



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AG60

Site Name: Murley Branch

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Late Archaic, possibly Early Woodland, and Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 21

SCS soil & sediment code Ph

Latitude 39.6772

Longitude -78.5677

Physiographic province Ridge and Valley

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 232 m

Site slope 0-5%

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) Murley Branch

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

31 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

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial 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

N

Flotation samples taken

N

Other samples taken

Blood residue analysis

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"/>	1
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
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"/>	1
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

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	1550	Other fired clay <input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	2	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal <input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal <input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	2	Oyster shell <input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	3	Floral material <input 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	siltstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related <input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material <input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	1	Misc. kitchen <input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material <input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<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: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

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 MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

This site was investigated along with three other sites in the area, all of which would be impacted by the proposed alignments for US-48, the National Freeway (modern US I-68), in Allegany County. It is located on a colluvial deposit of Buchanan very stony loam along Murley Branch. It is evident from the Phase II tool assemblage that the site served as an Archaic base camp. It also has a significant Late Woodland component. The variety of tools present - projectile points, drills, bifaces, perforator, graver, full-grooved axe, pestle, hammerstone, and pitted stones - reflect a wide range of activities. However, large amounts of debitage at the site indicate a heavy emphasis on tool manufacture and maintenance.

Phase II testing involved an initial controlled surface collection in the plowable field. This was coupled with a series of posthole test pits in the adjacent pasture area to identify site limits. Based on artifact densities, eleven 1 X 1 m test units were excavated to locate possible subsurface cultural features. Excavation of test units was severely hampered by unusually heavy rainfall and flooding and by the poorly-drained soils of the site. Only seven test units were completed. Plowzone was removed as a single unit without screening, and the exposed subsoil was then troweled to locate features (none were identified).

Only three very small eroded sherds were recovered from the site. One was quartz-tempered with a sandy paste and two are of unknown temper. All three are too small to ascertain ceramic type.

Several diagnostic projectile points were recovered and are detailed above. In addition to the points enumerated above, a rhyolite Dry Brook Fishtail point, a rhyolite Normanskill-like point, a cherty siltstone Benton and one Lamoka point, and three cherty siltstone stemmed points with excurvate edges were recovered. The heavily ground convex base of a large point and 15 unidentifiable projectile points were also found, bringing the total number of points to 35. In addition, 1447 pieces of debitage, 39 retouched flakes, 6 drills, a bifacial perforator, a graver, and 21 bifaces round out the flaked stone assemblage. Ground stone tools present include a full-grooved axe and a pestle. Other stone tools recovered were a hammerstone, a pitted stone (also used as a hammer), and a probable Euro-American gunflint.

Blood residue analysis was performed on 10 artifacts. The Koens-Crispin and Benton points in the sample both tested positive for the presence of hemoglobin. Another biface tip attained a "possible" (a weak positive) result.

When projectile points are plotted by temporal period, an interesting pattern does emerge. Late Woodland points tend to occur in the western and northern portions of the site while Late Archaic points are more frequent to the east and south. The Late Woodland point cluster is also outside the densest cluster of debitage. Another artifact cluster, possibly representing a manufacturing area consists of small tertiary flakes that are byproducts of the final stages of tool manufacture and maintenance. This site was occupied during the Early Archaic, the Late Archaic, and the Late Woodland, with the latter two periods being the most intensive occupations.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

0000078