



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN687

Site Name: Russett Site 17

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

prehistoric short-term resource procurement, lithic scatter

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0983

Longitude -76.8035

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 29 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

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

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context
- 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
 - 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"/>

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	255	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	14	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	conglomerate	<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.	<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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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Russett Site 17 (18AN687) is a short-term resource procurement/lithic scatter site of uncertain prehistoric affiliation 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 18AN685 (see synopsis report) is situated 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 Christiana silt 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 18AN687) 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 18AN687, 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. One of the shovel test pits and two areas that were surface collected yielded 1 quartz core and 9 pieces of quartz and quartzite debitage, which led to the identification of the site. 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 18AN687. 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 93 STPs were excavated in the area of 18AN687, 22 of which yielded prehistoric artifacts.

Phase II testing revealed that the site was roughly 91.44m (300 ft) east-west and 76.2 m (250 ft) north-south in extent. Four test units were then placed within the boundaries of 18AN687. The test units were placed in areas of high potential based on artifact density revealed during the STP stage. Test units were 1 m X 1 m square and 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 soil stratigraphy that generally consisted of about 5-10 cm of black loamy and silty clays, followed by a yellowish brown silty clay that ranges between 15 and 40 cm, above a 20-40 cm thick strong brown silty clay layer, and all atop a tightly packed (and gravelly) yellowish-red clay subsoil. No cultural features were encountered. The Phase II assemblage included 1 core, 2 cobble tools, 93 flakes, 110 pieces of shatter, and 14 pieces of fire-cracked/heated rock. 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 February of 1990 and entailed the excavation of eight 1 X 1 m units. Four of the units were placed along the eastern boundary of the site in an area that the Phase II testing had determined had a high artifacts density. Three of the units were along the western boundary of the site, in an area that had produced the greatest number of artifacts during Phase II shovel testing. And the final unit was located in an area that had moderate artifact density during Phase II work. The natural strata at the site was relatively thin and, thus, excavation proceeded in natural (not arbitrary) levels. Excavation technique utilized a combination of shovel testing and troweling.

All soils were screened through hardware cloth, except for a one liter soil sample taken from each level, which was waterscreened. The units were excavated to the base of the A horizon, or to 10 cm into sterile deposits. In cases where the depth of the cultural deposit was not known, deeper tests were excavated in the corner of units. Auger tests were taken in the base of each unit to verify the lack of buried soil horizons. 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.

During Phase III investigations, artifacts were recovered in two primary concentrations: within 30 m of the stream and in an area approximately 60 m to the west. The site was characterized by a scatter of debitage and cores. Micro-debitage was the major component in the artifact collection. Utilized flakes were principally located in the western artifact concentration. No cultural features were encountered anywhere within the site.

The full Phase III artifact assemblage consisted of 139 prehistoric artifacts. Of these, 100 were micro-debitage recovered during waterscreening of soil samples taken from each excavation level. The remainder was 1 biface, 4 cores, 13 utilized/retouched flakes, and 21 unmodified flakes. No fire-cracked rock, groundstone, or use-modified tools were recovered. All of the debitage was quartz. No culturally diagnostic artifacts were recovered.

Bipolar reduction of pebbles and cobbles from the stream appears to have been the primary function of the site. Several pebbles showing bipolar reduction were found. The distribution of micro-debitage indicates that several episodes of core reduction took place in this area. The concentration of utilized flakes in the western portion of the site suggests that the area away from the stream was used as a short-term camp or curated tool refurbishing area. However, the lack of fire-cracked rock and ground stone from this area argues against the former hypothesis. Rather, it seems likely that the area was used for reduction of cores and for replacing the worn elements of curated tools. This hypothesis is supported by the relatively steep edge angles noted on the utilized flakes from this area.

Again, no culturally diagnostic artifacts were recovered, so dating of this occupation remains problematic. The site may be related to nearby 18AN685, which is Early and Late Archaic in age. Since there is little evidence for an encampment within 18AN687, it is probable that the lithic procurement and tool refurbishing which took place there was related to a nearby camp, a role that would have been filled by the encampment at 18AN685 (see synopsis report).

Since completion of the Phase III data recovery project at 18AN687, 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



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Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

**Brief
Description:**

prehistoric short-term resource procurement, lithic scatter

Unknown

well-documented. The site is not a significant archeological resource.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000556, 00000632, 00000743
