### Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

**Site Number:** 18CV169  
**Site Name:** Roscoe Brown House  
**Other name(s):** Melon Field  
**Prehistoric**  
**Historic**  
**Unknown**

**Brief Description:** Mid-Late 17th century post-in-ground house site

### Site Location and Environmental Data:

- **Latitude:** 38.4071  
- **Longitude:** -76.5123  
- **Elevation:** 16 m  
- **Site slope:** 0

- **Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal

### Nearest Surface Water

- **Name (if any):** springhead
- **Saltwater**  
- **Freshwater**

  - **Ocean**  
  - **Estuary/tidal river**  
  - **Swamp**  
  - **Tidewater/marsh**  
  - **Lake or pond**  
  - **Spring**

- **Minimum distance to water is:** 200 m

### Site Function Contextual Data:

- **Urban/Rural?** Rural

- **Domestic**
  - Misc. ceremonial  
  - Rock art  
  - Shell midden  
  - STU/lithic scatter  
  - Quarry/extraction  
  - Fish weir  
  - Production area  
  - Unknown  

- **Industrial**
  - Mining-related  
  - Quarry-related  
  - Mill  
  - Black/metalsmith  

- **Historic**
  - Furnace/forge  
  - Other  
  - Transportation  
  - Canal-related  
  - Road/railroad  
  - Wharf/landing  
  - Maritime-related  
  - Bridge  
  - Ford  
  - Educational  
  - Commercial  
  - Trading post  
  - Store  
  - Tavern/inn  
  - Military  
  - Battlefield  
  - Fortification  
  - Encampment  
  - Townsite  
  - Religious  
  - Church/mtg house  
  - Ch support bldg  
  - Burial area  
  - Cemetery  
  - Sepulchre  
  - Isolated burial  
  - Bridg or foundation  
  - Post-in-ground  
  - Frame-built  
  - Masonry  
  - Other structure  
  - Slave related  
  - Non-domestic agri  
  - Recreational  
  - Midden/dump  
  - Artifact scatter  
  - Spring or well  
  - Unknown  
  - Other context

### Interpretive Sampling Data:

- **Prehistoric context samples**  
  - Soil samples taken  
  - Flotation samples taken  

- **Historic context samples**  
  - Soil samples taken  
  - Flotation samples taken  
  - Other samples taken
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### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Other Artifact &amp; Feature Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prehistoric Artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clovis</td>
<td>Flaked stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkiomen</td>
<td>Ground stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stone bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardaway-Dalton</td>
<td>Unmod faunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susquehanna</td>
<td>Fire-cracked rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td>Oyster shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other lithics (all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (notch)</td>
<td>Uncommon Obj.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscataway</td>
<td>Midden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk (stem)</td>
<td>Modified faunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>Shell midden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Le Croy</td>
<td>Unmod faunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selby Bay</td>
<td>Faunal material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guifford</td>
<td>Postholes/molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacks Rl (notch)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrow Mtnn</td>
<td>House pattern(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewerton</td>
<td>Mound(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison/Potomac</td>
<td>Storage/trash pit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td>Midden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeVanna</td>
<td>Burial(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

- Marcey Creek
- Popes Creek
- Townsend
- Yeocomico
- Dames Otr
- Coulbourn
- Minguanan
- Monongahela
- Selden Island
- Watson
- Sullivan Cove
- Shenks Ferry
- Accokeek
- Mockley
- Wolfe Neck
- Clemson Island
- Moyaone
- Vinette
- Page
- Potomac Cr

### Historic Sherd Types

- Ironstone
- Staffordshire
- Tin Glazed
- Whiteware
- M diverted
- North Devon
- Porcelain
- Astbury
- Tin Mottled
- Whiteware
- Borderware
- North Devon
- Porcelain
- Buckely
- North Devon
- Porcelain
- Creamware
- Pearlware

### Other Sherd Types

- Popes Creek
- Coulbourn
- Potomac Cr
- Marcey Creek
- Dames Otr
- Accokeek
- Vinette
- Page

### Historic Artifacts

- Tobacco related
- Activity item(s)
- Glass (all)
- Architecture (all)
- Furniture
- Arms
- Clothing
- Personal items

### Architectural Features

- 17th century structure, refuse pits, and ash heaps

### Lithic Material

- Fer quartzite
- Sil sandstone
- Jasper
- Chalcedony
- Chert
- Ironstone
- Basalt
- Rhyolite
- Arglite
- Unknown
- Quartz
- Steatite
- Other
- Quartzite
- Sandstone

### Historic Features

- Print/outhouse
- Depression/mound
- Burial(s)
- Other
- Railroad bed
- Refuse deposits
- Well/cistern
- Burial(s)
- Sheet midden
- Earthworks
- Cellar hole/ceellar
- Trash pit/dump
- Mill raceway
- Hearth/chimney
- Sheet midden
- Wheel pit
- Postholes/molds
- Planting feature
- Paling ditch/fence

### Radiocarbon Data:

- Sample 1: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 2: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 3: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 4: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 5: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 6: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 7: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 8: +/- years BP
- Reliability
- Sample 9: +/- years BP
- Reliability

- Additional radiocarbon results available
The Roscoe Brown Farmstead (18CV169), or Melon Field Site, is a mid-late 17th century plantation in Calvert County, Maryland. The site is located on the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) property near St. Leonard in rural Calvert County, Maryland. The site is situated in a former agricultural field along a farm maintenance road on the park property. An intermittent stream head is located to the west. The stream flows into the Patuxent River, not far from its confluence with St. Leonard’s Creek. Soils at the site are Ingleside loamy sands.

The site was first identified in 1982. The site had been plowed and placed in young rye. A shell concentration was spotted by archeologists working elsewhere on the property while driving down the farm lane to the west. The soil was darkly stained in the area of the shell. This was the only shell concentration noted in the field, but the field was not walked other than in the area of site 18CV169. Brick was also noted (only in the area of shell) along with one fieldstone. No subsurface testing was conducted at the time, but the presence of some rather large bone fragments, suggested that undisturbed deposits might exist in the area, despite years of deep plowing. A small, random surface collection was made which included 2 samples of red brick, 1 North Devon gravel-tempered sherd, 2 unidentified earthenwares, a green case bottle glass fragment, a brass book latch, 2 white clay pipestems, and a white clay rouletted pipe bowl. Large quantities of burnt bone and shell, brick and the aforementioned piece of fieldstone were also observed but not collected or quantified. Based on these findings, the site seemed a likely candidate for a 17th century dwelling.

Additional surface collections and site visits were conducted between 1982 and 1987, but no details were evidently documented.

The first substantive, systematic excavation work conducted at 18CV169 occurred in the spring and summer of 1987. The work was carried out by the Southern Maryland Regional Archeologist, permanent and seasonal staff at JPPM, and members of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). The work was conducted due to concern that deep plowing of the agricultural field within which the site was located, might be compromising site integrity. At the time of the study, the site was planted with melons, hence the name the “Melon Field Site”.

Site testing began with controlled surface collection in 4 x 4 m blocks to determine the site extent and location of the “core” area. A total of 108 4 X 4 meter collection units were examined over a 44 X 48 meter artifact scatter area (exclusive of the farm lane that passed through the center of the expanded survey area). Mapping of the surface collection results revealed a rather broad scatter of brick and mortar rubble as well as oyster shell across the area, but with a dense 12 square meter concentration of artifacts and shell near the center of the survey area. This concentration also contained the majority of the larger artifact specimens. Some distinct clustering was observed in domestic artifacts vs. oyster shell vs. architectural artifacts, but all three overlapped to form what was likely the “core” activity are of the site.

The surface collection was followed up with a soil chemistry study of soil samples collected from locations systematically spaced across 28 m2 in the site mid-section. In addition, seven contiguous 2 x 2 m test squares were placed in the area thought to be the site core. Soil samples were tested for the presence of potassium, phosphorus, calcium, and magnesium. These chemical are good indicators of wood ash deposits (K), animal and human body tissues and waste (P), shell and bone concentrations (Ca), and intensive burning episodes (Mg). The P and Ca data revealed concentrations that map perfectly onto the identified site “core” area, while a concentration of K was identified both in the core area and an area to the west. The potassium concentration likely represents instances of ash dumping, both near the main hearth and at a distance. Mg is concentrated in the core, in an area to the south, and in an area to the north of the core. Its distribution is difficult to interpret.

Subsurface investigations in the 2 X 2 m test units proceeded by hand removal (shovels and trowels) of the 20-33 cm deep plowzone to expose features and assess site integrity. A substantial oblong post-hole (>111 cm in one dimension) and mold (20.32 cm in diameter) were revealed, along with one other possible postmold, refuse pits, several small circular structural features, and an ash pit. The post features, combined with the substantial quantities of brick seem to suggest that a structure was present. Each feature was carefully mapped and artifacts on the surface of each feature were piece-plotted and collected. A decision was then made to back-fill the units and preserve the area for future research. The site core was marked, surveyed, and withdrawn from further cultivation.

Artifacts recovered during the 1987 project at 18CV169 included 4 activity items, approximately 14 architectural items, 5 clothing artifacts, 2 furniture objects, 353 kitchen-related objects, 2 personal items, 421 tobacco-related artifacts, and 29 arms objects. The activity items were a brass harness ornament, an iron snaffle bit, an iron hoe blade, and an iron chain link. The architectural artifacts were brick (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), nails (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), and 4 pieces of window glass. Clothing-related artifacts were a brass button, 3 brass buckles, and a pair of iron scissors. The two furnitures items were brass tacks. The kitchen-related assemblage consisted of 236 ceramic sherds (7 Staffordshire slipware, 27 North Devon Sgrafitto slipware, 12 North Devon Gravel-Free earthenware, 17 North Devon Gravel-Tempered earthenware, a black-glazed earthenware sherd, 74 lead-glazed earthenware, 4 North Italian slipware, 13 Manganese-mottled earthenware, 67 tin-glazed earthenware, 4 Rhenish Brown stoneware, 26 Rhenish Gray stoneware, and 4 English Brown stoneware sherds), 80 pieces of glass (12 pieces of table glass, 65 fragments of wine bottle glass, and 3 other bottle glass fragments), a latten spoon handle, 3 pewter spoon handles, 2 iron knives, an iron/bone knife handle, bone (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces), and shell (estimated at a minimum of 5 pieces). The 2 personal items were an iron key and a brass jaw harp. The tobacco-related artifacts were 421 white tobacco pipe fragments. And finally, arms objects included 4 gun flints, 22 pieces of flint debitage, a lead shot fragment, 2 pieces of lead sprue.

Diagnostic artifacts recovered during excavation of the site in 1987 suggest a date of occupation from ca. 1665 to 1695. Archival research reveals very little about the inhabitants of 18CV169. The site may have been located on a tract that was originally patented in 1658 as “Taylor’s Disposal” by a Robert Taylor. The location of Taylor’s dwelling is unknown, and his son (who inherited the property) is believed to have died by 1682, a decade or so before the probable end of occupation. The “St. Leonard” tract abutting the Taylor parcels on their south side was owned by Richard Smith, Sr, who appears to have acquired the Taylor parcels at some point. Smith purchased the St. Leonard’s parcel in 1663, but is believed to have lived elsewhere on the JPPM property (see synopsis report for 18CV92) and not at 18CV169. If Smith acquired Taylor’s Disposal in 1663 when he acquired St. Leonard, or if he acquired it sometime later, the occupants of 18CV169 during his period of ownership would likely have been tenants.

Site 18CV169 appears to be the remains of a dwelling from the latter half of the 17th century. There is some question as to who the occupants of the site were, whether tenants or landowners. Although the site was impacted by deep plowing, the correlation between soil testing data and plotted artifact distributions suggests that horizontal integrity of the plowzone was not that bad. The concentration of artifacts indicating probably activity areas was sufficient...
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To lead to the discovery of intact features below the plowzone. These features were mapped, but not excavated, and the field was subsequently taken out of cultivation. Thus, it may be possible to ascertain who the inhabitants of 18CV169 were through further excavation work, as well as address ongoing research questions related to 17th century Maryland Colonial history. The site should be considered a significant research asset.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**
MDARC25-2, 97003032, Site Files