

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:

2004 Seidel, J.L., T. Fewlass, and B. Ryan.
The 2001-2003 Archaeological Investigations at the Brodess Farm Site (18DO419), the Possible Harriet Tubman Birth Site, Dorchester County, Maryland (Vol. I and Vol. II).
Submitted to Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 95001146 Catalog/Shelving ID: DO 70

Research Firm/Institution:

Washington College

Chestertown, MD 21620

Sites examined:

18DO419

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

Phase II

The research was part of a larger collaborative effort between Washington College and the Maryland Historical Trust to broaden the current understanding of farm and plantation life in the Eastern Shore.

Phase III

Project Objectives:

-The goal of the research was to locate and record evidence of the Brodess Plantation as it existed in the early 19th century.

Research Potential:

A number of conclusions can be drawn from archeological investigations at the Harriet Tubman Birth Site (18DO419)/Brodess Farm. First, it appears the Brodess plantation house once stood in the area where the current house stands. Second, the higher density of material in the eastern field near the drainage ditch may be a result of clearing debris from the occupation site, and dumping at the edge of the adjacent field. This dumping may have included material from older structures as well as modern household debris. Third, it may never be possible to say with certainty that Harriet Tubman was born at the site. However, whether Tubman was born or not at the site does not materially affect the archeological or historical significance of the site because 18DO419 was her home during her formative years. The site is also representative of smaller plantation farms that characterize this part of the eastern shore during the 19th century, a resource not well-studied or understood. The site represents a significant cultural resource. More directed excavations and architectural research in and around the current house have the potential for eliciting information relevant to the time of the Brodess plantation and Harriet Tubman's life.
