



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN454

Site Name: Old Cox Farm

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Early & Middle Woodland lithic scatter, tool manufacturing area

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code 26) HyE3

Latitude 38.9349

Longitude -76.6013

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 5 m

Site slope

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
- knoll

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Headwaters of Beards Cre

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 15 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675 ca. 1860 - 1900

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1675 - 1720 ca. 1900 - 1930

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780 Post 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Late archaic

Late woodland

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
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown

Other context

tool manufacturing area

Historic

Urban/Rural?

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other
- Transportation
- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford
- Educational
- Commercial
- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>		Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>		Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
					Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

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

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	71
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

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

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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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Late Archaic and Early & Middle Woodland lithic scatter, tool manufacturing area

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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Old Cox Farm (18AN454) is an Early Archaic through Middle Woodland lithic scatter and tool manufacturing site near Edgewater in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a low bluff overlooking the confluence of two creeks that drain, ultimately, to the South River. This low terrace is bordered by steeply cut slopes down to the floodplain of the two creeks. During the period of site investigation, the site consisted of agricultural fields, cedar and oak hedgerows, and secondary forest. Prehistoric forest cover in Anne Arundel County is thought to have consisted of oak, sweetgum, and yellow-poplar. Soils at the site are primarily Annapolis and Collington sandy loams.

The site was first identified by avocational archeologist Henry F. Sturdy, who collected a number of artifacts from the surface of a plowed field in the 1930s and 1940s. Among the artifacts reportedly collected from the site by Sturdy were 3 quartz Calvert points, 2 quartz Piscataway points, 4 quartz Rossville points, 1 quartz Vernon point, 3 rhyolite Selby Bay knives, 1 Susquehanna Broadspear, 1 ground stone celt, a variety of hammerstones, and a number of bifaces and points of unidentifiable type. Thomas Mayr, who eventually acquired Sturdy's collection, also reported finding a rectangular grooved axe, and rhyolite and chert debitage at the site. The Maryland Historical Society also has a 3/4 grooved axe found at this locality by the rector of All Hallows Church in the early part of the 20th century. It is noteworthy that no pottery has been reported from the site.

In 1977, two professional archeologists made attempts to visit the site, but could not locate it. This situation was the result of Sturdy reporting two different locations for the site: one on a hand-drawn map by Sturdy (approximately 500 m west of 18AN454) and one that Sturdy reported to Mayr (18AN454). During a 1977 reconnaissance survey prior to improvements to MD Route 424, the site could not be relocated at either location. Six shovel test pits (STPs) at the location identified on Sturdy's map and 12 STPs at the location reported to Mayer (18AN454) failed to yield any artifacts. A 1977 survey of the South River Drainage Basin also failed to re-locate the site. Though 18PR454 was visited, the plowed fields of the 1930s and 1940s had given way to dense underbrush and scrub and no artifact deposits were visible.

The site was subject to Phase II evaluator testing in 1999 for the Department of Public Works (DPW) Central Services Garage in Anne Arundel County. Formal evaluation of the site was undertaken in compliance with Article 83B, Section 5-618 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The work consisted of close interval shovel testing and test unit excavation.

Initially STPs were placed throughout the location at 20 m intervals throughout the proposed impact area for garage construction. Then, the STP interval was reduced to 10 m within the reported boundaries of 18AN454. The grid was oriented to the former agricultural field edge and was laid in using compass and tape. Shovel tests measured approximately 35 cm in diameter, and were excavated to depths of 50 cm or 10 cm into subsoil. Soils were removed by natural strata and were screened through hardware mesh. Each shovel test was recorded in the field, noting its position within the sampling pattern, the depths of soil horizons within the test, and the presence or absence of cultural resources. Soil characteristics, including color and texture, were recorded following standard soil nomenclature and soil color chart designations. Phase II shovel testing served to further define the site boundaries and helped to identify artifact concentrations across the site.

The data from the shovel tests guided the placement of six 1 X 1 m test units. Within test units, soils were removed in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural (or cultural) stratigraphy. The 1 X 1 m test units were excavated to a minimum depth of 40 cm below surface or until at least two sterile levels (20 cm) were encountered. In four of the test units, 50 X 50 cm director's windows were excavated to examine soil stratigraphy. Soils removed from test units were screened through hardware mesh. The nature of each stratum or soil horizon within the survey area was recorded in the field. Soil characteristics, including color and texture, were described using standard methods and nomenclature. A representative profile from each test unit was drawn to scale and photographed.

Phase II testing recovered 62 prehistoric artifacts from Site 18AN454. These included 3 bifaces, 48 pieces of debitage, 3 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 8 ceramic sherds. The only identifiable biface recovered in 1999 was a quartzite Big Sandy side-notched point. The ceramic sherds included 3 sherds of Marcey Creek and 1 possible Accokeek sherd. All of the artifacts were recovered from the plowzone and no intact features were encountered during excavation. In addition, 11 historic artifacts (3 architectural artifacts, 3 whiteware sherds, 3 machine-made bottle glass fragments, 1 arms object, and 1 miscellaneous piece of metal) were recovered.

The site can be characterized as a light scatter of lithic and ceramic artifacts found within a deep plowzone. Results from the 1999 project suggest that the site is a short-term resource procurement site used repeatedly for brief periods of activity. Diagnostic artifacts place the site within the Early to Middle Archaic period and Early Woodland period. Artifacts previously collected from the site included a number of Late Archaic and Early Woodland projectile points. The 1999 investigation did not recover any projectile points from these periods. However, although previously no pottery was collected, the 1999 investigations identified Early Woodland pottery, represented by Marcey Creek and possibly Accokeek wares. The Early to Middle Archaic projectile point/knife, represented by a Big Sandy side-notched point, adds a previously unidentified component to the site.

All of the artifacts from 18AN454 were recovered from the plowzone, thus the site does not appear to retain integrity. The minimal size and lack of integrity of the prehistoric assemblage seriously diminishes the potential for answering questions dealing with the Early Archaic through Early Woodland periods within the Maryland Coastal Plain. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00007573, Site Files