

Research Projects

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum



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Archaeological research has been conducted by the Research Department on Park property since the 1983. In addition the Southern Maryland Regional Center, housed at the MAC Lab, conducts projects throughout the tri-county area. Several projects have been conducted by SMRC through a partnership with the US Navy that has existed since the early 1980s.

War of 1812 Archaeological Survey - JPPM archaeologists conducted a survey of War of 1812 battlefield sites across Maryland. Historians have identified over 20 major engagements that took place in the state. We attempted to determine which of these battle sites were still intact, and evaluated whether they could be promoted for tourism as the 200th anniversary of the war approaches. Unfortunately, we discovered that many of the sites have been destroyed by development or erosion. However, some are at least partially intact.

We recovered cannonballs, grape shot, and other War of 1812 objects from sites near Elkton and Chestertown, and found traces of fortifications near Easton and Centreville. Sites associated with the battles of North Point and Bladensburg were also investigated, and at JPPM we looked for the gun emplacements used during the Battle of St. Leonard Creek, recovering ammunition from the engagement. Funds for the survey were provided to the Maryland Office of Tourism Development by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, and the project was led by Dr. Ralph Eshelman.



Cannonball recovered during War of 1812 archaeological survey.



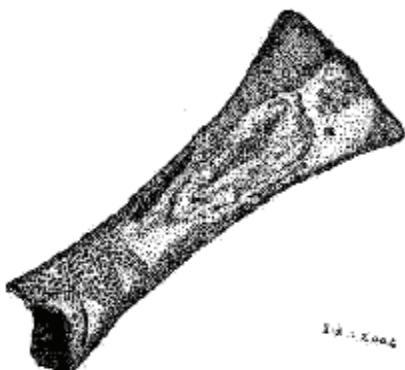
Hampton Mansion

Hampton Archaeological Survey - JPPM archaeologists have begun a project designed to locate archaeological resources at the [Hampton National Historic Site](#) in Towson, Maryland. This mansion was built by Charles Ridgely in the 1780s. A number of historic structures still stand on the site. We are excavating small test pits every 25 feet across the 60+ acres of the property. Analysis of the artifacts and buried remains uncovered in these pits will allow the National Park Service to determine which parts of Hampton are archaeologically significant.

One of the questions we hoped to answer concerned a building known as the Farmhouse. Architectural evidence suggests that the earliest part of this house may have been built in the 1740s, making it the oldest structure at Hampton. However, excavations conducted around the Farmhouse failed to find artifacts dating earlier than the 1770s. One possible explanation for this discrepancy is that the farmhouse was moved to its present location in the 1770s or 1780s.



Hampton Farmhouse



Drawing of Late Woodland pipe with triangular mouth piece.

Patuxent River NAS Creek Surveys - In the 1990s, JPPM archaeologists looked for sites along the shores of several creeks aboard the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NASPAX). These surveys were done for NASPAX's Natural and Cultural Resources Branch, using funds from the Department of Defense Legacy Resources Management Program. Dozens of sites were discovered. At Goose Creek, we found a quarry where Native Americans mined a natural cobble deposit for the raw materials used to make stone tools. Quarry sites like this are rare in Southern Maryland. At another site, part of a Native American clay tobacco pipe was recovered. This unusual pipe had a triangular mouth piece, and was decorated in a geometric pattern.

A French Navy uniform button was found at a third site. We believe it dates to the 19th century, but we have no explanation for its presence along Goose Creek.



French Naval Uniform Button

Along **Pearson Creek**, we found large numbers of stone tools and pottery sherds, indicating that this area was extensively used by prehistoric peoples. We also found evidence of a rare 17th-century tenant house. The sites of early colonial tenants have been far less studied than those of wealthy landowners.



Square sided tobacco pipe from the Rousby site.

At **Harpers Creek**, one notable site may have been the 17th-century home of Christopher Rousby, the King's revenue collector on the Patuxent River, and the victim of a notorious murder. One of the artifacts found at this site was a very unusual square-sided tobacco pipe decorated with Indian motifs. Nearby, an area covered with periwinkle plants may have been the location of the family cemetery.

Webster Field Investigations - JPPM archaeologists excavated at a Jesuit plantation known as St. Inigoes, which was first occupied in the early 17th century. A portion of the plantation is now located aboard the Webster Field Annex of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, in St. Mary's County. Two colonial sites used by the Jesuits were investigated, using funding from the Department of Defense's Legacy Resources Management Program.



A tour group at Webster Field site.



Archaeologists excavating a pit at the Jesuits' manor house site.

Maryland was founded in 1634, and Jesuit missionaries played a prominent role in the initial development of the colony. Excavations revealed that one Webster Field site preserved the remains of the Jesuits' manor house, occupied from c.1637-1660. The richness and diversity of the artifacts recovered suggests this site was the home of the relatively well-off Jesuits who had come to Maryland as investors in the colonial venture. A number of Indian artifacts and trade goods were also found, reflecting the Jesuits missionary activities.

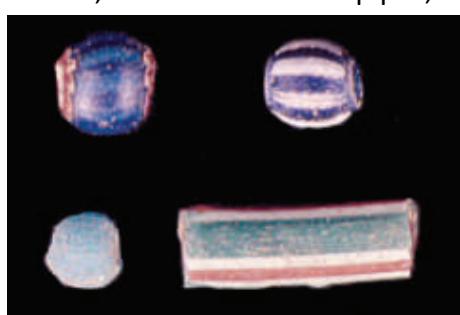
Investigations at the second site indicate it was occupied as early as the late 17th century. However, the most intensive site use seemed to have occurred from c. 1700-1750. The artifacts recovered suggest that this site was also a residence for Jesuit priests. One of the most interesting discoveries was the cellar of a building possibly used as a storehouse, with surviving wooden studs and sills still present below the ground surface. The cellar was later filled in and a brick floor was laid down on top of it.



The brick floor of a possible storehouse.

Large numbers of artifacts were found here, reflecting the extensive colonial use of the site. They indicate that both food preparation and food consumption took place here. A number of personal items, such as tobacco pipes, a small cross, and a copper-alloy

thimble, suggest the range of other activities that occurred in this area.



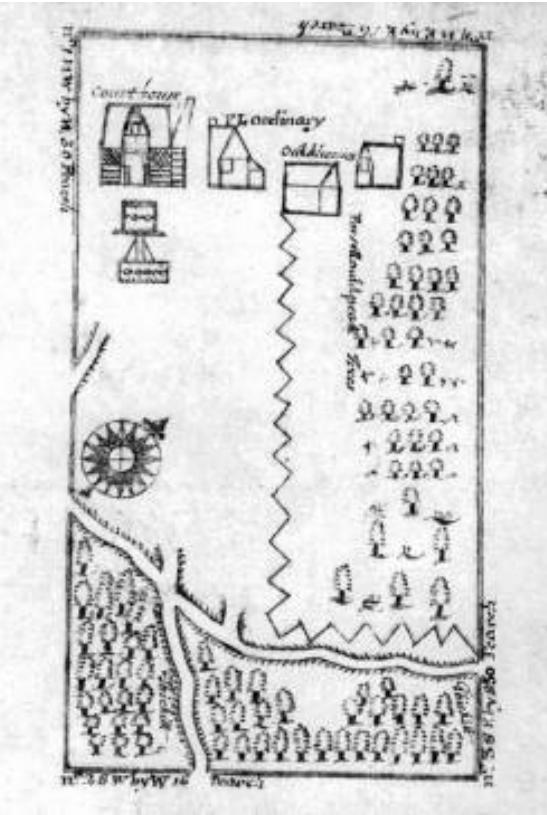
A sample of glass beads.



Native American tobacco pipe bowl fragments.

Zekiah Swamp Survey - In 2008, MAC Lab staff began assisting Dr. Julia King of St. Mary's College in a survey of the Zekiah Swamp drainage in Charles County. These investigations are sponsored by Mr. Michael Sullivan. The goal of the project is to locate and identify sites along the Zekiah. Initial efforts focused on finding Moore's Lodge, the Charles County seat from 1674 to 1727. A 1697 map showed that a courthouse and an ordinary (tavern) were among the buildings on the site. However, after the site was abandoned in the early 18th century, it faded from memory and its location was lost. Generations of scholars tried to find it, without success. But the Zekiah Swamp project team, armed with newly-discovered historical documents and modern GIS mapping software, managed to narrow the search down to a single farm field. Hundred of shovel test pits, most of them devoid of any remains, were excavated across the field. Finally, one section began to yield 17th and 18th-century artifacts. These objects appear to have come from the courthouse and the home of the ordinary keepers. The mystery of Moore's Lodge had been solved.

The 2009 investigations attempted to locate the site of the Piscataway Indian fort erected in the 1680s, as well as the 17th-century summer home of Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore. As with Moore's Lodge, these two sites have long been sought by historians and archaeologists. Although the Piscataway fort was not found in 2009, a number of new prehistoric sites were discovered. A colonial site was unearthed at the location where historical documents suggested Calvert's summer house might have stood. Unfortunately, the evidence found at the site was ambiguous; the team could not conclusively state that this was his house. But future investigations are planned to try to resolve this issue.



1697 map of Moore's Lodge.