



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18WO230

Site Name: Woodcock Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Rackliffe House, MIHP # WO-11, Dirickson Farm, Sandy P

Historic

Brief Description:

Mid 18th-Mid 20th century farmstead; General Woodland and Late Woodland short-term camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 1

SCS soil & sediment code WdA,Fa

Latitude 38.2471

Longitude -75.1660

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope 0

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 Sinep

- | 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 31 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

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- 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
 - 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 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 | 1 |
| Otter Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Levanna | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Prehistoric Sherd Types | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Marcey Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Popes Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dames Qtr | <input type="checkbox"/> | Coulbourn | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Selden Island | <input type="checkbox"/> | Watson | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Accokeek | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mockley | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wolfe Neck | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clemson Island | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vinette | <input type="checkbox"/> | Page | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shepard | <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsend | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minguannan | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sullivan Cove | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shenks Ferry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Moyaone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Potomac Crk | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keyser | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yeocomico | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monongahela | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Susquehannock | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

| Historic Sherd Types | | Ironstone | | Staffordshire | | Stoneware | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------------|
| Earthenware | | 112 | | 3 | | English Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Astbury | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jackfield | 15 | Tin Glazed | 5 | Eng Dry-bodied | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mn Mottled | <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiteware | 403 | Nottingham | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buckley | <input type="checkbox"/> | North Devon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Porcelain | 6 | Rhenish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Creamware | 19 | Pearlware | 31 | | | Wt Salt-glazed | 6 |

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

| Prehistoric Artifacts | | Other fired clay | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Flaked stone | 49 | 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 | 1 | Oyster shell | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other lithics (all) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics (all) | 1 | Uncommon Obj. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rimsherds | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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

Dated features present at site

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts.

| Historic Artifacts | | Tobacco related | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pottery (all) | 794 | Activity item(s) | 13 |
| Glass (all) | 600 | Human remain(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | 1136 | Faunal material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arms | 3 | Floral material | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. | 4955 |
| Personal items | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Equestrian, Utilities, Fuel | |

| Historic Features | | Privy/outhouse | | Depression/mound | | Unknown | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Const feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Well/cistern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Burial(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Foundation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Trash pit/dump | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Railroad bed | <input type="checkbox"/> | structural remains; terraced | |
| Cellar hole/cellar | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sheet midden | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Road/walkway | <input checked="" 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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18WO230 (variously known as the Woodcock Farm, Rackliffe House, Dirickson Farm, Sandy Point Farm, and Manor Place) consist of the archeological remains associated with an 18th-20th century farm and plantation, as well as a prehistoric short-term resource procurement camp south of Ocean City in Worcester County. The site is situated on the Lower Sinepuxent Neck amidst a landscape of bays, creeks, ponds, coves, broad marshes, and wetlands. Most of the landscape is grass, though the bounds of the property are overgrown and wooded with scrub (mainly softwoods) and weedy, pioneering vegetation. A partially restored, brick, mid-18th century dwelling and kitchen connected by a hyphen is located in the southwest-central portion of the tract. A partially restored, early 19th century milkhouse is located southeast of the kitchen. The landscape is believed to be heavily altered from its native appearance, with large amounts of fill and outside soils having been brought in historically to provide a level surface for construction.

The standing house at the site (MIHP# WO-11), known as the Rackliffe House, is a reconstructed 18th century plantation house. The original mid-18th century dwelling was a two-storey brick structure with a steep gable roof and internal end chimneys. It experienced a destructive fire in the early 20th century and was rebuilt with a hip roof and central chimney. Consequently, much of the surrounding landscape has been altered and many of the original outbuildings no longer stand. One exception is an 18th century brick dairy building. The dwelling has lost much of its architectural and historical integrity as an 18th c. resource, but the disposition of archeological deposits is appears to be better.

A Phase I survey in 2002 and 2003 led to the assignment of site number 18WO230 to the potential deposits in the vicinity of the Rackliffe House. The survey was carried out as part of a Site Development Assessment by the National Park Service (NPS) to help guide future development in the vicinity of their Assateague Island National Seashore Barrier Island Visitor Education Center and park headquarters. The work was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which requires federal agencies to take into account effects of their projects on cultural resources. At the time, the state of Maryland was planning to transfer 11 acres, including the site, to the National Park Service to become part of the Assateague Island National Seashore.

Shovel test pits were the primary method used for the survey. Work began by establishing a 10 m interval grid across the site using compass and tape. The shovel test pits (STPs) were 35 to 40 cm in diameter and were excavated in natural stratigraphic layers when possible, and were excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth mesh. Measurements were made of the profiles of all shovel tests and soils were described using standard terminology for textures and colors on standardized forms. When concentrations of cultural material were recovered, radial STPs were excavated at 5 m intervals. In the 15 by 80 m section of the larger survey area that runs 40 m east of the standing Rackliffe house, a 5 meter STP interval was generally employed. Where necessary, closer interval STPs were used. Shovel testing adjacent to the historic structure was supplemented by the excavation of a single 1 X 1 m and two 1.5 X .5 m test excavation units. In total, 356 STPs were excavated.

The boundaries of site 18WO230 were eventually defined to include the rise that hosts the dwelling, the dairy, and the immediate yards surrounding these buildings. Eighty-four of the STPs, and all three formal test units were within the final bounds of 18WO230. Sixty-seven of the shovel tests contained historic or prehistoric cultural materials. The historic assemblage consisted of 13 activity items, 1,136 architectural artifacts (including 755 pieces of brick, 36 pieces of mortar, 30 pieces of glass, and other objects), 60 ceramic sherds (11 earthenware, 38 whiteware, 6 porcelain, and 5 stoneware), 381 pieces of kitchen glass, 3 arms objects, and 226 miscellaneous objects (196 pieces of metal, 24 pieces of coal, and 6 pieces of slag). Prehistoric artifacts included 2 chert flakes, a quartzite flake, a jasper flake, and 1 piece of rhyolite shatter.

The historic and prehistoric deposits were generally described as disturbed in nature. The field researchers recommended that the site was likely not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. However, surveyors in 2003 and 2005 mentioned that they felt the entire raised landform that hosts the dwelling and much of the plantation core might be wholly artificial or at least artificially terraced. Their theory postulated that an impressive labor event would have taken place in order to prepare the site for initial construction, or that a natural landform was heavily altered in accordance to historic landscaping fashion (perhaps terracing). In essence, intact deposits might be deeply buried at the site, beyond the reach of the 2003 Phase I STPs.

A program of archeological testing was carried out at 18WO230 in 2010 prior to plantation landscape restoration efforts at the Rackliffe House. In 2010, the State of Maryland, not the NPS, still owned the property and managed it in cooperation with the Rackliffe House Foundation. In consultation with a volunteer archeologist, the board of the Rackliffe House Foundation determined that a comprehensive investigation of the property's grounds should be undertaken prior to a planned attempt to restore the plantation-era landscape for interpretive purposes.

The 2010 project entailed the excavation of 169 shovel tests, 14 excavation units, the mechanical excavation of four approximately 91 cm (3 ft) wide by 10.7-15.24 m (35-50 ft) long trenches, the removal of the modern concrete floor of the milkhouse and the recovery of an extensive artifact collection from both intact and disturbed soil horizons. As a component of this research, extensive archival investigations were also carried out.

Archival research revealed that the site is situated on land that was originally part of the 2,200 acre "Genesar" land patent issued to a William Stevens around 1673 or 1676. The property is thought to have remained undeveloped/unplanted until 1679 when it was divided and the roughly 700 acre portion that included the site was acquired by the Rackliffe family, which had recently arrived from Accomac, Virginia. This tract would remain within the extended Rackliffe family until early in the 19th century.

Around 1710, a Charles Rackliffe willed 600 of the 700 acre "Genezar" plantation to his daughter Elizabeth and the remaining 100 acres to her brother John. Charles' inventory included four slaves, one orphaned male indenture, a cart, a plow, flax, cooper's tools, half share of a sloop, a still, and a cider cask. John Rackliffe, the son of Charles and brother of an Elias Rackliffe, died early in life, but his estate was inventoried and included one slave. During the early 18th century, the plantation appears to have been producing primarily tobacco and cider. Elias Rackliffe, as well as a Nathaniel Rackliffe, Sr. and Nathaniel Rackliffe, Jr. all appear to have died around 1721, leaving the 700 acre family estate to Charles Rackliffe (the younger). At the time, Genezar may have been one of the largest plantations in the Mid-Atlantic. Due to its size, the plantation probably held some notoriety.

This Charles Rackliffe is the probable builder of the large brick manor house on site. During his lifetime, Construction of the regionally exceptional estate included the most likely intentional selection of a slightly elevated setting in order to provide a vantage to and from the Sinepuxent Inlet, Sinepuxent Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, and traffic flowing though each waterway. Construction may have begun during the mid to late 1740s, and by the time of Charles' death (in



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Unknown

1752), the plantation was likely in full operation.

When Charles died in 1752, the plantation was divided between two sons, John and James. Charles had rights to two other properties (Spanish Oak Ridge and Ash Swamp). These rights were distributed between his sons who were each to maintain half a dozen cattle and sheep for each of his five yet unmarried daughters until each daughter reached the age of 16 or became married.

John Rackliffe received the portion of the plantation that contained the manor house and its outbuildings. John owned the property throughout the latter half of the 18th century, including the Revolutionary War period. In 1783, he was taxed for some 1,800 acres of land, which was valued at £3,818. He owned 15 slaves, a half-interest in a shipping vessel, and leased out portions of his vast land holdings to tenant farmers.

When John Rackliffe died in 1788, he left the majority of his lands to his son, who was also named John. In addition to the manor house and 500 acres from Genezar, the younger John received nearly 300 additional acres from his father's other holdings. John the younger did not outlive his father by much, and by 1801, both he and his wife (or possible sister), Sarah, were deceased. John left four children heirs to the huge estate, which was managed on their behalf by the Worcester County Orphan's Court. An 1808 evaluation and inventory of the property by the court includes the 30 X 33 foot dwelling, a 30 X 20 ft. kitchen in poor repair, two "old" wood frame kitchens (20 X 15 ft. each and likely very dilapidated), a probably dilapidated hewed log dwelling 20 X 15 ft., a 15 X 12 ft. sawed log smoke house, an "old" (probably dilapidated) log smoke house, a 12.5 X 12.5 ft. brick milk house (still standing), a 12.5 X 10 ft store house, three old frame barns, an old sawed log stable in poor condition with a 10 foot shed, an old hen house, and a sawed log corn crib. In 1808, the slaves owned by the Rackliffes included Draper (elderly), Abraham and Will (three men), Levin and Milby (2 boys), Esther and Nancy (2 elderly women) and Sarah (a single girl).

The eldest of the four orphaned children (John H. Rackliffe), sold the plantation in August of 1813 for \$14,500. Included in the sale was the manor house and all of the improvements at the "core" of the plantation, together with 729 acres on the Sinepuxent. John H. sold the land to a Thomas Fassit. Thomas Fassit may have made some improvements and repairs to the derelict structures on the former Rackliffe family plantation, but he sold the majority of it (612 ½ acres), including the manor house, to John and Mary Hooper a mere 6 years later. In the years that followed, however, the property changed hands between the Fassits and Hoopers several times. The relationship between these families is not certain, so these sales may have been "internal" transfers between family rather than strictly financial transactions. In any event, 1,060 acres, including the site, were sold to John C. Dirickson for \$14,000 in 1835. The Diricksons would hold the land until well into the 20th century.

Field investigations during the 2010 project entailed the excavation of 169 shovel test pits (STPs), 14 excavation units, the mechanical excavation of four approximately 91 cm (3 ft) wide by 10.67-15.24 m (35-50 ft) long trenches, the removal of the modern concrete floor of the former milkhouse, and the recovery of an extensive artifact collection from both intact and disturbed soil horizons.

STPs were excavated on a 7.62 m (25 ft) grid established across the site, or in locations judgmentally selected for sampling. Formal test units were placed in locations where STP artifact recovery data and soils information suggested intact deposits as well as within the milkhouse (once the concrete floor had been removed). Nine 91 X 91 cm (3 X 3 ft) test units and one 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units were placed in yard areas, while four 1.524 X 1.98 m (5 X 6.5 ft) test units were placed in the milkhouse. Each STP and test unit was excavated to the depth of culturally sterile subsoil, culturally sensitive depths, or to the limits of effective hand tool excavation. Pits and units were excavated according to stratigraphic levels and all soils were screened through hardware cloth. Horizontal and vertical provenance information related to each excavation, stratigraphic level and recovered artifact was documented upon standardized shovel test pit and test unit forms and upon bags containing artifacts recovered from the ground surface and from within each excavation.

The placement of excavation trenches was also dependent upon the locations of surface-apparent features and/or the results of STP excavation. In addition, trenching was carried out in areas where soil and environmental data were needed and where documentary evidence suggested features might be present. All four trenches were excavated in the east and northeast sections of the site. Again, each trench was mechanically excavated and a grab sample of artifacts was gathered from each spoil pile. Following excavation, trench floors were shovel and trowel scraped and cultural features or lack thereof were noted.

A significant Native American component was recognized at the site in 2010, consisting of a small, temporary camp that was probably utilized for the procurement of hunted and gathered resources during at least the general Woodland period, the Late Woodland period, and likely earlier. Shovel test pit data suggested that a rich wetland may have once been situated to the northwest and below the rise on which the historic structure is now seated. The low rise is likely a relic dune formation comprised of windblown sediments and the Native American artifact concentration is situated on and around the apex of this formation.

Though no prehistoric features were encountered, artifacts were recovered from deep and intact soil contexts, suggesting that cultural features may indeed be buried at the site. The excavations yielded a total of 46 prehistoric artifacts. The assemblage consisted of a Late Woodland Potomac point, 1 core fragment, 1 tested pebble, 18 primary flakes, 12 secondary flakes, 7 tertiary flakes, 4 other pieces of debitage, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, and 1 heavily eroded ceramic sherd. The somewhat parallel variety of flake types indicates that all stages of stone tool manufacture to place on the site, likely in response to immediate hunting or food processing needs.

Despite the disturbance of a large portion of the site, particularly in the north and northeast sections, a significant amount of the site appears to have undergone little to no disturbance after 1750 and detailed information from the historic occupation of the site was obtained.

The core of the historic component of 18WO230 is the Georgian manor house built in the 1740s and occupied from c. 1752 to the mid 20th century according to documentary evidence. This component of the site yielded 5,668 historic artifacts, of which 330 were temporally diagnostic. In addition to the artifact assemblage recovered from 18WO230, the excavations revealed that the aforementioned, natural wetlands to the northwest of the manor house were likely intentionally filled (possibly during the 18th century) to create a terraced surface. Other features included a buried, intact ground surface northwest of the milkhouse, a highly integral kitchen wing yard, terraced lawn remnants, builder's trenches, a well within the milkhouse walls, and numerous other historic features with the strong indication of many more yet to be discovered. Most of the features were not investigated, but were preserved in place.

A table of artifact types is not provided in the full site report, but certain types of artifacts are discussed in detail. The assemblage of 5,668 historic items included 642 refined ceramic sherds (5 delftware, 15 Jackfield, 3 Staffordshire slipware, 19 creamware, 31 pearlware, 10 yellowware, 365 whiteware, 112 ironstone, 5 white salt-glazed stoneware, 1 scratch blue, 2 other stoneware, and 74 other sherds), 189 container glass fragments (dating from the mid 18th through early 20th centuries), 92 utilitarian ceramic sherds (57 redware and 35 miscellaneous stoneware), and 16 kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments.



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In December of 2011, archeological monitoring was carried out in the south and south-central portions of the site. More specifically, excavations were located in the southeast and northeast yards of the Rackliffe House, where a water line trench was needed for the installation of a fire suppression for the building. The archeologically monitored trench was L-shaped and composed of two segments. The initial segment was located approximately 4.57 m (15 feet) northeast of the southwest corner of the house and just southwest of the rear stoop. This segment was hand excavated and it extended approximately 1.98 m (6.5 ft) southeast from the house foundation. The trench measured between 24 cm (.8 feet) and 33 cm (1.1 feet) in width and it extended to approximately 91 cm (3 ft) below the ground surface.

The initial trench met the second trench segment at a near 90 degree intersection. The second trench extended (with a slight meander to the southeast and then north) approximately 36.58 m (120 ft) northeast from the intersection to the staked location of the proposed outbuilding. This trench section was excavated using a Ditch Witch mechanical trench excavator. The width of this trench varied between approximately 18.3 and 24.4 cm (.6 and .8 feet) and the depth extended to approximately 91 cm below the ground surface.

Upcast soils were not screened. As soils were excavated they were scanned for artifacts and spoil piles were occasionally trowel sorted. No artifacts were collected during trenching and observed materials included a large number of glazed and buff brick fragments, clear and very pale aqua window glass fragments, clam and oyster shell fragments, clear container glass fragments, very pale aqua container glass fragments, whiteware and ironstone tableware and vessel sherds and one redware vessel sherd. These are not included in the tables above.

The width of the initial trench section allowed sufficient light for stratigraphic analysis. Two cultural features were observed following trench wall cleaning in this section. Neither feature was sampled but both were horizontally and vertically measured and photographed. Feature 1 was interpreted to be either a location of roof dripline erosion filled with expedient material or, the remnant of an episode during construction or structural repair where a void was expediently filled with soil and refuse building materials. Feature 2 interpreted as a probable planting or shallow trench feature.

The narrower width of the second trench prohibited full stratigraphic analysis due to low light conditions within the cut. Despite limited profile visibility, two broad features were observed in this trench alignment. Feature 3 was observed to be a dense and broad level of brick fragments interpreted to be related to a nearby driveway or the demolition/repair of all or part of the dwelling, the milkhouse, or an unknown outbuilding once situated onsite. Feature 4 was an oyster and clam shell level interpreted as kitchen midden dating to an unknown period with shells intentionally deposited in a yard impacted by heavy foot traffic.

The results of the 2010 excavations, as well as the 2011 archeological monitoring project reveal that intact features and artifact deposits are certainly extant on site. Furthermore, the site has both prehistoric and historic research potential. It should be considered a site of considerable significance.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001788, 95001435, Site Files