

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1983 Curry, D.C.
Archeological Field Reconnaissance and Preliminary Testing along Maryland Route 51 from North Branch to Spring Gap, Allegany County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 00000086 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 30

Research Firm/Institution:

Division of Archeology, MD Geological Survey
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Sites examined:

18AG120

Project Details:

Phase I
Phase II
Phase III

Project Justification:
This report describes field reconnaissance along a 1.5 km (1 mi) segment of MD Route 51 and preliminary testing at 18AG120 in 1982, where (then) proposed road improvements could impact any historic resources in the area. Given that most of the proposed construction would be in an area already disturbed by MD Route 51 and the abandoned Western MD Railroad, the need for field reconnaissance was obviated for the majority of the project area. However, at the southern end of the project area, the presence of a circa 1793 standing structure (known as the Emerick House) indicated that archeological remains in this locus were likely. As a result, preliminary test excavations were carried out in a narrow impact strip fronting the structure (18AG120). The work was carried out by the Maryland Geological Survey – Division of Archeology, on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration, which was engaged in a publically-funded undertaking subject to Section 106 of the NHPA.

MAC Accession: 1982.009.001

Project Objectives:
-Examine exposed surfaces within the project right-of-way (ROW) to locate any potentially significant archeological sites.
-Conduct preliminary test excavations in the unavoidable portion of the ROW that passes through the yard of the historic Emerick House.

Research Potential:

While no significant features were encountered during the testing at 18AG120, given the early date of the Emerick House site, the possibility of intact archeological features in the main part of the site (which was not investigated), and possibly the architectural significance of the original log structure, the site may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the prehistoric component at the site may be potentially significant in answering questions related to aboriginal settlement/subsistence patterns in the Potomac uplands of western Maryland. However, such determinations of significance would require additional archeological and historical research.