



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WC201

Site Name: Porter Mill East

Prehistoric

Other name(s) George Waller Farmstead, Porter Mill Site 2

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late 18th or early 19th through late 20th century house site

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 3

SCS soil & sediment code leA, leB, Lg

Latitude 38.4313

Longitude -75.6834

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-5%

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

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 536 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

P

Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

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
- 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

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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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	Levana	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	7	Eng Dry-bodied	0
Buckley	0	North Devon	0	Porcelain	2	Nottingham	0
Creamware	4	Pearlware	1			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	1	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"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related		0	
Pottery (all)	21	Activity item(s)	0		
Glass (all)	106	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Architectural	288	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Furniture	0	Misc. kitchen	35		
Arms	0	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Clothing	0	Misc.	82		
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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> 0 +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18WC201 was a home of a large scale farmer, occupied from sometime after 1775 to sometime shortly after 1970. 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 1865, John S. Crockett owned the property that encompasses Site 18WC201. In January 1865, he sold the property, known as the Henry Farm, containing approximately 250 acres to George Waller. The property would remain in the Waller family for the remainder of the 19th century. George Waller was born in Delaware in 1817. According to the 1870 Federal census, George Waller was a farmer with a personal estate valued at \$2,000 and real estate valued at \$20,000. This census also listed his son, Jonathan Waller, working on the farm. According to the 1880 census, five children, including Martha, Adaline, George W., Richard, and Julia were living on the farm.

George and his wife Julia would retain the property until 1884, when they sold approximately 220 acres to Jonathan Waller. In 1902, Jonathan and his wife Annie sold the property to William Allen and William Cooper. The deed for this transaction noted that the property contained improvements but did not specify the type of improvements. That same year, William Allen sold his share of the property to William Cooper. In addition, Cooper received adjacent property from James and Margaret Waller. Cooper would retain the property until December 1927 when he declared bankruptcy. Trustees for his bankruptcy suit sold the property at public auction in December 1928 to George C. Bounds. For the next six years, the property changed hands frequently before it was sold at public auction back to George C. Bounds in 1934.

Bound retained the property until 1940 when he sold the tract, encompassing approximately 234 acres and known as Hebron Airport or Springfield Farm, to William H. Phillips. During this time, Phillips was also acquiring the adjacent parcel of the nearby Site 18WC200. Phillips would retain the property until his death.

When William Phillips died, he left his property to Virginia Ward. She would retain the property until her death. In her will, filed on May 25, 1966, Albert Ward, her husband, was listed as her personal representative for the estate. As such, he retained the property until his death in April 1998.

After Albert Ward died, Thomas E. Crostic, a co-trustee of the marital trust under the will of Virginia Ward, sold the property to Porter Mill Properties, LLC, in February 2004. The company sold the property two years later to the Porter Mill Road Properties, LLC. That company obtained a note on the property in February 2007 but defaulted on the note in May 2015. After the default, the property was sold at public auction to the Southern Financial Group, LLC. They retained the property for a year, and on June 17, 2016, they sold the property to Agrinvestors, LLC, who is listed in the Wicomico County real estate records as the current owners of Site 18WC201.

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 18WC201.

Site 18WC201, measuring approximately 2.24 hectares (5.54 acres), consists of a late 19th- to late 20th century domestic site. The Phase I shovel testing recorded 337 historical artifacts. The survey also identified five surface features, including one barn foundation, one concrete walkway, one asphalt driveway, one asphalt pad, and one rubble pile. Their survey efforts identified three areas with deep fill deposits that they believed could be possible cellars or other deep features.

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 site if the solar farm development could not avoid the sites. MHT concurred and recommended a Phase II evaluation of the site if it could not be avoided.

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 18WC201 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 irregular area measuring approximately 530 feet north-to-south by 950 feet east-to-west. The original Phase I GAI grid was reestablished, and Circa~ filled in the grid with the excavation of 397 shovel tests in this area at 25-foot intervals, with eight shovel tests skipped due to concrete foundations, roads, rubble, or water pooled on the ground surface. The Circa~ site borders were defined by double-negative shovel tests to the east, west, north, and south. Circa~ excavated ten three-by-three test units within the site borders.

Based on the results, the site appears to have been the home of a large-scale farmer of higher economic status. The occupation seems to have begun



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sometime after circa 1775 and ended by about 1970 or later. The historic period site consists of the below-ground remains of artifacts related to a domestic structure and outbuildings, and the above-ground remains related to a barn, sidewalk, driveway, and road. A review of comparison sites that appear to represent typical mid 19th to early 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 18WC201 were located in a rural, agricultural setting with multiple structures located on a sizeable 4,000-acre tract. The location of the tract near town would provide a ready market for the products produced at the farm.

Artifacts include limited sherds of utilitarian ceramics such as whiteware and ironstone earthenware, yellowware, soft-paste porcelain, and stoneware types with a few refined, finer English ceramics such as pearlware and creamware. The English ceramic sherds were mostly undecorated and thin vessels. The undecorated vessel types included three plate types, two bowl types. None of the patterns or 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 artifacts recovered suggest that 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. However, the family had amassed a large landholding for the area with their 4,000 acres with the censuses crediting their nearest neighbors with 200, 300, 500, and 1,000 acres. The family did see a decline in personal wealth after the Civil War, but they were able to hold onto their land and home and also amass enough cash to purchase the adjacent farm. This decrease in personal wealth and the increase in the amount of acreage owned could reflect the recent purchase of additional lands. The site is different from the previously-identified sites in the region as the artifacts recovered were slightly earlier and showed that items were purchased over time, may have been second hand or inherited prices left by the parents when they sold the farm to their son James. The purchasing habits could also reflect that excess funds were invested into the agricultural endeavors or the purchase of additional land to add to the farmstead instead of consumption of stylish wares. Glass artifacts included bottles from the 19th and 20th centuries as well as canning jars and window glass fragments.

Other historic period artifacts of note include cut nails and wire nails. Cut nails indicate a relatively mid to late 18th century 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 Sites 18WC201, 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 Site 18WC201. 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 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, 18WC201 SF