April · Maryland Archeology Month · 2009

St. Mary's City: 375 Years Old, Thousands of Years Young!

St. John's Archeological Site 1976

St. John's Site Museum 2009

www.marylandarcheology.org

MARYLAND CELEBRATE 375!

You are cordially invited to join
Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley
in celebrating April 2009 as
"Maryland Archeology Month"

The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH
APRIL 1 - 30, 2009

WHEREAS, *Maryland's many remarkable archeological discoveries at such sites as St. Mary's City, Piscataway Park, Fort Frederick, Benjamin Banneker Park and the colonial capital of Annapolis are of national and international significance; and*

WHEREAS, *Archeological sites and artifacts provide a tangible link to at least 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland, deepen our understanding of the State's diverse history and culture; and reveal otherwise unavailable information about the origins of our communities and traditions; and*

WHEREAS, *The protection, study and interpretation of these unique and irreplaceable links to the past provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for all citizens; and*

WHEREAS, *The Maryland Department of Planning's Maryland Historical Trust has combined forces with the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and other individuals and organizations to inform and involve the public in the excitement of archeological discovery in our State.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim APRIL 1 - 30, 2009 as MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this celebration to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of April
Two Thousand and nine

Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State

MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

St. Mary's City: 375 Years Old, Thousands of Years Young

The year 2009 marks the three hundred-seventy-fifth anniversary of the arrival of the Maryland colonists in the Chesapeake and the founding of St. Mary's City, the first permanent settlement and capital. 2009 is also the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of modern archaeology in St. Mary's City with the work at the John Hick's site, the home of an early 18th century planter and sea captain. Since the advent of the archaeology program at Historic St. Mary's City, over three hundred archaeological sites and components have been identified within the National Historic Landmark. Extensive archaeology has been undertaken on a large number of sites from the 17th century including St. John's, the home of the colony's first secretary; the Van Sweringen site, a private inn operated by a Dutch entrepreneur; the Calvert House, home of the first governor and first statehouse for Maryland; Smith's Ordinary, a public inn; Cordea's Hope, a Frenchman's mercantile house; the Printhouse where William and Dinah Nuthead operated the first printing press south of Massachusetts, and the brick chapel, the first example of monumental brick architecture in the colony. All of these sites are discussed in this booklet. These and other excavations have yielded millions of artifacts from prehistory, colonial, and post-colonial periods.

In addition to exploring Maryland's first capital, Historic St. Mary's City has served as an incubator for young archaeologists and innovative techniques for exploring sites. Hundreds of students have been taught how to dig, process artifacts and undertake archaeological analysis. Numerous dissertations and master's thesis have resulted from these projects. Some of the earliest soil chemical analyses and distributional mapping projects along with the first systematic examinations of 17rh-century landscape have made Historic St. Mary's a major contributor to the development of the discipline of historic archaeology.

Historic St. Mary's is not just a place for studying the past, it is also a destination for learning about the past. Many of the archaeological sites we have explored are now interpreted with faithful reconstructions and other interpretive buildings. In 2008, Historic St. Mary's City opened its newest exhibit, a 6,500 square foot museum built around the archaeological remains of the St. John's site. This museum exhibits the foundations of the main dwelling house and kitchen at St. John's and includes extensive galleries which exhibit artifacts from the excavations and tells the story of early Maryland as witnessed by the one house. Displays include artifacts associated with the various households who occupied this site, discussions of the major cultural, environmental, and political legacies of early Maryland, and a major discussion of the story of the archaeology done at the site. The museum is generally open Wednesday through Sunday and is free of charge.

For more information, visit http://www.stmaryscity.org

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Maryland Archeology Month 2009 Sponsors ..... Inside back cover

Visiting the Sites

The sites described in this booklet are open to the public, and you are encouraged to visit them. At the end of each site-specific essay, a sentence describes how each is best visited, including where to park. A map is included in the middle of the booklet, and site numbers associated with each essay are keyed to it. Many of the sites are in the ticketed parts of the park. You can check hours and fees at http://www.stmaryscity.org/SeasonHoursFees.html, There is no charge to visit them when our outside sites are closed (Nov - March and Mondays and Tuesdays, usually, during season) but there is less to see than when the reconstructions are open.

Maryland Archeology Month Events

Numerous special events celebrating the archeology of Maryland will be held throughout the State during the month of April. These include museum displays, talks and lectures, workshops, and archeological lab and field volunteer opportunities. Below are just a few events, selected for their geographic coverage of the state. Please visit the Maryland Archeology Month website often at **www.marylandarcheology.org** to learn of other events – the list of events there will be updated throughout the month!

March 1-April 30th

Exhibit: **We Shall Remain**, C. Burr Artz Library 110 East Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701

Several prominent large display cases at the Frederick County Public Library central library will be dedicated to a two-month long exhibit devoted to prehistoric peoples and lifeways in central Maryland. The exhibition will feature both excavated archaeological remains and reproductions. Sponsored by the Monocacy Archaeological Society.

Contact: Nancy Geasey; NGeasey@crosslink.com (301) 378-0212

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Walking Tour: **Mill Village in an Urban Setting**, Hampden, Baltimore City.

Participants will tour the neighborhood's archaeological and historic sites, learning about the historical development of the industrial landscape, as well as efforts to engage the community through archaeology. The 1 to 2 hour tour will conclude in Hampden's 36th Street shopping district.

Contact: David Gadsby at dgadsby_at_anth.umd.edu.

Saturday: April 18, 2009

Demonstration and Display: **Prehistoric Technologies Demonstration**, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, MD, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Archaeologist and primitive technologist, Bill Schindler, will demonstrate a variety of primitive technologies the Native Americans of Maryland relied upon for thousands of years. Prehistoric fishing, stone tool, ceramic, and fire production technologies will be covered. Replications and artifacts will be on display.

Contact: Bill Schindler (410) 778-8993

Friday, April 24, 2009

Lecture**: Antietam and the Archaeology of Tactics,** La Vale Library, 7:30 PM

Dr. Stephen R. Potter, Regional Archaeologist for the National Park Service, will present his recent research and field investigations that have revealed evidence of a skirmish between Confederate forces and Union soldiers in the North Woods area during the battle of Antietam that was overlooked after the bloodiest event of the Civil War.

Contact: Roy Brown (301) 724-7769

1. St. John's Site
Henry M. Miller

In 1638, one of Maryland's first government administrators, John Lewger, built a house at St. Mary's City on a tract he named St. John's. The Lewger home became the busy center of one of the earliest tobacco plantations in the colony, the place the Assembly repeatedly met, and the location where Maryland's official records were kept. While the legislature met there in 1642, a freedman named Mathias de Sousa served in the Assembly. He is the first person of African descent to vote in an American legislature. Six years later, Margaret Brent attended another meeting at St. John's and requested the right to vote. Although denied, she became the first woman in American to ask for "vote and voyce" in government. In the 1660s, St. John's became the home of Governor Charles Calvert, and during his occupation, Susquehannock Indian chiefs signed an important treaty there. Later, St. John's served as a public ordinary or inn, and records office. After witnessing over 75 years of Maryland's early history, St. John's finally succumbed to decay and was abandoned around 1715.

Historic St. Mary's City began excavations at the tree-covered site in 1972 under the direction of Garry Wheeler Stone. The first 17th-century site investigation in Maryland using modern archaeological methods occurred at St. John's. Archaeology continued until 1976. Another phase of excavations occurred from 2000 to 2005, supervised by Ruth Mitchell. These efforts produced an estimated 1.4 million artifacts, although substantial sections of the site still remain unexcavated. These comprise the first major 17th-century artifact collection dug from Maryland, and are allowing scholars to learn about life during that significant but poorly understood first century of settlement. Digging at St. John's revealed the remarkably well preserved cobblestone foundations of Lewger's 1638 house, the base of a central brick chimney with back-to-back hearths, and a unique stone-lined cellar. Analysis indicates that Lewger built an English hall and parlor house at St. John's, a style then popular in the East Anglia area of Britain. St. John's is also where archaeologists discovered the first earthfast colonial architecture in the upper Chesapeake. Subsequent excavations have shown that the vast majority of the structures in 17th-century Maryland and Virginia were of this earthfast type, built on wooden posts.

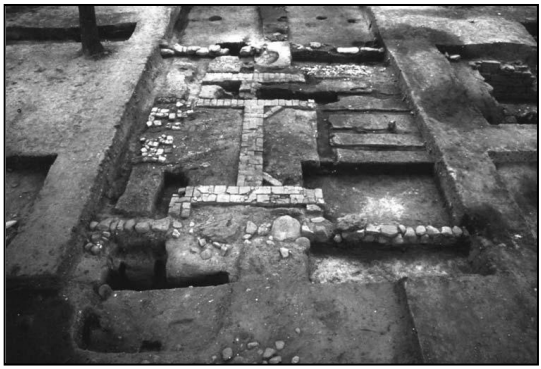

Figure 1. Superimposed brick chimney bases at the St. John's site.

Finding long-vanished buildings is one valuable aspect of archaeology. However, these structures were not isolated, but surrounded by yards and integrated into landscapes of human creation. To find out about the yards, pioneering efforts were made at St. John's by Stone to carefully excavate and date the various fences at the site. Other insights came from innovative research by Robert Keeler to map artifact concentrations and tell where dumps or doorways once existed. Keeler and John Foss also produced the first maps of soil chemical distributions over a colonial site in America. Study of animal remains recovered from various features by Henry Miller yielded the first archaeological insights regarding the changing colonial meat diet and the natural environment of early Maryland. This effort continued with the first ecological analysis of oyster shells from a Chesapeake site by Brett Kent. Ceramics found at the site guided the development of a new analytic tool, the POTS typology system, for vesselizing and comparing early colonial pottery from different sites. St. John's is a remarkable archaeological site. It has changed our understanding of Lord Baltimore's colony and served as an important testing ground for the application of scientific methods to colonial archaeological sites.

Figure 2. Profile of cellar fill at the St. John's site.

Due to its high degree of preservation, very significant history, and rich archaeological findings, the question of how to tell the story of St. John's began concerning HSMC archaeologists in the mid-1970s. Thirty years later, in 2008, they answered that question with the opening of a major new museum over the site. Unlike other museums, the one at St. John's makes the archaeological remains of the manor house and a nearby kitchen the central focus of the exhibit. The original 1630s foundations, chimney, and cellar are fully exposed to view. To show what the house looked like, the west gable of the house is fully reconstructed. Artifacts are displayed throughout the exhibit, and supplemented with audiovisual programs and computer interactives. Other exhibits tell of the main householders at the site and their families, major events that occurred at St. John's, and the legacies this site and early Maryland hold for people today.

Figure 3. Excavating a trash filled feature at the St. John's site.

The St. John's Site museum located on the college campus and is best accessed from the St. John's Parking lot off Campus Drive. The museum is generally open Wednesday to Sunday and is free to visitors. Check the museum web site for times www.stmaryscity.org

2. The John Hicks Site
Steven Israel

The John Hicks Site was discovered in the spring of 1969 by Orin Bullock, an architectural historian, who had exposed oyster shell while trenching the proposed site of Caroline Residence Hall on the St. Mary's College campus. The St. Mary's City Commission, hired Contract Archaeology, Inc., to initiate an archaeological investigation of the oyster shell finds in June 1969. In the initial month of the investigation, two brick chimney foundation ruins facing each other, a large filled-in cellar hole, and trash pits were found below the ground surface along with a large number of ceramic, glass, and iron 18th-century artifacts. The Commission agreed to extend the excavation of the John Hicks Site into the fall. Upon finding two "JH" wine bottle seals at the site, Dr. Lois Carr, the commission historian, quickly identified the excavation site, as the probable home of John Hicks, an English merchant and sea captain, from Whitehaven, in northwest, England, residing in St. Mary's City between 1720 and 1743 and serving as a county sheriff and a judge of the provincial court.

The excavation provided architectural remains of the period and artifacts that revealed John Hick's economic and social status. The ceramic fragments recovered represent a wide variety of early eighteenth-century types: Chinese porcelain, English delftware, Rhenish stoneware, and coarse earthenwares from Staffordshire, Flintshire, North Devon, and Virginia. The collection was made up of a wide variety of artifacts ranging from boat parts, and carpenter's tools to thimbles, buttons, and pins. One particularly notable artifact was a fragment of a wrist shackle most-likely used to restrain enslaved Africans. The quantity of artifacts was impressive. There were fragments of thirteen pairs of scissors, more than three hundred bottles, and thousands of ceramic.

Figure 4. Mark Milburn assisting in excavations at the John Hick's site.

The rubble-filled cellar contained numerous fill layers and trash pits full of building rubble, historic ceramics, wine bottles, and iron artifacts dating from the period during which John Hicks resided at the site. The blackened ash and building rubble deposits in the cellar, indicated some fire or building razing event had taken place, between 1741 and 1745, when John Hicks is thought to

have torn down his house and built another house about one thousand feet to the east.

A number of large circular pit features were found adjacent to the 40 by 16 foot house site, full of broken ceramics, wine bottles, a pewter mug, and many iron and copper items and served to supplement the hundreds of artifacts recovered from the fully excavated cellar hole. Years later, these circular pits were identified as subsurface pits for acquiring clay for the daubing of chimneys.

Figure 5. Steve Israel directing excavations at the John Hick's site.

The winter and spring of 1969 and 1970 were spent processing artifacts in Kent Hall, then a chemistry lab, which was used as a temporary archaeological laboratory. Contract Archaeology, Inc., hired several college students to clean, restore, label, and catalog the thousands of artifacts from the John Hicks Site. Silas Hurry, then a high school student and now the curator at Historic St. Mary's City, volunteered in what was some of his earliest archaeological experience. Richard Muzzerole from the Smithsonian Institute assisted in setting up an electrolysis bath process to treat, clean, dry and seal the 2000 corroded iron artifacts from the site, to stabilize them for study and exhibit purposes.

Contract Archaeology, Inc. prepared a project report on the excavation, laboratory processes, analysis, and interpretation of the finds at the John Hicks Site in the spring and summer of 1970. The manuscript was finalized in 1971. Garry Wheeler Stone subsequently prepared a more detailed analysis and study of the John Hicks Site ceramics, creating one of the first vessel analyses undertaken on a historic site in Maryland. Pots, pans, cooking pots, saucepans, bottles/jugs, serving pans, platters, plates, dishes, bowls, cups, mugs, drinking pots/jugs, large bowls, small bowls, teapots, teacups, saucers, spoon trays, drug jars, ointment pots/eggcups, bleeding bowls, and chamber pots were all identified. The results were published in an article by the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in 1972, along with a study of the community by Lois Green Carr which set the stage for the continued inter-disciplinary approach that has been the hallmark of the Historic St. Mary's City research program. Today, the John Hicks Site footprint is identified by two reconstructed chimney foundations.

The John Hick's site is located on the college campus and is best accessed from the St. John's parking lot off Campus Drive.

3. Van Sweringen Site
Silas D. Hurry

The earliest structure on this site was a post-in-the-ground building known as the Council Chamber and Secretary's Office, built c. 1664. This was a one story, two room building constructed by William Smith at the request of the Assembly. After the State House of 1676 was completed, this building stood empty. About 1678, Garrett van Sweringen, a Dutch immigrant, occupied the structure, repaired and expanded it, and made it into a private house for lodgers during the time the Provincial Court or Assembly was meeting. Van Sweringen added a room to the building, built a new double sided chimney, and added a brick veneer to the wooden exterior. In keeping with the new domestic functions, he constructed a kitchen, a dairy, and an arbor. Through much of the 1680s and 1690s, the Governor's Council met in this elegant structure. Sometime in the 1680s, Van Sweringen built another structure that was intended to produce bread and beer for ships in the harbor. This venture did not prosper and he later converted the structure into the first known coffee house in North America. It was referred to as the "Coffee House" in his will. Van Sweringen served in a number of significant roles in early St. Mary's City. He was naturalized as a Maryland citizen in 1669. He served as one of the city's alderman and as mayor. He also served as sheriff of St. Mary's County. Van Sweringen died in 1698 and the site began to decline. His son's widow married William Deacon, the Royal customs collector for the upper Potomac who briefly made the house his home. During the first half of the 18th century, it was occupied by tenants and seems to have disappeared by 1750. Archaeological excavations were conducted on this site in 1974-1980, 1982, 1985, and again in 2006.

Figure 6. Artist's conception of the meeting of Governor Lionel Copley's council at the Van Sweringen site.

Figure 7. Turkish pottery recovered in the excavations of the Van Sweringen site.

Thousands of artifacts were recovered from the excavation of the Van Sweringen site. They range from ceramics and bottle glass through animal and fish remains. Unique discoveries include Turkish pottery, fragments of white clay statues, and a rare braided-handled brown Rhenish

stoneware vessel. The distribution of the artifacts found in the plowzone provided the data for Julia King's doctorial dissertation *An Intrasite Spatial Analysis of the Van Sweringen Site, St. Mary's City, Maryland* (University of Pennsylvania, 1990).

The site is interpreted with an orientation pavilion, an "architecturally sympathetic" exhibit building, and a reconstruction of the kitchen. A series of graphically rich text panels shares the story of Garrett Van Sweringen, describes the structure, and tells stories about the other site occupants. These are augmented by a series of artist's renditions of one day in the life of the site. On May 10, 1692, Sir Lionel Copley arrived as the first Royal Governor of Maryland. His appointment followed a "rising of arms" which overthrew the Calvert regime in 1689. Copley, his Council, Van Sweringen, and his household members are depicted in a series of paintings. They show the preparation for the visit, the Governor's arrival, the meeting of the Council, and include a life-size depiction of Council members relaxing under the arbor. In addition to the graphic and text panels, a series of audio vignettes allow the visitor to hear Van Sweringen, Copley, members of Garrett's family, and his servants speak about the day. There is also an audio program which includes a discussion of the archaeology and the significance of the Van Sweringen family to the history of America.

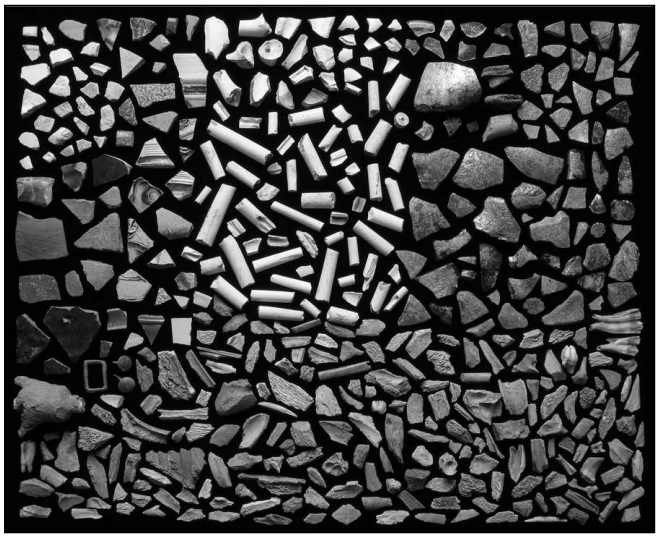

Figure 8. All of the artifacts from the plowzone of one five-foot square in the 17th century middens at the Van Sweringen site.

The Van Sweringen site is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Statehouse parking lot off Old Statehouse Road.

4. The Leonard Calvert House
Henry M. Miller

Soon after Maryland's founding, construction of a home for Lord Baltimore began. Cecil Calvert hoped to travel to his new colony but political events in England prevented his departure. His brother, Leonard, who led the expedition and was the first governor, therefore occupied the house. During the 1630s and 1640s, it was a center of Maryland's government. While the evidence is not totally clear, it appears that the structure began as a 20 by 50 foot, three-part house, supported on bog iron and cobble foundations. Probably in response to a 1642 act of the Assembly, a large addition was built on the north side of the original house. This expanded it to a width of 40 feet and a length of 68 feet. The new space called "*the St. Mary's Room*" within the addition became the meeting area for the legislature. At that time, this was the largest structure in Maryland and perhaps in the entire Chesapeake region. Although the documents are largely silent about this phase of the building's history, archaeology provides strong evidence due to an event that occurred in 1645. Early in that year, an English vessel named *The Reformation* attacked St. Mary's City and captured the colony. The attackers led by Richard Ingle were working for the English parliament and this was in the midst of the English Civil War. Many Marylanders supported the King and the Maryland colony was seen as a target, although revenge by Ingle also played a big role. Ingle's men took over the Calvert House and constructed a fort around it. Evidence for the fort is a moat or ditch and an associated

Figure 9. Recording architectural remains at the Leonard Calvert site.

Figure 10 Archaeological remains exposed at the Leonard Calvert site.

palisade trench that would have held a stout wooden wall. This moat is filled with archaeological materials dating to the 1640s and early 1650s, including the first body armor found in Maryland. The walls of this fort conform precisely to the full-sized building, indicating that it had attained those dimensions before 1645.

William Stone, the third governor of Maryland, made the Calvert house his residence and lived there until the late 1650s. In 1661, Maryland leaders decided a place to regularly conduct government business was needed, and they purchased the old house from Leonard Calvert's heir, William. Thus, it became the first official statehouse of Maryland, and was renamed "The Country's House" since it was owned by the people of the province. But to save on costs, the legislature decided to lease out the building to innkeepers, making them responsible for upkeep. This created the sometimes problematic situation of legislative deliberations occurring under the same roof and at the same time as tavern keeping.

John and Elizabeth Baker were the innkeepers with the longest tenure and they left an archaeological signature in the form of brick veneer walls. After the brick statehouse was completed in 1676, the Bakers sub-divided the old St. Mary's Room by constructing an "H" shaped brick chimney within that space. John Baker's presence is also attested to by archeologists recovering bottle seals bearing the initials "IB." Use of the structure as an ordinary continued until ca. 1700, after movement of the government to Annapolis.

Figure 11. John Baker bottle seal from the Calvert House excavations.

Excavations of the Calvert House were begun by HSMC in the 1980s, although the site was found and briefly tested by Henry Chandlee Forman in the 1930s. Besides the main house and fort features, a number of outbuildings are associated with the structure. All of these appear to have been of earthfast construction, supported on wooden posts. Generations of fence ditches surround the house, attesting to the need for fencing to keep out wandering livestock and to the long period people lived at this site. Some of the richest 17th-century artifact deposits in the State of Maryland exist at this site, and they are the only deposits that span virtually the entire first century of Maryland. Despite eight seasons of archaeology, much of the Calvert site remains to be explored. Excavations are continuing in the 21st century and a major exhibit over this exceptional archaeological site is being planned.

Leonard Calvert site is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Statehouse parking lot off Old Statehouse Road.

5. Cordea's Hope
Silas D. Hurry

Mark Cordea, a French immigrant and prominent merchant, constructed a building on a one-acre lot in the Town Center c. 1675. This property was known as Cordea's Hope. Very little historical information has been preserved about this structure. Archaeological investigations in the 1980s discovered structural posts and a concentration of 17th-century material debris.

Mark Cordea was born in Normandy, France. In the 1660s he immigrated to the New World to pursue his fortune. Little is currently known of Cordea before his arrival in the Maryland colony. Cordea married in Maryland and became a successful planter, ordinary keeper, and importing entrepreneur. In 1671 he was made a naturalized citizen by act of the Maryland Assembly. In the 1670s Cordea served in the municipal government of St. Mary's City, first as a city alderman and subsequently as mayor. Historical research indicates that like most other significant players in the 17th-century story of St. Mary's City, Mark Cordea lived on a nearby plantation rather than actually being resident in the city. Cordea's plantation, St. Elizabeth, was located south of St. Mary's City off Smith Creek. During his period of activity, Cordea kept an ordinary, first at the St. John's site, and subsequently somewhere near the core of the 17th-century city.

In 1994, the archaeology crew under the direction of Kate Dinnel returned to the site for a brief six week project to recover additional architectural detail, in particular to find the hearth, and to mitigate the proposed impact of reconstruction on the site. Excavations proceeded with 5x5 units of plowzone removed to expose the building in its entirety. The principal artifactual signature supported a 17th-century occupation though actual artifact numbers were low. However, with the entire building exposed, we had a problem. Several large structural posts were located where no posts should be. Following this evidence, additional units were excavated and a second post-supported building emerged which partially overlapped the structure discovered in the 1980s

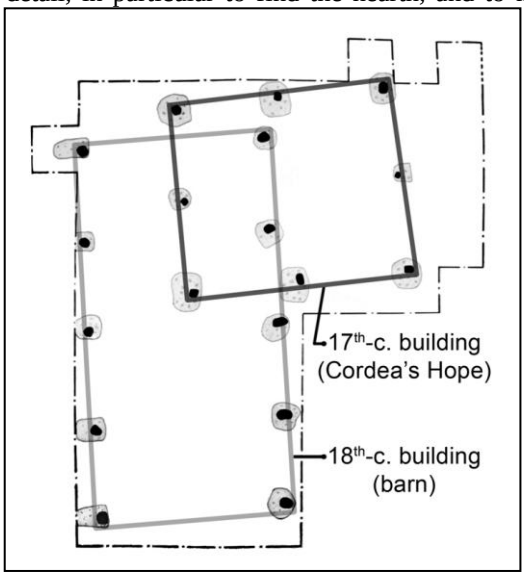

Figure 12. Plan of architectural features at Cordea's Hope.

Through artifact and architectural feature analysis, we were able to identify the second building discovered as dating to the 17th century while the other building dated to the 18th century. The 17th-century building was rather poorly, but stoutly constructed. It appears to have had no chimney or fireplace so was probably unheated. Initial historical research suggested that Cordea ran an ordinary near the center of town, but the building we had discovered was not appropriate for an ordinary. Instead, given the rough and ready nature of the structure, it's placement on Mark Cordea's property, the low numbers of domestic artifacts, and the suggestion that Cordea kept an ordinary on an adjacent property, we believe that this building served as an office and storehouse for Cordea in his business pursuits as an importer. Writing in 1666, George Alsop in A Character of the Province of Maryland described just such an arrangement as the typical "store" of early Maryland.

> "Our Shops and Exchanges of Mary-Land, are the Merchants Store-houses, where with few words and protestations Goods are bought and delivered"

Figure 13. Combination signet finger ring andpipe tamper from Cordea's Hope

The artifacts found at the site support a 17th-century date. Particularly significant in sorting out the buildings were the presence of 17th-century ceramics in the earlier buildings construction features and the occurrence of 18th-century ceramics in the support posts for the later building. Venetian table glass was recovered from the excavations along with ceramics and other 17th-century material. One particularly interesting artifacts found was a combination signet ring and pipe tamper bearing the image of a lion rampant.

The site is interpreted with a faithful reconstruction on the original location using traditional methods and materials and is stocked as Mark Cordea's mercantile storehouse with appropriate goods.

Figure 14. Cordea's Hope reconstruction.

Cordea's Hope is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Statehouse parking lot off Old Statehouse Road.

6. **Smith's Ordinary**
Henry M. Miller

In 1667, William Smith began construction of a public inn or ordinary in the center of Maryland's first capital but he died before completing the structure. Finished the following year, one of its first occupants was a newly-arrived Dutch immigrant named Garrett Van Sweringen. With his wife Barbara and their children, the Van Sweringens became successful innkeepers, and in the mid-1670s, greatly improved the original structure and built a large addition alongside it. A talented and successful entrepreneur, Van Sweringen decided to lease out the ordinary in mid-1677 to pursue other business. Irish immigrant John Derry took it over but he proved a poor innkeeper and suddenly died the following February. His indentured servants remained in the structure but were careless and in March of 1678 "*a sudden fire happened in the night that consumed the said building to ashes.*"

All knowledge of Smith's Ordinary was lost until 1981 when HSMC archaeologists began a project to discover the center of Maryland's first city. Excavators found a group of ash-filled postmolds and other features of an earthfast building that had been destroyed by fire. Some of the artifacts in the plowed soil over this building also showed traces of burning and all dated to a short period of ca. 1660 to ca. 1680. Smith's is the only building documented as having burnt in the town center area and the artifacts were of the right time period. A final clue came when archaeologists discovered a long ditch running parallel to the east wall of the building. About five feet out from the wall, this ditch was filled with debris from a burned structure. A 1672 lease referenced Smith's Ordinary and noted there was a gutter "running before the door of the house" in which Garrett Van Sweringen was then living - Smith's Ordinary. This is the only "gutter" noted in any document from St. Mary's City. Hence, evidence of burning, artifact dates, and the presence of this rare gutter confirmed that archaeologists had discovered the ruins of Smith's Ordinary.

Figure 15. Van Sweringen's "gutter" at the Smith's ordinary site.

What kind of structure did William Smith build? Postholes outlined a building that was 20 feet wide and 30 feet long. Abundant nails and the absence of roof tiles tell researchers that this was a wooden building with clapboard covered walls and roof. Most perplexing were four post holes inside the wall lines of this structure that formed a square 10 feet on a side. Why have posts on the inside of the building? Equally mysterious was an ash and charcoal-filled

depression inside this square. Excavation of the ash and debris, including quantities of burned daub and plaster, revealed flooring tiles a few inches below the surface. Scorch marks on some of these tiles showed they had been in a fire. Digging under the tiles revealed they were placed over an old, filled root cellar. In the 17th century, colonists would often dig root cellars adjacent to a fireplace to keep perishable vegetables from freezing over the winter. The clues finally led to a conclusion. Smith had built a firehood or inglenook inside his ordinary instead of a chimney. Firehoods were popular medieval heating facilities and were still being used in the north of England in the 17th century. The hood formed a 10 by 10 foot interior room with wattle and daub walls on three sides, its ceiling was a sloping, funnel-shaped daub hood that protruded through the roof to carry away smoke. Originally, the entire interior of the hood, except for the fireplace itself, was floored with tiles. Only those tiles over the old root cellar, where the underlying fill dirt had settled, escaped destruction from the plow.

Figure 16. Tile capped storage pit in firehood at Smith's ordinary.

Firehoods were rare in early America and this is the first firehood discovered in Maryland. Its location in Smith's provided a vital clue about the architecture of the ordinary. The hood was not centered in the building but near the north end. Between it and the north wall was a 5 foot wide passage, with doors at each end. Smith had built an end-passage plan structure. Such a form is very unusual and we do not know why he chose to build such a structure for a public inn. Maybe he intended the large interior of the fire hood to provide a social space where guests could keep warm and chat in the winter. But such a confined space during hot Maryland summers would have been anything but pleasant.

Figure 17. Reconstruction of Smith's Ordinary.

In terms of archaeology, Smith's is a very important site. It was built and used exclusively as an ordinary and stood for only 11 years. Its artifacts not only date to a very short time span, but all can be related to the business of public innkeeping. Guided by the archaeology and English architectural evidence, HSMC reconstructed Smith's Ordinary in 2002 and it is available to visitors today as an exhibit.

Smith's Ordinary is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Statehouse parking lot off Old Statehouse Road.

7. Print House Site
Timothy B. Riordan

In the early 1990s, the museum decided to relocate the 19th-century Brome plantation buildings out of the Town Center area and archaeology was conducted prior to the move. While preparing to move a duplex slave quarter, a large, oyster shell filled pit was discovered. The pit contained late 17th-century ceramics, pipes, and, unexpectedly, 38 pieces of lead printing type. While we knew a printer had worked in St. Mary's in the late 17th century, there had only been four lead type previously found in 20+ years of excavation.

Figure 18. Lead printing type from St. Mary's City

William Nuthead came to St. Mary's City in 1684 and operated a printing press until his death in 1694. Mostly, Nuthead printed blank bills and promissory notes. From historical records, we know that he was asked to print a sermon given to the Assembly and he printed the Declaration of the Associators who overthrew the Proprietary Government in 1689. After William's death in 1694, his wife Dinah moved the press to Annapolis and ran it for some time despite possibly not being able to read.

Because the Nuthead story forms an important part of the history of St. Mary's City, it was decided to try to find the building where the printer worked and to rebuild it. Beginning in 1998 and continuing through 2004, HSMC excavated on this site. After two years of testing, efforts focused on an area with building debris and late 17th-century artifacts. The post holes of a 25 feet long by 20 feet wide structure with an attached shed on the south side were located. On the west side were the post holes of an incredibly well preserved wattle and daub chimney, including the base of a brick fireback. The artifacts and historical records dated this structure to c. 1681-1700.

Figure 19. Remains of wattle and daub chimney at the Print House site.

The shed proved to be very interesting as it went through three renovations in the short time period that the structure stood. The original shed was only 22 feet long and appeared to have a dirt floor. Sometime later, the shed was extended to 25 feet long and a wooden floor was inserted. In its last renovation, the wooden floor was taken out and a bed of mortar was laid. Into the mortar, square flooring tiles were laid. When the area was excavated, the floor tiles were all gone but the size and shape of the tiles was preserved in the mortar. In the fill of the joists for the removed wooden floor, we found a large quantity of dated window leads. The most common date in this collection was 1689, placing the final renovation of the shed in the early 1690s. It is likely that the final renovation was made c. 1694 as part of the effort to prevent the capital from moving to Annapolis.

This site is interpreted by an authentic reconstruction on the original site. The reconstruction is a story and a half, post-supported building with a shed addition. Demonstrations of colonial printing are presented here along with stories of William Nuthead and his wife Dinah.

Figure 20. Reconstruction of the Print House.

The Printhouse is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Statehouse parking lot off Old Statehouse Road.

8. Chapel Field Site

Timothy B. Riordan

Tension over religious differences was a dominant aspect of the settlement and early history of Maryland. The Chapel Field site physically represents those tensions. The Jesuits surveyed a 25-acre tract of land in 1639. A post-in-the-ground structure, 42 feet long by 18 feet wide was constructed on this parcel. Around this structure, the archaeologists found a great quantity of domestic artifacts. This suggests that the wood chapel was a chapel house – a structure that was primarily a house which had a portion of space set aside for a chapel. The wood chapel may have been burned down during the rebellion in 1645. By 1660, toleration of Catholics in England was increasing. In Maryland, c. 1667, the Jesuits felt confident enough to build a new, brick chapel. This structure was built in the shape of a cross, 54 feet long, 57 feet across the arms, and 28 feet wide across the nave. Imported stone covered the floor and the roof was covered with tile. Symbolically, the brick chapel represents the flowering of the idea of religious toleration in Maryland. This idea declined in the 17th century and by 1704, the Maryland Assembly passed an "Act against Popery" which closed all the Catholic churches. The sheriff of St. Mary's County was ordered to lock the front door of the chapel and to keep the key. Soon after this, the Jesuits tore down the building and salvaged most of the bricks. However, in the Chapel Field a separate structure with a brick foundation, 45 feet long by 21 feet wide, built in the late 1600s, continued to be used for religious services until the 1730s.

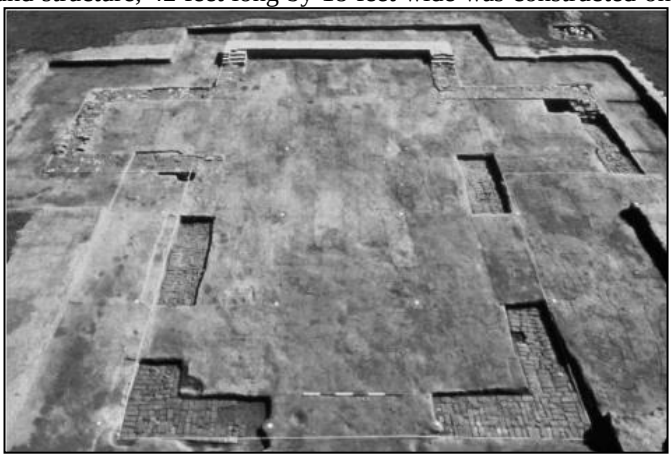

Figure 21. Brick Chapel foundations partially excavated.

Archaeology at the chapel site began with a surface collection and testing in 1983. Work continued from 1988 through 1996. The foundations or post holes of all three buildings were uncovered and mapped. In addition, over 250 burials have been identified in the area around the buildings. The full extent of the cemetery and the total number of burials has not been determined. In 1990, a large, gravel filled pit was discovered in the north transept of the brick chapel. Test excavations revealed three lead coffins and in 1992, as part of

Project Lead Coffins, they were excavated and opened. A multidisciplinary research program was instituted and it was determined that the coffins contained the remains of Philip Calvert, governor and chancellor of Maryland, his wife Ann Wolsley Calvert, and an unidentified infant.

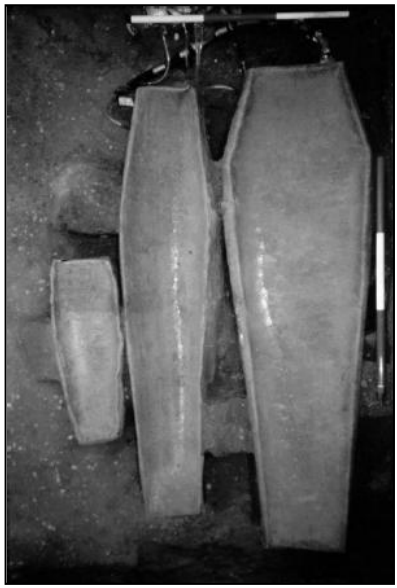

Figure 22. Lead coffins *in situ* at the Brick Chapel.

When the museum decided to rebuild the brick chapel, it became necessary to clear a corridor, 10 feet wide, around the foundation. A large number of features were excavated, including 58 burials. Although none of the burials were identified, it was possible to divide them into three periods based on the rubble contents of the fill. These periods spanned the period c. 1638-1730 and provided the basis for a study of changing burial patterns in the 17th century. Significant insights on coffin shape, construction, and use were revealed. One of the most interesting results was that these Marylanders, despite being Catholic, were closely keeping up with evolving changes in burial practice in Protestant England.

Figure 23. Reconstruction of the Brick Chapel.

Visitors to the site can see a reconstruction of the brick chapel, built using traditional materials and methods. Additionally, some of the 17th-century burial locations are marked with appropriate, period grave markers.

The Brick Chapel is located in the ticketed area of the museum and is best accessed from the Visitors Center parking lot off Hogaboom Lane.

Archeology Volunteer Programs

Following are examples of programs in Maryland that offer opportunities to get involved in archeology. For more information about these and other similar programs visit **www.marylandarcheology.org**.

Archaeology in Annapolis
Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park

Archaeology in Annapolis is a research project that has explored the heritage of Maryland's capital since 1981. Opportunities to participate are available throughout the year, and fieldwork will be conducted from June 1 to July 10, 2009 during a field school offered by the Department. The field school is offered as a class for undergraduate or graduate credit, or a workshop for non-students. Contact Summer Programs at (301) 314-8240, or visit www.summer.umd.edu. For information about Archaeology in Annapolis Contact Jocelyn Knauf (jknauf@anth.umd.edu) or call (301) 405-1429.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Prince George's County, Natural and Historical Research Division

Public Archaeology programs are offered at the Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, located on the Patuxent River east of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Volunteers are welcome from April through October. For more information call the archaeology program office at 301- 627-1286 or email Don Creveling at Donald.Creveling@pgparks.com, or Mike Lucas at Michael.Lucas@pgparks.com

Prince George's County
Historical Resources Division, Archaeology Program
8204 McClure Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project

The Lost Towns Project is an archaeological research and public education program sponsored by Anne Arundel County and the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. (ACT) in cooperation with the London Town Foundation. Participation in archaeological and educational experiences is invited, no previous experience is required! London Town is open for tours Tuesdays - Sundays. Public Dig Days are scheduled at London Town May 16, July 11, and September 12, from 9am - 2pm. Contact Jessie Grow 410-222-1318 volunteers@losttownsproject.org; or visit **www.losttownsproject.org.**

Anne Arundel County's Lost Towns Project
Historic London Town & Gardens
839 Londontown Road
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum: Public Archaeology Program
Smith's St. Leonard Site; May 12 – July 4, 2009

Join Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum archaeologists this summer in the excavation of the 18th century Smith's St. Leonard Site plantation complex. The program will run Tuesday through Saturday, May 13 through July 5. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Lab Days," while Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays will be "Field Days," weather-permitting. To volunteer contact Ed Chaney at (410) 586-8554 or by email to echaney@mdp.state.md.us.

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685
Ph: 410.586.8501 Fax: 410.586.8503 **www.jefpat.org**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County Parks Department, Park Planning and Stewardship

Join the Montgomery County Park Planning and Stewardship archaeology program in uncovering the county's past through the investigation of prehistoric Indian sites, Civil War encampments, slave dwellings and post-reconstruction sites. Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays. Contact Heather Bouslog, 301-840-5848 or heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org, or visit **www.ParksArchaeology.org**

Needwood Mansion
6700 Needwood Mansion
Derwood, Maryland 20855

Historic St. Mary's City: A Museum of History and Archaeology

Historic St. Mary's City is the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first capital, and the birthplace of religious toleration in America. The Archaeology program at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, will sponsor a Field School from May 27 - August 2. While in the field, we offer tours of the excavations and learning opportunities, including Tidewater Archaeology Weekend (July 25- 26) when the public is invited to be an archaeologist for a day. Special tours of the archaeological laboratory and lectures are available. Contact HSMC Volunteer Coordinator mmpadukiewicz@smcm.edu or the Visitor Center at 240-895-4990 for more information. For a list of events visit **http://www.stmaryscity.org/events.html**.

Historic St. Mary's City ,
Museum of History and Archaeology
P.O. Box 39
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Washington College
Public Archaeology Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Washington College in Chestertown maintains a public archaeology laboratory in the Custom House, where students and volunteers process artifact collections from the region. Displays and interpretive signs are found throughout the laboratory. To make arrangements for volunteering or for a tour contact Elizabeth Seidel, Lab Director, at 410-810-7164 or eseidel2@washcoll.edu.

Washington College Public Archaeology Laboratory
101 S. Water Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

Maryland Historical Trust
Archeology Programs

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities on a seasonal basis. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an annual Field Session co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland. This eleven-day field investigation combines education with research, and provides unparalleled professional-avocational interaction. Additional field projects occur throughout the year. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Presentations, displays, publications, and internships are also offered. To learn more contact State Terrestrial Archeologist Charlie Hall at chall@mdp.state.md.us, or State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley at slangley@mdp.state.md.us.

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
www.MarylandHistoricalTrust.net

Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians

The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Council for Maryland Archeology offer a Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program), providing an opportunity to be recognized for formal and extended training in archeology without participation in a degree program. Certificate candidates must be members of the ASM, and work under the supervision of a mentor. A series of required readings and workshops is coupled with practical experience in archeological research. For information about the CAT Program, and application forms, visit the ASM web site at **www.marylandarcheology.org**.

Excavations at 18-CV-488, Calvert County

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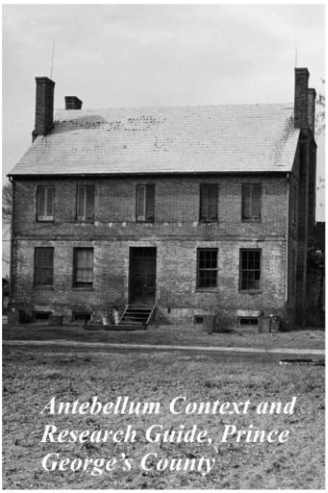
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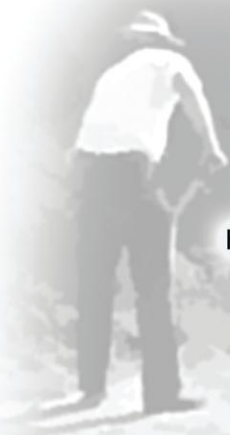

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