



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG168

Site Name: Dorsey VI

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

multi-component Late Archaic - Late Woodland occupation

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 22

SCS soil & sediment code AhB2

Latitude 39.5930

Longitude -78.7715

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 183 m

Site slope 6-10%

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) N. Branch Potomac

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 575 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

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

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

Y

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

blood residue,botanical

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	17
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Sherd Types

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

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
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		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	13710
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	100
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	235
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		root disturbance, stains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Feat. 27 - pit stain yielding 1 C-14 date; Feat. 6 - hearth w/ Middle Woodland sherd nearby, Feat. 22 - hearth w/ sherds & triangular pt.

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Historic Features

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 1460 +/- 50 years BP	Reliability	Sample 2: 4810 +/- 110 years BP	Reliability	Sample 3: +/- years BP	Reliability
B-42756: charcoal from Feature 27 (a pit). A Middle Woodland occupation at this site is well represented.	Mod	B-42757: charcoal from Stratum B/2 (Unit 3A), well within the Brewerton occupation at the site.	High		
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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Brief

Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at NPS?

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Dorsey VI site was examined as part of both Phase II testing and Phase III data recovery at Mexico Farms in Allegany County. The site would be impacted by the construction of new facilities at a federal prison complex in the area. The site is situated just over 12 meters above the North Branch of the Potomac River on a broad upper terrace. Soils at the site include an Allegheny fine sandy loam and a few areas of poorly drained Tyler silt loam. Dorsey VI lies just to the northwest of 18AG167 and into the C & O Canal buffer zone.

Phase II testing was first carried out in 1988, followed by supplemental Phase II testing & Phase III data recovery in 1990, when it was determined that site avoidance was not practical. Initial Phase II shovel test pits were placed at 30.48 m (100 foot) intervals. Additional shovel tests were dug at 15.24 m (25 foot) intervals, in the four cardinal compass directions, around shovel tests yielding artifactual material. In addition to the shovel test pits, fifteen 1 X 1 m test units were subjectively placed throughout the site. Placement of test units was designed, in part, to gain an understanding of the distribution of artifacts, both in kind and quantity, throughout the site area. In addition, three possible prehistoric stone cairns were visited and investigated during Phase II testing. A shovel test pit was placed in the center of one of these and initially, little aboriginal material was recovered. However, this assessment was deemed insufficient and exploration of the cairns became the main focus of supplemental Phase II work undertaken two years later.

The supplemental Phase II investigation at 18AG168 involved the selective excavation of twelve 1.524 m X 1.524 m (5 ft X 5 ft) test units (including areas within the C & O Canal buffer zone) and excavation of 3 out of the 4 stone cairns. Test units were dug in 9 cm arbitrary levels. Only samples of unit fill from the plowzone were screened, while all fill below the plowzone was screened. Cairns were excavated by removing the rocks from one-half of the pile to expose the ground surface beneath the rock concentration. Two features were encountered during the supplemental Phase II work, both appear to be small (possibly storage) pits associated with the Woodland occupation which were subsequently filled with refuse (chert flakes and fire-cracked rock).

Phase III work involved large block excavations (no smaller than 1.524 m X 1.524 m), first by natural stratigraphic horizons and then by 10 cm arbitrary levels for any natural layer exceeding 9cm in depth. Previous investigations had defined areas of artifact concentrations which were expected to be focal points of aboriginal activity such as hearths, structures, and tool-production areas. Block excavations were placed within these areas as well as in marginal locations. These blocks were expanded depending on the results of the initial block. 28 features were encountered during the Phase III investigations, most of which turned out to be root or rodent disturbances. Feature 6 is an obvious hearth which appears to date to the Middle Woodland occupation of the site, based on a nearby ceramic find. Debitage was encountered in and around the feature in a fairly tight cluster. Feature 27, a root disturbed pit, produced a Middle Woodland C-14 date from charcoal that may have come from a nearby hearth. Feature 5 is centrally located within the block and appears to be a hearth. Feature 11 is most likely the result of a shallow hearth, which left behind burned soil and fire-cracked rock. Features 4, 7-10, and 24 are probably related to the Woodland occupation and are likely anomalies in the ground surface which became filled with organic debris and refuse. Feature 22 is a shallow hearth and is associated with several sherds and a nearby triangular point. Features 23 and 30 are burned areas.

There are considerable discrepancies between the artifact totals reported in various sections of the 1990 site report (the supplemental Phase II and Phase III work). To confound matters even more, the report does not make clear when totals from the Phase II supplemental work are being included and when only the Phase III objects are being counted. All artifact totals below were taken from 1) the initial Phase II report done in 1988, or 2) Appendix 1E in concert with the Phase III block excavation discussion. The totals reported in the "Artifact Analysis" section of the 1990 report were largely avoided (as they were often higher or lower than the totals in the other two sections of that report). Thus, all quantities are approximate.

Both Phase II excavations combined yielded 11 ceramic sherds and Phase III work recovered 224. Most are small body sherds and their condition is generally quite poor. Ten rimsherds in total were found. At least 2 sherds (and possibly more) may be Page ware, but most of these are heavily eroded and it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty. There are also 3 possible Accokeek sherds, and at least 2 Watson (or possibly McGraw) sherds. Of all the ceramic sherds recovered, 45 are sand-tempered, 57 are grit-tempered, 44 are rock-tempered, 9 are of mixed temper types, and 80 have unknown tempering agents.

Both Phase II excavations combined recovered 1947 lithic artifacts, most of which were unmodified flakes and debitage. Three identifiable projectile points were recovered; a Vernon point and two Brewerton points. Nine unidentifiable points or point fragments and 30 bifaces were also recovered. Other flaked tools reported during Phase II testing were 3 scrapers, 3 unifaces, 13 retouched or utilized flakes, and 3 cores. Four "other" lithic objects were also recovered; 1 unidentifiable lithic fragment, 1 schist fragment, and two pieces of quartz. Phase III work uncovered a total of 11777 lithic artifacts. The flaked tool assemblage consisted of a minimum of 126 bifaces, at least 51 points, at least 1 drill, 2 scrapers, 11 unifaces, 31 retouched or utilized flakes, 32 cores, and 11513 pieces of debitage. The identifiable projectile points include 15 Brewerton points, a Buck Creek point, at least 3 Buffalo stemmed points, 6 fishtail points, 5 Chesser notched points, at least 2 Rossville points, 9 Kirk points (at least 7 are stemmed), 1 Lamoka point, at least 3 Susquehanna Broadspears, and 3 triangular points. There are seven objects in the ground stone assemblage. One fragment of a ground stone gorget with a hole drilled through it (similar to those found on Lewis Creek Mound culture sites) was recovered near one of the stone cairns. The lip of a steatite bowl was also recovered. Three pestle fragments and two probable celt fragments complete the list of ground stone objects. Two manos (quartzite & sandstone) and an anvil or hammerstone are the remaining lithic objects.

Faunal remains are conspicuously absent at the site, probably due to the pH value of the soil.

Flotation samples were taken, but only yielded oak and hickory nuts and small bits of charcoal. Other burned wood, nut fragments and some small seeds were recovered in screening.

Historic artifacts recovered from the site included 4 metal chunks (possibly barbed wire), 2 cut nails, 8 bottle fragments, and a horseshoe.

This site is a multi-component prehistoric site in a shallow context. The Early Archaic is represented by Kirk projectile points and their associated debitage. The Late Archaic is represented by a substantial Brewerton component. The Middle Woodland is substantial and well represented. It is hearth focused with some evidence of food preparation, cooking, and lithic workshop activities performed around the hearths. The Late Woodland is only marginally represented.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief
Description:**

Unknown

00000079, 00000088