Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7 SCS soil & sediment code 36) Tm

Latitude 38.8305 Longitude -76.5419 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	☑	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☐	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☐	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☐	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☑		

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Norman's Creek

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☐
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☑	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site	Y	ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic	Y	Early woodland	Y	ca. 1675 - 1720		ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic	Y	Mid. woodland	Y	ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	Y
Late archaic	Y	Late woodland	Y	ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		

Unknown prehistoric context Unknown historic context Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American		Unknown	
Anglo-American	Y	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	☑	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☐
Farmstead	☑	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☐	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☐
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☑
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☑		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☑		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Flotation samples taken Y Other samples taken pollen,organic use,oyster

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken shell:c14 date 1900+/-50

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	1
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)	7	Vernon	1
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	5
Le Croy	4	Calvert	4
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	1
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	1
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek	1	Madison/Potomac	5
		Levanna	1

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend	1	Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek	3	Mockley	17	Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk	19		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	
Borderware		Mn Mottled		Whiteware	
Buckley		North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			

Stoneware

English Brown	
Eng Dry-bodied	
Nottingham	
Rhenish	
Wt Salt-glazed	

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	1501	Other fired clay	5
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls	6	Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock	97	Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)	11	Oyster shell	☑
Ceramics (all)	97	Floral material	☐
Rimsherds	2	Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☑
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☑	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☑	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☑		
Lithic reduc area	☑		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☑	Chalcedony	☑	European flint	☐
Chert	☑	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☑	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☑	Other	☐
Quartzite	☑	Sandstone	☐		

☑ **Dated features present at site**

Features were dated, but sampling methods and reporting are suspect.

Historic Artifacts

Pottery (all)	87	Tobacco related	9
Glass (all)	55	Activity item(s)	
Architectural	31	Human remain(s)	☐
Furniture		Faunal material	☐
Arms	3	Misc. kitchen	
Clothing	1	Floral material	☐
Personal items		Misc.	320
		Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☑	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Planting feature	☐	Mill raceway	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐

Unknown	☐
Other	☐

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**

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison Prehistoric ☑

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5 Historic ☑

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead Unknown ☐

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning

☑ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Harrison Site (18AN423), also known as West River Plantation (or W-T, AAB 5), is a multi-component prehistoric site and shell midden on the floodplain of the West River south of Galesville in Anne Arundel County. Some historic deposits are also present, associated with an 18th-19th Century farmstead. The site covers approximately 25 acres of farmland in both plowed tobacco fields and wood lots on a peninsula bordered by water on three sides. The West river is situated to the north and feeder creeks are situated on the east and west. The surrounding landscape is characterized by tidal estuaries and wetlands. The high water table at the site and loose alluvial silts have produced an unstable environment for large tree growth and tree falls have been a common occurrence. Over time, this natural process may have contributed to uneven topography in the area. Native plant species observed along the margins of the site include mixed woodland and wetland hardwood trees, with oak predominating. Also present are sweet gum, swamp and red maple, poplar, cherry, alder, holly, sumac, cedar, sassafras, dogwood, and persimmon trees. Shrubs and vines include black willow, bayberry, Virginia Creeper, blackberry, poison ivy, and mistletoe. Wetland grasses such as bulrush, water willow, and cattail, and grains such as millet and amaranth are also present. This vegetation harbors a variety of wildlife, both terrestrial and marine. Soils in the central portion of the site are primarily Othello series silt loam, with Keyport and Bibb silt loams near the shorelines and along smaller drainages.

The site was first identified during a survey of Maryland coastal regions conducted in the late 1970s. The site was reported to the state as a small prehistoric shell midden of un-specified affiliation. No documented archeological work took place at the site between that time and October of 1987, when a Phase I survey was carried out of the general area, and on two nearby properties that would be impacted by planned residential development. Phase I work was carried out at the request of the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning and the Maryland Historical Trust because of county legislation mandating consideration of cultural resources as part of the subdivision review process.

Phase I work in 1987 in the vicinity of 18AN423 consisted of a systematic surface collection of the plowed fields in close-interval transects, where all artifacts were point-provenienced and detailed site maps were produced.

Six-hundred and twenty (620) prehistoric artifacts (all lithics) were identified, point-provenienced, and collected from the surface of site 18AN423. These include 59 bifaces (43 points, 2 drills, 11 early stage bifaces, 2 chipped-stone axes, and 1 net sinker), 30 unifaces, 34 cores, 33 utilized/retouched flakes, 362 other flakes, 37 pieces of shatter, 1 fire striker, 7 hammerstones, 1 anvil, and 56 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Most of the selected lithic materials were locally available in pebble/cobble deposits (67% quartz and 13% quartzite), however, materials from a variety of more distant quarries were represented as well. Projectile points that are sufficiently complete to be assigned to specific types point to occupation during the Early Archaic and from the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods. Diagnostic points include 4 Kirk notched points, 1 MacCorkle bifurcate, 1 LeCroy bifurcate, 2 Halifax points, 3 Piscataway points, 1 Adena point, 3 Calvert points, 1 rhyolite Jack's Reef corner-notched point, and 3 Late Woodland triangular points. Shell midden was noted in the western portion of the site and a single 40 cm wide shovel test was excavated into the midden. It produced 240 oyster shell fragments, all within the plowzone.

A total of 200 historic-period artifacts were recovered during the 1987 surface collection at 18AN423. These included 31 architectural artifacts (22 pieces of brick, 2 unidentified nails, and 7 miscellaneous architectural objects), 1 clothing item (a milk glass button), 87 ceramic sherds, 55 pieces of container glass, 9 kaolin tobacco pipe fragments, 3 arms objects (English gunflint), and 14 miscellaneous objects (coal/charcoal).

Based on the findings from the Phase I survey, Phase II testing was carried out at the site in late 1987 and early 1988 to delimit the horizontal and vertical extent of the archeological resources and to determine cultural affiliation, function, and significance of the site. The Phase II work consisted of the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) and a 1 X 2 m test unit in the wooded area surrounding the plowed fields. In addition, shallow trenches were excavated using a Gradall in the plowed areas. When approximately 5% of the plowzone was removed, 251 features were discovered. Thirty-six of these features were sampled and 30 were determined to be the product of cultural activity with the remainder classified as natural anomalies.

Phase II shovel tests were systematically placed at 30.5 m (100 ft) intervals along a north-south transect across the center of the site. Wooded areas west and north of the tobacco field were initially tested with STPs at 61 m (200 ft) intervals, but irregularities in the landscape made judgmental placement a necessity. STPs were 40 X 40 cm in extent. Site maps reveal that 25 STPs were excavated at the site. The 1 X 2 m test unit was judgmentally placed in an area where high artifact densities were apparent during the Phase I Survey.

Upon approval from Anne Arundel County and acquisition of a grading permit, shallow trenching with a Gradall was initiated. Trench locations were chosen which would best cover the site and transverse areas where artifact clusters and where artifact types indicative of activity areas (i.e. tools and fire-cracked rock) were previously found. The transects included one north-south line in the center of the site and four east-west transects. They measured 1.83 m (6 ft) in width and totaled over 914 linear meters (3000 ft). Mechanical excavations terminated at the plowzone/subsoil interface. Shovels and trowels were then used to create clean surfaces and to delineate and bisect anomalies to determine if they were culturally produced. All anomalies were drawn and photographed in plan view unless field conditions prohibited. Features which were sectioned were drawn and/or photographed in profile.

The Phase II excavations revealed that in the plowed portion of the site, artifactual material was not present in naturally deposited soils beneath the roughly 25.4 cm (10 in) deep plowzone. In the same area, however, there were numerous intact features which extended into the subsoil. Based on structure and content of the excavated features, the culturally produced subsurface features in the plowed area were generally hearths (24) and storage pits (3). Early Woodland sheet refuse deposits (at least 8 cm thick) were noted in the eastern portion of the plowed field. It consists of dark organic clay silt which contains broken ceramics. A 12 cm thick (but smaller) area of refuse was also noted in the western portion of the plowed field and may represent a house floor/living surface. Floated soil samples from this feature produced carbonized Chenopodium, the only aboriginal seeds recovered from the site during Phase II work.

It was also determined that the site definitely extends into the wooded areas, at least in the north and northeast portions of the peninsula. The site's vertical integrity is better in these areas because of the lack of plow disturbance. However, shell midden deposits were observed eroding into the West River. A single postmold was discovered in this area. The wooded area along the eastern part of the site also has never been plowed, but artifact or features were not identified there.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered during Phase II work included 1 Holmes point, 1 Perkiomen point, 1 Palmer point, 1 other biface, 2 cores, 8 flakes, 1 piece of shatter, 2 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 13 Bushnell ware sherds, and 5 lumps of fired clay. Rains which followed the Phase I survey exposed hundreds of

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison Prehistoric ☑

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5 Historic ☑

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead Unknown ☐

artifacts. These were not systematically collected during the Phase II study, but artifacts in danger of being looted (complete points) were collected. All of the diagnostic points came from this surface collection activity.

Phase II work failed to produce any additional information of significance on the historic site component. No historic features were encountered. Two modern features (surface hearths) were identified. Based on these findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended with a focus on documenting the preserved prehistoric components at the site.

Phase III work was carried out from August of 1988 through January of 1989. The methods employed by the Phase III research team were developed in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning. The excavation strategy essentially involved removal of the plowzone of a ten-plus acre area of the site in order to facilitate the recognition and excavation of subsurface archeological features. Over 2,000 features were identified, but only 68 could be excavated.

Before the Phase III excavations began, a second controlled surface collection was carried out to identify artifact concentrations. The plowzone was then removed as a single unit using a backhoe with a flat-edged bucket across most of the site within the build line (an area exceeding 10 acres). The stratigraphy of the site was such that features were easily visible in the surrounding exposed subsoil. Mechanical removal of the plowzone was followed by flat shoveling, trowelling, and delineation of features. The features were given numerical designations and photographed. A grid system was extended across the cleared area in 10 m blocks, for a total of 964 ten meter blocks. Each 10 m block was then sub-divided into twenty-five 2 X 2 m units.

Once exposed, features were drawn on a site map and then covered with plastic for possible future excavation. Portable water pump sprayers were used to keep features moist for mapping and photography. However, above average rainfall during the excavation period caused inundation and associated silting in the cleared field. These severe weather conditions severely hindered the mapping and excavation of features. Many of the features initially identified could not be mapped or excavated due to the flooding. A system of trenches and sump holes only partially alleviated this problem.

Features were chosen for excavation based on the presence of charcoal and/or fired clay and the recovery of nearby surface artifactual material (both Phase I and Phase III). The features were excavated in the following manner. First, a plan view was drawn to scale. Then they were bisected into either north/south or east/west sections depending on observed orientation. Fill from one half of the feature was removed with hand tools in arbitrary 5 cm levels within natural stratigraphic deposits and sifted through hardware cloth. Natural stratigraphic deposits were identified based on changes in soil color and texture. Features were excavated down to surrounding subsoil. When a feature was completely excavated, its profile was photographed and drawn to scale. The opposite section was then also removed in 5 cm arbitrary levels within natural strata. When all fill was removed, and the walls and floors accurately defined, the feature was drawn and photographed in its final configuration. In larger features, one by one m units and trenches had to be used, but similar techniques were employed.

Soil samples for flotation, chemical analysis, and pollen analysis were taken from selected features. Charcoal was also collected from both sections of a feature in an attempt to ensure the largest possible sample for radiocarbon dating. Soil for pollen and chemical analyses was removed from the profile in a vertical column from the top of the feature to the bottom. Soil samples for flotation analysis were measured in liters and dried on site. The total volume of each feature was recorded so that percentages of material per liter of feature fill could be determined.

In addition to feature excavations, STPs were systematically excavated at 15 m intervals in the area outside the build line to the southeast as an extension of the 10 X 10 m grid. They were also placed at 15 m intervals beyond the limits of modern plowing to further establish site integrity outside the area of residential construction impacts. The 87 shovel tests were excavated with pointed shovels and post-hole diggers and averaged 40 cm in diameter. Soil was removed by natural stratigraphic deposits, and sifted through hardware cloth. Samples from several STPs in undisturbed areas were taken every 5 cm within natural stratigraphic deposits for pollen analysis.

A total of 2,242 anomalies were recognized and assigned feature numbers upon removal of the plowzone in the build area of the Harrison site. This number includes those previously identified during the Phase II testing. The number of identified features unquestionably represents a significant cultural presence at 18AN423. Excavations revealed that the portion of each feature that extended into the hard-packed clay subsoil was generally intact, despite the obvious deflation of the upper portions due to plowing and erosion.

Due to the adverse weather conditions (see above), not all identified features could be mapped. Ultimately only 1,037 of the features identified during Phase III work (again the Phase II features had already been mapped) could be placed on the site map (about 52% of Phase III features). The features that could not be mapped tended to be those around the periphery of the plowed field, where water was pooling. After mapping, seventy-four of the features were investigated further, representing a 7% sample. Of this number, 68 were actually excavated. Sixty-four of these were examined either completely or in section, and four features too large for total sectional investigation were sampled through the excavation of 47 units and 2 trenches. The remaining 6 features were not actually excavated, but were investigated through the collection of surface finds or samples for shell, soil and/or flotation analyses.

Seven feature types were distinguished. Most of the features could be characterized as pits, but with varying profiles (basin, cylindrical, conical, and irregular). The remaining three feature types were ring-shaped features, large surficial stains, and shell middens. Thirty-seven basin features were recognized, varying in size considerably. There were 15 small basins with soil fill volumes of less than 100 dm3, 20 medium basins with volumes ranging from 100 dm3 to 600 dm3, and two large basins with volumes of over 600 dm3. Thirteen conical pits were encountered. These may have been created by inserting a stick into the soil and twisting it down to create an expedient storage pit. Five pits were essentially cylindrical in shape. Irregular pits displayed a rugged or uneven appearance and often had jumbled stratigraphy. Five such features were identified. Two features were ring-shaped with basin profiles. Both were in close proximity and one had a postmold near the center of the ring. It was speculated, that the feature may have resulted from some form of circular structure with a support post near the center. Three large dark surficial soil stains were identified. These generally exhibited an irregular oval shape in plan view and sometimes displayed a roughly basin-shaped profile. Three shell middens were identified based on the presence of dense oyster shell concentrations. Two were determined to be prehistoric in origin, while the third was exclusively historic. The only other historic feature encountered was a builder's trench of indeterminate age.

Several features were radiocarbon dated during the course of the Phase III investigations. Unfortunately, the full site report does not provide uncalibrated dates, only calendrical date ranges for the sampled features/levels. Since calibration curves can change, the corresponding calendrical ranges would also likely change. For this reason, the dates are not included in the C-14 fields above, but are reported below in the same manner in which they are reported in the full Phase III report.

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

One of the medium-sized basin-shaped pits (Feature 2765) produced charcoal which yielded a calendrical date of AD 1550 ± 60 years, placing the feature in the Late Woodland period. This feature was situated in the southwest portion of the site and appeared to be a hearth that was later used for refuse disposal. None of the artifacts found within the feature fill were diagnostic, but other materials from this portion of the site were Woodland in age. One of the quartz flakes recovered had blood and fish scales adhering to it.

Feature 1577, a large oval-shaped basin pit was excavated, revealing 5 intact strata (A-E). The second Stratum encountered (Stratum B) produced 112 flakes, 1 utilized chert flake, 1 quartz triangular point, and an unrecognized sand-tempered sherd. Charcoal from the level produced a radiocarbon date range of AD 1060 ± 130 years, thus pointing to a Late Woodland occupation. Potomac Creek ceramics recovered below in Stratum C would point to a later Late Woodland date for the feature (post AD 1300). It was hypothesized that the pit originally represented some form of temporary structure.

Radiocarbon samples were obtained from two of the large surficial stain features. Feature 159 revealed 3 strata (A-C) and produced Selby Bay component artifacts (Selby Bay points and ceramics of general flat-bottomed Early Woodland form). Charcoal from Stratum A produced a radiocarbon date range of 520 BC ± 70 years. Feature 2684 was a large, dark stain in the southwest corner of the cleared field. Twelve units were opened in this feature and the maximum depth achieved during excavation was 60 cm. Four strata were recognized (A-D), but they were clearly mixed. Charcoal from Stratum A (which yielded Potomac Creek sherds, a steatite vessel fragment, and some historic materials) produced a date of AD 1760 ± 80 years. Charcoal from Stratum B (which yielded a Piscataway point, a steatite vessel fragment, a piece of historic shell mortar, and a piece of historic earthenware) produced a radiocarbon date range of 2650 BC ± 90 years. Stratum C produced no diagnostic materials, but a date of 2310 BC ± 170 years was obtained. These dates are highly suspect, not only because of the mixed nature of the strata, but also because they were obtained by collecting disparate pieces of charcoal from the same strata in multiple units to obtain a sufficient amount of carbon for dating.

Finally, all three of the shell midden features were sampled to produce radiocarbon dates. Feature 2638 was a large disturbed shell midden confined to the plowzone in the western portion of the site. The only diagnostic prehistoric object produced was a Vernon point. However, oyster shell from the feature was radiocarbon dated to AD 1170 ± 70 years. Thus a Vernon point (Late Archaic in age) is present within a feature containing shell that is radiometrically dated to the Late Woodland. Feature 2773 was situated along the shore of the West River (in the northern part of the site). No prehistoric or historic artifacts were observed in association with the shells. A shell sample was radiocarbon dated to AD 1710 ± 70 years. Feature 2003 was also situated along the West River. The only artifacts recovered from the midden were a copper alloy grommet and a piece of metal hardware. Shell from the midden produced a radiocarbon date of AD 1900 ± 50 years.

All three phases of research (I, II, and III) at 18AN423 produced 1,671 lithic artifacts. The lithic assemblage consisted of 66 projectile points and point fragments, 1 flaked net sinker, 3 flaked chopping tools/celts, 3 drills, 55 bifaces, 4 scrapers, 2 spokeshaves, 50 cores, 48 unifaces, 74 utilized/retouched flakes, 1157 other flakes, 38 pieces of shatter, 6 hammerstones, 1 anvil, 6 steatite bowl fragments, 4 other lithics, and 97 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Diagnostic projectile points include 7 Kirk notched points, 4 LeCroys, 1 MacCorkle, 1 Otter Creek, 3 Halifax points, 1 Vernon, 1 Savannah River, 1 Perkiomen point, 2 Holmes/Bare Island points, 4 Calvert, 2 Orient Fishtails, 5 Piscataway points, 1 Rossville, 1 Adena point, 1 Selby Bay, 1 Levanna, 1 Jack's Reef corner-notched point, and 5 Potomac points. Many of these, as well as some of the bifaces were positive for blood collagen or other residues (hair, scale, etc.) that indicate hunting and butchering functions, as well as activities such as plant processing, fish processing, and skin/hide working. The lithics from Harrison confirm the intermittent occupations of the area through a long time period, from Early Archaic to Late Woodland times. The organic residue analysis indicates that hunting and butchering activities were carried out at the site for most of the periods of prehistoric occupation. During the Archaic, a time of mobile hunting and gathering, more use is made of non-local raw materials (chert, jasper, etc.). This use pattern drops off in the more sedentary Woodland periods, with the exception of the Middle Woodland, when groups occupying Harrison may have participated in larger regional social and exchange networks. Second, analysis of the flakes indicates that stone tool manufacture was limited for the most part to the latter stages of biface reduction.

A total of 97 prehistoric ceramic sherds were recovered during Phases I-III of the investigation at 18AN423. Most of these fragments are small and heavily eroded and therefore could not be defined as to type of ware. Those that could be identified include 19 Bushnell-like sherds (2 rims), 3 Accokeek sherds, 17 possible Mockley sherds, 1 Townsend sherd, 19 Potomac Creek sherds, and 4 sherds that may be Colonoware. A number of fired clay lumps were also recovered, but the total number found is not enumerated in the Phase III report. At least 5 examples were recovered during Phase II work.

In addition to the prehistoric materials, 506 historic artifacts were recovered from the site and 2 historic features were encountered (the historic shell midden and builder's trench mentioned previously). These are not described in great detail in the Phase III report, because by that stage the focus was on the prehistoric components at the site. With the exception of the historic materials already enumerated (during discussion of Phase I and II) these have been counted as miscellaneous historic artifacts.

In addition to the materials described above, 5 bone fragments were recovered. All are too fragmentary to determine species. Thus, they may have been historic and have not been included in the artifact tally above. Large quantities of mollusk shell were encountered, but are not included above as well. Flotation produced a large number of seeds, but virtually none of them were carbonized. Aside from the chenopodium encountered during Phase II work, butternut and hickory shell were the only other carbonized native species identified.

Sixteen soil and flotation samples from 5 features and 1 shovel test were submitted for pollen analysis. The samples generally exhibited pollen assemblages similar to those of the late Holocene. Such assemblages are characterized by a predominance of oak, birch, maple, and beech trees. The samples also confirm a wetland environment. The presence of ragweed, a plant introduced from Europe during the contact period, and other weedy pollens suggest a great deal of disturbance in the sample sediments. Twenty-two soil samples were also taken for chemical analysis. The samples were analyzed for soil texture, pH, and magnesium, phosphate, potassium, and calcium content. Comparisons were made between artifact bearing soils (feature fill) and subsoil. Phosphate proved to be the best indicator of human occupation with all but three samples having significantly higher Phosphate levels than the surrounding subsoil. The pH patterns, as well as high concentrations of magnesium, potassium, and calcium in some of the samples may be evidence of specific activities or the presence of faunal materials that have decayed.

The results of Phase I, II, and III level investigations at 18AN423, the Harrison site, indicate an intermittent multi-component prehistoric occupation of the project area, dating from the Early Archaic and from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland periods. Radiocarbon dates have indicated a Late Archaic occupation at about 2650 BC and the presence of a possible Late Woodland temporary shelter at about AD 1060. A date from a shell midden confirms the Late Woodland presence at about AD 1170, and two ring-shaped features also contained Late Woodland artifacts. A possible late Middle Woodland feature was also identified. Organic residue analysis indicated that a variety of activities occurred at the site, including hunting, butchering, plant processing, fish processing, and skin/hide working.

Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18AN423 **Site Name:** Harrison

Other name(s) W-T, AAB 5

Brief Description: Early, Middle, & Late Archaic camps, Early, Middle, & Late Woodland shell midden,18th-19th century farmstead

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Throughout the process that led to the Phase II and III projects at 18AN423, staffers at the Maryland Historical Trust as well as the Maryland Geological Survey (now part of MHT) were expressing a degree of uncertainty as to the interpretation of the archeological findings. Many of the aforementioned “features” could be explained by natural causes rather than manmade ones. One letter in the MHT correspondence file for 18AN423 states that the “sheet middens” appear to correspond to natural swales in the landscape visible on 1938 USDA aerial photography of the area. Furthermore, due to the high water table at the site, tree falls are common there and in the surrounding area. Many of the “pit features” could be explained by treefalls prior to historic land clearance, which subsequently were filled with soil and artifacts that eroded out of other portions of the site. The methods used in recovering and reporting C-14 dates, unfortunately, do little to clear up the confusion.

The Harrison Site (18AN423) may be a significant archeological resource. Although a large portion of the site was excavated and subsequently impacted by residential development, large portions of the site margins are probably intact. These are areas that were never plowed and appear to still be wooded. These wooded areas have only been examined through shovel testing (at the Phase II and Phase III level) which showed that they are among the least disturbed portions of the site. Erosion is, however, a significant threat. But given the uncertainty with the overall assessment made of the site’s integrity and significance, the value of additional research at the site is difficult to gauge. Clearly a site was once present at 18AN423, but the portion that was professionally excavated was not adequately-documented (even though a large volume of earth was moved) to make the case that an intact, prehistoric site capable of addressing outstanding research questions was present. If the remaining portions of the site should be threatened in the future, careful consideration should be made as to whether any additional work would be fruitful and the level of effort that is appropriate.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000704, 00000553, 00000602, Site Files