



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN685

Site Name: Russett Site 21

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Early & Late Archaic (and possibly Early or Middle Woodland) base camp; Historic charcoal hearth

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1041

Longitude -76.8122

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 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) Unnamed tributary of Little

- | 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 Y
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic Y
- Unknown prehistoric context
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland P
- Mid. woodland P
- Late woodland
- Unknown historic context Y
- 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 Y
- 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? Rural
 - Domestic
 - Homestead
 - Farmstead
 - Mansion
 - Plantation
 - Row/townhome
 - Cellar
 - Privy
 - Industrial
 - Mining-related
 - Quarry-related
 - Mill
 - Black/metalsmith
 - Furnace/forge
 - Other Charcoal he
 - 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 Y
- Flotation samples taken Y Other samples taken

- Historic context samples Soil samples taken N
- Flotation samples taken N 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)	1	Vernon	1
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	1
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	2	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	2	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		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<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	2048	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	14	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	326	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	12	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	bog iron, heate	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Feature 1 - hearth associated w/ a Kirk corner-notched point and fire-cracked rock

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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charcoal hearth	<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: 4660 +/- 100 years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

B-37208: charcoal from a hearth (feat. 1), assoc. w/ fcr and a Kirk corner-notched point

Mod

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 Site 21 (18AN685) is an Early & Late Archaic (and possibly Early or Middle Woodland) base camp and tool manufacturing site northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a low terrace and slope above a fourth order stream. This unnamed tributary is only about 5 to 10 m to the east of the site and drains to the north into a third order stream and hence on to the Little Patuxent River. Site 18AN687 (see synopsis report) is situated just to the south of the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is wooded in oak and maple, with occasional beech and pine. Soils at the site are Evesboro loamy sands.

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 18AN685) 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 18AN685, the 1988 Phase I work entailed the excavation of 7 shovel test pits (STPs) along the unnamed tributary to the Little Patuxent. Most of these were at roughly 100 m intervals, but there was some 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. However, it was surface finds that led to the discovery of 18AN685. A quartz flake, a piece of quartz shatter and a quartz core were recovered. 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. It was determined that construction would detrimentally impact any archeological sites within the Phase III development area, which included Site 18AN685. In order to determine both the horizontal and vertical extent of the site, assess site integrity, and properly interpret the site, a combination of both systematically placed shovel test pits (STPs) and judgmentally placed test units were excavated. STPs were placed at 15.24 m (50 ft) intervals in both north-south and east-west directions. Shovel tests were approximately 50 cm wide, but varied from 45-50 cm in depth to over one meter. All soils were screened using hardware cloth and appropriate data were recorded on standardized forms. A total of 91 STPs were excavated in the area of 18AN685, 25 of which yielded prehistoric artifacts.

Phase II testing revealed that the site extended approximately 120 m along the fourth order stream, near the confluence with the larger stream. Artifacts were concentrated in the southern portion of the site area. Based on these findings, four 1 X 1 m test units were excavated within the site to determine its stratigraphic integrity. The test units were placed in areas of high potential based on artifact density revealed during the STP stage. They were excavated by both natural strata and by arbitrary 5 cm levels and all soils were screened through hardware cloth. Each unit was excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil and at least one wall of each unit was drawn in profile to scale and photographed.

The excavations revealed a hearth feature (Feature 1) in one of the units, and a second unit was opened up adjacent to it in order to expose more of the feature. The other two units were placed elsewhere in the site. Flotation was conducted as a special analysis of this feature, and over 4 grams of charcoal were obtained and carefully curated for future analysis. A Kirk corner-notched projectile point was encountered in the profile of Feature 1 as it was being prepared for photographic documentation.

Unit and STP excavation revealed soil stratigraphy that generally consisted of about 2-10 cm of brown humus root mat, atop a second stratum ranging in depth from 6-20 cm of yellowish brown silty sand, atop 40-60 cm of yellowish brown silty sand with heavier gravel concentrations, and all overlying a strong brown silty sand and gravel subsoil. The full Phase II assemblage consisted of the Kirk corner-notched point, a second non-diagnostic point, a biface, a core, 146 flakes, 55 pieces of shatter, a pebble (counted as other lithics), and 126 fire-cracked/heated rocks. Based on these findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended if ground disturbance at the site could not be avoided.

Phase III work was carried out in 1990 and entailed the excavation of fifty 1 X 1 m units. The units were located along a grid oriented to magnetic north. The units were placed: 1) to complete excavation of the Phase II hearth feature and a nearby occupation surface, 2) to test areas of moderate to high artifact density (as determined by the Phase II shovel testing program), and 3) to examine specific features revealed through unit testing.

Test units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within each natural stratum. Excavation technique utilized a combination of shovel testing and troweling. Exposure and subsequent excavation of features was conducted with fine hand tools and brushes. Features were delineated and then were mapped and photographed in plan view. Features were bisected with each half being excavated separately. This provided for the drawing and photography of a cross-section during the excavation. A sample of feature fill was taken for flotation.

All soils were screened through hardware cloth. All material recovered from each excavation level was bagged. Appropriate data were recorded for each excavation level on standardized forms. Excavation terminated in each unit once two sterile (arbitrary) levels were encountered. At the completion of each unit, a representative profile was drawn and photographed and a detailed soils description was provided before the unit was backfilled.

The hearth first identified during the Phase II investigations of Russett Site 21 was the only intact feature encountered during the Phase III excavation. The western half of the feature was the portion excavated and documented during the 1990 data recovery effort. The hearth was exposed at a depth of approximately 45 cm below surface, at a strata interface. It was characterized by a basin-shaped concentration of fire-cracked rock, measuring approximately 100 cm across. The western half of the feature contained 22,460.5 g of fire-cracked rock, the vast majority of it being bog iron. This bog iron was probably available from the nearby stream, as was the other types of fire-cracked rock.

The matrix from the feature was sand with considerable charcoal flecking. Discolored sand surrounded the feature. All of the feature matrix was floated for ethnobotanical remains (see below). In addition to very small fragments of charcoal recovered during flotation, one small (ca. 1 cm²) fragment of charcoal was recovered. This sample was submitted for radiocarbon dating, along with the charcoal recovered from the feature during the Phase II study. It was necessary to combine the samples because of their small size. An uncalibrated date of 4660 ± 100 radiocarbon years before present was obtained. When calibrated, this corresponds to a calendrical date of between 3644 BC and 3100 BC. This is not a good match with the Kirk corner-notched point that was recovered from the feature during the Phase II excavations, but does corroborate the hypothetical date of the occupation derived from examination of the other diagnostic points



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recovered during Phase III.

The Phase III artifact assemblage consisted of a total of 1,865 prehistoric artifacts. Thirteen of these were projectile point or knife fragments, 21 were generalized bifaces, 55 were cores, 147 were utilized flakes, 889 were unmodified flakes, 715 were micro-debitage recovered from water-screening, 11 were hammerstones, 14 were possible groundstone objects, and 26,998 g of fire-cracked rock (minimally estimated at 200 pieces in the table above). Of the thirteen projectile points and point/knife fragments, nine could be assigned to known diagnostic categories including 2 Bare Islands, 1 Piscataway, 1 Lackawaxen, 2 Otter Creeks, 1 Vernon, and 2 Brewertons.

A 13.3% random sample of the flotation charcoal was examined. All carbonized seeds and 40 randomly selected charcoal samples were analyzed. Twenty-three carbonized seeds were recovered. Nineteen of these were raspberry and the remaining four could not be identified. The flotation samples contained no evidence of nuts or nut shell fragments. The wood charcoal sample consisted of 13 red oak, 6 chestnut, 7 oak or chestnut, 2 elm, and 6 unidentified specimens. Thus, the evidence suggests the presence of an oak-chestnut forest regime at the time the Feature 1 hearth was utilized (ca. 3644 to 3100 BC).

Site 18AN685 appears to be primarily a Late Archaic limited activity, resource extraction site. The primary activity at the site was lithic tool manufacture, which was dominated by stream-cobble core reduction. Possible Early Archaic and Early-Middle Woodland components are present as well. Of the 1,865 artifacts recovered from Russett Site 21, 1,684 (90.29%) were unmodified flakes, cores, or hammerstone. Another 21 artifacts (1.13%) were unfinished bifaces, nearly all of which had suffered a manufacturing break. All of the cores retaining cortex clearly had come from stream-worn cobbles or pebbles. Forty-three (78.18%) of these were bipolar. All of the hammerstones were from stream-worn cobbles.

The remainder of the prehistoric collection from Russett Site 21 consisted of 147 utilized flakes and 13 points/knives (or fragments thereof). The utilized flakes generally were small and had acute edge angles. The majority (86.39%) were made from quartz. Another 7.48% were made from silicified sandstone. Twelve of the 13 points or point fragments showed evidence of having been used in a manner consistent with knives. High-magnification edge wear analysis indicated that the points had been used on wood, hide, bone, and antler. The nature of the breaks on the fragments was consistent with pry fractures. The edge angles on the points complement those found among the utilized flakes. The points appear to have been utility knives.

The 18AN685 artifact assemblage, then, consisted of three activity sets: 1) lithic procurement and processing, 2) tasks associated with expedient tools, and 3) tasks associated with curated tools (points). The first two are seen to be related. The presence of the points was likely a consequence of the site's function as a low-level gathering point for individuals on collecting trips away from the base camp. The raw material composition of those points underscores this: three of the 13 points were made of argillite. Only 5 unmodified and 1 utilized flake of argillite were found during the Phase III excavations. The argillite points were being made someplace else. Since all three argillite points had been used in a fashion consistent with a knife, it seems reasonable to propose that a standard article brought along on such a foraging trip was a small utility knife.

Russett Site 21 is seen as one of several activity areas that would have existed along many of the higher order streams draining into the Little Patuxent River. Stream cutting exposed the quartz, quartzite, and silicified sandstone cobbles needed for the lithic applications industry. Most of that industry would have consisted of compound tools, based upon small flakes. This reflects the limitations in the size of lithic tools imposed by the small size of the available raw material. The emphasis, then, would have been to maximize usable edge length per unit weight of raw material.

The higher order stream near which 18AN685 was located served as an access corridor to the upland areas away from the river. However, that corridor also provided easy access to the materials needed for day-to-day life, including raw material for stone tools and mast in the autumn for food. In fact, aisles for resource exploitation might have been accessed from 18AN685 (the third and fourth order streams), and the resources from each might have been exploited from this short-term encampment.

Since completion of the Phase III data recovery project at 18AN685, 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, 00000632, 00000743