



Archeology at Monocacy: Research at the Best Farm

Named for the tenant family who lived here during the Battle of Monocacy, the Best Farm has a rich occupational history that goes beyond the battle that was fought on its fields in July 1864. The property was first occupied around 1794 by the Vincendierès, a family of French planters who came to Frederick County from the colony of Saint-Domingue (Haiti). The Best Farm comprises the southern portion of the Vincendierès's 748-acre plantation, *L'Hermitage*. By 1800, ninety enslaved individuals lived at *L'Hermitage* – the second largest slave population in Frederick County at that time.



welcome; for more information please contact Monocacy National Battlefield's Cultural Resource Program Manager, at joy_beasley@nps.gov.

Visit Us

The Best Farm is Stop #1 on the auto tour. If you would like to visit the archeology site, please review the map and information on the back of this handout. Please note that the site is only open when Monocacy National Battlefield staff are present and on-site. It is illegal to disturb or remove any archeological resource from lands owned or administered by the National Park Service. Violators are subject to criminal penalties under the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

Slave Village

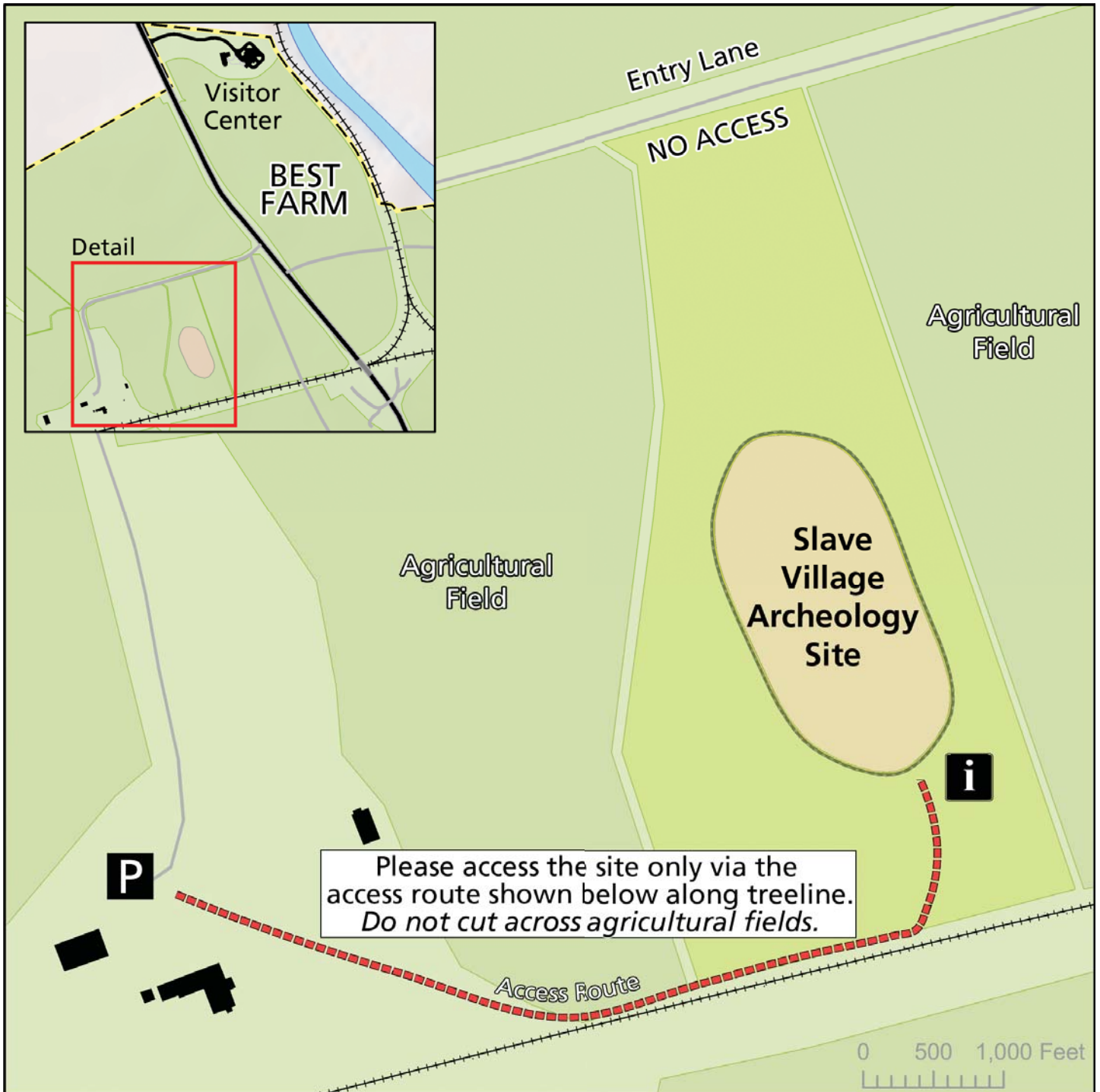
In 2003, archeological research led to the discovery of what is believed to be the "footprint" of the probable slave village associated with *L'Hermitage*. Archeologists have returned to the site to find out more about the people who occupied this site and the lives they led. Information from this project will be used in the development of future exhibits and interpretive materials focusing on plantation life and slavery.

The project team includes Monocacy National Battlefield Cultural Resource Management staff as well as students from American University, the University of Maryland (College Park), Hood College, and Howard University. Funding for this project has been provided by the National Park Service through the Cultural Resource Preservation Program and the Youth Intake Program. Volunteers age 18 and over are also



Top, archeologists excavate the slave village site in 2003, uncovering "features" which may help identify where structures may have been. Bottom, a variety of decorated earthenwares dating to the late 18th and early 19th-centuries.

Archeology at the Best Farm Slave Village



Visitors are welcome to view the excavations by following the route marked on the map above. The Slave Village Archeology Site is open to the public only when Monocacy National Battlefield staff are present. The site is closed on weekends unless otherwise noted.

As you tour our historic sites, please remember that it is illegal to disturb or remove any cultural or natural resource from lands owned or administered by the National Park Service — violators are subject to criminal penalties under the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA). Park visitors are prohibited from walking through park-owned agricultural fields.

Future generations would like to experience the park just as you are now and preserving the landscape will assist in that endeavor.