

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1975 Orr, K.G.
Preliminary Field Report on the Archaeological Excavation of the 99 Main Street Site, Annapolis, Maryland.
Submitted to Historic Annapolis, Inc.

Library ID No: 00000146 Catalog/Shelving ID: AP 44

Research Firm/Institution:

Orr and Son, Consulting Archaeologists

Oxon Hill, MD 20021

Sites examined:

18AP21

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

In November of 1974, Historic Annapolis requested an archeological investigation of an area to the rear of 99 Main Street, the Sign O' the Whale Shop. Sign O' the Whale occupies the historic (19th Century) 3 storey brick structure and its former kitchen house at this address. Eighteenth century deposits have been known to exist here since 1958 when a trench was excavated through an area to the north where an extension was added to the building. A new extension was to be built at the rear of the shop, necessitating the archeological work. The 1974 excavations were to be part of the City Edges Program of the National Endowment for the Arts as a contribution to the knowledge of the history of American Culture in the Annapolis area.

Project Objectives:

-Document archeological deposits to the rear of the Sign O' the Whale shop.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18AP21.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2004 Cuddy, T.W.
Phase II Archaeological Excavations at 99 Main Street, 18AP21 (Sign Of the Whale), Annapolis, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 97002007 Catalog/Shelving ID: AP 101

Research Firm/Institution:

Archaeology in Annapolis

1111 Woods Hall

College Park, MD 20742-7415

Sites examined:

18AP21

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

This Report presents the results of 5 days of excavation at 99 Main Street site (18AP21). The site is commonly referred to by the name of one of the former tenants, "The Sign O' the Whale". The property was first documented to have intact 18th century deposits in 1958. The Historic Annapolis Foundation (HAF) is planning to construct a museum, called the Annapolis History Center (AHC), in the building at 99 Main Street and the adjoining 196 Green Street. Construction plans for the AHC would require disturbance below ground level in two areas. Those two areas of potential impact were the focus of this Phase II investigation directly beneath the floors of the building.

Project Objectives:

-Ascertain integrity and depths of archeological deposits within the building footprint.

-Determine the placement of earlier archeological trenches and units.

-Re-assess earlier archeological work and dating of identified features.

Research Potential:

The 2003 excavations reveal that Site 18AP21 holds potential for understanding Annapolis' early cultural developments, especially in the area of initial settlement and the origins of waterfront commerce. The excavations do not provide conclusive evidence of the construction sequence. Further work was deemed necessary for the construction project to proceed. A scope of work for Phase III excavations was prepared and is included in the MHT site files for 18AP21, however, no data recovery is known to have occurred. Thus, the site retains its significant research potential.
