



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN51

Site Name: Midway Branch

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code EuC

Latitude 39.0960 Longitude -76.7343

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site  Underwater site

Elevation 30 m Site slope 0-5%

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

### Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

### Ownership

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

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Midway Branch, Franklin Br

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

Minimum distance to water is 0 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1900 - 1930
- Post 1930

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

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

### Historic

Urban/Rural?

### Domestic

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

### Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

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"/>	
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	47	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
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"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<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	890	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	13	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	94	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	1	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	5
		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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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Midway Branch (18AN51) appears to have been a campsite repeatedly used from the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transitional period and into the Middle and Late Woodland Periods on the Fort George G. Meade property in western Anne Arundel County. The site is situated between the confluence of Midway and Franklin Branches, tributaries of the Little Patuxent River. The area is slightly raised above the floodplain, but is also quite flat and open. Site 18AN51 is within the Evesboro-Urban land complex, which is described as being disturbed land with soils being rearranged due to community development. The surrounding landscape ranges from suburban to semi-rural land use.

The site was first recorded in 1970, when a University of Maryland survey crew collected several artifacts from the site. However, no report or catalog of the artifacts was ever made.

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

The survey was conducted along both sides of Midway Branch to determine the location and vertical integrity of 18AN51. The survey involved the excavation of one row of STPs on the west side, beginning approximately 20 meters from the water course, and three rows of STPs on the west side, beginning approximately 20 meters from the stream as well. Only one prehistoric flake and a few historic artifacts were recovered.

Based on the 1993 Phase I findings, it was suggested that 18AN51 was entirely disturbed or no longer extant. MHT did not concur with this finding and suggested that the site might actually be located north of the area tested in 1993. Thus, when a combined Phase I/II project was carried out on Fort Meade in 2003, determining if the Midway Branch site was in fact missed in 1993 became a major goal of the study.

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

At 18AN51, the 2003 study began with an expanded Phase I survey of the area northwest of the 1993 study area in order to attempt to re-identify the site. In total, 128 STPs were excavated at 15 meter intervals within this area. Each STP was approximately 40 cm in diameter and was excavated in stratigraphic layers to a depth of 10 cm into subsoil, or culturally sterile horizon. Soils from the excavated tests were screened through hardware cloth in order to assure uniform recovery of cultural materials. Detailed notes on soils, depth of each STP, artifact recovery, and profile data were recorded on standardized forms.

As a result of the 2003 expanded Phase I survey, three areas containing prehistoric artifacts, as well as several areas of significant disturbance, were identified. The three prehistoric loci were labeled A, B, and C and covered approximately 9,900 square meters. Areas of ground disturbance observed during the survey resulted from construction and demolition of barracks and a nearby parking lot, installation of a sewer line across the center of the project area, and installation of a bridge on the southern end of the project area. Based on these findings, the decision was made to proceed directly to a Phase II level of testing.

Phase II evaluation of 18AN51 included the excavation of seventeen 1 X 1 meter square test units, divided between the three prehistoric loci based on artifact densities and disturbances. Test units were also excavated stratigraphically to culturally sterile soils and soils were screened through hardware cloth. Again, appropriate data was recorded on standardized forms. Drawings and photographs were taken of the soil profiles. Photographs were also taken to document field conditions.

Locus A was located near the southern end of the parcel. Five STPs in this area yielded prehistoric artifacts, including 9 pieces of debitage and two projectile point fragments. Despite the presence of artifacts, soil profiles observed in the STPs suggest that Locus A was significantly disturbed, potentially diminishing the significance of the artifact finds. Two test units were placed in this area in order to determine if an intact artifact-bearing stratum was present. The soil profiles of the test units confirmed that Locus A was disturbed. One test unit (the northernmost) included four strata overlying subsoil. The first three strata appeared to be fill and contained a variety of modern materials. Stratum IV appeared to be an intact B horizon, and contained one quartz flake. Stratum V was the C horizon. The other test unit in Locus A consisted of an O and A horizon overlying a sterile B horizon. In total, 17 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from Locus A.

Locus B is located 40 meters northwest of Locus A, close to the bank of the Midway Branch. Six STPs in this area yielded prehistoric artifacts, including 7 pieces of debitage and one possibly tested cobble. Four test units were placed in Locus B. The soil profiles of the test units included four strata overlying subsoil: two dark O horizons, a loamy sand AB horizon, and a sandy AB horizon atop sterile subsoil (B horizon) containing gravel. Three of the 4 test units yielded prehistoric artifacts, mostly from the A horizon (Stratum III) along with a mix of modern materials. A limited number of prehistoric artifacts were found in the first 10 cm of the AB horizon. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from locus B include 5 prehistoric sherds that resemble Albemarle ceramics. Locus B appears to be a low density scatter of prehistoric artifacts dating to the Late Woodland Period.

Locus C is located on the northern end of the project area, approximately 100 meters from Locus B. Five STPs within Locus C contained prehistoric artifacts with two adjacent shovel tests producing a notable concentration. Because a relatively high density of artifacts was found in STPs in Locus C and because the area appeared to have the least prior disturbance, test unit excavation focused on this area. Eleven 1 X 1 m square test units were dispersed across Locus C. Soil profiles observed in the test units were consistent, with the exception of one test unit which had been disturbed by the installation of a buried pipe. The typical soil profile included three strata overlying sterile subsoil: a sandy loam O horizon, a loamy sand A horizon, and a loamy sand AB horizon, atop a B horizon subsoil containing around 30% gravel. All of the test units in Locus C produced artifacts, with overall counts ranging from 11 to 263 artifacts per test



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unit. Artifacts included 89 prehistoric ceramic sherds, 9 lithic tools, 793 lithic debitage fragments, and 10 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Diagnostic artifacts date from the Late Archaic to the Late Woodland Periods.

While fire-cracked rock (suggestive of hearths) was recovered, no prehistoric cultural features were encountered during the 2003 project at 18AN51.

Analysis of the site's vertical integrity was undertaken in an effort to determine whether there was temporal stratification, or whether discrete occupations would be identified. Artifacts were recovered from all soil horizon contexts, however, the majority of the artifacts were located in the transitional AB soil horizon. It is apparent that there has been some disturbance and artifact movement from recent activities that occurred at the site. In one case, a single Late Archaic/Early Woodland projectile point was recovered from Stratum II, with Late Woodland ceramics recovered from strata below the point. Thus, it appears that the temporal components on the site are mixed, and that there is no apparent vertical stratification of the archeological deposits.

In total, 996 prehistoric artifacts were recovered during the Phase I/II evaluation of 18AN51. Artifacts included 4 projectile points, 8 bifaces, 1 core, 1 worked cobble, 849 flakes, 26 pieces of shatter, 13 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 94 ceramic sherds. The prehistoric inhabitants of 18AN51 showed a preference for quartz raw material in manufacturing their tools. Quartz is available locally in pebble and cobble form from the ground and stream beds. Other lithic raw materials, in decreasing order of importance were rhyolite, quartzite, chert, and jasper. Diagnostic projectile points include a possible Piscataway point and a Madison point. Two other points were forms typical of the Late Archaic and Early Woodland transition period, but could not be assigned to a specific named artifact type. The ceramic assemblage consisted of 5 Albemarle sherds (1 rim), 47 Rappahannock sherds, 19 unidentified shell-tempered sherds, and 23 untypeable sherds.

Site 18AN51 contains three discrete loci that contain Late Archaic through Late Woodland occupations. The different loci appear to have been used differently throughout the site's occupation. The location of site 18AN51 at the confluence of Midway and Franklin Branches would have been attractive to prehistoric inhabitants of the region. No cultural features were identified for any of the three loci during the Phase II evaluation of the site, however, a large amount of debris and tools were recovered, in addition to prehistoric ceramics.

Locus A appears to have functions as a small Late Archaic/Early Woodland short-term camp. Locus B appears to have functioned as a short-term camp and possibly dates to the Late Woodland Period. The lack of diagnostic artifacts, other than five ceramic sherds that resemble Albemarle ware, precludes determination of the temporal component of this locus.

Locus C appears to have been the main occupation area of the site, and contains Late Archaic, Late Woodland, and possible late Middle Woodland components. Unfortunately, due to the lack of vertical integrity, it is not possible to determine which artifacts belong to the three temporal components, or to determine activity areas. It is clear, however, that Locus C was occupied more intensely, or for a longer period, than Loci A and B. The Late Archaic component may have functioned as a base camp or a short-term camp. The Late Middle Woodland component was probably a short-term camp (but may be related to the Albemarle sherds encountered in Locus B), and the Late Woodland component is a probable base camp based on the quantity of ceramic sherds recovered.

Portions of the site have been disturbed and no cultural features were identified during the 2003 study at 18AN51. The deposits also appear to be vertically mixed. While the majority of artifacts were recovered from Locus C, determination of discrete activity areas was not possible. In conclusion, 18AN51 does not appear to have the potential to yield significant information regarding prehistoric lifeways in the Maryland Coastal Plain.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000748, 97002686