



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG278

Site Name: LOCPA East

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early/Middle Archaic and Late Archaic to Terminal Archaic Base Camp; Early 19th century house site

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 20

SCS soil & sediment code CsA

Latitude 39.6236

Longitude -78.3899

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-3%

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) Fifteen Mile Creek

- | 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 30 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. 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? 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 N

Flotation samples taken Y Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	1	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	89	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	6
Fire-cracked rock	466	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

3 Late Archaic hearths- Features 904, 1403, and 1405

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	605	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	118	Activity item(s)	15
Architectural	333	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	17
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	41	Misc.	350
		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock pile of undetermined function. Possibly large cut features with fill.	
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: 3000 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability	Sample 2: 2970 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability	Sample 3: 3800 +/- 30 years BP	Reliability
B-316289: charred hickory shells from west 1/2 of small basin-shaped hearth (Feat. 904) assoc. w/ 104 FCR, 3 flakes (1 used), nutshell, & charcoal	High	B-316290: charred hickory shells from west 1/2 of small hearth/pit (Feat. 1403) assoc. w/ 178 FCR, 3 flakes, 1 shatter, nutshell, & charcoal	High	B-316291: charred butternut shells from north 1/2 of small hearth (Feat. 1405) assoc. w/ FCR, animal bones, nutshell, & charcoal	30
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

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The LOCPA East site (18AG278) is an archeological site near Little Orleans in Allegany County, consisting of a prehistoric lithic scatter or short-term camp and the site of an early 19th century house. The site is situated on an area of undulating terraces and floodplain on both sides of Orleans Road. Fifteen Mile Creek is just to the west of the site and flows southeast towards its confluence with the Potomac River a short distance away. The surrounding landscape consists of a series of narrow valleys subject to severe periodic floods. Soils at the site are primarily Craigsville cobbly fine sandy loam.

The site was first identified in 2009 during a Phase I archeological survey within the proposed limits of disturbance for replacement of Bridge No. A-116 (Orleans Road over Fifteen Mile Creek) and associated improvements to Orleans Road South of Appel Road in Allegany County. These investigations were conducted because Allegany County had applied for a joint federal/state permit authorization which requires review of such projects for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and with state historic preservation legislation. The Phase I survey of 18AG278 included archival research, interviews with the current landowner, geomorphological assessment of landforms, and the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) and one meter square deep test units.

The Phase I geomorphological assessment defined 3 Holocene landforms on the east side of Fifteen Mile Creek, including a modern active floodplain adjacent to Fifteen Mile Creek and two higher terrace areas where 18AG278 is found. The lower terrace is situated about one meter above the floodplain and extends only 10 to 15 meters from the floodplain. Rising roughly another meter above the lower terrace is an upper terrace that is the dominant alluvial landform east of the creek. Phase I testing found distinctly different stratigraphic and cultural patterns on these two terraces.

Phase I testing on the upper terrace included the excavation of two deep test units and 41 STPs. The Phase I testing found intact stratigraphy on the upper terrace consisting of thick horizons of soil formed in silty overbank deposits, resting on former streambed gravels at 80 to over 120 cm below the modern surface. A buried surface (2BAb horizon) was found at about 40 to 50 cm below the surface, overlying a cambic (2Bwb) horizon that was estimated at 2,000 to possibly as much as 3,000 years old based on the soil development characteristics in two auger borings. Although the age of the buried surface (2BAb horizon) and overlying alluvium was not clear from soil development characteristics, the mixture of prehistoric and historic artifacts within the overlying alluvium indicated deposition in the last few centuries.

The majority of artifacts from the Phase I excavations on the upper terrace are of historic age: 153 historic artifacts, 17 coal fragments, 5 modern objects, and 12 prehistoric artifacts were recovered. The general stratigraphic pattern of artifact distribution within the Phase I excavations on the upper terrace was a mixture of prehistoric and historic artifacts within the 40 to 60 cm thick veneer of historic alluvium, with only 2 prehistoric artifacts found within the buried surface or cambic B horizon below it. The 153 historic artifacts from the Phase I excavations on the upper terrace include the variety expected from a domestic residential site (including ceramics, bottle glass, architectural debris, etc.) and indicate occupation during the early to mid 19th century. No definitive historic cultural features were found, although 3 STPs encountered stone impasses that were suggestive of historic foundations or prehistoric hearths.

The 12 prehistoric artifacts, including 11 chert flakes or flake fragments and one whole rhyolite flake, were scattered across the upper terrace portion of 18AG278. Ten of these prehistoric artifacts were from the historic alluvium and 2 were from deeper contexts that were either the buried original surface (1BAb) or the underlying cambic (2Bwb) horizon.

The Phase I test excavations on the lower terrace portion of 18AG278 included one deep test unit and 2 STPs. All three of these excavations yielded a high density of historic artifacts within the upper 50 to 70 cm, with a total of 224 historic artifacts, 48 coal fragments, and 14 modern objects recovered. One of the deep tests also yielded 2 prehistoric flakes. Excavations revealed that the uppermost horizon (Ap1 at 0-30 cm), was deposited in very recent times. A mixture of early 19th century and prehistoric artifacts was found in the Ap2 horizon, while only early 19th century artifacts were found in the underlying BA horizon. This apparently inverted order of deposition suggests that artifacts were introduced into these horizons by movement from the upper terrace, probably through trash disposal and/or local erosion associated with floor events. Iron scrap and a heavy density of coal in the northernmost STP is also suggestive of blacksmithing/horseshoeing activity, perhaps later in the 19th century.

The information recovered by Phase I investigations in 18AG278 defined a multi-component prehistoric/historic site. The prehistoric component was interpreted as a light scatter of lithic debitage, with only two artifacts in intact prehistoric depositional context. The historic component was interpreted as an early to mid 19th century domestic occupation with insubstantial frame buildings. Based on the Phase I results, Phase II testing was recommended prior to the granting of permits for the bridge replacement project. Phase II work entailed more detailed archival research for both the northern and southern loci.

Site 18AG278's early history is poorly documented. The site was originally part of a 124 acre tract known as "Linns Purchase". From 1798 to 1838 the tract was owned by the Osman Family, but the precise location of their farmstead on the tract is unknown. The only relevant documentation located is an 1825 patent for an adjacent tract called "Poet's Corner", which places the Osman farmstead across Fifteen Mile Creek from 18AG278. Thus, it appears unlikely that the Osman farmstead was within 18AG278. There is no documentary evidence of the Osmans renting part or all of Linns Purchase to tenant farmers, although such renting often occurred in the 19th century without any documents being recorded with the county or state.

In 1838, Richard Caton bought the 34 acre portion of Linns Purchase east of Fifteen Mile Creek from the Osman family, and then in 1840 Richard Caton transferred his rights to various properties, including this 34 acre portion of Linns Purchase, to his nephew (William Woodville) acting as the Trustee of one of Caton's daughters, Mary Anne Marchioness of Wellesley. In 1841, Richard Caton bought the rest of Linns Purchase from the Osman heirs and had the tract resurveyed immediately. This resurvey resulted in the addition of adjacent lands (including a tract called "Resurvey on Sugar Bottom") and the patenting in 1842 of a new 420 acre tract he called "Orleans". The new patent for the Orleans tract was transferred by Caton to Mary Anne Marchioness of Wellesley. These 1838-1842 transactions appear to have involved vacant or tenant-occupied land, as the Osman family moved to Ohio at some point in the 1830s, Richard Caton was a resident of Catonsville in Baltimore County, and Mary Anne Marchioness was a resident of London, England.

The 1841 resurvey of Linns Purchase included a list of improvements on the land at the time. As attested in the patent records by Benjamin Brown, the Allegany County Surveyor, the entire new 420-acre tract called Orleans was surveyed on May 26th, 1841, and at that time included 22 houses valued at \$2 each. These houses must have been insubstantial at that value. Orleans encompassed two tracts that clearly had substantial late 18th-early 19th century farmsteads. Linns Purchase was the residence of three generations of the Osman family until they moved to Ohio at some point in the 1830s. Resurvey on



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Sugar Bottom was the residence of several generations of the Bevans family. The low valuation of the residences within the Orleans patent suggests that the Osman and Bevans farmsteads were in very poor condition or no longer standing by 1841. The large number of insubstantial houses also suggests that the property may have been the site of C & O Canal construction workers' housing.

At the time of these 1838-1842 transactions, Richard Caton was involved in massive land acquisitions in Allegany County, including various tracts adjoining Linns Purchase. Richard Caton died without a will in 1845 and his widow died in 1846, leaving over 30,000 acres of Allegany County land in the hands of their four daughters. However, Site 18AG278 was within the Orleans tract that Caton had transferred directly to one daughter, Mary Anne Marchioness of Wellesley (London), who remained the absentee owner until her death in 1853. Over the following two decades, 18AG278 was in the ownership of two other London-dwelling daughters of Richard Caton: Elizabeth, the Lady Stafford, from 1853 to 1862, and Louisa, Duchess of Leeds, from 1862 to 1874. These wealthy absentee owners had a local agent or agents who rented out and managed the property, but no evidence from this has yet been found that provides information about structures specifically within 18AG277.

Court records relating to administration of this property after Louisa's 1874 death have provided some useful information relating to the renting of structures and property across Fifteen Mile Creek, but not on the side of 18AG278. Mid 19th century maps of Allegany County are not specific enough to provide information about 18AG278. The first USGS quadrangle map of the area was surveyed in 1898 and a photograph taken at about the same time show no structures within 18AG278, but do show that just east of the ford of Fifteen Mile Creek, Orleans Road intersected with another road that ran upstream along the creek. This road appears to have intersected Orleans Road just west of 18AG278 and then ran along the alignment of the current gravel road through what today is a private campground.

In 1906, the court-appointed trustee for the estate of Louisa, Duchess of Leeds finally sold 236.2 acres (including 18AG278) to Charles T. Callan and Harry W. Callan, sons of the merchant Thomas Callan who had been renting land and structures in Little Orleans since the 1850s. Within a few weeks, Charles and Harry sold 220 acres to Charles T. Norris. The Callans retained about 16 acres adjacent to the canal and railroad, which was land their family had been running their mercantile business from and is the land where they then built a frame house that still stands along Orleans Road.

Charles T. Norris was listed on the 1900 and 1910 censuses as a farmer. These and other local censuses list many Norris farming households. It appears that from 1906 to 1917, Charles T. Norris and his family lived in a house west of Fifteen Mile Creek and put 18AG278 to use as part of their agricultural field system. In 1917, the Charles T. Norris farm was transferred to one of his daughters (Mamie) and her husband, Wilber Aronhalt. The Aronhalts lived on the farm for about 10 years and are listed in Little Orleans on the 1920 census. The Aronhalts moved to Cumberland in 1927 or 1928, although they kept the farm as a second home. Wilber Aronhalt was a railroad steam locomotive engineer, but he appears to have enjoyed farming as well and continued to use 18AG278 as a field during his ownership. He died at the farm in 1951. Mamie Aronhalt retained title to this land until 1965.

The area changed hands several times since the Aronhalts' ownership and has seen the development of a private campground enterprise. A 1989 aerial photograph shows the first steps in the development of this campground, with creation of a water treatment pond on the west side of the creek. Later aerial photographs show the conversion of the agricultural fields adjacent to Orleans Road into a campground. These aeriels also show that a large, square area east of Orleans Road was used as a topsoil mine and that the access roads to this surface mine ran south of 18AG278. The west edge of this square surface mine is visible east of 18AG278. Information from local residents and the aerial photographs indicate that campground development did not significantly disturb 18AG278.

Phase II archeological fieldwork at 18AG278 (carried out in the fall of 2011) entailed re-establishment of the Phase I grid at the site, a geophysical survey to identify potential feature locations, and the stratigraphic excavation of eleven 1 X 1 m test units.

The geophysical survey utilized a magnetometer as well as ground penetrating radar (GPR) to identify possible prehistoric and historic features and to guide the subsequent hand excavations. Magnetometer data was collected covering most of the area of Site 18AG278 that would be impacted by the bridge replacement project. GPR data was collected over a 33 X 27 m area of interest identified by the earlier magnetometer work. This data was used to guide the placement of the formal test units.

Excavation of the Phase II units within 18AG278 was constrained by extremely heavy rains through November of 2011, which led to saturation of site soils, which slowed the excavation of the test units and limited the depth to which the test units could be practically excavated. The resulting time limitations reduced the total number of units from what was planned. This constraint, combined with a large number of geophysical anomalies identified, created a situation in which not all geophysical anomalies could be tested. Instead, the focus was on placing units in such a way that they would test the maximum variability in anomalies as evident in both the Phase I and geophysical data sets.

Seven units were placed within potentially significant geophysical anomalies, with the goal of "ground-truthing" them. Four units were placed within areas interpreted as potentially significant based on the Phase I results alone. In addition, there was overlap with regard to two units, the locations of which were deemed possibly significant base on both Phase I data and geophysical results. All of these units would be impacted by some aspect of the proposed construction: 3 units by fill impacts and 8 units by proposed cutting activities.

The test units were excavated with shovel and trowel by natural and/or cultural stratigraphic units, and by arbitrary 10 cm levels within thicker natural/cultural levels. Features were excavated as separate contexts. Excavation of test units generally continued to at least 10 cm below the lowest level containing artifacts, although weather-related constraints modified this in some units where ground water limited depth of excavation. Photographs were taken and plan views drawn as determined appropriate during excavation. After completion of each test unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled clean and photographed. Measured drawings with soil descriptions were done of at least one wall in each test unit and soils in these profiles were described using standard terminology and color descriptions. All excavated non-feature soil was screened through mesh hardware cloth and any artifacts found were retained for identification. Matrix from cultural features was collected for flotation. Depending on the size of the feature, either a matrix sample or all feature matrix was collected. All excavations were backfilled upon completion.

The Phase II excavations conducted within 18AG278 confirmed that significant prehistoric and historic remains are present within the site. The Main historic component at the site is an early to mid 19th century domestic occupation, possibly focused on insubstantial frame buildings, while minor later historic deposition occurred. Documentary sources indicate that 18AG278 is unlikely to have been occupied by the landowners. Thus, the main historic occupation at 18AG278 is interpreted as a tenant residence possibly occupied by C&O Canal construction workers.



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The historic deposits within 18AG278 are found within three types of geomorphological settings. On the upper terrace, historic artifacts were found mixed with prehistoric artifacts within 25 to 60 cm of historic plowzones (with plowscars at the bottom in some areas). One historic feature, a 2 X 4 m rock pile of undetermined function) is encapsulated within this veneer of historic alluvium. On the lower terrace, historic artifacts are also found mixed with prehistoric artifacts, here within 50 to 70 cm of historic plowzones. No intact features were encountered in the lower terrace and it appears that artifacts were introduced into these horizons by movement from the upper terrace, probably through trash disposal and/or local erosion associated with flood events.

Along the transition between the upper terrace and the lower terrace, thick 19th century fill deposits were found. Without additional excavation in this transitional zone, it is not clear whether these historic fills are within large cut features or are layers along the terrace transition. The historic artifacts are generally very fragmented outside of these fill zones along the terrace transition zone, such that dating is possible, but more detailed analyses may be hampered. However, given the rarity of this sit type, additional excavation within 18AG278 promises to yield information that can help answer significant research questions about local and regional history.

Historic artifacts recovered during Phase II work at 18AG278 included 15 pieces of lighting glass, 333 architectural artifacts, 605 kitchen ceramic sherds, 118 kitchen glass fragments, 17 faunal remains, 41 personal objects, 45 pieces of slag, at least 34 pieces of coal, 29 pieces of charcoal, 44 modern objects, and 23 unidentifiable objects.

Stratified prehistoric deposits with good integrity and prehistoric features were documented at 18AG278 during Phase II work. The features consisted of three apparent hearths with good preservation of abundant carbonized subsistence remains, in particular, nutshell. These took the form of small clusters of wood charcoal, carbonized nutshell, other charred botanical remains, flakes, and some fire-cracked rock. Samples of carbonized nutshell were taken from the three features and submitted for AMS dating.

A 0.1 gram sample (16 fragments) of charred hickory nutshell from the west half of a small basin-shaped hearth feature (Feature 904) produced an uncalibrated AMS date of 3000 ± 30 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, this translates to a calendrical date (2 sigma) of 1376 to 1126 BC. Prehistoric artifacts encountered in the west half of the feature included 104 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 utilized rhyolite flake, 1 chert flake, 1 quartzite flake, pine and red oak charcoal, and charred hickory and walnut shells. Flotation also yielded snail shells, uncarbonized roots, and uncarbonized small seeds.

A 0.4 gram sample (4 fragments) of carbonized hickory shell was also taken from the west half of Feature 1403 (another small hearth or pit filled with charcoal) for AMS dating. It produced an uncalibrated radiocarbon age of 2970 ± 30 years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date (2 sigma) of 1280 to 1058 BC. Prehistoric artifacts encountered in the west half of the feature included 178 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 1 rhyolite flake, 2 chert flakes, 1 chert shatter fragment, white and red oak charcoal, pine charcoal, and butternut and hickory nutshell. Flotation yielded 132 hickory nutshell fragments, half and acorn seed, and pine charcoal or charred bark.

A 0.2 gram sample of charred butternut nutshell from the north half of Feature 1405 (another small, hearth-like concentration of charred material) produced an uncalibrated AMS date of 3800 ± 30 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date (2 sigma) of 2338 to 2139 BC. Artifact materials from the north half of this feature are not described in the full site report, other than a fire-cracked rock fragment, wood charcoal, nutshell fragments, and a fungal fruiting body recovered through flotation. Six burned animal bones were recovered from the south half.

In total, 549 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during Phase II testing at 18AG278. The assemblage consisted of 9 stone tools, 68 pieces of debitage, 466 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 6 burned animal bones. Only one of the stone tools is diagnostic: a chert LeCroy point. While these artifacts were spread widely across the site, there was, however, some spatial patterning was observed within the site.

Again, stratified prehistoric cultural features and deposits with good integrity were documented in 2011, with particularly abundant carbonized subsistence remains, showing that additional excavation within 18AG278 promises to yield information that can help answer significant research questions about local and regional prehistory. The prehistoric components yielded diagnostic artifacts and radiocarbon dates from the Middle to Late Archaic periods. Most of the prehistoric components retain sufficient integrity to provide answers to significant research questions.

The Phase II excavations at 18AG278 recovered substantial quantities of carbonized botanical remains from the three prehistoric features. The assemblage included 18,170 carbonized wood or bark fragments (13 honeylocust, 36 pine, 4 red oak, 5 ring porous), 1,972 carbonized nut fragments (183 hickory nut shell, 1,785 butternut shell, 1 black walnut shell, 2 acorn caps, and half of an acorn seed), 1 fungal fructification, 1 gall fragment, numerous non-carbonized seeds, and 93 pieces of amorphous carbon.

Intensive nut harvesting is indicated by the high densities of charred nutshell. Four species of tree nuts (thick-walled hickory, butternut, black walnut, and acorn) were identified in the flotation samples from 18AG278. Hickory and butternut were most common, with hickory predominating in the two Terminal Archaic features (Feature 904 and 1403) and butternut predominating in the Late Archaic feature (Feature 1405). Some level of contamination of the flotation samples is evident, based on the recovery of uncarbonized (modern) small seeds within all of the flotation samples. As evidence of large animal burrows was not seen, this is the result of expectable biological functioning within the soil profile of such as alluvial terrace and only appears to have influenced very small sized seeds, which does not pose a contamination feature for these features.

Both the historic and prehistoric components at Site 18AG278 appear to be significant archeological resources. In 2013, the site was determined eligible for the NRHP by MHT personnel. The prehistoric component likely represents episodes of prehistoric habitation of the area in the Middle and Late Archaic periods. The historic component likely represents the remains of domestic occupation, likely associated with tenants and possibly construction workers for the nearby C&O Canal. The site appears to retain good subsurface integrity. The Phase II combined efforts established that 18AG278 has the demonstrated potential to yield important information regarding prehistoric subsistence and settlement during the Middle and Late Archaic periods as well as Western Maryland's early rural settlement during the first half of the 19th Century.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

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