

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2009 Virta, M.R.

Archeological Salvage Investigations of an Unanticipated Find: The 1891 Chautauqua "Store" or "Arcade" Building Foundation Ruins at Glen Echo Park (18MO153), George Washington Memorial Parkway, Glen Echo, Montgomery County, MD.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

Library ID No: 95001245 Catalog/Shelving ID: MO 253

Research Firm/Institution:

National Park Service - National Capital
Region Office
1100 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, D.C. 20242

Sites examined:

18MO153

Project Details:

Project Justification:

During a 2006 rehabilitation project for the "Yellow Barn" at Glen Echo Park, site of a late 19th and early 20th century resort and amusement park, a discovery was made by construction contractors of a building foundation stone wall beneath the Yellow Barn's first floor. The National Park Service (NPS), in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), devised a plan to address this unanticipated discovery that included conducting archeological investigations, background research, and architectural examinations which would satisfy federal agency obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The efforts by the NPS corroborated the foundation remains as belonging to a circa 1891 Glen Echo Chautauqua "store" or "arcade" building that occupied the site until its destruction by fire in 1914.

Project Objectives:

- Identify the foundation ruins 1t 18MO153.
- Collect associated contextual data and information that might inform the site history and document these findings.
- Devise plans to preserve the foundation remains or mitigate their demolition.

Research Potential:

During the 2006 excavations at 18MO153, the remains of the 1891 Chautauqua arcade building were documented to the extent possible given the conditions of their discovery and the ongoing rehabilitation of the Yellow Barn. Following documentation, the remains were largely destroyed by the excavation of a basement for the rehabbed Yellow Barn. However, complete archeological investigations of the Chautauqua remains, as well as the neighboring Clara Barton House, have not been carried out, and the extent of existing subsurface remains at Glen Echo Park is not known.
