

Slavery at Catoctin Furnace

The core idea of this exhibit will be to reevaluate the contribution of the enslaved workers buried in the cemetery at Catoctin Furnace, while also showing how studying the cemetery and their remains allows more information about them to come to light. It will consist of three primary sections, beginning with an introduction to slavery at the furnace, providing a background to the history of the institution and introducing the visitors to the people likely buried in the cemetery. The second portion will continue contextualizing the slavery within the environment of the furnace and will introduce the location of the cemetery, including information on its upkeep and the number of graves. The final portion of the exhibit will focus on the excavations of the cemetery and the results from the analyses of the skeletons.

RAN away, last night, from Catoctin Furnace, in Frederick County, Maryland, a NEGRO MAN, named PHIL, a well set stout fellow, about 5 feet 10 inches high, very black, has a large mouth, and thick lips, is about 25 years of age. Had on a white country full'd cloth waistcoat and breeches, an old under waistcoat, white yarn stockings, strong shoes with strings, a coarse tow linen shirt, and a leather hat.—ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS is hereby offered for taking and securing the said fellow in any goal, and giving notice to his masters, or delivering him at Catoctin Furnace, Buck Creek Forge, or Frederick-Town—or if out of this state, double that sum
JAMES JOHNSON, and CO.
January 10. 1780.



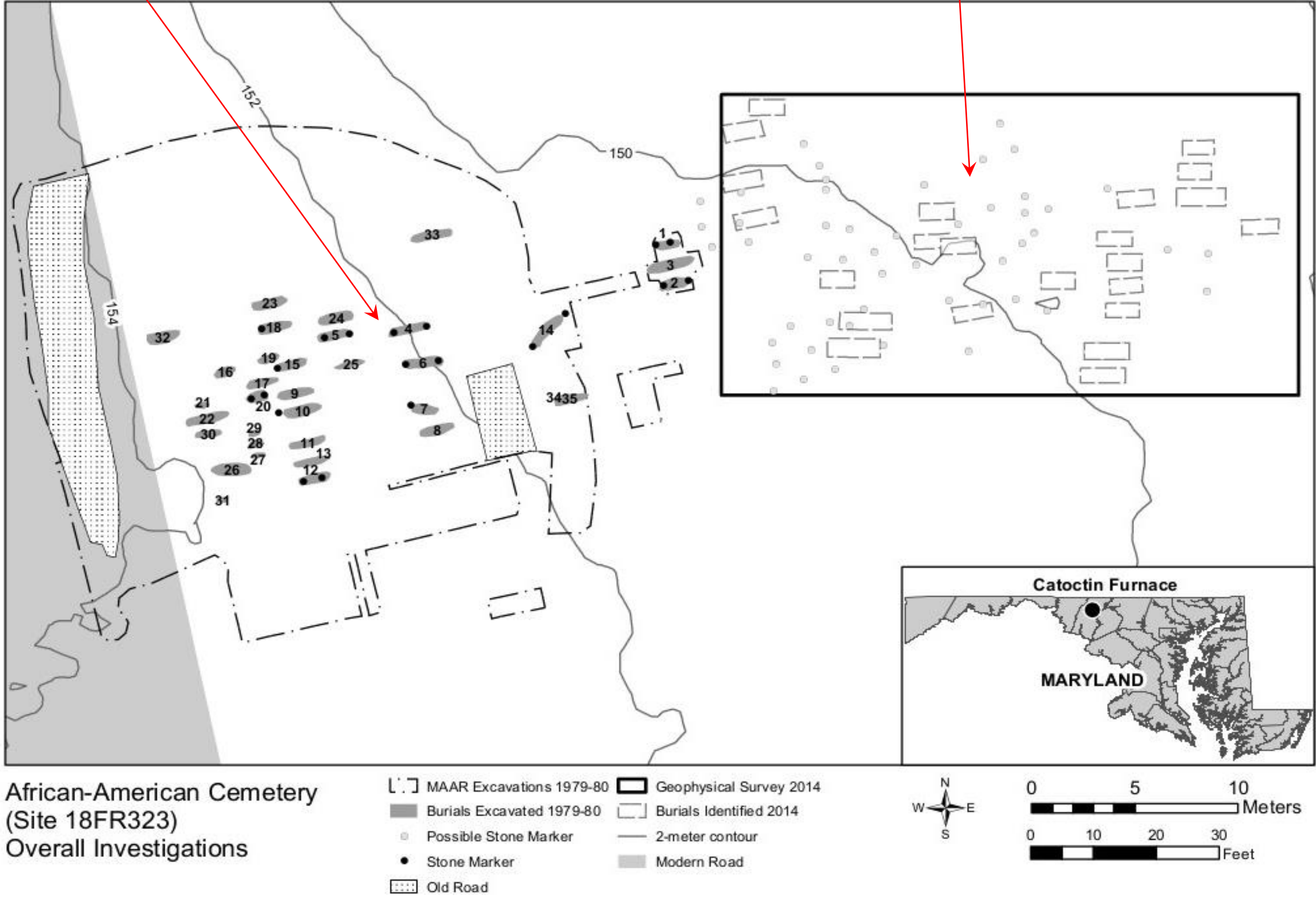
1979 excavations, Catoctin Furnace slave cemetery



2014 geophysical survey, Catoctin Furnace slave cemetery



Metal trouser buttons (top), wrought nails (bottom left), and machine-cut nails (bottom right) recovered from slave cemetery (circa 1790-1840).



Results of archaeological and geophysical investigation of the African-American cemetery at Catoctin Furnace (above center), skulls recovered from the site (above right), photograph of *in-situ* skeleton (bottom left), proposed space for the “Slavery at Catoctin Furnace” exhibit within the Museum of the Iron Worker (bottom right).



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