



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1142

Site Name: Governor Bridge

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # AA-849

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

M & L Archaic and E & M Woodland camps; 18th house; 19th-Early 20th Grist Mill; 20th tenant house

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.9543 Longitude -76.6826
Elevation 6 m Site slope

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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) (Stone Branch?) of Patuxe

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

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? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill Grist 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

Post-in-ground

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

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

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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
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"/>	1	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"/>	4	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"/>	1	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"/>	58
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	30
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 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"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	shale	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	26
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	29
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input checked="" 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"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill Dam	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Governor Bridge site (18AN1142) is the archeological remnants of a series of Middle and Late Archaic, as well as Early and Middle Woodland short-term resource procurement camps east of Bowie in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a wooded bluff on the eastern bank of the Patuxent River. Today, the property on which the site is located is owned and managed by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. A freshwater spring lies just to the south and a small creek runs to the north. Much of the surrounding landscape is marshy. A few deteriorated 20th century buildings are situated on the same bluff, along with the remains of a 19th and early 20th century mill (MIHP# AA-849). Soils at the site are primarily Collington, Wist and Westphalia soils.

The site was first identified in 1950, however, it was not assigned an official Maryland State Site number until 1983. The site was discovered by Clifford Evans and Betty J. Meggers, two Smithsonian archeologists who first documented the site on property owned by Ms. Meggers parents. In 1950 most of the site was wooded, with the exception of three areas cleared for gardens. The site was identified in two of the garden areas, where artifacts were exposed by plowing and disking activities. The third garden had previously been dredged for gravel, which would have removed any artifacts present.

From 1950 to 1955, Evans and Meggers conducted surface collection. This appears to have been fairly unsystematic, although approximate locations were recorded. Artifacts were recovered from an area roughly 67 m (220 ft) north-south by 30.5 m (100 ft) east-west in the two fields. Artifacts recovered included 30 projectile points or point fragments, 1 biface, 1 large blunt-nosed stemmed scraper, flakes (minimally estimated at 5), and 2 small hammerstones. Among the projectile points are 3 triangular points, 4 possible Selby Bays, and 1 Rossville. No ceramics were encountered during the work of the 1950s. Eventually, this collection was donated to the Maryland Historical Trust and is included in the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) Lab as accession 1999.034.001. The site received no additional (documented) attention until 2009, when it was the subject of a state-sponsored survey.

In 2009, a multi-year study was begun to examine the Middle Woodland time period of prehistory. The Lost Towns Project, based out of Anne Arundel County, was awarded a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to further examine the period with a focus on Anne Arundel County and Central Maryland. The site was visited in February of that year as part of the initial reconnaissance stage of the project. All of the known 169 previously recorded Middle Woodland sites in the county were re-visited and their potential to yield additional information was assessed. Literature review was also conducted as a means of background research.

After the initial reconnaissance, Lost Towns determined that 18AN1142 had significant potential and included it in the list of eight sites that they would be revisiting to conduct more rigorous testing. Ultimately, time and budget constraints would only permit the researchers to re-visit four of the planned 8 Middle Woodland sites, but 18AN1142 was one of the sites that was tested.

During August of 2009, a Phase II-level of investigation was planned for the Governor Bridge site. However, as described below, a very low-density of prehistoric artifacts was observed during shovel testing, and excavation was aborted without proceeding to test unit excavation. By 2009, the cleared gardens that were present in the 1950s were entirely overgrown. However, based on the earlier maps, the 2009 investigations were placed in the area of the two gardens that produced artifacts from 1950-1955.

A grid was established on a north-south axis and a total of 22 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at 7.62-15.24 m (25-50 ft) intervals. No description of the excavation methods is provided in the project report, but presumably soils were screened through hardware cloth. The profiles revealed one or two strata that overlay subsoil, and varying amounts of gravel were noted in the soil column across the landform. A typical two horizon profile contained high amounts of gravel in the upper strata to a depth of about 30.5 cm (1 ft) and was underlain by culturally sterile subsoil. One STP located near the western edge of the bluff, possessed three horizons: an upper stratum of dark grayish brown sandy loam that overlay a similar gravel horizon seen elsewhere. Subsoil was a fairly consistent yellowish brown silty clay loam across the landform. This difference in stratigraphy is likely explained by varying amounts of historic period disturbance.

The 7.62 m grid was concentrated within the 1950s-era garden clearing that produced the densest concentrations of artifacts. While a number of fire-cracked rocks and several flakes were recovered from this area, only one sherd of prehistoric pottery and one projectile point were recovered. The gravelly soils made digging difficult, and a number of historic artifacts were recovered.

A total of 124 artifacts were recovered during the August 2009 excavations at 18AN1142. Of these, 65 were historic period ceramics, glass and architectural materials, while 51 were likely prehistoric fire-cracked rock and debitage. The only definitive prehistoric materials were one sherd of sand-tempered prehistoric pottery (possibly cord-marked Pope's Creek) and 1 crude stemmed quartz point. The one oyster shell and 5 charcoal flecks recovered cannot be designated as either historic or prehistoric. They have not been included in the tables above.

Historic artifacts recovered included 2 window glass fragments, 1 red brick, 26 nails (wrought, cut, wire), 1 creamware sherd, 4 whiteware sherds, 1 gray salt-glazed stoneware sherd, 4 redware sherds, 2 white clay pipe stems, and 24 vessel glass shards. The architectural materials clustered in the southeastern portion of the site, the reported former location of the miller's house associated with the aforementioned 19th-20th century mill.

Presumed prehistoric artifacts included the rough stemmed projectile point, 5 cores or tested cobbles, 11 flakes, 4 pieces of shatter, 30 fragments of fire-cracked rock, and 1 possible Pope's Creek sherd. The prehistoric artifacts were rather evenly distributed across the landform, with a slight increase in density along the western edge. This may be more because of the historic mill and subsequent disturbance located on the eastern edge than a true reflection of prehistoric preference. No potential prehistoric features were noted in any of the shovel test pits.

The prehistoric component of the Governor Bridge site, 18AN1142, was interpreted as a temporary resource procurement and camp site utilized throughout the Archaic and Woodland periods. The site appears to have been used sporadically, but not as a permanently inhabited village or hamlet. A large portion of the bluff is within the 100 year floodplain of the Patuxent, and the entire landform is encompassed by the FEMA floodplain. This suggests that the area was prone to flooding and would only have been utilized on a temporary basis.

The low artifact density and apparent evidence of disturbance from the historic activities at the site limit the potential of the site to answer research questions

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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**Brief
Description:**

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Unknown

related to Maryland prehistory. The maximum interpretive value of the site may come primarily from the extant collections and documentation rather than from additional (future) excavation. In any event, the site is likely to be protected due to its location on Anne Arundel County park lands.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001190, 97000366, GISTool