

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1975 Ingersoll, D.W., Jr. and Mrs. H. Russell
Report on Archaeological Testing at the Geddes-Piper House, Chestertown, Maryland.
Submitted to Historical Society of Kent County

Library ID No: 00005916 Catalog/Shelving ID: KE 8

Sites examined:

18KE233

Project Details:

	Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase I	After several decades of neglect, the Historical Society of Kent County (HSKC) purchased the Geddes-Piper House (18KE233) in ca. 1965 and it is currently the location of their headquarters. The Historical Society was allocated a Federal "matching" grant for further restoration through the Maryland Historic Preservation Office, from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Archeological evaluation of the property was required under Federal grant rules prior to the continued restoration activities. Excavations were conducted in the fall and winter of 1975.	-Determine the change through time in the function of the cellar
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		-Date the construction of the house and addition
Phase III		-Discover evidence of changes in function of room space through time -Test the hypothesis that the floor level in the kitchen was originally lower, permitting more head room than is currently available

Research Potential:

The Geddes-Piper House (18KE233) is a standing late 18th century dwelling that is currently the headquarters of the Historical Society of Kent County. In order to achieve their goal of restoring the original ca. 1770-1830 kitchen located in the cellar of the building, the Historical Society needed to remove a 19th century concrete floor, an underlying brick floor, a sand layer, and a final clay layer. The extent of a lower, earlier brick floor identified in Room 2 was not fully determined by the investigations. It was recommended that the brick floor be removed archeologically and that evidence for lower floors be examined at that time. It is not known what other archeological studies, if any, occurred at the site following the initial testing. Currently, the basement has three display areas including the kitchen, as well as a laundry and keeping room, and a hall with cases of Native American artifacts, early iron implements, hanging hay rakes, tools and early lamps. It is unclear if the brick floor was removed and if the earlier floor was uncovered throughout the basement. Artifacts, field notes, and photographs from the 1975 excavation remain in the possession of the Historical Society.