



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN686

Site Name: Russett Site 6

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Site 6

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Middle Woodland short-term camps

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.1073

Longitude -76.7956

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) Little Patuxent River

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 5 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

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 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?

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

Post-in-ground

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 Y

Other samples taken immunological/blood residue

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"/> 1
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
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"/> 1
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	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	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<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"/> 2347	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	<input type="checkbox"/> 631	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/> 56	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 type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input 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 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"/>	diabase, amphi	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Hearth associated with the Late Archaic broadspear tradition.

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 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 Site 6 (18AN686) is a Late Archaic and Middle Woodland lithic scatter northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site is situated on a high terrace remnant on the southern bank of the Little Patuxent River. An extensive marsh and broad floodplain extend along the river's opposite bank. A deeply cut, unnamed tributary of the Little Patuxent forms the western boundary of the site, and provides ample drainage. Site 18AN688 (see synopsis report) is situated just beyond the eastern boundary of the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is oak and hickory forest. Loamy and Clayey Land soils predominate at the site.

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 18AN686) 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 18AN686, the 1988 Phase I work entailed the excavation of 21 shovel test pits (STPs) along the river terrace. 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. One of these shovel tests and a surface find led to the identification of 18AN686. The surface find was a quartz flake and the shovel test produced a quartz core. Based on these findings, Phase II testing was recommended.

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 18AN686. 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 133 STPs were excavated in the area of 18AN686, 26 of which were positive.

The Phase II STPs revealed that the site extends 106.7 m (350 ft) north-south and 60.1 m (200 ft) east-west. One of the STPs produced a corner-notched Jack's Reef projectile point and several concentrations of lithic debitage were recognized. The concentrations occurred in several STPs in the northern area of the site and in a single shovel test in the southern portion of the site. Based on these findings, two 1 X 1 m test units were excavated at 18AN686. Both were placed around STPs that produced high concentrations of artifacts. The test units were excavated by 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 soil stratigraphy that generally consisted of about 10-15 cm of black silty sand (Stratum A), overlying 65 cm of light olive brown sand (Stratum B), atop a strong brown sand subsoil. A majority of artifacts were recovered from Stratum B. No cultural features were encountered and most of the artifacts were non-diagnostic flakes. The Phase II assemblage consisted of 1 Jack's Reef notched point, 2 other bifaces, 4 cobble tools, 218 flakes, 26 pieces of shatter, and 5 fire-cracked/heated rocks. A majority of the flakes are ironstone (178), followed by quartz (65) and other materials. 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 1994 and entailed the excavation of nineteen 1 X 1 m units and one 1 X 2 m unit. 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, except for a two liter soil sample taken from each level. These samples were returned to the laboratory facility and screened through hardware cloth. 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.

Twelve test units were excavated initially during March and April 1994. The locations of these units were predicated on the results of the 1989 Phase II testing. The 8 additional units were then excavated in areas that frequency and material distribution maps generated during Phase II and the initial Phase III work suggested warranted additional investigation. Eight of the Phase III units fell in a large block at the southern end of the site, where the only cultural feature encountered was identified. Once the entire feature was exposed, it was defined as a roughly circular pattern of fire-cracked rock beginning at about 30-35 cm below surface, with a maximum depth of about 15 cm. This feature undoubtedly represents a hearth, however no charcoal was recovered from within the feature, precluding any attempt to date the feature through radiometric techniques. A high frequency of lithic material (1,291 objects) was recovered from the block of excavation units around the feature.

Light fractions from the hearth feature flotation samples were analyzed for evidence of culturally significant plant remains. Three samples were examined. Each sample was screened through a series of geological sieves. The separated fractions then were inspected under a 10x power illuminated magnifier. No culturally significant plant remains were identified in the three samples. Very small amounts of wood (less than five fragments per sample) were found, but none of these were large enough to permit species identification.

A total of 2,150 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the excavation units at 18AN686. Of these, 12 were bifaces, 2 were unifaces, 34 were cores, 23 were retouched/utilized flakes, 739 were unmodified flakes, 426 were pieces of block shatter, 858 were micro-debitage recovered from waterscreening, 1 was an anvil/nutting stone, 20 were hammerstone, 35 were "other lithics" (probably natural stone), and 626 were pieces of fire-cracked rock. Among the 12 bifaces, there were 3 projectile points that were complete enough to make tentative "type" associations. The projectile points include an Otter Creek-like point, a possible Susquehanna Broadspear, and a possible Perkiomen Broadpear. All of these points suggest a Late Archaic date for the site. The Phase III



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researchers analyzed the Phase II assemblage and contended that the corner notched point recovered is too incomplete to actually be assigned to the Middle Woodland Jack's Reef point type. None of the other bifaces were diagnostic.

Russett Site 6 can be characterized generally as a Late Archaic (and possible Middle Woodland) mixed-resource extraction site. The definitive site diagnostics suggest two components: an Otter Creek component (ca. 4620-2524 BC) and a broadspear component (post 2000 BC). Interestingly, there is horizontal separation between these components. The broadspears are associated with the hearth feature block excavation, while the Otter Creek component was located north of the feature, near the ironstone concentration encountered during Phase II work.

Other differences also are apparent between the hearth feature area (to the south) and the remainder of the site. Nineteen of the utilized flakes were located in the hearth feature area. Twelve were recovered from just 2 of the units in that area. The utilized/retouched flakes are also over twice the average weight of the unmodified flakes in the area. This pattern did not bear out in other portion of the site. Clearly, large flakes were being selected for use near the hearth. An immunological analysis identified some of this use as animal processing. Species identified include deer, rabbit, and either porcupine, squirrel, or beaver.

Raw material percentages also are different between the hearth area and the rest of the site. This relates primarily to the higher percentages of ironstone located in units around one of the Phase II test units (which also produced large quantities of ironstone). This also is the area where the Otter Creek projectile point was found, and there may be a temporal factor in the use of ironstone. The unmodified ironstone flakes were small and primarily non-cortical. No utilized flakes or cores of ironstone were identified. Three ironstone bifaces were found: a preform, an amorphous biface, and a corner-notched projectile point that had been split lengthwise. The absence of utilized flakes, and the predominance of small, non-cortical flakes and bifacial tools suggests that the ironstone lithic processing was aimed at the production of curated tools rather than expedient flake tools.

Russett 6 (18AN686) served as an extractive camp during at least two portions of the Late Archaic. The range of activities suggested for the site includes lithic procurement and processing, tasks associated with expedient tools, and tasks associated with curated tools. At least some of the expedient tool use was directed at animal processing. The generally limited range of artifact types and associated activities indicates that this was a transitory camp. Since Russett 6 lacks evidence for the range of activities generally indicative of a base camp, the large number of artifacts here probably resulted from repeated use of the site for extractive activities, a hypothesis supported by the multiple components and internal structuring of the site.

Since completion of the Phase III data recovery project at 18AN686, 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, 00000791