

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2006 Gibb, J.G.
A Limited Phase II Site Examination at Prospects Farm's Hays-Heighe House (18HA286),
Campus of Harford Community College, Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland.
Submitted to Trustees of Harford Community College

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Research Firm/Institution:

Gibb Archaeological Consulting
2554 Carrollton Road
Annapolis, MD 21403

Sites examined:

18HA286

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

The Hays-Heighe House, located on the grounds of Harford County Community College, had been experiencing drainage problems and the College was considering measures to alleviate the situation. An excavation permit was applied for under the provisions of Maryland's Historic Properties Act and approved verbally prior to initiation of fieldwork. Information on the permit indicated that in the spring of 2005, the excavation of 4 shovel test pits placed near the building failed to reveal any archeological deposits except those that were the product of grading. In November 2005, students in the College's Archaeology of Maryland course, under supervision of a professional archeologist, conducted a 2-day excavation of a single 1.524x1.524 m (5x5 ft) test unit placed at the northeast corner of the building's east wing. An addition had at one time been located off the east wing, creating an L-shaped structure.

Project Objectives:

- Determine if remains of an ell extension, demolished in the 1960s, survive
- Assess the potential for preserved occupational deposits within the foundation without actually excavating those deposits
- Examine the condition of the masonry joints below grade

Research Potential:

The Prospect Farm Site (18HA286) is the location of an early 19th to 20th century dwelling called the Hays-Heighe House and associated farmstead. Excavation demonstrated that the remains of an ell, demolished in the 1960s, survive 45.72 cm below the current grade. The presence of demolition rubble suggested that deposits within the building may have survived intact despite subsequent land modifications. The fill appeared to rise above the floor joists in the extant building, thereby contributing to the drainage problem that was only partly rectified with the replacement of downspouts and linking drainpipe. Fill deposits along the north wall of the east wing, dating to the late 1960s, are not historically significant and might be removed without disturbing historically significant archaeological deposits. It was recommended that at least portions of the drainpipe installation area should be archeologically examined and that test excavations on the north lawn should be conducted in order to further assess the extent and condition of the site. The Hays-Heighe House was being restored for use as a museum for African American history and for the local thoroughbred race horse industry history in Harford County.