



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG144

Site Name: Paw Paw

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Middle and Late Woodland lithics and ceramics - possible village

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 21

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.5381

Longitude -78.4482

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 159 m

Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Potomac River

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 17 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- Multi-component
 - Village
 - Hamlet
 - Base camp
 - Rockshelter/cave
 - Earthen mound
 - Cairn
 - Burial area
 - Misc. ceremonial
 - Rock art
 - Shell midden
 - STU/lithic scatter
 - Quarry/extraction
 - Fish weir
 - Production area
 - Unknown
 - Other context

- ### Historic
- Urban/Rural?
 - Domestic
 - Homestead
 - Farmstead
 - Mansion
 - Plantation
 - Row/townhome
 - Cellar
 - Privy
 - Industrial
 - Mining-related
 - Quarry-related
 - Mill
 - Black/metalsmith
 - Furnace/forge
 - Other
 - Transportation
 - Canal-related
 - Road/railroad
 - Wharf/landing
 - Maritime-related
 - Bridge
 - Ford
 - Educational
 - Commercial
 - Trading post
 - Store
 - Tavern/inn
 - Military
 - Battlefield
 - Fortification
 - Encampment
 - Townsite
 - Religious
 - Church/mtg house
 - Ch support bldg
 - Burial area
 - Cemetery
 - Sepulchre
 - Isolated burial
 - Bldg or foundation
 - Possible Structure
 - Post-in-ground
 - Frame-built
 - Masonry
 - Other structure
 - Slave related
 - Non-domestic agri
 - Recreational
 - Midden/dump
 - Artifact scatter
 - Spring or well
 - Unknown
 - Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken U

Flotation samples taken Y Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguanan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware			
Earthenware		Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>			Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>					Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
								Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	2702	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	4	Modified faunal	1
Stone bowls		Unmod faunal	617
Fire-cracked rock	99	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	16	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	2216	Uncommon Obj.	1
Rimsherds	58	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	beads and pipe, unspecified material

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	siltstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Feature 1 - small & shallow pit, Feature 3 - larger pit; both associated with artifacts

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)		Activity item(s)	
Glass (all)		Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural		Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	
Arms		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Misc.	
Personal items		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>						

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 1220 +/- 155 years BP Reliability High Sample 2: 940 +/- 65 years BP Reliability High Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

SI-6142: charcoal in feature 1. Shallow pit w/ sherds, debitage, & numerous items

SI-6143: charcoal in feature 3. Irregular shallow pit w/ a postmold, sherds (7 rims), & numerous items

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The site was tested in anticipation of possible impacts by a bridge replacement project. It is located on the edge of a terrace 13 meters above a meander bend in the Potomac River. The soils are eroded Alleghany silty clay loams derived from acid shales, which support a mix of native hardwoods. Phase I and II work in 1983 indicates excellent preservation of floral and faunal materials at the site. The discovery of significant features during Phase II testing indicates that other features such as postmolds (indicative of structures), hearths, trash pits, storage pits, burials, and a palisade might also be present.

Phase II work included a controlled surface collection, shovel test pitting, and several controlled one-meter test units. Controlled surface collection could only be undertaken on the northeast quarter of the site due to the presence of gravel parking lots and roads. Most of the material recovered in surface collection was concentrated in the southwest corner of that survey area (the presumed center of the site) and discrete activity areas are not strongly suggested by the data. Materials recovered through controlled surface collection included a variety of pottery sherds, animal bone, projectile points, bifaces and scrapers, lithic flakes, and fire-cracked rock. Shovel test pits were used at the southern end of the site where surface collection was not possible. The pits were approximately 35 cm in diameter and were dug to sterile subsoil. All soil anomalies below the plow zone were mapped and excavated. Three subsurface features were discovered during the excavation of one-meter test squares.

Features 1 and 2 were located adjacent to one another at the southern end of the site (well south of the area surface collected). Feature 1 was a shallow pit containing sherds, flakes and debitage, bone fragments, fire-cracked rock, fired clay lumps, and charcoal which was used in C-14 dating (see above). Feature 2 was a partially excavated, much larger pit or possibly a sheet midden. It included many sherds (2 rim), a pottery coil fragment, flakes and debitage, bone fragments, shell, and charcoal. Feature 3 was farther to the north. It consisted of an irregularly shaped shallow pit containing a postmold and several artifacts. These included sherds (7 rim), fired clay lumps, 1 biface, 6 retouched/utilized flakes, 154 flakes and debitage, part of a sandstone discoidal, fire-cracked rock, a bone bead, bone fragments, fish scales, and carbonized corn kernels. Flotation samples were taken from the feature which yielded knotweed, copperleaf, goosefoot, sumac, dock, carbonized corn kernels, nut shells, and other plant species. Charcoal from this pit was also C-14 dated (see above). No specific function could be discerned from any of the features.

Ceramics recovered during Phase II work were divided into seven categories based on tempering agents: 1) chert, 2) limestone, 3) quartz, 4) grit/sand, 5) shell, 6) other crushed rock, and 7) mixed temper. The predominant temper types are crushed rock (primarily sandstone), mixed temper, and chert. All of the sherds appear to be cord-marked, with a very few of them (1%) possibly fabric or net impressed. The Paw Paw ceramics appear to represent a unique assemblage that does not fit into defined "types" from nearby regions. The primary affinities of the ceramics appear to be with West Virginia types such as Buck Garden in their use of a wide variety of rock tempers and possibly with northeastern types such as Clemson Island and Owasco based on decoration.

Lithics consisted almost entirely of black chert (which outcrops locally). 10 points, 21 bifaces, 170 modified flakes, and 2501 pieces of debitage were recovered. Of the ten projectile points, eight were triangular, 1 was stemmed, and 1 was corner-notched. Ground stone tools included the discoidal fragment (see above), a celt fragment, and 3 other objects. Several hammerstones, abraders and nutting stones were also found. Faunal remains consisted primarily of large mammals (likely deer), with small mammals, bird, turtle, and fish also present. Two somewhat exotic objects recovered include a shark's tooth and a smoothed shale fragment that may be part of a gorget.

Comparison of Paw Paw pottery with nearby Woodland ceramic assemblages, along with radiocarbon dating seems to indicate that the site was occupied during the terminal Middle Woodland and early Late Woodland. It is a likely village site, based on its relative size and proximity to the Potomac River. The presence of corn kernels confirms that residents were practicing agriculture, and other floral and faunal remains point to a diverse diet which included meat (deer, turkey, and small mammals), fish, nuts and other plant foods. Evidence for communication and trade links suggest westerly connection as well as ones to the south and east.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000061, 00000060, 00006808