

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1993 Yamin, R., M.J. Wuellner, S.A. Reeve, P. Knoblock, and C.D. Cheek
Phase I and Phase II Archeological and Historical Investigations, Station Square Project,
Cumberland, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 00000093 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 36

Research Firm/Institution:

John Milner Associates, Inc.
5250 Cherokee Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22312

Sites examined:

18AG206

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

Phase II

Phase III

Phase I and II archeological and historical investigations were performed in the Fall of 1992 as part of the Station Square Project in downtown Cumberland, Maryland. Station Square is the initial phase of the Canal Parkway Development Project being undertaken by the Maryland State Highway Administration and the US National Park Service. The four acre Station Square portion of the project includes a proposed paved and landscaped parking plaza, the Canal Street Promenade, Station Square Plaza, and a Picnic Grove, all located in the vicinity of the former C&O Canal terminus and the extant Western Maryland Railroad Station. The work performed involved intensive document research to determine the potential of the area to contain archeological resources, a field survey to determine the presence/absence of archeological remains, and a Phase II testing of those sites that were identified and found to be historically significant.

MAC Accession: 1995.003

Project Objectives:

- Identify archeological resources in the project area.
- Determine whether construction activities are likely to impact any potentially significant archeological resources.
- Evaluate the stratigraphic integrity of deposits in any areas deemed potentially significant.
- Define the vertical and horizontal extents (i.e. identify site boundaries) of the significant deposits.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18AG206.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1994 Cheek, C.D., R. Yamin, D.B. Heck, L.E. Raymer, and L.D. O'Steen
Phase III Data Recovery, Mechanic Street Site (18AG206), Station Square Project,
Cumberland, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 00000095 Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 38

Research Firm/Institution:

John Milner Associates, Inc.
5250 Cherokee Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22312

Sites examined:

18AG206

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

Phase II

Phase III

Phase III archeological investigations were undertaken in the winter of 1992-1993 as part of the Station Square Project near the terminus of the C&O Canal in Cumberland, MD. Data recovery was recommended for portions of the project area which were deemed historically significant based on Phase I and II work performed the previous fall. These deposits are relevant to understanding changes in life and social attitudes in Cumberland, Maryland over the 19th century and into the early 20th. In the 19th century, Cumberland was a transportation hub and adjacent to coal and timber areas. The neighborhood explored through the archeological investigations was a mixed working-class and middle-class neighborhood, within one block of the main street of

Project Objectives:

While the transformations of the Industrial Revolution are well known on a grand scale, they are less well understood on the scale of people's everyday lives. The archeologically recovered materials belonging to the households on South Mechanic Street in Cumberland, Maryland, provide data on domestic life within a community that was a product of the Industrial Revolution. The objectives of the excavation and analysis were to retrieve and explain remnants of everyday life during this dynamic period in American history in a place that was removed from the major urban centers of the East and Midwest. Specific research topics included:

Cumberland and near railroad lines and the C&O Canal. Until the 1860s Cumberland functioned primarily as a regional service center and a transshipment point. Cumberland had a variety of small manufacturing enterprises during the middle of the century. After the Civil War, population grew in response to industrialization. It is these changes that are documented in the archeological record at Station Square on Mechanic Street in Cumberland (18AG206).

MAC Accession: 1995.003

-The nature of 19th century occupation in western Maryland.

-The changing character of that occupation in response to industrialization.

-The particular kind of urbanization taking place in this location, peripheral to the major population centers.

-The effects of the transportation networks that linked Cumberland to the east, west, and north and the extent to which consumer patterns were affected by those networks.

-The nature, formation, and relationships between social classes, and the use of consumer goods to express subdivisions within classes.

-Comparison of daily life in Cumberland with daily life elsewhere.

Research Potential:

The investigations on Mechanic Street at Station Square, Cumberland, MD reveal the changes that took place during the 19th century as the city moved from an economic system based on mercantile capitalism to one based on industrial capitalism. The development of research objectives guided work in the field and analysis of the results. The full results are much too complex to discuss in detail here, but deal with the differential acceptance of new social attitudes by the different households on Mechanic Street (18AG206). The site itself was significantly impacted by construction, however, related deposits are likely present in the vicinity of the site. Such deposits, if Mechanic Street is any indication, are probably of high research potential.
