



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN803

Site Name: MSL-8

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Millersville

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term resource procurement

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 39.0871

Longitude -76.6746

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 43 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) Tributary of Severn Run

- | 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 61 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

### 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 U  
 Flotation samples taken U 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"/>	
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

## 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"/>	54	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

<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"/>	3735
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	310
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	16
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	60
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

Prehistoric hearth yielded a historic AMS date.

Historic Artifacts		
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tobacco related	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floral material	<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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Brief

Description:

Late Archaic and Late Woodland short-term resource procurement

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

MSL-8, or 18AN803 (also known simply as the Millersville Site) is a Late Archaic, Early Woodland and Late Woodland resource procurement camp northwest of Odenton in Anne Arundel County. The site is situated on a narrow promontory overlooking a broad and relatively level upland setting drained by small intermittent tributaries of Severn Run (itself a tributary of the Severn River). The site and surrounding landscape is primarily an oak-chestnut forest, with upland areas represented by mixed deciduous forest. The area would have provided aboriginal populations with rich and varied biotic resources in the form of nuts, seeds, berries, fish, large and small mammals, and birds. Soils at the site are Evesboro loamy sands.

The site was first identified in 1991 during the course of a Phase I survey for a (then) proposed expansion to the Millersville Landfill near Odenton. The entire site area was going to be disturbed by the construction activities associated with the project. The work was conducted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and Sections 5-617 and 618 of Article 83B of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Phase I fieldwork included a comprehensive walkover of the landfill project area to evaluate the landscape and environmental conditions with regard to the potential for prehistoric and historic resources. Because the undisturbed portions of the project area were wooded, the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) was used to locate archeological materials. Shovel test pits measuring roughly 50 cm in diameter were excavated stratigraphically, by hand, to sterile Pleistocene sediments. For general testing, STPs were placed at 30.5 m (100 ft) intervals, with smaller intervals of 15.24 and 7.62 meters (50 and 25 ft) utilized where cultural materials were identified. Nine historic sites and one prehistoric site (18AN803) were identified during the Phase I survey.

At 18AN803, a total of 10 shovel test pits were excavated. Once the site was identified two 76.2 X 76.2 cm (2.5 X 2.5 ft) test units were excavated to further examine positive finds. The Phase I STPs and test units resulted in the recovery of 1 rhyolite projectile point (an Orient Fishtail variant), 148 flakes (133 quartz, 14 quartzite, 1 rhyolite), and 2 fire-cracked rocks. Most of the material came from the central portion of the site. Based on these findings, a Phase II study was recommended.

Phase II work was also carried out in 1991 and involved the excavation of a number of 1 X 1 meter and 1 X 2 meter units. Most of the units were placed within the site area as defined by the Phase I work, with a selected number of units placed outside of those boundaries. A total of twenty 1 X 1 m units and two 1 X 2 meter units were excavated during the Phase II study, eight of the units would eventually be incorporated into large Phase III excavation blocks. In addition, 17 shovel tests were placed on the perimeter of the site to more closely define the site boundary. The findings of the test unit and STP excavation resulted in defining a much larger site than had been anticipated, with the site extending farther south and west than originally thought.

Excavation of all units proceeded stratigraphically by natural soil horizons or arbitrary 10 cm subdivision of large natural layers. Excavation was conducted by trowel and shovel, with all soil being passed through hardware cloth. A sample of shovel tests was screened through 1/8 inch mesh to recover small finds. In subsoil contexts, all large artifacts, fire-cracked rock, and diagnostic tools were mapped in place, both horizontal and vertical coordinates being recorded. Features, when encountered, were mapped in plan, photographed, and bisected. Profile drawings were made of each feature's cross section to reveal details of construction and possible function. The excavation of the remaining portion of bisected features was carried out according to any structure revealed in its exposed profile. No flotation samples were recovered. Soil profiles were drawn of all units after excavation to sterile soil and black and white and color photographs were taken for each unit. Pertinent data was recorded on standardized forms.

As a result of Phase II testing, 581 lithic artifacts, fire-cracked rock (uncounted), and 48 ceramics were recovered from the site. There were essentially two basic soil horizons represented on the site: an A horizon and an underlying C horizon. Due to the absence of weathering and minimal evidence of translocated materials below the A horizon, there is no B horizon represented on the site. The excavation units suggested that there are several occupations represented at the site. These occupations are represented as lithic workshop activity areas and ceramic clusters. No observable stains or pit features were encountered. The site appeared to primarily be a Late Woodland short-term camp, with less intense, isolated occupations at early periods.

The Phase II artifact assemblage included 5 bifaces (1 Possible Calvert point), 3 cores, 3 tested cobbles (use-modified tools), 2 unifaces, 561 flakes/shatter fragments, at least 7 fragments of fire-cracked rock, 4 Accokeek sherds and 42 Townsend ware sherds (4 rims), and 2 Late Woodland quartz-tempered sherds. Based on these findings a Phase III data recovery project was recommended.

Researchers returned to the site in 1992 to complete Phase III data recovery prior to construction of the expanded landfill facilities. Data recovery efforts entailed the excavation of 48 square meters of the site (approximately 4% of the site area) in 4 large excavation blocks (Blocks A-D). An additional 4 square meters had to eventually be opened up to follow features and artifact clusters identified in the larger blocks. When the Phase III blocks, their extensions, and the Phase II test units are considered as a whole, this represents roughly 6% of the entire 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> site.

All excavations were conducted within natural stratigraphic horizons, and for natural horizons exceeding 10 cm in thickness, arbitrary levels were dug within natural layers. This same strategy was utilized for excavating features. Where possible, diagnostic artifacts and selected tools were plotted with three dimensional coordinates in order to provide stratigraphic controls. The subplowzone cultural strata were distributed through several levels, most likely as a result of the loose consistency of the coarse-textured soils comprising the site.

All subplowzone soils were screened through hardware cloth for systematic recovery of artifacts. Due to the poor preservation of organics within feature contexts and for the excavations as a whole, no flotation samples were recovered. However, control samples were screened through 1/8 inch mesh to recover microdebitage and other small finds. Troweling of soils at the interface between the plowzone and the underlying C-horizon as well as on the floors of arbitrary levels was undertaken to find features, stains, and other representations of prehistoric activities. All features were mapped on site plans and cross-sectioned. Cross sections were ordinarily done on the long axis of the feature. Charcoal was collected for radiocarbon dating and for the identification of tree species utilized in hearth, however only one sample was ultimately determined suitable for submission.

Artifacts were provenienced within 50 cm square quadrants of each sub-unit of the larger excavation block. This was done to maximize control over the distribution of artifact patterning across the sites. An average of five 10 cm levels below the plowzone were excavated in each unit. Artifact counts were maintained for each level within each block so that information would readily be available if and when expansion within a particular area was being considered. Within each block excavation area, deep tests were excavated adjacent to selected walls for profiling and for more comprehensive pedological analysis.



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Standard sampling procedures were employed for collecting soil samples and charred materials for radiocarbon dating. Photographic records were maintained for each block, especially for features and profiles, and general site shots were taken as well. Photography included both black-and-white photographs and color slides.

Stratigraphy at Site 18AN803 consists of a weathered plow layer (A and AC Horizons) overlying a C Horizon (C and 2C) which is composed primarily of loamy sands over the underlying Cretaceous sediments (IIC and IIIC Horizons). This profile is consistent, with some variation in depth of horizons, across the site. The Late Woodland component of the site was found within the upper three horizons, while the Late Archaic component was confined primarily to the 2C Horizon). The loosely-textured sand facilitated movement of artifacts down through the profile. Other components have been found on-site as well, but were represented to a very limited extent or not at all within the Phase III excavation blocks.

Block A was a 38 m2 area consisting of 34 Phase III and 4 Phase II one-meter square units. Five of the six features recorded at 18AN803 were within this excavation block. These were all very small hearths or fire-cracked rock clusters located within and along the periphery of the main Late Woodland occupation area. This Late Woodland occupation was defined principally by Townsend ceramics and two triangular projectile points. Several clusters of debitage were noted as well. One of the hearth features produced a small piece of charcoal sufficient for AMS dating. The charcoal produced an uncalibrated date of 170±70 radiocarbon years before present. When calibrated (2 sigma), this corresponds to a calendrical date of AD 1637-1954. It most likely represents an episode of early 19th century land clearing in the site environs, which is consistent with the observed pattern of charcoal concentrations found in the A horizon in several areas of the site.

Block B is a 4 meter square area located just two meters southeast of Block A. This area contained generally low densities of artifacts and no features. Consequently, the focus of block excavations (outside of Area A) was shifted further east, into Blocks C and D. No ceramics were recovered from Block B, although three projectile points, one of which appears to be Early Woodland in age, were recovered from subplowzone levels.

Blocks C and D constitute an 18 meter block area which includes 14 Phase III 1 meter units and four Phase II 1 meter units. Blocks C and D were situated roughly 8 meters east of Block A. Late Woodland pottery was recovered from this block in the A Horizon. A Calvert point was recovered from the C Horizon and two other points were found in the level in-between. Only one feature, a small hearth area was recorded within the Block C and D area. As with the other hearth features on the site, there was little or no charcoal staining associated with this hearth. The hearth was located on the edge of a concentrated quartz workshop area represented by both early reduction and bifacial reduction flakes.

The ceramics recovered from the Phase III excavations at 18AN803 consist of only 13 examples. These sherds were recovered from Blocks A and D only. Twelve are Townsend vessel sherds (all body sherds), but one may be a fragment from a small, rouletted pipe bowl. A total of 3,329 lithic artifacts were recovered during Phase III work. The assemblage included 7 projectile points, 18 other bifaces, 38 cores, 3 unifaces, 2,949 pieces of debitage, 2 cobble tools (use-modified tools), 11 unmodified cobbles, and 301 pieces of fire-cracked rock. Quartz is the most prevalent chipped stone raw material by count (83.9%), followed by rhyolite, quartzite, and other miscellaneous materials. The identifiable projectile points were 2 Levanna points, 1 Calvert point, a Halifax point, a Susquehanna Broadspear, a fishtail point, and a small stemmed point of general Late Archaic form. No identifiable floral or faunal remains which could clearly be related to the prehistoric occupation of the site were recovered.

A total of 12 lithic artifacts were tested for the presence of blood residue. Two of the artifacts tested positive for deer antiserum. These included one of the unifaces and a Halifax point, both of which appear to be associated with the Late Archaic/Early Woodland occupation.

From the sample of prehistoric artifacts recovered during the Phase III investigations at 18AN803, it appears that the main occupation of the area investigated occurred during the Late Woodland. Common activities represented during that occupation are cobble reduction, biface production and maintenance, flake-tool production, hunting, and food preparation. The latter activity is suggested by the presence of small hearths and food grinding equipment. Raw material use was based almost exclusively upon locally available raw material such as quartz and quartzite, with some use of rhyolite as well.

The Late Archaic occupation appears to have been focused upon the hunting of deer. The use of rhyolite during this occupation is indicated: rhyolite blanks were most likely brought to the site and reduced, perhaps during the course of butchering activities. The finding of projectile points and unifaces and the positive tests for deer on tools lend some support for this conclusion. It is also possible, however, that tools consistently used for butchering were curated and were carried from site to site. The presence of deer protein residue, therefore, does not necessarily imply on-site activity.

Site 18AN803 is a multi-component prehistoric site, containing buried archeological components dating from the Late Archaic and the Early and Late Woodland periods. The principal occupation of the site dates to the Late Woodland period. This is evidenced by finds of Townsend ceramics, triangular projectile points, and associated stone tools. The Woodland occupation is found in the A Horizon and extends into the upper portion of the C Horizon. Early Woodland artifacts (projectile points and ceramics) were found in only a few isolated locations on the site. The Late Woodland component, in general, contained evidence of local raw material acquisition and processing as well as evidence of the activities normally associated with a short-term hunting camp.

The earliest occupation of the site dates to the Late Archaic and is represented by a few small clusters of debitage in association with stemmed projectile points. The Archaic component is confined principally to the C Horizon. This component evidences the reduction of rhyolite blanks during the course of a relatively short-term occupation.

In 1991, site 18AN803 was determined to have the potential to yield important information on the prehistoric themes of subsistence, settlement, technology, and environmental adaptation. The rarity of well-preserved Late Woodland sites in the region near the headwaters of streams added to the significance of this resource. The data collected during the 1992 project largely supported this assessment. The assemblage and excavation documentation constitute a 6% sampling of the larger site area. Following the data recovery project, approvals were granted for the landfill project to proceed. The current status of the site is unknown, however, it is likely that much if not all of the site has been destroyed and the only avenue for additional research on the site is with the preserved collections.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000677, 00000770