

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:

1979 Ziek, R.D.
Archeological survey at Ferry Hill.

Library ID No: 00006303 Catalog/Shelving ID: WA 7

Sites examined:

18WA476

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

MAC Accession: N/A

Project Objectives:

The archaeological survey was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the project area based on a thorough, systematic investigation. Background information indicated that the more or less continuous occupation of Ferry Hill and adaptive re-use of the plantation site well into the twentieth century most likely affected the archaeological integrity of portions of the project area, though the results of a previous archaeological survey confirm that archaeological resources are present and may be significant.

Research Potential:

See below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2022 Higgins, T., J. Jones, & S. Lowry

Archeological survey and testing at the Ferry Hill plantation (site 18WA476), C&O Canal Historical Park, Sharpsburg, Maryland.
Submitted to National Park Service

Library ID No: 95008855 Catalog/Shelving ID: WA 199

Research Firm/Institution:

William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

Sites examined:

18WA476

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

The investigation was conducted in accordance with a task agreement (P18AC01175) within the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network cooperative agreement (P17AC01706) between William & Mary and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal NHP), and National Park Service (NPS). The investigation was intended to provide specific information concerning the nature and distribution of archaeological resources within the yard area of the plantation house and its vicinity. More specifically, the goals of the investigation were to identify and assess resources that may relate to the activities and material culture of the enslaved, and to nineteenth-century life in general at Ferry Hill.

Project Objectives:

The goal of the survey and evaluation was to identify archaeological deposits and features that could help interpret the material culture of the Blackford family and the enslaved, and to provide insight into the plantation's organization and landscape during the nineteenth century.

Research Potential:

Historical accounts indicate that the plantation played a strategic role during the Civil War as an important crossing on the Potomac and as a place that was occupied on more than one occasion by Union and Confederate troops. No archaeological evidence of Civil War activity was identified in the yard around the manor house and its vicinity, despite intensive survey. Any future plans for archaeology might consider implementing a specific field strategy designed to better capture such data.