



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AN860

Site Name: Tower 1756

Prehistoric

Other name(s)

Historic

Brief Description:

Late/Terminal Archaic-Early Woodland base camp, Mid-18th to Early 19th century house site

Unknown

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 8

SCS soil & sediment code DxC,SME

Latitude 39.0246

Longitude -76.7030

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 0-10%

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) Towers Branch

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Spring

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Minimum distance to water is 53 m

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Early archaic

Early woodland Y

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Y

Post 1930

Late archaic Y

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown Y

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? 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 N

Flotation samples taken N

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"/> |   |
| 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"/> |   |
| Vernon                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Piscataway             | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Calvert                | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| 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"/> |   |

### 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"/> |   | Tin Glazed       | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | English Brown  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Borderware  | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | Mn Mottled  | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | Whiteware        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 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"/> | 2 | Pearlware   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |                  |                          |   | 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"/> | 774 |
| Ground stone          | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |
| Stone bowls           | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |
| Fire-cracked rock     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 107 |
| Other lithics (all)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1   |
| Ceramics (all)        | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |
| Rimsherds             | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |
| Other fired clay      | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |
| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                |                          |

Dated features present at site

| Historic Artifacts |                                     |    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| Pottery (all)      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 25 |
| Glass (all)        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 3  |
| Architectural      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 9  |
| Furniture          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2  |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |    |
| Misc. kitchen      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1  |
| Floral material    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |    |
| Misc.              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 7  |
| 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 checked="" 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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Prehistoric

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Historic

Brief

Description:

Late/Terminal Archaic-Early Woodland base camp, Mid-18th to Early 19th century house site

Unknown

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

Tower 1756, or 18AN860, is a Late Archaic-Early Woodland base camp and 18th-19th century artifact scatter, located north of Crofton in western Anne Arundel County. The site is situated at the top of a southeast-facing bluff above Towers Branch, a tributary of the Little Patuxent River. The section of the bluff on which the site is located lies between two unnamed tributaries of Towers Branch. These unnamed tributaries have cut steeply into the landscape, forming deep gullies. Soils at the site are Evesboro loamy sand, this soil type develops in old dune-like deposits of sand.

Site 18AN860 was discovered in November 1991 during the Phase I testing for a Baltimore Gas & Electric (BG&E) company's (then) proposed 500-kV electric transmission line. A proposed tower (Tower 1756) and associated access road would impact the site. The Phase I study was undertaken to provide supporting documentation for the issuance of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the proposed transmission line under Section 54A of the MD Public Service Commission Law. In addition, as part of the application process for wetlands permits the US Army Corps of Engineers requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The site was found during testing of the location proposed for Tower 1756 and an associated access road. A total of 27 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated in the vicinity of the site during the Phase I work. All of the STPs were excavated to depths from 45 to 90 cm below ground surface and soils were screened through hardware cloth. The initial sampling of this area included four STPs at the proposed tower location (each 10 m out from the center of the proposed structure) and 7 STPs at 20 meter intervals along the proposed access road alignment. Prehistoric lithics and/or historic sherds were found in eight of these STPs. Ten additional STPs were excavated at 10 meter intervals around these positive STPs. Six of these ten additional STPs also yielded prehistoric and/or historic artifacts. No information is provided in the full site report as to where the additional 6 STPs were situated.

Of the 27 STPs excavated in the vicinity of the tower during the Phase I work, 17 STPs yielded artifacts. Within the prehistoric collection from the Phase I study at 18AN860, only lithic artifacts were found. Raw materials present include quartz, rhyolite, quartzite, and chert. No prehistoric ceramics or fire-cracked rocks were found. A complete quartz Vernon point was found in one of the STPs. The full Phase I assemblage is described below combined with the Phase II materials. Based on these findings, a Phase II testing program was carried out at the site the following year.

During the 1992 Phase II testing project, 36 STPs were excavated. These STPs were used to continue the 20 meter interval grid started by the Phase I work and to continue the 20 meter interval grid started by the Phase I work and to more tightly define the site limits in some areas with a 10 m interval. STPs were 35 cm to 40 cm in diameter and excavated into sterile subsoil, 80 cm to 96 cm in depth. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth mesh and any artifacts found were retained for identification. Measured drawings were made of all STP profiles and soils in these profiles were described using standard terminology for textures and colors.

Nine 1 X 1 m stratigraphic test units were excavated to determine the stratigraphic integrity of the site and to obtain a sample of artifacts and features from the activity or activities represented at the site. Test units were excavated by recognizable soil layers, with 10 cm arbitrary horizontal levels used in layers thicker than 10 cm. Excavation of test units continued to at least 20 cm below the lowest level containing artifacts. At deeper, sterile levels, the test units were reduced to 50 X 50 cm squares in one corner of the unit. After completion of each test unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled clean and photographed in color slide film. Measured drawings with soil descriptions were done of at least one wall in each test unit and soils in these profiles were described using standard terminology for textures and colors. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth mesh and any artifacts found were retained for identification. All soil stains that appeared to possibly be cultural features were assigned feature numbers. These stains were drawn and photographed in plan view prior to careful sectioning. All but one of these stains proved to be root molds.

The Phase II testing established site limits for the prehistoric component, extending outside of the tower construction impact area in most directions. The total site area was about 8,900 square meters (2.2 acres), while the portion of the site within the impact area was about 445 square meter (0.11 acres). The prehistoric artifacts recovered in 1992 all indicated occupation during the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods. Among the artifacts recovered from the 1992 excavations at 18AN860, the only temporal diagnostics found were 2 Vernon points, 1 Dry Brook Fishtail, an Orient Fishtail-like point, and 5 points of general Late Archaic form (2 contracting stemmed points, 2 straight stemmed points, and 1 expanding stem point). The stratigraphic position of the points suggests some separation of temporal components within the site and their positions relative to one another fit well with the reported time ranges for various points.

The combined Phase I and II assemblage consisted of the 9 aforementioned points, 16 bifaces, 16 utilized flakes, 3 cores, 429 flakes, 301 pieces of shatter, 1 hammerstone, and 107 pieces of fire-cracked rock. The presence of the fire-cracked rock demonstrates that some type of fire features were put to use by the prehistoric inhabitants of 18AN860. This suggests a somewhat more sustained use of the site, like a base camp.

Most of the test units within the site recovered low to moderate densities of prehistoric artifacts, while high densities of prehistoric artifacts were found in two areas. This is suggestive of multiple occupations or multiple activity areas within one occupation. Given the size of the site (2.2 acres), it is likely that there are multiple prehistoric occupations at 18AN860.

Two of the Vernon points were recovered from an apparent living floor at 30-40 cm below the present surface in two adjoining test units and four of the point bases were recovered from the same context. Most of the fire-cracked rock was from this same living floor, however it was not patterned in its distribution so as to suggest the presence of a hearth. Some charcoal was present in these general levels, but not enough for radiocarbon dating. Such a distribution of fire-cracked rock can result from the dispersal of stones used in food processing through placing heated stones in wood or basketry containers. The evidence from this living floor further suggests use of the site as a base camp.

The Phase II excavations also located a diffuse scatter of early historic artifacts in the northern portion of the site. A preliminary search of historical documents was made in order to provide some context for this component.

The 2.601 acre lot on which the site is located was part of a 200 acre parcel of land subdivided in 1938. The 200 acre parcel originated in 1871 by court decree and stayed intact until 1938. The 200 acre parcel was part of an 800 acre parcel bequeathed in 1822 by Philip Hammond Sr. to grandson Philip Hammond Mewburn who was to inherit on his 21st birthday. The will was proved in 1826 when Phillip Hammond died, but no record has been found as to



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when Philip Hammond Mewburn came into possession of the land. Philip Hammond Mewburn died in 1867. The Equity case in 1871 divided the 800 acre parcel into six lots, which were given to Philip Hammond Mewburn's widow and children. The parcel called Lot No. 6 in the Equity papers was given to William G. Higgins and wife Susanna, daughter of Phillip Hammond Mewburn, and is the same 200 acre lot which was divided in 1938.

Missing or misplaced records within the county and state archives made it impossible to determine (at the time of the Phase II study) how and when Phillip Hammond Sr. came into possession of the land divided out in the 1871 case as Lot No. 6. A more intensive search of the records could reveal more information.

Historic maps are available for 1860 and 1878 and show the locations of several 19th century houses along Towsers Branch. The 1860 map labels two houses along Towers Branch as "P.H. Mewburn": one in the vicinity of 18AN860 and another about a 1/2 mile north. The 1878 map labels the northern house "T.E. Arnold, Occupt, P.H. Mewburn Est' 360 A." and the southern house is labeled "S. Higgins". This fits with the documentation, which tells us Phillip Hammond Mewburn died in 1867 and in 1871 his land was divided into six parcels, with a 200 acre parcel going to Mewburn's daughter, Susanna Higgins. This shows that the main residence within the mid 19th century landholding which encompassed 18AN860 was located about 1/2 mile up Towsers Branch from 18AN860.

Within the southern portion of the site, only five historic artifacts were found. All of these are non-diagnostic or of 19th/20th century manufacture. Most of the historic artifacts were recovered from the northern portion of the site. Within the northern area a variety of 18th and early 19th century artifacts were found, including wrought nails, cut nails, Rhenish stoneware, creamware, and pearlware. One historic feature was encountered as well. This feature is a square postmold within a round posthole. The upper portion of the feature has been truncated by the plowzone and much of the remaining portion was damaged by burrowing animals. The size of the post that was in the feature suggests that it is likely the remains of a fence post, rather than structural support for a building.

The combined Phase I and II assemblage from 18AN860 included 9 architectural artifacts (3 wrought nails, 4 cut nails, 1 wire nail, and 1 unidentified nail), 2 furniture items (upholstery tacks), 28 kitchen-related artifacts, and 7 miscellaneous objects (1 unidentified glass and 6 unidentified pieces of metal). The kitchen-related assemblage consisted of 25 sherds (3 coarse lead-glazed earthenware sherds, 1 other coarse earthenware sherd, 2 creamware, 2 pearlware, 2 whiteware, 9 redware, 1 rhenish stoneware, 2 brown salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 2 miscellaneous stoneware sherds, and 1 unidentified ceramic sherd), 2 bottle glass fragments, and 1 mammal bone. The recovered artifacts suggest an occupation from the mid-18th century into the early 19th century. The presence of architectural artifact (nails) suggests that a structure or structures were present. A small number of later artifacts indicate later, less intensive use of the site, such as dumping associated with agricultural activities.

The Phase II investigation of 18AN860 confirmed the presence of a Late Archaic component and identified an 18 and 19th century component. Because the excavation revealed intact buried deposits that could shed important light on poorly known aspects of the Late Archaic period, and possibly on the 18th century historic occupation, the site is considered eligible to the Maryland and National Registers.

Upon completion of the Phase II study, it was determined that the portion of Site 18AN860 that would be impacted by the construction of the electrical line tower had poor subsurface integrity. No further work was carried out on that portion of the site and the tower was constructed. The portion of the site that would be impacted by construction of an access road was reduced to the minimum area necessary and constitutes approximately 2% of the entire site. By utilizing portions of an existing road and constructing the rest of the road on fill over engineering cloth, impacts were further reduced to only about 0.9% of the site. The site should still be considered a significant archeological resource capable of addressing research questions in Maryland history and prehistory.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000710