



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN368 Site Name: Marley Creek

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description: Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7 SCS soil & sediment code 4)

Latitude 39.1735 Longitude -76.5876

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site Underwater site

Elevation 0 m Site slope 0

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) Marley Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Paleoindian site <input type="checkbox"/> | Woodland site <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact period site <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1820 - 1860 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaic site <input type="checkbox"/> | MD Adena <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1630 - 1675 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1860 - 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Early archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Early woodland <input type="Y"/> | ca. 1675 - 1720 <input type="checkbox"/> | ca. 1900 - 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Middle archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Mid. woodland <input type="Y"/> | ca. 1720 - 1780 <input type="checkbox"/> | Post 1930 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Late archaic <input type="checkbox"/> | Late woodland <input type="Y"/> | ca. 1780 - 1820 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Unknown prehistoric context <input type="checkbox"/> | | Unknown historic context <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | Unknown context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Native American <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African American <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anglo-American <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- #### Prehistoric
- | | |
|---|---|
| Multi-component <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Misc. ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Village <input type="checkbox"/> | Rock art <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet <input type="checkbox"/> | Shell midden <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Base camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | STU/lithic scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rockshelter/cave <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarry/extraction <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Earthen mound <input type="checkbox"/> | Fish weir <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cairn <input type="checkbox"/> | Production area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Burial area <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other context <input type="checkbox"/> | |

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Historic | Furnace/forge <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | Post-in-ground <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Urban/Rural? <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | Battlefield <input type="checkbox"/> | Frame-built <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Domestic | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Fortification <input type="checkbox"/> | Masonry <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homestead <input type="checkbox"/> | Canal-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Encampment <input type="checkbox"/> | Other structure <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmstead <input type="checkbox"/> | Road/railroad <input type="checkbox"/> | Townsite | Slave related <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mansion <input type="checkbox"/> | Wharf/landing <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious | Non-domestic agri <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plantation <input type="checkbox"/> | Maritime-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Church/mtg house <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Row/townhome <input type="checkbox"/> | Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> | Ch support bldg <input type="checkbox"/> | Midden/dump <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Cellar <input type="checkbox"/> | Ford <input type="checkbox"/> | Burial area | Artifact scatter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Privy <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational | Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring or well <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial | Commercial | Sepulchre <input type="checkbox"/> | Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mining-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Trading post <input type="checkbox"/> | Isolated burial <input type="checkbox"/> | Other context <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarry-related <input type="checkbox"/> | Store <input type="checkbox"/> | Bldg or foundation | |
| Mill <input type="checkbox"/> | Tavern/inn <input type="checkbox"/> | Possible Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Black/metalsmith <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

Interpretive Sampling Data:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Prehistoric context samples | Soil samples taken <input type="Y"/> | Historic context samples | Soil samples taken <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flotation samples taken <input type="Y"/> | Other samples taken <input type="checkbox"/> | Flotation samples taken <input type="checkbox"/> | Other samples taken <input type="checkbox"/> |



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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	2
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	21
		Levanna	1

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	3	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	440	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	2	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	45		

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	7217	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	5	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	16
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	53
Other lithics (all)	7	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	490	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	8	Uncommon Obj.	4
		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	limestone	<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: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Brief

Late Woodland base camp

Unknown

Description:

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Marley Creek site (19AN368) is an early Late Woodland base camp east of Glen Burnie in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Minor Early and Middle Woodland components appear to also be present. The site is situated on the eastern bank of Marley Creek, which flows towards the Patapsco River at Curtis Bay. Marley Creek is brackish in the vicinity of the site. Prehistorically, the area consisted of Southern Mixed Pine forest which included pine, oak, and hickory as the dominant flora. Virginia white-tailed deer would have been the major terrestrial mammal, but the local forests would have also supported an abundance of small game such as raccoon, opossum, woodchuck, rabbit, otter, squirrel, fox, and wolf. Economically valuable bird species would have included turkey, grouse, passenger pigeon, and seasonal waterfowl. Anadromous fish would have also utilized the local waterways, including Marley Creek. Soils in the area conform primarily to the Muirkirk-Evesboro series of deep loamy, clayey soils.

The Marley Creek site was initially identified in January of 1976, during an archeological reconnaissance of the 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.

Frozen ground conditions at the time of discovery prevented the excavation of test pits, but a collection of artifacts from the surface and eroding bank of the site. The collection included a triangular point (probable Levanna) of gray chert, the tip of a quartz biface, and 41 pieces of quartz debitage. An examination of the exposed bank by the investigators showed no evidence of midden refuse or other buried features. At that time, the site had already undergone partial destruction by the construction of public power and sewage facilities and by natural erosion into Marley Creek. No further artificial destruction of the site occurred between the initial discovery in 1976 and the 1980 excavations, but severe erosional losses were undoubtedly sustained during the hiatus.

Phase IB investigations at 18AN368 were initiated in March of 1980 when the site and several adjacent tracts became endangered by the (then) proposed construction of a cross-county force water main. Potentially impacted areas outside the site proper were subjected to a preliminary archeological survey combining a 100% walkover of both the primary and alternate pipeline routes with discretionary shovel testing in areas of restricted visibility or high archeological potential. These tracts were found to possess no archeological manifestations.

Work at the site itself combined the controlled collection of surface artifacts and the use of test unit excavations within each of the specified water main alignments. Transects were walked, spaced at 6.1-7.6 m (20-25 ft) intervals. Areas of obvious disturbance were subjected to visual examination only. Apparently intact areas of both the primary and alternate pipeline routes were sampled as intensively as possible, given the constraining factors of time and personnel. Both excavations and surface collection were carried beyond the limits of the right-of-way (ROW) in an attempt to define the archeological manifestation as closely as possible.

The excavation of 14 test pits of varying size (ranging from a 30.5 cm square test unit to a 4.88 X .61 meter trench) along the two alignments produced a total of 572 artifacts of prehistoric and historic origin. These are included below and in the tables above along with the Phase III artifacts and are not described separately. The distribution of artifactual materials indicated that areas of both of the alignments retained cultural integrity while the high density of artifacts suggested the potential of the Marley Creek site to contribute significantly to an understanding of regional history. Based on these findings and in consideration of the fact that the site was threatened by utility installation and natural erosion, the decision was made to proceed immediately to a Phase III level of investigation.

Phase III fieldwork began with the establishment of a 3.05 X 3.05 m (10 X 10 ft) grid across the portions of the site located within the ROW corridor. Thirty test units were excavated oriented to this grid during the Phase III data recovery. The normal unit of excavation was a 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) square, but some test units were of slightly smaller size due to logistical considerations. Contiguous units were excavated when artifact concentrations suggested special activity loci or the possibility of subsurface features. Otherwise, units were spread so as to sample all areas of the site, while avoiding major obstacles and areas of disturbance.

Excavation was conducted with shovel and trowel in arbitrary 7.62 cm (3 in) levels. All fill was screened through hardware mesh and in a few instances limited use was made of flotation and fine screening with 1.6 mm (1/16 in) mesh for the recovery of microflakes and organic material. Although many charred seeds were recovered through these methods, these were determined to likely be of historic or modern origin. Some very tiny bone fragments were also recovered, but could species could not be determined due to their highly fragmented state. Soil samples were taken at arbitrary levels from each major excavation unit, but no unequivocal chemical traces of the prehistoric utilization of the site were indicated by the soils analysis. All excavations were carried to a minimum depth of 30.5 cm (12 in), while the deepest test units reached depth up to 83.8 cm (33 in) below the surface.

The surface area of the site within the ROW corridor was estimated to encompass approximately 427.4 m² (4600 ft²). The combined Phase IB and Phase III excavations at the site accounted for the investigation of 46.5 m² (500 ft²) of site area, a sampling amounting to 10.8% of the total area endangered by the planned construction of the water main.

No physical prehistoric cultural features were encountered during the excavations, but two discrete activity areas (chipping stations) were identified. One was roughly circular in shape and encompassed some 17.19 m² (185 ft²) of area. The second was more oval in shape and slightly smaller, around 16.7 m² (180 ft²) in size. These were referred to as Activity Area 1 and Activity Area 2 respectively.

A historic period midden (Activity Area 3) was also encountered, resulting from use of the site as a refuse dump at some period during the late 19th or early 20th century. Since the dumping was general in nature, the feature is not highly localized on the site, but is evident due to slight mounding of the soils and the density of historic period artifacts recovered in the area in comparison to other test units. The deposit is unstratified and intermixed with the upper levels of the prehistoric occupation. The materials were determined to be secondary deposition of refuse from primary deposits off-site intermixed with fill soils. The ultimate source of these materials is unidentifiable, but came from outside the bounds of 18AN368 and, thus, historic materials are not included in the artifact tally in the tables above.



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The full artifact assemblage recovered during the course of the 1980 Phase IB and Phase III excavations included 39 projectile points, 29 other bifaces, 38 cores, 113 scrapers, 13 drills and perforators, 274 utilized/retouched flakes, 6,668 flakes, 4 hammerstones, 3 abraders, a fragmentary groundstone gorget/pendant, 3 bannerstone fragments, a flake from an unidentified groundstone object, and 490 ceramic sherds (at least 8 rims). Diagnostic projectile points include two Calvert points and 21 Potomac points. Sixteen other points were clearly triangular points, but in earlier stages of manufacture. The most common lithic raw material recovered from the site was chert (36.65%), followed by quartz (32.60%), rhyolite (15.24%), jasper (14.61%), chalcedony (.48%), quartzite (.34%), and unidentified stone (.05%). A substantial number of the chert and jasper artifacts bore evidence of heat-treating, though no associated feature was encountered. Diagnostic sherds from the collection include 432 Rappahannock Fabric-Imprinted specimens, 8 Rappahannock Incised sherds, 45 Potomac Creek sherd, 2 sherds of Accokeek Cord-impressed pottery, and 3 Pope's Creek sherds.

Due to the high natural acidity of soils in the vicinity of Marley Creek, prehistoric bone deposits in an unaltered state were not preserved. Fifty-three bone specimens modified through calcification were recovered, along with 11 charred specimens, and 5 polished specimens. All were in an extreme state of fragmentation and could not be identified as to species. As mentioned previously, some bone was also recovered through flotation (not quantified), but this was also highly fragmented and unidentifiable. With the exception of the polished bone fragments, the faunal assemblage probably represents general camp refuse.

The prehistoric occupation of the Marley Creek site can be interpreted as representing a large inland campsite of early Late Woodland affiliation. Rappahannock wares of the Townsend ceramic series constitute more than 88% of the diagnostic ceramic component on the site. The northern association of this ceramic series in conjunction with the possible Pennsylvania derivation of exotic jaspers on the site is suggestive of a northern influence. The co-occurrence of Rappahannock Fabric-Imprinted and Rappahannock Incised on middle Chesapeake sites of the Little Round Bay Phase has been dated to circa AD 1300, while Rappahannock Incised has been radiocarbon dated slightly earlier. On this basis, the probable period of site occupation can be placed between AD 1000 and 1400.

The Early and Middle Woodland periods are represented on the site by two stemmed quartz projectile points (Calvert points), 2 sherds of Accokeek Cord-Imprinted, and 3 sherds of Pope's Creek. The recovery of very light scatters of similar materials is a common feature on sites in the Marley Creek vicinity and is reported for 5 of the 12 prehistoric sites near 18AN368. Presumably the presence of these materials at Marley Creek does indicate some utilization of the site area prior to the Late Woodland period. If such a component is present, however, it was not localized within the area subjected to intensive excavation. Late Woodland ceramics other than Townsend wares are limited to a small number of Potomac Creek cord-impressed sherds. All but one of these was recovered from the still extant northern portion of the site and may well represent the breakage of a single large vessel.

The extensive size of the site suggests that occupation of the site was likely repeated on a seasonal basis, by the same or related groups over a period of time that probably did not extend more than a few hundred years. Excavations undertaken in the northern site segment, located some 76.2 m (250 ft) downstream from the major excavation area, indicate that the site is culturally and temporally uniform. The only real areal discontinuity isolated by the 1980 excavations is the recovery of Potomac Creek ceramics in the northern area, while the southern excavations produced only 1 sherd. As noted, the exaggerated representation of Potomac Creek in the northern area may be related to the breakage of a single vessel and does not appear to constitute a meaningful archeological dichotomy between the deposits.

In addition to the prehistoric manifestation, the Marley Creek site possesses a historic component represented by materials dating primarily to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, these materials were determined to be secondary deposits of refuse from an unidentified off-site location.

The integrity of the site has been disturbed by utilities installation, borrow pits, stream bank erosion, and most recently, by the archeological excavations. Nevertheless, the still extant northern portion of the site and the undisturbed southern portion beyond the 1980 construction ROW have the potential to yield still more information about this large, early Late Woodland site. Although no features were located during the excavations within the force main ROW, this may be related to the type of prehistoric activities (lithic tool manufacture) which took place in this part of the site and does not rule out the possibility that features may be present in the undisturbed portions of the site. Innate patterning on large sites sometimes mitigates against finding features when only a small part of the site is excavated. The sealed in situ nature of the undisturbed cultural deposits provides a unique opportunity to study intra-site patterning and activity areas. Should these portions be endangered in the future, appropriate mitigation measures should be taken to assure minimal loss of archeological data.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000527, 00000724