

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2017 Regan, P., R. Koziarski, C. Cartellone, and S. Seibel
Phase I Archaeological Survey of Powder Mill Interceptor Relief Sewer and Rehabilitation and Phase II Evaluation of Site 18BA139. Baltimore County and Baltimore City, Maryland.
Submitted to Baltimore County Department of Public Works

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Research Firm/Institution:

URS Corporation
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Sites examined:

18BA139

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: This report describes a Phase I survey and Phase II archaeological evaluation of Site 18BA139. Phase I field investigations were conducted in February 2016 and the Phase II field investigations were conducted in January 2017. The work was undertaken prior to Baltimore County's proposed construction of approximately 11,000 linear feet of relief sewer and rehabilitate 6,000 liner feet of the existing Powder Mill sewer interceptor and associated manholes as part of a Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) requested a Phase I archaeological survey in the vicinity of previously recorded site 18BA139 between Powder Mill Lane and Gwynnmore Avenue to identify undocumented archaeological sites and determine if site 18BA139 may be impacted by the proposed undertaking. Site 18BA139 represents the remains of a nineteenth century gunpowder mill that served as one of Baltimore's largest and longest-lasting gunpowder production sites. After the phase I, the MHT requested a Phase II investigation of 18BA139 to define the site's boundaries, significance, integrity, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, and to determine if the proposed construction undertaking would negatively impact archaeological deposits. Work was conducted in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985 (State Finance and Procurement Article 5A-325 and 5A-326 of the Annotated Code of Maryland).
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
Phase I
1. Document archaeological sites within the study area
2. Define site size and approximate site boundaries
3. Preliminary access sites for NRHP significant;
Phase II
1. Refine site size and boundaries
2. Determine subsurface integrity
3. Enhance the historic context of the site
4. Document site 18BA139's features
5. Assess the need for additional archeological treatment of the property; and, evaluate the eligibility of the site for inclusion on the National Register.

Research Potential:

Site 18BA139 represents the remains of a substantial nineteenth century gunpowder mill complex located on the Powder Mill Run tributary of the Gwynns Falls in Baltimore County, Maryland. The mill features at site 18AB139 collectively represent a portion of the gunpowder production process as well as the engineering controls used to operate and protect the complex. Though the function of many of the buildings is not definitively known, the overall layout of the complex retains integrity of design in terms of site engineering. In addition to its commentary on industrial engineering and design, site 18BA139 is unique in the context of Maryland gunpowder history as the most informative, and perhaps only, physical reflection of Baltimore's rise as a prominent manufacturing center in the early history of American gunpowder production.

18BA139 is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D. As the only known extant gunpowder mill registered with MHT, 18BA139 is uniquely reflective of critical component of the state and nation's industrial history. If impacts to the site cannot be avoided, a professional archaeologist should monitor construction impacts and record archaeological information revealed during construction. After construction, all damaged portions of the features should be restored to their pre-construction appearance to the extent possible.