

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT:  
THE MURPHY FARM  
IN  
JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

Prepared For:

James Kuhn

7913 Cedarville Road

Brandywine, Maryland 20613

Prepared By:

Steven A. Stathakis, Principal Investigator

Big Blue Archaeological Research, Inc.

P.O. Box 1187

Morgantown, WV 26507

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## Introduction

This report presents a description and assessment of the Murphy Farm, from a cultural resources perspective. The cultural resources located on the Murphy Farm are described and an objective evaluation of the significance of those resources within their historic context is presented. The report includes an Introduction section in which the general location and setting of the Murphy Farm are described; a Historic Context section in which a description of the historic background of the region in which the farm is located is discussed; an Inventory of Resources section in which each resource within the Murphy Farm is described and discussed in terms of its historic significance, and; a Conclusions section in which an evaluation of the significance of each identified resource is presented.

The Murphy Farm is located in Jefferson County, south of Bolivar Heights and abutting the westernmost boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historic Park south of U.S. Route 340 and north of the Shenandoah River (Figure 1). The farm's property lines delimit an area of about 98.9 acres (40 hectares). The region in which the Murphy Farm is situated is defined geographically as the Great Limestone Valley portion of the Ridges and Valley province (Hatfield and Warner 1973: 75). This region is characterized as a smoothly rolling valley underlain by folded limestone and a small amount of acid shale (Hatfield and Warner 1973: 75-76) and interspersed with low hills and shale ridges (Bushong 1941: 1). The farm is situated on a gently rolling hilltop, overlooking the high, steep banks adjacent to the Shenandoah River.

## Historic Context

### *Prehistoric Background*

Paleoindian Period (14000 - 7000 BC). The earliest culture identified in North America is known as Paleoindian. Migrations of game animals and humans from Asia, moving over the Bering Straits via a land bridge which was created when sea levels were lowered during glacial periods, is the most widely accepted theory for the origins of these earliest North Americans. The limited number of types of artifacts from this period are widely distributed and relatively sparse and so provide only a restricted view of what life may have been like for Paleoindian people.

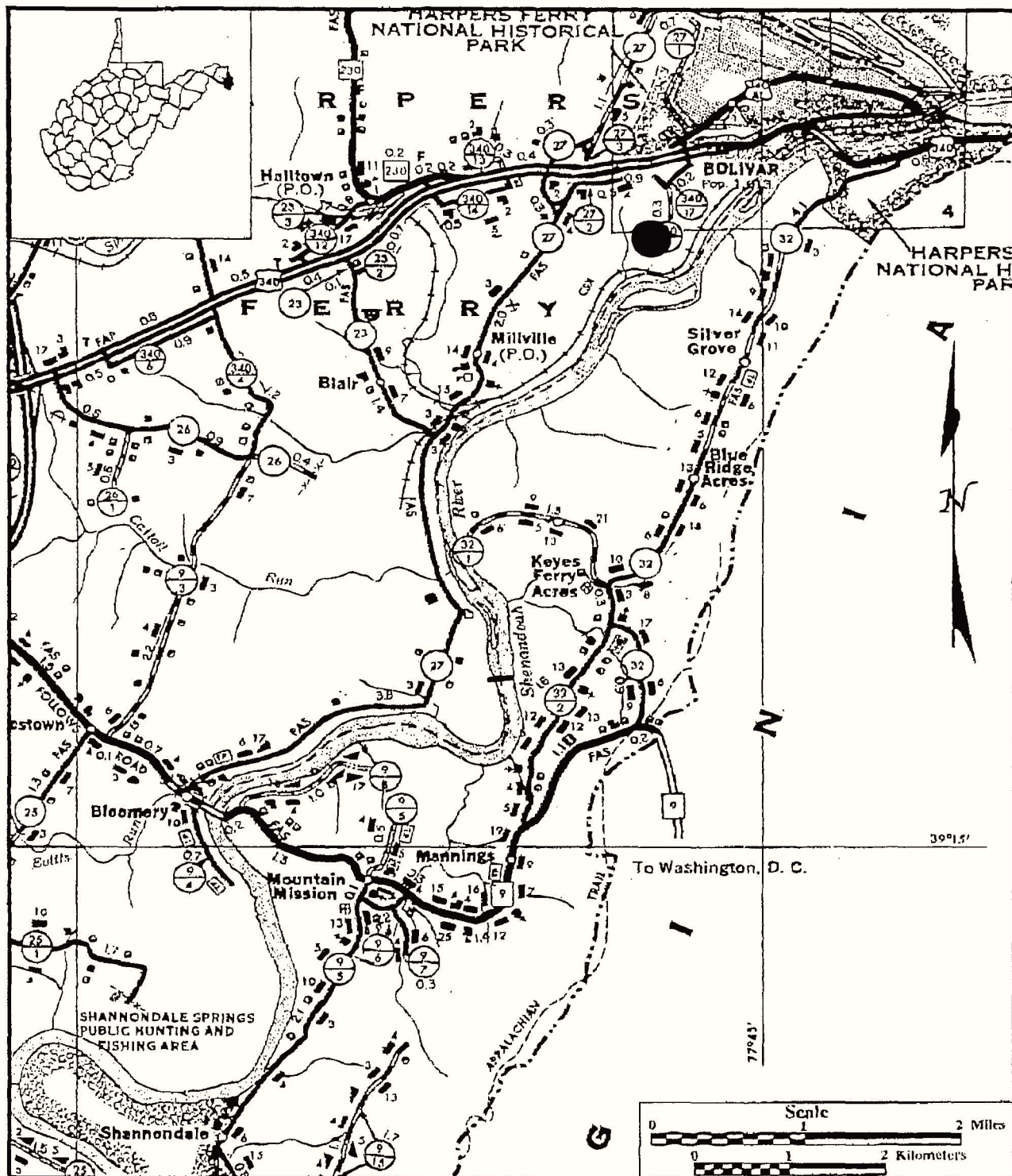


Figure 1. Maps showing the location of the project area in West Virginia and Jefferson County.



Paleoindian men and women probably lived in small groups. They seem to have been nomadic hunters of migratory game and opportunistic gatherers of the fruits, nuts, and seeds of available plants. Site types which have yielded material from this time period are interpreted as large camps, hunting stations, and "workshop locations" (Griffin 1978: 225).

Archaic Period (8000 BC to 1200 BC). The major difference between Archaic and Paleoindian cultures is an apparent change in subsistence strategies. During the Early Archaic Period the flora and fauna of the area became very similar to that encountered by the first European explorers. Large migratory game began to be replaced by smaller herd animals and other small game. Plant communities were more stable and could be relied upon for food resources on a seasonal basis. Archaic populations adapted to this environment, gradually becoming specialized in particular subsistence strategies. Early Archaic peoples successfully adapted to the changing environment by modifying or developing the tools needed to exploit newly available resources. Group size seems to have remained small and people appear to have continued to follow a nomadic lifestyle. Movement was seasonal, from one part of a "home range" to another, depending on the availability of fruits, nuts, fish, and game (Muller 1978:286).

Site types associated with the Archaic period are interpreted as reflecting a pattern of seasonal movement associated with the procurement of seasonally available food resources. There were relatively small, specialized resource extraction sites and small and large base camps. Other Archaic site types include hunting camps and seasonally utilized exploitive camps (Boyce-Ballweber 1987: 52). Group size was probably larger, relative to group size during the Paleo-Indian Period, however, population density was still low.

The Archaic Period is divided into three sub-periods based primarily on variations in the tools used over the course of this period. An expanding tool kit reflects a change in subsistence strategies and increasing technological complexity. New tools, such as adzes, axes, wedges, and gouges for working wood, metates, mortars, manos, and pestles for milling seeds and grains, stone vessels, atlatl weights, stone tubes, and plummets, made their appearance.



Woodland Period (1000 BC to AD 1700). Pottery first appears in the West Virginia archaeological record around 1000 BC and is widely considered the hallmark trait which separates the Woodland from the Archaic Period. Social and religious aspects of life became more complex during the Woodland period (Griffin 1978: 240) as group size grew and intergroup contact became more frequent and more intense. There was an increase in production specialization and status differentiation and a more varied and elaborate material culture developed. Burial ceremonialism reached a fluorescence with the construction of elaborate earthworks and large burial mounds. The use of pottery suggests an increased reliance on plant resources.

There are indications of the beginning of horticultural practices and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle during the Woodland. By the end of this period many Woodland peoples were cultivating several varieties of corn and squash. Site types during this period still included small camps and resource extraction sites, but the general trend through the period was toward large, permanent habitation sites "located on high banks directly overlooking major rivers" (Maslowski 1985: 30). Such river terraces are generally associated with fertile, well drained soils conducive to raising crops.

Late Prehistoric (AD 1100 to Early Contact circa 1700). This last period of time before contact with European cultures is characterized by "the intense cultivation of corn, beans and squash" (McMichael 1968: 35-36), stockaded villages, and relatively dense populations. The inclusion of beans to the list of plant foods cultivated in the region is significant in that beans represent an alternative to meat as a source of dietary protein. The addition of this important food is credited for allowing an increase in the number and size of villages during this period (Dragoo 1975: 21).

Although there is evidence scattered throughout West Virginia of prehistoric activities representative of all the described culture periods, the earliest European settlers did not find any large or permanent Indian settlements (McMichael 1968: 54). Indian groups living in West Virginia prior to the early 1700s were probably forced out by a combination of factors, most of which can be associated with European colonization of North America. Diseases introduced by Europeans settling in the Americas devastated native American

populations. Competition between traditionally antagonistic native American culture groups for a decreasing amount of available natural resources intensified as pressure from European settlers forced these groups into more frequent contact. The competition for furs to trade became paramount as European trade goods, which were at first merely coveted by Indians, became perceived as necessary items. Iroquois peoples from New York and Pennsylvania pushed out groups of Shawnee, Delaware, and Mingo who inhabited West Virginia in the late 1600s. Western Virginia seems to have been a territory in which only small, scattered groups of native Americans lived and hunted when the earliest European settlers arrived.

### *Regional History*

The land which would become West Virginia was claimed by various groups in the mid-eighteenth century. Shawnee, Seneca, and Delaware Indians lived and hunted along the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers and their tributaries. France laid claim to the area by virtue of explorations by de Saint Luggon in 1671 and Joliet and Marquette in 1673. The London Company was issued a patent for the land in 1609 by King James I and, in 1681, King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn, giving Pennsylvania title to the land. The capture of the French Fort DuQuesne by British troops in 1758 settled the issue in favor of Pennsylvania. The demarcation of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1764 established the region as part of Virginia, and in 1863 the state of West Virginia was formed.

Jefferson County, which was part of Berkeley County until 1801, is situated east of the imposing Allegheny Mountains, which made it easily accessible to traders, trappers, and explorers sent by land speculators in the early seventeenth century. Many of these travelers had been frequenting the Potomac and Shenandoah River valleys as early as 1671 (Doherty 1972: 7). The first permanent settlers established homesteads in the vicinity of present-day Shepherdstown about 1719, which makes it the oldest town in West Virginia.

The first European settlers in the region encountered an environment which had become established *circa* 6000 BC, and remained essentially unchanged until their arrival. The predominant trees were oak, poplar, chestnut, spruce,



maple, and hemlock; but less dominant species such as ash, blackgum, black walnut, sycamore, elm, beech, cherry, and butternut were also found. Shrubs included sumac, elder, pawpaw, dogwood, haw, sassafras, hazel, crab apple, redbud, laurel, and rhododendron. There were wild fruits such as blackberries, strawberries, service berries, cherries, haws, mulberries, raspberries, grapes, plums, crab apples, elderberries, huckleberries, and teaberries (Miller 1969: 14). Fauna encountered by these first settlers included buffalo (bison), bear, deer, elk, panthers, wolves, wildcats, foxes, raccoons, beavers, opossums, skunks, otters, minks, muskrats, squirrels, rabbits, and woodchucks (Miller 1969: 15). Most early settlers used the land primarily to grow the crops necessary to sustain themselves and their families.

The easily accessed river valleys of West Virginia's eastern panhandle attracted immigrants and others looking for land to homestead throughout the eighteenth century. German immigrants came to the region in 1727 and joined the settlers who were living near the banks of the Potomac. They founded the town of New Mecklenberg, later called Shepherdstown (Bushong 1941: 11), and began to raise crops of wheat, rye, corn, oats, and potatoes (North 1985: 4). The area around present-day Charles Town began to be settled about 1740 (Bushong 1941: 11). The town was laid out on land owned by Charles Washington, youngest brother to George Washington, in 1786 and was named for him. The town of Harpers Ferry, incorporated in 1851, began to be settled about 1740 (Bushong 1941: 11). Martinsburg (Berkeley County) was laid out on the site of what had been a principal village of Tuscarora Indians in 1778 (Evans 1928: 67). In 1772 enough people were living in the rich valleys south of the Potomac and east of the Alleghenies that a new county was formed. Berkeley County was formed from Frederick County, and included parts of what are today Jefferson and Morgan counties (Evans 1928: 60). Steady population growth resulted in the formation of Jefferson County, named for Thomas Jefferson, from part of Berkeley County in 1801. Nearly all of the county's earliest inhabitants hunted, fished, and raised the crops and animals which supplied food for themselves and their families (Doherty 1972: 14-15).

Shawnee, Seneca, Delaware, and other native American groups hunted in the land east of the Allegheny Mountains and between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers (Doherty 1972: 6), and fought European settlers over rights



to the land. European colonists petitioned the British government for support and by 1756 three stockaded forts were built in the area to protect them (Gardiner and Gardiner 1938: 12). The end of the French and Indian War in 1763 brought an uneasy peace and a proclamation from the King of England which forbade settling west of the Alleghenies. A peace treaty with the Indians was signed in 1764 and incursions against the European settlers ceased for a time. Despite the ban against moving into the area, cessation of Indian hostilities made western Virginia more attractive to large numbers of colonists. Settlers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and newly arrived European immigrants began moving into the frontier lands.

The nineteenth century saw slow yet steady growth in Jefferson County. An agriculture-based economy in which apples were the most important fruit grown, supported various related industries. Mills for grinding grain, carding wool, and sawing wood were erected on the creeks and rivers. Towns grew, markets were established, and tradesmen such as "masons, blacksmiths, tinkers, tanners, weavers, wagonmakers, distillers, fullers, tailors, shoemakers, and millwrights" (Evans 1928: 93) opened for business.

The creation of new roads and improvement of others starting in the early 1800s and the completion of the railroad in the mid-1800s facilitated the movement of the county's produce and stimulated trade. The earliest road through the county provided a path from east to west, from Shepherdstown to Mount Carmel and, eventually, to Romney in Hampshire County. This route began as a trail used by native Americans and parts of it are now State Highway 45. By 1830 a stage line was established and passengers could travel from Charles Town to Washington in one day for four dollars (Bushong 1941: 82). In a race to complete a trade route to eastern markets, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal reached Charles Town in 1833, preceding the rival Baltimore and Ohio Railroad by 13 months. The railroad, on its way to Parkersburg on the Ohio River, reached Charles Town soon after the canal (Bushong 1941: 82) and eventually became the principal carrier of the region's produce.

Growth of the county was disrupted by the Civil War and did not rebound significantly until the late 1960s (North 1985: 38). Due to its location - in a rich agricultural valley through which major transportation routes were laid and

within 60 miles of Washington D.C. - Jefferson County experienced many battles during the Civil War (Bushong 1941: 8142). The county's economy suffered during the war, and afterward recovery was slow (North 1985: 38). The economy remained primarily agricultural-based with wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and alfalfa the principal crops. Limestone and iron industries operated with some success until about 1900 (Bushong 1941: 3). The region began to be appreciated for its natural beauty and proximity to Washington D.C. in the 1960s. Population began to grow as people and industry from the east moved into the county. The economy grew apace and the population increased from about 18,000 in 1970 to about 30,000 by 1980 (North 1985: 38) and just under 36,000 in 1990 (North 1998: 38). The natural beauty of the region, its proximity to the major markets of Baltimore and Washington D.C., and its excellent system of roads and railroads make Jefferson County an area which continues to be attractive to tourists, manufacturers, and families.

Bolivar and Harpers Ferry. The town of Bolivar, formally known as Mudfort, was created in December 1825 and named for the South American patriot Simon Bolivar (Bushong 1941: 87). The population of the town was about 270 in 1820, grew to 536 by 1840, and to over 1,000 by 1850 (Bushong 1941). Harpers Ferry was known as "the Hole" circa 1747 when Peter Stevens lived there as a squatter on land owned by Lord Fairfax (Barry 1903: 12). Robert Harper passed through "the Hole" on his way from Philadelphia to the site of what is now Winchester, Virginia. Harper "was so much pleased" with the land that he bought out Stevens and obtained a patent for it from Fairfax (Barry 1903: 12). Harper went into business transporting travelers across the Potomac River on a flatboat and "the Hole" became known as Harpers Ferry (Hearn 1996: 2).

The towns of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry are located in a location which ensured prosperity and growth throughout the 1800s. They are strategically situated at the juncture of two major rivers, the Shenandoah and Potomac, at a natural gap through the Blue Ridge Mountains, and in a valley corridor which provided routes to points north, south, and west. In 1794, George Washington chose Harpers Ferry as the site for a national armory (Hearn 1996: 3). By 1819, an arsenal, machine shops, a canal along the south shore of the Potomac River, and a rifle factory employed a relatively prosperous population. Both towns continued to grow as new transportation infrastructure was developed.



The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal wound north of the towns along the Potomac by 1833 and in 1834 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad waited only for a suitable bridge to cross the river into Harpers Ferry (Hearn 1996: 3). A bridge across the Potomac was completed in 1836 and an increase in commerce and prosperity followed. Railroad traffic brought goods and passengers through the two towns and the production of arms increased to an all time high in 1860.

John Brown's Raid. Harpers Ferry became nationally known during the autumn of 1859, when news of a "Negro Insurrection" made headlines across the country (Hearn 1996: 23). John Brown's ill-fated attempt to prompt a revolution which would bring freedom to black slaves began at Harpers Ferry on October 16, 1859. Brown met in a farmhouse outside of Harpers Ferry with 22 men. He sent three men with a wagon loaded with pikes to a schoolhouse on the road to Harpers Ferry. These men were to arm slaves and issue guns and ammunition to the expected volunteers. Brown began his raid at 8 P.M., leading 18 armed men toward the town's armory. He entered the quiet village and quickly managed to occupy the armory, the arsenal, and the bridges over the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Those not holding various strategic points took cover with Brown inside the armory enginehouse.

The morning of the 17th saw Brown besieged in the fortified enginehouse, surrounded by local militiamen, the bridges back in the hands of the townspeople, and no armed slaves joining the fight for freedom. Firing back and forth between the gathered militias and Brown's men continued through the day, stopping as the sun set. Robert E. Lee entered the town during the night with a company of 90 marines. Lee's men replaced the militiamen surrounding Brown's fort. A few hours after dawn on the 18th, after a brief parlay at the door of the fort between Brown and one of Lee's lieutenants, the marines rushed the fort and the raid was over.

Brown failed to inspire a revolution which he hoped would lead to an end to slavery. He did however, focus the nation's attention on the moral issue of slavery (National Park Service). Brown's dream of freeing the people held as slaves in America ended on a gallows outside of Charles Town on December 2, 1859. The violence and deaths which accompanied Brown's arrival in Harpers Ferry were harbingers of the turmoil which would soon follow.

The Civil War. The Civil War took a heavy toll on Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. Occupied by a relatively small number of Union troops in 1861, the town and its arsenal were a ripe target for a Confederate army short of supplies. In April 1861, Confederate troops gathered for an attack designed to acquire the arsenal, guns, and the machinery necessary to produce more weapons. Wary of the pending attack, the outnumbered commander of the Union troops ordered the arsenal and armory set ablaze and marched his men out of town, across the bridge, and into Maryland. Much was destroyed in the subsequent fires; however, Confederate troops managed to salvage "more than 300 machines, thousands of feet of shafting and belting, and some 457,000 assorted tools - for shipment to Richmond's old musket works" (Hearn 1996: 56). Six weeks later, with the threat of Union troops gathering in Maryland, the rifle works on Virginus Island were stripped and shipped south.

T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson arrived a short time after the Confederates had moved the arms production stock to points south. His troops were dug in on Bolivar Heights and began gathering the region's industrial equipment, shipping railroad cars and machinery from various factories to Martinsburg (Hearn 1996: 58). Union troops reoccupied the towns in June of 1861, after Confederate troops, now lead by Stonewall Jackson, left what was deemed by Jackson as an indefensible position. Jackson had his troops burn the railroad bridges and all the supplies which they could not carry off. The Union once again held the towns and endured sporadic sniper attacks and raids by small bands of local Confederate sympathizers. After one sniper attack left a Union soldier dead, the Union commander had troops burn "most of the lower town" (Cohen 1976: 54). Leadership in the Union army was very static and command of the troops in Harpers Ferry changed hands several times.

For a time, neither side was willing to commit the number of troops needed to adequately defend Harpers Ferry. For several months the town was a "no-man's land," open to plunderers from both armies, subject to sniper fire from the Maryland and Virginia sides, its mills and stores left in ashes. By the early summer of 1862, Union strategists determined that Harpers Ferry must be held in order to safeguard the railroad. Colonel Dixon Miles was put in command, an ample number of troops were assigned, and brigades were posted on Maryland Heights, Bolivar Heights, and Camp Hill, between Bolivar and Harpers Ferry.



Dixon failed to occupy Loudon Heights, mistakenly assuming it was inaccessible.

Miles did not seem prepared for a fight, despite the large number of troops and unmistakable warning signs. Almost 13,000 troops were dug in on two of the three sides of the triangle of land between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, enduring probing attacks over several weeks by small bands of Confederate cavalry. Dixon waited nervously for the inevitable attack. Union troops were inexperienced and commanded by a colonel who was later characterized by his superior officers as acting with an "incapacity, amounting almost to imbecility" (Hearn 1996: 192). Miles and his command barely held off a three-pronged attack commanded by Stonewall Jackson. A flanking movement led by A.P. Hill, bringing troops to bear against the Union forces from the Chambers (now Murphy) Farm from the southwest, was the decisive move which ensured the Confederate victory (Kennedy 1998: 115). The defeat was the largest of the Civil War as 12,500 Union troops surrendered after three days of fighting which resulted in a surprisingly small number of casualties. Of some 12,700 Union troops, 44 were killed and 173 wounded. Confederate losses were 38 killed and 244 wounded. Miles was one of the Union dead. Confederate General A.P. Hill took command of Harpers Ferry and paroled the entire force of captured Union troops the day after the surrender.

The Confederates had no intention of trying to hold Harpers Ferry. After their victory, the main army left the town behind, with a small garrison to cover the withdrawal and complete the removal of all portable supplies. Lee sent troops back a few days later to destroy the almost rebuilt railroad bridge. The Union reoccupied Harpers Ferry within five days and a succession of commanders, 13 over a period of 18 months, held the towns and managed to fight off small groups of Confederates, except for one day in July 1863 and one day in July 1864. From July 5, 1864 until the end of the war in June of 1865, the Union held the remains of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, under the command of five different generals.

The residents of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar had suffered under both Confederate and Union occupation. They had been subject to sniper fire, bombardment by cannon, retaliatory arson, and wanton destruction of the

shops, mills, and factories which had provided their livelihood. The losses would never be replaced and, in a changing, post-war economy, many people left the small town for work in nearby cities. The population declined to 687 by 1910 and 628 in 1940 (Bushong 1941).

Storer College. The Shenandoah Valley south of Harpers Ferry was seen by almost 30,000 black freedmen as a safe haven, protected by Union forces at the close of the Civil War. Through the relentless efforts of Reverend Dr. Nathan Cook, an agent for the Free Will Baptist Home Mission, a mission headquarters and primary school were established in Harpers Ferry. A philanthropist from Maine, John Storer, impressed with Cook's efforts, donated money for a school, with the stipulation that it be open to all, and that the Free Will Baptists match his donation. On October 2, 1867, Storer Normal School was opened in Harpers Ferry. The school was granted a charter by the state of West Virginia in 1869 and in 1938 Storer became a degree-granting college. By 1955 the college, whose student body was comprised predominantly of blacks, closed as a result of low enrollment, financial struggles, and federally mandated desegregation. The grounds and buildings of Storer College were incorporated into Harpers Ferry National Monument in 1960.

The natural beauty of the region, first described for a broader audience by Thomas Jefferson, and its rich history began attracting residents and tourists in the late 1960s. Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and the towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar are attractive destinations for tourists today. Improvements to the transportation infrastructure, such as widening U.S. Route 340 in the 1970s, which, while compromising the integrity of cultural resources associated with the region's rich history, has made the area more accessible to larger numbers of tourists, hikers, and history buffs. Increased tourism which has increased employment opportunities and proximity to Washington D.C. have resulted in recent population growth.

### Inventory of Resources

The history of Harpers Ferry is written, in microcosm, in the history of the Murphy Farm. The farm is intricately connected to the major events which have shaped the history of the town. Use of the land now known as the



Murphy Farm began long before Peter Stevens started to homestead land which was claimed by Lord Fairfax. In this section, each resource (Figure 2) within the Murphy Farm is described and discussed in terms of its historic significance.

Murphy Site. A prehistoric archaeological site is situated a low rise near the center of the Murphy Farm. According to information told to the author, a large number of artifacts including a projectile point identified as an (Late?) Archaic type, have been recovered from the site (J. Kuhn, personal communication, 1999). The description of the density of artifacts and its setting suggest that it is likely that the site was a small village which may have been used seasonally by Archaic peoples as a base for food procurement activities. The significance of this site can not be determined without conducting professional archaeological investigations designed to identify the extent of the site, the density of artifacts within the site, and the presence or absence of intact cultural features.

Taylor Street. An important factor in the lives of the early settlers was the ability to move produce across the landscape. As early as 1825 (Bushong 1941: 81), politicians and merchants began to petition the state for authorization and funds to construct turnpikes which would connect Harpers Ferry to the markets in Washington, D.C. and Charles Town. By 1830, a decent road had been built between Washington, D.C. and Charles Town, with access to Harpers Ferry. The turnpike was intersected by Taylor Street by 1852 (Thompson 1984: 33) which is described as a boundary of the Elizabeth Allstadt property (Thompson 1984: 33). A portion of the road today is designated County Route 340/5 and is maintained by the county only to the entrance to the Murphy Farm. The remainder of the road is visible as a grassy trail winding toward the Potomac River, down a densely wooded and steep hillside. That portion of Taylor Street situated on the Murphy Farm, given that it retains an integrity of setting as a part of the history of settlement and commerce and a contributing element to the overall historic setting, is considered a significant part of the history of Harpers Ferry.



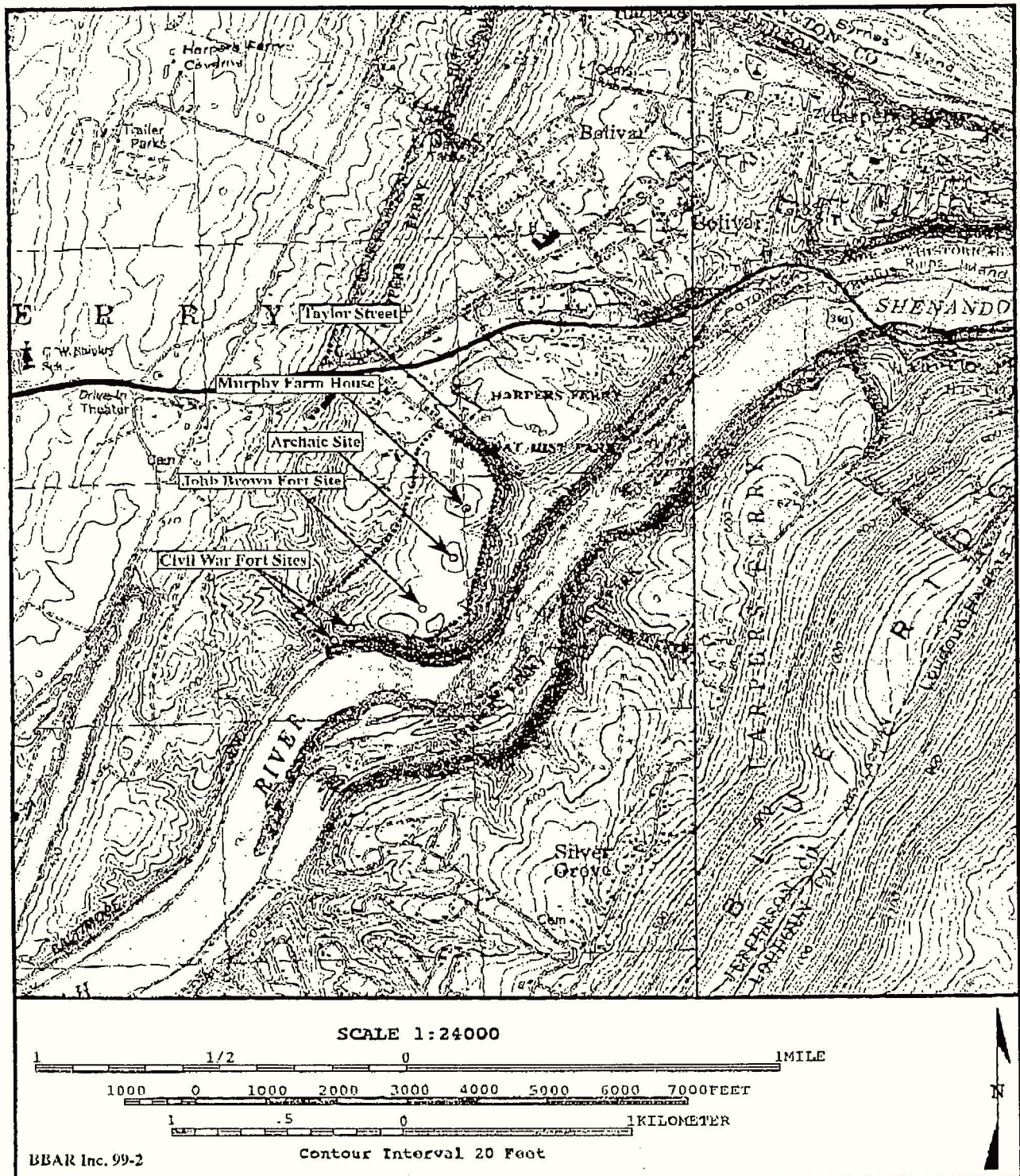


Figure 2. Portions of the USGS Charles Town and Harpers Ferry topographic maps showing the Murphy Farm and locations of identified cultural resources.



Chambers-Murphy Farmhouse. The Chambers-Murphy farmhouse is a two-story, three-bay four-square structure with a low-pitched, hipped roof and a central chimney. It has clapboard siding, composition shingles and tin roofing, boxed eaves, and a paneled front door with a plain rectangular pediment. This style of structure is identified as a National Folk House in the Pyramidal Family (McAlester and McAlester 1993).

Historic-period maps shows that a structure was situated on the land which has become the Murphy Farm in 1852. The farm was owned by Edmond Chambers at that time and until 1869. The structure shown on the 1852 S. Howell Brown Map of Jefferson County was probably a log structure which served as the Chamber residence. Alexander Murphy bought the Chambers Farm through John G. Cockeral in 1869. Soon after that time, Murphy built a larger residence which incorporated into it an earlier log structure. Portions of the log structure are visible today and constitute part of an enclosed porch and the kitchen of the Murphy Farmhouse. The log structure, originally Chamber's cabin and now part of the Murphy Farmhouse, was part of the landscape when A.P. Hill led his troops against the Union garrison in Harpers Ferry. The structure subsequently built by Alexander Murphy has been restored to an excellent condition. This historic structure is considered a significant part of the history of Harpers Ferry.

Civil War Fortifications. A set of two Civil War earthworks, one near the crest and one part of the way down of the steep banks overlooking the Shenandoah River, are situated near the southern boundary of the Murphy Farm. A third earthworks is situated near the Chambers-Murphy farmhouse. The earthworks overlooking the Shenandoah River near the top of the steeply sloping south-facing embankment consist of a J-shaped redoubt. The earthen walls stand about two feet high and are about four feet thick. The redoubt extends along the crest of the slope for about 60 feet. The second of the two earthworks consist of a rifle pit which curves along the face of the embankment for about 150 feet. The earth and rock walls are about three to four feet high and about four feet thick. The earthworks near the house consist of an L-shaped fortification which faces north toward Bolivar Heights. These defensive fortifications were constructed by Union troops probably under the command of Sheridan or Weber in 1864.

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There are no obvious physical signs of some of the notable events which took place on the Murphy Farm during the Civil War. The property supported encampments of both Union and Confederate forces at various times, and offered an approach suitable as a route by which A.P. Hill was able to lead his men on a flanking movement which resulted in the greatest surrender of Union troops. The extremely well-preserved Civil War fortifications near the southern boundary of the Murphy Farm are considered significant artifacts of the strife which held Harpers Ferry and the nation. The property today preserves the feeling and setting of that which was experienced by the men and boys who fought in and around Harpers Ferry.

John Brown Fort Site. The building known today as John Brown's Fort was originally the fire engine and guard house for the armory in Harpers Ferry. It was in that building that Brown and his followers took refuge and were captured. It was the only Armory building to survive the bombardments of the Civil War. An optimistic entrepreneur purchased the structure, dismantled it and moved it to Chicago in 1891, hoping to attract visitors attending the World's Colombian Exposition. Optimism had run high, but attendance ran low. Only 11 people came to see the rebuilt fort during a ten day period. The structure was closed, dismantled, and stored on a vacant lot.

Three years later, a Washington D.C. journalist named Kate Field campaigned to have the fort returned to Harpers Ferry. Alexander Murphy offered five acres on his farm to Field and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad shipped the disassembled fort there. The fort was part of the landscape on the Murphy Farm until 1909. In that year, Storer College purchased the structure and moved it to its campus on Camp Hill in Harpers Ferry. The Park Service acquired the fort in 1960 and moved it to its present location, in the Lower Town portion of Harpers Ferry, about 150 feet from its original location (Gilbert 1998). The John Brown Fort Site on the Murphy Farm today consists of a well-preserved, fieldstone foundation situated near the tree line at the southeast end of the farm.

The John Brown Fort site may be more significant for its association with the black American civil rights movement than for its association with John Brown. Its association with the civil rights movement however, came about



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because of its association with Brown. In 1896, following the example of the day to form clubs in support of women's suffrage, black women founded the Colored Women's League. The group, led by such influential women as Mary Church Terrel, Ida B. Wells, and Fannie Barrier Williams, met in Washington D.C. In what may have been recognition of the symbolic significance of John Brown's attempt to free the black slaves, the group decided to meet at the fort, then standing on the Murphy Farm, which stood as a monument to the black struggle for freedom. The Colored Women's League became the National Association of Colored Women in 1900, and included over 40,000 members.

Ten years later, another black civil rights group, known as the Niagara Movement and led by W.E.B. Du Bois, made a pilgrimage to the fort. The Niagara group had congregated at Storer College to hold its second annual meeting. The group Du Bois and those involved with the Niagara Movement, saw Brown as a martyr and the group made a "pilgrimage" to the fort as the second visit symbolic of the struggle for black freedom and equality. The Niagara Movement is considered as the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The John Brown Fort site is somewhat significant from the perspective of its association with the John Brown Raid. The site is considered very significant for its association with the early black civil rights movement in the United States.

Rural Historic Landscape. The Murphy Farm, taken as a sum of several distinct, significant cultural resources, should also be considered as a whole. Its combination of natural features of the landscape, prehistoric archaeological, and historic resources appear to make this property eligible for consideration as a Rural Historic Landscape. The Department of the Interior defines a Rural Historic Landscape as "a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features" (McClelland et al. n.d.: 1-2). The Murphy Farm is reflective of a local tradition of agriculture and is a strong link in the chain of events which shaped the history of Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, and the nation.

The history of the farm touches upon prehistory, the Civil War, and the civil rights movement. It retains a high degree of historic integrity, reflecting "the spatial organization, physical components, and historic associations that it attained during its periods of significance" (McClelland et al. n.d.: 21).

## Conclusions

The Department of the Interior provides guidelines for applying National Register criteria for evaluating the significance of cultural resources. There are four criteria for evaluating properties: A) association with a significant event; B) association with a significant person; C) embodiment of architecture characteristic of a type, period, method of construction, work of a master architect, or high artistic value; and, D) a likelihood of yielding information important in prehistory or history (Shrimpton 1991).

Archaeological sites are typically evaluated according to Criterion D. The Murphy Site, an Archaic site of unknown dimensions, artifact density, and integrity, needs to be archaeologically surveyed and tested before any evaluation of its significance can be made.

The portion of Taylor Street south of that portion designated County Route 340/5 is considered a contributing element to the overall historic setting in and around the Murphy Farm and Harpers Ferry.

Structures may be evaluated using all four National Register criteria. The Chambers-Murphy Farmhouse was evaluated using all four National Register criteria. The residence is associated with events and persons significant in local and regional history. Although it is not architecturally significant, it is considered a well-preserved example of a typical, rural West Virginia, late nineteenth century farmhouse. Further study of its structural components, especially of its earlier log cabin components, may yield information important to the history of the area.

For purposes of evaluation of significance, the Civil War Fortifications may be considered archaeological sites as well as structures. They can be evaluated using National Register criteria A, B, and C. The fortifications are associated



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with events and persons significant in local and regional history. Archaeological survey and testing of these sites may yield information important to the history of the area.

The John Brown Fort site can be evaluated using National Register criteria A, and B. It is significant for its association with the events, such as the black women's suffrage movement and black civil rights, and people, such as Mary Church Terrel, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Barrier Williams, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

The Department of the Interior also provides guidelines for defining and evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes (McClelland et al. n.d.). There are four criteria for evaluating the significance of rural landscapes: A) association with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history, B) association with persons significant in our past; C) embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or possession of high artistic values; and, D) a likelihood of yielding information important in prehistory or history. Criteria A, B, and C were applied to evaluating the Murphy Farm as a whole. The property is considered significant under all three of these criteria.

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