



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN665

Site Name: Curtis F. Peterson 1

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic - Early Woodland short-term resource procurement

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1086

Longitude -76.8105

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 40 m

Site slope 0

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) Little Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 61 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

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 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

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

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

Flotation samples taken

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"/>	1
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

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"/>	878
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	16
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
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 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"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
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"/>	2
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 Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18AN665 (also known as Russett Sites 5 and 15 and as Curtis F. Peterson 1) is a Late Archaic/Early Woodland short-term resource procurement site northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a high terrace above the Little Patuxent River. The river flanks the site to the east and northeast. Two sizeable seasonal streams drain the site along its southern and northwestern boundaries. Site 18AN665 encompasses a variety of ecological niches, from wooded wetlands, floodplains, and upland forests to active riverine and backwater slough areas. The varied topography throughout this location ideally locates the prehistoric occupation in proximity to an array of diverse natural resources with a range of seasonal availability. Today, the forest composition of the site is, in large part, a remarkable remnant of the upland hardwood forests native to the upper (northern) coastal plain. Soils at the site are predominantly Sassafras fine sandy loams.

The site was first identified in 1988 during the course of a Phase I reconnaissance survey of the "Russett Center" development property. The development would entail the construction of both single and multi-family residential structures and the associated roads, utility lines, public spaces, and other infrastructure to support the new development. Twenty-six archeological sites were identified in the development project area during this reconnaissance, 22 of which (including 18AN665) required additional follow-up investigations. The work was carried out pursuant to Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Regulations which require consideration for archeological and historical resources as part of the subdivision review process.

In the vicinity of 18AN665, the 1988 Phase I work entailed the excavation of 5 shovel test pits (STPs) along the steep slopes down to the Little Patuxent River. Most of these were spaced 121.92 – 182.88 meters (400 - 600 ft) apart, but there was considerable variation in spacing due to field conditions. Soil from all shovel tests was screened through hardware cloth. Field notes and profile drawings were made for each shovel test. A single positive shovel test led to the identification of what was initially referred to as Russett Site 5. This STP produced a quartz Halifax point, a rhyolite Vernon point, 19 quartz flakes, and 4 pieces of shatter. A second positive STP produced a piece of chert shatter and was referred to as Russett Site 15. Eventually these two sites were determined to be a single site, 18AN665. Phase II testing was recommended to determine if a more substantial deposit was present.

Phase II work was carried out in 1989, again, as part of the Russett Center development project. This work was conducted at 2 of the previously identified sites, which could be detrimentally impacted by the proposed construction. The purpose of Phase II testing was to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of sites, to determine the site's integrity, to interpret cultural affiliations, chronological span, and if possible site function within a local and regional framework. In order to achieve these goals, systematically placed shovel test pits and judgmentally placed test units were excavated.

Site boundaries were identified by excavating shovel test pits systematically across the site area. STPs were placed at 7.62 m (25 ft) intervals in transects spaced 15.24 m (50 ft) apart. Shovel tests were approximately 40 cm wide and 50-55 cm deep. All soils were screened using hardware cloth and appropriate data were recorded on standardized forms. A total of 233 shovel tests were excavated. Ninety of these STPs produced prehistoric artifacts, defining a site area roughly 228.6 m (750 ft) north-south and around 61 m (200 ft) east-west.

The Phase II shovel testing revealed a concentration of prehistoric materials in the northeastern portion of the site, near the edge of the Little Patuxent terrace. This area was designated Activity Area 1. A second (smaller) concentration of lithic material in the western half of the site was designated Activity Area 2. Following completion of the shovel tests, two 1 X 1 m test units were placed in Activity Area 1. Soils were excavated by natural strata as well as by 5 cm arbitrary levels within each stratum. Each unit was excavated two or three 5 cm levels into sterile subsoil and all soils were screened through hardware cloth. One wall of each unit was carefully profiled to scale and then photographed.

Artifacts recovered during the course of the Phase II excavations at 18AN665 included 6 projectile points, 10 cores, 185 flakes, and 196 pieces of shatter. Quartz was by far the most abundant lithic raw material encountered. Of the 6 projectile points/point fragments, 3 were identifiable. Diagnostic points included a Halifax, a Drybrook Fishtail, and an Orient Fishtail. Only 9 historic artifacts were identified in the upper strata of 5 shovel tests. These included fragments of bottle and window glass, unrecognizable hardware, bricks, and a shotgun shell, all dating from the late 19th to early 20th century.

Based on these findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended and was carried out in 1992. Data recovery entailed the excavation of fifteen 1 X 1m test units across the site. Ten units were excavated within Activity Area 1 (the area of highest artifact concentration) to determine the nature and density of the deposit. The five remaining units were distributed to the south of the main artifact concentration to locate additional artifact concentrations and to confirm the Phase II STP data.

In each unit, the root mat and humus layer was removed as a single level. Underlying horizons were then excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within the natural strata to maintain vertical control.

Shovel shaving and hand troweling were the only means of soil removal employed. Excavations continued until culturally sterile levels were reached. Total depth of excavation varied from 50 to 81 cm below surface. Auger corings were then taken to determine the potential for deeply buried deposits. All soils were screened through hardware cloth and appropriate data was recorded on standardized forms for each unit and excavation level. Levels containing features were drawn to scale and photographed. Features were recorded and excavated separately. Representative wall profiles were photographed and drawn from each excavation unit. At the conclusion of fieldwork, each unit was backfilled.

The excavations revealed notable evidence of plowing within the site. For example, the units in the southern portion of the site evinced clear stratigraphic boundaries suggestive of a plowzone. In one of these units, definitive plowscars were noted at a depth of 25 cm below the surface. One large diorite boulder showing plow marks was also discovered during the excavations. The majority of the artifacts from the site came from the first 25-30 cm below the surface. Hence, it appears likely that most of the artifacts were contained within a plowed deposit.

A typical soil profile from the site consists of 0-4cm thick dark brown sandy loam Ao horizon or humus underlain by a dark brown loamy sand A1 horizon at 4-10 cm. Beneath this stratum, at 10-22 cm was a yellowish-brown loamy sand Ap horizon. Below this were a yellowish brown loamy sand B1 horizon at 22-34 cm, a strong brown sandy clay B21 horizon at 34-49 cm, and a strong brown loamy micaceous sand extending to at least 75 cm. The relatively shallow depth of the plowzone and the developed A Horizon on top of it suggest that it may predate modern plowing techniques. The Ap horizon averaged approximately 22 cm deep, occasionally extending up to 26 cm. The only feature identified at the site was irregular in shape and likely the result of rodent disturbance.



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A total of 492 artifacts, including 2 projectile points, 5 other bifaces, 18 cores, 15 utilized flakes, 415 unmodified flakes, 1 anvil, 11 sanding or abrading stones, 4 smoothing or polishing stones, 3 unidentified groundstone objects, 6 fragments of fired daub, and 12 prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered during Phase III work at 18AN665. A significant amount of fire-cracked rock was also encountered, but the number of pieces is not enumerated. Quartzite was, by far, the most popular lithic raw material, with much smaller amounts of silicified sandstone, quartz, rhyolite, sandstone, and chalcedony. The diagnostic artifacts recovered in 1992 include 2 Vernon points, 6 Selden Island sherds, and 6 Accokeek or Stony Creek sherds. Three of the bifaces were submitted for blood residue analysis. One showed evidence for mouse or rat blood. A quartzite preform, which bore evidence of use on wood showed a positive reaction to rabbit blood.

Site 18AN665 appears to have primarily been an Early Woodland mixed-resource extraction site and transitory camp. Activities at the site included lithic procurement and processing, tasks associated with expedient tools, and tasks associated with curated tools.

The primary activity at the site was lithic tool manufacture, which was dominated by stream-cobble core reduction. Of the 492 artifacts recovered from 18AN665, 415 were unmodified flakes, cores, or use-modified tools. Another three were unfinished bifaces, two of which had suffered manufacturing breaks. All of the cores and flakes retaining cortex clearly had come from stream worn cobbles or pebbles. Eleven of these were bipolar.

The utilized flakes encountered in 1992 were small and had acute edge angles. The majority, 80%, were made of quartzite and another 20% were made of silicified sandstone. Patterns of wear, breakage, and edge angles on points/knives and bifaces suggest that they were used as knives and woodworking tools. High-magnification edge wear analysis indicated use of a quartzite point/knife on hide and a quartzite preform on wood. The break angles on the two point/knife fragments were consistent with pry fractures. The edge angles on the points and bifaces complement those found on utilized flakes.

The groundstone and pecked stone artifacts reflect a different suite of activities related to the processing of other local raw materials. These activities probably included the working of wood, bone, and antler, and the grinding of materials such as mast, grasses, minerals for pigments, and lithic materials for ceramic temper. Most of these tools were expedient.

Diagnostic artifacts place the occupation of 18AN665 within the Early Woodland period and possibly during the Late Archaic. Steatite-tempered and sand-tempered ceramics similar to Selden Island and Accokeek/Stony Creek types clearly indicate an Early Woodland period occupation. Projectile point types are less clear and may date from the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods. Although the vertical distribution of these materials was mixed due to historic plowing, the tight clustering of the diagnostic material within the northern occupation locus suggests that they were the result of a single occupation of the site.

These findings indicate that 18AN665 served as a transitory camp primarily during the Early Woodland period. The site's position overlooking the Little Patuxent River suggests that the occupation may have been oriented towards seasonal fish harvests. The transitory nature of the camp is indicated by the relatively limited number of artifacts recovered in each unit. The excavation of this Early Woodland site provided important data on limited activity sites and their associated base camps. Since completion of the Phase III data recovery project at 18AN665, the development of Russett Center proceeded and the site was very likely destroyed during construction. Fortunately, an adequate sample was recovered from the site to characterize it and the work conducted there in the 1980s and 1990s is well-documented. The site is no longer a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000556, 00000627, 00000729