



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WA505

Site Name: D.R. Miller Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 18th or Early 19th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 19

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.4872

Longitude -77.7375

Physiographic province Great Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-10%

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 of Poto

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Minimum distance to water is 0 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930
- Y
- Y
- Y
- Y

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

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
 - 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

Flotation samples taken 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	426	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	9	Pearlware	21			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

Pre-Civil War era pit feature northeast of the farmhouse.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1117	Activity item(s)	74
Glass (all)	499	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	606	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	274
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	11	Misc.	170
Personal items	6	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 type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	large pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" 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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Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The D.R. Miller Farm (18WA505) is a 19th century farmstead within the Antietam National Battlefield Park near Sharpsburg in Washington County. The farmhouse, built around 1800, was standing during the 1862 Battle of Antietam, just to the north of an area known as the Bloody Cornfield. The D.R. Miller Farm is in the northern part of the Battlefield Park, on both sides of Dunkers Church Road, formerly known as the Hagerstown-Sharpsburg Road or Turnpike. The house and most of the outbuildings are east of the road, but the 19th century bank barn is on the west side. The area surrounding the house is very rocky with several short, but steep slopes, including a scarp in front of the house that raises it about 6 meters above the road. No stream is nearby, but the ruins of a springhouse are still visible along the road south of the house. Soils at the site are primarily Hagerstown and Duffield silty loams and silty clay loams.

The farmhouse itself was probably built in the early 1800s. The core of the house is in the German-American style: a two-storey, nearly square log structure with a central chimney and a corner box stair. It measures 33 X 28 feet. It has a full basement and foundations built of roughly-shaped local stone. The house has a two-storey rear addition that was probably built soon after the main block of the house. The addition has a braced frame filled in with logs, and it measures 15 X 30 feet. The addition does not have a basement. The large bank barn west of the highway also appears to date to the early 1800s, although its roof line has been altered. The ruined springhouse is another early structure.

The D.R. Miller farm seems to have been established before 1800 by a John Myers on land he leased from Josephine Chapline, a major speculator in the area. A deed of 1797 for an adjacent parcel notes that Myers was already residing on the land, and when Myers died in 1836, he was said to have lived at his farm for 50 years. Myers purchased 81 3/8 acres in 1799 and an additional 150 acres in 1812. Myers is believed to have built the standing farmhouse shortly after his 1799 purchase, along with the springhouse and standing barn, all of which are mentioned in his will. The will also mentions the existence of an "old house", which may have been the structure which Myers resided in during his tenancy, prior to his purchase of the land. The most obvious interpretation of the layout of the farm suggested by the will places the old house south of the barn. The area immediately south of the barn on the west side of the road is an active agricultural field today.

After John Myers' death, the farm was kept in the family for only a few years until it was sold at auction in 1842. The notices in the Hagerstown newspapers describe a farm of about 265 acres, 150 of which were cleared with the rest wooded. In addition to the aforementioned infrastructure, "an orchard of fine Fruit Trees" is also described. The winning bidder in the auction was David R. Miller, who paid \$53 per acre, but David quickly passed the property to John Miller, his father. John Miller had been one of John Myers' executors and could not bid at the auction himself. John Miller was a veteran of the War of 1812 and was said to have been 95 years old when he died in 1882. John Miller owned several farms, but lived in Sharpsburg, where he kept a store. Apparently the old Myers' place (18WA505) was farmed by David Miller, who lived there until 1886. The Millers, Like the Myers, were ethnic Germans from the Rhineland.

The Battle of Antietam was fought on September 17th, 1862. General Robert E. Lee had led his Confederate Forces on an invasion of Union territory, but a copy of his plans had fallen into the hands of Union General George McClellan, and McClellan brought his much larger force across South Mountain to meet the Confederates in the Great Valley. Union troops attacked throughout the day, but their efforts were not well coordinated, and despite outnumbering the Confederates by 87,000 to 35,000, they were not able to break the Confederate lines. More than 23,000 men were killed or wounded in a single day. The battle ended in a tactical draw, but the Confederates were so badly mauled that they had to withdraw quickly over the Potomac River to friendly territory.

The Miller Farm was on the edge of the battlefield. Just north of the house were the North Woods, where Union troops massed for their attacks across the cornfield during the morning phase of the fighting. Confederate artillery was brought to bear on the woods and the columns emerging from them, especially Pelham's horse artillery, which was on Nicodemus Heights, west of the road. Advancing southward, men of the Black Hat Brigade (2nd and 6th Wisconsin) were met by Confederate skirmishers deployed around the Miller Farm, but these pickets were soon driven in and the fighting shifted to the south. The cornfield that came to be known as the Bloody Cornfield was the Millers' property, but it was a very large field, and most of the action seems to have been well to the south, 450 meters or more from the house. However, the fighting surged back and forth across the field, and the Antietam Battlefield Board map for 7:20 AM shows Confederate troops advancing to within 183 m (200 yards) of the Miller house. Given its proximity to the action and the number of Union men who must have marched through the farm, it has been assumed that evidence of the battle should be found around the farm.

John Miller's death in 1882 led to a long and apparently bitter legal dispute among his eight surviving children as to what should happen to the old Myers farm and 150 acres of its land. David R. Miller claimed that his father had written a will giving that property to him, but the will could not be found. The other heirs insisted the property be sold and the funds divided among them equally. David R. Miller in the end had to buy his farm at auction, paying \$63 per acre. Advertisements placed in several newspapers, described the farm as, "All that valuable tract of improved land of farm now occupied by David R. Miller as tenant situate...on both sides of the turnpike road leading from Sharpsburg to Hagerstown, about 1½ miles north of Sharpsburg, containing 150-3/8 acres of land more or less, about 15 acres of which are set in good timber, mostly oak and hickory. This land is improved by a two storey rough cast house with back building, bank barn, corn crib, and other necessary outbuildings, including two tenant houses. There is also an excellent spring of running water and a fine young orchard. Despite or because of all the trouble and expense David Miller went through to keep his farm, he sold it in 1886 to Euromus Hoffman, earning a profit of more than \$2,000.

The farm was greatly changed in the 1950s, when its main focus was shifted from growing grain to dairying. Several new buildings were constructed, including a cow barn and a garage.

The site was examined archeologically in 2004. At the time, the National Park Service (NPS) was undertaking a project to rehabilitate the D.R. Miller farmhouse. This project entailed restoring the exterior and portions of the interior to its Civil War-era appearance and rehabilitating the building to allow for public access for possible educational and interpretive programs. The rehabilitation would involve the upgrading of electric and communication lines, installation of an air handler system, and replacement of the existing septic system. In accordance with federal regulations on NPS properties, archeological survey was carried out in the impact areas for the new utility lines, the septic tank, and the drainfield, and testing occurred around the house foundations to determine if significant archeological deposits were present.

The locations of the proposed improvements were surveyed using a combination of shovel testing and metal-detector survey. All shovel test pits (STPs) were approximately 45 cm in diameter and were dug into sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through hardware cloth, and all artifacts other than obviously recent trash were retained and bagged by provenience. Shovel tests were recorded on standardized forms, which required a schematic soil profile that includes soil



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texture, color notation, and inclusions.

Metal detection was carried out by experienced personnel using a White's Blue and Gray model detector, which is well-suited for use on Civil War battlefield sites. However, owing to the very large amount of metal in the soil around the D.R. Miller House (most shovel tests contained at least 2 nails), the metal detector could not locate specific targets. The detector was set at a very high threshold to search the drainfield area in order to locate shell fragments or other large metal objects. Some objects were found in this way, but they were all recent. To compensate for the problems with the metal detector, additional STPs were dug.

Where shovel tests indicated the presence of features, midden deposits, or other archeologically-interesting remains, test units measuring 76.2 X 76.2 cm (2.5 X 2.5 ft) were dug to further investigate these discoveries. Test units were excavated by recognizable natural or cultural layers, and sub-plowzone strata thicker than 9.14 cm (.3 ft) were divided into 9.14 cm thick levels. All soil was screened through hardware cloth, and all artifacts other than obviously recent trash were retained and bagged by provenience. Each stratum or level was recorded on field forms, and scaled stratigraphic profiles and plan views were drawn. All features were excavated separately from the surrounding soil matrix and were to be documented by narrative notes, black-and-white, color slide, and digital photography, and measured drawings.

The area for the new utility trench was examined with a single line of 8 STPs excavated at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals. The area for the new septic tank was examined with 2 STPs and the area of the Drainfield was surveyed with 25 shovel tests at 7.62 m intervals along transects spaced 3.81 m (12.5 ft) apart. In addition, systematic metal detection was conducted along six 91 cm (3 ft) wide transects, spaced evenly across the entire drain field area. Little was known about the condition of archeological deposits around the foundations of the D.R. Miller House. One test unit measuring 76.2 X 152.4 cm (2.5 X 5 ft) was dug along the exterior foundation of the north elevation of the farm house and three test units along the exterior foundation of the west elevation of the house.

Little was found around the farmhouse foundations. A small post hole was located in a test unit dug at the juncture of the old farmhouse and the addition, along the west wall of the house. This could be either a fence post hole or a scaffolding hole related to construction of the house. Based on these results, it was not anticipated that work around the foundations would have any significant effect on archeological resources.

The utility corridor ran north from the northeast corner of the farmhouse and then down a slope to a utility pole along Dunker Church Road. Near the farmhouse, the corridor crossed a small stone pavement that appears to be an outfall for a 20th century drain pipe. North of the pavement, extending to the fence, a buried sheet midden was encountered containing 19th century artifacts. Although this deposit is artifact-rich, it is shallow and contains some more recent artifacts, such as wire nails. The midden appears to be fairly extensive, measuring at least 7.62 m across. The excavation of a narrow (less than 30.5 cm or 2 ft wide) trench across this area was determined to be a minimal impact to the resource as was the surface disturbances that could be associated with moving equipment across it.

The proposed drainfield location northeast of the farmhouse appeared to be the site of an old garden. In the deep plowzone in this area a fair number of 19th century artifacts were found (5-20 per STP), including enough nails to suggest that sheds of some kind stood in the area. No Civil War military artifacts were found, probably because they were collected from the garden as it was tilled. North of the meat house, near the northwest corner of the proposed drainfield, shovel tests encountered a large pit feature about 61 cm deep. This feature contained large numbers of pre-Civil War domestic artifacts, including well-preserved animal bone and large sherds of locally made earthenware vessels. Two test units were dug in this feature, yielding more than 1,000 19th century artifacts. This feature likely preserves a significant record of domestic life on the site before the Civil War. The NPS was advised to avoid the feature during construction of the new drainfield.

The artifact assemblage recovered during the 2004 project at 18WA505 included 68 pieces of lamp glass, a toy tea set piece, a file, a knife, a horseshoe, a horse tack buckle, a harness rivet, 606 nails (8 handwrought, 297 machine cut, 174 wire, and 127 unidentified), 11 buttons, 1,117 ceramic sherds (9 creamware, 21 pearlware, 426 whiteware, 100 ironstone, 1 oriental porcelain, 1 soft-paste porcelain, 1 buff-bodied earthenware, 1 other refined earthenware, 15 red-bodied slipware, 469 redware, 23 miscellaneous stoneware, 1 Rockingham, and 48 yellowware), 431 pieces of container glass, 274 faunal objects (147 mammal bones, 26 bird bones, 51 unidentified bone, and 50 oyster/clam shells), 2 figurine fragments, 2 jewelry parts, a piece of mirror glass, a bakelite comb, 4 white clay tobacco pipe stems, 1 percussion cap, 144 miscellaneous metal objects, and 26 other items.

The 2004 research at 18WA505 revealed at least one area with intact deposits. In an area northeast of the farm house, an intact pit feature was encountered which preserves a record of domestic life on the site before the Civil War. In addition, a buried sheet midden deposit related to the 19th century occupation (but also containing more recent materials) was noted between the feature and the farmhouse. This material could help with understanding and interpreting life in the Antietam area in the 19th century. The site should be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95000853