

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:

1990 Benenson, C.A., M.A. Bower, and J.F. Custer

Architectural, Historical, and Archaeological Investigations at Blossom Point Farm, Blossom Point Testing Facility, Charles County, Maryland.

Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Library ID No: 00005767

Catalog/Shelving ID: CH 33

Research Firm/Institution:

Kise Franks & Straw, Historic Preservation Group

219 North Broad Street, 9th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Sites examined:

18CH216

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: This project was undertaken due to the threat to a dwelling on the property (commonly referred to as the Ballast House) brought on by severe shoreline erosion. The property had previously been determined as eligible for the NRHP, and thus, the Army sought to take necessary management actions and a Phase I level study was implemented to that end.
Phase II		
Phase III		

MAC Accession: 2000.029.001

Project Objectives: -Conduct archival research that will provide a better understanding of the structure's architectural development and its context within the history of the surrounding area, St. Thomas Manor, the Jesuit farm system, and southern Maryland architectural landscape. -Identify any potentially significant archeological remains at the site. -Assemble a physical history of the Blossom Point farmhouse (Ballast House) through architectural study, documenting its evolution over time.
--

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18CH216.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1996 Thomas, R.A. and M.B. Reinbold

Phase I Archeological Survey of Twelve Areas at the Blossom Point Field Test Facility (BPF TF), Charles County, Maryland.

Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Library ID No: 00005793

Catalog/Shelving ID: CH 59

Research Firm/Institution:

Geo-Marine, Inc.

550 East 15th St.

Plano, TX 75074

Sites examined:

18CH155

18CH156

18CH161

18CH162

18CH227

Others

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: A Phase I cultural resources survey was conducted on the property of the US Army's Blossom Point Field Test Facility in order to comply with mandates of Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As the property is federally owned, a survey was required to prepare a mitigation plan.
Phase II		
Phase III		

MAC Accession: 2000.028

Project Objectives: -Locate and identify any cultural resource sites within the selected areas. -Make management recommendations for any further appropriate action.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18CH155.

See below for remaining research questions at 18CH156.

See below for remaining research questions at 18CH161.

See below for remaining research questions at 18CH162.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1993 Custer, J.F.
 Phase II Archaeological Investigations at the Blossom Point Farmhouse (18CH216), Charles County, Maryland.
 Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Library ID No: 00005781 Catalog/Shelving ID: CH 47

Research Firm/Institution:

Jay F. Custer - University of Delaware
 John Munroe Hall, Rm 135
 Newark, DE 19716

Sites examined:

18CH216

Project Details:

Phase I	Project Justification: This project was undertaken due to the threat to a dwelling on the property (commonly referred to as the Ballast House) brought on by severe shoreline erosion. The property had previously been determined as eligible for the NRHP, and thus, the Army sought to take necessary management actions. In 1990 a Phase I level study was implemented to that end and in 1993 the Phase II testing was undertaken.
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	

Project Objectives: -Determine the integrity of the context of the sub-floor deposits. -Recover archeological data relevant to the lifeways and diets of the site's historic inhabitants.
--

MAC Accession: 2000.029.001

Research Potential:

Within the "Ballast House" at 18CH216, the process of recent (post-1940) floor replacement and repair disturbed the context of the artifacts. A mix of artifacts from various time periods within the 19th and 20th century are present and attests to the disturbed context of these deposits. Most of the 19th century material is from mid-century or later. Furthermore, faunal remains from various scavenging and burrowing animals were recovered from the sub-floor deposits and the activities of these animals would have further compromised these deposits' contextual integrity. While the Phase II investigations did collect interesting information on the lifeways of the 19th century overseers who occupied the Ballast House, given the extensive disturbance of archeological deposits, the site is unlikely to yield additional useful information pertaining to Maryland history.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2001 Leininger, H. and P.F. Bienenfeld
 Phase II Archaeological Studies: Sites 18CH155, 18CH156, 18CH161
 Submitted to the U.S. Army Research Laboratory DPW & U.S. Dept. of the Army
 Library ID No: 97002182 Catalog/Shelving ID: CH 117

Research Firm/Institution:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Sites examined:

18CH155 18CH156 18CH161 18CH162 18CH227 Others
 NRHP Eligible: [Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I	Project Justification: This report presents findings of Phase II archeological studies completed at the Blossom Point Field Test Facility (BPFTF), in Charles County, MD. The work was completed to satisfy a portion of the compliance requirements under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1990 (Article 83B, Section 5-619 of the Annotated Code of Maryland).
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	

Project Objectives: -Determine NRHP eligibility status for several sites previously identified within the BPFTF. -Complete Phase II testing of archeological sites 18CH155, 18CH156, 18CH161, 18CH162, and 18CH227. -Define the vertical and horizontal limits of each site listed above. -Interpret each site above in terms of activities, time span, function, and historic context. -Assess each site listed above, in terms of its ability to provide answers to specific research questions or problems. -Complete the work in accordance with MHT's "Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland". -Complete specialized studies (radiocarbon dating, ethnobotanical and/or faunal investigations) to the extent possible, to aid in evaluating sites for eligibility to the NRHP.

MAC Accession: 2002.022

Research Potential:

Phase II work has basically exhausted the research potential of Site 18CH155. The 2001 excavations examined and recovered data on site functions, date, and prehistoric subsistence strategies. Additional work at the midden is unlikely to yield otherwise unobtainable additional data important to prehistory.

Based on the Phase II work conducted throughout 18CH156, it appears that Sections A and C of the site have significant ongoing research potential. With additional research, these sections of the site may provide information on the timing, subsistence strategies, settlement patterns, and technologies of, primarily, the Late Archaic and Late Woodland Periods.

The integrity of Site 18CH161 has been compromised by erosion and plowing. Additional excavations are unlikely to lead to the isolation of artifacts from specific occupations. As such, the site possesses limited research potential.

Site 18CH162 was found to retain integrity despite erosion and plowing, and additional features associated with all occupations are very likely present at the site (especially in the non-wooded areas). Additional excavations would allow for a closer examination of the timing, subsistence strategies, settlement patterns, and technologies of the Late Archaic and Middle Woodland Periods. Examination of the historic component has the potential to contribute to the understanding of the Jesuit farm system and Saint Thomas Manor. The historic cemetery identified, which includes at least 6 graves, should be avoided.

Based on the Phase II findings, Site 18CH227 is probably able to yield useful information relating to both Maryland colonial history and prehistory. The stratigraphy of the prehistoric component remains intact, although historic plowing has created a plowzone and the first levels are disturbed. Also, the identification of features suggests that additional features with carbonized material that can be used for absolute dating exist sub-surface in association with prehistoric artifacts. The presence of a possible structure associated with the historic occupation also warrants further work and may shed some light on life on the Jesuit-owned tenant farms of the 18th century.
