

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1990 Walker, M., F. Bromberg, and K. Barr
Archaeological Investigations at Montpelier (18PR393) Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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Research Firm/Institution:
Engineering-Science, Inc.
1133 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Sites examined:

18PR393

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

Plans for the development of the lawn and grounds at the Montpelier Mansion (operated by MNCPPC) called for improvements which might impact significant archeological deposits. An archeological investigation conducted in 1980 had indicated these areas could potentially be useful for interpretation and were likely to contain significant intact resources. Thus, a Phase II testing program was implemented on this publically owned land.

Project Objectives:

- More accurately locate, identify, and define archeological resources that might be disturbed or destroyed by implementation of the plan for development.
- Identify potentially significant archeological resources in four other areas on the property, including the possible location of the Snowden family cemetery and any features related to the occupation of the site by members of the Snowden family.
- Identify other resources related to earlier site occupations by Native Americans and early historic use before the initial construction of Montpelier.

Research Potential:

The archeological resources present on the grounds of the Montpelier Mansion (18PR393) are highly significant. As the residence of the Snowden family, the site has great potential to yield valuable information on the lifeways of a family whose wealth was based on manufacturing and industrial enterprises, which was unusual in the predominantly agrarian society of this region at that time. Further investigation of some of the identified areas of high artifact density may help to shed light on the late 18th and early 19th century activities on the property. Mitigation work should precede any future work that might result in subsurface disturbances in Areas 1, 3, and 5, especially those areas with high artifact densities and in those parts of Area 1 identified as potentially significant as a result of the ground-penetrating radar survey.