



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA477

Site Name: Lockhouse 44 Complex

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Mid 19th to early 20th century canal lock, lockhouse, bypass flume

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code Lm

Latitude 39.5881

Longitude -77.8175

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 107 m

Site slope 0-3%

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

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 243 m

## 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

Y

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

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

canal lock,lockhouse,bypass flume

## 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

Buried late 19th century living surface

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	404	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	1050	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	4309	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	172
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	769
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"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	canal lock, bypass flume	
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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS, MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Lockhouse 44 (18WA477) is the archeological site associated with the complex surrounding the lockhouse at Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal Lock No. 44 in Williamsport, Washington County. Lock No. 44 and the house of its keeper are located on the outskirts of Williamsport, about one half of a mile southwest of the town's center. Lockhouse 44 (MIHP# WA-WIL-358), which abuts the towpath on the west side of the canal, is a two storey frame structure built on a stone foundation. Adjoining the south end of the lockhouse is a single storey frame addition. The surrounding landscape is heavily altered from its native state due to the construction of the canal and the installation of ancillary businesses and structures associated with the canal. Soils at the site are Linside silt loams, Opequon and similar soils, and rock outcrops.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company was formed in 1828 to construct and operate a slackwater, multiple lock canal between tidewater on the Potomac River and a tributary of the Ohio. Construction of the canal began in that year and continued, with some halts, until 1850, when it had reached 189 miles from Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, to Cumberland, Maryland. Financing for the proposed western extension of the canal could not be found, especially the given anticipated success of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in supplying the vital transportation link between the East and the Ohio Valley.

The canal project was undertaken after the system of skirting canals and river improvements sponsored and constructed by the Patowmack Company shortly after the American Revolution had proven unreliable for transportation. Several years of public discussion and extensive study of the physical and economic feasibility of the project preceded its initiation. Once begun, however, the project encountered many more difficulties, both physical and legal, than expected, and the costs increased accordingly. Also, it was frequently difficult for contractors to secure the services of sufficient numbers of workmen, and those they did get, being wretchedly accommodated and poorly paid, were often troublesome.

A variety of commodities were transported on the canal during its early years of operation, especially coal, flour, wheat, lumber, and corn, but coal came to dominate the trade nearly completely for the last half century of its life, which, as a working canal, ended in 1924. At the outset, it was expected that tolls on canal trade would allow the repayment of the debts undertaken for construction. In fact, they barely covered the costs of operating the canal and did not fully finance the repair of damages periodically inflicted on it by floodwaters of the Potomac.

After flooding had driven the original C&O Canal Company into bankruptcy in 1890, the B&O Railroad succeeded in acquiring control. By financing repairs of the canal and operating it through a "front" company (the C&O Transportation Company) at a fictitious profit, the B&O forestalled public sale of the canal, which might have put it into the hands of competitors. The Canal Towage Company was also formed, in 1902, in order to regularize the freighting of coal. However, by the time of the next major flood, which came in 1924, the productivity of western Maryland coal fields had declined, and the B&O was able to claim that restoration of the canal was economically impractical.

In 1938, the government of the United States acquired the canal. The Great Depression had forced the B&O into indebtedness to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and having no further use for the canal, the B&O sold it to the US, applying the proceeds to the debt. The US initiated restoration, and the canal began its present career as a natural and cultural resource.

In April of 1835, with the completion of Dam No. 5 above Williamsport and the line of the canal down to Dam No. 4, barge traffic began moving goods to and, mostly, from Williamsport. The town had become and was to remain an important center for local trade and canal commerce in general. Lock 44, at the downstream edge of the town, had been completed the previous year at a cost of \$10,485.82, but arrangements for tending the lock, and constructing the lockhouse were not made until the month following the opening of the canal here. At that time, the Canal Company apparently contracted with Joseph Hollman for construction of a flume around Lock 44 and of a stone or brick house to serve as a residence for a lockkeeper.

The agreement was not immediately fulfilled since in August of 1835 the Company again contracted with Hollman for construction, at his own expense, of a flume and lockhouse, in exchange for which he was to receive a 20 year lease on surplus water at the lock for use in an unspecified manufacturing enterprise. The rental was \$150 a year, presumably offset by the annual salary of a lock-keeper. The arrangement may have been satisfactory to Hollman, but as he failed to construct the lockhouse, the Company was dissatisfied. In July of 1838, the Canal Company Board threatened to shut off the water to "Hollman's Mill" unless he commenced construction of a lockhouse. Hollman, who still did not build the lockhouse, must have had sufficient influence to deter the Board from carrying out its threat. Indeed, by virtue of his Democratic politics and the election of a Democratic State legislature in Maryland the previous year, in May of 1840 he became a beneficiary of the spoils system. He was appointed to the office of Division Superintendent on the canal. However, the 1840 elections gave the Whigs a majority and forced reinstatement of many experienced canal officials, in April of 1841. Hollman was among those turned out of office. In April of 1842, and again in November, the directors sought to get Hollman to construct Lockhouse 44 in compliance with his 1835 contract.

Until the end of 1848, Joseph Hollman continued to receive water in exchange for serving as the keeper of Lock 44. Presumably, his employees at the mill were responsible for tending the lock. In 1845, the Canal Company's District Superintendent had nominated another individual as lockkeeper, and had proposed construction of a \$300 lockhouse. This low sum for the building of the house suggests that it was a less substantial structure than originally planned and did not meet the Canal Company's usual specifications for lockhouses. The superintendent's nominee, John Buchanan, replaced Hollman in 1849 and it is believed that the \$300 lockhouse was built at that time. This structure would need to be rebuilt in 1867, because it was determined to be unsuitable by the Board, either due to insubstantial construction or because it was damaged in 1862 when Williamsport was the scene of Civil War fighting. It is this later lockhouse which has, together with its addition, endured until today.

The fate of Hollman's mill is not known. It is evident, however, that the economic importance of the vicinity of Lock 44 persisted. Two firms involved in the coal and grain trade (Charles Embrey and Son, and E.P. Steffy) had warehouses nearby, and the former was given the right to build a drydock above Lock No. 44 in May of 1862. A Franc Sharpless was given permission to build a store there in February of 1866. During the final years of the canal's operation, a carpenter's shop stood over the upstream end of the lock's by-pass flume, a granary was built over the downstream end of the flume, and a plank bridge crossed the flume between the two structures.

Physical evidence of these latter structures, excepting what remains beneath the ground surface, has been eradicated in the years since the canal ceased operating. The parcel of land on which the lockhouse stands is also reduced from its original full acre, which historically provided locktenders an opportunity to cultivate large gardens. When a coal-fired power plant was built near the lockhouse early in the 20th century, an embanked railroad spur was laid down



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immediately behind the lockhouse. A ramshackle shed used in slaughtering pigs, reportedly built with lumber scavenged from the carpenter's shop (which was flattened by the flood of 1936) was built to the south of the lockhouse. More significantly, the single-storey addition to the lockhouse, used as a kitchen, was built onto the structure's south end, probably before the close of the 19th century.

At least four archeological studies have been carried out in the vicinity of Lock 44. By the 1970s, the bypass flume was largely filled in with sediment. Phase II testing of the bypass flume was undertaken in 1977 to aid in the restoration of the lock area and was done to initiate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The investigations were geared primarily towards revealing details about the structure of the flume, specifically the original grade of the flume floor and the design of the intake gate.

Initially, a backhoe was used for excavation. However, after two of the three planned backhoe trenches resulted in the loosening of blocks from the flume wall, backhoe excavations were abandoned for more precise manual excavations. Eleven units of varying size were opened up. During excavations only an arbitrary sample of artifacts from each stratum and stratum level was saved. This was completed without screening the soil as the researchers stated they were not interested in obtaining a 100% sample of artifacts. The inventory of artifacts derived from the first excavation units was not historic, but was composed of contemporary (20th century) refuse, suggesting that most of the sediment was recent.

No catalog of these artifacts or any of the others recovered from the site is available. However, it appears that most of the historic artifacts that were ultimately recovered are architectural in nature, relating to the structure of the by-pass flume. Some of the artifacts and features mentioned include a flat metal rectangular object, a concentration of nails, stone rubble, mortar, fragments of wood (much of it rotten), grill works of nailed timbers, loose timbers, upright posts, wooden planks and, generally, other architectural features related to the flume.

The original report reveals only a limited amount of information regarding the structural details of the canal bypass flume and provides some recommendations for the preservation of the flume and any future archeological work associated with it.

Also in the summer of 1977 testing was carried out around the foundation of the lockkeeper's house at Lock 44 (18WA477) prior to stabilization and restoration efforts. The testing included the excavation of twelve 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) test units. Two of these were excavated within the addition on the south end of the lock house, six adjacent to the exterior of the foundations, three in nearby parts of the yard, and one on the manmade island between Lock 44 and the bypass flume. The excavations showed that the landscape surrounding the lockhouse had been extensively modified before the house was built, presumably when the canal was constructed. As much as 1.22 m (4 ft) of fill has been placed on the lock house site. Numerous domestic artifacts were found dating to the 1867 to 1924 period, including about 400 ceramic sherds and 700 pieces of container glass.

The 1977 assemblage from the lockhouse at 18WA477 included some 6,346 artifacts, 4,305 of those items being architectural in nature. Architectural items included 2,436 nails and nail fragments, 293 spikes and spike fragments, 344 pieces of window glass, 25 hardware items, and 1,207 construction materials. The kitchen assemblage included approximately 400 ceramic sherds, 700 pieces of container glass, and 172 faunal items. The remaining 769 artifacts are cataloged above as "miscellaneous" finds.

Since it is reported that a lockhouse at Lock 44 was present prior to the Civil War, it is important to note that no evidence of an earlier structure than the 1867 lock house was found during the 1977 fieldwork. The inventory of finds from the project includes several sherds of creamware (1762-1820) and pearlware (1775-1840), however subsequent researchers who have examined these materials report that almost all of these materials are actually whiteware (post-dating 1820). For this reason, these materials have only been recorded as "pottery" in the tables above.

The most peculiar finding of the 1977 excavations was the large numbers of artifacts found in deep strata within just a meter or two of the front door of the house. Most likely, these deposits are the result of filled holes or pits along the foundations. These pits may have been the results of flood scouring, since no other explanation (construction trench, utility trench, repair pit, etc.) was evident. Excavations next to the canal showed that parts of the berm had been washed away and rebuilt, and the same thing could have happened around the foundations of the lockkeeper's house.

Another archeological study was carried out in the spring of 1997 focusing on the manmade island between Lock 44 and the bypass flume. This study was intended to mitigate the effects of rebuilding the stone walls of the lock and the flume, which required removing the upper 61 cm (2 ft) of soil from the island. The excavations were fairly extensive. Initially, eighteen 50 X 50 cm test units were placed systematically across the project area. The data provided by these tests were then used to place three block excavations with a total of 88 square meters, as well as a 1 X 12 meter trench that was used to expose a profile of the flume side of the island.

The entire island was found to have been constructed of fill when the lock was built. In addition, various parts of it had been rebuilt with fill at later times, presumably because parts of the island had been eroded away by floods. The stone foundation of a structure that once straddled the flume (as shown in historical photographs) was discovered, along with evidence of other structures. It was posited that this could have been remnants of the mill that stood nearby in the pre-Civil War period (Hollman's Mill), but no clear evidence definitively tying the foundation to the mill was found.

Most of the artifacts were architectural, and little domestic material was encountered. The body of the report does not describe the artifact collection in detail and no summary table of artifact types recovered is provided (though a full catalog without totals is included in an appendix). The materials recovered in 1997 are not included in the tables above.

The most recent stage of fieldwork at 18WA477 occurred in 2009 when a combined survey and evaluation (Phase I and II) was conducted in support of proposed canal restoration efforts by the NPS. The work was conducted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Since the area immediately around the foundations of the lockhouse had been thoroughly investigated in the 1970s, the main focus of the 2009 investigations was the remaining yard areas surrounding the lockhouse. Five shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated in these areas in an attempt to locate any remaining middens or other sensitive features. Shovel test measured approximately 45.72 cm (1.5 ft) in diameter. Most were excavated to a maximum depth of 91 cm (3 ft) because sterile subsoil could not normally be reached. When sterile subsoil could be reached, STPs were excavated 15.24 cm (6 in) into that subsoil. All soils were screened through hardware cloth for uniform artifact recovery. Obviously recent objects found in the shovel tests were noted and discarded, along with coal, clinker, brick, limestone, and other building materials. Other artifacts were bagged by provenience and STP data (soil descriptions and profile drawings) was recorded on standardized forms. Digital and black-and-white film photography was used to document excavations work and conditions.

Except for those STPs immediately behind the house, all showed disturbed soils. Directly behind (north of) the house, water was standing on the surface. The most intact soil profile was in a shovel test slightly northwest of the house. The upper layer was 45.72 cm of cinders, below which a reasonably intact topsoil



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was encountered, over yellowish brown clay-loam subsoil. Historic domestic artifacts were found in the buried topsoil: 2 sherds of whiteware, a fragment of olive bottle glass, and 2 pieces of window glass. Another shovel test nearly 23 m north of the house revealed a similar profile and the buried topsoil layer produced a wire nail, 2 pieces of clear or aqua bottle glass, 2 sherds of whiteware, and a piece of window glass.

Because of the extensive surface disturbance, the unimpressive artifact totals from the shovel tests that did reach undisturbed soil, and the large number of artifacts recovered from the site in 1977, no test units were dug on the site during the 2009 project.

The Lock House 44 Site (18WA477) consists of the archeological components of the Lockkeepers House (WA-WIL-358) and canal activities at Lock 44. Past archeological testing has recovered domestic artifacts and intact surfaces beneath fill associated with the various canal activities that occurred in the vicinity of Lock 44. The site has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register as a contributing resource to the C&O Canal National Park. The site is eligible under Criteria A and D for its association with the C&O Canal and for its demonstrated potential to yield important information regarding the canal-related transportation, commercial, and industrial activities in the Williamsport area.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001317, 00006336, 95001316, 95001295