



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN688

Site Name: Russett Site 9

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Site 9

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland lithic scatters

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.1054 Longitude -76.7901
Elevation m Site slope 0

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater 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 High terrace
Hilltop/bluff Rockshelter/cave
Interior flat Hillslope
Upland flat Unknown
Ridgetop Other
Terrace
Low terrace

Ownership

Private
Federal
State of MD
Regional/county/city
Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Little Patuxent River

Saltwater Freshwater
Ocean Stream/river
Estuary/tidal river Swamp
Tidewater/marsh Lake or pond
Spring

Minimum distance to water is 13 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site Woodland site
Archaic site P MD Adena
Early archaic Early woodland
Middle archaic Mid. woodland
Late archaic Late woodland Y
Unknown prehistoric 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
Unknown historic 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

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 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"/>
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	1215	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	3	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	38	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	7	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input checked="" 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 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)		Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)		Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural		Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture		Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms		Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing		Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal items		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 9 (18AN688) is a Late Woodland lithic scatter northeast of Laurel in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The site occupies alluvial terraces along the southern bluffs of the Little Patuxent River. Wetlands occupy a broad floodplain on the opposite side of the river. Site 9 is bounded on the north, east, and west by the deeply cut Little Patuxent. Site 18AN686 (see synopsis report) is situated adjacent to and west of the site. Most of the surrounding landscape is oak, beech, maple, and hickory forest, however, a portion of the site itself was previously plowed. 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 18AN688) 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 18AN688, 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. Seven of these shovel tests and several surface finds led to the identification of 18AN688. The artifacts recovered included 3 quartz bifaces/biface fragments, 13 quartz cores, a utilized quartz flake, 23 other quartz flakes, 2 quartzite flakes, 1 rhyolite flake, 37 pieces of quartz shatter, 1 piece of quartzite shatter, a hammerstone, a piece of ground stone, and 3 fire-cracked/heated rocks. 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 18AN688. 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 409 STPs were excavated in the area of 18AN688, 66 of which yielded prehistoric artifacts.

Phase II testing indicated the differences in density of prehistoric material within the site. The largest concentration of artifacts was recovered on the bluffs overlooking the Little Patuxent River on the northwestern ridge of the site. There is also a small concentration of artifacts in the eastern area of the site on the gentle slope leading into the wetlands. A triangular Clarksville point was recovered from one of the STPs, suggesting a Late Woodland date for the site. Also recovered from STPs were both chipped and ground stone tools, hammerstones, and significant amounts of lithic debitage.

Ten test units were then placed within the boundaries of 18AN688. The test units were placed according to areas of lithic concentration as indicated by STPs and along the periphery of the site to further study artifact density. 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 5-15 cm of dark brown silty sand (Stratum A), overlying brown silty sandy clays varying in vertical extent from 45-65 cm, atop a strong brown clayish 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 the Clarksville point, 2 other bifaces, 11 cores, 11 cobble tools, 262 flakes, 92 pieces of shatter, and 18 fire-cracked/heated rock fragments. 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 twenty 1 X 1 m units. The test units were placed both in three previously productive areas (15 units) and in various randomly selected locations (5 units). 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.

Site 18AN688 appears to be a large, but sparsely occupied site. The average number of prehistoric artifacts (including both dry-screen and waterscreen recovery) recovered per Phase III unit was 38.15 objects. Just over 50% of these artifacts (383) were recovered from four units in the floodplain, where the average number of artifacts per unit was 98. The remaining 16 non-floodplain units then, contained 380 prehistoric artifacts, or an average unit artifact recovery of 23.75. The site is characterized by three depositional /formational settings: the floodplain, a plowed agricultural area in the center of the ridgetop, and the undisturbed ridgetop. The only feature encountered was also situated in the floodplain, at the base of a buried A horizon. This feature appeared to be a shallow pit-shaped stain filled with dark brown sandy loam. In plan view, the feature was an irregular, circular stain in the northeast corner of the excavation unit. No artifacts were recovered from the feature. The artifacts recovered from the plowed portion of the site came primarily from the plowzone. In general, soils in the un-plowed ridgetop area suggested a deflated A horizon overlying an intact B1-B2 soil horizon sequence. Virtually all of the artifacts in this area were recovered from the A or B1 horizons.

Botanical analysis was undertaken on the flotation soil sample collected from the feature in the floodplain area. The charcoal recovered through water screening the Feature 1 soil sample was passed through a 2 mm geological screen, yielding two size fractions for analysis. Identifications were then attempted on all seed and cultivated plant remains, however the large quantity of charcoal precluded this. A sub-sample of 20 randomly selected charcoal specimens was instead examined. Identifications were made under low magnification (10x to 30x) and checked against reference texts and specimens.



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A total of 322 wood charcoal specimens were recovered, 20 of which were analyzed and determined to be all of the *Quercus* species (red oak). Three hundred and five seeds were recovered. Two were identified as *Chenopodium* or goosefoot, 300 were eroded starchy seeds of some variety, and 3 were altogether unidentifiable. Three additional unidentifiable seed parts were recovered. These included both herbaceous and woody plant parts, such as a probable stem fragment, possible seed husk fragment, and a carbonized fragment with an absence of any diagnostic morphology upon which to base even a general classification. Based on these findings, the excavators concluded that the feature was likely the result of a natural tree burn rather than cultural in origin. Although the seeds and red oak charcoal are consistent with the prehistoric environment, the irregular surface shape and the presence of a single species of wood charcoal suggests a natural origin. For this reason, no Ethnobotanical Profile has been created for 18AN688.

A total of 763 prehistoric artifacts was recovered from the excavation units at Russett Site 9 during Phase III work. Of these, 2 were bifaces, 14 were cores, 6 were utilized/retouched flakes, 261 were unmodified flakes, 77 were pieces of block shatter, 395 were micro-debitage recovered from waterscreening, 1 was a net-sinker (pecked and ground), 1 was an abrader (pecked and ground), 6 were hammerstones, and 17 fire-cracked rock fragments. The bifaces were non-diagnostic, but the general shape of one of them suggests an Archaic affiliation. Both were submitted for immunological analysis. The more amorphous of the two tested positive for rabbit antiserum.

These findings suggest that Russett Site 9 (18AN688) served as a transitory mixed-resource extractive camp during the Late Woodland and probably the Archaic periods. Activities at the site apparently included lithic procurement and processing and tasks associated with expedient and curated tools. Primary reduction was indicated by a high percentage of body cortex on the unmodified flakes, a significant amount of cortex retained on cores, and the fact that 5 cores were tested cobbles. There was a positive correlation across the site between the locations of debitage, core, and hammerstones. This suite of artifacts would be expected to occur together in the immediate area where lithic reduction was occurring. There was no correlation between the location of these artifacts and that of utilized/retouched flakes or bifaces, suggesting a possible spatial separation between processing activities and activities related to expedient and curated tools. The generally low numbers of artifacts suggest that the site was not intensively occupied or reused.

Since completion of the Phase III data recovery project at 18AN688, 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