



St. Clement's Manor

The Thomas Gerard Site

Presentation for
St. Mary's County
Board of County Commissioners

Presentation by
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Thomas Gerard's St. Clement's Manor was discovered in 2000 by homeowners as they were building a barn, tractor shed, and horse pasture. Artifacts dating to the first decade of the Maryland colony were turning up in their construction trenches.

With encouragement from the homeowners, students from St. Mary's College of Maryland undertook a survey to identify the boundaries of the site. More than 15,000 artifacts were recovered.

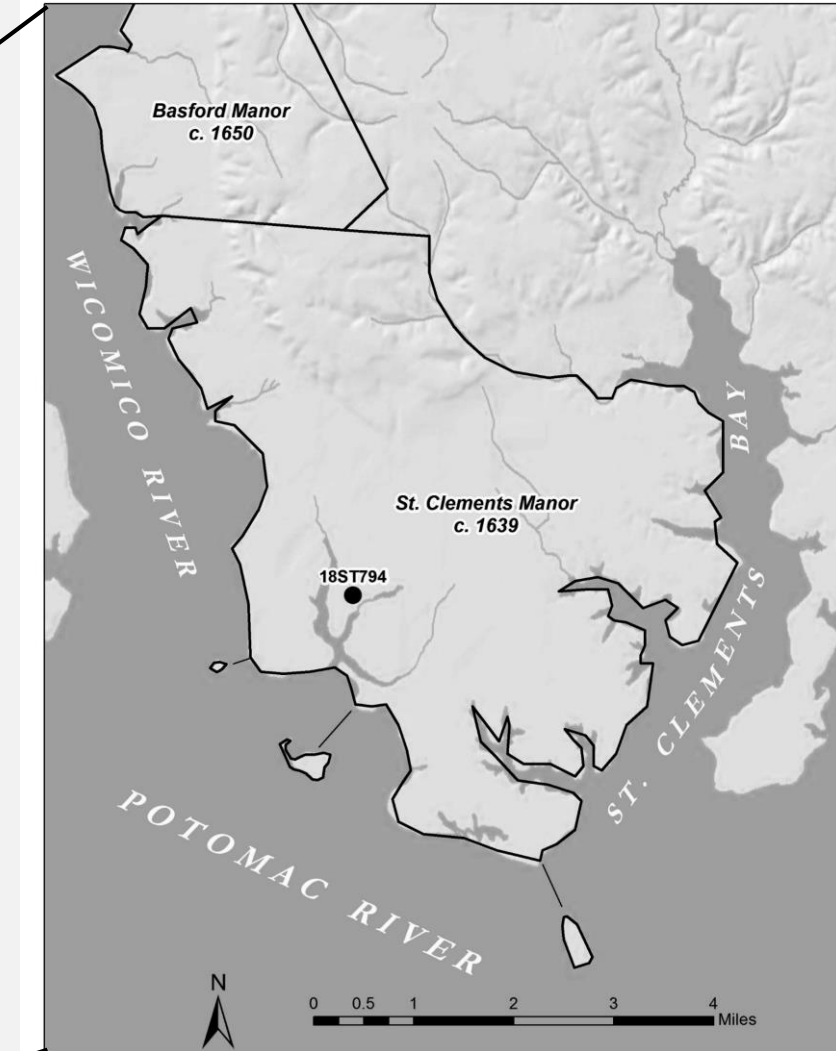
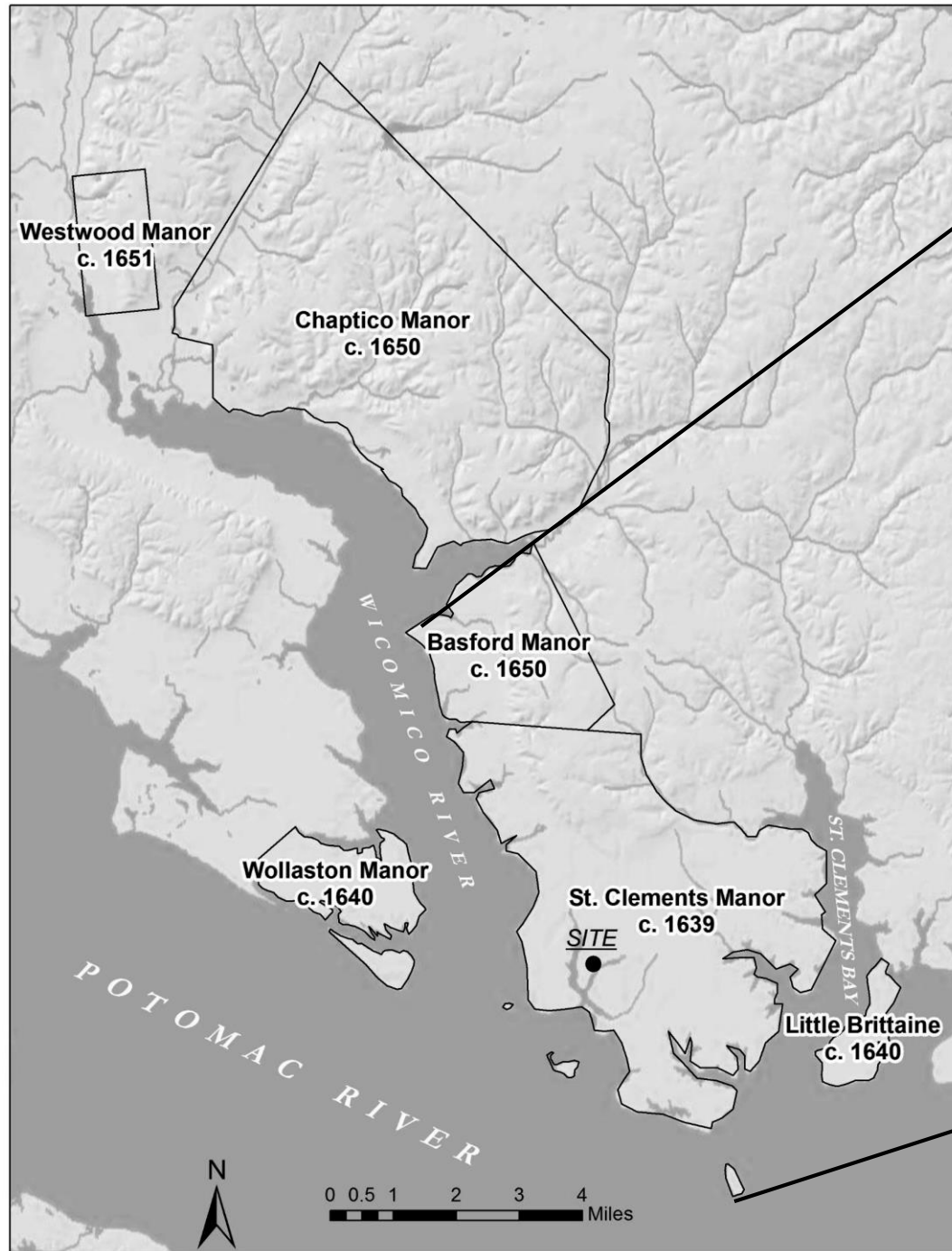
A magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar survey identified pits, fence lines, and possible house foundations.

The homeowners are retiring and leaving the state. This may be the last opportunity to collect information on one of the earliest colonial sites in the state.

St. Mary's College of Maryland requests \$5,000 from the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners to support the collection of additional information from this important archaeological site. The funds will be used to support an archaeological field school.

This presentation outlines the history of this important site and plans for the archaeological investigations. The presentation also identifies commitments of support from other agencies and organizations and the long-term preservation of the excavated collection.

St. Clement's Manor
Near Bushwood





Janie's Beauty Salon

Bluff Point

520

Whites Neck Creek

Taylor Farm Assisted Living

A Community That Shares

American Legion

Murphy's Town & Country

Salvation Army

Yellow Bank

Whites Neck

520

520

Whites Neck Creek

Whites Neck Creek

Paul Ellis Landing

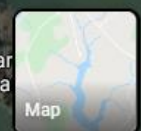
Thomas Fence

Avenue Flags and Flagpoles

Google

Avenue

Holy Angels Church



A Court Leet & Court Baron of Thomas Gerard,
St. Clements Manour, October 1659

St. Clements Manor

- One of only two manors in the Maryland colony that operated as outlined by the 1636 “Conditions of Plantations”
- Created in 1639
- Granted to Thomas Gerard
- Initially 1,030 acres with all the tights and privileges “belonging to Mannours in England”
- The St. Clements Manor Court records are the only Manor Court records known to have survived.

Thomas Gerard

- Arrived in Maryland in 1636, returned in 1638
- Settled at St. Clement's Manor in 1639
- A gifted and hard-nosed entrepreneur
- A Catholic who was married to Susannah, a Protestant, building her and other Protestants at St. Clement's Manor a Protestant chapel
- Initially an ally of Lord Baltimore, serving on the Maryland Council
- In 1660, joined with Governor Josias Fendall in an effort to overthrow Baltimore's government
- At his death in 1673, he was the wealthiest man in the colony



Iron pike fragment,
St. Clement's
Manor (left); 17th-
century pike drill

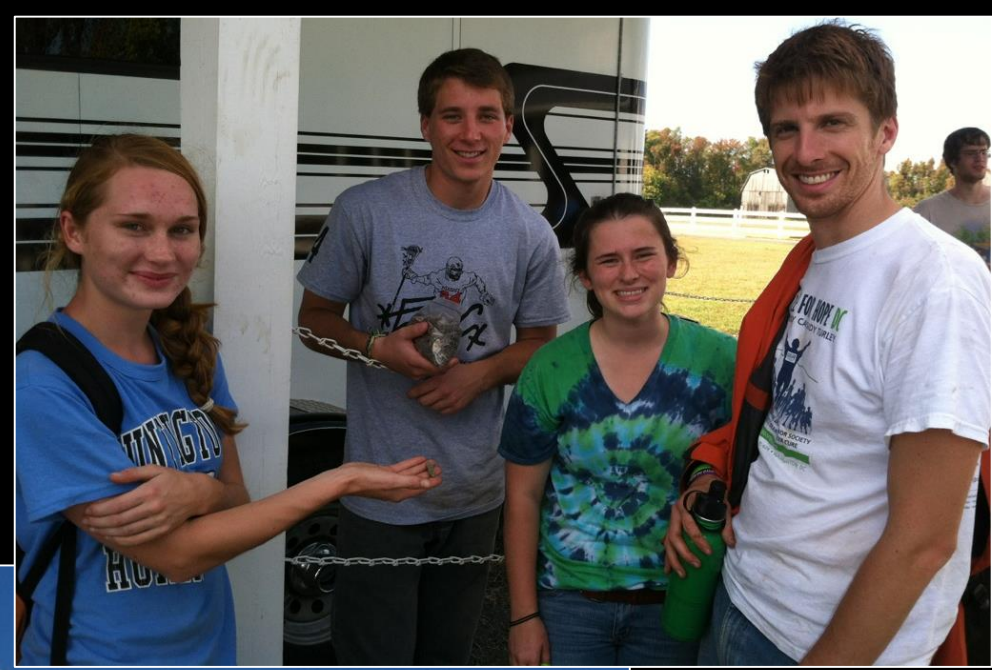


Figural salt fragment recovered
from St. Clement's Manor



Figural salt dated 1657 in the collection
of the Victoria and Albert Museum,
United Kingdom

Rare early 17th-century artifacts found by the
homeowners



SMCM students conducted testing at the site in 2014. The students in the picture, above, show off a 1646 cloth seal they uncovered.

The homeowners' horses supervised the students from their stalls.





Archaeologist Tim Horsley conducts a magnetometer survey of the St. Clement's Manor site.

A magnetometer measures the magnetism in the soil. Iron creates an unmistakable signature. Brick does, too, since fired clay has an acquired magnetism.



Students excavate a test unit in an area where Indian trade materials were found.



The dark brown soils contained many early artifacts. This could be a cellar feature in a storehouse where Gerard would have housed trade goods.





Indian trade goods uncovered at St. Clement's Manor include these decorated red clay pipe fragments, cut copper pieces (copper had great spiritual significance to Native people), and pottery fragments from pots bringing corn to the manor for trade.

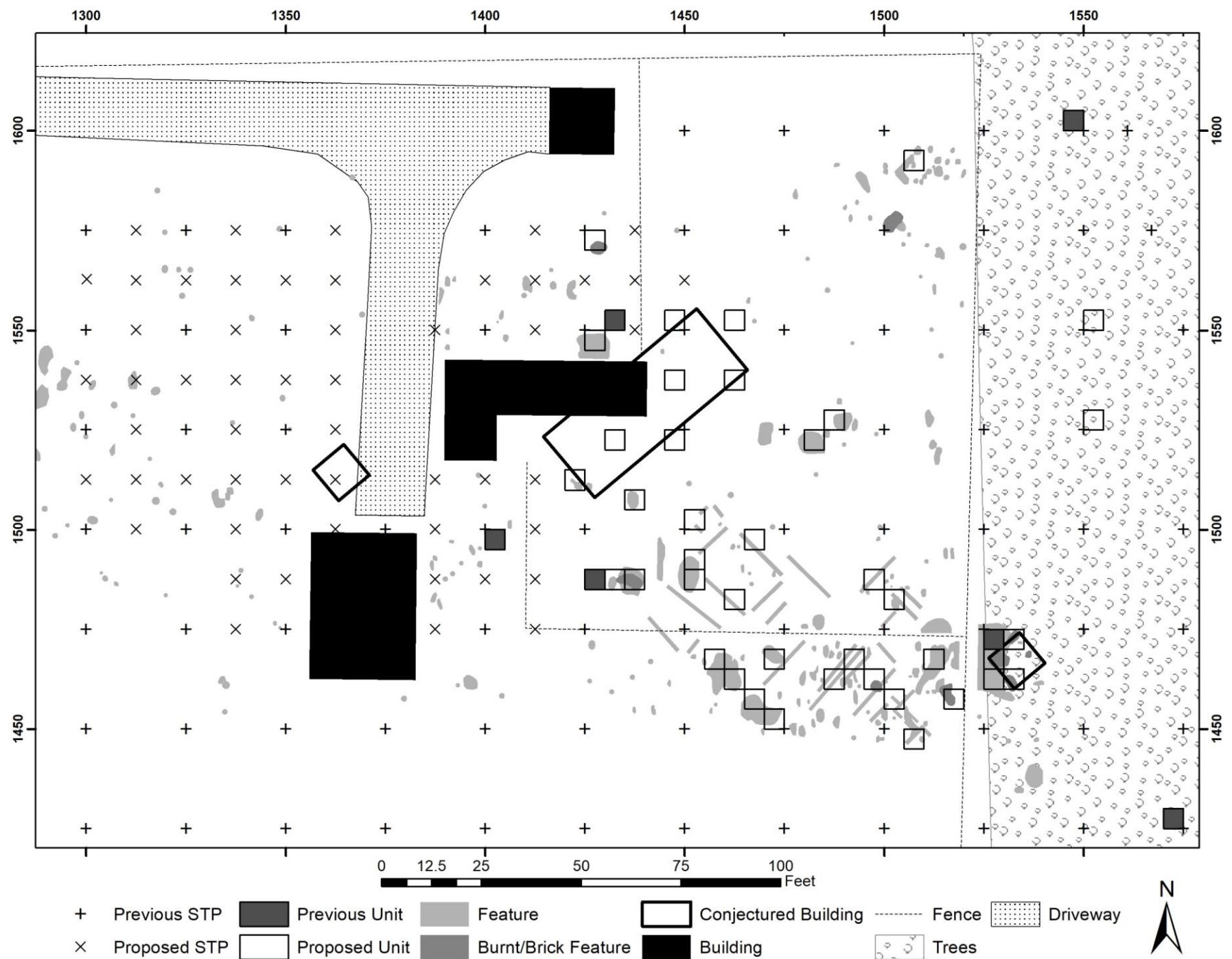


↑
Possible Indian
arrowhead of
copper?

Recommendations for preserving the St. Clement's Manor House site from a 2015 study funded by Preservation Maryland

- Acquisition by a preservation organization
 - Cost prohibitive
- Donation or sale of a preservation easement
 - The site is already disturbed by construction; cannot be subdivided
- Removal or relocation of the barn and shed
 - Cost prohibitive
- Full Excavation
 - Cost prohibitive

Or ... recovery of a reasonable sample of the site's artifacts and features.



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MAY 18-JULY 10, 2020



ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD STUDY

ST. CLEMENT'S MANOR, 1638-1672



Artifacts from St. Clement's Manor



LEARN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES
WHILE STUDYING THE FIRST
DECADES OF COLONIAL
SETTLEMENT IN MARYLAND

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE *See Reverse Side.*

St. Clement's Manor, created in 1638 by Lord Baltimore, was one of only two manors in early Maryland with its own courts and manor structure. Thomas Gerard, the manor lord, was one of the wealthiest men in Maryland and a member of Lord Baltimore's Council. In 1660, however, Gerard joined with Josias Fendall in an effort to overthrow the Calvert government. The coup was planned in part at St. Clement's Manor,

a hotbed of resistance to Lord Baltimore's government. For years, archaeologists and historians have searched for the St. Clement's Manor House. The site was finally identified in 2000. Testing by SMCM students revealed an extraordinary range of artifacts, including evidence for a robust Indian trade.

A small number of students will have the opportunity to work on this very important site. Students will be introduced to Maryland history and archaeology and learn archaeological field techniques, including surveying, hand excavation, mapping, photography, and laboratory processing of artifacts.

St. Mary's College proposes to run an 8-credit archaeological field school during the summer of 2020.

The College covers Julia King's salary.

Additional funds are required to hire two field supervisors to ensure close student-professional interaction, guaranteeing the recovered artifacts, maps, and photographs will be collected and processed according to the highest standards.

Project Partners

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- Preservation Maryland has committed \$8,000.
- An additional \$2,000 has been secured from a conservation organization.
- An SMCM trustee emerita has committed \$6,000 to offset the cost of student tuition for the field school.
- The Maryland Historical Trust has waived fees for accepting, conserving, and curating the collection.
- The collection will be available in perpetuity to all citizens of the County and State for educational, exhibit, and research purposes.

Project Expenses

MAY 18-JULY 10, 2020

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Artifacts from St. Clement's Manor



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- Staff costs for two supervisors to assist Julia King with the excavations is \$15,000.00
- SMCM respectfully requests \$5,000 from the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners to reach the \$15,000 cash requirement



Stoneware jug fragment dating to 1650

Thank You



Brightly colored 17th-century English
delft fragments