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Currently in Annapolis

Submitted by George Logan, GLOGAN@bss1.umd.edu

I am writing to you about two separate research projects focusing on African American history in Maryland. The first is a salvage/ mitigation excavation in Annapolis, which you have probably heard about. Archaeology in Annapolis is conducting excavations (paid for by Anne Arundel County), on "the Courthouse site," in the parking lot behind the Anne Arundel County Courthouse. The courthouse is on Church Circle in Annapolis' Historic District. We excavated there in 1990 and made two important discoveries. First, extensive archaeological deposits from a later nineteenth through mid twentieth century predominantly African American neighborhood lie beneath the asphalt surface. Second, evidence of 17th-century occupation is also present on the site. The excavations are being completed prior to construction of a 280,000 sq. ft. Courthouse expansion on the site. These two periods--not well represented in most presentations of Annapolis' past, are our primary research focuses. I worked on the 1990 public programs, and have been asked to coordinate site tours for the current excavations.

I would appreciate any help you could give spreading the word about our open site days and free public site tours. The site is open to visitors on a walk-in basis: Every Friday through July 8 -- 10:00am-2:00pm. Also, the site will be open Sundays June 19 and June 26 -- 11:00am-4:00pm. We hope to attract more local visitors on Sundays, but everyone is welcome any of those times. For more information or to make group reservations (not necessary, but helpful), please call the Historic Annapolis Foundation Archaeology lab (410) 268-7770 Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 My only regret is that this is such a short-term project with little lead time given for planning public outreach. With all the archaeological resources and the local interest, we really have our hands full.

The second project is in its infancy stages, and I just want to mention it here. I work as the archaeologist for the Carroll Park Foundation in Baltimore. In the park is Mount Clare mansion, a pre-revolutionary war period structure that Charles Carroll, Barrister had built. (This Carroll, was a distant cousin of Charles Carroll of Carrollton) The Foundation's goal is to develop the site as a living history attraction. My primary interest in the site is trying to learn about and help interpret the site from the perspectives of African American slaves, European indentured servants and convict laborers who lived and worked there and at the adjacent Baltimore Company Ironworks. If accepted I will present a paper at the SHA conference on this topic. My first step in this work will be to study written records associated with the two sites in an effort to build some site-specific contexts for future analysis and interpretation. If you are interested I could either mail or FAX you some additional materials: Calendar of Events for the Annapolis project; a brochure about Carroll Park; or a copy of my SHA proposal. My name is George Logan and my work phone number is (410) 405-1418. My home address is 1430 A Ravine Way, Arnold MD 21012, but you can also reach me through e-mail.