



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN667

Site Name: Russett Peterson

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early Archaic and Woodland short-term resource procurement camp sites

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1114

Longitude -76.8174

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 46 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) Extinct Oxbow of Little Patu

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

Minimum distance to water is 61 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. 1860 - 1900
- ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930
- ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930
- ca. 1780 - 1820

### 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
  - 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

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

## 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"/> 17	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"/> 4		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		

## 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 3072	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 56	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 119	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<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 checked="" 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"/> 6
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
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.	<input type="checkbox"/> 192
		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:

Russett Peterson (also known as Sites 4, 10, 11, 12, and Site 18AN667) is the site of a series of Early Archaic and Woodland short-term resource procurement camps northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated along a north-south trending ridgetop that overlooks an extinct oxbow that has become a wetland or "oxbow lake". The eastern margin of the site is defined by a gently to steeply sloping surface, while the western margin terminates abruptly in some place with a steep slope descending rapidly to the oxbow lake. The oxbow lake drains into the Little Patuxent River just to the north of the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is wooded in oak and maple, with occasional beech and pine. Soils at the site are primarily Sassafras sandy loams and Croom gravelly clay 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 18AN667) 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 18AN667, the 1988 Phase I work entailed both surface collection and the excavation of 21 shovel test pits (STPs) along the edge of the oxbow lake. Most of these were at intervals roughly 15.24 m (50 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.

The shovel testing and surface collection led to the identification of what was initially considered 4 separate sites (Site 4, Site 10, Site 11, and Site 12), but would ultimately be determined to be a single site, 18AN667. Surface finds included 1 Levanna point, 8 cores, 1 scraper, 24 flakes, 13 pieces of shatter, 2 hammerstones, 1 other lithic, 1 piece of ground stone, 5 heated/fire-cracked rocks, and a single unidentified ceramic sherd. Eleven STPs produced prehistoric artifacts, including 1 biface, 2 scrapers, 7 cores, 1 utilized flake, 57 flakes, 25 pieces of shatter, 2 pieces of heated/fire-cracked rock, 3 Accokeek sherds, 7 Potomac Creek sherds, and 32 unidentified sherds. 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 a grid pattern. 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 525 shovel tests were excavated. Three-hundred and twenty-seven of these were positive, defining a site area roughly 914.4 m (3,000 ft) north-south and 76.2 m (250 ft) east-west.

Following completion of the shovel tests, 1 meter by 1 meter test units were placed judgmentally near those STP which yielded diagnostic artifacts or high concentrations of artifacts. Eight test units were ultimately placed on the western margin of the site on ridgetops overlooking the oxbow lake. One of the units had to be expanded to 1 m X 1.5 m in size. 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.

Six activity areas were defined within 18AN667. Activities areas exhibited 1) high concentrations of lithic debitage, 2) diagnostic artifacts of a specific time period, such as projectile points and prehistoric ceramics, 3) non-local lithic materials, 4) evidence of specific lithic manufacturing techniques, and 5) artifacts exhibiting use-wear. It was evident that there were clusters of diagnostic artifacts separated by relatively light scatters or a complete absence of lithic debitage. These were labeled Activity Areas A-F from north to south.

No cultural features were encountered at the site.

Over 3,000 lithic artifacts were recovered during the Phase II excavations at 18AN667, including 1 Clarksville point, 2 Levanna points, 3 unidentified point fragments, 2 bifaces, 102 cores, 1 scraper, 6 heat-treated flakes, 3 utilized flakes, 1,824 other flakes, 988 pieces of shatter, a hammerstone, an anvil, 15 fragments of fire-cracked rock, and other unidentified lithics. A total of 76 prehistoric ceramic sherds dating to the early to Late Woodland were identified. These include 14 Accokeek sherds, 4 Moyaone sherds, and 7 Potomac Creek sherds.

Within the site, 199 historic artifacts were identified in the upper strata of several shovel tests and test units. The historic artifacts date from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. The 20th century artifacts include bottle and window glass, wire fencing, barbed wire, nails, unrecognizable iron hardware, a glass marble, and the faunal remains of rodents and cattle. Nineteenth century artifacts included several sherds of buff stoneware. Some of the artifacts may range from the 18th to early 19th century. These earlier artifacts include redware ceramics and 6 kaolin pipe bowl fragments. Aside from the glass marble and pipe bowl fragments, no enumeration of the historic artifacts is made in the body of the full site report. The table of historic artifacts above is reflective of this, counting all other artifacts simply as miscellaneous finds.

Site 18AN667 can be classified as primarily an Early to Late Woodland prehistoric site. An Early Archaic component is also present, based on the recovery of a Kanawha stemmed point. The wide range of artifacts recovered indicates that 18AN667 served as a multifunctional habitation site. It is likely that the site also functioned repeatedly as a transient camp for migratory groups procuring specific seasonal resources from this rich woodland environment. The Early Woodland occupation is represented by Accokeek ceramic sherds and is primarily evident in the northern and central activity areas of the site. Accokeek ceramic sherds were also identified during the Phase I investigation in the central portion of the site. Later Woodland components tended to be to the south.

The physiographic factors may be related to locations of diagnostic artifacts and high lithic concentrations. As the steepness of the slope from the bluff to the oxbow floodplain increases, the shoreline visibility and accessibility to the oxbow waters decreases. This landform change occurs in the southern portion of



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the site. The land slopes downward at the southernmost extent of the central area of 18AN667 for a considerable distance. At the 48.77 m (160 ft) elevation mark, where elevations begin to rise once again, gravel deposits increase. The eastern site boundary basically corresponds with a road and other more recent soil disturbances. This light scatter of artifacts continues through the gravelly drainage area until the 67 m (220 ft) elevation mark is reached. At this location, artifact concentrations increase considerably. In sum, areas at higher elevations were suitable for camping, food procurement and processing activities. Site 18AN667 exhibit maximum accessibility to water for fishing and other procurement activities, but would remain "high and dry".

Site 18AN667 appears to be a multicomponent prehistoric site, with occupations dating to the Early Archaic and all period of the Woodland. Distinct activity areas can be discerned and diagnostic artifacts are present. It is highly likely that intact features are present somewhere at the site. Based on these findings, the excavators recommended that Phase III data recovery take place if the site could not be avoided. It appears that it was possible to avoid 18AN667 entirely during the construction of the Russett Center Development. As the site remains a significant archeological resource, Phase III data recovery should be carried out if the site should be threatened by future development.

**External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):**

00000556, 00000627