



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN399

Site Name: Franklin Branch

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Archaic & Late Woodland camp; Mid 18th century domestic

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code EUC

Latitude 39.0941

Longitude -76.7354

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 30 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) Franklin Branch

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 30 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

Unknown prehistoric context

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 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

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 N

Flotation samples taken N

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)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	12	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

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	1	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	1	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	2	Whiteware	8	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	34	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	12	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	18	Activity item(s)	34
Glass (all)	53	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	98	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	644
Arms	4	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	51
Personal items	3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	small pit	<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:

Franklin Branch (18AN399) is a multi-component prehistoric and historic site on the Fort George G. Meade property in western Anne Arundel County. The site includes mid-eighteenth century, mid to late nineteenth century, and prehistoric Archaic and Late Woodland components. The site is situated on a low terrace east of Franklin Branch and north of an unnamed tributary that drains to Franklin Branch, a tributary of the Little Patuxent River. Soils in the site area are Evesboro loamy sands. The surrounding landscape ranges from suburban to semi-rural land use.

The site was first recorded in 1976 during an informal survey by a member of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). The site was identified by the surface recovery of 2 stemmed projectile points, 24 quartz flakes and 7 rhyolite flakes.

The site was not the subject of archeologists' attention again until 1993. At that time, the US Army Corps of Engineers was developing a Cultural Resource Management Plan for Fort George G. Meade. This was being prepared to comply with Army Regulation 420-40 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended.

The survey was conducted adjacent to Franklin Branch to determine the location and vertical integrity of 18AN399. The area to the east and farther away from the stream was assumed to be heavily disturbed because of the presence of a baseball diamond (no longer extant). The survey involved the excavation of 19 shovel test pits (STPs) along two transects, spaced 20 m apart, parallel to Franklin Branch. Shovel tests measured between 35 and 50 cm in diameter and were excavated to at least 50 cm below surface, or 10 cm into sterile subsoil, whichever came first. Soils were removed by natural strata and were sifted through hardware cloth. The position of each shovel test, the depths of individual soil horizons, and the presence or absence of cultural material was recorded in the field on standardized forms. In addition, any areas devoid of vegetation were examined visually for cultural materials.

Soil profiles from the 1993 STPs suggested that the area had experienced flood episodes and the overbond deposition of sand. Cultural material recovered from the STPs (particularly coal and coal slag) provided evidence of previous disturbance. One wire nail, 1 unidentified nail, 1 transfer-printed whiteware sherd, 1 metal utensil handle, and 1 terra cotta pipe bowl fragment were the only artifacts recovered (all from disturbed contexts). No evidence of prehistoric occupation was noted. Based on these findings, the researchers suggested that 18AN399 had been completely destroyed.

In 2003, at the request of the US Army's Department of Public Works-Environmental Management Office at Fort George G. Meade, a combined Phase I/II investigation was conducted on several previously identified archeological sites at Fort Meade. The investigation was warranted because a 50 year lease was signed in 2002 on 1,000 acres of property at the installation for the construction of approximately 308 new family housing units (for military families), ancillary support facilities, and associated storm water management and other facilities. The construction constituted an undertaking that was subject to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The archeological studies were also carried out in accordance with Army Regulation 200-4 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which requires that all archeological investigations on federal property be carried out by permit issued by the Federal land manager.

Despite the findings of the 1993 Phase I survey, it was determined that investigations would be undertaken at 18AN399. The 2003 study began by testing east of the area previously investigated, in the area of the ballpark which was ignored in 1993. Initially, 68 STPs were excavated in the overgrown field and mown softball field to the east of Franklin Branch. STPs were spaced at an interval of 30 meters to re-locate the site and determine its boundaries. Each STP was approximately 40 cm in diameter and was excavated in stratigraphic layers to a depth of 10 cm into subsoil, or culturally sterile horizon. Soils from the excavated tests were screened through hardware cloth in order to assure uniform recovery of cultural materials. Detailed notes on soils, depth of each STP, artifact recovery, and profile data were recorded on standardized forms.

Historic artifacts were found in 25 of the 68 shovel tests. The site was determined to cover an area of approximately 15,000 square meters. Soils observed in the STPs varied, but suggested that the area was somewhat disturbed. Most of the artifacts were recovered from O horizon soils and no artifact concentrations (or other spatial patterning) were noted. A total of 126 historic artifacts and faunal remains were recovered, mostly dating to the mid to late 19th century.

The soil profile and artifacts in one of the STPs differed from those found in the rest of the site. Specifically, two buried brown soil layers containing charcoal were noted, separated by a thin layer of sand. A fish scale, 7 mammal bones, 3 brick fragments, a cut nail, and a pipe stem were recovered in these layers. The results suggested that a historic feature might be present in this area.

As a result of the 2003 expanded Phase I survey, it was determined that the area warranted further investigation. The project then immediately transitioned into a Phase II level of testing. Seven 1 X 1 meter square test units were then excavated. One was situated near the center of the historic artifact cluster. The other six test units focused on the possible historic feature previously identified. Test units were also excavated stratigraphically to culturally sterile soils and soils were screened through hardware cloth. Again, appropriate data was recorded on standardized forms. Drawings and photographs were taken of the soil profiles. Photographs were also taken of any cultural features and to document field conditions.

Excavation revealed that 18AN399 includes three components: mid 18th century, mid to late 19th century, and a Late Woodland component. No evidence was found for the Archaic Period component identified through informal survey conducted in 1976.

The eighteenth century component is highly localized, measuring only about 20 meters square. It included two historic features (identified as Feature 3 and 4) likely related to an impermanent dwelling that stood on the property in the early to mid 18th century. No evidence for a dwelling could be found for this location in historic documents or maps of the area. Archeological evidence for the structure included wrought nails, brick, and daub recovered from the features. The very small quantity of daub suggests that the structure was of impermanent frame construction, such as a post-in-ground structure. No post features, however, were found.

Feature 3 is a roughly square pit feature that may have been a privy. The feature extended to a depth of 76 cm below datum and yielded primarily faunal remains and tobacco pipe fragments. The privy appears to have been used more heavily for domestic refuse disposal when the feature was first constructed, with the lower strata containing a higher concentration and greater variety of domestic materials than upper strata. Faunal remains were found throughout the



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feature strata. This reflects a typical eighteenth century pattern of disposal where refuse was thrown into the privy. Feature 4 is a small, shallow, rectangular pit feature extending to a depth of 40 cm below datum. This feature yielded primarily prehistoric ceramics, although daub and a wrought nail were also recovered. The function of the feature is not known, but it may have been a small storage pit.

The eighteenth century artifact assemblage includes a low percentage of kitchen and other domestic artifacts in relation to faunal and tobacco materials. This is consistent with artifact pattern for low economic status sites dating to the mid-eighteenth century. Communal vessels, often of wood, were used for food preparation and consumption. Sets of ceramics with individual place settings appear in the mid to late 18th century. Low status households, however, were less likely to be able to afford these sets initially and retained communal food consumption patterns longer. Large numbers of ceramics and domestic glass fragments would be expected on mid 18th century sites with wealthy occupants or late 18th century or later sites.

The impermanent dwelling may have been a small farmhouse occupied by tenants or possibly enslaved individuals. The low number of artifacts recovered as well as the types of artifacts suggests a short period of domestic occupation, possibly by a small group or one individual. The dwelling may have been a slave quarter, although the artifact assemblage, including a high percentage of kaolin tobacco pipe fragments, is more indicative of occupation by a farmer of low economic status rather than a slave.

Soils observed in the test units and STPs around Feature 3 are shallow. Varying soil profiles suggest that the area has been partially disturbed, limiting the potential for additional information associated with the eighteenth century component to be found outside the features. Also, the lack of 18th century artifacts throughout the rest of the project area and the low number of non-faunal artifacts in the vicinity of the features, suggests that additional excavation would not likely result in the identification of additional features.

The nineteenth century component is widely dispersed across the site. Artifacts were recovered from the shallow plowzone and no horizontal spatial patterning was evident. In addition, the low percentage of kitchen artifacts dating to the nineteenth century suggests that the site may represent an outbuilding or refuse scatter rather than a domestic site. No buildings are shown at this location on an 1865 map, suggesting that the 19th century component of 18AN399 post dates the map. Alternatively (as the artifacts suggest) the 19th century component may not represent the remains of a residence, but rather an outbuilding, which would not have been likely to be included on the 1865 map. The artifacts are likely associated with an outbuilding of Joshua Disney House, which is depicted to the north of the site on the map. An 1878 map, likewise shows a J. Disney north of the site and no buildings at 18AN399.

Historic artifacts recovered during the 2003 work at 18AN399 included 34 activity items, 96 architectural artifacts, 696 kitchen-related artifacts, 3 personal items, 55 tobacco-related artifacts (all unmarked kaolin pipe fragments), 4 arms items, and 51 miscellaneous objects. The activity items were a ceramic marble, 2 pieces of lamp glass, 6 flowerpot fragments, and 25 non-electrical wire fragments. The architectural artifacts were 31 brick fragments, 2 pieces of daub, 1 piece of lumber, a ceramic drain pipe fragment, 17 piece of window glass, 43 nails (21 handwrought, 11 unidentified square nails, 3 cut, 3 wire, and 5 unidentified), an unidentified architectural item. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 17 ceramic sherds (2 manganese-mottled, 1 Staffordshire slipware, 1 tin-glazed earthenware, 1 buff-bodied earthenware, 1 Chinese export porcelain, 1 other porcelain, 7 whiteware, 2 domestic gray stoneware, and 1 white salt-glazed stoneware), 36 pieces of glass (7 table glass and 29 bottle glass), a metal spoon, and 642 faunal artifacts (297 animal bones, 276 fish scales, 31 pieces of shell, and 38 fragments of eggshell). The personal items were 2 pieces of mirror glass and a possible coin. The arms objects were 2 modern ammunition cartridges and 2 English gunflint fragments. The miscellaneous objects were 4 clinkers, 7 pieces of charcoal, 21 coal fragments, 2 pieces of slag, a mica fragments, and 16 unidentified pieces of iron.

A prehistoric component is also present and dates to the Late Woodland Period. Artifacts include 10 prehistoric sherds (likely Shepard ware) and a quartz flake. No prehistoric features were identified during the Phase II excavations. The paucity of diagnostic artifacts and lack of cultural features precludes interpretations concerning settlement and subsistence patterns, or determination of activity areas.

It appears that the integrity of 18AN399 has been compromised as a result of the construction and demolition of facilities north of the site and grading or erosion over most of the site. Soils in the vicinity of the 18th century features were shallow and disturbed. No additional data (beyond that gathered through excavation of the two features) is likely to be encountered. No features associated with the 19th century component were found, and no spatial artifact patterning was evident.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000748, 97002686