ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING IN ADVANCE OF RENOVATION ACTIVITIES AT THE HOLLINGSWORTH HOUSE, HISTORIC ELK LANDING, ELKTON, MARYLAND

Submitted to:

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By:

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Project # 31040

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For TRC Garrow, Dwayne W. Pickett was Principal Investigator and was assisted by Keith Heinrich. Randy Kuppless prepared the graphics.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report documents the results of archaeological testing in advance of renovation activities at the Hollingsworth House located at Historic Elk Landing in Elkton, Maryland. The nature of the renovations included the removal of a dilapidated porch and the construction of a new one. The primary goal of the testing was to recover information about the Hollingsworth House and its residents before the construction of a new porch would make that area inaccessible. The project was conducted by TRC Garrow Associates, Inc., (TRC), on December 18–21, 2000, and was directed by Dwayne W. Pickett.

The house that stands today was remodeled to its present Greek-Revival style around 1848 after a fire gutted the original structure. The exact construction date of the first house is unknown but it was built sometime after 1735 when Zebulon Hollingsworth acquired the property. Excavations were carried out in the area exposed by the removal of the porch. Within that area four test units were excavated, which revealed layers dating back as early as the Late Woodland (A.D. 800-1600) time period and from the early nineteenth century through second half of that century.

The following chapter includes the methods and results of the studies. Chapter II presents information on the natural environment. Chapter III presents information on the culture history of the project area, including additional data on previous research in the area. Chapter IV specifies the methods used in this study and the results of the fieldwork are discussed in Chapter V. A summary of the research results are provided in Chapter VI and references cited can be found at the end of this report.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

PROJECT SETTING

Elk Landing is located in Cecil County, Maryland within the town of Elkton at the confluence of the Little Elk and Big Elk Creeks (Figure 1). It is situated on 42 acres of land that was leased to the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc., by the City of Elkton on January 17, 2000. This area contains both floodplain and terrace settings with open plowed fields and wooded areas along the banks of the creeks being present. Also present is an eighteenth century stone house known as the Steelman House as well as several farm outbuildings dating to the twentieth century. The Hollingsworth House is located on a terrace approximately 79 m (262 feet) east of Little Elk Creek.

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY

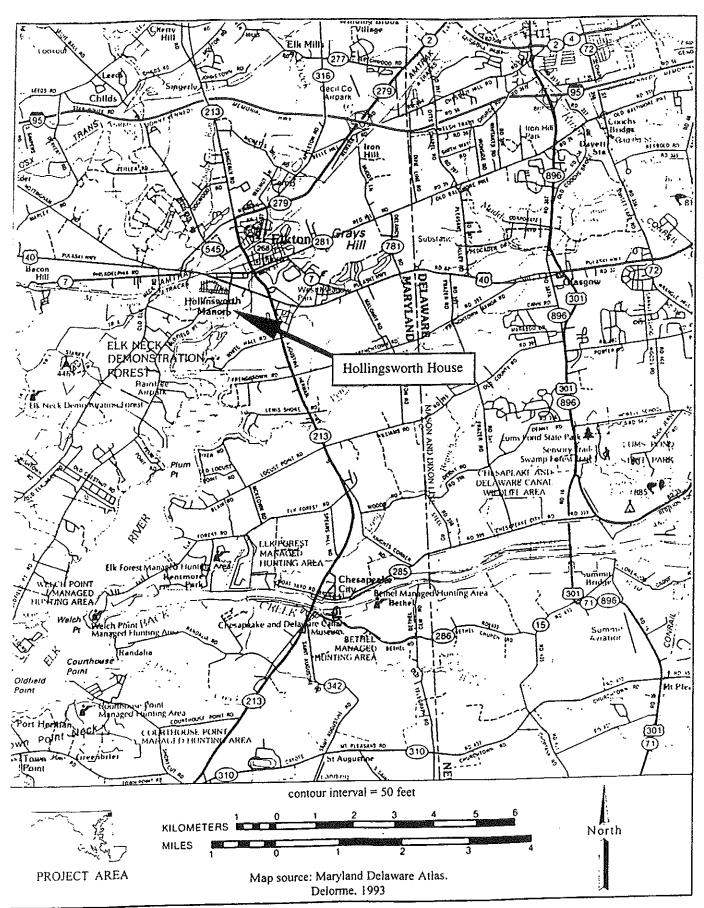
Maryland is part of five distinct physiographic provinces: (1) the Coastal Plain Province, (2) the Piedmont Province, (3) the Blue Ridge Province, (4) the Valley and Ridge Province, and (5) the Appalachian Plateau Provinces. These extend in belts of varying width along the eastern edge of the North American continent from Newfoundland to the Gulf of Mexico.

The project area lies within the Coastal Plain Province but is close to the Eastern Piedmont Province. The Coastal Plain Province is underlain by a wedge of unconsolidated sediments including gravel, sand, silt, and clay that overlap the rocks of the eastern Piedmont along an irregular line of contact known as the Fall Zone. Eastward, this wedge of sediments thickens to more than 2,438 m (8,000 feet) at the Atlantic coastline. Beyond this line is the Continental Shelf, the submerged continuation of the Coastal Plain, which extends eastward for at least another 121 km (75 miles) where the sediments attain a maximum thickness of about 12,192 m (40,000 feet).

The sediments of the Coastal Plain dip eastward at a low angle, generally less than one degree, and range in age from Triassic (245-208 mya) to Quaternary (1.6 mya-present). The younger formations crop out successively to the southeast across Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. A thin layer of Quaternary gravel and sand covers the older formations throughout much of the area.

Mineral resources of the Coastal Plain are chiefly sand and gravel, and are used as aggregate materials by the construction industry. Clay for brick and other ceramic uses is also important. Small deposits of iron ore are of historical interest. Plentiful supplies of ground water are available from a number of aquifers throughout much of this region.

The nearby Piedmont Province is composed of hard, crystalline igneous and metamorphic rocks and extends from the inner edge of the Coastal Plain westward to Catoctin Mountain, the eastern boundary of the Blue Ridge Province. Bedrock in the eastern part of the Piedmont consists of schist, gneiss, gabbro, and other highly metamorphosed sedimentary and igneous rocks of probable volcanic origin. In several places these rocks have been intruded by granitic plutons and pegmatites. Deep drilling has revealed that similar metamorphic and igneous rocks underlie the sedimentary rocks of the Coastal Plain. Several domal uplifts of Precambrian (4.6 bya-570 mya) gneiss mantled with quartzite, marble, and schist are present in Baltimore County and in parts of adjacent counties. Differential erosion of these contrasting rock types has produced a distinctive topography in this part of the Piedmont.



igure 1. Project Location.

The project area is drained by both the Little and Big Elk Creeks. These branches flow south into the Elk River, which drains into the Chesapeake Bay, which in turn empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Elevations for the project area average 45 feet AMSL.

GEOLOGY AND PEDOLOGY

The parent material in which the soils of Cecil County formed is made from two different geological materials. The Piedmont soils in the Northern section of the county formed in material weathered in place from hard igneous and metamorphic crystalline rocks of Precambrian age (4.6 bya-570 mya). Metamorphic crystalline rock is the most extensive single formation in the Piedmont.

The soils in the southern part of the County, where the Hollingsworth House is located, formed in the soft, unconsolidated, water-lain Cretaceous (146-65 mya) and Pleistocene (1.65 mya-10,000 ya) sediment of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Old Cretaceous series sediments are exposed in the northern part of the Coastal Plain and form the backbone of Elk Neck. Pleistocene sediment continuously deposited east of the Elk River formed a discontinuous rim of low marine terraces with irregular widths. Such a terrace is present at Elk Landing on which the Hollingsworth House was constructed. The soil in this area is brown to yellowish-brown, medium acid, Wicomico formation silt of the Pleistocene. The silt material is underlain by sand and gravel with glauconitic sand of the Upper Cretaceous being present beneath it. These sands are often called "green sands" and crop out as a discontinuous fringe around many necks of land south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The general soil association for the project area is the Elsinboro and Hatboro series. The Elsinboro series consists of deep well drained nearly level to moderately sloping soils on terraces above floodplains along major waterways. They formed in old alluvium, and generally contain considerable fine mica flakes. These soils are easy to work, warm quickly in spring, and are very suitable for normal farming activities. The Hatboro series, on the other hand, consists of deep, wet, loamy soils along floodplains. This soil formed in material washed from areas of micaceous rocks, and is prone to flooding. The Hatboro series occurs in the low-lying areas along the Little and Big Elk Creeks at Elk Landing while the Elsinboro series exists on the terrace above the creeks which is where the Hollingsworth House was constructed (Andersen and Matthews 1973).

III. CULTURAL BACKGROUND

PREHISTORIC OVERVIEW

The prehistoric sequence of the project area is based upon research conducted in the general Middle Atlantic region. As with most regions of the United States, the prehistory of this area is partially extracted from data for adjacent areas, since there are still gaps in our understanding of the cultural sequences in this part of the Middle Atlantic. The general sequence for the northern half of the eastern seaboard begins with the Paleoindian period, followed by the Archaic period and ending with the Woodland period. The following sections describe these periods in more detail. Detailed summaries of the specific evidence used in the development of this record are presented by various authors (e.g., Custer 1983, 1989; Davidson 1981; Davidson et al. 1985; Gardner 1982, 1987; Wesler et al. 1981; Wright 1973).

The Paleoindian Period (ca. 10,000-8,000 B.C.)

The first extensive human occupation of the Middle Atlantic region for which we have evidence occurs around 10,000 B.C. Cold winters and moist summers characterized this period and coniferous forests dominated the region. However, during the later Boreal climatic episode, there was an increase in the stands of deciduous trees such as oak, hickory, and chestnut and a reduction of grasslands in Pennsylvania and Maryland and on the Delmarva Peninsula (Carbone 1976; Custer 1984).

The retreat of the glaciers coincided with an increase in sea level as the volume of the ice cap was reduced. However, the submersion of the Chesapeake Bay did not occur until after the Paleoindian period. Bathymetric research by Blanton (1996) indicates that the Pleistocene lands now submerged in the Chesapeake Bay along the east coast are most likely to harbor Paleoindian sites. Tidal forces upon such submerged sites may explain why the coastline along Tangier Sound is one of the two main areas from which Paleoindian points have been reported, the other being the interior drainage of the middle Pocomoke River (Davidson 1981:11).

The traditional view of Paleoindian life in the east characterizes them as highly nomadic, specialized "big game" hunters, living off of and perhaps driving to extinction the late Pleistocene megafauna such as mammoth, mastodon, bison, horse, and other animals. Due to poor preservation, however, evidence for Paleoindian exploitation of animals of any kind in the east is extremely rare. Although megafauna are assumed to have been hunted during the early part of the Paleoindian period, it is highly likely that a more diversified subsistence strategy that included the exploitation of plant and marine/riverine resources would have been the response to climatic changes (Davidson 1981:12).

The Paleoindian period is characterized by fluted, lanceolate Clovis and Clovis-variant projectile points. Other types include Dalton/Hardaway, Kirk, and Palmer projectile points (Custer 1989). Most of our knowledge about the Paleoindian occupation of the Middle Atlantic area has come from surface finds of isolated fluted points.

Few sites of this period containing extensive artifact assemblages are known. The Thunderbird site in the Shenandoah Valley is one of the well-documented sites of this time period (Gardner 1974). The presence of over 100 fluted projectile points from Maryland (Anderson 1990), however, indicate a moderate use of the region during this time. Overall population density during the Paleoindian period may have been relatively low, as shown by the infrequent occurrence of sites and the typically low numbers of artifacts.

The Archaic Period (ca. 8,000-1,000 B.C.)

The Archaic period formally begins with familiar Holocene conditions. It has been divided into three subperiods, the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. The Archaic was a relatively long and successful foraging adaptation, with subsistence based on hunting, fishing, and the collection of wild plant resources. Diagnostic projectile points form the primary criteria used to identify and date these occupations in the Middle Atlantic area. There, the Early Archaic (ca. 8,000-6,500 B.C.) is generally identified by Kirk stemmed and notched, Palmer, St. Albans, Le Croy, and Kanawha projectile point types (Custer 1989; Davidson 1981; Gardner 1987; Wesler et al. 1981).

During the Middle Archaic along the Middle Atlantic coast, ca. 6,500-3,000 B.C., the cooler, dryer conditions of the Early Holocene gave way to the warmer, wetter climate of the Middle Holocene interval. Subsistence economies became increasingly diversified as new resources were being exploited seasonally (Custer 1989). Archeologically, the transition from the Early Archaic to the Middle Archaic is characterized by the appearance of stemmed rather than notched projectile points (Custer 1989). Stanly Stemmed (ca. 6,000-5,500 B.C.), Morrow Mountain I and II (ca. 5,500-3,500 B.C.), Guilford (ca. 3,500-3,000 B.C.), and Halifax/Vernon (ca. 3,000-2,000 B.C.) projectile points mark the Middle Archaic period in the general region, following the classic Archaic sequence first identified by Coe (1964).

During the Late Archaic period, ca. 3,000-1,000 B.C., regional populations appear to have grown markedly and to have concentrated in riverine and estuarine settings. Climatic conditions were warm and dry, and by the end of this interval an essentially modern vegetational matrix had emerged. Sea level appears to have been relatively stable, with only minor fluctuations on the order of one to two meters (Blanton 1993; Carbone 1976; Tanner 1993). Grinding implements, polished stone tools, and carved soapstone bowls become fairly common, suggesting increased use of plant resources and possibly changes in subsistence strategies and cooking technologies. Although evidence is minimal, the first experiments with horticulture probably occurred at this time, with the cultivation of plants such as squash, sunflower, and chenopodium (Cowan 1985; Ford 1981). Settlements appear to have shifted from swampy upper reaches of inland streams to the mouths of major streams and rivers (Davidson 1981:14). They also seem to have been occupied for longer periods of time than in earlier periods, and the existence of formal residential base camps occupied seasonally or longer is inferred, together with a range of smaller, resource exploitation sites such as hunting, fishing, or plant-collecting stations (Gardner 1987).

The Woodland Period (ca. 1000 B.C.-A.D. 1600)

The Woodland period began about 1000 B.C. and continued until permanent European settlement in the seventeenth century. Across the Eastern Woodlands the period is marked by the appearance of pottery, a greatly increased role for horticulture in subsistence economies, and an elaboration of mortuary ceremonialism, including the appearance of burial mounds (Griffin 1967:180). Initial Woodland occupations (ca. 1200–750 B.C.), which are thought to reflect a more or less unchanged continuation of preceding Late Archaic lifeways, are characterized by steatite-tempered plain and cord-marked Marcey Creek series pottery. The Early Woodland occupation of the region continues into the subsequent Accokeek phase (ca. 750–400 B.C.), characterized by cord-marked, crushed quartz-tempered pottery (Stephenson et al. 1963:96–100). Site density appears to increase considerably over previous periods, extensive shell middens occur adjacent to the estuarine zone, and a settlement pattern characterized by relatively permanent riverine/estuarine base camps and interior specialized exploitation camps is inferred (Gardner 1987: McNett and Gardner 1971).

The transition between Archaic stone bowls and Woodland ceramics appears to have developed in place rather than by introduction from other regions (Gardner 1986:65); pottery bowls were at first molded to the appearance of their stone predecessors. Broken stone bowls possibly were crushed into temper for the

manufacture of the ceramics. Beginning around 900 B.C., coiling replaced molding and remained a popular technique until the historic period. The earliest molded, steatite-tempered ceramics are referred to as Marcey Creek. The steatite was subsequently replaced by sand temper, after which the pottery is called Accokeek cord marked. In the Middle Woodland, crushed rock temper became prevalent and net impression was added to cord marking.

Ceramics were refined and regional differentiation of wares, particularly with respect to temper, paste, and surface decoration, was manifest during the period. Marcey Creek series pottery (Evans 1955; Mouer 1991) tempered with crushed steatite began the ceramic manufacturing styles within the Early Woodland between 1000 and 900 B.C.

Woodland occupations are marked by improvements in food storage (Mouer 1991:26) and preparation technologies. Subsistence strategies were a continuation of earlier hunter-forager ways, with an increased reliance on the cultivation of native plants. Religious life, as evidenced by increased ceremonialism and the development of burial mounds, became more sophisticated during the Middle Woodland I period (500 B.C.-A.D. 200). The stone mounds are generally associated with single burial events; the few artifacts in them are of exotic material, such as rhyolite, copper, and slate (Gardner 1986, 1993; Garrow 1995; Gresham 1990). Various sizes of triangular projectile points are diagnostic of the later Woodland periods. This change in point style may be linked to the introduction or popularization of bow and arrow technology in the eastern United States. However, the process of adding the bow and arrow to the tool inventory of Eastern Woodland cultures seems to have been quite complex and spanned the last 4,000 years or more (Nassaney and Pyle 1998). The complex corresponds in time with the Eastern Shore Adena culture, clearly an outpost of the Ohio Valley based Hopewell Interaction Sphere. Probably the stone mound culture along the Potomac represented intervening links in the Hopewell network.

The Middle Woodland period, ca. 400 B.C.—A.D. 800, is marked by a change in pottery manufacture, with net-impressed types tending to replace the earlier Woodland cord-marked finishes. The period is characterized by an intensification of long-distance trade throughout the Eastern Woodlands, although evidence for direct participation of local groups in the classic Hopewell interaction sphere exchange network remains minimal (Gardner 1982). Horticulture is thought to have assumed increasing importance, and the cultivation of maize may have been initiated at this time, although it did not assume importance until the Late Woodland period. Sand tempered Popes Creek Net Impressed ceramics and Rossville projectile points (Stephenson and Ferguson 1963:92–96, 145) are characteristic of the earlier part of this range, from ca. 400 B.C. to A.D. 200. Later Middle Woodland components are identified by coarse shell-tempered Mockley Net Impressed, Cord Marked, and Plain pottery and by Selby Bay Knives (Stephenson and Ferguson 1963:103–109; Steponaitis 1986:30–31). Numerous large and small sites have been found dating to this period, suggesting periodic aggregation and dispersion, or some kind of a village/base camp-specialized resource extraction station settlement dichotomy. The western regions of the Chesapeake/Potomac region saw construction of stone burial mounds, apparently reflecting contacts with Midwestern Hopewellian cultures (Gardner 1982; Gunn 1994a).

The Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 800–1600) in the Middle Atlantic area witnessed the emergence of sedentary village life based on intensive maize agriculture, and the development of complex political forms. Greater social organization and food surpluses allowed construction of accretional mounds between A.D. 1050 and 1350 (Gardner 1986:85). Accretional mounds are constructed over several generations, each generation adding a layer.

Ceramic decorative motifs proliferated, possibly a stylistic manifestation of this increased sociocultural complexity. Sites dating to the earlier part of the Late Woodland, ca. A.D. 800-1250, are identified by Rappahannock Incised and Fabric Impressed pottery and Jacks Reef pentagonal and corner-notched points (Blaker 1963:17-18; Steponaitis 1986:31-32). Later Late Woodland occupations are characterized

by a continuation of Rappahannock pottery, together with Townsend, Mayone, Potomac Creek, and Sullivan series ceramics and Madison small triangular projectile points (Steponaitis 1986:32–35). Resolution of fairly fine-grained measures of social interaction and chronology within the Late Woodland, through the examination of ceramic decorative motifs, is an area of research that shows great promise (see, e.g., Barse and Beauregard's [1994:17] for a discussion of Townsend and Potomac Creek types in the Patuxent and Potomac watersheds).

During the Late Woodland II (A.D. 1350–1600), social organization changed and populations declined (Gardner 1986:89). Once-dispersed hamlets were replaced by closely aggregated villages fortified with stockades. Around A.D. 1500, shell-tempered Keyser wares appeared in the region (Gardner 1986:89). Artifacts diagnostic of the Late Woodland period include small triangular projectile points and ceramic wares tempered with crushed limestone. Evidence is mounting that territorial boundaries between chiefdoms were closely maintained.

Potomac Creek (sand-tempered) figures prominently in the Potomac watershed, and Townsend (shell-tempered) is dominantly found in the Patuxent drainage. Exchanges of these ceramics across the divide may be evidence of military and marriage alliances between groups (Barse and Beauregard 1994:17) or trade (Steponaitis 1986).

European conquest brought an end to the Late Woodland lifestyle, although many relics of the material trappings, belief systems, and social structure of classic Late Woodland society lingered into the eighteenth century in parts of the East. Recent research by Cunningham (1998) in Delaware, however, has shown that although Native Americans disappeared from official records in the eighteenth century, their culture continued in an underground fashion very much intact to the present.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The Susquehannocks, Massawomekes, and Tockwoghs were the main Native-American tribes occupying Cecil County when John Smith and a party of 12 Englishmen explored the area in 1608. In 1638, the Swedes setup a colony on the west bank of the Delaware River where Wilmington is now located and in 1652, the Susquehannocks ceded land located between the Susquehanna and North East Rivers to the English. Some Susquehannocks still occupied this area until 1675, but were driven off by the Senecas. In 1674 Governor Charles Calvert proclaimed Cecil a County, which included Kent County to the south. These two counties were divided in 1706 and it was not until Mason and Dixon surveyed the area between 1764-1767 that the Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware boarders were decided.

The land that would become Elk Landing was originally part of two early patents. Rice's or Price's Adventure was surveyed for William Price on August 29, 1672 and consisted of 250 acres located on the north side of the Elk River on a point by a marsh. A tract called Successor was surveyed for John Browning on February 3, 1678, which contained 500 acres in the fork of the Elk River. A Swedish man named John Hanson Steelman appears to have occupied 200 of the 500 acres of the Successor tract. Sometime between 1687-1693 Steelman appears to have setup a trading post at a Swedish and Finnish community called Transtown located in the vicinity of the junction of the Big and Little Elk Creeks. According to historian George Johnston (1881), Elk Landing is the probable location of Steelman's trading post, which is said to have been a wooden structure that was located along the north side of the stone house that still stands at the site. A wooden structure did exist in this location until it was razed in 1905. The stone house is also said to have been constructed by Steelman in the 1690s and later enlarged to its present size probably in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. This house was also later used as a tavern and inn (National Register Nomination Form 1983).

In 1735, Zebulon Hollingsworth acquires from John Hanson Steelman and others several tracts of land that he would name Elk Landing. The Hollingsworth House that stands at the site was built sometime after Zebulon acquired the land in 1735. The house was originally two stories in height, three bays in length, and constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The house was gutted by fire in 1848, which resulted in it being remodeled to its present Greek-Revival style. A low third story pitched roof and probably the two-story east wing were added at this time along with the front porch. Also, the entire exterior of the house was covered in stucco (Wollon 2000).

Throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Elk Landing became an important transportation center for goods and people. During the Revolutionary War the British move between 15.000-18,000 troops along with supplies through the area on their way to capture the Capitol in Philadelphia in 1777. During the war of 1812, British invaders were driven back from Elkton by Forts Defiance and Frederick, located on the Elk River downstream from Elk Landing, and by Fort Hollingsworth, located just off the southeast corner of the stone house. According to George Johnston (1881:409-23), Elk Landing was the site of a defensive earthwork and a boom across the Elk River. There was:

a small earth-work or redoubt, mounted with a few pieces of small cannon, and stood a few yards southeast of the old stone house now standing near the wharf (Johnston 1881:410 and 414).

By the middle of the nineteenth century shipping had declined at Elk Landing. The construction of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829 along with the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in 1831 and the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad in 1837, provided faster and cheaper transportation. In 1887 Henry Deibert established boat yards on the Little Elk Creek, the lower yard being located on the Hollingsworth property. He built canal boats and barges until 1910 when silting of the creek forced him to move:

The descendants of Zebulon Hollingsworth continued to occupy Elk Landing until recently. On January 17. 2000 the Town of Elkton and the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc., signed a renewable 99-year lease for the restoration, management, and operation of the site as a living history museum.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

In 1981, Phase III archaeological excavations were conducted at site 18CE29 in advance of construction activities associated with the correctional facility located approximately 274 m (900 feet) northwest of the Hollingsworth House. Excavations revealed a semi-sedentary prehistoric base camp that included finished stone tools, ceramics, and features including postholes, possible storage pits, and small pits, which might have been hearths and/or earth ovens. One of the features excavated turned out to be a burial, which contained an adult female. The material recovered spanned the Late Archaic through Late Woodland time periods with some historic items being present as well (Thomas and Payne 1981).

In 1984, archaeologists with the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research conducted excavations around the stone house known as the Steelman House. The excavations were limited and proved to be inconclusive although disturbances were noted around the house (Ward 1984).

During the winter and spring of 2000, archaeologists with Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum conducted excavations at Elk Landing as part of an assessment of Maryland's War of 1812 battlefield sites, which was made possible by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). A limited metal detector survey was conducted in an area just southeast of the Steelman House, which was the supposed location of Fort Hollingsworth (18CE60). A three-pound cannonball was recovered from

this location but no other military artifacts were found. Other artifacts encountered were mixed, with late eighteenth/early nineteenth century ceramics being observed in with modern material. The shovel tests excavated closer to the Steelman House contained a thin band of oyster shells, which might represent undisturbed soil (Pickett 2000).

IV. METHODS

A background literature search was performed at the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville and information was provided by the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc. These materials were examined to gain an understanding of known site settlement patterns in similar settings for both prehistoric and historic occupations in and adjacent to the project area, and the region in general.

The fieldwork included the excavation of four-1 x 1 m (3.3 x 3.3 foot) square test units. These test units were excavated by natural stratigraphy. The depth, stratigraphy, artifact recovery, and the texture as well as the Munsell color of all soil was recorded. Each test unit was also numbered, and its location placed on the project map. All natural soil removed from the test units was screened through ¼-inch wire mesh for uniform and thorough artifact recovery. The walls of each test unit were inspected for artifacts, and features. Stratigraphic profiles of all excavated test units were recorded, including the depth, stratigraphy, artifact recovery, soil texture, and predominant Munsell color. All artifacts recovered were placed in a clearly labeled zippered plastic bag by relative provenience within each test unit and returned to the laboratory for processing. Representative photographs of the project area were taken in black and white print and color slide formats.

The artifacts were cleaned and catalogued, and the artifact collection was studied to determine the date or dates of occupations present and the range of activities carried out. The vertical and horizontal distributions of the material was studied so that the nature and extent of the site can be better understood. Each layer was assigned a terminus post quem (T.P.Q.) based on the artifact with the most recent date of manufacture. The T.P.Q. literally means the date after which, referring to the earliest possible date an archaeological layer or feature could have been deposited.

All artifacts, records, photographs, and project materials are currently being curated on a temporary basis at the TRC office in Durham. These materials will be returned to the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc., for permanent curation.

V. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING UNDER THE PORCH

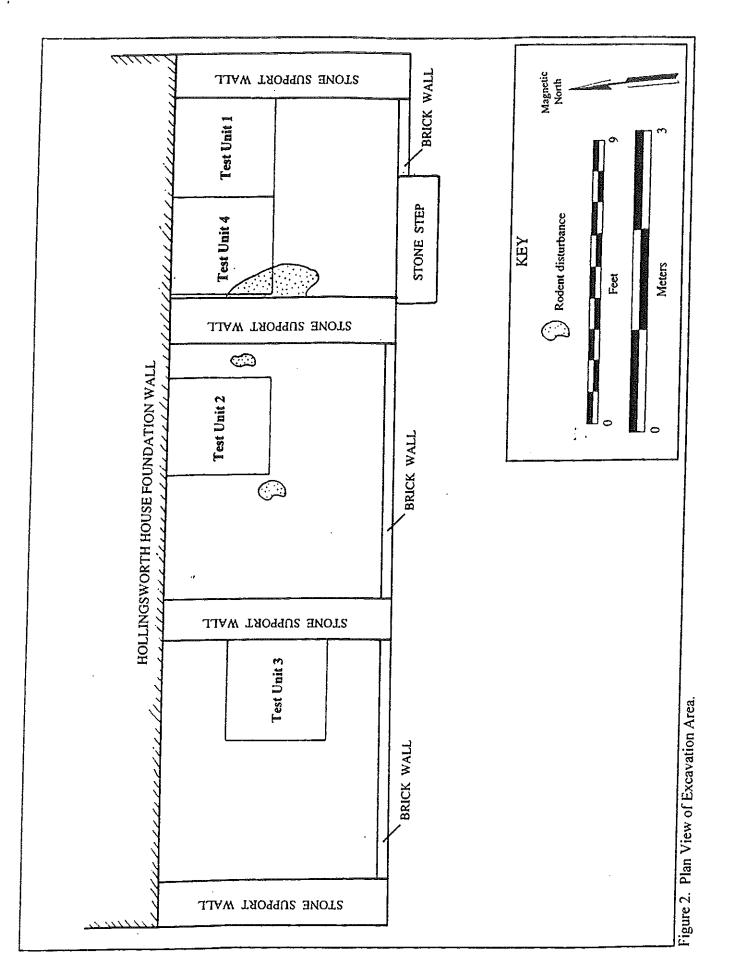
Excavations were carried out in the area exposed by the removal of the porch, which measured approximately 8.75 x 2.25 m (28.7 x 7.4 feet). Present in this area are four stonewalls that helped support the porch. Within that area four-1x 1 m (3.3 x 3.3 foot) square test units were excavated (Figure 2). The stonewalls for the support of the porch divided the area into three sections. At least one test unit was excavated in each of these sections.

There were four stratigraphic layers present in the test units. The first layer contained a large amount of brick and mortar rubble and measured on average 8 cm (3.1 inches) thick. The soil was a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay loam. The second layer also contained rubble and measured on average 10 cm (4 inches) thick. The soil was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) clay loam. The third layer was a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) clay layer that measured on average 20 cm (7.8 inches) thick. This layer sealed a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) layer that measured on average 20 cm (7.8 inches) thick (Figure 3).

The only features discovered during current excavations were numerous groundhog tunnels, which have caused artifacts from different time periods to become mixed. Despite efforts to remove the fill from these holes before the layers in each test unit were excavated, some mixing did occur.

The earliest layer uncovered (layer 4 on the profile) predates European settlement of the area. Pervious excavations in the vicinity have shown that Elk Landing was visited regularly by Native Americans in the Late Archaic through Late Woodland time periods (3,000 B.C.-A.D. 1600) (Thomas and Payne 1981). During current archaeological testing only two prehistoric artifacts were uncovered that could be dated. Two small, eroded Rappahannock ceramic fragments that date to the Late Woodland time period (A.D. 800-1600) were found in Test Unit 1. This pottery is tempered with shell and has a fabric impressed decoration. Other prehistoric artifacts that were recovered include quartz and jasper flakes as well as a large amount of fire-cracked rock (FCR). The quartz and jasper flakes along with the FCR, are indicative of tool manufacture and maintenance. Stones, which were often heated to make them less brittle and easier to work, represented the initial stage of preparation. Once heated, the stones were reduced to the desired size by removing large primary flakes. Next, the tools were roughly shaped by removing secondary or thinning flakes. Native Americans frequently stopped at this point and took the crudely shaped stone forms with them. These "preforms" could be fashioned into specific tools as the need arose. The stone was then finished by removing small flakes known as tertiary flakes. Most of the flakes recovered at the Hollingsworth House were either secondary or tertiary flakes and represent the latter stages of tool production.

Stones were heated not only to make them less brittle and easier to work but also for cooking. Native Americans would use them in open hearths and in earthen ovens. Large amounts of FCR were recovered from current testing as well as pervious excavations. This along with the sites location at the confluences of two creeks suggests that Native Americans were procuring and preparing marine and most likely agricultural resources at Elk Landing. The semi-permanent based camp discovered close by also suggests that Native Americans during the Late Woodland period at Elk Landing were living in similar settlements.



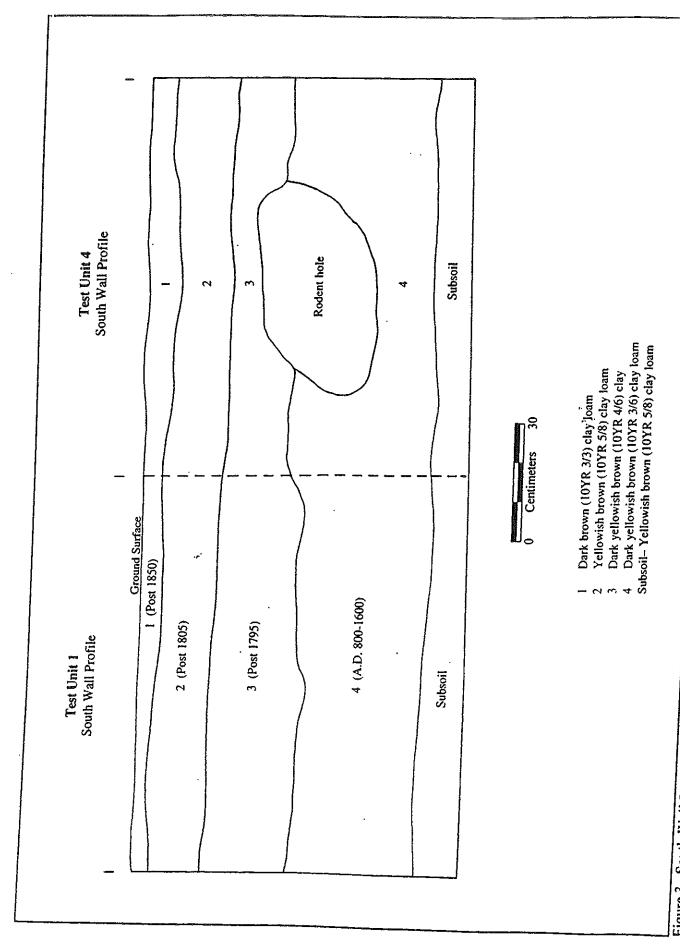


Figure 3. South Wall Profiles of Test Units 1 and 4.

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Above this prehistoric layer was a clay layer with comparatively few artifacts in it (layer 3 on the profile). This clay layer was most likely deposited on top of the prehistoric layer when the cellar of the Hollingsworth House was being dug. Layer 2, which sealed this layer, contained a majority of the historic artifacts recovered. These artifacts represent household trash dating to the early nineteenth century and were mixed in with brick and mortar rubble. The rubble might represent construction debris associated with the construction of the house.

The top layer (layer 1 on the profile) also contained building rubble in the form of brick and mortar fragments as well as early to mid nineteenth century ceramics. This layer was the only layer to contain whitewares, which date at the earliest to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and wire nails, which date to the second half of the nineteenth century. Given the presence of later artifacts in this layer it probably represents refuse deposited around the time the house was renovated after the 1848 fire.

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

A break down of the distribution and kinds of artifacts present at the Hollingsworth House has revealed some information regarding activities at the site. A majority of the historic artifacts were concentrated in Test Units 1 and 2, with Test Unit 3 containing the lowest number. The higher concentrations of artifacts in the middle and eastern areas are no doubt a reflection on the placement of the doors. Trash disposal tends to be concentrated around openings such as doors since most people would dispose of their refuse in a convenient manner. The heaviest concentration of historic artifacts was in Test Unit 2, which is located in the middle of the excavation area and might indicate the presence of a door in that location. The existing doorway is offset to the east and opens up into a side hall, which might have been moved from its central location during renovations after the 1848 fire.

A total of eighty historic ceramic fragments were recovered. Fifty-five (68.75%) are refined earthenwares such as creamwares and pearlwares, with course earthenwares in the form of redwares numbering fifteen (18.75%) and porcelain fragments numbering ten (12.5%). This breakdown is typical of a household assemblage and represents everyday ceramic vessels that the residents were using to serve and consume food from. The porcelains, which included some imported Chinese vessels, represent nicer wares that were probably only used for formal dinning or special occasions. These ceramic vessels would have been handled more carefully and not used as often, resulting in them being broken less and discarded. The course earthenwares, on the other hand, are typically used for food preparation and storage. High concentrations of these ceramics are normally found in areas where such activities are taking place. The low numbers of these earthenwares in front of the Hollingsworth House suggests that cooking functions were not taking place in the house during the early nineteenth century but elsewhere on the property, most likely in a kitchen outbuilding.

Other interesting artifacts encountered that allude to activities taking place in and around the Hollingsworth House include part of a bone toothbrush, clay marbles, a copper alloy handle to a possible fruit knife decorated with a flower motif, a possible iron harness buckle, and a British George III half penny dated 1786. Also, several pins as well as bone and metal buttons were uncovered which represent sewing activities no doubt undertaken by the women of the Hollingsworth House.

INTERPRETATIONS

Based on evidence gather during current excavations it appears that the Hollingsworth House was constructed sometime in the early nineteenth century and was then renovated sometime after 1850. Part of this interpretation fits well with historic documents that state the house was gutted by fire in 1848 and

subsequently renovated to its present Greek Revival style. However, an early nineteenth century date for the construction of the house runs counter to the notion that it was originally constructed sometime in the eighteenth century (Wollon 2000).

Very few artifacts that were definitively eighteenth century were recovered and no evidence of the fire was found either. The lack of an ash layer or burned artifacts could mean that this material was deposited elsewhere on the property, possibly behind the house. The same idea applies to the lack of eighteenth century artifacts. If the house does date to the eighteenth century then deposits associated with that time period might be located elsewhere on the property. It is possible that the front of the house was kept clean during the eighteenth century with refuse disposal taking place behind the house.

The possibility does exist, however, that the house was constructed in the early nineteenth century. It has been noted in other archaeological studies that changes or innovations to house lots usually coincide with changes in ownership (Beaudry 1984; Mrozowski 1984). This can sometimes mean existing buildings are renovated or that new ones are erected to accommodate the new owner's preferences. It is possible that after Zebulon Hollingsworth acquired the property in 1735 he renovated the stone house known as the Steelman House to its present Georgian style. However, given the third quarter eighteenth century date attributed to the Steelman House in its present form, it might have been Zebulon's son, Henry Hollingsworth, who remolded it when he inherited the property. When Henry died in 1803 Elk Landing was becoming the principal port in the area. As such, travelers and merchandise would have been constantly arriving at Elk Landing which no doubt led to the Steelman House being used as a tavern and inn. The transformation of the Steelman House most likely caused the owners to find a more private place to live, which might have led to the construction of the Hollingsworth House.

The change in ownership in 1803 could have sparked a reorganization of Elk Landing. With an increase in the amount of traffic through the area it seems likely that the Hollingsworth's would have needed to make changes in order to accommodate themselves and the growing number of people and goods that would pass through their property. Additional planned excavations at Elk Landing will no doubt help clarify when the Hollingsworth House was constructed as well as to help locate other features such as associated outbuildings and activity areas.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological testing at the Hollingsworth House, located at Historic Elk Landing in Elkton, Maryland, was undertaken in advance of renovation activities, which included the removal of a dilapidated porch and the construction of a new one. The primary goal of the testing was to recover information about the Hollingsworth House and its residents before the construction of a new porch would make that area inaccessible.

Elk Landing is situated at the confluence of the Little Elk and Big Elk Creeks on 42 acres of land that was leased to the Historic Elk Landing Foundation Inc. by the City of Elkton on January 17, 2000. This area contains both floodplain and terrace settings with open plowed fields and wooded areas along the banks of the creeks being present. Also present is an eighteenth century stone house known as the Steelman House, which later became a tavern and inn, as well as several farm outbuildings dating to the twentieth century. The Hollingsworth House, which is located on a terrace approximately 79 m (262 feet) east of Little Elk Creek, was remodeled to its present Greek-Revival style around 1848 after a fire gutted the original structure. The exact construction date of the first house is unknown but it was built sometime after 1735 when Zebulon Hollingsworth acquired the property. Excavations were carried out in the area exposed by the removal of the porch and consisted of the excavation of four test units.

Excavations reveled the presence of a prehistoric layer dating to the Late Woodland time period (A.D. 800-1600) that was sealed by a clay layer, which was most likely deposited on top of the prehistoric layer when the cellar for the Hollingsworth House was being dug. Above this stratum was a layer that contained brick and mortar rubble, which might represent construction debris associated with the construction of the house. This layer also contained a number of early nineteenth century artifacts. The layer above this one contained brick and mortar rubble as well, and artifacts dating from the early to late nineteenth century. The rubble in this layer is most likely associated with renovations to the house after the 1848 fire.

Based on evidence gather during current excavations it appears that the Hollingsworth House was constructed sometime in the early nineteenth century and was then renovated sometime after 1850. An early nineteenth century date for the construction of the house, however, runs counter to the notion that it was originally constructed sometime in the eighteenth century. Very few artifacts that were definitively eighteenth century were recovered and no evidence of the fire was found either, which could mean that this material was deposited elsewhere on the property, possibly behind the house. The possibility does exist, however, that the house was constructed in the early nineteenth century. When Henry Hollingsworth died in 1803 Elk Landing was becoming the principal port in the area. The change in ownership in 1803 could have sparked a reorganization of Elk Landing. With an increase in the amount of traffic through the area it seems likely that the Hollingsworth's would have needed to make changes in order to accommodate themselves and the growing number of people and goods that would pass through their property. This might have included the construction of a new home and the transformation of the Steelman House into an inn and tavern.

Additional planned excavations at Elk Landing will no doubt help clarify when the Hollingsworth House was constructed as well as to help locate other features such as associated outbuildings and activity areas. The information obtained from this excavation will have to be analyzed with material recovered from other areas of Elk Landing in order to understand the area as a whole.

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APPENDIX I: ARTIFACT INVENTORY

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Test Unit 1, Level 1 *TPQ 1850

- 2 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- Refined earthenware, whiteware, molded, fragment, decorated gold guild with green/red flower motif
- 20 Glass, fragment, window glass
- 6 Glass, fragment, window glass with painted white line
- 1 Glass, base fragment, clear bottle
- 1 Glass, fragment, light brown
- Bone, faunal, mammal, rib fragment
- 1 Iron, complete, shutter dog
- 2 Iron, wire nail*
- 4 Iron, cut nail
- 2 Iron, unknown nail fragment
- 1 Brick bat
- 4 Brick, fragment
- 16 Mortar, fragment, sand and pebble tempered
- 2 Possible tar fragments
- 1 Quartz, FCR
- 2 Quartz shatter

Test Unit 1, Level 2 *TPQ 1805

- 1 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, undecorated
- 3 Glass, fragment, window
- 1 Glass, fragment, milk glass
- 8 Bone, faunal, bird possibly chicken
- 2 Bone, faunal, mammal
- 6 Iron, cut nail*
- 15 Iron, unknown nail fragment
- 3 Brick, fragments
- 5 Mortar, fragment, sand and pebble tempered
- 1 Shell, Oyster
- 1 Quartz, FCR
- 1 Jasper, flake possibly heat altered

Test Unit 1, Level 3 *TPQ 1805 (Same as Level 2)

- Porcelain, Chinese, fragment, underglazed blue decoration
- Refined earthenware, creamware, fragment, undecorated
- 3 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, hand painted blue underglaze
- 1 Course earthenware, redware, fragment, lead glazed of the last
- Glass, fragment, window

- Bone, faunal, mammal, possible rodent
- I Iron, cut nail*
- 7 Iron, unknown nail
- 1 Iron, spike
- 9 Iron, unknown fragment
- 1 Copper alloy, disk, complete, unknown function
- 1 Clay, marble, complete
- 1 Brick, fragment
- 1 Quartz, FCR
- 1 Ouartz, shatter

Test Unit 1, Level 4 TPQ NDA

- 1 Iron, unknown nail
- . 1 Copper alloy, complete, tack
 - 2 Brick fragment
 - 3 Mortar, sand and pebble tempered
 - 2 Quartz, FCR

Test Unit 1, Level 5 TPQ NDA

- Iron, unknown nail fragment
- 1 Bone, faunal, fragment
- 1 Shell, oyster
- 2 Ceramic, Rappahannock, fabric impress, shell tempered, eroded, Late Woodland
- 1 Jasper, spall
- 1 Quartz, flake
- 1 Jasper, flake
- 17 Quartz, FCR

Test Unit 1, Feature 1 Rodent Hole *TPQ 1830

- Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, undecorated
- l Refined earthenware, whiteware, fragment, purple transfer print*
- 1 Glass, fragment, dark green bottle
- 2 Glass, fragment, window
- 2 Bone, faunal, possible rodent
- 1 Bone, complete, button
- 2 Iron, unknown nail
- 2 Iron, unknown fragment
- 4 Brick, fragment
- 5 Mortar, fragment, sand and pebble tempered
- 4 Quartz, FCR
- 1 Quartz, flake
- 2 Japer, flake

Test Unit 2, Level 1 *TPQ 1830

- 1 Refined earthenware, whiteware, fragment, red transfer print*
- 1 Glass, fragment, olive green bottle
- I Glass, fragment, window
- 3 Bone, faunal, possible rodent
- 2 Iron, cut nail
- 2 Iron, unknown nail

Test Unit 2, Level 2 *TPQ 1805

- 1 Porcelain, Chinese, fragment, underglazed blue decoration
- 1 Porcelain, English bone, fragment, overglazed decoration
- 2 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware or pearlware, fragment, possibly burnt
- 3 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, undecorated
- 3 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, blue underglaze
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, blue shell edge
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, annular decoration
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, mocha (dendritic) decoration
- 2 Course earthenware, redware, fragment, lead glazed
- 5 Course earthenware, redware, fragment, lead/manganese glaze
- 1 Course earthenware, redware, fragment, lead glazed, molded
- 36 Glass, fragment, window
- 2 Glass, fragment, dark green bottle
- 3 Glass, fragment, olive green, possible decanter
- 1 Glass, square base, clear bottle
- 20 Bone, faunal, mammal
- 1 Bone, fragment, button
- 9 Iron, cut nail*
- 21 Iron, unknown nail
- 1 Iron, complete, buckle, possible harness
- 13 Iron, unknown fragment
- 1 Copper alloy, complete, pin
- 4 Shell, oyster
- 1 Shell, clam
- 1 Jasper, flake
- 5 Quartz, FCR

Test Unit 2, Level 3 *TPQ 1795

- 1 Refined earthenware, possible cauliflower ware, fragment, yellow glaze
- 3 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, blue underglaze*
- 2 Course earthenware, redware, fragment, lead glazed
- 8 Glass, fragment, window
- 4 Brick, fragment
- 7 Jasper, flake
- 1 Jasper, biface
- 1 Quartz, flake

Test Unit 2, Feature 2 Rodent Hole *TPQ 1800

- 1 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Porcelain, possibly English bone, fragment, undecorated*
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, blue transfer print, Willow pattern
- 4 Glass, fragment, window
- 2 Iron, unknown nail
- 1 Copper alloy, complete handle, decorated on one side with flower motif, possibly part of fruit knife
- I Brick, fragment
- l Mortar, fragment
- l Quartz, FCR

Test Unit 3, Level 1 *TPQ 1850

- 2 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, mocha (dendritic) decoration
- 1 Refined earthenware, whiteware, fragment, purple transfer print
- 9 Glass, fragment, window
- 1 Glass, fragment, clear bottle
- l Glass, fragment, aqua bottle
- I Glass, fragment, olive green bottle
- 2 Iron, wire nail*
- 3 Iron, cut nail
- 2 Iron, unknown nail
- 1 Cooper alloy, complete, button, one piece decorated on reverse with flower motif
- 1 Shell, fragment, oyster
- 2 Brick, fragment
- 1 Mortar, fragment
- 2 Jasper, flakes
- 4 Quartz, FCR

Test Unit 3, Level 2 *TPQ 1800

- Porcelain, English bone, fragment, overglaze gilding*
- 1 Porcelain, English bone, fragment, undecorated
- 1 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, annular decoration
- 1 Refined earthenware, c.c. ware, fragment, undecorated
- l Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, blue transfer print
- 2 Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, brown transfer print
- l Refined earthenware, pearlware, fragment, undecorated
- l Course earthenware, redware, fragment, no glaze
- 30 Glass, fragment, window
- l Glass, fragment, olive bottle
- 1 Glass, fragment, dark green bottle
- 3 Bone, faunal, mammal
- 10 Iron, unknown nail
- 1 Copper alloy, fragment, flat, unknown