area of the North Woods, a staging area for federal troops which was subjected to Confederate artillery fire during the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862.

Documentary evidence indicates that the D.R. Miller farmstead was occupied before 1797 by John Myers, a German-American farmer. The standing, 2-story log house was built in the early 1800s, as was the large bank barn. Myers' 1833 will mentions the "mansion house" and also an "old house," which has not been located. The farm belonged throughout the 1800s to German-American families, first the Myers's and then the Millers. The farm was caught up in the Battle of Antietam, but it seems to have been on the fringe of the fighting and the structures were not badly damaged. However, many of the local farmers had great difficulty recovering from damage to their fences, fields, livestock, etc. The cabin (18WA466), which was apparently built a short time after the battle, may have been used as short-term tenant housing or as housing for hired woodsmen clearing Miller's woodlot (the North Woods). Many local landowners made similar decisions to acquire the means to rebuild after the battle. The house was most likely only intermittently occupied, and stood for at most 28 years based on its presence and absence on different historic maps of the area.

In the spring and fall of 1997, an archeological survey was conducted as part of the NPS's Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP), in the North Woods, a 19 acre parcel of land located in the northern portion of the battlefield. A series of transects laid out in the parcel were the subject of both metal detector and judgemental and systematic shovel tests. A concentration of loosely packed stone was identified in Shovel Test Pit 28. A .5 meter by 1 meter test unit was then opened up over the shovel test. Below the topsoil, a rectangular post hole stain of mottled yellowish brown and gray silty clay was evident, measuring approximately 50 cm north-south by 35 cm east-west. Located within this stain were loosely packed stones intermixed with a dark yellowish brown silt loam that was apparently dumped into the empty hole that resulted from post removal.

The STP and test unit excavations yielded a domestic artifact assemblage containing a total of 164 artifacts, most of which date to the mid-to-late 19th century. Fifty-seven architectural remains were recovered from the site, including 8 pieces of brick/mortar, 34 cut nails, a screw, and 14 fragments of plate window glass. One hundred and three kitchen-related objects were encountered, most of them ceramics. In the ceramic assemblage were 35 redware sherds, 50 whiteware sherds, and 3 pieces of yellowware. The remaining kitchen objects were all glass; 11 blown-in-mold bottle fragments, 1 machine made bottle fragment, and 3 fragments of tumbler glass. The remaining objects from the site were a white ball clay pipe stem, a shotgun shell, a modern zinc nail, and a prehistoric quartz flake.

The archeology at the Miller Cabin/Tenant House indicates that on this knoll stood a post-in-ground structure, constructed primarily of wood and that contained a mortared brick architectural feature, a chimney. The excavations produced a relatively sparse domestic assemblage, resulting in a limited interpretive value. The yard scatter associated with the Miller cabin was limited in density, depth, and distribution across the landscape, which could be the result of several factors. For one thing, the cabin was only occupied for a very short period of time (a maximum of 28 years). It is quite unlikely that the occupants of the Miller cabin deposited trash into pits, as the historic landscape precluded extensive excavations; the cabin is situated on a bedrock outcrop with a very shallow soil matrix. Also, the cabin was constructed within the woodlot, and would have had a very limited yard space surrounding it.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000503, 97000504