HERRING RUN ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

A Handbook for Archaeological Fieldwork

Contents

Introduction

Baltimore Heritage and the Northeast Baltimore History Roundtable has begun a volunteer-led survey to identify archaeological sites at Herring Run Park in Northeast Baltimore. Very little is known about early residents of Northeast Baltimore. Who worked at the mills, the hotels and taverns, the farms that existed here in the 1800s? Who were the earliest immigrant settlers in the area, and where did they live? Were there Native American settlements and camps here? What were the lives of all these early residents like, and how did they influence the area that eventually became Greater Lauraville? How has the neighborhood changed over time, and what has stayed the same?

In the fall of 2014, the project team discovered sites in Herring Run Park that could answer many of these questions. From October to December 2014, the team identified a number of exciting sites that demonstrate thousands of years of occupation in Northeast Baltimore. Some of the identified sites include Native American camps dating as early as 600 A.D., the eighteenth century Eutaw Manor and Grist Mill, the 19th century Hall Spring Tavern/Hotel, and late nineteenth- century Ivy Hill mansion. The field season for the spring of 2016 will concentrate on Site 18BC183, a multi-component site containing evidence of both prehistoric and historic occupation. The prehistoric component dates from approximately 600 – 1200 AD and represents a small prehistoric camp or work shop associated with a larger nearby settlement. The historic component dates from the mid-eighteenth century and is associated with a farm and mill complex.

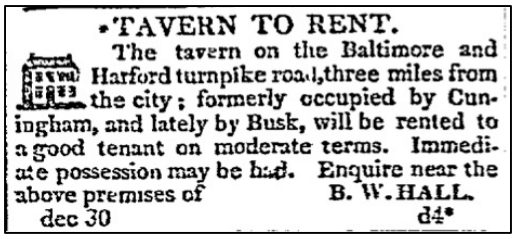
Centuries before Europeans arrived, the Herring Run was a destination for bands of Native Americans. Likely drawn to the area by the natural spring and bountiful fishing, small groups of Native Americans camped on the high terraces overlooking the Herring Run. Preliminary archaeological investigations of the area identified several small camp sites within the park dating from 600 – 1200 A.D. These camps were often temporary, lasting at most only a few days. During their stay, Native groups likely fished the creek's once plentiful gudgeon run as well as hunted game along its banks. The Herring Run has always been an abundant source of quartz and quartzite cobbles, a primary resource for the production of stone tools. Artifacts recovered during these excavations include numerous pieces of flaked stone, the waste of tool manufacture, as well as worked cobbles, scrapers, and a single projectile point.

In the late seventeenth century, the park was home to John Broad, an English immigrant who settled along the west bank of the Herring Run sometime prior to 1695. Broad resided on the property until his death in 1709. By the 1760's, both the east and west banks of the Herring Run, between Harford and Belair Roads, was in the possession of a Baltimore innkeeper, Valentine Larsh, who established a grist mill and country manor house on the eastern bank of Herring Run.

> "Whereas the said Daniel Barnett and Valentine Larsh did herefore jointly build, erect, and set up a grist mill, raised the mill dam and sundry other improvement… and which said mill is situated on the Herring Run and generally distinguished by the name Larshes Mill…"
>
> - Baltimore County Land Records Liber AL L, folio 483

William Smith purchased Larshes Mill and surrounding property in 1779. The prominent city merchant and future member of the Continental Congress renamed the entire property Eutaw Farm. In 1788, Smith commissioned a portrait from noted artist, Charles Wilson Peale. Both the Eutaw Grist Mill and Manor house are visible in the painting's background. In 1804, William Smith gave Eutaw Farm to his daughter, Janet, and her husband, Josias Carvell Hall. Over the next 100 years, the Hall family maintained stewardship over the estate. After Josias death in 1814, the entire property was left to his son, Benedict William Hall.

During Benedict's tenure several more improvements were made to the farm. The Columbia Cotton Mill was constructed upstream from the Eutaw Grist Mill and several tenant farms were established on both the east and west banks of the Herring Run. Most notably, either Benedict, or Josias before him, established the Hall Springs Tavern/Hotel on the north side of the Harford Road, across from the natural spring. In the 19th century, the tavern and eventual hotel became resort destination for city residents – horse-drawn omnibuses carried day trippers from the city for refreshment at the tavern, fishing in the stream, or gambling at the Herring Run racetrack. With the construction of the Columbia Mill and later the Eutaw Church, a small community developed on and adjacent to the Herring Run and the Harford Road. This community became the genesis for the eventual development of the current neighborhoods of Lauraville, Arcadia, and Belair-Edison.



TAVERN TO RENT.

The tavern on the Baltimore and Harford turnpike road, three miles from the city; formerly occupied by Cuningham, and lately by Busk, will be rented to a good tenant on moderate terms. Immediate possession may be had. Enquire near the above premises of B. W. HALL.

dec 30 d4*

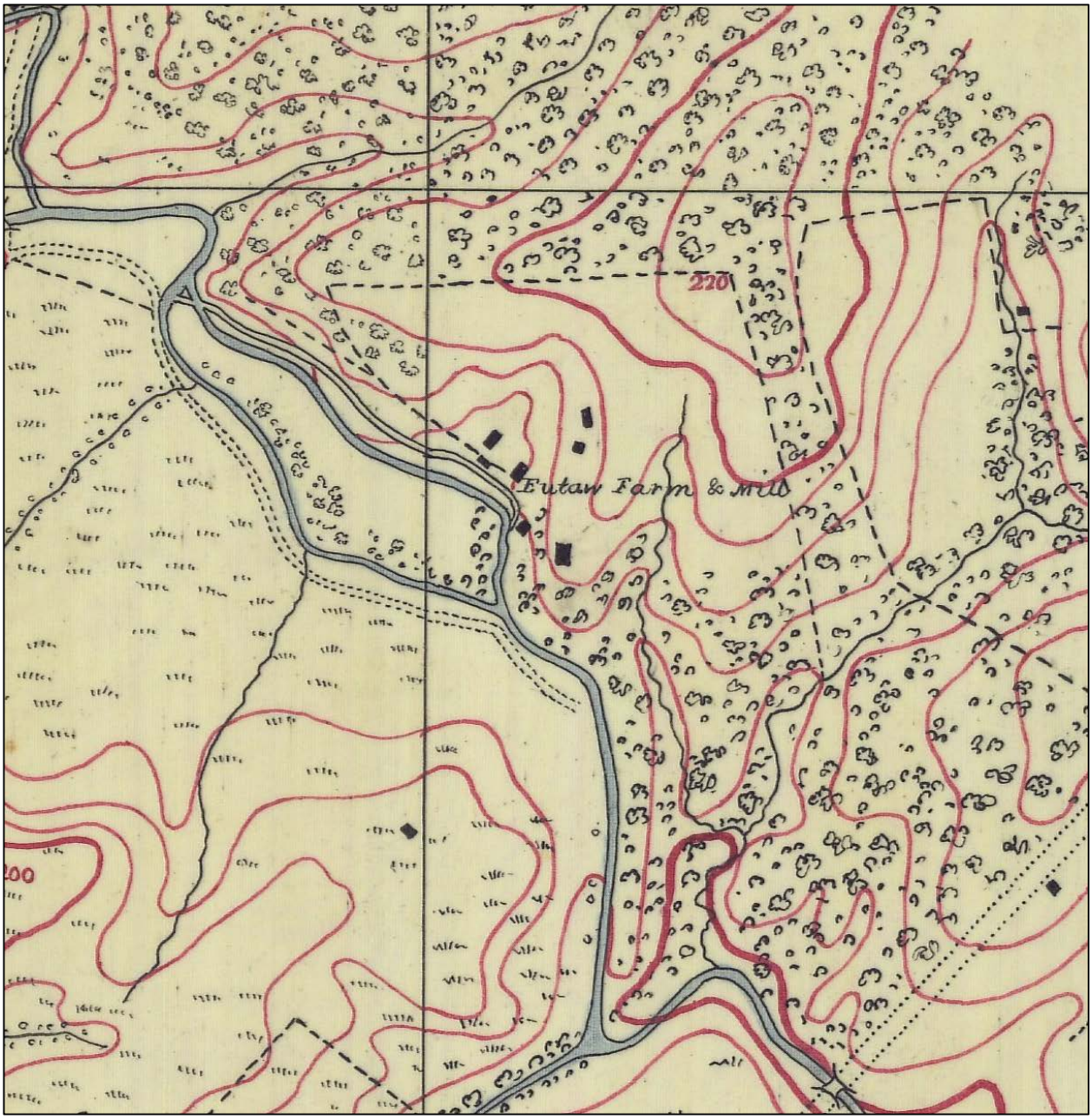


Figure 1: A.D. Bache's 1865-1866 *Approaches to Baltimore* Showing the Eutaw Farm Improvements from 1849

Figure 2: F. Klemm's 1872 *Map of Baltimore* Showing the Hall Family Estate at Herring Run.

Research Design and Objectives

Testing of Site 18BC183 is well poised to provide data that can answer several important research question regarding the prehistoric and historic occupation and development of Northeast Baltimore, specifically, and central Maryland, generally. Things often happen in the field to change what archeologists are doing, and often things are learned that nobody had considered, but it is still useful to have questions in mind to guide the work.

Research Questions

1. *What can Site 18BC183 tell us about the prehistory of Baltimore before European occupation?*

Very little is known about the occupation of this part of Maryland prior to the arrival of Europeans. The area that became Baltimore City was occupied by prehistoric groups for over 12,000 years before the arrival of English settlers in the early seventeenth century; however, little evidence of their presence has been found locally. Of the 187 archaeological sites identified in Baltimore City, only 11 are related to the prehistoric occupation of the area. Give the paucity of existing research of prehistoric peoples in the area, any investigation of the city's prehistoric past is bound to provide new and important information? Some potential research questions include:

- What type of site was the prehistoric component of 18BC183 and how was Herring Run relevant to the people who came here?
- What types of resources were available to the Late Woodland people who came here?
- Are the tools and debitage recovered from the site all local sourced or are there non-local materials as well? If so, how does their presence in the assemblage relate to prehistoric exchange networks from the time?
- Was this site only occupied during the Late Woodland Period or is there evidence of earlier prehistoric occupation as well?
- Are the prehistoric remains identified at Site 18BC183 intact or have they been disturbed by the later historic occupation also present at the site?

2. *What can Site 18BC183 tell us about the people who settled in Northeast Baltimore in the colonial period and how did those people modify the landscape to suit their needs?*

Historical records are available and often utilized by researchers to provide insight into the lives of settlers and the conditions they faced. Historical records associated with this portion of Northeast Baltimore indicate that the property containing Site 18BC183 was first purchased in 1695, but the site containing the Eutaw Farm and Mill Complex was not constructed until the mid-eighteenth century. The mill was constructed by Abraham Larsh, a Baltimore tavern keeper and was later sold to William Smith, a Baltimore City merchant and later founding father of the United States. Historic records often reflect the interests and concerns of a limited group of people, the Larshs and Smiths of history. Many wealthy and influential people called Baltimore home over the years, but most of the city's former residents left few written records behind, including the slaves and tenants who occupied Site 18BC183. Archeology is one of the best ways to learn more about the lives of these often forgotten people. Some potential research questions regarding the historic component of the site include:

- What is the structure identified at Site 18BC183? Records from the late-eighteenth and nineteenth century indicate the manor house for Eutaw Farm sat at this location, but was the house originally the tenant miller's home which was converted by later property owners? Or did the Eutaw manor house replace an earlier structure that once sat on the same landform?

- What can the artifacts (ceramics, glassware, food remains and personal items) recovered from the site tell us about the lives of those who used and discarded the items? Does the site reflect only the use of the property as a retreat for wealthy Smith and Hall Families or are there materials left behind that can inform us about the living conditions and experiences of those people enslaved on the property in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?
- Housing is one of the most important components of our material culture, expressing people's culture expectations and shaping their daily lives. During the initial survey of the site, evidence of at least one structure was identified. Further excavation and documentation of the structure and associated features will provide information on the architectural expression of this occupation.
- The yard around the house was also an important part of the household environment, and the way these yards were laid out seems to have varied greatly over time. Excavation of the can provide several kinds of data about the yard. Houses and outbuildings were key nodes of activity, so their locations are key parts of the plan. The contents of pit features sometimes document nearby activities. The distribution of artifacts may also document the use of certain areas. Reconstructing the overall site plan – buildings, approaches, yards, and specialized activity areas – will allow us to reconceive the space as the residents did and understand how they lived within the boundaries of their home.

Field Investigation Plan

Excavation of Test Units will be conducted with hand-tools, principally shovels and spades, but also trowels. Sifting of soils will take place on top of tarps or plastic sheeting. Test units will be placed on a measured grid which will be established following the STP survey and will be tied to a permanent datum. Specific placement of TUs will be dependent on the results of the preceding shovel test survey, with preference given to areas with high artifact concentrations, structural features, and/or locations with identified buried cultural deposits (features).

Test units will measure 0.9x0.9-meter (3.0x3.0 feet) and were excavated into subsoil. The plowzone will be screened in its entirety and excavated as a single level. Below the plowzone excavation levels testing will follow natural stratigraphy with arbitrary 10-centimeter (4.0-inch) levels for vertical control. Subsoil will be sampled with either the excavation of one 10-centimeter-thick level across the entirety of the unit, or a 45x45-centimeter (1.5x1.5-foot) window. As with the shovel tests, the uppermost soil stratum will be designated Stratum A, and underlying strata will be assigned consecutive alphanumeric designations (Strata B, C, etc.). Excavation levels are to be numbered consecutively from the top of the test unit to the base (Levels 1, 2, 3, etc.).

For test units each stratum or level will be recorded on standardized field forms, and scaled stratigraphic profiles and plan views. Test unit locations will also be recorded on field maps as well as using a survey-grade GPS device. All test units will be backfilled upon completion of their excavation and documentation.

Subsurface cultural features will likely be encountered during the course of the test unit excavation. Once identified, the feature will be exposed to the maximum extent possible. Once the feature is uncovered, it will be mapped in plan view with elevations taken relative to the ground surface. Once documented, features will be sectioned and excavated in halves or quarters, and profile drawings prepared. All features will be photographed before excavation, after sectioning, and after excavation was complete.

At the end of each field day, all open test units will be covered with plywood sheets, and tarps or plastic sheeting. Back-dirt piles will also be covered with tarps or plastic sheeting. Open test unit areas will be additionally marked with caution tape. Test units will typically be backfilled immediately upon completion; however some test units may be left open for the duration of the fieldwork to assist with public interpretation of the site.

The work will be conducted by 2 field personnel with the assistance of as many as 10 additional volunteers at a time. Fieldwork will be conducted from Saturday, April 23, 2016, to Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 8AM to 4PM

General Field Procedures

The procedures outlined herein are intended to be general and are not necessarily to be followed verbatim in all cases. When in doubt, don't hesitate to ask a supervisor. We are here to answer questions.

- Excavation will be carried out in test units, which will vary in size depending on circumstances. Initially it may be desirable to use a series of 3x3-foot units but some smaller 1.5x3-foot units may be used to explore subsurface features as well.

- All test units will be excavated according to standard professional protocol. They are generally excavated by consecutively numbered arbitrary levels within letter-designated natural strata. The levels are numbered consecutively from the top to the bottom of the excavation. Do not begin again with Level 1 at the start of each new stratum. By maintaining consecutively numbered levels, adjustments can be made to stratigraphic interpretations, such as lumping two strata together, without the risk of creating repeat levels.

- Initially, all excavated soils will be screened through ¼-inch mesh screen. However, if a deposit is identified that is clearly recent fill, for example from 20th-century landscaping, only a sample of the soil will be screened.

- Each stratum and level will be recorded using the Herring Run Archaeology Project standard forms, which include a detailed soil description, with soil textural descriptions and Munsell color codes, and fields for notes on disturbances, artifacts, and features.

- Artifacts will be bagged by provenience (i.e. Test Unit or Trench Number; Stratum; Level)

- Detailed drawings will be prepared of at least one wall of every test unit, and detailed plan drawings will be made of all features. Test Units will be backfilled upon completion.

- Any features (stains, ditches, postmolds, etc.) encountered below the plowzone/fill should be left in place for mapping and photographing prior to removal. Features will be

- Features will be cross-sectioned and excavated in natural levels, if apparent. The fill will be screened, and any artifacts will be bagged separately from the surrounding unit.

Excavation of a Test Unit

1. Herring Run Archaeology Project personnel with help place and lay out a test unit. Obtain designated unit number from a supervisor.

2. The plowzone or uppermost fill layer will be removed as a separate level, designated Stratum A; Level 1. The uppermost stratum will be removed using a shovel and screened through ¼-inch mesh. Care should be taken not to dig into the underlying stratum (i.e. Stratum B). Once stratum A has been excavated, the floor of the unit should be scraped clean in order to identify potential features in the floor of the unit.

3. After Stratum A; Level 1 is completely removed and the floor cleaned, a Stratum/Level sheet must be completed and checked by a member of the Herring Run Archaeology Project team. The elevations of each corner and the center point of the unit/trench will be taken as depths below datum. Along with elevations, soil texture and color must also be recorded on the Stratum/Level form. Soil colors can be found in the Munsell Soil Color Chart Book (see Herring Run Archaeology Project Team member). Examples of soil textures can be found in the back of this handbook.

4. If a feature is evident at this level, notify a member of the Herring Run Archaeology Project team to obtain a feature number. For an explanation of how to excavate a feature, see EXCAVATION OF FEATURES below.

5. If no features are visible, the excavation of Stratum B; Level 2 may proceed. As with the previous stratum, this should also be shovel scraped and soil sifted through ¼-inch mesh screens.

6. As you reach an arbitrary 0.3-foot level or soil color change, the unit/trench floor should be carefully cleaned. If at the base of an arbitrary 0.3-foot level, a Stratum/Level sheet must be completed and elevations taken at each corner and center of the unit. Once measurements are taken, excavators may continue digging the next 0.3-foot level or where a soil color change is evident (which ever comes first). If you reach a new soil color, the unit floor should again be carefully cleaned and an inspection made for features. If a feature is identified, notify a member of the Herring Run Archaeology Project team for a number. If no features are present, take measurements and begin the excavation of the next Stratum.

7. Continue with this procedure through the rest of the unit/trench excavation. Excavation will cease once sterile subsoil is identified. At the completion of a test unit/trench excavation, closing measurements must be recorded and the unit cleaned for a photograph. Preparation for level photographs includes clearing the floor of all loose dirt, footprints, and equipment and recording on the photo chalk board the site number, unit number/trench number, level, feature numbers (if present), and the date. Once the photograph is taken, a wall of the test unit or trench must be selected for a profile drawing.

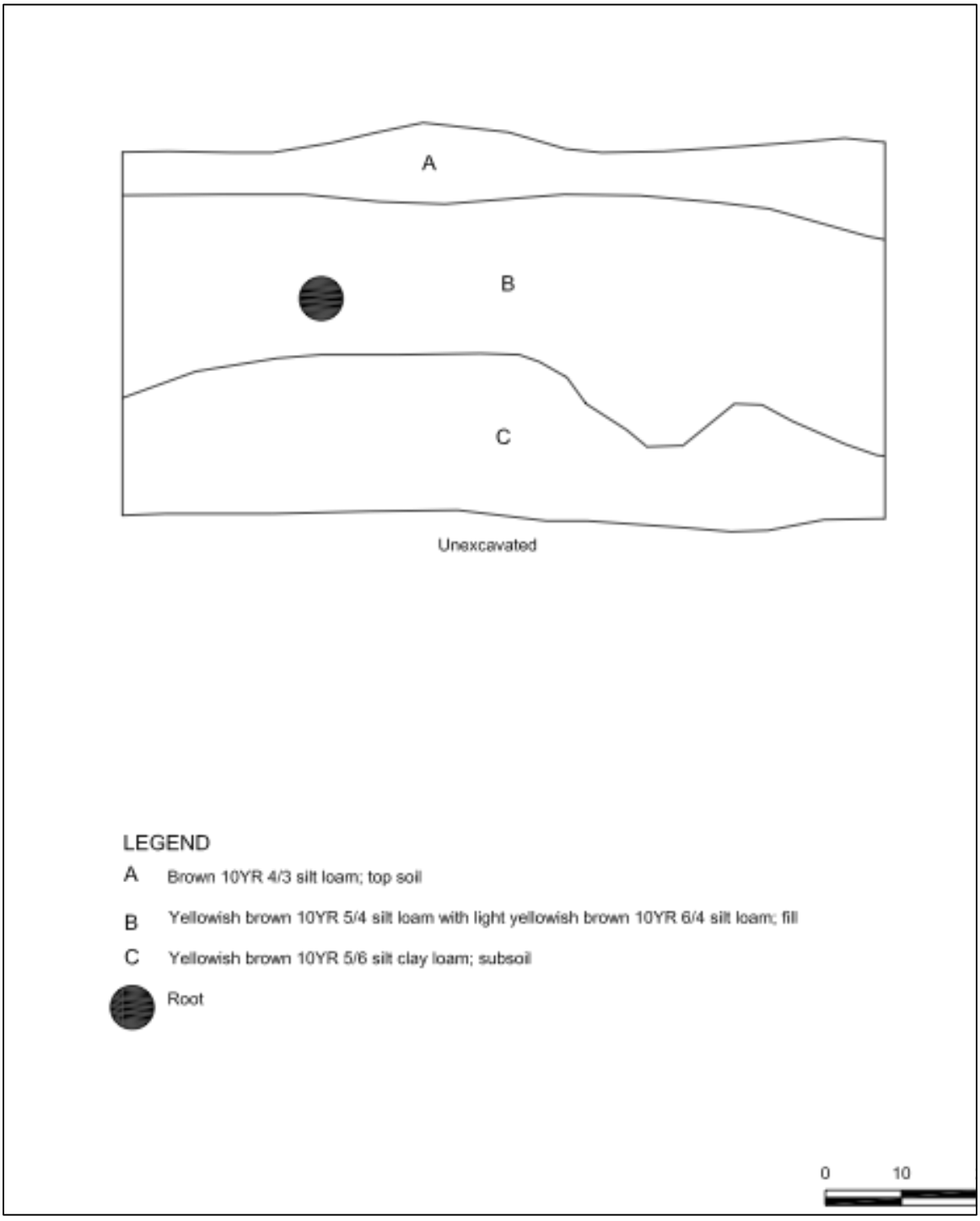


Figure 3: Example of a Test Unit Profile Drawing

Excavation of Features

Note: The following instructions are to be followed when excavating features **unless directed otherwise by a supervisor**. Some features may require different treatment. Please work closely with a supervisor when excavating features.

1. Trowel off the upper surface of the feature to allow a clear distinction between the feature fill and the surrounding soil.

2. Have a feature number assigned.

3. Consult with a supervisor to see if an additional photograph of the unexcavated feature is required.

4. Draw the feature in plan view and record dimensions on the feature form.

5. Divide the feature in half by fixing a string guide along the east-west axis. Record the location of the string line on the plan view drawing. Remove the fill from the southern half of the feature unless otherwise directed.

6. All feature fill should be screened and bagged. They should be separated from those collected in other Strata/Levels in the unit or trench.

7. Have the cross-section photographed, if appropriate. Draw the cross sectioned feature in profile, using the string line as a guide. Make sure to note the view (e.g., facing north) on the profile. Complete the Feature paperwork as you would at typical Stratum/Level. See an example of this in the back of the handbook.

8. Excavate the remaining half of the feature. Unless instructed otherwise, materials from the second half of the feature may be added to those from the first half.

9. Have the fully excavated feature photographed and complete the feature form.

Figure 4: Example of Feature Excavation Following Initial Bisection

How to Complete Artifact Tags

The entire card does not need to be filled out in every instance. In this section, we will review the relevant data needed on the Artifact Tag cards during the Herring Run Archaeology Project excavation.

1. Project # – This is the project code number. This field needs to be filled out on every Artifact Tag Card used in the project. The project code for the Eutaw Manor and Mill Complex is **002**.

2. Site # - This is the Maryland State Site Number. The Maryland Historical Trust has designated this **Site 18BC183**. Please include this on all complete Artifact Tag Cards.

3. Field # - This is a consecutive numerical designation used during artifact cataloging. This field does not need to be completed during test unit/trench excavation.

4. Trench – in situations where a trench is being excavated, this is the location where you record the Trench Number. The number will be provided to you by Herring Run Archaeology Project personnel prior to beginning excavation.

5. Unit # - in situation where a test unit is excavated, this is the field for recording your unit number. The number will be provided to you by Herring Run Archaeology Project personnel prior to beginning excavation.

6. Stratum – This field needs to be filled out regardless of trench or test unit excavation. Strata will always have an alphabetical designation (i.e. A, B, C, etc…)

7. Level - This field needs to be filled out regardless of trench or test unit excavation. Levels will always have a numerical designation (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc…). Level numbers will never be repeated in a single unit or trench.

8. Feature # - This field will only be filled out if a Feature has been identified and excavated in your designated test unit/trench. The Feature Number will be provided to you prior to the initial bisection of the feature.

9. FStr – This is only filled out if a feature has multiple strata. Otherwise this field is always left blank.

10. FHf/Qd – If excavating a feature, indicate which half (North or South) of the Feature the recovered artifacts came from.

11. Artifact #/Type – Indicate in this field how many artifacts were recovered/collected in the artifact bag.

12. Excavator(s) – place your and your excavation partner's initials in this field

13. Date – Indicate the date on which the artifacts were collected. The date on the Artifact Tag Card should correspond with that found on the associated Stratum/Level form.

Field Forms

Stratum/Level Form

The *Stratum/Level Form* is a general provenience form used to record a stratum and/or a level within many types of excavations, including units, features, and machine-excavated and hand dug trenches. The form is used in conjunction with one of the three summary forms for units, features, and trenches.

At the top of the *Stratum/Level Form,* below the site information line, spaces are provided to record the type of excavation (unit, feature, etc.) the form is being used for. This section is followed by requests for descriptions of the provenience and the techniques used in the excavation. All requested information should be filled in completely. If the appropriate answer to an information request is negative (i.e., no samples taken or no disturbance observed), write out the answer. Often a simple "none" or "N/ A" (not applicable) will suffice. Do not leave the space blank.

In the center of the form there is a four-column table for recording artifact and bag information. The table is split into four parts to accommodate quadrant excavations, with the name of the quad to be written at the top of each column. If you are instructed not to record or excavate in quads, then the table should be used for a single list, starting with the left-hand column.

The map space on the reverse of the form is to be used primarily to draw maps that clarify the excavation discussion in the comments. For example, if two strata are exposed in plan view within the same level, the map space should be completed to record the location, depths, and other necessary information that illustrates the discussion. Complicated drawings requiring greater attention to detail, or drawings that cannot be accommodated by the 5x5 format, should be drawn on a separate sheet of blue line graph paper.

Unit, Trench, and Feature Summary Forms

The three summary forms can be used in conjunction with the *Stratum/Level Form* in units or deep features such as privies and wells, or they can be used as the only form completed for a provenience. Examples of situations where summaries are adequate as stand-alone documents include machine trenches excavated quickly to examine soil profiles, and small features recovered with a simple bisection. The forms are relatively straightforward; the only major change that has been made is the expanded comments section, found on the reverse side of each. All requested information should be filled in completely. If the appropriate answer to an information request is negative (i.e., no samples taken or no disturbance observed), write out the answer. Often a simple "none" or "N/A" will suffice. Do not leave the space blank.

Herring Run Archaeology Project Team Biographies

Lisa A. Kraus, PhD

Archeologist Lisa Kraus has a Ph.D. in Anthropology/Historical Archaeology from the University of Texas at Austin and has worked as an archeologist for the Maryland State Highway Administration since 2009. Recent projects include a Phase II study of 18th century taverns in New Market, Maryland, which Dr. Kraus designed and managed. Since 2009, Dr. Kraus has been working with website developers, archaeologists, and the public to create a website devoted to SHA's archaeological work in Bladensburg, Maryland, relating to the War of 1812.

Jason P. Shellenhamer, M.A.A., RPA

Jason P. Shellenhamer has fifteen years experience in archaeology in the Middle Atlantic and a Master's of Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Currently, Mr. Shellenhamer serves as the project archaeologist for Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, in Baltimore. Some of his projects have included: directing the War of 1812 public archaeology project at Patterson Park, Baltimore; the multi-year study at the Antietam Battlefield; directing archaeological studies for the new National Museum of African-American History on the Mall in Washington; multiple studies in the C&O Canal Park, and geophysical exploration of a secret World War II prison camp at Fort Hunt.

Additional Support

- Patty Dowd, Friends of Herring Run
- Eric Holcomb, CHAP
- Christine Muldowney, Northeast Baltimore History Roundtable
- Eli Pousson, Baltimore Heritage

Partners

- Baltimore Heritage
- Northeast Baltimore History Roundtable
- Friends of Herring Run Park
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- Natural History Society of Maryland
- Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

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