



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC200

Site Name: Porter Mill West

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Burkhead and Toadvine Farmstead, Porter Mill Site 1

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 18th through mid-20th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code IaA, HbA, Ru

Latitude 38.4329 Longitude -75.6986

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0-2%

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) Rewastico Creek

- | 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 382 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown 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 Y
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

N

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

N



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin		0	
Clovis	0	Perkiomen	0		
Hardaway-Dalton	0	Susquehana	0		
Palmer	0	Vernon	0		
Kirk (notch)	0	Piscataway	0		
Kirk (stem)	0	Calvert	0		
Le Croy	0	Selby Bay	0		
Morrow Mntn	0	Jacks Rf (notch)	0		
Guilford	0	Jacks Rf (pent)	0		
Brewerton	0	Madison/Potomac	0		
Otter Creek	0	Levanna	0		

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	0	Popes Creek	0	Shepard	0	Keyser	0
Dames Qtr	0	Coulbourn	0	Townsend	0	Yeocomico	0
Selden Island	0	Watson	0	Minguannan	0	Monongahela	0
Accokeek	0	Mockley	0	Sullivan Cove	0	Susquehannock	0
Wolfe Neck	0	Clemson Island	0	Shenks Ferry	0		
Vinette	0	Page	0	Moyaone	0		
				Potomac Crk	0		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	0	Staffordshire	0	Stoneware	
Astbury	0	Jackfield	0	Tin Glazed	0	English Brown	0
Borderware	0	Mn Mottled	0	Whiteware	12	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	Porcelain	1	Nottingham	0
Creamware	0	Pearlware	0			Rhenish	0
						Wt Salt-glazed	0

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay		0	
Flaked stone	0	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ground stone	0	Modified faunal	0		
Stone bowls	0	Unmod faunal	0		
Fire-cracked rock	0	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other lithics (all)	0	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ceramics (all)	0	Uncommon Obj.	0		
Rimsherds	0	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	0	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		1	
Pottery (all)	46	Activity item(s)	1		
Glass (all)	258	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	1065	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	50		
Arms	0	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	0	Misc.	30		
Personal items	0	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" 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: 0 +/- 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18WC200 was the home of a small scale farmer, occupied from sometime after 1775 to sometime shortly after 1930. The site is located on Maryland's Eastern Shore in northwestern Wicomico County, just north of the town of Hebron, southwest of the intersection of U. S. Route 50 and Porter Mill Road. The site area is an agricultural field that has been converted to sod production. The surface topography is mostly flat with the majority of grades from 0% to 5% and consists of well to moderately well-draining soils.

Before 1868, John S. Crockett owned the property that encompasses Site 18WC200. He received the property sometime prior to January 1868 from Cadmus Dashill. In January 1868, the property became part of the court case Levin Moolford, trustee under the will of Margaret Nichol vs. Samuel Robertson and William Bounds. The outcome of that case led Sheriff William Howard to grant the property to Purcell Toadwin and William Birkhead in April 1875. At the time, the property was known as Pharsalia or Henry's Conclusion. Three years later, in 1878, William and his wife Elizabeth sold the property to George Waller. The property would remain in the hands of the Waller family for the remainder of the 19th century. Maps of the area drawn during this period show two family names associated with the project, coinciding with Sites 18WC200 and a nearby site 18WC201. These names, Burkhead (associated with Site 18WC200) and Waller (associated with the nearby Site 18WC201), are consistent with the deed research. Development is noted within the site as early as 1901, and probably happened earlier as well given that the 1877 map indicates the families associated with the project area by the last quarter of the 19th century.

In December 1884, George and Julia Waller sold the property, which contained approximately 240 acres to their son James Waller. He married Margaret in 1885, and according to the 1920 Federal census, James Waller was a farmer who owned his own farm in Hebron. He retained the property until 1943 when he sold the property, listed within improvements, to George C. Bounds and William Phillips. Five years later, in 1948, Bounds sold his portion of the property to William. William Phillips would retain the property until his death.

In October, 2017, GAI Consultants was contracted to conduct a Phase I archaeological investigation on the property in advance of a solar energy development project. Their Phase I survey investigated two separate localities within the overall Project area, totaling 10.60 hectares (26.30 acres) and representing the mapped locations of 19th-century farmsteads. Their survey efforts identified the historic archaeological site 18WC200.

Site 18WC200, measuring approximately 1.81 hectares (4.48 acres), consisted of the remains of a late 19th- to mid- to late 20th-century domestic site. The Phase I shovel testing recovered 301 historical artifacts at the site. The survey also identified a deep fill deposit in one area that GAI believed could be a cellar or other deep feature.

After the Phase I cultural resources survey, GAI recommended that the site had a high potential to yield cultural features and additional diagnostic artifacts, which may provide important information regarding the region's history. GAI recommended a Phase II evaluation for the two sites if the solar farm development could not avoid the sites.

In consultation with project engineers, it was determined that complete avoidance of 18WC200 was not practical and that the site should be evaluated at the Phase II level. Circa~ was contracted to do Phase II testing on the property, which was designed to more accurately determine the horizontal and vertical limits of the resource, identify potential cultural layers and features, retrieve representative artifact samples, and finally to evaluate the eligibility of the sites for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

At Circa~, Carol D. Tyrer, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), served as Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the project and was assisted in the field by Matt Carr, Diana Johnson, Shayne Spears, and Michael Foley, Field Archaeologists. Dawn M. Muir, RPA, served as the Historian for the project and completed the historical context. Carol D. Tyrer and Dawn M. Muir prepared the report. Skye Hughes, MA, assisted with the graphics, and Simone Sadler and Troy Tyrer assisted with the photographs. The successful completion of the Phase II survey for the proposed development was made possible by the contribution of many individuals.

Circa~ completed a boundary determination of the site by shovel testing the site area at 25 foot intervals. The Phase II boundary shovel tests indicated artifacts concentrated within an area measuring approximately 800 feet north-to-south by 750 feet east-to-west. The original Phase I GAI grid was reestablished, and Circa~ filled in the grid with the excavation of 313 shovel tests in this area at 25-foot intervals, with four shovel tests skipped due to roads or water ponded on the ground surface. The Circa~ site borders were defined by double-negative shovel tests to the north, south, west, and east. Circa~ excavated 13 three-foot-by-three-foot test units on the slightly elevated area, within areas where artifacts were recovered from the shovel testing and areas where shovel testing indicated artifacts or a Stratum B layer.

Based on the results, this site appears to have been the home of a small-scale farmer of modest economic status. The occupation seems to have begun sometime after circa 1775 based on the presence of creamware, pearlware, and a white ball clay pipe stem and ended by about 1930 or later. The historic period site consists of the below-ground remains of artifacts related to a domestic farmstead. A review of comparison sites that appear to represent typical mid 18th to late 20th century domestic sites found in this area of the county noted that most of the previously identified sites were located within a town setting and were small landowners, while the occupants at Site 18WC200 were located in a rural, agricultural setting with multiple structures located on a moderate-sized tract. Tenants may have lived at the complex after circa 1878, as Mr. Burkhead sold the tract to his neighbor Mr. Waller who had an established home to the east. Mr. Waller's older children may have used the house at Site 18WC200, but the records are not clear.

Artifacts recovered include limited sherds of utilitarian ceramics such as whiteware and ironstone earthenware, yellowware, china, and stoneware types with a few refined, finer ceramics such as pearlware and creamware. The whiteware, ironstone, yellowware, and stoneware sherds were mostly undecorated and heavy vessels, with thick vessel walls. The undecorated vessel types included four plate types, three bowl types, and a basin. None of the shapes of the undecorated wares matched, indicating the items may have been purchased one at a time. The presence of the combination of locally produced American ceramics and a few imported European ceramics indicates consumer activity reflective of household necessity. The utilitarian wares such as the stoneware and other earthenware would have been purchased for daily food preparatory use and consumption without regard to the item's aesthetic nature. The site is different from the previously-identified sites in the region as the artifacts recovered were slightly earlier in date and showed that items were purchased over time and could reflect that excess funds were invested into the agricultural endeavors at the farmstead instead of consumption of stylish wares. Glass artifacts included bottles from the 19th and 20th century as well as canning jars, and window glass fragments.



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Other historic period artifacts of note include cut nails and wire nails. Cut nails indicate a relatively early to mid 19th century period of house construction within the site confines. The presence of wire nails indicates structural repair or improvement sometime after their availability and the disuse of cut nails, probably in the 20th century before the site was abandoned.

Based on a review of contemporaneous dwellings near Site 18WC200, it appears that most of these domestic sites consisted of at least one single dwelling, several outbuildings, and, in many cases, a small family cemetery. Many had domestic outbuildings such as a smokehouse, barns, and sheds near the main dwelling. In reviewing these resources, it was clear that it was regionally popular to expand over time, as money was available, and the needs changed at the farmstead. This change is evident with the various construction periods, the additions on many of the main houses, and the addition of other outbuildings and family cemeteries. Given the number of domestic sites found within three miles of the project area, and the similarities in the construction of these resources, comparisons can be made to the structures at Sites 18WC200. These structures would most likely consist of a two-story, three- to five-bay, wood-frame house with a gable roof, front porch, and a brick foundation with at least one chimney. The house would probably be small, measuring around 40 feet by 20 feet, and may have a kitchen wing or addition added over time. It is also likely that there would be outbuildings associated with the sites.

In sum, historical artifacts were restricted to the plowzone, and no features were revealed by test unit excavation. The integrity of the historical component of the site was rated as poor after the Phase II excavations. This judgment is mainly because the remnants of the small, mid 18th to mid 20th century farmstead appear to have been destroyed during the dismantling and removal of the structures in this area. In addition, the reuse of the site as a plowed agricultural and sod farm has churned and mixed the artifacts within the plowed layer. The poor condition of the site further precludes addressing any research questions concerning the comparative archaeological and historical data related to understanding the physical and structural layout of the buildings, discrete activity areas within and adjacent to the buildings, and refuse disposal patterns and landscape elements such as fence lines. Based on this, the site is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95003002, 18WC200 SF