

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE EUTAW MANOR SITE



UNCOVERING THE HISTORY ON AN 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY
PLANTATION SITE IN
BALTIMORE'S HERRING RUN PARK



In the early 19th century, Eutaw Manor was owned by William Smith's grandchildren, the Hall Family. This map depicts the location of the Eutaw Manor, mills, Hall Springs Hotel and various other improvements the Hall Family made over the years.

EUTAW MANOR

The Eutaw Manor Site once formed the heart of the Eutaw Farm Plantation during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Herring Run Archaeology Project has been exploring this important site since the fall of 2014.

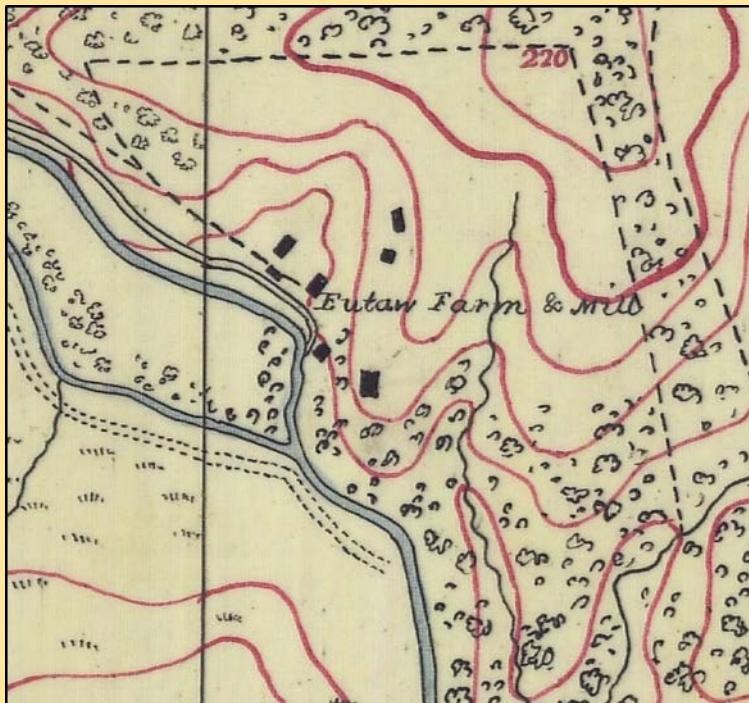
Abraham Larsh, a Baltimore City tavern keeper, first built a house and grist mill here in 1762. In 1779, he sold the house and nearby mill to local merchant and Maryland delegate to the Continental Congress, William Smith. From 1779 to 1804, Eutaw Manor served as Smith's country retreat. Elsewhere on the property, Smith employed tenants to operate the grist mill, farm the agricultural fields and harvest Smith's peach orchard. In 1804, William Smith gave the estate to his daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Josias Carville Hall. Over the next six decades, three generations of Smith's descendants lived at Eutaw Manor until it tragically burned to the ground during a fire that started the evening of October 25, 1865. In addition to the Smith and Hall families, dozens of enslaved African Americans lived and worked on the plantation during the 19th century.

Ongoing research and excavation at the site are producing tantalizing new insights into life at Eutaw Manor in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Fire in the County—On Wednesday a party of ladies and gentlemen from the city visited Eutaw, the residence of Mr. Carville Hall, situated some four miles from the city, on the Harford turnpike, for the purpose of being present at a christening. Whilst a happy party were enjoying themselves the dwelling was found to be on fire, and although every one present exerted himself to the utmost, it was entirely consumed, involving a loss of \$8,000, on which there is a policy of insurance of only \$3,500. The gentlemen present, aided by the neighbors, succeeded in saving most of the furniture. The cause of the fire is supposed to have been accidental.

FINDING EUTAW MANOR

Archaeologists use a variety of methods to locate sites. In Herring Run Park, researchers were fortunate to have a variety of maps dating from the 19th century that show the general location of the manor house. On some, the mapmakers also included the general location of additional structures, including the mills, outbuildings, and the Hall Springs Hotel.



Section of the Office of Coast Survey's 1866 Map Approaches to Baltimore, showing the general location of Eutaw Farm and Mill

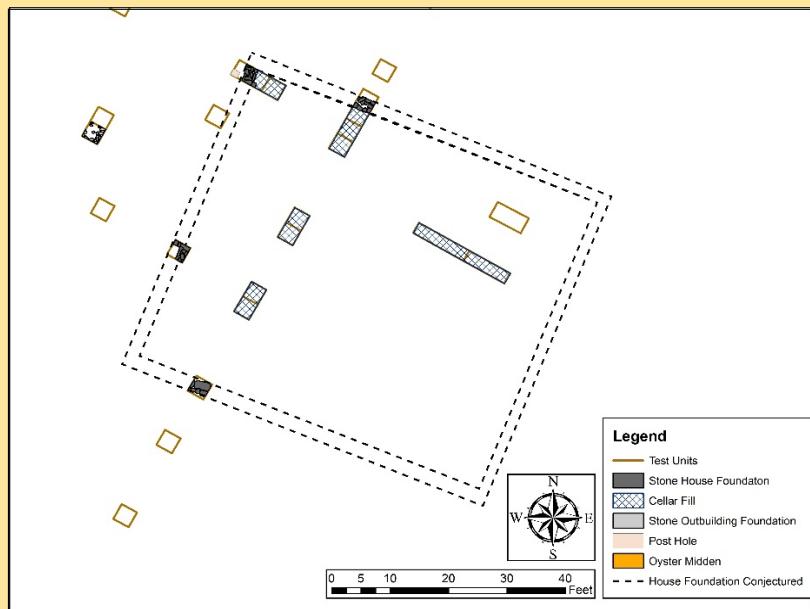
Charles Willson Peale's 1788 portrait of William Smith at Eutaw Manor proved to be another invaluable resource. While the object of the painting was William Smith and his grandson, Eutaw Manor and the Eutaw Grist Mill are clearly visible in the background of the painting (center left, below). Research revealed that this landscape was painted from life in October of 1788; it is, in effect, a snapshot of the site from over two hundred years ago, and was critical in establishing the location of the site.



Charles Wilson Peale's 1788 Portrait William Smith and his Grandson

ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE SITE

Before excavations began at the site, archaeologists used historic and modern topographic maps of Herring Run Park to identify locations that were likely to contain archaeological sites, but even the most careful research does not always result in the discovery of archaeological remains - it was pure luck that we discovered the foundations of Eutaw Manor in our third shovel test at the site.



Further testing provided conclusive proof that the site is indeed that of Eutaw Manor. The footprint of the building measures exactly 60 x 60 feet, the same size described in 19th-century rental advertisements for the property, and the discovery of other features, such as an 18th-century wagon road and mill race, all point to this as the seat of Eutaw Farm.

Archaeologists and community volunteers began to uncover portions of Smith's former home in April of 2014. In addition to exposing segments of the house's foundations, the team also excavated portions of the Eutaw Manor cellar, trash pits where residents discarded their food remains and household trash, and the stone foundation of what might be an earlier residence on the site before Smith's house was built!



ARTIFACTS FROM THE SITE

Digging is just one part of an archaeological investigation. After all the holes from the dig were filled back in, volunteers from the Herring Run Archaeology Project spent the fall and winter months carefully cleaning and cataloging all the artifacts recovered from excavation at our lab space, generously donated by the Maryland Natural History Society.

Many of the artifacts dated to the when the house burnt down in 1865. Volunteers discovered hundreds of pieces of burned ceramics and melted glass that were left in the house after the catastrophic fire in 1865. Other items, such as food remains, tobacco pipes, buttons, tools, and architectural materials were also recovered that date to the decades leading up to the house fire. Many of the artifacts were likely discarded by members of the Smith and Hall families and their slaves, and studying those items can tell us a great deal about day-to-day life in Northeast Baltimore in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Volunteers Cleaning Artifacts at the Lab:



WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT THE EUTAW MANOR SITE SO FAR?

The public archaeology project in Herring Run Park has identified five sites in the park so far, and has only just begun to explore the site of Eutaw Manor. The artifacts recovered so far date predominantly to the years that Eutaw Farm was in operation, from about 1760 to 1865, but there are hints of an even earlier occupation, which may date to the 1600s. While we've answered many questions about the history of the park, there are now even more intriguing questions to guide our work going forward.

For example:

We know the occupation of the property actually goes back to the 1680s, and we've discovered artifacts that date to that period. Could the site of Eutaw Manor have been occupied before 1760?

and

Smith's descendants enslaved several dozen African American men, women, and children. Some of them lived in Eutaw Manor house, but others were housed elsewhere. Can we tell anything about the lives of the individuals and families who worked at Eutaw Manor, both in the house and on the farm? What else might we discover that could tell us more about them?

and

We found Eutaw Manor, but what about other buildings on the property? We know there was a springhouse, stable, and kitchen, was there also a separate slave quarter? Does evidence of those buildings still remain?

LEARNING MORE AND BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE TEAM

To learn more about the history of Herring Run Park and William Smith's Eutaw Manor, visit our website hosted by Baltimore Heritage: <http://baltimoreheritage.org/history/broads-choice-eutaw-farm-hall-springs-early-history-herring-run-park/>.

While there, you can also read about the team's previous excavations at Eutaw Manor and keep up-to-date with the field notes from project team as the investigation continues.

Do you want to become a part of the Herring Run Archaeology Project team? Fieldwork happens in the spring, and volunteer lab opportunities are also available in the fall and winter. You can help excavate at William Smith's Eutaw Manor, aid in archaeological research, washing and labeling artifacts, or the conservation of ancient objects. Best of all, no experience is required. To sign up for the project mailing list visit:

<http://baltimoreheritage.org/volunteer/herring-run-park-archeology/>

Once you sign up, you will be one of the first to learn about when our next field season will be held and will be able to sign up for a spot on the team.

Who Are We

The Herring Run Archaeology Project was started in 2014 with the mission of exploring the rich history of northeast Baltimore through archaeological discovery. The principal directors of the Herring Run Archaeology Project are the community members which we serve and the gracious partner organizations who make this project possible:

- Baltimore Heritage
- Friends of Herring Run Parks
- Northeast Baltimore History Roundtable
- Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks
- Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
- Natural History Society of Maryland

The Project Team is directed by archaeologists Lisa Kraus and Jason Shellenhamer. Together, Lisa and Jason have over 30 years of experience in the archaeology of the Middle Atlantic Region. Both Baltimore locals, they are excited to explore a small part of the community's past with their neighbors.

