

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2012 Otter, E.
Archaeological Investigations at Handsell (18DO486), Dorchester County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance
Library ID No: 95001898 Catalog/Shelving ID: DO 74

Research Firm/Institution:

Edward Otter, Inc.
1704 Camden Ave.
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Sites examined:

18DO486

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A group known as the Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance (NHPA) was formed in 2005 with the goal of purchasing Handsell and restoring it to serve as a historic interpretive center open to the public. The NHPA acquired the house a few years later with the assistance of a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust for part of the purchase money. This grant required that a preservation easement be granted to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and terms of the easement stipulated that archeological studies would take place before any earth-moving activities are conducted on the property. During the summer of 2009, excavations were carried out to mitigate the impacts of proposed renovations and assist in the planning for renovations to the structure. This report describes those investigations and reviews a minimal amount of earlier work.
Phase III		

Project Objectives:
-Provide data for management of the property, either avoiding significant archeological resources as re-use of the property dictates, or to anticipate time and costs associated with dealing with archeological resources.
-Obtain architectural and other information to assist with renovation of the structure and interpretation.

Research Potential:

Based on the research to-date, 18DO486 appears to have at least some intact deposits. Moreover, the intact deposits to the rear of the building and within the original footprint of Handsell represent a discrete period of occupation terminated by a fire in 1820. The assemblage provides a rare opportunity to observe a snapshot in time and the household remains of a wealthy planter family on Maryland's eastern shore. The site should be considered a significant archeological resource.
