

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1979 Meltzer, D.J.
Archeological Excavations at an Historic Dry Dock, Lock 35, C & O Canal.
Submitted to the C&O Canal National Historical Park
Library ID No: 00006322 Catalog/Shelving ID: WA 24

Research Firm/Institution:

Denver Service Center, National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Sites examined:

18WA475

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III



Project Justification:

These excavations were undertaken to aid park planners in making more specific land use decisions by assessing archeological resources which might be impacted by development of the area. This study was also carried out to enrich the Park Interpretive Program (which provides Park visitors with a more meaningful learning experience), to contribute information to the historical record, and to contribute to our knowledge of historic lifeways, which are a large part of our national heritage. The results were also used to determine if use of the area as established by the General Land Use Plan for the C & O Canal National Historical Park would negatively impact any cultural resources.

Project Objectives:

- Determine the probable construction date of the dry dock.
- Determine the dry dock's general or (if any) specific functions.
- Assess whether the now standing structure is the original structure.
- Determine the function and relation (if any) of the foundation remains found between the lock and dry dock.
- Determine the probable date of construction of the foundation.
- Assess how recently these structures were used.
- Attain complete recovery and recognition of all artifacts and historical features in and around the foundation.

Research Potential:

The canal dry-dock complex at Lock 35 (18WA475) is a useful interpretive feature for the historical park and future planning at the site should take into consideration the significant archeological remains present at the site. Most of the site is preserved in situ as an interpretive feature and ground disturbance. According to the report, ground disturbance should be avoided in the areas of land between the dry dock and the lock. This portion of land, excepting the foundation and the areas surface collected, may possibly contain other structural foundations or activity areas.