

July 16, 2021

State Circle is the ring road around the Maryland State House. The ring road was designed in 1695 by Sir Francis Nicholson, Governor of Maryland. Nicholson saw Annapolis as a planned, or designed, city, or a British Colonial city created for administrative purposes.

The first existing map of Annapolis that includes State Circle dates from 1718. Although it is not clear when State Circle was actually built, it existed by 1718. At that time, it was called Public Circle.

In 1990, Historic Annapolis Incorporated received a grant to Archaeology in Annapolis to excavate around the perimeter of State Circle to recover the archaeology of the ring road. The archaeology was to be done before the road was excavated. The rebuilding, which was funded by the State of Maryland, had as its purpose replacing and putting underground all utilities. These included replacing water and sewer lines, the gas lines, and putting underground all electric and telephone lines. State Circle was excavated to a depth of between 8-15 feet.

Archaeology in Annapolis members placed between 20-22, 5 feet x 5 feet archaeological units around the perimeter of State Circle from Northwest Street to Church Street, or between 75-80% of the entire perimeter. The perimeter facing Roe Boulevard probably had been destroyed including its archaeology when the extension to the State House of 1906 was built.

In Maryland, archaeological site numbers are provided by the Maryland Historical Trust. Professionals at the Trust decided to provide site numbers for State Circle's archaeological units from 18AP22- 18AP62. These site numbers are included in the section below from the Table of Contents of the State Circle archaeological site report. Each of the sites has the name of the building associated with the site that is also listed under "Field Investigations" here. Also listed is the area number.

The entire set of excavations occurred over about 3 months. Soon thereafter, the site report was written and completed. An analysis of the materials continued on after that in the Archaeology in Annapolis Lab at the University of Maryland. The findings of the archaeological analysis showed that the perimeters, both inner and outer, of State Circle were intact archaeologically everywhere that there was an excavation done. In some places, material survived from the 1720s, which is probably when the Circle was first constructed.

The major finding of the analyses of datable points on the perimeter showed that Public Circle/State Circle had been reconstructed 6 or 7 times in its history. The major finding was that State Circle was originally conceived of as a true, geometric egg. It remains a true geometric egg today, but it changed one. In order for a circle to appear to a viewer standing on the ground as a circle, it has to be constructed as an egg or as an ellipse. Otherwise, a circle will appear as an oval. Archaeological analysis showed that State Circle had been rebuilt as an egg four times, as a circle once, and two other times as an indeterminate geometrical form.

Further, because an egg has a point and a flattened end, it was possible to see that the egg shape had been rotated at least once. At one point the flat end was at the Calvert House Inn and the

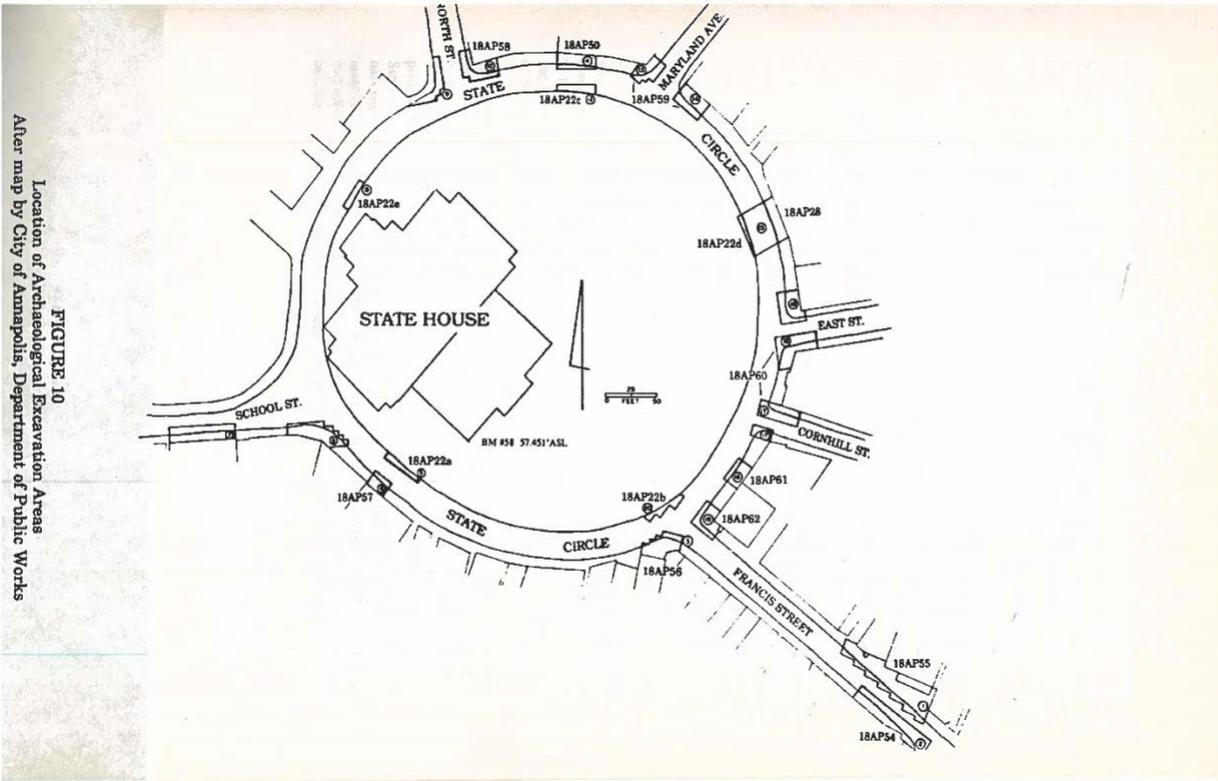
point at Shaw House. At another point, the egg was reversed with the point at the Calvert House Inn and the flattened end at Shaw House. (Mark P. Leone, 1998. "A Street Plan for Hierarchy in Annapolis: An Analysis of State Circle as a Geometric Form", with Jennifer Stabler and Anne-Marie Burlaga. In *Annapolis Pasts*, Shackel, Paul A., Mullins, Paul R., and Warner, Mark S. , editors, 1998, University of Tennessee Press. 291-306.) (Mark P. Leone. 2005. *The Archaeology of Liberty in an American Capital: Excavations in Annapolis*. University of California Press. 63-110).

Table of Contents of the State Circle Site Report (Site number and name):

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Field Investigations	60
18AP22, Maryland State House (areas 5, 8, 12, 15, 20)	61
18AP28, Calvert House Site (area 15)	81
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18AP55, Donaldson House (area 2)	119
18AP56, Edwards Site (area 3)	128
18AP57, Shaw House Site (area 4)	144
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18AP61, Public Well Site (area 18)	179
18AP62, YWCA Site (area 19)	204
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All of the work on State Circle that I have written above needs to be placed in such a way that anyone looking at the Site Numbers and Site Names from our work on State Circle can see that despite many site numbers, many site names, and as many as 20 "areas", the entire zone is one archaeological conception, an area with one intellectual history, and one that should be taken as a single whole. The image below is taken from the final site report. The image contains the official State of Maryland site numbers. Those are fairly easy to read. The names of the sites are derived from the historic buildings, the sites, the archaeological units are placed in front of. Those names are not on this map.

The areas from 1-20 or 21 appear in circles in the unit that was dug. The circles are small and the numbers are not always legible. I apologize for the difficulty this causes.



The following sites are completely ready to be uploaded to DRUM:

- 18AP37-Retallick-Brewer House
- 18AP38-Brice House (This site does not have form codes or master codes)
- 18AP52-Gott's Court
- 18AP59- Johnson Site
- 18AP61- State Circle
- 18AP63-Courthouse Site
- 18AP67-18AP69-USNA

Justin Mohammadi got through about 1/4th of the catalogue of 18AP45-Carroll House and was unable to start work on the following sites: (Mark Leone doesn't think the four sites below should be mounted, because they are not ready).

- 18AP28-Calvert House
- 18AP54-Annapolis Federal Savings Bank
- 18AP57- Shaw House (Edwards Site)
- 18AP58- Queen Anne's House

Mark P. Leone