

# Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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## REPORT INFORMATION:

1999 Davis, T.W. et al.  
Archeological Investigations at the Site of Old Baltimore, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford County, Maryland.  
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## Research Firm/Institution:

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## Sites examined:

18HA30

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

## Project Details:

Phase I

### Project Justification:

Phase II

Phase I and II archeological testing was conducted at Site 18HA30 in 1998. The Old Baltimore Research Project was an outgrowth of APG's proactive approach to cultural resources located on their property. APG's Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) provided the framework for that process by identifying the resources at the installation, providing a context for the cultural resources work undertaken at the facility, and providing procedural guidelines for managing those resources, including the Old Baltimore Site.

Phase III

### Project Objectives:

- Gather information about early colonial settlement at Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Fulfill federal and state regulations regarding historic properties
- Complement the Prehistoric Lifeways Project

## Research Potential:

The Old Baltimore Site (18HA30) is the location of the late 17th-early 18th century town site of Baltimore Towne and the late 17th-early 19th century Phillips family cemetery. The town site included a tavern/boarding house that was run out of a domestic dwelling and a courthouse. Unfortunately, the presence of unexploded ordnance made survey of the proposed courthouse site impossible. There was also a Late Archaic to Late Woodland period short-term resource procurement camp component to the site but this component was not determined to be a significant element to the site. The historic component of the site possessed the qualities of significance necessary for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D. It is significant for its local history as the first county seat for Baltimore County, and it has the potential to address research questions regarding activity in Harford County during the Contact and Settlement Period (1634-1720). The Phase I/II analysis also suggested a clear distinction between the pre-1683 domestic occupation of the site and the post-1683 domestic/tavern functions at the site associated with courthouse activities. If future ground-disturbing activities become unavoidable at the site, then a data recovery program should be initiated. As part of the Old Baltimore Research Project, a public interpretation package consisting of a brochure and the preparation of selected artifacts for public display were prepared. Artifacts from the site are currently displayed in the "Old Baltimore" room at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Cultural and Natural Resources Visitor Center.