

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1989 Ervin, R.G.

Archeological Survey Near the Maryland Route 161 Bridge Over Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland.

Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 00000420

Catalog/Shelving ID: HA 25

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Geological Survey, Division of Archeology

2300 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

Sites examined:

18HA176

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

A Phase I survey was conducted in 1989 ahead of the proposed relocation of the Route 161 Bridge over Deer Creek. Three mixed prehistoric and historic were identified within the right-of-way: the Lehnerd Site (18HA175), the Wilson Mill Site (18HA178), and the Bishop Site (18HA176). The Bishop Site was identified as a moderate density historic artifact scatter associated with the ca. 1880 Allen House, and contained a small prehistoric artifact scatter.

MAC Accession: 1990.001

Project Objectives:

-Determine if significant cultural resources exist in the proposed construction right-of-way

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18HA176.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1994 Davis, T. W. et al.

Phase II Archeological Evaluations of Site 18HA176: Maryland Route 161 Bridge Over Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland.

Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 00000450

Catalog/Shelving ID: HA 55

Research Firm/Institution:

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

337 East Third Street

Frederick, MD 21701

Sites examined:

18HA176

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

Phase II

The Phase II archeological testing was undertaken at the Bishop Site in 1993. It was scheduled to be impacted by the proposed realignment of Maryland Route 161 (Darlington Road) as part of the planned replacement of the road's bridge over Deer Creek. The originally proposed right-of-way was altered subsequent to the Phase I study, moving the area of impact farther away from the Allen House.

MAC Accession: 1994.024

Project Objectives:

-Determine the character of the resource located within the proposed impact area (such as land use patterns and changes through time)

-Evaluate the archeological resources within the National Register boundary of the E.M. Allen House (HA 319) which had previously been determined to be a contributing element to the Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District

-Determine if the Bishop Site could contribute to the understanding of the history of the Historic District

-Address prehistoric resource utilization and structure of the occupation

-Determine the nature, age, and function of the site, of the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the site, and of the integrity of the site

Research Potential:

The Bishop Site (18HA176) consists of a late 18th and early 19th century farmstead, and a prehistoric artifact scatter. Archeological testing indicated that there had been extensive land modifications as a result of rebuilding and landscaping associated with the 1880 construction of the extant dwelling, the Allen House. Destruction debris from the house that burned down in 1879 was used to infill a natural swale while leveling the land. Artifactual evidence indicated activity at the site for as much as 150 years prior to 1880. Early activity may have been associated with the first mills on Deer Creek, which appeared by 1750. Disturbance to the site has destroyed any intact deposits and intermixed the old midden with more recent deposits. However, the historic archeological component of the site was determined eligible for the National Register as a contributing resource to the Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District; it represents over 200 years of occupation and is associated with several prominent families and individuals important in the rural development of the Lower Deer Creek Valley. None of the archeological resources were threatened with impact by the proposed right-of-way construction. In addition, no further archeological testing was recommended within the proposed right-of-way. The proposed re-routing of Route 161 (Darlington Road) was to encompass the course of the historic roadbed. This would serve to restore the original spatial relationships that existed during the period of significance of the Allen House. The prehistoric component at the site lacked the necessary integrity for inclusion to the Nation Register.
