

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1998 Erlandson, Kathy Lee
Archival and Archaeological Investigations at the Patapsco Neck Methodist Meeting House Site, 18BA443, Baltimore County, Maryland.
Submitted to Maryland Historical Trust

Research Firm/Institution:
(Independent Archeologist)
1819 Rambling Ridge Lane
Baltimore, MD 21209

Library ID No: 00005535 Catalog/Shelving ID: BA 123

Sites examined:

18BA443

Project Details:

	Project Justification:
Phase I	Archival and archeological investigations were conducted at the site with grant support from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Baltimore County Historical Trust. The site sits on a parcel that was part of a 2.8 hectare (7 acre) tract. It was previously owned by the Patapsco Neck (now Patapsco United) Methodist Church. During a visit to the battlefield monument in 1990, a chance meeting with the landowner resulted in a request for an archeological proposal by the family. As there were no immediate plans for development, the preference was for minimally invasive testing. To that end, a proposal was presented to use ground-penetrating radar to survey the entire 2.8 hectares in order to identify remains of the church as well as other structural anomalies. However, shortly thereafter, the head of the family passed away and the land was inherited by his 2 sons. The project was put on hold for several years and in the interim the project archeologist conducted extensive archival research of the property. Finally, in 1994 the owners contacted the archeologist because the parcel was to be developed with the construction of townhouses. A new research plan was devised for an investigation of a 0.4 hectare parcel that research indicated had a high potential for containing significant cultural resources. Ultimately, the townhouse development plan was abandoned by the landowners in favor of building a commercial storage facility on the northeastern portion of the parcel along North Point Boulevard.
Phase II	
Phase III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
-Identify the exact location of the meeting house or houses and the schoolhouse and to determine their dates of construction
-Locate any artifacts or features related to the military occupation of the site
-Determine the presence of a cemetery on the site

Research Potential:

Patapsco Neck Methodist Church (Site 18BA443) is the site of the late 18th through early 20th century Patapsco Neck Methodist Meeting House(s) and burial ground. Archeological investigations revealed several features including 2 brick domed vault burials, 33 grave shafts (in-ground burials), a stone foundation (Feature 4), a fence line along the western boundary, a portion of a gravel walkway, an oyster shell walkway, post holes and molds, 2 small trash pits, and 3 small fire pits. It was determined that the first Meeting House was constructed ca. 1793. The log building was built on a surface-laid stone foundation and measured approximately 10.97 meters in length by 7.62-9.144 meters (25-30 ft) across. Sometime between 1794 and 1803 a schoolhouse was built on the site. Sometime prior to 1814 the first Meeting House was demolished and a second Meeting House was constructed. The second building stood 7-9 meters behind the first. It was of mortise and tenon log construction, covered with clapboard, on a stone foundation. The site also played an important role in the 1814 Battle of North Point, hosting both the American and the British military and with the Meeting House and possibly the schoolhouse serving as hospitals. At the time of the archeological investigation, the landowner had no immediate plans to develop the site area. It was the excavator's recommendation that the portion of the site containing the significant features (about 0.13 hectares) be a protected space. Furthermore, any work done on the Old North Point road retaining wall, which was in a state of disrepair, would impact the stone foundation and several burials. Therefore, it was strongly suggested that any road work conducted in that area be observed by an archeologist. Any road widening or straightening in that area should be prohibited for the same reasons. It was further recommended that the remains presently being held at the Smithsonian be reburied on the site with the participation of the Patapsco United Methodist Church. As an aside, it was determined that the remaining portion of the 2.8 hectare tract that was part of the initial archeological study did not retain integrity and does not warrant further archeological investigation.