**Site Name:** West's Field Cluster A

**Brief Description:** Late 18th-early 19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house

**Site Location and Environmental Data:**
- **Latitude:** 38.1911
- **Elevation:** m
- **Site slope:**
- **Physiographic province:** Western Shore Coastal
- **Nearest Surface Water:** Mill Creek
- **Topography:** Floodplain, High terrace, Low terrace
- **Ownership:** Private, Federal
- **Prehistoric:** ca. 1820 - 1860
- **Ethnobotany profile available:** No
- **Site slope:**
- **Contact period site:** Yes
- **SCS soil & sediment code:** SfB2
- **Minimum distance to water:** 170 m

**Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:**
- **Paleoindian site:** Woodland site
- **Archaic site:** MD Adena
- **Early archaic:** Early woodland
- **Middle archaic:** Mid. woodland
- **Late archaic:** Late woodland
- **Unknown prehistoric context:**
- **Ethnic Associations (historic only):**
  - Native American
  - African American
  - Anglo-American
  - Hispanic
  - Asian American
- **Ethnobotany profile available:** No

**Site Function Contextual Data:**
- **Prehistoric:**
  - Multi-component
  - Village
  - Hamlet
  - Base camp
  - Rockshelter/cave
  - Earthen mounds
  - Cairn
  - Burial area
  - Misc. ceremonial
  - Rock art
  - Shell midden
  - STU/lithic scatter
  - Quarry/extraction
  - Fish weir
  - Production area
  - Other context

**Historic:**
- **Urban/Rural?** Rural
- **Domestic:**
  - Homestead
  - Farmstead
  - Mansion
  - Plantation
  - Row/townhome
  - Cellar
  - Privy
  - Other context

**Industrial:**
- **Mining-related**
  - Quarry-related
  - Mill
  - Black/metal smith

**Transportation:**
- **Canal-related**
- **Road/railroad**
- **Wharf/landing**
- **Bridge**
- **Ford**

**Furnace/forge**

**Military**
- **Battlefield**
- **Fortification**
- **Encampment**

**Towns Site**
- **Religious**
  - Church/mtg house
  - Ch support bldg

**Burial area**
- **Cemetery**
- **Sepulchre**
- **Isolated burial**

**Possible Structure**
- **tenant house or slave quarter**

**Interpretive Sampling Data:**
- **Prehistoric context samples**
  - Soil samples taken: Yes
  - Flotation samples taken: No

- **Historic context samples**
  - Soil samples taken: Yes
  - Flotation samples taken: No
Site Name: West's Field Cluster A  
Other name(s):  
Brief Description: Late 18th-early 19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house  

### Diagnostic Artifact Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projectile Point Types</th>
<th>Clovis</th>
<th>Hardaway-Dalton</th>
<th>Palmetto</th>
<th>Kirk (notch)</th>
<th>Kirk (stem)</th>
<th>Le Croy</th>
<th>Morrow Mtn</th>
<th>Guilford</th>
<th>Brewerton</th>
<th>Otter Creek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koens-Crispin</td>
<td>Perkiomen</td>
<td>Susquehanna</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>Piscataway</td>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>Selby Bay</td>
<td>Jacks RI (notch)</td>
<td>Jacks RI (pent)</td>
<td>Madison/Potomac</td>
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</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

### Prehistoric Sherd Types:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sherd Types</th>
<th>Marcey Creek</th>
<th>Popes Creek</th>
<th>Townsend</th>
<th>Yeocomico</th>
<th>Monongahela</th>
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### Historic Sherd Types:

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<th>Sherd Types</th>
<th>Ironstone</th>
<th>Staffordshire</th>
<th>Tin Glazed</th>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

### Prehistoric Features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Mound(s)</th>
<th>Storage/trash pit</th>
<th>Midden</th>
<th>Burial(s)</th>
<th>Shell midden</th>
<th>Ossuary</th>
<th>Postholes/molds</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>House pattern(s)</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
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### Lithic Material:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Fer quartzite</th>
<th>Sil sandstone</th>
<th>European flint</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Chalcedony</td>
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### Radiocarbon Data:

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<th>Sample</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>+/-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>+/-</td>
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Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18ST1-29A  Site Name: West's Field Cluster A

Other name(s): Historic

Brief Description: Late 18th-early 19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house

Summary Description:

The West's Field Cluster A site (18ST1-29A) is a late 18th-early 19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house site. The West's Field tract is part of the museum lands administered by Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC). The field is bounded on the southeastern edge by Mattapany Road, on the northeastern edge by Fisher Road, on the northwest by Caroline Hall, and to the southwest by a ravine and Mill Creek. The site is a relatively flat grass-covered field, sloping gradually to the southwest. There is a more abrupt slope dropping off in the south end of the field caused by a 19th century railroad cut. The field is bounded on the northwest by a thin tree line and modern wire fence, separating the field from St. Mary's College facilities. Soils ranged from 20-30.48 cm thick, overlying sandy clay subsoil. In some areas the subsoil contains very high amounts of gravel. The Munsell soil color description of the plowzone is usually a Dark Yellowish Brown (10YR 3/4) sandy silt loam, and occasionally slightly lighter in color. The subsoil ranges from a Yellowish Brown (10YR 5/6) clay loam to a Strong Brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay loam. The field encompasses approximately 6.37 acres. Cluster A was located in the northernmost corner of the field. The site measures about 64 m wide x 31 m long.

In addition to test subsurface stratigraphic testing, archival research was conducted for the site. The West's Field tract is on land first patented by Mr. J. Lewger as St. John's Freehold in 1639. The name 'West's Field' probably has a 20th century origin. Records indicated that there had been a dwelling on the West's Field sometime in the 1630's, probably before 1639. Documents revealed that the inhabitants were artisans rather than members of the colonial elite. The site is called "West's Field" because it is named after the 17th century resident Phillip West. West had been an indentured servant on Kent Island with W. Claiborne. When Maryland forces took Kent Island, Claiborne's assets were seized and West, along with 3 other servants, was taken to St. Mary's by Captain G. Evelin. West was a craftsman with woodworking skills. In 1638, West and another servant named Dandy bought off their last year of service to Evelin with tobacco. A reference dated to ca. 1645 states that West lived with J. Dandie (Dandy) at a place called 'West's Valley'. Dandy was a blacksmith by trade and directly opposite West's Field, on the south side of Mill Creek, an early blacksmith site dating from the 1630s-1640s has been identified. Dandy, living on the north side of Mill Creek, crossed the creek via the new mill dam that had been built in 1638. After the land was sold by the Lewger family, a Dutch merchant named into St. John's in the early 1650s. Governor Charles Calvert acquired the parcel in 1661 and owned it into the 18th century. In the mid-1660s Calvert attempted to make the mill operation again and this appears to be the only activity in the area of West's Field at that time. In 1723, an English merchant and ship captain constructed a dwelling to the west of West's Field. Outbuildings associated with the plantation may have stood on part of West's Field. In 1774, J. Mackall acquired the St. John's tract and the West's Field, which remained in the family until the late 19th century. It appears that Mackall did not live on the land. Documents on land use are scarce for this time period. In 1880, a railroad bed for a railroad line was built at the northeast corner of the field. Mackall's descendant, J. Brome invested heavily in the railroad which was never completed. The family sold the land in 1888, and then in 1911, the National Slavonic Society purchased all of St. John's Freehold. They divided the land into tracts, and West's Field was part of Lot 23. There were apparently no structures built on the property at that time. Brome's descendant re-acquired the tract in 1945 and owned it until the 1970s when it was sold to St. Mary's City Commission for preservation. The land was utilized for agrarian activities and no structures were built on the tract.

Between April 2001 and December 2003, Phase I, II, and III investigations were carried out at West's Field by Historic St. Mary's City archeologists. Prior to Phase I testing, a geophysical survey of the tract was conducted. A 50' grid was laid using wooden stakes to avoid creating magnetic anomalies. The grid was established in accordance with the Maryland State Grid System and 2 existing points (Hub 16 and Hub 9 were located in the field). During the survey, any areas of potential cultural activity that were observed were mapped. One large zone of high conductivity was found along the east edge of West's Field. Mackall's descendant, J. Brome invested heavily in the railroad which was never completed. The family sold the land in 1888, and then in 1911, the National Slavonic Society purchased all of St. John's Freehold. They divided the land into tracts, and West's Field was part of Lot 23. There were apparently no structures built on the property at that time. Brome's descendant re-acquired the tract in 1945 and owned it until the 1970s when it was sold to St. Mary's City Commission for preservation. The land was utilized for agrarian activities and no structures were built on the tract.

Phase I consisted of a shovel test pit (STP) survey at 6.09 m (20') intervals, except in the lower eastern portion of the field where the interval was changed to 15.24 m due to disturbances caused by the 19th century railroad activities and a steep eroded slope. All excavated soil was screened through ¼" mesh wire. A total of 559 STPs were completed within the field. Based on the analysis of artifacts from the STPs, 4 clusters within the field were assigned (Clusters A-D). A total of 64 STPs were excavated at 18ST1-29A from an area of approximately 1,597.88 m² (17,200 square feet). Almost no prehistoric material was recovered from Cluster A. Artifact distributions point to a small late 18th century grouping and an early 19th century grouping (especially of refined earthenware sherds found only in this area of the field) in the area of Cluster A.

Phase II testing the entire field was divided into 3.05 m² units. Then, each 3.05 m² was divided into four 1.524 X 1.524 m quadrants that were excavated individually. The quadrants were labeled A-D beginning in the southeast quadrant and moving counterclockwise. Features or soil strata beneath the plowzone were then lettered sequentially starting with 'E'. During this phase of the investigation, the scope of work did not call for feature excavation and in most cases the excavation was terminated after the plowzone was removed and the features were defined and mapped. Within Cluster A, six 1.524 X 1.524 m test squares were excavated.

During Phase II, a number of features were observed in Cluster A. The majority of these were plowscars, which tended to be oriented northeast to southwest, and a single, square 91.44 cm long posthole feature identified in unit 7647D. Within the feature is a circular area that may be the post mold. A moderate amount of charcoal and a few specks of under-fired clay (probably brick fragments) were noted within the posthole/ mold feature. The feature could indicate that a post-in-the-ground structure once stood there, and the daub and brick suggest that it had a chimney. Burned artifacts, including charcoal and burned and heat-damaged ceramics, indicate the structure was possibly destroyed by fire. It was suggested that the structure was of log construction rather than a framed building. Test units south of the cluster indicate that another structure might have stood near the cluster. If there was a building there, it was probably associated with the occupation in Cluster A.

A Phase III mitigation plan was initiated in order to evaluate construction impact on 3 of the artifact clusters (A, C, and D). The goals were to identify any significant features within the construction impact zone and excavate them, to recover additional data to better evaluate the nature and significance of the small artifact clusters (called east cluster, center cluster, and west cluster), to better understand the past use of West's Field as part of the long-term study of the archeology and history of the St. Mary's City National Historic Landmark, and to insure that the preservation plans for the West's Field sites are properly...
The excavations within the small clusters (east cluster, center cluster, and west cluster) and the gradall trenches lie outside the bounds of the site as designated by the Maryland Historical Trust. Information detailing those areas is available in the site report; however, they are not included in the synopsis for the West’s Field Cluster A site (18ST1-29A).

Phase III testing in Cluster A consisted of excavating two additional test squares, both placed in areas designated for tree planting. Several natural features were noted but no cultural features were encountered.

Eight STPs were also excavated in Cluster A during Phase III work in areas where light poles were to be placed. The shovel tests were grouped in pairs with 1 pair located along the southwestern edge of the site, 1 pair in the southern section of the site, and 2 pairs in the central portion of the site. A number of architectural features were identified in the central portion of the site, which were mapped and excavated. The first feature identified was located in 1 STP at coordinates X 27.37 Y 19.25. It consisted of a large quantity of shell (380 fragments). Due to time constraints and a small crew size, data recovery was expedited by expanding the shovel test into an informal trench, which was further expanded as new features were located. The trench was mapped in using the project grid and assigned the appropriate square numbers (units 7248 and 7249). The completed trench measured approximately 1.37-1.52 m (4.5-5') wide by 1.8 m (6') long with a small 0.3 m wide slit trench that extended about 1.06 m from the southwest end of the trench. Material from the plowzone was shoveled off, set aside, and assigned the letter designation “E.” Approximately 50% of the plowzone material was screened and the artifacts collected.

A total of 8 distinct features were observed within the trench. Feature 1 was the shell midden first identified in the STP. The feature measured 42.6 X 51.8 cm. It contained 1000 oyster shells and shell fragments a large number of which showed some evidence of burning. They likely derive from food preparation activities. Feature 2 was another oyster-shell filled deposit located southwest of Feature 1. No further description of Feature 2 was provided because it was not excavated. Both middens cut into earlier architectural features. Feature 4 was a possible sill beam mold contained within Feature 4, a large construction ditch. Feature 3 contained a significant amount of in situ charcoal that had a total length of 48.76 cm. It was observed that the mold had a rounded cross-section indicating that it was probably made from a log. Feature 4, the construction ditch, measured from 45.7-64 cm in width and had a rounded bottom. The fill included some brick, charcoal, and gravel. A posthole and post mold (Features 7 and 8 respectively) were situated along the southwest edge of the excavation trench. These features cut into the construction ditch near the south end of the excavation trench. The post mold was shallow and measured 18.28 X 27.4 cm and narrowed slightly at the bottom. A large piece of charcoal at the bottom of the mold is likely the remnant of the original post. The dimensions of the posthole were uncertain because its western end was covered by Feature 2. On its eastern edge, the sill mold appears to intrude the posthole suggesting that the posthole was earlier. Feature 5 was determined to be a root mold. Based on the structural features, it may have been that a log building stood on the spot at one time.

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The total artifact count from all phases of the field work is provided in a table within the report. However, the breakdown of prehistoric types was taken from the Appendix as were the artifacts that were reported in an “other” category in the table. Also, the artifacts recovered from the plowzone above the feature complex were not included in the total artifact count provided in the table within the report. They were, however, added to the total in the table above.

A total of 24 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the study. This included 14 pieces of debitage (quartzite and chert flakes, and 1 Jasper flake), 8 fire-cracked rocks, and 2 shell-tempered sherds.

A total of 2054 historic artifacts were collected. A total of 76 activity items were found (1 circular whetstone, 1 toy ball, and 74 fragments of vinyl record). The 435 architectural items included 290 brick fragments, 60 daub fragments, 4 cut nails, 3 square unidentified nails, 3 wire nails, 59 wrought nails, 3 sandstone architectural stones, and 13 fragments of window glass. The only clothing item recovered was a glass button. There were 349 kitchen-related items including 2 Colonial bottle glass fragments (1 hand-blown vial, 1 round bottle fragment), 119 post-Colonial bottle glass fragments, 1 piece of table glass, 2 Rhenish Brown, 1 Rhenish Blue and Gray, 140 refined earthenware, 7 colonial earthenware with red-orange colored paste and lead glaze, 30 unidentified Colonial earthenware, 11 domestic gray stoneware, 1 domestic brown stoneware, 2 Buckely ware, 8 pearlware, 9 late porcelain, 1 Chinese export porcelain (half with over glaze hand-painted decoration in red and probably brown colors), 6 animal bone fragments, and 1 snail shell. Only 8 oyster shells were reported on the artifact table in the report and this is the total used in the table above; however, a further 1000 shells and shell fragments derived from the midden feature and at least 26 others were noted as coming from the STPs and Phase II test units. The refined earthenware sherds were badly burned making positive identification difficult. They may be whiteware or pearlware sherds. They probably date to the late 18th or early 19th century and are relatively rare in St. Mary’s City. There were 1189 miscellaneous items including 17 fragments of unidentifiable glass, 5 unidentifiable iron objects, 1 piece of slate, 1 rock with a fossil, 5 pieces of sandstone, 3 fragments of glassy slag, 11 pieces of coal, 1,052 charcoal fragments, and 94 fragments of burnt clay. The burnt clay was recovered from below the shell midden feature and was interpreted either as burned earth related to food preparation of the oyster, or as possible building material. There were two white clay pipe stem fragments in the tobacco category. Arms-related items included 1 complete gunflint and 1 piece of gunflint debitage, probably from gunflint production.

The West’s Field Cluster A site (18ST1-29A) represents a late 18th-early 19th century possible slave quarter or tenant house. For most of the suggested occupation period (c. 1790-1820), the West’s Field tract was in the possession of John Mackall, and it was suggested that the inhabitants of this site must have been either tenants or slaves. It appears that a structure that once stood on the site was destroyed by fire. This is evidenced by large quantities of burned clay and charcoal, and melted glass and ceramics. This is a period not well-represented in St. Mary’s City and is considered a valuable resource. It was decided that the site be protected; therefore, no disturbance of the topsoil was allowed. Instead, a layer of geofabric was placed over the site. This was then capped by a fill layer of bankrun gravel and CR-9. The surface was then covered with GEOBLOCK, a porous paving system. Thus, the site is currently protected under the parking lot.