

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2015 Wanner, R. and J. Seiter
Phase I Archeological Survey for MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road, and Phase II Archeological Testing at Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734), Montgomery County, Maryland
Submitted to Maryland Department of Transportation, SHA
Library ID No: 95002480 Catalog/Shelving ID: MO 289

Research Firm/Institution:

Elizabeth A. Comer Archaeology, Inc.
4303 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Sites examined:

18MO734

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Project Justification:

Phase II

Phase III

An archaeological identification survey (Phase I) was performed for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) within the area of the federally-funded MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road project (SHA Project Number MO536A21) located in Montgomery County, Maryland. The SHA project involves the widening of MD 355 (Frederick Road) and improvements at the intersections of MD 355 at West Old Baltimore Road and MD 355 at Brink Road. Site 18MO734, the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop, was identified during the survey, and a subsequent Phase II evaluation was conducted. Both stages of investigation were performed in accordance with federal and state laws that protect cultural resources. These mandates include: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; 49 U.S.C. § 470f; Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources, 36 CFR 800; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C §§ 4331(b)(4) and 4332; the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 16 U.S.C. § 469 et seq.; the Archeological Resources Protection Act (P.L. 96-95); the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985, as amended; and State Finance and Procurement Articles §§5A-325 and 5A-326 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

MAC Accession: 2017.028

Project Objectives:

Phase I archaeological identification survey to identify archaeological sites within the area of potential effects (approximately 12 acres).

Following the discovery of the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop archaeological site (18MO734), a Phase II evaluation was conducted in order to establish the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the site and to evaluate the site's integrity and eligibility for the National Register.

Research Potential:

The Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734) was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register under Criterion D. The building that was partially excavated is interpreted as a dwelling that served as the main residence for at least three blacksmiths who were operating at a shop at the east of the property. Archaeological investigations did not locate the blacksmith shop, and there is evidence to suggest that the building was destroyed in the twentieth century. A sheet midden representing a nineteenth-century domestic deposit was also located to the east of the residence. The archaeological site was found to possess archaeological integrity and unusual research potential, and is thus eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. Avoidance was the recommended course of action, and design plans were modified to accommodate this.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2017 Wanner, R. and P. Albert
Phase II Archeological Testing at the Neelsville Blacksmith Residence/Shop (18MO734), Montgomery County, Maryland, Report Addendum
Submitted to The Maryland Historical Trust
Library ID No: 95002945 Catalog/Shelving ID: MO 289 ADD

Research Firm/Institution:

Elizabeth A. Comer Archaeology, Inc.
4303 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Sites examined:

18MO734

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I		Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Phase II evaluation of 18MO734 failed to locate the blacksmith shop or residence via the excavation of six one-by-one-meter test units, however the presence of intact features including a stone foundation of a dwelling and a sheet midden was documented. As these features could be associated with the blacksmith shop and residence, they presented unusual research potential in Maryland. Accordingly, the geophysical survey was conducted to attempt to locate significant archaeological features that were not detected during the Phase I or Phase II investigations.	The primary objective of the additional Phase II fieldwork, including a geophysical survey (magnetic susceptibility) and the excavation of one additional test unit, was to ascertain if any intact structural features associated with the blacksmith shop were present at the site, and, if so, to identify the location of the features.
Phase III			

MAC Accession: 2017.028

Research Potential:

One significant magnetic anomaly was recorded at the east end of the site. The anomaly was revealed to be a large concentration of twentieth century debris, including several car battery parts. No materials or features were recorded in this area that could be associated with the nineteenth-century occupation of the site, and thus no further work was recommended in this location.
