

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2011 Pelletier, J.B., et. al.
Archaeological Survey and Testing of Site 18PR226, Patuxent River near Waysons Corner,
Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland State Highway Administration

Library ID No: 95001883 Catalog/Shelving ID: PR 596

Research Firm/Institution:

URS Corporation
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 100
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Sites examined:

18PR226

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

This report describes 2010 and 2011 Phase II underwater archaeological investigations at the previously identified site of a 19th century shipwreck on the Patuxent River in rural Prince George's County. The site testing entailed vegetation clearing, remote sensing, hydro-probe survey, and limited underwater excavation in support of the educational, interpretive, and heritage tourism goals of the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Star Spangled Banner Scenic Byway. The work was also designed to evaluate the site for NRHP eligibility as it was believed to be the remains of Commodore Joshua Barney's flagship, the USS Scorpion, which was lost in the Patuxent during the War of 1812.

Project Objectives:

- Relocate site 18PR226 (identified in 1979).
- Delineate the boundaries of the site.
- Excavate two test units to determine if this is, indeed, the site of the scuttling of the USS Scorpion.

Research Potential:

While the precise identification of the Turtle Shell Wreck (18PR226) is not known, multiple investigations reveal that the site is consistent with a wreck from the War of 1812 and that it is remarkably intact. As such, the site is a significant archeological resource.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2015 Krueger, B., H. Brown, G. Schwarz, A. Catsambis, & B. Atcheson
Archaeological survey and site investigation of 18PR226, a War of 1812 shipwreck in the
Patuxent River, Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to State Highway Administration, MDOT

Library ID No: 95002513 Catalog/Shelving ID: PR 622

Research Firm/Institution:

URS Corporation
12420 Milestone Center Drive Suite 150
Germantown MD 20876

Sites examined:

18PR226

NRHP Eligible:

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) contracted with URS Corporation (URS) to provide archaeological support for completion of the 2011 report based on the underwater archaeological excavation carried out on a War of 1812 shipwreck (site 18PR226) in Prince George's County, Maryland. This report documents the investigative methods and results of that field season and places these finds into a greater historical context.

MAC Accession: 1980.042.001

Project Objectives:

Site 18PR226 is believed to be a vessel that served in the Chesapeake Flotilla, a small fleet of gunboats and support craft commanded by Commodore Joshua Barney during the defense of Washington, D.C. Given the potential historical significance of this wreck, the primary goal of the 2011 field season was to expand on the research objectives of the 2010 field season and concentrate on further delineating, characterizing, and identifying site 18PR226. Specifically, the 2011 field season objectives aimed to: determine the precise dimensions of the wreck and its orientation within the river; determine if more than one wreck came to rest at the site; locate any disarticulated sections or artifacts outside of the main wreck site; open exploratory test units to uncover the hull at the bow, midships, and stern areas for the purpose of documentation and condition assessment; and determine if contemporary cultural material still exists on the wreck and

Research Potential:

The excavation focused on the stern, bow, midship, and likely cabin of the shipwreck. Further excavations could be completed to aid in further interpretation of the wreck, or to confirm the conjectural reconstructions of the ship. The artifact collections may be of use to other archaeological studies of other wrecks for comparative analysis.
