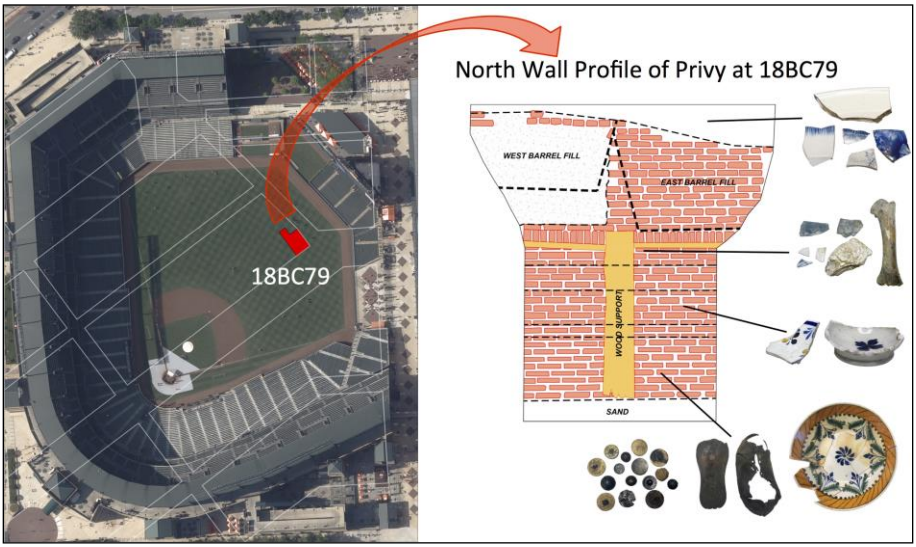
Maryland Archeology Month 2023

Where Did You Find That Artifact? Context is Crucial in Maryland Archeology



The careful excavation of a privy at the Ruth Saloon site (18BC79) in advance of the construction of Oriole Park at Camden Yards revealed the story of the mid-19th-century Whittington family.

www.marylandarcheologymonth.org

You are cordially invited to join
Maryland Governor Wes Moore
in celebrating April 2023 as
"Maryland Archeology Month"

The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH
APRIL 1 - 30, 2023

WHEREAS, *Maryland's many remarkable archeological discoveries at such sites as the colonial capital of Annapolis, Fort Frederick, the Fells Point Historic District, the Herman Barton Village, Mount Calvert, the Ruth Saloon, and St. Mary's City are of state and national significance; and*

WHEREAS, *Archeological sites provide a tangible link to at least 13,000 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 diligent documentation, interpretation, and preservation of these unique and irreplaceable links to the past provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for all citizens; and*

WHEREAS, *The Maryland Historical Trust has collaborated with the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Archeological Society of Maryland, the Council for Maryland Archeology, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration, Historic St. Mary's City, and other individuals and organizations to inform and involve the public in the excitement of archeological discovery in our state.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim APRIL 1 - 30, 2023 as MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance 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 twenty-three

Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

Where Did You Find That Artifact?
Zachary Singer, Chair, Maryland Archeology Month Committee

When I am shown an artifact, the first question I ask is "*Where did you find that artifact?"* By asking this question, I am seeking to learn about the archeological **context** of the artifact. Context refers to the physical location where an artifact was found and the artifact's spatial relationship to other objects and cultural features. Context allows artifacts to be linked to specific events, site occupations, and cultural traditions. Context also helps to explain how objects were used, what their significance was, and what role they played in the lives of people in the past.

Since digging on archeological sites is inherently destructive, archeological excavations require careful earthmoving and meticulous record keeping to document the context of artifacts and cultural features as they are encountered. Once excavation has taken place, the context of artifacts and cultural features is preserved because of the excavation records.

When members of the public incidentally discover artifacts, pick them up, and take them home, they are unknowingly separating artifacts from their original context. Intentional "relic hunting" for artifacts by digging through privies and bottle dumps, metal detecting, and magnet fishing causes permanent damage to archeological sites by disturbing intact deposits and also results in displaced artifacts that lack the contextual information needed to learn about the past. Context information that is lost when artifacts are removed from archeological sites without proper recordation usually cannot be reconstructed after the fact.

When you find an archeological site or artifact, it is best to leave the site and artifact as you found it and contact a professional archeologist to determine what you have discovered. A convenient option for reporting artifact discoveries to the Maryland Historical Trust is by using the mdFIND app, https://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/research/mdFIND.pdf

There are many opportunities to become involved in the Maryland archeological community, learn about the importance of archeological context, and meet professional archeologists who are eager to record and document archeological discoveries made by the public. Join the Archeological Society of Maryland, whose goals include the creation of bonds between avocational and professional archeologists. Volunteer on archeology projects in the field and in the lab. Attend lectures, workshops, and site tours (see the *Calendar of Events* on the Maryland Archeology Month website, www.marylandarcheologymonth.org). By participating in the archeological community, both you and Maryland archeology will benefit!

I hope you enjoy the case studies in this booklet highlighting the importance of context in Maryland archeology. And when you catch a ballgame at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, please share this baseball-related fun fact:
What is now Center Field used to be the location of Babe Ruth's father's saloon in the early 1900s.

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This year the ASM and the Maryland Historical Trust will conduct their 52nd annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology at the Chapel Branch West Site (18CA270) in Caroline County from May 19-29, 2023. See Dr. McKnight's Field Session Teaser for more information. Please visit the website of the Archeological Society of Maryland (*www.marylandarcheology.org)* for further details, and plan to join the excavation on Maryland's Eastern Shore!

Cover Image credit Scott Strickland, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory

Whittington Privy – A Case Study for the Importance of Context

Patricia Samford, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab

Before the advent of local trash pick-up, backyard privies were used as handy receptacles for household trash. Because of this practice, they are exceptional sources of data on daily life in the past. Archeologists use soil color and texture to guide their excavation, instead of just digging indiscriminately for complete plates and bottles. Doing so would destroy valuable information about how and when the layers were deposited. A mid-19th century privy, excavated by archeologists in 1989 at the Ruth Saloon site (18BC79) in advance of the construction of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, provides an excellent example of what can be learned from controlled excavation and recording of privies (see Front Cover).

The privy at the Ruth Saloon site (so named for Babe Ruth's father, who operated a saloon there in the early 20th century) was a substantial structure, with a 9 x 6 ft. brick foundation and a brick lined privy pit that extended several feet below the ground surface. The first (or uppermost) soil layer encountered by archeologists consisted of two feet of clean clay, used to cap the odorous fill when the privy was abandoned. This clay cap overlay brick and mortar rubble associated with the destruction of the overlying privy structure.

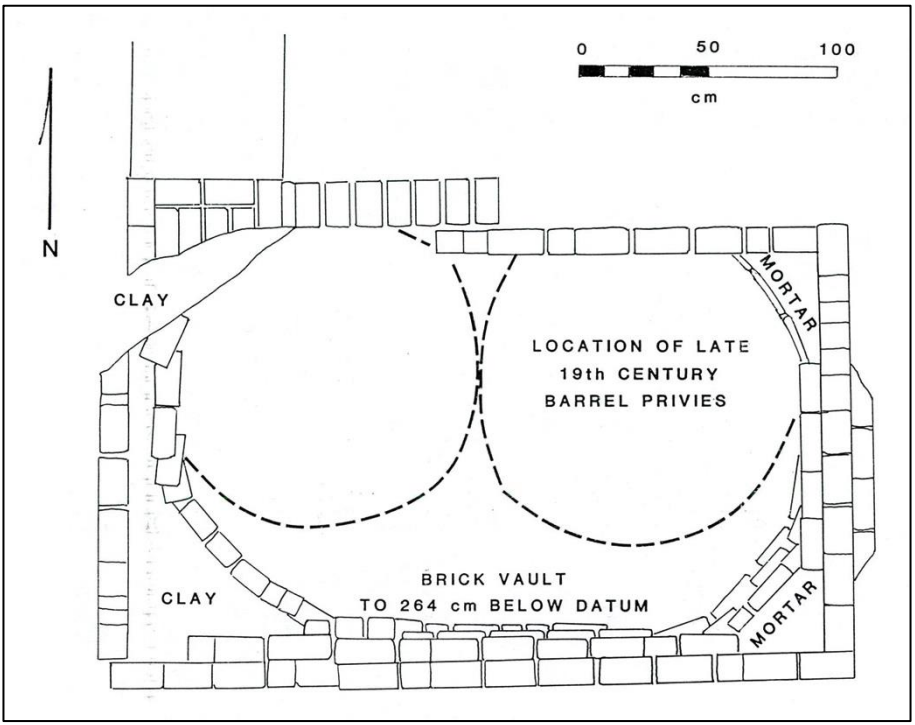


Figure 1. Planview of Privy (Feature 5) at 18BC79.

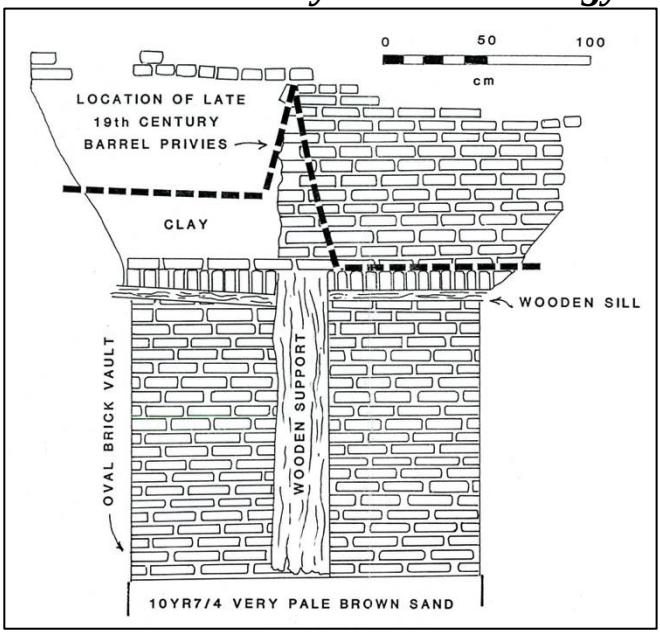


Figure 2. Profile of North Wall of Privy (Feature 5) at 18BC79.

A half foot thick layer of organic soil containing large quantities of household trash filled the bottom of the privy. Field notes estimated that 20% of the layer was soil; the other 80% consisted of broken and discarded artifacts. In addition to food remains, table glass, and personal items like buttons and spoons, this layer primarily contained broken ceramics. Over 500 distinct ceramic vessels, most of them English-made plates, cups, saucers, and teapots (16 in total!) had been discarded at the bottom of the privy. Most of the cups and saucers were exuberantly decorated with printed or painted decorations, mending into complete or nearly complete vessels.

Figure 3. Creamware mug decorated in a common cable pattern on orange slip; dates to the second decade of the 19th century (left), and Teapot printed with a British landscape pattern typical of the period between 1815 and 1840. The crazing and dark staining on this piece may be fire damage (right).

Such concentrations of household items in privy fills may be associated with changes in property ownership. The death of an owner or a move are transitions when undesired possessions are subject to discard. Such a discard episode often results in privy assemblages containing large numbers of complete or re-constructable ceramic and glass vessels.

In the case of the 18BC79 privy, it appears that Frances Whittington's household owned the ceramics found there. Whittington was in residence on this West Conway Street property in the 1820s and 1830s—dates matching the manufacture for most of the recovered pottery. Can a change in household explain the dense concentration of ceramics found in the privy? What do documents reveal about the family and do they shed light on why over 500 ceramics were discarded simultaneously?

In 1810, 13-year-old Frances Nelms Turner (1797-1859) married Thomas Whittington, a 25-year old Virginia farmer. Following the War of 1812, the Whittington family moved to Baltimore. Thomas died in 1826, leaving his widow in debt. The 1830 census records Frances Whittington and three young females aged 15 to 19 living in a two-story brick dwelling at 406 West Conway Street, the property where the privy was located. After daughter Mary (1814-1878) married lumber merchant John Simpers George in 1832, Frances Whittington rented the house to her son-in-law. By 1840, the entire George family, including several children and widow Frances, had moved to a farm in Baltimore County.

The family move appeared to have been prompted by a fire that occurred between 1832 and 1840 at the Conway Street house. A thick layer of soot covered most of the table glass from the privy and some of the ceramics also showed evidence of fire damage. This fire was almost certainly the reason such large quantities of household goods were discarded, during clean up after the fire and the ensuing move to the farm.

Figure 4. Childs Leather Shoe from 18BC79.

Artifacts from the privy also provided clues to family demographics. In addition to children's leather shoes, the Whittington privy contained marbles, toy china tableware, parts of a painted doll's cradle and a small wooden paddle used in a game played with a ball. The George family contained two young daughters and two sons in the late 1830s.

Animal bones usually make up a portion of any assemblage recovered from privies. Most of these bones represented discarded kitchen waste from meal preparation. Three hundred and seventeen bone fragments from eleven species, both domestic and wild, were

found in the Whittington privy. Species identification showed that pork and beef, followed by chicken and mutton, were the most commonly consumed meats in the Whittington household. The absence of skulls and foot bones show the household purchased meat from local butchers or one of the city's markets rather than keeping and butchering animals on their urban lot. The Whittington privy also contained the bones of a black rat (*Rattus rattus*). Rats were a common nuisance in urban areas, eating garbage that accumulated in yards and on the streets.

The wet conditions of the lower privy fill also preserved seeds and nuts, revealing the family enjoyed a range of foods over the course of the year. Nutshells included hickory, black walnut, hazel, English walnut, and almonds; many of these nuts may have been used in baking. Seeds recovered from the privy indicate that the family also ate prunes, peaches, apricots, cherries, watermelon, persimmons, corn, squash, and blackhaw, a small fall-ripening fruit similar to dates or prunes. While no pollen studies were done on the soils from the privy, such studies yield further data on diet, particularly for plants that don't leave easily recoverable seeds. Parasite studies allow inferences to be made about disease and health conditions, especially evidence of intestinal parasites like hookworm, whipworm, and roundworm.

Because of the careful and scientific excavation of the Ruth Saloon privy, the story of the mid-19th-century Whittington and George families were revealed. Archeology is destructive, so it is done slowly and meticulously by design. Should any site or feature be excavated haphazardly with only an interest in retrieving materials, the context of these stories would be forever destroyed.

Figure 5. Archeologists carefully mapping and documenting the Ruth Saloon Privy excavations.

Well, Well, Well… What Do We Have Here?

Elizabeth Tarulis, Brigid Ogden, and Taylor Bowden, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

One of the joys of archeology is the serendipitous way that research opportunities can arise, whether through new excavations or collections research later on. Working in our student offices one day, we stumbled upon a news article about 'America's oldest condom' from the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory's (MAC Lab) collections. The article details MAC Lab Curator of Federal Collections Sara Rivers-Cofield's discovery of a colonial era intestine condom curated in the MAC Lab's collections from the 1980s excavation of an 18th century well feature at the Oxon Hill Manor Site (18PR175). Rivers-Cofield had previously presented her own analysis of the condom but stated that she wanted to use DNA to confirm what animal the condom was made from. We realized we could use a different method – Zooarcheology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) to help. ZooMS uses the composition of collagen, a protein in animal tissue, to identify species, and has made many previously unidentifiable animal artifacts identifiable. With permission, we brought the artifact to the University of Tennessee Knoxville and identified the condom as being made from a sheep!

This project wouldn't have been possible without proper archeological excavation and curation methods. The waterlogged conditions of an archeological well ensured the condom's survival after deposition and its fragile nature benefited from systematic excavation. If the well had been excavated non-systematically, it's likely that the condom would have been destroyed. Additionally, because all artifacts were collected during excavation, the condom was saved rather than discarded in favor of "exciting" objects such as bottle glass or ceramics. Though the condom was initially misidentified as paper, permanent curation of the artifact at the MAC Lab provided the opportunity for future research and reevaluation of this artifact nearly 40 years after the artifact was excavated from the well feature. These processes allowed Sara Rivers-Cofield to find the artifact within the collections, correct its misidentification, and conduct her own research. We were then able to provide insights that would not have been possible before the

Figure 1: The MAC Lab Condom, photographed by Rebecca Webster. ***Image courtesy of Rebecca Webster and Maryland Archaeological Conservancy.***

development of new methods like ZooMS!

A strength of archeological excavation and curation standards is their ability to reveal the past beyond memory and written records. An equally vital benefit is their ability to preserve all artifacts – from the most exciting to those that may at first seem mundane. By using these practices consistently at all levels of archeological inquiry, we can ensure that, someday, small things that seem unimportant in the moment remain available for new generations to research and don't remain forgotten at the bottom of a well.

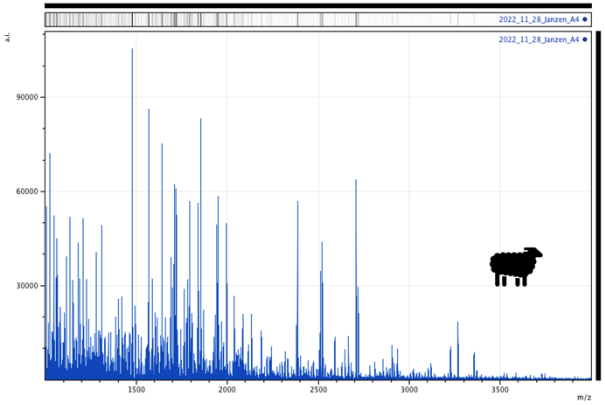
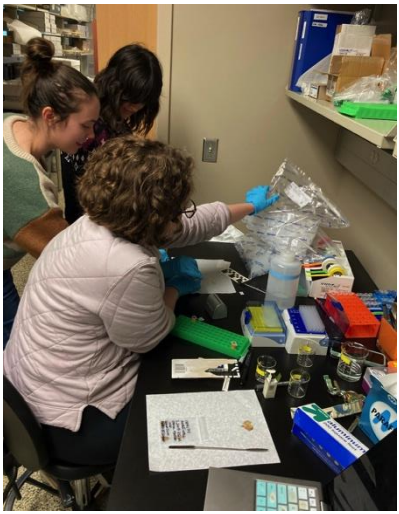


Figure 2: ZooMS results indicate that the condom from the Oxon Hill Manor Site was made from a sheep.
Image courtesy of Taylor Bowden, Dr. Anneke Janzen (UTK), and the University of Florida.

News article referenced: https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/91385/americas-oldest-condom



For readers interested in ZooMS and archeology: https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/videos/1606-zooarchaeology-by-mass-spectrometry

Figure 3: The UTK Condom Team, Brigid Ogden (seated), Taylor Bowden (center), and Elizabeth Tarulis, begin the ZooMS sampling process in the Department of Anthropology's Stable Isotope and Zooarcheology Laboratory in October 2022.

Issues of Context and Meaning: Three Examples from the Barton Site

Robert D. Wall, Towson University

Context is everything in archeology. In other words, if you cannot place an artifact in its original context, or where it was originally left behind long ago, then you lose its true meaning. You may be able to say how old a projectile point is and identify its raw material but not much more than that can be determined. This relegates the artifact of unknown provenience to the sweeping array of gross generalizations we make about artifacts every day. But, if you know exactly where the artifact was found, and even better, what else was found in association with the artifact, then you have some verifiable information as well as more precise details on the artifact's age (e.g., C-14 dating).

The context is also important in identifying the most basic human activities represented in the past. What archeologists call features are visible signs of the past exemplified by the use of fire, the building of structures, the storage of food, and the performance of rituals. These are all material expressions of human behavior that leave behind evidence that such pursuits happened in the past. Many of these features (e.g., post molds and burned earth) have no artifact associations but they are essential pieces of the puzzle. Features show that archeologists derive information from not just artifacts but from other signs, imprints, stains and physical impressions of past human activities.

There are three examples of archeological context provided here from investigations at the Herman Barton Village Site (18AG3).

Figure 1. Stratigraphic Profile from the Barton Site.

In the profile of stratigraphy at the Barton site (Figure 1) there is a long sequence of occupations (human habitation events) from the end of the Ice Age until European Contact. Careful excavations at Barton have recovered stone tools, lithic debitage, and carbonized wood from hearth features in the deepest occupation layer. The recovery of carbonized wood in association with the stone tools has allowed for radiocarbon dating of the deepest occupation. The carbonized wood was dated to 13,000 years old, which indicates that this deeply buried occupation is likely associated with the Paleoindian Clovis time period. Analysis of the stone tools and chipping debris show that the earliest inhabitants of the site used local raw materials to make Paleoindian Clovis-related tools. The actual tool making process and fragments of tools are evident in the hearth-side contexts. Other details revealed in layers above the Clovis occupation include buried soil horizons and human activities in prehistory, also carefully excavated to preserve the original contexts.

The second example relates to the use of copper beads on the Barton site. It is well known that metals such as copper and brass were used as trade items between European traders and American Indians as early as the 1500s. It is also known that copper tubular beads, very similar in form to the Contact period beads, have been made by American Indians well before Contact (Figure 2). Both time periods, with similar copper beads, are represented on the Barton site. The two copper beads illustrated here are from the center of a 15th century Keyser house and from just inside the palisade of the Keyser village. Good context demonstrates these two beads are Keyser-affiliated, or mid-1400s and not Susquehannock, i.e. after A.D. 1600. All of the other copper and brass beads found on the site come from Susquehannock features more than 100 meters north of the Keyser village.

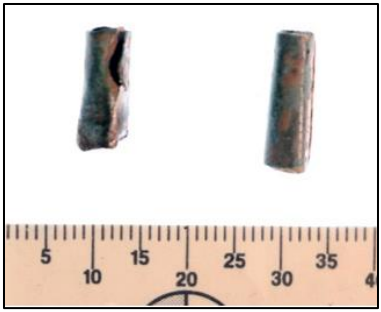


Figure 2. Keyser-affiliated Copper Beads from the Barton Site.

The third example relates to the Keyser phase house itself. The structure is represented by features including post molds that provide an outline of where the house originally stood (Figure 3). The documentation of the post mold features also provides details on how the structure was built with posts paired in a way to retain materials used in building the walls. The interior of the house shows a central hearth and pit features of different sizes. There are also features on the outer periphery of the structure that relate to what activities took place in the area surrounding the house. The use of space hundreds of years ago, both within and outside of the house, cannot be described without proper documentation of archeological context. Nor can the location of the house be described without context, just a few meters from the southern edge of the palisade surrounding the village. Context alone, in association with artifacts, allows archeologists to say so much about the size and shape of the house, how old it is, what happened inside the house, and where in the Keyser village it was located. This is all based on evidence from feature contexts and the artifacts they contain. This represents yet another clear example of the importance of context in archeology.

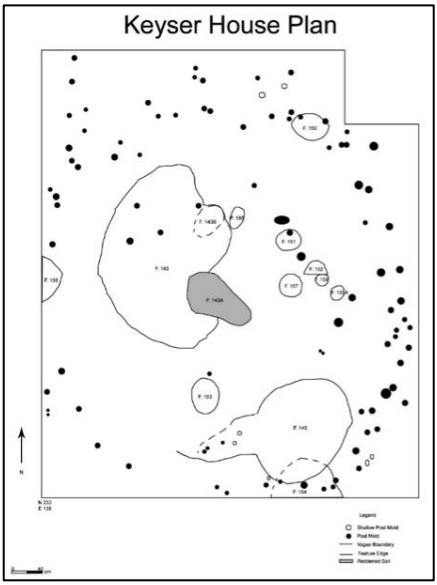


Figure 3. Planview of Keyser House Features from the Barton Site.

Richard Stearns' Archeological Field Methods and Recordation

Katherine Sterner, Towson University

In 1943, Richard Stearns, a professional photographer and avocational archeologist, documented 21 archeological sites along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in *The Natural History Society of Maryland Proceeding No. 9: Some Indian Village Sites of Tidewater Maryland*. In this 74-page publication, he included maps of all of the site locations, as well as photographs of several of the artifacts recovered and a general description of each of the sites. One of these sites was Conowingo, now 18CE14. Stearns' investigations of the site consisted solely of controlled surface collection. He provided a detailed description of the site, noting that "This site, one of the largest in Maryland, is situated on the east bank of the Susquehanna River…[on] a large flood plain, averaging one-quarter mile in width, extending southward from the [Conowingo] dam. During the flood…nearly the whole of the northern half of the site was washed away," along with a basic map (Figure 1).

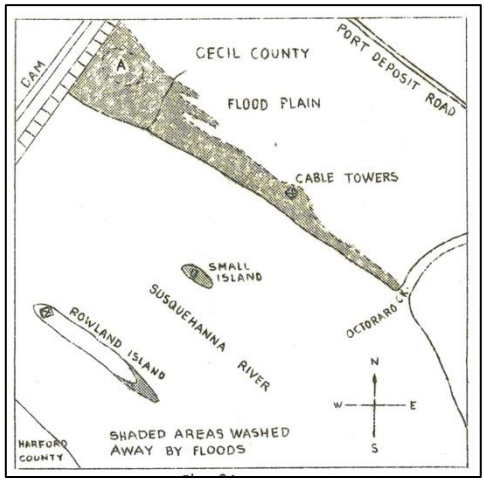


Figure 1. Stearns' Map of the Conowingo Site.

Stearns describes numerous artifacts recovered from the site but provides no further description of their provenience within the site. A total of 900 artifacts from this site remain in the Natural History Society of Maryland collections, although Stearns reports recovering over 3,500 artifacts. Based on the temporally diagnostic pottery and projectile points from the site, the Conowingo site was occupied during the Middle Archaic through the Late Woodland (ca. 7000 BC - AD 1600) periods. Site residents gathered the raw materials for making their stone tools from fairly local sources and seemed to confine their raw material sources to tributaries of the Susquehanna River. The large quantity of steatite vessels, argillite stone picks, and unfinished bannerstones suggests that the site served as a ground stone production center among other functions. Unfortunately, there is very little else archeologists can say about the site or the people who resided there though.

In his 1943 Proceedings, Stearns also discussed investigations at the Fort Smallwood site, a concentration of three shell deposits (now 18AN273, 18AN274, and 18AN275). In addition to several years of surface collection at Fort Smallwood, Stearns was able to conduct excavations there. The quantity of artifacts recovered from 18AN274 was comparable to that recovered from Conowingo. However, the artifacts from Fort Smallwood were never moved to a public repository for long term curation and thus are no longer available for study. We do have Stearns' records about the site though.

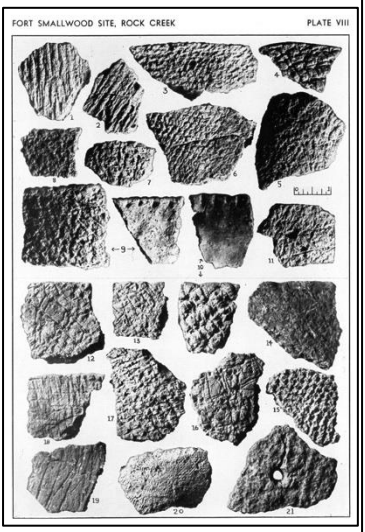


Figure 2. Pottery from the Fort Smallwood Site.

Even though the quantity and variety of artifacts recovered from Conowingo and 18AN274 are comparable, the quantity and quality of the inferences we can make about the two sites are very different due to the way Stearns conducted and recorded his field investigations. Stearns describes several subsurface features, such as a hearth "black from charcoal" beneath the "surrounding shell refuse" and pits that were "packed with shell…and contained some charcoal, bone, and sherds." Based on photographs (Figure 2) the pottery sherds from the site consist almost entirely of Mockley wares, dating to the Middle Woodland period (ca. AD 200 – 900). The few diagnostic projectile points from the site do not conflict with this assignment of time period.

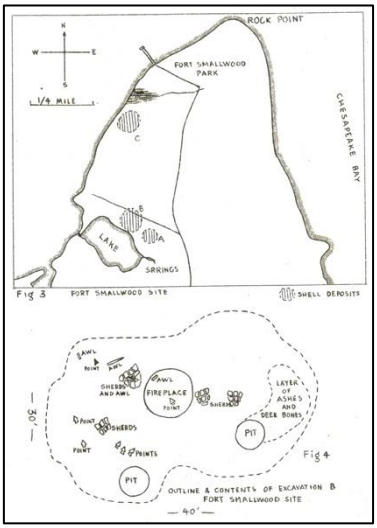


Figure 3. Stearns' Map of the Fort Smallwood Site.

The placement of the three shell concentrations at the Fort Smallwood site, each containing a fire pit and trash pits for disposing of the cooking waste with other artifacts spread between the concentrations suggests distinct activity areas as a part of a larger site (Figure 3). People at the site were confining their cooking and disposal activities to these discrete areas. We know what they were eating (mostly deer and oysters), when they were eating it (the Middle Woodland period), and how they were cooking it (in fire pits with pottery for food storage and/or preparation). This is a wealth more detail than we have about Conowingo, where we have no information about what activities were at the site or how they were spatially organized.

Archeologists use artifacts that we call "material culture" to tell dynamic stories about the activities of past peoples. When the context of archeological discoveries is lost, archeologists lose the ability to identify the spatial relationships between features on the landscape and the association of artifacts with ecofacts like bone and shell, and the dynamic stories about the past are reduced to static rocks and pots with their stories limited to individual objects minimally situated in time and space, disconnected from people and place. Stearns' records from his investigations were variable, but revolutionary for their time. Those records give us a window into the daily life of past humans that goes beyond rocks and pots.

The Importance of Context and Meaning at Eutaw Farm

Lisa Kraus, The Herring Run Archeology Project

Since 2014, the Herring Run Archeology Project has brought volunteers and visitors of all ages and all walks of life together at the Eutaw Farm Site (Eutaw), 18BC183, in Northeast Baltimore's Herring Run Park. Eutaw has been occupied for thousands of years and the archeological data we've recovered there tells many stories, but the most abundant information at the site pertains to the 18th and 19th centuries, when the house, farm, and outbuildings at Eutaw belonged to the Smith and Hall families. The house burned down in 1865, and no one ever rebuilt on the site, preserving the integrity of the artifacts and features left in the ground.

Figure 1. Volunteers excavating at the Eutaw Farm Site.

The stories of the Smith and Hall families, while important, are well-documented in land records, family papers, newspaper articles, and other archival sources, as well as in the archeological record. What is less well-documented is the history of the Distance and Gittings families, who were among the enslaved people who lived at Eutaw with the Hall family from the 18th century until at least 1850.

To disentangle the entwined histories of the enslaved and the enslavers, we knew it was important to find the connections between artifacts and features. We conducted detailed recordation and analyses of the complex relationships between soil layers and the locations of artifacts in the ground. These are the pieces of information we need in order to develop an understanding of the context of an artifact or group of artifacts. Below are only a few examples of how important context has been to our interpretation of the Eutaw site.

We recovered a well-preserved collection of nails from the area in and around the house. Nails are temporally diagnostic, which means that by mapping the locations and characteristics of the nails, we know which sections of the house were older, when new additions were built, when repairs were made, and where the wooden floorboards separating each story of the house were located. The distribution of other building materials helped determine the locations of chimneys, doorways, and porches. By mapping the locations of where approximately 33,000 artifacts were found within the footprint of the house, we recreated the house room by room. Once we understood the layout, we began to see how space was divided between enslavers and enslaved.

Through this careful map of artifacts, we can tell the story of Emeline (Gittings) Jones, who was born enslaved at Eutaw ca. 1837. She became a world renowned chef who introduced traditional Chesapeake cuisine to the international stage. Since we understand the context of the artifacts recovered from the kitchen at Eutaw, we know what Emeline's first kitchen experience looked like, what kinds of foods were prepared there, and even what the pots, pans, and dishes

looked like. We know where in the house she was likely born, and where she lived and worked as a child. We can tell something of the lives of Emeline's mother, Henrietta Gittings, and Henrietta's parents, Emeline and Cyrus Distance, as well. The spaces where they lived and worked were located in the cellar, and in a kitchen addition on the northeast side of the main house.

A concealed rectangular pit beneath the floorboards in the cellar contained a wishbone, the jawbone of an opossum, a piece of lead, four white buttons (two shell, two pressed glass), a piece of red jasper, a quartz flake, a pierced bronze disc, a partial iron disc, a piece of blue-and-white porcelain, a slate pencil, and a small clothing fastener. Taken out of context, these items are entirely unremarkable, but in context, they point significantly to a ritual practice associated with the management of spirits in the household. Fragments of children's alphabet china, ceramic strawberry pots, and a cowrie shell suggest the importance of education, cultivation, and family tradition. Each of these items holds deep meaning because of the many other objects that were found with them in the location where the Gittings and Distances lived and worked. Without knowing exactly where they came from, we could not connect these artifacts with the people who used them.

Figure 2. Concealed rectangular pit beneath the cellar floorboards at the Eutaw Farm Site.

Our project has been somewhat successful in building support for archeological resources and preservation in the communities around Herring Run Park; many of our volunteers are dismayed to learn how few protections exist for archeological resources, and how little most people understand their significance or vulnerability. Local news outlets and even museums have recently encouraged the work of privy diggers and relic hunters, whose techniques may be able to reveal what an artifact is, but not what it means.

When we remove artifacts from the ground without noting their context, we are destroying the material remains of someone's lived experience, and a meaningful point of connection between ourselves and our shared past. The stories that are most likely to be lost by careless excavation are those that were never written down in the first place, which means that people who had no voice in the past will never be heard in the present or the future. The opportunity to tell their stories can be wiped out in an instant, and all of us are impoverished when we don't get to learn what they might have told us.

These losses are not inevitable; many of our volunteers have spent years working with us to document and protect Eutaw and other archeological sites in the park. People care about these important resources and want to protect and learn from them, and consistent archeological outreach can help them do that.

When Preservation Suffers

Nichole Doub, Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory

There can be such enthusiasm in the moment of discovery that it is possible to forget the responsibility to preserve the artifacts that evoke such excitement. For persons working in archeology this may translate into site reports, technical drawings, photography, and many other methods to record the data acquired through excavation. It is also important to preserve the physical integrity of the artifacts once they have been recovered. Many material types degrade rapidly following their removal from the excavation environment where they found the equilibrium that allowed them to survive for so long. Wood loses moisture causing cells to collapse resulting in cracking and shrinkage. Wet organic materials are susceptible to mold and bacterial growth that can be hazardous to both the artifact and the people handling the artifacts. Glass forms caustic pockets along the surface turning it opaque or iridescent. Leather collagen crosslinks becoming hard and brittle. Metals exposed to oxygen begin new corrosion cycles.

In 2003, a cannon was recovered from Fells Point in Baltimore's harbor (Figure 1). Not considering the need for conservation, the iron was allowed to dry, which caused soluble salts to crystalize and corrosion to occur below the object's surface. As a result, large plates of iron spall detached from the body of the cannon which removed much of the object's original surface including markings which may have recorded foundry identification, year of manufacture, weight, etc. (Figures 2-5). These are all unique diagnostic elements, which have been lost due to uninformed decisions made upon excavation.

Figure 1. Mostly intact cannon shortly after excavation.

Figure 2. Spall forming prior to conservation.

Figure 3. Cannon after conservation showing surface loss.

The chemistry taking place as these sensitive archeological materials degrade is complex and varied, and the damage that can occur if the appropriate measures are not taken is irreversible. Archeological conservators are trained to identify the causes of deterioration and determine the best course for preservation. Conservators can provide training to excavators in the safest ways to lift, pack, and store artifacts to prevent damage and optimize the future potential for research and preservation.

When embarking upon the excavation of historic materials it is important to assess both the need for the demolition of a site and one's ability to responsibly care for the materials recovered. Will the excavation do more or less to preserve the information and materials of the site? Are there resources in place, financial and professional, to manage their conservation? If the answers are yes and conservation advice is needed, contact your State Historic Preservation Office or the American Institute for Conservation, www.culturalheritage.org, to provide contact information for qualified professionals in your region.

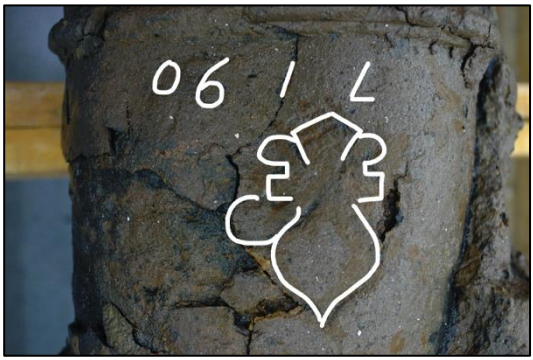


Figure 4. Damage to cannon markings.

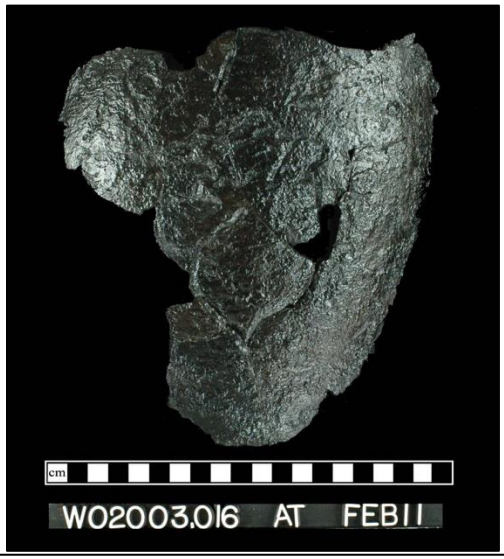


Figure 5. Repaired fragment of iron spall including cannon markings.

Telling Time with Tile: How One Artifact Type Helps Date Cultural Features at the St. John's Site

Ruth M. Mitchell, Historic St. Mary's City

On archeology sites it's a rare occurrence that one artifact type (that isn't pottery) is found that can help date the cultural features over the entire site. However, one such example exists for the St. John's Site in St. Mary's City. Extensive archeological work has been conducted there, occurring in several stages between 1972 to 2005. An exhibit building was constructed on the site in 2008, and visitors can see the original structure in the ground, as well as artifacts and exhibit panels that are on display.

Excavations revealed a house that was constructed in 1638 by John Lewger, Maryland's first provincial secretary. It was a framed structure underpinned by shallow, earth-set stones. A brick two-sided hearth heated two rooms, and a large cellar was below the parlor. St. John's soon became a significant part of the developing town. Lewgar kept busy as an active planter, organizing Assembly meetings in his house, and creating a record of the official aspects of his position as secretary for the province. Lewger moved back to England and the house subsequently changed hands several times. Over the course of 75 years, the main house underwent numerous repairs and alterations, including the addition of several new buildings constructed in the yard. Constant landscape changes occurred as well, such as varying locations and types of fences.

Understanding the types of changes that occurred, and when those changes took place is a challenge the archeologists faced when analyzing the site. In general, the longer the time span that a site is occupied, the more challenging it is to determine when those changes occurred. Often, cultural features that occurred later during a sites' occupancy cut through earlier cultural features. This results in complications not only in determining the ages of the features, but also in excavating the features.

The context of artifacts is key to understanding the time periods of any archeological site. At the St. John's site, artifacts such as ceramics, tobacco pipes, and window leads helped in the analysis when trying to sort out time periods. Rarely an artifact might have a specific date on it, such as a coin, or a wine bottle seal – which are found on many colonial period sites throughout Maryland. In the case of the St. John's site, the archeologists got lucky. The luck came in the form of a phone call from Annapolis in 1973. Historian Lois Carr was combing through the archives in Annapolis and discovered an original lease agreement between Charles Calvert and Henry Exon. Calvert owned the St. John's property in the 1670's and was leasing it to an innkeeper. The surviving lease agreement dates to 1678, and in the document Calvert directs Exon to: "Cover the said House with pantile, to repair the Chimnies and Plaster the House". Thanks to this rare surviving document, we know that pantile wasn't present on the site until 1678. The roofing tile was made in the Netherlands and imported to Maryland. This document was a really significant find! Pantile becomes an essential tool in our understanding of the site, and we can sort

through each feature that was excavated. Figure 1 depicts a complete pantile found at the St. John's Site. If there is pantile in a feature context, then we know that it has to date after 1678 when the new roof was installed on the main house. This drawing of the site features depicts three phases of occupancy, with the post-1678 period represented in orange.

Figure 1. Pantile found at the St. John's Site.

The careful interweaving of the historical record with the archeological record is essential in understanding a site like St. John's. Who are the individuals who lived there, and how did the site change over time? How were the buildings used and how long did they stand for? These questions can only be answered through the careful excavation and documentation of archeological context combined with consideration of the few surviving historical documents.

Figure 2. Features found at the St. John's Site – Orange represents the post-1678 phase of the occupation, after pantile was added to the roof.

The Significance of Knowing Where

Henry M. Miller, Maryland Heritage Scholar,
Historic St. Mary's City

An artifact can reveal much about itself to an archeologist but knowing where it was found is also a key piece of evidence. Indeed, the location is a vital part of the archeological context for an object. A good example comes from the excavations at the Van Sweringen site in St. Mary's City. It began as an office and meeting place for the colonial government in 1664. That purpose ended in 1676 when the new brick state house was finished. Soon afterward, Dutch immigrant Garrett Van Sweringen acquired the property and converted it into the most elegant hotel in the colony. For the next two decades, it catered to the elite of Maryland. During the 1970s excavations at the Van Sweringen site, archeologists were surprised to recover a small silver medallion near the front door of the original building.

Figure 1. Silver medallion from the Van Sweringen site. Front (left), Back (right).

Research identified it as the image of the great Swedish King Gustavas Adolphus. The portrait of the monarch faces the viewer on the front, and a carefully placed circular hole was drilled just above his head so that the medal could be worn around the neck on a string. Iron corrosion about the hole, especially on the back side, suggests that an iron loop ran through the hole so that when it was suspended on a string, the metal would lay flat on the chest or garment. This was clearly a personal object that had meaning to the wearer.

On the back side is a legend in Latin and symbolic figures of a sword and septer, crossed by a snake. The legend is ***ENSEM GRADIVVS SCEPTRUM THEMIS IPSA GVBERNAT*** which can be translated:

Gradivus Governs the Sword, Themis Herself Governs the Scepter

Gradivus is a term for "he who walks in battle", indicating Mars, the god of war and Themis was the goddess of justice. The motto probably denotes the combination of remarkable military skills and just governance of Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus the Great. The sword and scepter support the motto and the snake is a heraldic symbol of wisdom.

Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) ruled Sweden for 21 years, during which time he improved the government and developed one of the greatest military powers in Europe. Adolphus is regarded as one of the finest military commanders, who championed the Lutheran cause in the 30 Years War and became an esteemed figure among all Protestants. His death in battle in 1632 was a great loss but his military ideas and efficient government allowed Sweden to remain a major European power. He became a figure of great pride for Swedes, which led to the production of commemorative medals.

Consultation with Eva Wisehn, Senior Curator of the Myntkabinettet (the Royal Coin Cabinet), in Stockholm, indicates the St. Mary's medallion was struck after the king's death, likely in Germany. She stated that the medallion was intended as "a token of remembrance of the hero king". The suspension hole supports that interpretation. To her knowledge, it is the oldest representation of the Swedish king yet found in North America. So what is it doing at St. Mary's City?

Although Maryland was originally settled by English and Irish, other nationalilties began immigrating to the colony. New Sweden was established on Delaware Bay in 1638 and flourished until the Dutch captured it in 1655. Some Swedes then saw Maryland as a better option. When the English captured the Dutch colony on the Delaware in 1664, more Swedes and Dutch migrated to Maryland. One possible link is Van Sweringen. He had interacted with the Swedes along the Delaware in his post of deputy commander of the Dutch New Amstel colony, and might have acquired the medallion from them. But as a Catholic living in Maryland, it seems highly unlikely that he would have had any interest in keeping or wearing a memento of the esteemed Protestant King.

The more likely explanation relates to the original function of the site. It served as a records office where requests for land patents and petitions were received. A group of Swedish immigrants requested land and applied for citizenship at this office between 1669 and 1676. One of those Swedes seeking naturalization is most probably the individual who lost the medal. It is also of note that early tobacco pipes cluster around this front door zone, suggesting a gathering area.

Knowing where this object was found allows the archeologist to more fully tell its story and how it relates to the earliest effort at formal naturalization in English America, first implemented by Maryland in the 1660s. Such a tie to the long story of immigration could not be established if this medallion had been metal detected and the knowledge of its historic association lost. While not always recognized, location is as vital a piece of archeological information as the artifact itself, and together they allow for a much fuller and more nuanced understanding of our shared past.

Field Session Teaser – Good Context:
A Buried Living Surface at Chapel Branch West

Matthew D. McKnight, Chief Archaeologist, Maryland Historical Trust

This year the Annual Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology will be held at the Chapel Branch West archeological site (18CA270), located near Denton in Caroline County. This Pre-Colonial American Indian site is immediately adjacent to the 18th-century Barwick's Ordinary site, which was the location of the 2022 Field Session. During last year's fieldwork, a shovel test pit survey documented a presumed living surface yielding 3,000-1,000 year old artifacts intact below the plow zone. The 2023 Field Session will investigate this buried living surface to document these occupations and hopefully reveal intact cultural features including house patterns, hearths, and storage pits.

The 2023 Field Session at the Chapel Branch West site is particularly exciting due to the buried living surface context identified during the shovel test pit survey. Many archeological sites are confined to the near surface and thus have been impacted by deep plowing during widespread agriculture in the past. Plowing of archeological sites impacts the integrity of the site by homogenizing archeological deposits, obliterating shallow cultural features, and breaking fragile artifacts (like Pre-Colonial pottery) into small pieces. The presence of an organically rich living surface buried beyond the reach of a plow at the Chapel Branch West Site hints at the potential to find cultural features and artifacts intact with good context. In short, we should be able to tell a good story.

Come join us May 19-29, 2023 for the Field Session to investigate a Pre-Colonial site with good context on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Visit the ASM's website to register:
marylandarcheology.org/Field_Session/2023FieldSessionRegistration.html

Figure 1. Shovel test pit revealing a buried dark brown organically rich living surface.

Figure 2. Fire cracked rocks, ceramic sherds, stone tools and stone chipping debris from the Chapel Branch West Site.

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.marylandarcheologymonth.org*

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum · Public Archaeology Program

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, May 4-June 2, 2023 · 9 am to 3 pm

The public have the opportunity to work alongside archeologists to excavate an actual site. Spend mornings excavating, sifting soil for artifacts and mapping remains of a 17th-century domestic structure on the park grounds, and afternoons either at the archeological site or in the Maryland Archeological Conservation Lab, doing hands-on archeological activities, such as washing, sorting and labeling artifacts, photographing archeological artifacts, touring the lab and more.

Registration for public archeology is required with a nominal fee of $5. Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Register by visiting this webpage: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-archaeology-tickets-546275734427

Anne Arundel County's Archeology Program

The Anne Arundel County Archeology Program works with the non-profit The Lost Towns Project to promote archeological research and public education programs. We seek dedicated volunteers and interns, no experience required, to help with all aspects of field and lab work. Join us to discover history at a variety of dig sites across the County or to process artifacts at our lab in Edgewater. To learn more, please email *volunteers@losttownsproject.org*

Anne Arundel County's Archeology Laboratory
839 Londontown Road
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

Experience Prince George's County history first-hand through volunteering with the Department of Parks and Recreation Archeology Office. Individuals, 14 years and up, can learn how archeologists investigate the past and assist them with excavations and lab work. Volunteer registration is required through *www.pgparks.com*. For information call the Archeology Office at 301-627-1286 or email *archaeology@pgparks.com*

Archeology Office
Natural and Historical Resources Division
8204 McClure Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

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/CATprogram.html

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

Join the Montgomery Parks' archeology program in uncovering Montgomery County's past through the investigation and analysis of sites that cover the entire 13,000 year history of the County. There are opportunities for fieldwork and labwork. Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays. For Volunteer Application contact Heather Bouslog by phone at 301.563.7530, by email at *Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org* or visit *www.ParksArchaeology.org*

Archeology Program
Needwood Mansion
6700 Needwood Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

Maryland Historical Trust
Archeology Programs

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maritime Archeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an eleven-day annual Field Session, co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland, that combines education with research. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Internships are also offered. To learn more please fill out the MHT Archeology Volunteer form on the website. https://mht.maryland.gov/archeology_volunteers.shtml

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
www.mht.maryland.gov/

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

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) 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 Department of Research & Collections at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, offers a Field School in Historical Archeology from May 22 through June 30, 2023. While in the field, staff and students offer tours of the excavations to visitors. Visitors to the museum are also encouraged to explore the St. John's Site Museum, which provides insights into ways researchers use historical and archeological evidence. Contact HSMC 301-994-4370, 800-SMC-1634, or laurel.potyen@maryland.gov for a list of events visit: www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html

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

Archeological Society of Maryland
Field and Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities Statewide

One of the Archeological Society of Maryland's main goals is to involve the public in field and lab events throughout the year and across the State. To meet this goal, ASM hosts a Spring Symposium and an annual Fall meeting, and co-hosts with the Maryland Historical Trust a Saturday Workshop and an annual field/excavation session. ASM's local chapters also conduct meetings and provide opportunities for members and the general public to participate in field and laboratory activities. Visit our website at *www.marylandarcheology.org* to learn about upcoming events, view the latest edition of our monthly newsletter (ASM Ink), and link to our chapters' websites.

Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks
"Archeology in the Parks"

Come explore Howard County's hidden history through archeological investigation! Archeology in the Parks welcomes volunteers of all ages to participate in field and lab opportunities during our 2023 public season! The lab, located in West Friendship, Maryland, is open M-F and one weekend a month, based on availability. To volunteer, please contact Kelly Palich at 410-313-0423 or *kpalich@howardcountymd.gov* Volunteer opportunities for fieldwork, lab work, photography, illustration, research and more!

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY
A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

At **Historic St. Mary's City**, a museum of history and archeology at the site of Maryland's first capital, learn the stories of how 17th-century society was built through the interactions of Maryland's indigenous peoples, European colonists, and people of African descent. Wander the reconstructed Yaocomico hamlet, explore a colonial tavern, and step aboard a tall ship. At the St. John's Site Museum, gain insight into the ways historians and archeologists reconstruct the past, learn how slavery was introduced into Maryland society, and discover the 17th-century origins of religious freedom. Take an easy drive from the metro areas and discover one of the nation's most beautiful historic places in Tidewater Southern Maryland.

301-994-4370 *www.hsmcdigshistory.org/* 800-SMC-1634
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Archeology Office, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County. Since 1988, the Archeology Office has been exploring the diversity of Prince George's County's archeological resources. Through excavations, exhibits, public outreach and cultural resource management, the Archeology Office supports the M-NCPPC's numerous museums and historic sites. Hands-on volunteer programs and student internships provide opportunities for citizens and students to discover the past by participating in excavations and artifact processing and analysis. For information call the Archeology Office at 301-627-1286 or email *archaeology@pgparks.com*.

The **Archeological Society of Maryland**, Inc. (ASM) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and conservation of Maryland's archeological resources. ASM members are professional, academic, and avocational archeologists. The Society sponsors publications, research, and site surveys across the State as well as hosting a Spring Symposium and a Fall general meeting and co-hosting with the Maryland Historical Trust a Saturday Workshop and an annual field/excavation session where members and the public work along side professional archeologists. In addition, ASM has eight chapters representing most of Maryland's geographic regions, each with its own local meetings and activities. All ASM and chapter activities are open to the public. Visit us at *www.marylandarcheology.org* to learn more about our activities.

Maryland Department of Transportation is committed to sustaining the balance between protecting our cultural resources and maintaining our transportation system.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For information, contact
Dr. Julie M. Schablitsky,
Chief of Cultural Resources
at *jschablitsky@mdot.maryland.gov*.

Founded in 1976, the **Council for Maryland Archeology** is an organization of professional archeologists whose mission is to foster public awareness and support for the preservation of archeological resources in the state. Our membership is composed of professional archeologists either working or conducting research in Maryland. We are proud to sponsor Maryland Archeology Month and encourage one and all to visit our website *https://cfma-md.com/*, attend an event, and join us in exploring Maryland's past.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

The **Maryland Historical Trust** (Trust) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation, and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding and preserving their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Visit us at *www.mht.maryland.gov*

The **Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory** (MAC Lab) is the Trust's repository for archeological collections. Located at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM), the State Museum of Archeology, the MAC Lab opened in 1998 as a state-of-the-art archeological research, conservation, and curation facility. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted throughout the state. It is the MAC Lab's mission to make these collections available for research, education, and exhibit. The website for the MAC Lab/JPPM is *https://jefpat.maryland.gov*

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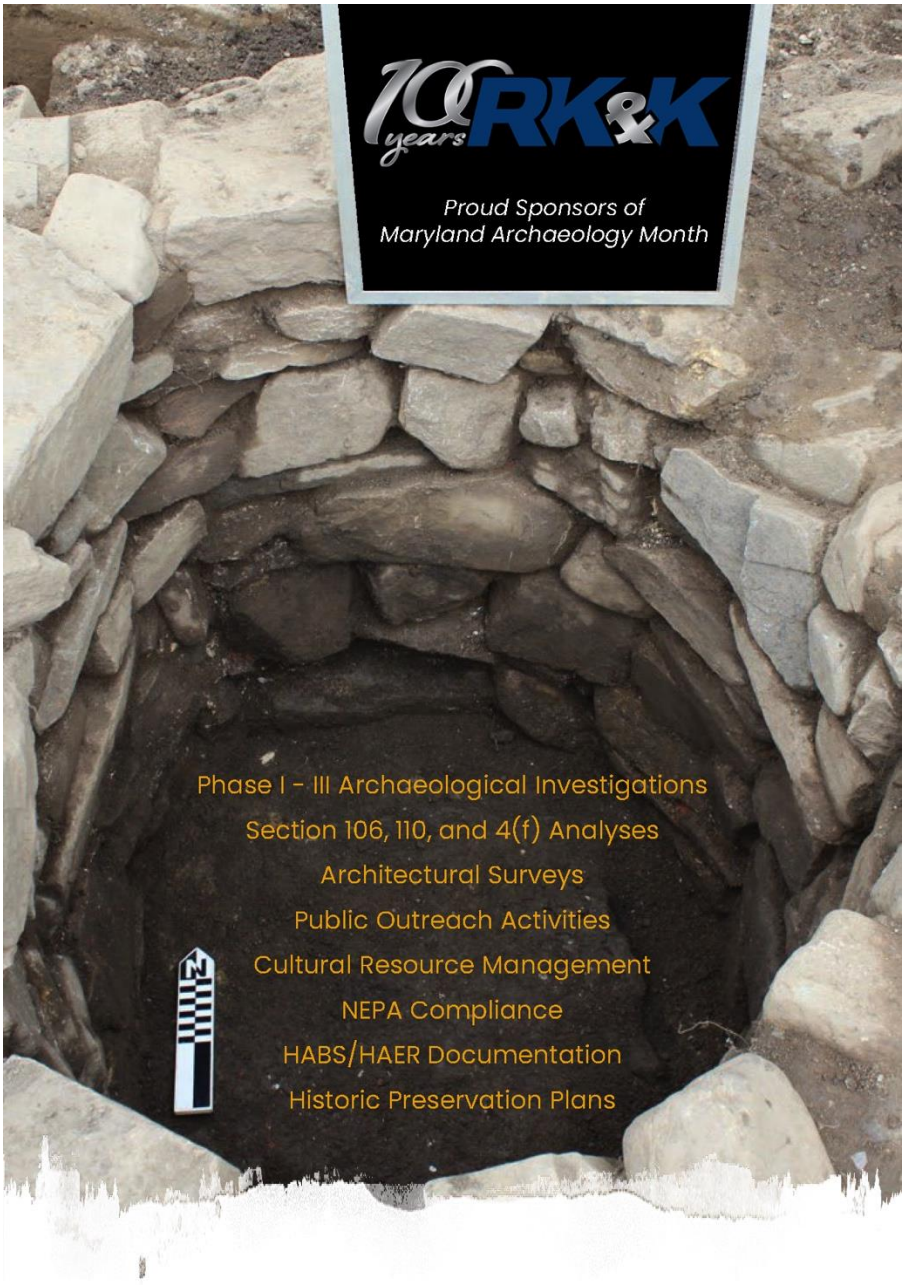

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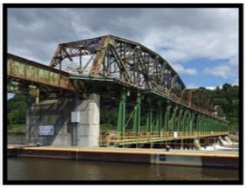


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