



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN50

Site Name: Leon

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Pig Point

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early-Late Archaic and Early, Middle & Late Woodland base camp or village; late 17th-early 20th cen. Domestic

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.7990 Longitude -76.7099
Elevation m Site slope 5-10%

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code DvC,CSF

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site Underwater site

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) Patuxent River
Saltwater **Freshwater**
Ocean Stream/river
Estuary/tidal river Swamp
Tidewater/marsh Lake or pond
Spring
Minimum distance to water is 107 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
tobacco inspection station

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples
Soil samples taken
Flotation samples taken Other samples taken Faunal

Historic context samples
Soil samples taken
Flotation samples taken Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	1
Palmer	1	Vernon	3
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	35
Kirk (stem)	1	Calvert	3
Le Croy	3	Selby Bay	4
Morrow Mntn	1	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	3	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	1	Madison/Potomac	13
Otter Creek	3	Levanna	13

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	1	Popes Creek	727	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	2213	Yeocomico	1
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	954	Mockley	1357	Sullivan Cove	9	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	26		
				Potomac Crk	89		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	1	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	2	Jackfield	10	Tin Glazed	21	English Brown	35
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	135	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	3	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	37	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	256	Pearlware	267			Rhenish	10
						Wt Salt-glazed	15

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	27679	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	18	Modified faunal	3269
Stone bowls	5	Unmod faunal	39760
Fire-cracked rock	31339	Oyster shell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	649	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	17021	Uncommon Obj.	457
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	copper bead

Prehistoric Features

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

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	slate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Hearths include Features 2, 5, 9, 17, 31, 36, 111, & 112; Middens include Strata A, B, and C of Feat. 11; Postmolds include the base of Feat. 19

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	1622	Activity item(s)	76
Glass (all)	2920	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	3461	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	3	Misc. kitchen	43
Arms	26	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	15	Misc.	17216
Personal items	8	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 type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: 690 +/- 40 years BP Reliability	Sample 2: 690 +/- 60 years BP Reliability	Sample 3: 640 +/- 60 years BP Reliability
B-273057: charcoal from base of hearth (feat. 5), assoc. w/ Townsend sherds, triangular pts., lithics, fcr, and faunal remains <input type="checkbox"/> High	B-260443: charcoal from hearth (feat. 9), assoc. w/ shell and gravel-tempered sherds, lithics, fcr, and faunal remains <input type="checkbox"/> High	B-260444: charcoal from Stratum A of Feature 11, a large midden deposit <input type="checkbox"/> 60
Sample 4: 760 +/- 40 years BP Reliability	Sample 5: 750 +/- 50 years BP Reliability	Sample 6: 2050 +/- 40 years BP Reliability
B-273058: charcoal from Stratum B of Feature 11, a large midden deposit, assoc. w/ a Hopewell pt., "Sperling disks", & dense bone concentrations <input type="checkbox"/> High	B-273059: charcoal from Stratum C of Feature 11, a large midden deposit, assoc. w/ copper bead, canine tooth pendant, "Sperling disks", bone, & other <input type="checkbox"/> High	B-273060: charcoal from postmold at base of feat. 19, a hearth, assoc. w/ 1 Calvert pt., Accokeek & Popes Cr. sherds, fcr, bone, fish scales, & shell <input type="checkbox"/> High
Sample 7: 2300 +/- 40 years BP Reliability	Sample 8: 190 +/- 60 years BP Reliability	Sample 9: 1440 +/- 40 years BP Reliability
B-273061: charcoal from base of large <input type="checkbox"/> High	B-260071: charcoal from hearth (feat. <input type="checkbox"/> Mod	B-261482: charcoal from hearth (feat. <input type="checkbox"/> High



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hearth (feat. 31), assoc. w/ 1
Piscatway, 1 triangle pt., uniface
debitage, fcr, Popes Creek &
Accokeek sherds

2), assoc. w/ 1 Yeocomico sherd, 3
other shell-tempered sherds, 11 mica
flakes,debitage, 1 piece of bird shot

17), assoc. w/ 1 utilized flake,
debitage and fcr

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning, MAC, MD

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Pig Point site (also known as Leon or 18AN50) is a multi-component prehistoric base camp and village in western Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a large bluff and some low terraces and fields on the eastern bank of the Patuxent River overlooking the freshwater marsh north of Jug Bay. The site has produced in situ artifacts dating from the Early Archaic through to the Late Woodland periods of prehistory. A substantial Early and Middle Woodland deposit is present. In addition, a late 17th century to modern European/American occupation of the area has also left its mark on the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is freshwater, but tidal wetlands. The site itself is on a series of privately owned parcels, but most of the surrounding landscape is owned and managed by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks as wetland and nature preserves. Soils at the site are primarily Downer and Hammonton loamy sands and sandy loams.

The site was first identified in the 1940s by Richard Stearns, an archeologist with the Natural History Society of Maryland. He characterized the site as consisting of two small shell middens (roughly 9 m in diameter) and a scatter of artifacts in the fields near the river. Stearns collected approximately 100 quartz and shell-tempered sherds (cord-marked, fabric-impressed, and undecorated), 85 stemmed points, 4 triangular points, 1 stone celt, 2 grooved axes, and a wide-grooved adze.

Howard MacCord, a local collector and eventually Virginia's State Archeologist, is also known to have worked at the site. His collection from 18AN50 was donated to the Maryland Historical Society. The collection includes 21 projectile points, 4 other bifaces, 2 ceramic sherds, and 2 pipe stem fragments. The pipe stem fragments have not been included in the tables above because it is not clear whether the "pipe stems" are prehistoric or historic (and there is a historic occupation at the site).

In addition to Stearns and MacCord, other local collectors are known to have worked at the site over the years, but their activities are poorly documented or largely unknown. It is thought that most of the 20th century collecting activities were centered either in the low-lying fields or low terraces at the northern end of the site, which were either plowed fields or gardens for much of the 20th century. The high bluff portion of the site was probably not plowed as it is situated in the yard areas of some of the local residences. This probably helped to preserve this portion of the site. The site was first recorded in the Maryland State Site Files in 1969.

Anne Arundel County Archeologists conducted a non-systematic surface collection of the low-lying fields in the northern portion of the site in June of 1991. This portion of the site, produced 1 Selby Bay side-notched point, 2 quartz cores, 4 quartz flakes, 1 chert flake, 1 quartzite flake, 2 quartz pebbles, 1 piece of fire-cracked rock, 58 Accokeek sherds, 12 Pope's Creek sherds, 23 Mockley sherds, 8 Rappahannock sherds, and 1 quartz-tempered net-impressed sherd. Oyster shell was also observed on the surface of the plowed field, but was not collected. The Anne Arundel County Archeologists interpreted the site to be a shell midden and village measuring 30.5 X 15.2 m (100 X 50 ft) in extent with a substantial Middle Woodland component.

During the 1991 survey, historic materials associated with the colonial and Federal period occupation of the site were also recovered. Historically, the Pig Point area was first settled in the 17th century and was called "Wrighton". The extent to which any development occurred in the 17th century is not well-known. However, in the early 18th century a 50 acre town and ferry known as Bristol or Bristol Landing were established at Pig Point and lots were subdivided and sold. Most of the lots were not purchased and developed until much later in the 18th century, but the public ferry and an inn were established there by 1710. Much of the later development of Pig Point was likely driven by the establishment of a tobacco inspection warehouse and wharf at the site by the General Assembly in 1747-1748. General stores and other development followed. The commercial character of the Pig Point area would remain until the latter part of the 19th century, when the businesses moved away and the area took on a more rural/residential character. Several residences are situated at the site (and in the general area) today.

In 2009, a multi-year study was begun to examine the Middle Woodland time period of prehistory. The Lost Towns Project, based out of Anne Arundel County, was awarded a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to further examine the period with a focus on Anne Arundel County and Central Maryland. All of the known 169 previously recorded Middle Woodland sites in the county were re-visited and their potential to yield additional information was assessed. Literature review was also conducted as a means of background research.

Lost Towns archeologists visited 18AN50 in February 2009 and met with the property owner whose holdings encompassed the largest portion of the site. As a long-time resident of the parcel and an avocational archeology enthusiast, he was able to provide explicit information on where he had encountered and collected concentrations of artifacts on the property. The property owner shared his collection, provided general provenience for much of the assemblage, and was able to provide confirmation that the field to the north of his residence was likely the one where artifacts were collected from the surface from the mid to late 20th century. This field was not owned by the individual but by a neighbor who also owned land to the east.

The property owner insisted that the highest density of prehistoric artifacts on his own property was to be found on the bluff that is situated just to the east of his house, in the yard of a tenant property that he owned. He recalled encountering a layer of dark soil in this vicinity when installing a drainage pipe through this area years before. This bluff provides a spectacular view of the marsh surrounding Pig Point. Portions of the bluff have been altered by both natural processes and historic activities, but the western portion appeared relatively un-altered.

During the February 2009 Middle Woodland site visit, four STPs were excavated across the property. The visit was timed to coincide with the construction of a two storey addition to a small cabin (also owned by the same individual). Two shovel tests were excavated in the footprint of the proposed addition, but only modern materials were recovered (including wire nails, coal, and modern bottle glass). The cabin is believed to be built on fill soils dredged from the Patuxent in the late 19th century. The other two shovel tests were placed on the bluff, near the tenant structure previously mentioned. One proved to be sterile, exposing what appeared to be historic fill. The other STP, roughly 26 meters east of the tenant house, also encountered layers of historic fill (containing 18th, 19th, and 20th century artifacts), but exposed the black organic layer containing prehistoric materials described by the property owner as well. Within the black layer a sherd of Mockley and a Piscataway point were recovered.

The bluff to the north of the tenant house was not examined in February of 2009, although the property owner stated that he had recovered a number of colonial and historic artifacts from this area. The property is owned by his extended family.

The property owner's private collection of prehistoric artifacts and the intact stratigraphy encountered in the STP by the tenant house convinced the Lost



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Towns archeologists that 18AN50 possessed excellent research potential. The site appeared to retain integrity, and the property owner's collection suggested diverse periods of occupation from the early Archaic to the Late Woodland. The collection contained bifurcate points, Bare Island points, Brewertons, lots of Calvert points, Perkiomen points, Piscataway points, Selby Bay, Jack's Reef points, Rossville, Levanna points and Madisons, Accokeek pottery, Pope's Creek, and some Mockley. A broken platform pipe or gorget was also part of the collection. In addition 18th century trade pipes, 19th century molded pipes, English Brown pottery and an oyster button were a part of the collection. Since accurate tallies are not available for the artifacts in this private collection, they are not included in the tallies in the tables above.

Based on these findings, Lost Towns researchers returned to the site in April of 2009 and undertook intensive excavations there from April through December of that year. A total of 13 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated across the southern bluff (in the vicinity of the tenant house) along with twenty-seven 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) test units. A total of four STPs were placed to the east of the tenant house and 9 were placed to the north or west. STPs were generally situated 6.1 meters (20 ft) apart, with some variation due to field conditions. Productive STPs helped to identify locations for the establishment of formal test units or test unit blocks. One unit was situated just to the north of the tenant house where one of the thirteen STPs produced a number of artifacts. The other test units were situated in two blocks of adjoining test units. Twenty-two units were situated in the northeast yard of the tenant house at the top of the bluff. This area was referred to as the "Upper Block". The remaining four test units were situated in a block referred to as the "Lower Block". These units were located at a slightly lower elevation on the southern edge of the bluff, to the southeast of the tenant house.

In the excavated units, key data on features and soil layers were documented on standardized forms and in graph paper notebooks. All significant layer and feature transitions were photographed using digital cameras. Initially, all soils were screened through hardware mesh. This continued to be the case in the Upper Block, however, as features began to be found in great abundance on the Lower Block, methodology shifted to a 3:1 ratio of water-screening to floating of all Lower Block soils and all feature soils across 18AN50.

The water-screening was done on-site with a garden hose through window screen. The soils were left to air dry in the field, after which time they were packaged and labeled with provenience information and brought back to the lab for processing. Once totally dried in the lab, the soils were separated through a series of nesting screens with sizes of mesh 5, mesh 10, and mesh 35. The mesh 5 materials were sorted and added to the rest of the materials from that provenience for standard processing. Due to time constraints, much of the mesh 10 and mesh 35 soils were not examined. Rather, they were bagged and retained for future analysis.

A small soil flotation station was established on-site for immediate processing as staffing allowed, while a second larger flotation station was set up back at the Lost Towns lab to accommodate the large amount of soil to be processed. Samples recovered by flotation were screened through mesh 35 and then sorted using a microscope.

Nearly all of the soils from the Lower Block were 3:1 water screened and floated, as many of the horizons were actually intact prehistoric living surfaces. Once these living surfaces were no longer encountered, methodology reverted to simple screening through hardware mesh. In the upper block, all of the soils were screened through hardware mesh, with the exception of feature fill. Soil samples were also retained from several larger features and charcoal samples from 44 discrete contexts and intact features were collected and placed in aluminum foil.

At the close of the 2009 season, 51 features were identified and excavated. A total of 292 individual proveniences (or lots) were documented, 82 flotation samples were processed and retained, and 85,184 artifacts were recovered and processed and curated at the Anne Arundel County Archeology Lab at Historic London Town in Edgewater, Maryland. An overview of the artifacts encountered at Pig Point is included below (and in the tables above) included with the tally of artifacts recovered in 2010.

The defining element of the significantly larger Upper Block was the predominance of overlapping, stratified prehistoric postholes, many arranged in recognizable house patterns. Over 1,000 posthole stains were identified, mostly in Strata 4 through 9. Several of these postholes still retained vertical potsherds that were used as "shims", or supports for the ancient wooden posts. Once archeologists firmly established the presence of the overlapping postholes in this area, the goal of the Upper Block dig was to follow the patterns and try to find whole house footprints. Several of these house footprints, or "wigwams", were identified throughout the different strata. They are, on average, roughly 3.7 X 4.9 meters (12 X 16 ft) in extent. Several features associated with these prehistoric wigwams were also found and excavated, including hearths and pits.

Nearly all of these units were excavated through natural strata (generally Strata 1-6 or 7) Four units in the Upper Block were excavated through several more arbitrary levels, each of approximately 12.2 cm (.4 ft) and referred to as Strata 7 or 8 through 14). Few cultural materials were recovered deeper than Stratum 11. As the posthole and ceramic distributions indicate, it appears as if the heaviest use of this area occurred in the Late and Middle Woodland periods.

Soils in the Upper Block were very sandy, and less than 25% of the 2009 site assemblage came from this area. There are likely two main reasons for this. First, the acidic nature of the sandy soil and the easy movement of water through the column did not provide for good preservation, especially of delicate faunal materials. Second, all excavated soils (with the exception of features) were screened through hardware mesh, allowing very small items to fall through. With the exception of minor bioturbation, the stratigraphy appears intact as evidenced by a series of radiocarbon dates and hundreds of diagnostic artifacts.

Despite relatively poor preservation, one of the most striking finds from 2009 was found in Stratum 4 of one of the Upper Block units. An ornately decorated, shell-tempered vessel was found broken in situ in the greater soil horizon and not within feature contexts. This vessel (likely Rappahannock incised) had decoration running from the rim to the base and likely dates to the Middle or Late Woodland time period.

There were a total of 19 numbered features encountered in the Upper Block, with two exceptions, none of these are posts. The 1,066 small posts were mapped and excavated along with the rest of the strata in which they occurred and were not given feature numbers. Of the numbered features, eight were historic while the rest were prehistoric hearths (7), pits with little evidence of burning (2), or large structural posts (2).

Three radiocarbon dates were obtained from the upper block feature excavations in 2009.

Feature 2, a hearth, first appeared as an amorphous dark stain in Stratum 4. It ultimately was found to contain two soil layers. A shallow pit called Feature 3 was located just to the east of Feature 2, and while it produced no artifacts, they may be related. Several large chunks of charcoal were recovered from the upper soil layer in Feature 2. Other artifacts from the feature included 4 shell-tempered sherds, 11 mica flakes, and 14 pieces of quartz, quartzite, and rhyolite debitage. A single lead bird shot may suggest historic contamination or bioturbation in this once intact pit. Five small post stains were noted around the base



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of the hearth. The charcoal collected from the upper level of the hearth was radiocarbon dated and produced an uncalibrated date of 190±60 years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1530-1953. This date could bolster the idea that the feature was disturbed, or (given the presence of the shell-tempered sherds) it could date to the proto-historic era.

Feature 36 was also a hearth. It was vaguely circular, measured about 61 cm (2 ft) in diameter and extended as deep as 30 cm (1 ft). Only one stratum of dark brown sand was encountered. Few artifacts were recovered from the hearth (including one possible Popes Creek sherd, 24 fire-cracked rocks, and 21 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage), but a cigarette filter recovered from a mole tunnel is slightly suspect. A cluster of fire-cracked rock (possibly a "kick-out" of the hearth) was found along the eastern edge of the hearth. Regardless, charcoal from this feature produced an uncalibrated date of 1720±40 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 237-412.

Feature 17 was a shallow, round-bottomed hearth. It was very charcoal rich and contained 1 utilized flake, debitage and fire-cracked rock. A sample of the charcoal produced an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 1440±40 years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 553-658. This date lends substantial credibility to the accuracy of the date for Feature 36. Feature 36 was encountered in Stratum 5 of Test Unit 6. Feature 17 was encountered in Stratum 4 (the layer above) on the margins of Test Units 6 and 9.

The defining element of the smaller Lower Block was a thick, dark, rich, organic midden that spanned the entire 9.3 m2 block. This midden represents a cooking and working area that was occupied and reoccupied over thousands of years. Several radiocarbon dates and thousands of diagnostic potsherds and projectile points demonstrated intact stratigraphy through the entire Woodland period. The midden was referred to as a single feature (Feature 11) for consistency, but dozens of individual features were found within the midden, including trash pits, hearths, firespots, and pot seats.

Preservation within the midden was outstanding, and tens of thousands of faunal remains, several scraps of clay with fingerprints, and 24 mysterious soil disks were recovered. These disks (referred to by the crew as "Sperling Disks") were nothing more than small circular or oval objects of compressed soil. They were thought to possibly be the result of drip marks left in the soil during the Late Woodland period. Over 75% of the 2009 artifact assemblage was recovered from the Lower Block, due to the high degree of preservation and the fact that nearly the entire block was a feature. Thus, all soils were water-screened through window mesh and large samples were floated.

The impressive assemblage recovered from the 2009 Lower Block included dozens of bone tools, intact clay pots, thousands of sherds of unusually decorated pottery, and adornments such as a copper bead, drilled canine teeth, marginella shell beads, and decorated gorgets. One of the most interesting discoveries was the presence of triangular points in strata thought to be of Late Archaic age. These triangles were found along with Piscataway points and unusual, tiny, uniaxially worked quartz disks with an unknown function. Triangular points are generally considered to be a Late Woodland occurrence in Maryland, yet some of these appear in clearly pre-ceramic contexts. However, researchers (primarily in New England, New York, and New Jersey) have reported the recovery of triangular points in Archaic contexts. The stratified nature of the Lower Block enabled this remarkable discovery though similar findings were not seen in the Upper Block.

Heavy activity was noted in the Archaic horizons of the Lower Block. A steep spike in the amount of quartz and quartzite debitage in the deep Archaic horizons (Strata I and J) demonstrates increased use of this portion of the site during that time period. Correspondingly, a steep increase in the amount of quartz and quartzite tools was noted in these levels.

Lower block features can be roughly divided into four types: the midden deposit (Feature 11), distinct hearth-like features (at least 19 exhibiting evidence for heat application), pits lacking evidence for heat (6, but some may be pot seats), and stains that may represent structural features (10). In addition, the 24 Sperling disks could be considered features and a root stain and historic intrusion were also encountered.

Seven radiocarbon dates were obtained from the lower block feature excavations in 2009.

Feature 5 was a hearth. This fire pit had sloping sides with several pieces of fire-cracked rock on the edges. The lowest portion of the hearth fill (which was ultimately determined to contain 4 strata, but was excavated in 3 strata) consisted of a dense clam shell and bone lense with charcoal underlying it. This charcoal was sampled and produced a C-14 date of 690±40 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) between AD 1258-AD 1393. It should be noted that a halo of artifacts was encountered in the unit around the feature, from the stratum that was just above the level that was radiocarbon sampled. These artifacts included nearly 200 pot sherds (mostly shell-tempered Townsend wares), 2 projectile points (1 triangle), 11 other stone tools, 53 flakes, 118 fire-cracked rocks, 623 pieces of animal bone and teeth, and 15 clam and oyster shell fragments. This likely represents a single "basket dump" of discarded clam shell, bones, and broken incised Townsend pottery.

Feature 9 was a small, very well-defined ovoid hearth. The fill soils were very charcoal-rich and also contained 3 shell-tempered sherds, 2 gravel-tempered sherds, nine sherds with an unidentified tempering agent, a few burned animal bones and shell, lithics, and fire-cracked rock. Charcoal from the feature fill produced a radiocarbon date of 690±60 years before present. When calibrated this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1224-AD 1399. The feature was encountered within the same stratum of the larger midden deposit (Feature 11) that the Feature 5 hearth was first exposed in.

The Feature 11 midden deposits produced three radiocarbon dates from three successive strata (Stratum A, Stratum B, and Stratum C). Feature 11, Stratum A was 3.96 cm (.13 ft) thick and was interpreted to be a Late Woodland cooking and working area littered with artifacts, charcoal, and several hearths/pits. Charcoal from the midden produced a date of 640±60 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of AD 1272-AD 1413. Feature 11, Stratum B was 14.94 cm (.49 ft) thick and was interpreted to be another Late Woodland cooking and working area with charcoal and several hearths/pits present. A chalcedony Hopewell point, several Sperling disks, and dense bone concentrations were also encountered. Charcoal from the stratum produced a C-14 date of 760±40 radiocarbon years before present. This corresponds to a 2 sigma calibrated date range of AD 1189-AD 1294. Feature 11, Stratum C was 10.36 cm (.34 ft) thick and was interpreted to be a Late or Middle Woodland living surface with several features and charcoal rich areas noted. Sperling disks, chunks of fingerprinted clay, a copper bead, and a canine tooth pendant were recovered from the stratum. Charcoal from Stratum C produced a radiocarbon date of 750±50 dates before present (or a calendrical date range of AD 1177-AD 1384 when calibrated).

Feature 19 was the deepest feature encountered in the lower block excavations (terminating around 1.83 m below ground surface). It was first encountered while excavating Stratum B in the midden area (Feature 11), when hundreds of fish bones and scales and numerous pot sherds were recovered around a tree root. It was ultimately discovered that Feature 19 represented 2 distinctive time periods of use: a Late Selby Bay-phase hearth that had been burned in the same spot as a Popes Creek phase post hole and cooking hearth. The upper portion of the feature contained dense charcoal, 152 pieces of fire-cracked rock,



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Prehistoric

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Historic

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Unknown

several sherds of Mockley and Pope's Creek, and over 1,500 bones (including 1 raccoon baculum), scales, and shells. The lower portion of the feature produced 2 quartz points (1 possible Calvert), several Accokeek and Popes Creek sherds, fire-cracked rock, charcoal, and nearly 200 bones, scales, and shell fragments. A large post mold stain was noted inside the lower portion of Feature 19. This circular stain measured about 30.5 cm (1 ft) and produced charcoal with a radiocarbon age of 2050±40 years before present. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date range (2 sigma) of 173 BC-AD 49.

Feature 31 was another large hearth. It contained nearly 1,500 artifacts including 837 fire-cracked rock fragments, nearly 250 pieces of varied debitage (including flakes, cores, and shatter), Popes Creek and Accokeek sherds, a quartz Piscatway point, a quartz triangle (Late Archaic), and 1 unifacially worked quartz tool. A relative lack of faunal materials suggests that the hearth was not used for cooking. A strange micaceous sand-tempered sherd with a crenelated rim and an upside-down "V" shaped decoration was also found in the fire pit. It cannot be assigned to any known ceramic type in the region. Charcoal recovered from near the bottom of the feature produced an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 2300±40 years before present. This corresponds to a calibrated calendrical date range of 412 BC to AD 207 (2 sigma).

At this stage, the Pig Point site was interpreted to be a large base camp or village occupied from at least the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland (although the site was likely occupied as early as the Early Archaic). While the area was collected for much of the 20th century, the 2009 Lost Towns Project excavations represented the first organized dig ever conducted on the site. The 9 month effort at Pig Point revealed a dizzying array of prehistoric features, artifacts, and information. Several shovel tests and 2 excavation blocks, referred to as the upper and lower block, encompassed twenty-three 1.52 X 1.52 m (5 X 5 ft) units and produced over 85,000 artifacts. These are included in the tally below and in the tables above along with the artifacts recovered during subsequent research at 18AN50.

The larger upper block revealed a series of overlapping post hole patterns from the Archaic through the Woodland periods. Over 1,000 posts were identified and several complete structural patterns were revealed. Three radiocarbon dates from intact pit features and a large collection of pottery proved that the upper block possessed intact stratigraphy.

The smaller lower block was an area of cooking and working during at least the Woodland period. However, several pre-ceramic Archaic period horizons were encountered below a thick, black Woodland period midden. This stratified midden possessed an incredible degree of preservation. Over 23 distinct features were identified in this .93 square meter (10 square ft) area, including several hearths and fire spots, refuse pits, and likely pot seats, or areas where large conical-shaped vessels were once supported by the sandy soils.

Based on these findings, Lost Towns researchers returned to 18AN50 in 2010. An additional thirty-four 1.52 m (5 ft) square units were fully or partially excavated during the 2010 field season. The 2010 site grid was a continuation of the 2009 grid. The incomplete units were to be completely excavated during a planned 2011 field season. Thirty of the units were dug on top of the bluff, in the core of the site, while four were dug at the southern edge of the low field adjacent to the Patuxent River. The 30 upper units were dug in order to better understand the 2009 field results, and most of them were excavated adjacent to the original upper and lower blocks. Excavation methods were largely the same as those followed during the 2009 season. However, heavy equipment was used to remove upper layers of fill before continuing excavation by hand in the prehistoric deposits. The property owner, a skilled heavy machinery operator, removed the fill soils under the observation of Lost Towns crews.

Intact stratigraphy was encountered in all of the 2010 test units. The known dimensions of the lower block's Woodland midden were found to extent at least 12.2 m (40 ft) east-west by 4.6 m (15 ft) north-south. Similar and complimentary patterns of stratified artifacts were identified in 2010. In addition, two intact Middle Archaic hearths (Features 111 and 112) were found next to each other and about 45.7 cm (1.5 ft) under the midden. Charcoal and hickory nuts were recovered from these hearths and submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Feature 111 was basin-shaped and roughly 24.4 cm (0.8 ft) deep. It yielded a rhyolite Kirk or Guilford point, hundreds of flakes and debitage fragments, gabbro, ochre, fire-cracked rock, seeds, hickory nuts, fish scales, and calcined bones. A sample of charred hickory nut from the pit was submitted for analysis and produced an uncalibrated date of 7330±50 radiocarbon years before present. A piece of wood charcoal from the hearth produced a radiocarbon date of 7290±50 years before present. When calibrated, these results correspond to calendrical date ranges (2 sigma) of 6354-6065 BC and 6240-6050 BC respectively.

Feature 112 was more conical in shape and extended to roughly 30.5 cm (1 ft) in depth. It produced no diagnostic materials, but did yield fire-cracked rock, debitage, and faunal remains. Wood charcoal from the hearth produced a radiocarbon date of 7320±40 years before present. This corresponds to a calendrical date range of 6247-6069 BC (2 sigma).

These three dates from the 2 features are remarkably close to one another, suggesting that the hearths were used about 8,000 years ago. A sharp spike in the amount of debitage, points, and tools in this and other Middle Archaic horizons at the site points to heavy occupation during this time period.

The habitation area noted in the 2009 upper block excavations (marked by several strata of overlapping post holes) continued eastward along the bluff and was determined to be about 9.1 m (30 ft) east-west by 12.2 m (40 ft) north-south. An area of refuse disposal was encountered further to the east, with Middle Woodland period pot breaks and pot boiler dumps. More pot boilers and hearths were encountered in the Late Archaic horizons here, and several Middle Archaic and Early Archaic artifacts were also encountered in stratigraphic context.

No information is currently available on the excavations conducted in the four units in the low field.

After two seasons at Pig Point, 139 features were identified and 62 test units were fully or partially excavated. Over 176,000 artifacts were recovered, but many remain to be processed, along with soil samples and additional materials. In addition, work has continued in other areas of Pig Point from 2010 through to 2012. These findings are not described here, as no final site report has been written. What follows is a very rough description of the artifact catalog from 18AN50 as of the spring of 2011 (prior to the 2011 field work).

The artifact assemblage from the 2009 and 2010 Pig Point (18AN50) excavations included at least 11,424 historic artifacts and 76,859 prehistoric artifacts. An additional 55,521 artifacts in the catalog are likely prehistoric (mostly faunal and floral remains), but that cannot be determined with 100% certainty without cross-checking contextual information. The faunal objects have been cataloged as prehistoric objects in the tables above, but the other materials are included as miscellaneous objects under the "historic" sub-section.



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The historic assemblage from 18AN50 consisted of 76 activity items, 3,461 architectural artifacts, 15 clothing items, 3 furniture items (tacks), 2,906 kitchen-related artifacts, 8 personal items (5 coins, 1 piece of costume jewelry, a watch part, and a glass bead), 218 tobacco-related artifacts, 26 arms objects, and 4,711 miscellaneous objects. The 76 activity items were a copper rod, a hook, a horseshoe, 2 iron tools, 2 pieces of lamp glass, 2 lead fishing weights, 35 pieces of non-electrical wire, and 31 pencil parts. The architectural assemblage consisted of an asphalt shingle fragment, 732 pieces of windo

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000366, 00000580, 95001190, GISTool, 95001515, Site Files