

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2003 Markell, A. et al.
Phase I Cultural Resource Investigations at Fort Howard Medical Center, and Phase II Evaluations of Sites 18BA494 and 18BA495, Fort Howard, Baltimore County, Maryland.
Submitted to CACI, Inc

Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18BA494 18BA495
NRHP Eligible: NRHP Eligible:
[Justification](#) [Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archival and archeological investigations were undertaken at the Fort Howard Veterans Administration Medical Center in late 2001 as part of a larger disturbance assessment and feasibility study.
Phase III		The overall purpose of the investigations was to identify significant prehistoric and historic archeological resources within the project area.

Project Objectives:
-Identify areas of high and low archeological probability
-Identify any intact cultural resources within those areas
-Corroborate disturbance and investigate any potentially intact soils
-Provide recommendations for additional archeological work
-Determine the level of stratigraphic and depositional integrity remaining at the sites

Research Potential:

E-1 Gunther Farm (18BA494) is the site of a 19th to early 20th century farmstead at what is now Fort Howard. The site boundaries were established based on historic deed records and were refined through archeological testing. Several identified features appeared to have been infilled at, or just prior to, the destruction of the farmstead structures at the turn of the 20th century when all of the Gunther properties at North Point were transferred to the United States government. A destruction layer overlay most of the features which suggested a generalized leveling of structures prior to construction of the extant buildings. A dwelling was first depicted in the site area in 1850, and in 1895 a complex of 9 buildings was depicted there. This indicated a mid- to late 19th century occupation of the site. Analysis of the diagnostic artifacts recovered during archeological investigations supports the date established by documentary evidence. Only a small area of the site displayed enough integrity sufficient to provide useful data. However, the deposits were not extensive enough to provide enough information to confer eligibility. The remainder of the site has been altered by the razing of the 19th century structures, and by modifications to the landscape to prevent flooding. Consequently, the site was determined not eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. The extant 20th century buildings on the site have already been listed on the National Register. No additional archeological investigations are recommended for Site 18BA494.

Excavations at Site H-1 (18BA495) revealed architectural features associated with the non-extant Building 108, thought to be the former 19th century lighthouse keeper's dwelling. Another identified feature may have represented an outbuilding associated with the lighthouse compound and a posthole may have been associated with a fence that enclosed the compound. The plowzone identified at the southern edge of the site provided evidence of earlier agricultural activity at the location. Although archival research suggested that the dwelling was constructed and occupied in the 1820s, no intact stratigraphy from that period was encountered. The majority of artifacts collected from the site were datable to the 20th century. A small number of materials dated to the end of the 19th century were recovered mainly from disturbed topsoil/fill strata. The stratigraphy of the site was severely altered first by drastic renovations done in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and then by the destruction and razing of the former structures ca. 1940. Based on the recorded stratigraphy, on the mixture of modern and historic materials within the identified features and artifact-bearing strata, and on the lack of any intact deposits associated with 19th century occupational activity at the site, there did not appear to be sufficient integrity at Site 18BA495 that warrants its eligibility for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. No further archeological testing is recommended at the site.