



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA476

Site Name: Ferry Hill Plantation

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early 19th century standing brick manor house and plantation site

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code DoB

Latitude 39.4386

Longitude -77.8036

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 3-8%

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) Potomac River

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 115 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric 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

Unknown historic 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 N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA476

Site Name: Ferry Hill Plantation

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early 19th century standing brick manor house and plantation site

## 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	164	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	41	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	26	Pearlware	86			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	3	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1664	Activity item(s)	25
Glass (all)	649	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1159	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	27	Misc. kitchen	294
Arms	1	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	12	Misc.	118
Personal items	1	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	retaining wall footer	
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



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA476

Site Name: Ferry Hill Plantation

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early 19th century standing brick manor house and plantation site

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Site 18WA476, also known as the Ferry Hill Plantation, is a 19th century plantation/farmstead located west of Sharpsburg, Maryland along Canal Road near the Potomac River. Structures in the location include the main house (constructed ca. 1812), a garage (1950~1960), a small house (also 1950~1960), and a National Park Service (NPS) trailer complex established as a temporary headquarters in 1974. The site is part of the NPS C&O Canal Park. The is mostly grass-covered field; soils on site are Downsville gravelly loam, 3-8%, with a small portion being 8-15%.

Ferry Hill was the Washington County plantation of John Blackford and his family beginning in the early nineteenth century. Over the course of that century the plantation grew to over 700 acres.

Ferry Hill was the Washington County plantation of John Blackford and his family beginning in the early nineteenth century. Over the course of that century the plantation grew to over 700 acres. The Ferry Hill manor house, an imposing two-story brick dwelling with an ell on the northwest, is located on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River directly across from the community of Shepherdstown. Blackford's business enterprises included a ferry landing on the river, operated by enslaved workers, and financial ties to the most important transportation development for Ferry Hill and Shepherdstown, the construction of the C&O Canal in the 1830s. Blackford catered to canal travelers after transforming the stone Ferry House (Blackford House) near the canal into a thriving tavern and boarding house. There was more or less continuous occupation of Ferry Hill and adaptive re-use of the plantation well into the twentieth century, and another goal of the archaeological survey and testing was evaluation of the effects that later occupations had on the archaeological integrity of the site.

In 1979, archaeological survey was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the project area based on a thorough, systematic investigation. Background information indicated that the more or less continuous occupation of Ferry Hill and adaptive re-use of the plantation site well into the twentieth century most likely affected the archaeological integrity of portions of the project area, though the results of a previous archaeological survey confirm that archaeological resources are present and may be significant.

The results of the 1979 archaeological survey included the identification of period artifact concentrations and deposits (Areas A, B, and C) in the yard areas, which may correspond to the locations of nineteenth century outbuildings and service yards, among other resources. More specifically, in Area A architectural and domestic artifacts were concentrated on the east side of the brick walkway between the house and the NPS law enforcement office, with historic grade being identified approximately 30 cm (1.0 ft.) below ground surface.

In Area B archaeologists identified nineteenth- and twentieth-century domestic artifact deposits that extended to 18 cm (0.60 ft.) below the ground surface at that time, and were found in association with a large (6.09 m x 3.04 m [20 ft. x 10 ft.]) depression that was likely associated with a structure. Area C, the garden area, lay to the north of the current NPS law enforcement office in the area of the paved visitor parking lot. This area was characterized by shallow deposits (i.e., remnant plowzone) and few artifacts, most of the latter of which were modern. Of the three areas investigated, Areas A and B were most consistent with the locations of historic outbuildings that were known to be standing until at least the mid-twentieth century.

Background research indicated that Area A was the location a three-room brick service building. The brick service building was located approximately 15.24 m (50 ft.) north of the house porch and reportedly measured 3.04 m x 9.14 m (10 ft. x 30 ft.) or perhaps as much as 7.31 m x 15.24 m (24 ft. x 50 ft.) in size. This building included a laundry room with a fireplace on the west, a wood storage room in the center, and a smokehouse on the east. The building was bounded by a walkway on the west leading from the porch to a privy, which was situated behind the structure on the northwest.

Area B was the site of a frame secondary dwelling. The secondary dwelling was located in the yard on the east side of the current driveway approximately 33.53 m (110 ft.) from the house. The structure stood until the mid-twentieth century. It was mapped on a 1939 highway plan of Route 34 that included Ferry Hill manor house and some of the associated plantation outbuildings and landscape features. The structure was identified as a frame building that measured approximately 6.09 m x 6.09 m (20 ft. x 20 ft.). Based upon the recollections of the midcentury owner, it was a story-and-a-half in height and had a full front porch. The interior plan of the dwelling consisted of a staircase to the left of the front door, a fireplace midway along the east wall, and two windows in the north wall. According to the early twentieth-century oral history, the structure served as an overseers' house and a school.

Area C contained a large garden and supposedly a quarter for the enslaved. The quarter was projected to be a 19.8-x-6.1-m (65-x-20-ft.) four-room structure located approximately 36.6 m (120 ft.) northeast of the house and adjacent to a fenced garden on the north. The enclosed garden measured approximately 61 m x 49 m (200 ft. x 160 ft.) and was bounded by an orchard on the north.

The 1979 survey recovered over 1,000 historic artifacts from the yard. The assemblage includes fragments of ceramics, bottle glass, nails and window glass, among other artifacts. The ceramic assemblage is noteworthy as it includes early nineteenth-century slip-decorated redware vessels, period creamware and pearlware containers, and a large fragment of a whiteware chamber pot that dates to the second half nineteenth-century.

The William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research (W&MCAR) conducted archaeological survey and testing at Ferry Hill Plantation (18WA476) in Sharpsburg, Maryland from March 18, 2019 through April 5, 2019 and June 22, 2020 through July 2, 2020, respectively. This work also included a geophysical survey of the project area by New South & Associates (NSA), undertaken from November 18, 2019 through November 22, 2019, as part of this study. The investigation was conducted in accordance with a task agreement (P18AC01175) within the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network cooperative agreement (P17AC01706) between William & Mary and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal NHP), and National Park Service (NPS). The investigation was intended to provide specific information concerning the nature and distribution of archaeological resources within the yard area of the plantation house and its vicinity. More specifically, the goals of the investigation were to identify and assess resources that may relate to the activities and material culture of the enslaved, and to nineteenth-century life in general at Ferry Hill.

The project area surveyed by the W&MCAR encompassed all of the surrounding yard at Ferry Hill and a large portion of the grass-covered field to the east of the manor house. More specifically, the eastern boundary of the project area was located in the open field approximately 150 m (492 ft.) from the manor house on the east side of the park entrance. The western and southern boundaries consisted of the tree line and slopes that bound the yard areas immediately around the house, and the northern boundary was defined by the tree line and slopes just west of a large, paved parking lot and the site of a former twentieth century cottage. The total area that was surveyed was approximately 2.4 ha (6 acres).



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA476

Site Name: Ferry Hill Plantation

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief

Description:

Early 19th century standing brick manor house and plantation site

The archaeological survey was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the project area based on a thorough, systematic investigation. Background information indicated that the more or less continuous occupation of Ferry Hill and adaptive re-use of the plantation well into the twentieth century most likely affected the archaeological integrity of portions of the project area, though the results of a previous archaeological survey indicated that archaeological resources are present and may be significant.

The current survey was designed to identify archaeological deposits and features, and to provide a preliminary assessment of their potential in helping to interpret the material culture of the Blackford family and the enslaved population, as well as insight into the organization and landscape of the plantation during the nineteenth century. The results of the 1979 archaeological survey identified period artifact concentrations and deposits in the yard areas, which may correspond to the locations of nineteenth-century outbuildings (e.g., quarter for the enslaved, a multi-room service building, dependencies) and service yards, among other resources. The current survey included a re-examination of the yard areas near the manor house in an effort to identify significant deposits and potential features, and investigated areas more distant from the house that may contain plantation features (i.e., barns, roads).

Of the 493 shovel tests excavated, 281 (60%) were positive for historic artifacts (n=2,314), and the nine test units yielded 6,497 historic artifacts. Three prehistoric artifacts were recovered and are represented by a utilized rhyolite flake from Test Unit 3, and a crystalline quartz endscraper and the distal portion of a black opaque chert hafted biface from Test Unit 9. Forty-six percent (n=3,016) of the recovered artifacts date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The assemblage includes domestic and architectural items such as ceramics, tobacco pipes, glassware, animal bone, nails, brick, and window glass. Archaeologists found fragments of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century creamware and pearlware (tea bowls, saucers, and plates) and mid-nineteenth-century whiteware (dishes and cups), and period stoneware and coarse earthenware (jars, pots, pans, crocks, bottles, and jugs). The mean ceramic date calculated for the site suggests that activity at Ferry Hill peaked around 1837, two years before the death of John Blackford. More in-depth analyses of the ceramic assemblage may allow for the delineation of the minimum number of vessels and the functional types represented, which could then provide insight into ceramic acquisition patterns and the economic status of the Blackford household over time.

None of the artifacts recovered during the archaeological survey can definitively be attributed to the enslaved at Ferry Hill. However, the coarse earthenwares concentrated in the service yard areas attest to the intensity of kitchen-related activities (i.e., cooking and food preparation/storage) likely undertaken by enslaved workers in the nineteenth century. The predominance of coarse earthenwares in the assemblage of ceramics is likely a function of the relatively inexpensive and utilitarian nature of these wares, and that they were more readily accessible to the occupants at Ferry Hill.

Studies of material culture in the region indicate that the enslaved, especially those who lived near towns, had access to a variety of ceramics. Future studies may indicate if the enslaved population at Ferry Hill owned fashionable creamware and pearlware tea bowls and other such vessels too, if only in smaller amounts and incomplete and mismatched sets compared to the Blackfords. Far from merely passive recipients of household goods and personal items from the Blackfords, the enslaved at Ferry Hill were undoubtedly active participants in the market economy. Access to ceramics and other goods from the Blackfords, coupled with the purchase and bartering of these and other items from area merchants and at the landing, likely helped to expand and improve the quality of their material culture and other aspects of their lives. The giving of gifts, perhaps items as inconspicuous as marbles or a decorated tea bowl, likely served to bond family members in the midst of increasing uncertainty and anxiety about their future together. At minimum, household and personal items became keepsakes and represented some portable wealth if an enslaved person was forced to separately from family members. Given the network of family relationships of the enslaved that have been identified by Grivno at Ferry Hill and beyond, and the buying and selling of the enslaved by the Blackfords, this aspect of the material culture of the enslaved may have been important at this plantation.

The artifacts recovered during the archaeological survey were widely dispersed across the project area. The distribution of diagnostic artifacts and features indicates that domestic outbuildings and service yards were clustered to the east and west northwest of the manor house. These important areas were established in the early nineteenth century and continued in use into the first half of the twentieth century. The relatively few artifacts recovered outside of these main service-related parts of the yard represent low density artifact scatter associated with post-plantation activity. The artifacts clustered in the yard areas were associated with subsurface features. Features 1-3 in the east yard (east of the driveway) include possible stone piers and part of a continuous stone foundation for outbuildings and refuse deposits. The archaeological and georeferencing evidence suggests that the stone foundation and other features revealed in Test Units 1 and 5 most likely represent the north foundation wall of a frame structure that was built by Blackford a decade or so after the manor house was constructed, and is part of the building that was mapped by the Maryland State Roads Commission in 1938. The 1938 drawing and other data indicate that the structure measured approximately 6.06 m x 6.06 m (20 ft. x 20 ft.) and was a story and a half in height. It had at least two windows, a chimney, and may have had either a slate- or wood-shingled roof. Artifactual evidence from the builders' trench indicates that the structure was built during the first or second quarter of the nineteenth century, a period that is consistent with the age of the artifact scatter recovered from the shovel tests and test units at this location. Its construction period also corresponds to the period when the number of enslaved persons increased at Ferry Hill and when the plantation peaked in activity based on the archaeological and historical data. The data indicate that the structure had a domestic function (due to the concentration of domestic artifacts recovered) during at least part of its occupation, though documentary evidence indicates that it probably served other purposes over the course of its long history.

During the plantation period it may have been used as a dwelling for the enslaved, or the home of an as-yet undocumented overseer. It may also have served as Blackford's plantation office at some point, though Blackford reportedly had an office on the first floor of the manor house. Blackford's placement of the building near his manor house and entrance drive is probably no coincidence. This type of arrangement is seen at other plantations in the region. The siting of this structure just east/northeast of the manor house, near the original entrance drive, would have provided the Blackford household and workers with a commanding view of the south/southwest approach to the main house and a measure of security. Symbolically, the building and its location may have been intended to convey to visitors proper management of the plantation and Blackford's status as an enslaver. A more intensive program of archaeology could further document the structure and its function, and help to clarify its significance on the plantation landscape.

Shovel tests in the north and northwest yard areas yielded discrete concentrations of artifacts and features that may indicate the presence of former outbuildings and a service yard. Shovel Test 344 and other shovel tests in its vicinity (between the north end of the house and the NPS law enforcement office), for example, revealed what archaeologists initially interpreted as an historic brick foundation (Feature 5) that was possibly associated with the three-room (laundry, woodshed, smokehouse) outbuilding and service yard. Test Units 3 and 6 revealed nineteenth- and twentieth-century deposits and several features. Feature 5 in Test Unit 3 is a mid twentieth-century brick and concrete pier/porchlike feature. It may represent a late addition to the previously documented nineteenth- and early twentieth-century multi-room brick outbuilding, if that structure was modified during the last period of private ownership. The deposits in Test Unit 3 yielded a significant quantity of faunal material that is likely a reflection of the use of this area as a kitchen service yard and an area where animals were butchered and meat was prepared for curing. In Test Unit 6, just a few meters to the northeast of Feature 5, archaeologists encountered



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA476

Site Name: Ferry Hill Plantation

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief

Description:

Early 19th century standing brick manor house and plantation site

a utility trench. The identification of this feature, and the use of this area as a service yard, is consistent with the results of the geophysical survey between the house and the NPS law enforcement office that indicate significant disturbance from subsurface utility lines and evidence of compacted surfaces.

The research results indicate that this portion of the yard had walkways, or some other type of prepared surfaces, in the first half of the twentieth century, and was subsequently raised and leveled with spoil and topsoil during the second half of that century in conjunction with the demolition of the brick service building.

Shovel tests placed adjacent to the northwest corner of the ell portion of the house, several meters to the west of Feature 5, revealed artifact-rich deposits that were similar to those in the vicinity of Feature 5. Features 4 and 7–9 in this area may represent remnants of stone foundations for an outbuilding (or a group of outbuildings) and trash pits in a service yard that was close to the interior kitchen and servants' quarters in the ell portion of the house. However, the results from Test Unit 9 and geophysical data indicate mostly mixed spoil deposits and disturbances in this area that are probably associated with extensive landscaping activities, expansion of the house, and commercial operation (i.e., restaurant) in the twentieth century.

Previous research indicates that the portion of the yard west and north of the NPS law enforcement office was the map-projected location of a quarter for the enslaved and a garden. The current survey identified remnants of possible stone foundations (Features 6 and 10) in these areas but few artifacts. Given the low artifact density (and the location of Features 6 and 10 outside of the main artifact concentrations to the south, west, and southeast), it is unlikely that this area was the site of a quarter, though Feature 10 may be associated with a nineteenth-century outbuilding or other activity area based upon the results from Test Unit 8. The preponderance of the survey data (i.e., higher density of artifacts and features) indicates that dependencies existed north and northwest (area of Features 4, 5, and 7–9) and northeast (area of Features 1–3) of the house that probably functioned as a quarter for the enslaved. Such a living and working arrangement would have made completion of domestic chores more efficient and provided Blackford greater visual control over his servants. The 24 shovel tests excavated on the terrace in front of the house provide important clues about the landscape of Ferry Hill in the nineteenth century. The soils were variable in depth, though some of the soil profiles were quite deep and indicated the presence of original topsoil more than half a meter (or nearly 2 ft.) below ground surface.

The strata across the terrace yielded 200 artifacts, all of which were domestic in nature. The recovered items date from the eighteenth through the early twentieth century. Based upon the shovel test results, the deposits most likely represent early nineteenth-century in-filling/construction activities and subsequent soil replenishment/yard leveling during the early twentieth century. The excavation of Shovel Test 425 (coordinates N460/E420) revealed a large stone footer (Feature 11) for the limestone block retaining wall several feet below the ground surface. The distinctive wall, built by enslaved and/or hired laborers in the early nineteenth century, was mentioned by a subsequent family member long after its construction.

Henry Kyd Douglas, stepson of Helen Blackford Douglas, witnessed from across the Potomac at Shepherdstown Union soldiers relaxing atop the wall soon after the Battle of Antietam. Shovel tests excavated on the sloped portion of the front yard, just south of the retaining wall, yielded relatively few artifacts and indications of more recent subsurface disturbance.

Archaeologists shovel tested and probed the map-projected location of a nineteenth-century road at the southeastern boundary of the project area approximately 30 m (98 ft.) northeast of the park entrance (between N485/E575 and N485/E620). This work revealed a scatter of twentieth century artifacts in plowzone over compact clay subsoil. The area between the shovel tests and in its vicinity was probed for indications of roadfill material (i.e., asphalt, rocks, gravel), though none was found. Although the mixed and compacted subsoil may represent indications of previous road construction and/or abandonment activities (i.e., grading) at this location, archaeologists found no obvious and conclusive evidence of the historic road. It is possible that efforts to realign the roadway to the current location of Route 34 included landscape modification intended to remove visible evidence of the historic alignment, though more intensive archaeological investigations may find evidence of this resource beyond the current project boundaries.

Historical accounts indicate that the plantation played a strategic role during the Civil War as an important crossing on the Potomac and as a place that was occupied on more than one occasion by Union and Confederate troops. No archaeological evidence of Civil War activity was identified in the yard around the manor house and its vicinity, despite intensive survey. Any future plans for archaeology might consider implementing a specific field strategy designed to better capture such data. More than a decade of research on Civil War sites has demonstrated that these resources are unique, often leaving their own specific "signatures" within the ground. A now standardized approach is the use of systematic metal detector surveys to reveal patterns in the distribution of bullets, shrapnel, accoutrements and other items, which indicate the disposition of troops, the locations of gun batteries, and temporary encampments. On battlefields, this methodology has successfully documented the intensity and flow of battle even under highly fluid circumstances. Through carefully recording the locations of items, archaeologists can sometimes interpret the circumstances of their loss, whether through causal discard, or as a result of desperation and chaos in battle.

However, the fact that such resources are typically limited to surface or near-surface artifact scatters can make them highly vulnerable to the effects of post-battle and post-occupational ground disturbing activities, vandalism, and unauthorized artifact collection, such that the interpretative potential of the resource is compromised. While the effects of late nineteenth- and twentieth century activities on the condition of the yard areas at Ferry Hill may limit the success of the metal detecting strategy, it might prove insightful into the Civil War occupation and final chapter of slavery at this plantation.

Overall, site 18WA476 is a multicomponent site, where some areas are better preserved than others. Further work at the site may better outline the sites role in the Civil War, as well as the lives of enslaved on the property.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95008855, 00006303, 18WA476 SF