

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2013 Gibb, J., D. Link, and S. Grady
A Phase II Archeological Site Examination of MacAlpine (18PR259), Calvert Tract, MD Route 1 and Phase III Data Recovery at the MacAlpine Barn Hyattsville, Prince George's County, Maryland Preliminary Plan 4-12004
Submitted to Calvert Tract, LLC

Research Firm/Institution:

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Sites examined:

18PR259

Project Details:

Phase I		Project Justification: Calvert Tract, LLC, proposed redevelopment of the 36-acre Cafritz Tract, a parcel between US Route 1 and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad grade, north of MD 410. The parcel was a 200+ acre part of the Calvert family's Riversdale tract and became a working farm under Charles Baltimore Calvert between 1864 and 1868 and remained so until his death in 1906. The farm, called MacAlpine, left the Calvert family in 1934. It briefly housed the Longfellow School for Boys (1934-ca. 1940) before being redeveloped as housing (Calvert Homes) for a wartime aircraft factory (ERCO) and, later, for students entering the nearby University of Maryland under the GI Bill. A school operated in or near the main house for the community's children from 1948 until at least 1957. The wartime housing purportedly was demolished after 1954, the debris from which covers much of the property today. Applied Archaeology & History Associates conducted an archaeological survey of the entire 36-acre tract in 2008. The field crew identified a concrete foundation, which they suggested was part of Calvert's MacAlpine, and the locations of an ice house, possible smokehouse, and barn. AAHA recommended a Phase II site examination of those resources and monitoring of all ground-disturbance during construction. The Phase II further documented the historic structures. In consultation with the County Preservation Staff, the parties determined that the most favored approach for the icehouse feature was preservation in place for possible future research. Since the carriage barn could not be avoided during the construction project, a Phase III data recovery was recommended for the barn.
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Project Objectives:
Phase II: 1. To determine definitively whether historic middens exist at the site 2. To more precisely define the individual structures and features at the site. 3. To generally investigate the nature of the surrounding deposits.
Phase III: Exposure of structure footprints Removal of post-occupational trash deposits and demolition debris Sampling of interior deposits Recording of structural information
Specific questions that were investigated via the Phase III include: 1. What did the buildings at site 18PR259 look like and how were they constructed? 2. How were the structures furnished; viz., what elements of the structures, apart from their structural fabric, facilitated function? 3. Were the structures altered (change or expansion of function) or repaired (continuity in function)? 4. What are the dates of the construction, alteration/repair, and abandonment of these structures? 5. How have these structures been impacted by site formation processes since their abandonment?

MAC Accession: 2014.005.001, 2021.069.001

Research Potential:

The Phase II and III investigations indicated that MacAlpine had been heavily damaged, first by Calvert Homes construction, then by Calvert Homes demolition, and most recently by clearing for geotechnical survey. The salvage of brick from the icehouse has left an undetermined number of surviving courses and a fill of unconsolidated masonry rubble and domestic debris, all well below the current grade. Several feet of masonry rubble also fill the house and carriage barn. Surrounding surfaces have been heavily damaged and the large amount of illicitly discarded trash from the last third of the 20th century makes it difficult to distinguish from much of the domestic refuse generated by the occupants of MacAlpine, the schools, and the Calvert Homes community. The research and public education potentials of this site are uncertain because of these disturbances and the rapid succession of substantively different occupations between 1934 and 1957, and the loss of context, particularly of the house. The assemblage of artifacts from the carriage barn, particularly the bulk of which came from the masonry rubble fill of the barn, have limited research potential. The research value of the carriage barn foundation and its interior appear to be exhausted. The artifact assemblage has little research value, especially given the low-level of provenience control for most of it and the mass-produced nature of all but the handwrought iron artifacts.