



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MARYLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGY
(MACA)
September 8, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance: Joy Beasley, Jane Cox, Joe Hoyt, Don Housley

Staff in Attendance: Charlie Hall, Dixie Henry, Elizabeth Hughes, Matt McKnight, Tricia Samford, Scott Strickland, Zac Singer

The meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.

Review of the June 6, 2021, MACA meeting minutes

The June 6, 2021, minutes were reviewed and accepted in a motion made by Joy Beasley and seconded by Don Housley; the motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Report from the Director — Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes reported that the MHT operating budget is being prepared for submittal. Included in the request will be \$300,000 for the Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program which can be used to support archaeological survey work.

Ms. Hughes reported that the study of obstacles to the preservation of Historic African American Cemeteries is ongoing. The Working Group is now moving into the outreach phase of their work and will be soliciting input from descendent communities as well as the general public. The final report is due in June of 2022.

Chief Archaeologist Report — Matt McKnight

On June 15th Zac, our summer intern Catt Gagnon, and Matt assisted Washington College with wrapping up their Summer Field School at Barwick's Ordinary by recording all of their test units, features, and STP locations with the total station. Analysis is ongoing. MHT is working with the College and the property owners to hold the 2022 Field Session at Barwick's.

In June MHT received the final report for the GIS and remote sensing work carried out at the Rodger's Tavern site in Cecil County. That work was carried out under an FY20 Non-Capital grant to the Town of Perryville, who hired the Center for Environment & Society to carry out the work. That grant is now largely complete. We are just waiting on Perryville to submit their final disbursement request.

On July 6th, Matt, Zac and Catt were called out to Fort Frederick State Park. AAHPP-funded demolition and renovation work on a former colored school building had unexpectedly exposed a buried feature. MHT conducted limited excavations, mapped it and determined that it was the remains of an early 20th-century cistern.

On July 8th Zac, Catt and Matt went on a site visit to St. Inigoes in St. Mary's County as part of grant monitoring for our FY21 Non-Cap grant to Catholic University. GPR work by Tim Horsley was in the process of being ground-truthed and had resulted in multiple 17th-century cellar holes being exposed as well as the foundations of a brick chapel.

On July 15th and 16th (with heat indexes of 102+ degrees), Matt, Charlie, and Catt collected GPR data where human remains were previously identified in Merkle NRMA. MHT was attempting to see if any additional graves or other features were present in the area which would explain the presence of the remains. No grave shafts or other features were identified.

On July 19th MHT collected GPR data at the Howard family cemetery in Patuxent River State Park (Montgomery Co.) to assist DNR with management of that resource.

On July 22nd and 23rd, Matt, Zac, Charlie, and Catt (along with a couple of the ORSR architecture interns) carried out a small shovel test pit survey at Ft. Frederick State Park. A small prehistoric site was identified near one of the park's picnic pavilions.

July 30th was the final deadline for the FY22 Non-Capital grant round. MHT received 24 applications (down from last year), for a total of \$1,100,973.00 in requested funds. Five of the grants are for archaeological work, or projects that include an archaeological component. Staff review is on-track to make recommendations to the MHT Board at their October meeting.

Thursday, August 5th was the last day for our summer intern, Catt Gagnon, who by now has started her first semester as a Master's student in Anthropology at UMD.

On August 9th we received word from NPS that our application under the ABPP Grant program for survey of Washington and Rochambeau encampment sites was not selected for funding. The rejection letter stated that they received nearly three times the number of applications they normally have to rate.

On Thursday, August 19th, Matt discovered major leakage from the HVAC system in the basement at 100 Community Place. Staff worked to relocate publications materials, place buckets to catch drips, move architectural samples, etc. while maintenance crews figure out what is going on. Damage seems to be minimal in the archaeology lab and storage areas.

Much of Matt's time over the summer was dedicated to organizing the Workshop in Archaeology (Saturday, Sept. 11). This year's keynote speaker will be Joe Dent and we have planned for a more hands-on event and less of a day of lectures.

Matt has also been dedicating some time to the layout and formatting of the Biggs Ford Report, which is now done. It will be published in *Maryland Archeology* Volume 54.

One of the projects Catt Gagnon and Matt worked on this summer was scanning all of the past issues of the journal, formatting them, and uploading them to Joomag, the new digital publication platform for *Maryland Archeology*. That will be made available to ASM members, MHT, Native American tribal groups, and others in lieu of a print publication.

In addition to these activities, staff participated in several other site visits, including to the site of the Harbor Point Ossuary in Wicomico County, Parsons Island in Queen Anne County, the MAC Lab, and Scientists' Cliffs in Calvert County.

Matt is slowly trying to make progress on the remote sensing report on our November 2020 work out at the Cresap's Fort site on C&O Canal Property in Allegany County.

Underwater Activities Report — Susan Langley

Susan introduced new MACA member Joseph Hoyt. Joe Hoyt is the National Coordinator for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Program and has worked with NOAA in various roles since 2001.

Susan recorded two log canoes in Calvert County and lead 1 of 2 planned paddling tours of Mallows Bay for the Potomac Riverkeeper. The second was rescheduled to Oct. 2 because of weather. She continues her coordination and work in support of the Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Susan also attended and contributed to various webinars and meetings related to marine debris, oil spill response, and attended meetings related to her role as an advisor to Historic Ships in Baltimore.

Troy has been busy with project review and compliance work and outreach.

Fieldwork related to the U-1105 non-capital grant began in August. The Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG) had its in person and virtual project kickoff meetings on 8/21 and 8/29, and they have deployed the mooring buoy and started their work. The 1st phase of work is ongoing and includes preliminary inspection and photographic documentation of the area around the conning tower. The team has spent two days in the water to date and reported that substantial deterioration has occurred over the past two years that has exposed features which have never been documented located between its pressure and outer hulls, and that sediments have accumulated against its starboard side aft of the conning tower as high as the Upper Wintergarten (which is the highest of two platforms immediately aft of the conning tower). Scouring has exposed features forward of the conning tower and along its port side.

Since work has not yet included inspection of features beyond the conning tower area and remote sensing survey of the site has yet occur, the overall pattern of sedimentation, scouring, and the degree of exposure and deterioration of features outside of this area is currently unknown.

Troy is also providing guidance related to BAREG's desire to provide its members with educational opportunities in maritime history and archaeology and has agreed to assist them in their pursuit of a training partnership with the Nautical Archaeology Society.

Work continues on the Maycraft, Troy worked with Hagerstown Metal Fabrication to design and install a new dive ladder in late June to complement the dive benches installed just prior to the pandemic.

Terrestrial Activities Report — Charlie Hall

Three weeks ago we experienced a repeat of the water leak from the ceiling in our lab space in the basement of 100 Community Place caused by condensation forming on the air conditioning duct work above the drop ceiling. Abatement of the moisture is being accomplished through the temporary installation of industrial dehumidifiers and air scrubbing units. Testing of the air for mold is also occurring. These measures require that the lab be sealed with plastic sheeting across all doorways; there is currently no access. Our Tuesday Volunteer Lab has necessarily been suspended awaiting the results of the testing.

Becky and Charlie have completed both the MHT General Collections policy revision and the new Archaeological Collections policy. Since MACA last saw these policies we were advised by our counsel that neither our Board of Trustees nor our Secretary were required to review or approve them, and appropriate revisions were made to the policies. Both policies will be submitted to the Director soon for review and final approval.

The Archaeological Collections Committee defined in the draft Archaeological Collections Policy was convened on August 31st for the first time for a vote on proposed C14 dating of some carbonized maize cupules and hickory nut fragments from features at the Hughes Site in Montgomery County. This analysis is part of a study by William and Mary archaeology Ph.D. student John Henshaw to date the appearance of defensive palisades surrounding Late Woodland Sites in the Middle Atlantic.

There have been no new permits submitted since the June meeting. However, there have been two Emergency Mitigation Efforts reported under the 2021 Annual Historic St. Mary's City permit. In July HSMC installed electric vehicle charging stations in the St. John's Museum parking lot, and last week the water main to Georgia's Cottage burst and was replaced. Both efforts met the emergency criteria set out in the permit, and both excavations were monitored by Ruth Mitchell.

The DNR investigation into an unpermitted excavation of an archaeological site in Garrett County that started in 2017 is nearing its conclusion. Maryland Natural Resources Police Sergeant Mike Friend contacted Charlie in October of 2017 to report a tip he had received regarding what he suspected was an illegal excavation on a DNR property in Garrett County and

to enquire whether we might have issued a permit for it. I was able to confirm that no permits were active in Garrett County at that time. He checked in occasionally over the years with updates, and again two weeks ago to report that the investigation was complete. He sent photographs of the recovered artifacts and it appears that the looter has targeted a Middle village site with intact features. Charlie requested location information for the find and a condition report.

Charlie has spent an inordinate amount of time fielding calls and responding to emails regarding the ultimate disposition of “orphaned” grave markers from three eroded family cemeteries near Bishops Head in Dorchester County. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is involved as the stones have been stored on their Blackwater Wildlife Refuge for some time. After a public process involving publication of a notice in a local paper and multiple public meetings, the FWS has decided to re-locate the stones to be installed and displayed at the Wesley Chapel cemetery in Andrews, a community 10 miles from their original location. Some local residents and descendants of those named on the markers would prefer that they be relocated to the more local (1.5 miles) St. Thomas church cemetery. Beth Cole and Elizabeth have been involved also, as have our two US Senators and the local US Representative (Harris).

MAC Lab Activities Report — Patricia Samford

Scott Strickland began work at the lab on August 11th as the Lab Deputy Director. Scott’s experience in surveying, ArcGIS, land records research and archaeological fieldwork have already made significant contributions to current projects occurring at the lab. Scott has also been given access to the backend of the new mdFIND app and will assist Matt McKnight and Zac Singer with artifact identification and outreach as finds are reported.

Arianna Johnston began work as a conservator at the lab on June 16th, filling the position left vacant when Francis Lukezic left to take a job in Richmond.

The lab began its 2021 Public Archaeology session on September 3rd and will hold sessions on Fridays and Saturdays through the month at the Smith St. Leonard site (1711-1754). We are filled for all sessions, with a cap of 6-9 daily participants.

The lab is making progress in its long-term project to redesign the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website. New sections on flatware and reshoots of prehistoric ceramics with better examples are underway. The lab revised and resubmitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to revamp the website and add 8 new categories of artifacts.

The MAC Lab renovation is still ongoing; the waterproofing and siding are completed and the re-roofing is 60% complete. The substantial completion date is currently set for September 24th although this is probably ambitious.

Archaeological work continues at the Patterson House in advance of the house renovation project. Alex Glass and Patricia Samford have completed three of six test units in places where remote sensing and shovel testing showed areas of cultural interest. The degree of landscaping done in the 1930s means that some of the units have been almost 4 feet deep. Additional shovel

tests are to be excavated within proposed pathways, drywells, and geothermal connection lines.

JPPM hopes to convert the King's Reach house – a 1930s home on the waterfront—into a wedding venue. It will require the installation of a new septic system, which would need to be installed within the recoded limits of the Stearns Site (18CV17), a Woodland village site and the largest and most significant pre-contact site on the park. The extent of the proposed septic drain field would impact portions of the site that are not well understood. The park is asking the county for a variance that would allow a less invasive pump out tank system and the county health department does not want to grant that variance. The park has prepared a justification and will be reaching out to MHT for assistance with convincing the county to allow the pump out system.

The lab is working with the Historic Annapolis Foundation (HAF) on several initiatives. The first initiative involves the transfer of the original State House acorn to Annapolis for long term display at the HAF museum at 99 Main Street. Additionally, we are working with HAF and the City of Annapolis, to receive 113 boxes of archaeological artifacts from old Archaeology in Annapolis projects. The properties from which these artifacts were recovered are now state-owned and the Historic Annapolis Foundation worked with MHT to acquire funding from the City and the MHT Board to hire two interns to rehouse the collections once they arrive at the lab.

Sara Rivers Cofield is continuing to make progress on her study of equestrian artifacts from Maryland and Virginia. This project has been funded with a grant from the Conservation Fund and made research trips to Jamestown, Historic St. Mary's City, Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia Division of Historic Resources this summer.

The lab is assisting with the planning of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference that will be held at St. Mary's College in early November. It is now looking like this conference will be held virtually.

The lab is collaborating with Liza Gijanto of St. Mary's College Anthropology Department on a multi-year National Science Foundation funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant. The lab provided collections management and conservation experiences for the 12 students enrolled in the 2021 program. Scott Strickland provided GIS training to the students as part of this grant prior to taking his new position at the MAC Lab. The program will be offered again in 2022 and 2023.

Tricia provided an example of a redesigned MAC Lab rack card.

Review and Compliance Activities Report — Beth Cole and Dixie Henry

Review and Compliance continues to see a steady volume of project reviews. In August of 2021, the PRC unit reviewed a total of 429 state and federal projects.

One of our architectural historians, Amanda Apple, left MHT at the beginning of the summer, leaving us with a new vacancy just a few months after being able to fill an earlier vacancy. Amanda's position was posted on August 26 and closes on September 9, 2021, and we are hoping for a strong pool of applicants.

Beth has continued to work on our E-106 initiative with Greg Brown and the IT folks at MDP and has had multiple meetings to discuss the progress of the project and next steps.

Staff have continued coordinating with the Corps of Engineers and Howard County on the Ellicott City Safe & Sound Flood Mitigation Projects and just recently provided the final round of comments/edits for the Planning Authority.

Compliance staff will be giving a presentation at the NRCS Cultural Resources training on the Eastern Shore in October. They will also be participating in the Corps of Engineers' training on the new Maryland State Programmatic General Permit-6 (MDSPGP-6) and will be available for Q&A.

Dixie participated in a site visit in June with Charlie Hall, Matt McKnight, Catt Gagnon (archaeology intern), the Corps, MDE, and Coastal Compliance Solutions. They visited the Harbor Point pier project site in Wicomico County to assess potential impacts to ossuary site 18WC23. Sensitive areas will be satisfactorily avoided and preserved in place.

Dixie had a meeting with DNR's Land Acquisition and Planning Unit to discuss the historic preservation process as it pertains to proposed DNR land acquisitions and the appropriate consideration of historic properties, including archaeological sites, on those parcels.

Dixie also participated in a meeting with various MHT staff and the MD State Arts Council to discuss tribal land acknowledgements and planning efforts for a convening of tribes and state agencies in December of 2021.

Research and Synthesis Project — Zac Singer

Zac finished synthesizing Montgomery County (7 sites total) for the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Project and is now working on Prince George's County (27 sites).

On June 21st, Zac, Matt, and intern Catt visited the Parsons Island Site with Darrin Lowery for an update on his FY20 Non-Capital Grant. Darrin reported 3 artifacts recovered from a layer dating to around 20,000 years old. During the June 21st visit, Texas A&M's Center for the Study of the First Americans was conducting an excavation at Parsons Island to expand upon Darrin's FY20 Non-Capital grant excavation results.

On June 23rd, Zac gave a virtual presentation on the MD Fluted Point Survey for the Natural History Society of Maryland. The talk was well attended and Zac hopes the attendees will use the mdFIND app to report future artifact discoveries.

On July 9th, Zac, Matt, and intern Catt visited the MAC Lab to examine brass triangles and document the conductivity readings of the brass triangles on the Minelab Equinox 800 metal detector.

On July 19th, Zac, Matt, and intern Catt conducted a GPR survey at the Howard Cemetery in

Patuxent River State Park. The GPR survey was carried out on a 9x35 meter portion of a wooded and fenced landform with standing headstones and burial monuments that is preserved within an active agricultural field. The GPR survey identified ten anomalies suggestive of graveshafts within the survey area.

From Late July through Early August, Zac and Matt produced technical reports on the Marshy Point Remote Sensing project and Howard Cemetery Remote Sensing project. The reports have been well received by the stakeholders.

On August 12, Zac visited the Anne Arundel County Archaeology Laboratory for an update on the FY21 Ogle Collection Non-Capital Grant. During the visit, Zac photographed the Paleoindian artifacts in the Ogle collection, which add valuable information about the Paleoindian occupations of central and southern MD. Ogle recovered many Hardaway side notched points (~10,000 years old), which had gone unidentified until the current study.

On August 24th, Zac and Matt visited Mike Elwood to examine the location of a cache blade that Mike found nearby Scientist Cliffs. The location of the site that yielded the cache blade is likely on DNR property. Additional investigations will be planned for the fall.

On August 31st, Zac and Tom McLaughlin prepared 3D models via photogrammetry to use as examples for their MHT workshop (9/11/21) on 3d modeling. The models include a bannerstone from Harrison Island and a modern deer skull.

Interesting objects recently reported via mdFIND include a large grained orthoquartzite fluted point and a Flint Ridge chert cache blade from Calvert County, a sherd of Whieldon ware from Worcester County, and a piece of late 19th century/early 20th century decorative door hardware from Caroline County.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on National NAGPRA Program Inquiry — Charlie Hall

A May 20, 2021, email from David Tarler of the National NAGPRA Program to Anne Raines with the subject “FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: Information needed by the National Park Service (National NAGPRA Program)” sought “a record of the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations invited to consult on the summary (or any part thereof).” An extensive search of archived files of Tyler Bastian, Richard Hughes, and Rodney Little (all retired) failed to reveal the 1993 summary of unassociated funerary objects submittal indicated in the National NAGPRA database, nor were Tyler or Richard able to recall any details when contacted. On July 14, 2021, Elizabeth Hughes emailed David Tarler and asked if they could send us a copy of our submitted summary. Mariah Soriano of the National NAGPRA Program responded with the requested summary dated November 15, 1993, and signed by Richard Hughes. MHT indicated that we had unassociated funerary objects from two sites, the Folly Run site (a Monongahela Complex Late Woodland village in Garrett County) and the Oxford site (a Webb Phase Middle

Woodland site in Talbot County). The summary noted that no cultural affiliation to any recognized tribe was demonstrated for either archaeological culture.

On August 11, 2021, Becky Morehouse and Charlie Hall examined the artifacts identified in our 1993 Summary. We agreed that both sites had artifacts that can reasonably be believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains as part of a death ritual, and for which we are not in possession of the human remains. In addition, it is possible that the collection from the Mason Island II site (the type site for the Late Woodland Mason Island Complex), acquired since 1993, may also have unassociated funerary objects, although this requires clarification as the human remains are with the Smithsonian Institution.

At this point it appears certain that we didn't consult with any Federally Recognized Tribes in 1993 as it was our conclusion that there were no such tribes with whom we were required to consult. The regulations (CFR 43 §10.8 (d) Summaries, Consultation) require museums to consult with tribes

- From whose tribal lands unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony originated;
- That are, or are likely to be, culturally affiliated with unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony; and
- From whose aboriginal lands unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony originated.

There are no federally recognized tribes resident in Maryland, and as a result there are no tribal lands. We cannot demonstrate a cultural affiliation between any contemporary recognized tribe and any of the archaeological cultures from which the unassociated funerary objects are derived. We are still researching aboriginal lands in Maryland. This concept isn't defined in the section of the regulations dealing with unassociated funerary objects (43 CFR § 10.8), but "aboriginal occupation" is defined in the section dealing with the disposition of culturally unidentifiable remains (§ 10.11) as being "recognized by a final judgment of the Indian Claims Commission or the United States Court of Claims, or by a treaty, Act of Congress, or Executive Order." The only possibly relevant action we have yet discovered is a treaty between the Maryland colony and a tribe that is currently recognized was concluded in 1744 with the Six Nations of the Iroquois. By this treaty the Iroquois relinquished their claim that certain lands in Western Maryland were theirs by right of conquest. They made no claim of ever occupying the lands.

We anticipate contacting the National NAGPRA Program soon to solicit their suggestions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selection of Next Meeting Date — Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 1:00 PM in the MHT Board conference room (or virtually).

After discussion of other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m., in a motion made by Don Housley and seconded by Joy Beasley; the motion was unanimously approved.