

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2019 Regan, P.
Phase I/II Archaeological Investigation, Mill Pond House Ruins, 18FR308, City of Frederick,
Maryland
Submitted to City of Frederick

Library ID No: 95003464 Catalog/Shelving ID: FR 344

Research Firm/Institution:

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150
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Sites examined:

18FR309

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III



Project Justification:

This report summarizes the results of Phase I and II archeological investigations of previously recorded site 18FR309 in Frederick, Maryland. The site includes the ruins of a mid-eighteenth century dwelling known as the Mill Pond House, as well as the potential location of a contemporaneous mill. The City of Frederick contracted AECOM to conduct the archaeological investigations to refine the site boundary and assess the site's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The archaeological investigations represent the initial component of a proposed multiphase cultural resources management initiative to stabilize the ruins and enhance the site's public interpretation.

Project Objectives:

The primary objective of the Phase I/II investigations was to identify archaeological deposits within the project area and assess their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP. Additionally, this project was executed as the first component of a multiphase initiative on behalf of the City of Frederick to stabilize the Mill Pond House ruins and facilitate the site's public interpretation.

Research Potential:

The fieldwork conducted at Site 18FR309 included shovel test pitting and the manual excavation of four 1-m square test units to investigate the ruins of a mid-eighteenth century dwelling known as the Mill Pond House, as well as the potential location of a contemporaneous mill. The Phase I survey targeted the area of highest probability for the probable location of the former mill. No evidence for the mill's location was identified and therefore the former mill is no longer considered part of 18FR309. The Phase II investigation resulted in the recovery of 2,662 historic artifacts, the documentation of the Mill Pond House ruins, and a refinement of the site boundaries to encompass 0.9 ha. While those portions of site 18FR309 investigated during this study have limited research potential, archaeological deposits within the Mill Pond House ruins could not be assessed due to safety hazards resulting from the ruins' unstable condition but may retain intact deposits. Though the site's NRHP eligibility could not be fully assessed during the current study, 18FR309 was considered potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D given that the uninvestigated house interior may contain archaeological information important to local and regional history. Additional study would be required to formally assess site 18FR309, contingent upon the stabilization of the ruins. If the ruins are stabilized and made safe for interior work, additional archaeological investigations could be undertaken to assess the site's NRHP eligibility at the City of Frederick's discretion.