



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN253

Site Name: Power Line

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Powerline

Historic

Brief Description:

Early, Middle, and Late Woodland short-term resource procurement camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 1) CSE

Latitude 39.2131 Longitude -76.7004

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 30 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) Stony Run

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 27 m

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?

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		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	1
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<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	6	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	3	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		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	186	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	9	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	53	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	48	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> charcoal	

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 checked="" 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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	3	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<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 type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input 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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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Power Line Site (18AN253) is a possible single component, Woodland (primarily Accokeek Creek Phase) short-term resource procurement camp east of Elkridge on the edge of Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a terrace remnant in the lower Stony Run valley. It lies within the Patapsco Valley State Park. At the time of its discovery, the site had already been severely impacted by amateur collection, an old road bisecting the site, graveling operations, and the installation of utilities with the increasing urbanization of the surrounding area. Fortunately, one of the utility installations, a power line, preserved a remnant of the site within its right-of-way (ROW), although the northern portion of the site has been disturbed by use of the ROW by dirt bikes and subsequent erosion. The surrounding landscape, at the time of the site's discovery, was grass meadow and pine forest. Prehistorically, the location would have been dominated by large stands of oak, chestnut, poplar, sweetgum, and hickory with a mixture of pine present. This provided mast for deer, elk, turkey, bear, and smaller mammals. The site would have also been ideally suited to take advantage of spring spawning runs of anadromous fish up Stony Run. Soils at the site are well-drained Sassafras fine sandy loams and Croom sandy clay loam.

The site was first reported to MHT in 1973 during a survey by an avocational archeologist, prior to the installation of a new sewage interceptor pipeline. There is no known report generated from this survey work, but a site form was turned in to the State Archeologist and is at the MHT library. A number of artifacts were surface collected, including a quartz core, 20 quartz flakes, 1 hammerstone, and 40 fabric-impressed and quartz-tempered sherds. Based on these findings and the fact that dirt bike activity coupled with erosion were further damaging portions of the site, members of the Anne Arundel County Archeological Society excavated portions of the site in 1974 in order to preserve some of the disappearing record of the site.

No final report for these excavations has ever been published, but MHT does have a partial draft and some field notes in the MHT site files. The 1974 fieldwork involved the establishment of a grid of potential 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test squares (oriented parallel to the ridge), and the excavation of a sample of 6 of these units. The locations for excavated units were determined based on the distribution of artifacts noted on the surface and in areas already bearing evidence of recent disturbance. Units were excavated in arbitrary 15.24 cm (6 in) levels and all soils were screened through 3.18 mm (1/8 in) hardware mesh.

Generally, four strata were encountered at the site before hitting sterile subsoil, with the first being a thin, un-plowed topsoil. Prehistoric artifacts were encountered in layers 2-4, with some historic materials in layer 2 in some units. Two potential features were encountered. The first was interpreted as a possible fire pit by field crew, but no charcoal or fire-reddened soil were encountered. The feature is an oval-shaped pit of compacted white sand with rocks lining the upper section much like a fire-ring. A concentration of lithic debris in this unit suggested that the area may have served as a chipping station. The feature fill itself is described in field notes as "sterile". The other feature is a possible postmold encountered in Level 4 of one of the units.

The artifacts collected during the 1974 fieldwork included a Rossville point, 3 bifaces, 2 cores, 2 scrapers, 85 flakes, 40 pieces of shatter, 11 chunks/cobbles, 49 other lithic fragments, 9 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 2 grinding stones (use-wear), 6 Accokeek Creek net-impressed sherds, and shell-tempered pottery (at least 2 sherds). A fragment of charcoal was also recovered near the aforementioned postmold. Lithic raw materials included quartz, jasper, rhyolite, and sandstone. In addition to these prehistoric items, 3 sherds of historic porcelain were also encountered.

Researchers concluded that the site likely served as a short-term resource procurement camp during the Woodland period, most extensively during the Middle Woodland Accokeek Creek Phase. The site was likely utilized during the spring anadromous fishing runs. The presence of shell-tempered pottery brings into doubt the assertion that 18AN253 is a single-component site. If a Late Woodland component is present, it is difficult, if not impossible to characterize, due to the widespread disturbance in the northern portion of the site where the sherds were found. This is the area which has been heavily impacted by dirt bike/motorcycle activity.

The site was examined again in early 1976. At that time, personnel from the Maryland Geological Survey conducted a preliminary archeological reconnaissance of Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport and the noise corridors of its runways. The goal of the project was to identify areas of high archeological potential for more intensive investigation prior to development. In general, drive-by windshield surveying was used for initial reconnaissance, followed by traversing areas of interest by foot. A considerable portion of the airport property was traversed by foot, with examination of most of the developed "noise corridors" examined from an automobile. In some places, small test pits (equivalent to large STPs) were excavated to examine potential sites.

The 1976 researchers note that the site appeared to be rather well-protected by its location beneath the power line, however some evidence of erosion was observed (particularly along the west bank). Specimens collected in 1976 included a quartz biface fragment, a quartz core, and 9 quartz flakes. All specimens were found on the surface, except 1 flake found in situ in the exposed profile on the west side of the site about 15.24 cm (6 in) below surface.

The most recent archeological work at the Power Line site occurred in 1978 during a Phase I survey of the right-of-way corridor in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties for a (then) planned section of I-195. This proposed section of highway would connect the extant I-95 to BWI Airport; a distance of approximately 4.1 miles. Two alternate routes were under consideration at the time of the study. All work was conducted in compliance with the mandates of the Maryland State Highway Administration under federal and state law.

The 1978 work entailed the excavation of shovel test pits as well as surface collection throughout the impact areas of the two highway alternates. Although 18AN253 was situated between the two proposed alternates, it was investigated since it was a known site. The work conducted at the site consisted of the excavation of 6 shovel test pits (STPs) to a depth of approximately 91 cm (3 ft). Soils were presumably screened, but no methods section appears in the full site report.

Artifacts recovered during the 1978 project included 1 jasper corner-notched Jack's Reef-like point (found on the surface), 9 flakes, and a possible hammerstone. Based on these findings, the researchers determined that the site had low archeological potential.

Given the limited amount of work conducted at the site in 1978, this assessment seems premature. Previous researchers appear to have been convinced that, although the site was heavily disturbed in some areas, small portions of the site may retain integrity. This site could benefit from some additional investigation, particularly given that it may preserve a discrete archeological component.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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Description:**

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