



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN1437

Site Name: Wishing Rock Camp

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Middle Woodland short-term lithic reduction camp near Magothy Quartzite Quarry (18AN760)

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1286

Longitude -76.5847

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Unnamed tributary of Mago

- | 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
- Minimum distance to water is 100 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

- 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
- lithic reduction

- ### 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

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"/>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/> 1
		Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 124	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	<input type="checkbox"/> 2449	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 124	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	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 type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	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: 0 +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Middle Woodland short-term lithic reduction camp near Magothy Quartzite Quarry (18AN760)

Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Wishing Rock Camp Site (18AN1437) is the archeological remains of at least three separate prehistoric occupations (Early, Middle, and Late Woodland) south of Glen Burnie in Anne Arundel County. The three occupations appear to represent use of the site as a short-term staging area by prehistoric peoples utilizing the nearby Magothy Quartzite Quarry (18AN760). The site is situated on the western flank of a small knoll 100 meters northeast of a prominent cone-shaped hill known locally as the "Wishing Rock". The Wishing Rock rises dramatically (roughly 18 meters) above the surrounding landscape, with large outcroppings of quartzite and sandstone along the crest and flanks of the hill. These outcroppings served as a prehistoric lithic quarry: the Magothy Quartzite Quarry. The knoll on which 18AN1437 is situated slopes gently downward to the west before leveling out slightly and then rising steadily and sharply up the eastern flank of the Wishing Rock to the Magothy Quarry. The area surrounding the site is covered with trees of various ages as well as a range of undergrowth. Blueberries grow abundantly through much of this area and the soil is comprised of loose, coarse sand that is readily affected by rainfall during storm episodes (Patapsco, Evesboro, and Fort Mott sands and sandy loams).

The Wishing Rock Camp site was first identified in November of 2009 during the course of a Phase I survey of the Cromwell Property which, at the time, was being considered for subdivision and development. The archeological work was requested by the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning as a prerequisite of subdivision approval in compliance with Article 17, Title 6-502 of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision Regulations.

Phase I work in 2009 entailed the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) at 20 m intervals across the southern portion of the Cromwell Property, combined with pedestrian reconnaissance and a number of judgmentally placed STPs across the northern half of the property. A total of 157 STPs were excavated on the 20 m grid. Surprisingly, of the 157 STPs, only one produced cultural materials. An additional 10 STPs were placed at 5 m intervals in cardinal directions emanating from the positive STP. Three produced additional artifacts. All of the artifacts recovered from these STPs comprised prehistoric lithic material.

A total of 44 artifacts were recovered during the Phase I investigations at 18AN1437: 43 of quartzite and 1 of quartz. The quartzite, not surprisingly, appears to be Magothy Quartzite that had most likely been quarried from the nearby outcropping. The quartzite artifacts recovered from the four STPs included two large cores, one utilized flake, and 40 pieces of debitage. The high preponderance of early stage reduction flakes coupled with the complete absence of cortex on any of the flakes would be unusual in instances where lithic tool/blank production involved the reduction of river cobbles into a workable form, but is quite normal when outcroppings are quarried to yield large flake cores such as the ones found within these shovel test pits. The combination of two large cores and debitage representing various stages of reduction would appear to indicate that the material was quarried from the nearby outcropping and then removed to the terrace at 18AN1437 to be worked into lithic tools or transportable "blanks" for trade or later use.

Six of the artifacts were recovered from the uppermost soil stratum, below the organic layer, but the majority of artifacts (35) were recovered from the second stratum. Only three artifacts were recovered from a third stratum and these likely moved into that layer from above through bioturbation or general settling of the sandy soils. However, the results of this initial investigation indicated that the artifacts recovered from second stratum likely represented intact deposits and, thus, site testing and evaluation was recommended.

A combined Phase II/III project was carried out at 18AN1437 in late 2009 and into 2010. The Phase II/III project entailed the excavation of additional shovel tests as well as the excavation of several formal test units of varying size and shape. No details are provided in the full site report of the method of shovel test pit excavation, but formal test units were excavated by natural stratigraphy or, where strata were thick, by 5 to 10 cm arbitrary levels. Written records were kept detailing the excavation of each unit and units were photographed and drawn in profile and plan as appropriate. Manually excavated soil was passed through hardware screen mesh to insure uniform recovery of artifacts. All excavation units were recorded on a map of the site and the soil profile of each unit was also recorded. Narrative field notes and photographs were also produced to document the results of the field investigation.

During the Phase II-level of study, an additional 18 STPs were excavated at the site at 5 m intervals surrounding the four previously excavated STPs that had been found to contain prehistoric cultural material. Only one STP produced any cultural material (a single flake) so the site's boundaries were not greatly expanded. Based upon these results, the site was defined as having a maximum extent of 30 m by 15 m. Having defined the horizontal extent of the site, a 1 X 1 m test unit was placed approximately 1 m north of the Phase I STP that had contained the highest count of lithic artifacts. Surprisingly, the unit contained only a single lithic artifact, but it did contain more than 60 sherds of prehistoric pottery. Two more 1 X 1 m units were excavated in a diagonal line to the southwest of the unit as part of the Phase II excavations. The closest unit contained over 200 lithic artifacts and 8 ceramic sherds, while the farther unit contained over 80 lithic artifacts. Excavation of the units was not completed at the Phase II level, but was instead deferred until the final stage of excavation. After consultation with the Anne Arundel County Archeologist, a determination was made to proceed to Phase III excavations.

Phase III work entailed the excavation of additional test units of varying sizes and the completion of the three Phase II 1 X 1 m units. An additional five 1 X 1 m units, eight 1 X 2 m units, one 2 X 2 m unit, and one L-shaped unit that comprised three 1 X 1 m units. The majority of the test units were excavated to the top of the BE soil horizon, although a few were taken deeper where it was deemed appropriate.

The excavation of 31 square meters led to the recovery of 124 sherds of prehistoric ceramic and 2,554 lithic artifacts, predominantly Magothy quartzite from the nearby Magothy Quartzite Quarry (18AN760). No observable stains or pit features were encountered on the site. The stratigraphy evident within the site is indicative of soils that were likely not plowed during the historic period and are thus undisturbed. However, the coarse nature of the sandy soils has led to some bioturbation within the soil matrix and the movement of some of the artifacts. Two distinct artifact concentrations were identified though neither produced any temporally diagnostic artifacts.

The lithic artifacts recovered during the Phase II/III project included 1 quartz Madison point, 1 quartz Bare Island point, 1 quartzite spokeshave, 6 quartzite biface fragments, 1 retouched quartz flake, 3 retouched quartzite flakes, 1 utilized quartzite flake, 3 quartz bifacial reduction flakes, 322 quartzite bifacial reduction flakes, 15 quartz flakes or flake fragments, 950 quartzite flakes or flake fragments, 15 pieces of quartz shatter, 1,086 pieces of quartzite shatter, 2 quartz hammerstones, 1 ground stone quartz fragment fragment, 3 unidentified lithics, and 143 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The presence of the Bare Island point suggests occupation of the site from the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transitional period or the Middle Woodland period. The Madison point suggests occupation as late as the Late Woodland. Very few discarded tools or bifaces were found at the site, which is surprising given the quantity of debitage that was recovered. It is possible that the prehistoric occupants were seeking to create a more rudimentary form of unit from the material than something such as a lithic blank or biface.



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Unknown

The ceramic assemblage recovered from the Phase II/III excavations consisted of 124 sherds, all exhibiting the same coarse, sandy temper and the majority (78 specimens) demonstrating a net-impressed surface treatment. Fourteen of the sherds exhibited decoration that used a combination of incisions and punctations. Twenty-one sherds exhibited no surface decoration and 11 were recorded as indeterminate or were poorly preserved. Sixteen of the sherds were rims. All of these sherds were categorized as late Early Woodland to early Middle Woodland Pope's Creek wares.

The pedology of the area indicates that the site was once located on the opposite side of a swamp from the Magothy Quartzite Quarry. The availability of water and associated resources was one of the prime factors that likely attracted prehistoric people to settle at this location. Soil migration has since filled the swamp and unfortunately it was not possible to determine whether the topographic change occurred during the prehistoric or historic period.

It seems clear that there were at least two unifying factors that attracted prehistoric people to settle at the Wishing Rock Camp Site: the availability of water and of quartzite. In respect to the larger and older occupation that occurred at this site, it is clear that the site was used as a camp to which raw material was brought from the neighboring quarry and subsequently processed. With the smallest and most recent occupation it is possible that the site was simply used as a stopping point on the way to the quarry and no material was brought to the site itself.

The Phase II/III archeological work at Wishing Rock Camp Site (18AN1437) resulted in the excavation of 31 square meters and the recovery of over 2,500 prehistoric artifacts. The site comprises at least three separate prehistoric occupations of the site, all of which appear to represent use of the site as a short-term staging area by the prehistoric people utilizing the Magothy Quartzite Quarry. The coarse texture of the sandy soils evident within the site meant that it was not possible to identify any distinct archeological features during the excavations and it is unlikely that any would be identified through further excavations. No further archeological investigation was recommended at the site with respect to the Cromwell Property subdivision.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001846, Site Files