

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2016 Franz, K. and T. Bodor
Archeological testing at Seneca Store (M:17-62; 18MO732), Seneca Landing Special Park,
16401 Old River Road, Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland.
Submitted to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County
Department of Parks

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Research Firm/Institution:

The Ottery Group
3420 Morningwood Drive
Olney, Maryland 20832

Sites examined:

18MO732

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

This report summarizes the results of Phase II archeological evaluation at Seneca Store (18MO732) located in Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland. The need for archeological testing at Seneca Store was triggered by proposed additions to the store building, which is part of a larger rehabilitation project of the property that includes septic field replacement and drainage improvements. Testing was limited to the portion of the 3.53-acre property that fall within a 71-x-80-foot Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) historic preservation easement.

MAC Accession: 1993.096.001

Project Objectives:

The purpose of the archeological evaluation was to determine the NRHP eligibility of the Seneca Store site (18MO732). Specifically, the goals were:

- 1) to identify the presence of artifacts that predate the 1901 construction of the store as reported in the Phase I survey conducted in 2014
- 2) to determine whether the context that those artifacts were recovered from represent intact cultural horizons or features that are illustrative of a previously unidentified occupation
- 3) to suggest an interpretation of whether these deposits were associated with Seneca Mill or a completely unanticipated usage.

Research Potential:

A total of 2,660 artifacts were recovered from the Phase II testing. Large 20th century features associated with the construction of the parking lot and what is interpreted as a 20th century trench drain impact much of the area on the northeast side of the store. Despite the intrusions, the testing was able to identify several strata that represented three distinct phases of occupation within the site: the Park Ownership (1976-2016), the Seneca Store (1901-1976), and the Seneca Mill (1790-1900). The dates of the occupations are determined through the presence and absence of artifact types present within the individual strata.

While additional archeological testing of the Seneca Store would undoubtedly yield additional artifacts, the level of prior disturbance encountered during the Phase II survey within the portion of the MHT easement where construction activities will occur makes it unlikely that potentially significant archeological contexts remain intact. No additional archeological testing was recommended for the proposed disturbances within the MHT preservation easement.